



K2LE/P40LE at P49Y/P40L

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028,
10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028,
50.098

CWops Officers and Directors

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President's Message

Our new CW Academy semester is just

starting and we have a very eager bunch of new students. Thank you to all the advisors who make this program possible.



On a sad note, we lost two members in March. Gary AL9A, and Vic

WD0EBZ, both passed away suddenly and our club has lost two great guys. Gary was a frequent participant in CWTs and for those who use WriteLog logging program, Gary was one of the folks who really knew the ins and outs of it and shared his knowledge graciously with others on the WriteLog listserv. Vic has

been an active CW Academy advisor and one of the people he mentored was Summer VE5SDH. Both Gary and Vic are irreplaceable to their families and to CWops. Our hearts go out to their families.

One of the things I'm proudest of is CW Academy and the dozens of members who give their time and effort to help add hams to the HF CW roles. There really are not that many ways to reach out directly and help someone help themselves. When we donate to charity, we know the money is going to a good cause, but we don't often engage one-on-one with the people being helped. CW Academy is one way to do that. Every student whom we helped meet their goals becomes part of our legacy to ham radio. What a wonderful gift.

I am now 58 years into ham radio and I love it just as much today as I did when I started out. During most of those years I learned more and more about radio, propagation and operation. I got my share of achievement awards. And I found fellowship among the others who shared my enthusiasm and mode preferences. But, despite the awards and compliments I received over the years, something was missing for me. I needed a way to show my appreciation and give back to this hobby that has affected my life in so many positive ways.

Then I remembered that poem by Will Allen Dromgoole – "The Bridge Builder." It really summed up for me what I had to do going forward. And here it is:

***An old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.***

***The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.***

***"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide-
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"***

***The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.***

***This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.***

***He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."***

We have a unique and thriving program of CW mentorship, and it is making a difference in helping bring more hams to HF CW. We will soon initiate a program aimed at bringing young people into ham radio – Youth CW Academy. Our path through CW, like the bridge builder's, has gotten us to the other side. We don't have to go back and do it again. We can do our ragchew QSOs, chase our DX, and compete in our radiosport. We crossed the chasm. We don't have to look back. But if we do build those bridges, if we do spend our ever more precious time helping that fair-haired youth avoid the pitfalls, then we can truly give back to this wonderful, lifelong hobby of ours.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the [Editor](#)



Discover the HF Experience!

CWops member [Gerry Hull W1VE/VE1RM](#) of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club and [Cary Rubinfeld VE4EA](#) of Radio Society Manitoba are working on an exciting idea that they call “Discover the HF Experience.” They plan to set up remote control sites at club meetings and hamfests where hams (and not-yet-hams) can experience operating capable HF stations like K1TTT, K2LE, W1KM, SK3W, VY1AAA, VE4EA and others. They will staff these demo setups with experienced hams as mentors to the shack-on-a-belt crowd. Operation will probably be limited to voice and data since the target audience will not have CW expertise. But if hundreds of unlicensed folks discover ham radio and licensed handie-talkers discover HF, can CW be far behind? Kudos to Gerry and Cary for this innovative idea that could serve as a prep school for CW Academy. Want to give them a hand? They’ll be needing volunteers at Dayton and elsewhere. Contact [Gerry](#) or [Cary](#) for more information.

Travel: We have two contest expedition trip reports this month. [Andy AE6Y](#) operated P49Y single-band 40M in the 2016 ARRL DX CW and [Brian N3IQ/ND3F](#) operated all bands in the same contest from HI3. Contest expeditioning is a great way to combine “business” (radiosport) with “pleasure” (relaxing in a tropical paradise with family and friends). Of course, both aspects are a lot of fun.

President Rob K6RB sent along the following photo:



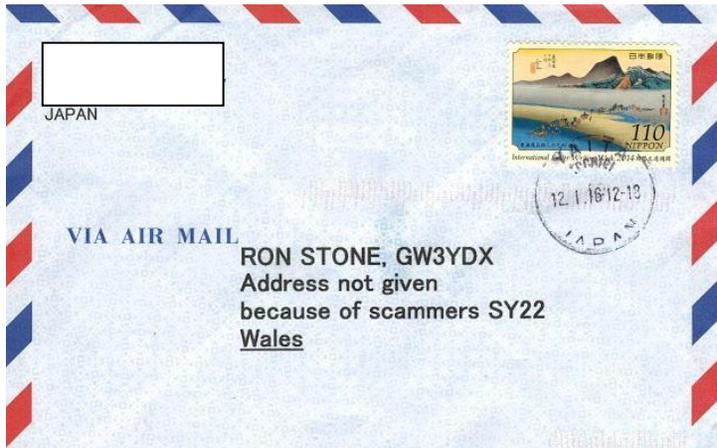
James Fleming VK4TJF (center) and his mother Marsha Fleming N8FE (right), stopped by for a visit with Rob K6RB (left), at his home in Santa Cruz, California. James is CWops’ ambassador for Oceania and is set to receive a service award from CW Academy for advising six semester groups.

The “letter of the law?”

Jim N3JT reported an amusing application of literalism from his friend Ron GW3YDX. It seems Ron was winding down a business and wanted to “disappear” from some on-line address lists. One of his techniques was to change his address in QRZ.com to

RON STONE, GW3YDX
Address not given
because of scammers SY22
Wales

You would think that would provide sufficient anonymity, but a persistent JA sent the following envelope and an equally persistent post office actually delivered it!



Mea culpa: In last month's New Members column you may have noticed the inaccurate claim that DL1QQ+DL8DYL were the first YL team to compete in a WRTC. That was my error, committed as I edited in the photo and text to Colin's original column. In fact, YLs P43E and WA1S competed in Brazil in 2006.

That's all for this month. Enjoy the issue, keep the articles coming, and let me know what you want to see in *Solid Copy*.

73,

Rick N6XI
Editor

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News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jweisskohl@gmail.com.

Rob, K6RB: On March 23 I got back up to the antenna system with six shiny new stainless steel bolts, flat washers and split washers and replaced the weather old bolts in my Yaesu 2800 rotator's mast clamp. And I brought the new "outdoor" 8-PAK Antenna switch subsystem up there, too.

It took a while to replace the bolts, install the antenna switch, and route the proper cables to their SO-239 connectors. I also had to attach the ShackLAN cable and make sure that it was getting the proper signals from the controller in the shack. Before lowering the boom lift and calling it a day, I made sure that the mounting hardware for the antenna switch would keep it fastened to the mast in a hurricane. I also made sure that the rotator clamp bolts were sufficiently tight to put reasonable pressure on the mast with all its aluminum wind loads.

I finished in time for the 0300 CWT and was back having access to multiple antennas. I have to admit having access to multiple antennas was more fun! My repair work got a real test when some stiff winds with gusts over 30 mph came through and the antennas stayed on heading. So I'm hopeful I won't be getting up there, again, anytime soon!

Bert, F6HKA: Lo F5MNX and I from CDXG (Charentes DX Group) will be active from Jersey April 23 till April 30 with MJ0KUC as our call sign. We'll be active on all bands planning to operate four stations simultaneously.

I'd like to thank Matt MJ0ASP for his tremendous help in obtaining and filling out the license forms and placing the radio club GJ2A station at our disposal.

We hope to work you from Jersey.

Dan, KB6NU: I'll be speaking at Dayton this year. The topic of my talk is "Having Fun with CW" and will be aimed at newcomers to CW. I don't know which room yet, but the talk is scheduled for 9:15 am on Friday morning.

Some of the topics I plan to include are "why learn CW," "how to learn CW," "how to select a key," and "how to make contacts." It's all pretty basic stuff, but I'd love to get input from other CWops members on what to include. For example, maybe members have some tips on how to learn the code or what kind of key to select. They can e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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P49Y Trip Notes

February 2016, ARRL DX CW Contest

Andy Faber AE6Y

For various reasons, I had decided that I did not want to spend the 40-plus hours of sitting still time required for a serious all-band entry. I had done 40m single bands in CQ WPX CW and in CQWW CW and enjoyed both greatly, so a 40m effort in this contest seemed to be sensible also. Forty is a very good band from Aruba and normally our two element Force 12 “shorty forty” at 70 feet seems to play well. We also have four 500-foot beverages available, with a common feed point some 800 feet out in the “cunucu,” i.e., the public land behind the house. These are very good receiving antennas, exhibiting considerable directivity. For transmitting, I just set the beam at 340 degrees and left it there for the entire weekend.



Since I'm only using one radio, the interior shack setup is really simple, basically just using the shack K3/P3 combo feeding our Alpha 91B. I was using my brand new Windows 10 Acer Laptop, which worked great. The Compaq 4-port USB expander plugged into a USB port. Into it are plugged the serial convertor for K3 control, the cable for the Winkeyer, and the PS2 to mouse and keyboard converter. The HP monitor is set up through a VGA to HDMI dongle, with resolution set to 1280 by 1024. I don't need to use the DX Doubler, so I just plugged the Winkeyer key output

into the paddle input on the K3 (replacing the Logikeyer that was set up there) in parallel with my amp keying box and plugged the headphones into the front panel. I'm using the Winkeyer PTT also, plugged into the back of the K3. I ran the 91B through its paces and it seemed fine. All settings were exactly as marked on 80, 40, 15 (the only bands I tried). I ran a pileup for about a half hour on 15 with strong signals from EU and USA. [Note to self: don't forget to bring RCA 2-1 adapters. I needed one for keying and found one in the “audio cable” box in the second BR; also an Elecraft front-panel mic adapter, which I normally don't need with the DXD.]

Wednesday evening, I got on the air for about half of the CWT at 11 p.m., working about 75 guys on 40, calling a few, but mainly just practicing running the pileup. It was nice to give a Q to many CWOps friends.

Thursday, the usual Aruban social scene started to run amok, as I ended up scheduled with a two-dinner evening: first at 7 p.m. with Cris P43C and Jean-Pierre P43A, then at 9 p.m. with Ben DL6RAI and his three renters at the P49V QTH that he bought from Sue Cook: Olli DH8BQA, Paul DL5CW, and Tom DL5LYM. Also at the later dinner were John W2GD (P40W) and Andy K2LE (P40LE). John plans an AB QRP effort, the Germans an M/2, and Andy an SB 10, mostly from our station, as at his time-share he has only a vertical antenna and low power.



The dinners worked out fine. Cris, JP and I had a very pleasant evening, marred only by slow service at Marina Pirata, then I got to Barefoot at 9:25 – the rest of the guys had just about given up on me, but accepted my profuse apologies, and we had a convivial time on the beach, not leaving ‘til we closed the place down at 11:15 or so. Both dinners were at quintessential Aruban restaurants: Marina Pirata, where you can sit out on their deck, eating Aruban cuisine while watching the fish in the water just a few feet away and

Barefoot, so called because you sit on the beach itself, and can wiggle your toes in the sand.

Contest Notes February 20-21, 2016, more or less as dictated during the contest:

After the first hour on 7006.7 roughly, the mults are 39, all ones, twos, threes except DE, all fours, all eights except WV, all nines, CA, plus AZ, ID NV among the sevens. The only VEs are NS, QC, ON, SK, and I received an “NL” from a VO1. Later I figured out that that is the official Canadian abbreviation for the province of Newfoundland-Labrador, though for this contest they are treated as separate, and VO1s are NF (Newfoundland) while VO2s are Labrador (LB). So far, 179 QSOs, 20.8k points. It’s a crowded band and key clicks from a loud N3 are bothersome. I’m sending at 35 wpm on the Winkeyer, with the paddles set at 32 for hand sending. The beverages are working great for listening and the band is pretty quiet. After each QSO, I’m sending F5 (TU P49Y) unless I hear several stations calling, in which case I send F6 (just TU) for several Qs, but never more than three times. I’m using one of John’s new chairs, with the beam pointed about 340 degrees. I have the AGC slope set to 002 and THR at 12. Seems to work fine, though the small pileups aren’t a true test.

A sudden flurry of dupes came at about 0112Z. This happens repeatedly; will have to check for P40Y spots. EUs also call in, and if they are loud or insistent enough, I give them a 599 but don’t log them (will QSL if requested, but they won’t be in LOTW). Last 10 rate gets up to 300 for a while. DC4A opens up right on my frequency. There’s no way that he can’t hear me. But I’m running a pileup and he isn’t, so eventually he goes away. At 0200Z, 379 by 46 mults for 51k points. At 0300Z, now have 54 mults, including all states except DE and ND. At 0337Z, finally get DE (W3DA; eventually, of course, I get more). Normally reclusive DC was no problem, with both

KE3X and W3DQ calling in early. A very strange periodic noise starts up, peaking about every half second. It seems to be centered around 7006, so will QSY (at about 0337Z). Up to 7017 (where the amp shows only two bars of reflected power instead of three lower down). At 0345Z, more dupes. Later: checking DX Summit shows two P40Y spots at about this time.

Things seem to dry up around 0502Z. I move to 7027 to get in the general band, and at 0508Z N0GC gives me ND for my last state. Shortly thereafter N7IV also calls in from there. At 0526, I get NF from VO1HP. First break at 0557Z; rate has slowed dramatically, now at 1016 Qs by 59 mults for 169k points. I'm surprised not to have worked PEI, as usually VY2TT and VY2ZM are very active in this contest. Back on the radio, I get no answers to CQs for a few minutes, so I decide to go low on the band to look for them, and lo, there is VY2TT for PEI (later: I see that VY2ZM was a SB80).

OK, it's 0700Z and I'm at 1076 by 59 for about 184k. I'm planning to take a 90-minute "sleep cycle" nap. Maybe activity will pick up after EU sunrise when the EUs stop working the US. Well, I napped briefly, but woke up naturally after only about a half hour. Contacts are coming slowly, but a very faint VY1AAA in YT calls at 0743Z for a new one. Andy Bodony later confirms that this was W1VE operating remotely from Andy's QTH in VT, K2LE/1. Ironically, Andy himself didn't work him.

At about 0819Z I'm getting called by JAs. Later on they and ZLs and KH6s seem to be everywhere. This reminds me how much more fun a real DX contest is, hi. At 0936Z a rare event for this part of the night: two stations actually call at the same time! It's 0954Z and this is painfully slow. Please just shoot me if I ever decide to do another SB 40 in this contest (they are definitely more fun in WPX CW and CQWW CW). I've had eight Qs in the last 14 minutes. That's a lot of unrequited CQing. I'm going to try to sleep for an hour or so. US/VEs are still loud, but they just aren't answering me anymore.

Well, it's 1055Z, 6:55 a.m. local time, the rate is laughably low, I'm falling asleep at the CQ button, so I think I'm going to give up for the night. Even though the band is still wide open, I feel as though I'm just uselessly contributing to the world's carbon footprint by wasting RF. I'm at a raw score of 1179 QSOs by 61 mults for about 206k points. Only missing NT and NU. I imagine there is some possibility of a VE8 calling in tonight for NT, but the chances of there being a VY0 on for NU are pretty slim. Note that if someone else wins 40m in this contest, it will probably be this decision that is the cause, as Sunday morning I stayed on for 76 more contacts in the 11 and 12Z clock hours.

After a few hours of sleep, I make a few log corrections that I had noted on paper and have a bowl of cereal for breakfast.

Andy Bodony K2LE came over by prearrangement at noon to operate from our house for a few hours. He set up his K3S on the right radio side, feeding the Alpha 86, and is running stations on 10m, using his own computer, headphones, etc. I went out for a run at 12:30, and had sunny, hot (89 degrees) run along the new path from the airport to the City. Very little shade, and quite a bit of headwind on the way back. Then I drove down to the Ritz for a delicious strawberry milkshake, enjoyed outside in the breeze reading Margaret Atwood's "Oryx and Crake" a strange post-apocalyptic novel. The sky was typically Aruban, with partial sun and partial clouds. Lisandro P43L and Lisette say that with the drought there is less cloud cover generally, leading to hotter days and cooler nights.

I'm getting back on the air about 2210Z (6:10 p.m. local). Two hours earlier I had listened on 40 and there were absolutely no signals. Now the band is choc-a-bloc with Europeans. By 2232 I have only about a dozen Qs, two of which are dupes (actually only 23 in the first 45 minutes), and I've been calling CQ for the last four minutes without a reply. The band is open, though, and I've worked as far west as NM. A flurry of calls at 2259 with more dupes. It would be very interesting to see if these dupes are claiming to be single ops or not, as they are obviously feeding off packet spots. (Note that after the first night I had fully 8% dupes – and those are only the ones I logged. Sometimes I got so frustrated that I refused to log them. At 0000Z I've finally made 100 Qs since getting on the air tonight. Now at 1280 by 61 for 221k points. Now on 7030.4; not a bad frequency though there are key clicks around. I move to 7050 in a while to get rid of dupes.

It's 0029Z now, and CQPWIN shows just over 12 hours of BIC (butt in chair) time into the contest, with an overall rate of 114, at 1391 by 61. The rate sheet shows hourly rates of 75, 74 and 75 in the 23, 00, and 01 clock hours. I seem to have been spotted at 0112Z, probably correctly, as it leads to only a few dupes – perhaps people who think they worked P40Y earlier (or maybe they are just careless packet spot users. It took about 20 minutes to work down that mini-pileup. Good time to take a break and walk around a bit. I have noticed that FL and GA stations are coming in much stronger on the West US beverage, while signals from further up the Coast are better, as usual, on the East US beverage. At 0218Z I'm QRMed off 7044, which I have been occupying for quite a while, by weird-sounding signals. I assume it's some digital mode, and the users are like the SSTV guys on phone, defending "their" frequencies even when in use by contesters. I QSY to 7020.3. It's hard to tell if there is a benefit in going below 7025. Generally speaking, the DX stations hang out above that to work the general licensees, though I notice that the Germans, seemingly using P40XM and not P40FA as they had told us, seem always to be around 7015-7020.

With 14 hours of operating time, at 0318Z, at 1567 by 61 for 268k points. The 02 and 03 hour are my best of the evening, at 109 and 102 Qs per hour (though, of course, last night the respective rates were 184 and 174). The band continues to be quiet; I wish this were a DX contest. Terrible key clicks from IR4M; this is the second time I've noticed them on different frequencies. He's about 300 Hz away and making it hard to copy weaker signals. It's right before midnight now, 0358Z, and I've had a succession of dupes so am going to change frequency, which seems to be the only way to get a fresh start each time they become too annoying. I take another short eating and walking around break.

More dupes around 0426Z. It's gotten much noisier on the band. Seems like atmospheric noise; on the P3 you can see the base level suddenly jump 10 or 15 dB. It's now 0510Z, at 1719 Qs (still the same 61 mults; my fantasy of being called by a VE8 for NT never materializes). I think I'll try a 90-minute nap. Although I had set the alarm, I woke up after about 40 minutes, feeling somewhat refreshed, so back at the radio (the log shows 44 minutes off in the 05Z hour).

I finally crash through the 300,000 point barrier at 0636Z with QSO #1760, KD5MMM. Suddenly have to chase SP8K and S50A off my frequency, both of whom start CQing at the same time with nary a "QRL?". In the 0800 hour, I do take a longer nap, from 0852Z to 1019Z. Of course, there are still guys to be worked, but the rate in the 07 hour had slowed to a crawl at just 37 Qs. It's hard to stay awake between contacts at that rate. Back on, the band has fewer signals, as it's way after EU sunrise. There are lots of JAs and ZLs, but overall it's less hectic sounding. Suddenly an NP2 opens up with a huge signal just 50 Hz below me. There's no way he can't hear me, but for about five minutes he ignores repeated requests to QSY, though he eventually takes the hint. If I were QRP, I'd expect to get stepped on, but with a KW there is no way he's unaware of me.

It's close to 8 a.m. local, an hour and a half after sunrise, and I'm falling asleep between QSOs. A very weak station starts calling CQ on my frequency. I can't tell who it is, possibly a Pacific DX, but when a very loud WE3C starts calling him the better part of valor is for me to QSY. OK, time to bag it for the morning at 8:46 a.m., at 1929 Qs for just under 327k points. I've generally been sending slower the second night, at 32 or 33 wpm, with occasional forays to 30 wpm when it seems that it might shake loose some hesitant callers.

I go to sleep for about an hour and a half, then get up and brew some coffee. Andy Bodony comes back over at 11, to operate on 10 for another four hours. His final totals are 1126/59 for 213k points – a very nice effort. Like yesterday, I went out for a run at about 12:30. The weather was the same, but a bit less sun, so the run felt a little cooler. Then a vanilla milkshake at the Ritz.

After Andy left circa 3:20 (with Agnes and a family friend in tow), I drove over to visit with Martin P49MR and Truus P49MRS. An easy trip, as there was little traffic on a Sunday. Truus's daughter was visiting, and they are expecting kid, grandkids, and a great-grandbaby this week. Their antenna unfortunately points only SE now, since the thrust bearing is frozen, and John hasn't had a chance yet to get to it, having been occupied with Ben's antenna work all week. They also have a problem getting their IC-2KL to work with a borrowed FT-840, but I think that is simple matter of figuring out the DIN pinouts at an accessory jack to key the amp, and I talked to JP about working on it for them, as it seems to be important to them both. Martin really likes phone rag-chewing, and Truus is still occupied with YL nets. They are about to celebrate a 40th wedding anniversary, and a not-to-be-named-here birthday for Truus.

Back home, I am determined to do what I can in the contest in the late afternoon, even though I know it won't be any fun until probably the last hour before the contest ends at 8 p.m. local. First QSO at 2146Z is VE1BAB in NS. But I notice that the settings I had changed in CQPWIN weren't remembered, and I had to reset them all. After some thought, I realized this is due to W10's feature for saving files in a virtual storage location unless you run the program as an administrator. For some reason that I don't understand, I seem to have to tell Windows each time to run VB6 as an administrator. There must be a way to save that authorization for automatic use.

After that first contact, there are no answers to CQs for the next eight minutes! I try tuning around for stations to work, but every US/VE heard is already in the log. I'm thinking that I would welcome even a dupe, just to break the monotony, and sure enough, the next answer at 2200Z is indeed a dupe, and the one after that is an R7, whom I'm not supposed to work, though I did this one out of sheer boredom. I'm immediately called by more non-counting EUs. Arrghh. In the first 45 minutes I have exactly nine Qs in the log, three of which are dupes. Even a VE3 that I worked a few minutes ago tries to dupe me now. An N8 calls; I have him twice in the log already, and he tried for another Q yesterday, so this would make four. Maybe I should take it as a compliment. Loud clicks from an EA5 250 Hz below. I've been on 7044 for quite a while, but a loud WX0B opens up right below, ignores requests to QSY, and starts running an EU pileup, so I move up a kHz or two, to actually a better freq. The rate eventually improves in the last hour to 69, a respectable number for this time, but still with a frustrating amount of dupes. I am pleased to get beyond 2000 raw QSOs and 340k points, as I had been trying for both milestones and wasn't at all sure I'd make it.

Final tally: 2039 raw Qs, 1870 valid ones, 61 mults, 342,210 points. Op time 22:38 hours, average rate 90.

After the contest ends, I give Sandy a call, unplug various antennas and power cables, start packing, have a glass of Frangelico, and work on these notes.

73, and thanks for all the (non-dupe) QSOs,

Andy, AE6Y, P49Y

Check it out at www.arubaqth.com

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HI3/ND3F ARRL DX CW 2016

Trip Report

Brian Skutt ND3F/N3IQ

No lame excuses. I didn't do very well in the contest, and I didn't have as much fun as usual.

The week before our trip was hectic and trying for both Linda (my XYL) and me. Linda had to reschedule clients because of the weather in Maryland and take a friend to the ER – twice. And I had a work-related deliverable that I didn't properly finish at all – and I didn't send it out until late Wednesday night. We left early Thursday, and packed and such in the wee hours. We started pretty stressed out and that isn't a good sign...

The flight was fine – we spent an extra \$60 or so each to fly into Puerto Plata, about 10 minutes by car from the rental property in Sosua, FK49, less than 10 miles north of the place we stayed in for CQWW. We passed through customs and immigration easily. I was concerned because the rules had changed for spare batteries because of the hoverboard incidents, but we had no problems.

The pictures of the property (a private home for rent), showing a third floor balcony on a hillside overlooking the ocean towards the USA, matched reality – the place is really nice, and inexpensive.

The owner is ham-radio friendly.
Plenty of security, too.



Upon arrival (3:30 on Thursday afternoon) I started setup immediately. There had been rain and it looked like more was coming. I set up the Q52 (short two element Yagi with relay band switching 20-10M including WARC) quickly. I had pre-tuned it on the deck at home and expected it to work fine. But 15M showed 2:1 or worse across the band, and 20M wasn't as low as I wanted. 10/12/17 were fine. So first I tweaked the element

lengths and that helped on 20M but not much on 15. So I took apart the relay box and adjusted the inductors for that band until I got the SWR at the end of the 50' coax run down to 1.6:1 or better across the CW portion. This took well over an hour, and it started to rain. I set up the KX3 (a very fine little radio!) and the little PA and all the peripherals (computer, power supply, batteries, wattmeter, keyboard/mouse, paddle, Winkeyer, headset, fan, and all of the cables with ferrite beads clamped on). The outlets were three prong US so the adapters we brought were unneeded (more on that later!), and I didn't need an extension cord, either. Great!

First band to test: 20M. Called CQ, made one contact, and stopped sending. The little PA was shutting down due to high SWR. Was it due to the rain? I dried off the antenna and checked the SWR – more than 6:1 across the band, but 10/15 were ok still. I opened the relay box and there was black soot and a bad smell. I had blown a trace off the relay board near the 17M coil on one side. So 17 and 20M were hosed. I didn't have either the equipment or parts to fix the relay box so I had to do rover/field expediency. The driven element relay box was hosed, but not the reflector box, so I could use a spare coax and shorten the reflector to use it as a driven element on 20M. That worked, but it took a couple of hours to figure it out, mark the element so that I could use the antenna normally on 15/10 and then adjust it for 20M. So much for painless band changes!

We went to dinner after that at a very nice Canadian-owned BBQ place on the beach in Cabarete that we had been to before. Great food, nice relaxing evening. Then we got groceries and headed back to Sosua by taxi. I made a few contacts on 15 and 10M just to see if all was working well, and the SWR on 15 was a bit high (the amp got a bit hot) but those two bands seemed to be ok. Went to bed and slept hard until 6am (late for me). Then I laid out the 40/80/160M coil-shortened dipole and installed it on a short push up mast so that the top was about 40' above ground, and the legs sloped towards the US in a V-shape. This had worked well before at other locations. Because the distance from the antenna to the radio gear was very short – less than 10' with a 50' coax run – I was worried about getting too much RF in the shack, so I installed a “choke-kit” current balun at the feedpoint as I usually do. I couldn't get the antenna to tune right! It showed around 2:1 SWR on 40M, and the dip (over 2:1) on 80M was outside the band, low by about 200 KHz, and on 160, also low. So I dropped the radio end of the coax to the ground and took the analyzer outside to the garden to adjust the antenna. I kept getting strange readings, and spent 2 hours between intense rain showers making adjustments. Later, I found that the coax for the low bands had a little intermittent shield to conductor fault at the shack end connector (found by pulling on the connector) that was causing all the bad readings. Swapped coax and got fair readings on 40M (1.7:1), 80M: (1.7:1 but only about 20KHz), and 160M (1.1:1 around 1835) so decided to go with that. Took a brief nap, answered some work emails, and grabbed a bite in preparation for 8pm local start.

Started on 20M slowly, but finally got a run going, but the little PA was running very hot and kept shutting down, and the little battery fan was not keeping up. Linda got me some ice, and we but a bowl of it on the PA—that helped a bit, but it melted in about 60-90 minutes—thanks to her for replenishing it often. Turns out that the second coax that I was using for the alternate 20M solution was also hosed. So the amp was seeing high SWR and I probably wasn't getting out very well either. I took a break to let the amp cool and then went to 40M. The amp was unhappy on that band, too, but I got a good run going and had some fun. Then 80M – no run, only a few US stations heard, and local radar or something tearing up the key portion of the band from about 3520 to 3540 – but the EU KW stations were quite loud. I noted that a lot of Caribbean stations end up above 3540 so I'm guessing they have the same situation. Then I went to 160M. I could hear some DX (P4, a

couple of TOs, KP4) so I figured the antenna was working. But I called and called, both CQ and S&P, with no joy and no US/VE answers.

Later, I worked W3LPL on 40M and asked them to move to 80 and 160. That worked—they were very loud on 80M and S3 on 160M, but I didn't hear a confirm on 160M so maybe they didn't hear me. I logged it anyway as the only 160M contact I would have, after hauling the antenna and working for hours to tune it – not a very good return! I also asked K3LR to move, but they would not go to a frequency that suited my antenna/amp combination, so no joy there. I went to bed at 2am local until 5:30am as usual with only 500 Qs in the log, mostly on 40M. Next time I will make room for a small antenna tuner.

Had brief runs at sunrise on 80M and 40M, but 20M was very bad for me. I keep forgetting that for this contest everyone turns toward EU in the morning and apparently can't hear me. So I decided to go work on the low band antenna. I cut it down so that it was for 80M and 40M only. (Later, on Sunday morning, during the dead time, I cut off the 80M portion so I had decent SWR on 40M for the last 90 minutes of the contest. That worked, kinda).

Kept trying to get a run going on 15 or 10M with no joy. The commercial AC switched to local inverter power about local 7:30 am each day—I heard the switch, but with my batteries in line nothing happened as expected except I could hear a buzzzz. Well, I started getting shocks – big ones – when I would touch the base of the paddle or when I would touch the coax connector. I guess there is still no real ground on the HI plugs despite 3-hole outlets. I suspect there is an AC fault somewhere, too, because I got the you-know-what shocked out of me – probably my small switching supply. So I disconnected from AC and ran on batteries only for a couple of hours each day until the power out would drop to about 20w, and then shut down until the regular power was back up. Ended up with only 30 hours in the chair. Most of the rest was spent working on antennas, avoiding AC shocks, or letting the equipment cool down.

The good side was that when 10M finally opened I had two good hours there (my goal is a 200 hour each day, but only got 190s), and also two good hours on 15M. 20M was always slow, even after EU sunset. 40M was rough on Saturday night into Sunday. The antenna was not right and the PA was getting hot again. 80M was tough going, but I finally got a good run going in the early morning with some nice sections calling in. Received signals were a bit distorted and covered by the radar-like noise, so I had to ask for fills and repeats – slow going but better than nothing like Friday! The keyer and paddle seemed immune to RF problems this time and I only had to reset the USB peripherals a couple of times when the SWR on 40M was high but I tried to transmit anyway.

I had nice runs on 10, then 15 and then 20M on Sunday afternoon, and finished with a moderately good hour on 40M. Score was about 2M.

	QSOs / Multipliers	
160	1	1
80	137	37
40	514	56
20	502	55
15	731	59
10	626	53
TOTAL	2511	261

After the contest, Linda made a nice meal, and I fell asleep hard. In the morning I decided to suggest some new Q signals based on my last two DX experiences. I'm sure they won't make it into the official list:

- QRX1P: Wait a minute, I have to pee.
- QRLW: I am busy working a weak station. Thank you for sending repeated “?” on top of the weak station that I'm still trying to work. I appreciate that you are checking to see if the frequency is in use. Yes, the frequency is busy, you are interfering, and if you stop sending “?” for a brief moment, I will work this weak/patient station and then send my call sign soon. (Alternate: QBR – quit busting my rate!)
- QNRRR(R)(R): There is no need to repeat your call sign multiple times (or even once) if I demonstrated that I copied it by sending it to you correctly
- QBS(A): You are responding to a bad spot (again).
- QSD: This is the second or sixth duplicate contact on this band. Please stop duping.
- QAS: AS means wait a second, you as_.

73 and thanks for the Q's.

Brian HI3/ND3F

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Daniel Yaari 4X1FC (SK)

Fabio Bonucci IK0IXI/K0IXI

I'm so sad to pass this sad news to all CWops members: After a long illness, our friend Daniel Yaari 4X1FC passed away April 5, 2016. He was 75 years old. Born in Rome, Italy in 1941 as Fabio Giarri, his Jewish family survived WWII and in 1945 they all left Italy to reach the place that in 1948



became the State of Israel. Daniel was a radio officer in the merchant marine and a military radioman, cryptologist for the Israeli Navy. He was a true professional operator and a great technician. After being seriously injured during military operations in 1973, he became an instructor in the Israeli Naval School.

Thanks to his Italian origin and our names, we had a long email exchange for years. He never forgot our language and was so happy to write to me in Italian. He sent me much information about his life and family history. One day I received a wonderful Vibroplex Blue Racer from Israel. Daniel sent me the key he had used for years! I also received a book about his life and radio career.

We lost a great OM and a friend. My deepest condolences to his son, Hagai 4Z5CW who took care of his father. Thanks to Mark Stern 4Z4KX for updates during Daniel's last months.

"R.I.P. Fabio, che il Signore ti accolga tra le sue braccia." [May God welcome you into His arms.]

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Victor R. Hansen WD0EBZ (SK)

2/22/1953 to 3/2/2016

Vic graduated from Rim of the World High School located in Lake Arrowhead, California in 1971. Shortly after that, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the 709th Military Battalion as a Military Policeman at several Military Bases in Germany as well as in Colorado until receiving a Medical Discharge in 1979.



In 1973 he married Barbara Brogie from Pomona, California and they moved from one army base to another, utilizing base housing depending upon availability.

Vic's father had introduced him to amateur radio during his grammar school years and he followed in his father's footsteps, studying until he became an Extra Class License Holder as well. His U.S. call was WD0EBZ and his German call was DA2HV which he used while being stationed there.

He was always known for being a generous and caring person so it was no surprise that he took over as Manager of the Denver Pet Cemetery in Commerce City when the new owner, an old Army buddy, suffered a life threatening medical problem. Vic stayed in that capacity nearly five

years before the business sold and he was free to seek a better suited life for himself and his family. He chose the propane business where he could be working outdoors with people, helping them, and make a living while he could also enjoy residing and working in the mountains. In 1986 the family moved to Pinecliffe, a beautiful mountain community.

Over the last 30-some years, Vic has delivered propane to numerous local mountain businesses and residents, becoming involved in all facets of the business.

He was active in and belonged to numerous amateur radio groups including being an active charter member of the Indian Peaks Radio Club where he served as Club Trustee, ARRL, SKCC, and GBOSH which stands for Go Big Or Stay Home Field Day Club. He helped in attaining a second place finish in the ARRL Field Day competition in 2014.

The one affiliation he was most proud of was his association with the CW Operators Club where he held the position of Advisor, teaching the art to students at the CWOps Academy.

Vic is survived by his wife Barbara, daughter Deanna, son Victor, four grandchildren Jonah, Jacob, Shaina and Shierah, his mother Joan Hansen, his father and best friend Victor Hansen both of Thousand Palms, California and two sisters Penny and Corinne, also including Boomer his faithful Golden Retriever.

As of this writing, services were pending. Our thanks and sincere condolences go to Vic's father, Victor Hansen WB6SEL, also a CWOps member, who had the heartbreaking chore of writing his son's obituary. For more on Vic's life, see this [article in his hometown newspaper](#). – Ed.

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7th Call Area QSO Party (7QP)

Bob Rennard N7WY

When

The 2016 7QP will be held on May 7th from 6 AM to midnight PDT (1300Z - 0700Z+1). Rules and information can be found at www.ws7n.net/7QP. 7QP has grown over the past ten years to become the second most active US QSO party in terms of logs submitted. It is an 18 hour, multi-mode event. You only collect points by working hams in W7!

Exchange Details

There are several entrant categories for hams operating from within W7. They include fixed home station, expeditions to other counties, expeditions to county line borders, expeditions to state line borders, and mobile. The exchange sent from home stations and single county expeditions is the same, RS(I) followed by the USPS state code abbreviation and a three letter abbreviation for the county. Last year from Niobrara county Wyoming, I was predominantly sending 5NN WYNIO. Had I been very near the county line between Washakie and Hot Springs counties, the exchange would have been 5NN WYWAS/HOT. This format can be extended to three county corners like WYPAR/WAS/HOT. For state line expeditions, the state and county for one side is sent followed by a stroke, and then the information for the other side. Hams outside W7 send RS(I) followed state/province two letter codes or "DX".

If you hear a station operating mobile from W7, and a likely example is K5YAA/M, you can probably work them about every 45 minutes from a new county.

The Gauntlet

In past years, K6RB and N6MU have collected the 7QP awards for CW operators outside W7. They need some competition.

The Plea

My home state of WY needs more participants. Check the planned participation table on the 7QP website, find an under-represented county, fire up the RV or the mobile and join the fun. The last two years, WY had snow on Mothers Day and the year before on the day of 7QP. This year 7QP is the day before Mothers Day. Oh, if your radio sounds dead when you turn it on in WY, it probably is because there is very little ambient noise on HF!

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2016 North American CW Weekend

3-5 June 2016

Fairview Park Marriott

Falls Church, Virginia

The 2016 CW Weekend will take place June 3-5 at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia. This is open to all hams or others with an interest in CW or Morse code communication - FOC, CWOPS, SKCC, the Morse Operators Society, and FISTS. It is predominantly a social event and provides a great opportunity to connect with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy those eyeball QSOs with folks you have worked on the bands for years.

As in years past, we'll kick off with an informal pizza dinner on Friday evening, followed by a brunch on Saturday morning hosted by Jim N3JT and Nina KE4PSV at their home in McLean. Dinner will follow that evening at Clyde's in Tyson's Corners. There will be a hospitality suite with refreshments at the hotel on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sunday morning, many attendees meet informally at the hotel restaurant for breakfast before heading home or on to other activities. It is likely that Frank, W3LPL, will make a tour of his world class contest station available Sunday afternoon if there is interest.

Early June is a nice time of year to visit the Washington, DC area, and the schedule allows plenty of time for sightseeing, shopping, and socializing, or visiting with family and friends.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the Fairview Park Marriott at a special rate of \$ 99. You may reserve by calling the hotel at 800-228-9290 (be certain to mention you are with the "North American CW Weekend party). Reservations may also be made online at marriott.com/wasfp. The special booking code for our group is "NACNACA." The special rate is available from June 3d through June 6th.

There will be a modest registration fee of \$ 15 per person or \$ 25 per couple to cover refreshments and the hospitality suite, payable by check to Don W4ZYT [1517 W. Little Neck Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717]. Further information is available from Don, W4ZYT (w4zyt.don@gmail.com) and will be posted on the FOC and CWOPS web sites..

We really do look forward to seeing lots of CW folks at this gathering. Talk it up, mark it down, and come!

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CW Academy

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy (CWA) has just started the April/May 2016 semester. This will be the 13th overall semester that CWA has conducted CW classes. The very first CWA semester was conducted in the Spring of 2011.

This semester we have several new Advisors: NG7W Matt, N7YT William, G0HKC Eric, M0GGK Dave, EA2AJB Andres, G4NVR Phil, and Joe KK5NA.

For the April/May 2016 semester we have 32 Advisors and 180 enrolled students comprised of 114 Level 1 students, 56 Level 2 students and 10 Level 3 students. Our international mix of students this semester hail from, India, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Germany, France, USA, Canada, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Poland, Italy and the Netherlands.

As you can see, CW Academy is gaining a true international reach in providing CW instruction worldwide. However, there are still some areas where CWA needs additional Advisors, specifically the UTC+5, UTC+8 areas and South and Central America. We have many students from these areas still awaiting class assignments.

If you love CW and want to join us in our mission to ensure that CW remains relevant and continues to prosper, please consider joining the Academy's elite team of Advisors. All it takes is a love of CW and a desire to help aspiring students learn to use CW. It's fun and rewarding and you will make many new life-long friendships at the same time!

CW Academy's classes are conducted using Skype video conferencing. This allows us to connect to students all over the world using the Internet. Minimal equipment and investment is needed for both students and Advisors, just a little free time and a desire to help people by sharing your CW skills and expertise.

More information about becoming a CWA Advisor can be found at the CWops website (www.cwops.org). The link for the sign up form for becoming a CWA Advisor is:

<http://cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>.

Here's to another successful and fun-filled CW Academy semester!

73,

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy Manager

And from logoware meister K6RB, the following tantalizing offer:



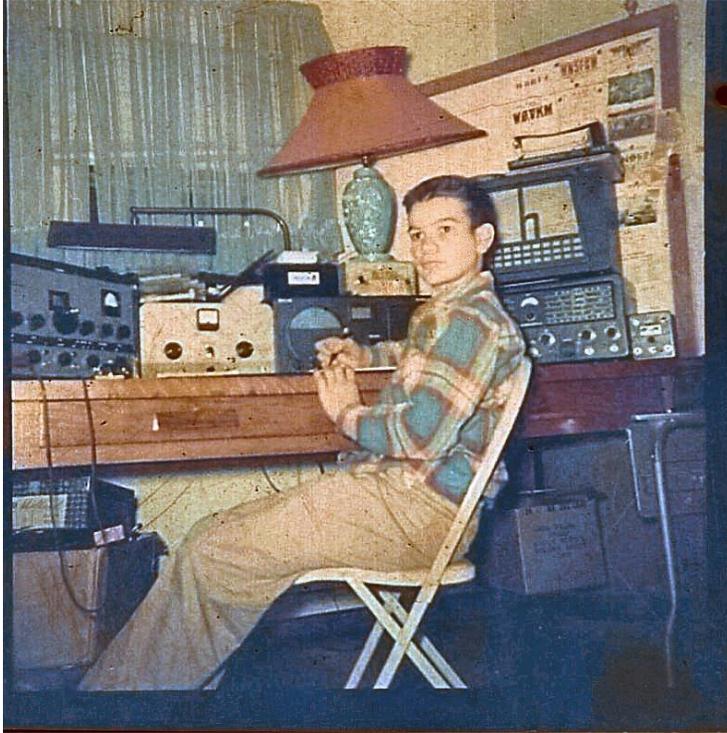
Here is a photo of the concept award for advising 24 semester groups in CW Academy. A semester group is one to six students that you advise two hours per week for eight weeks. If you do one group, three times per year, the jacket is yours after eight full years. If you do two groups per semester, you can earn a jacket in four full years. Some advisors take on even more semester groups each semester. According to our current record, there should be two awards conferred before the end of 2016. Jack, WOUCE (SK), would have been the first recipient.

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How We Were – NN4K

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)



Licensed as Novice in 1954, Conditional class (I lived more than 275 miles from a FCC Testing Station) in 1955 and then earned Advanced and Extra Class in August 1981. Callsign NN4K is original not vanity. I am an active DXER, contester and enjoy experimenting with wire antennas.

Interests include: QRP Contesting, seeking the last 17 CQ Zones for 5BWAZ Award, building and using a vertical Moxon antenna for 17 meters, WSPR, JT65, working my CW speed up toward 35 wpm. I'm also interested in researching family genealogy.

I am a CW Academy Advisor and CWOps **Southeast Region Ambassador.**

Please send YOUR *How We Were* Photos to w6sx@arrl.net

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CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

As of the first of April, we are one-quarter of the way through the year. Are you one-quarter of the way to your participation goal (gold, silver or bronze level)?

If you want your participation to count towards the awards at the end of the year, post your score at <http://www.3830scores.com/> after each session. Remember to indicate your home call sign if that wasn't the call sign you used on the air.

Joe Hetrick KC0VKN is doing a great job transferring the CWT results from the 3830 postings to the weekly combined results pages you can call up from the CWT Scores page at the CWops website. He also posts a participation count at <http://shake.bitjanitor.net/~jhetrick/cwops/topslist.txt>. These participation point totals do not take into account the thresholds (10 QSOs for stations in North America and Europe, five QSOs for others). They may also be incorrect if you operated with a different call sign and forgot to indicate your home call sign as the operator, or if you misspelled your call sign, so the final official standings may vary a bit from the topslist listing.

So far, I count six members with perfect participation records (39 out of 39 sessions): N4FP, N5PHT, UR5MM, VE3KP, W1UU, UR5MM and W9CC. There are ten more with 38 out of 39 sessions: K1DW, K1GU, K3WW, K7SV, KA7T, KW7Q, N4ZZ, VE3KI, WA9LEY and last year's leader WJ9B. I am embarrassed to admit that the reason I missed one is that I slept through it; I hope the rest of you have better excuses!

There are plenty more people who are well on their way to awards; I count about 40 on track for gold, 60 more on track for silver and another 40 heading for bronze. That's out of close to 380 call signs recorded so far this year.

As the solar flux continues to drop, we are losing the higher bands. CWT contacts on 10 meters are a thing of the past, and even 15 meter CWT contacts are becoming very rare. In addition to the end of year CWT participation awards, the CWTs are a great way to increase your CMA and ACA scores. If your goal is a high CWT score, you will concentrate on the workhorse bands (20, 40 and at night, 80), but if you are looking to add to your CMA totals, depending on the vagaries of propagation it may still be worth spending a couple of minutes on 15 meters at the beginning of the session.

We do the CWTs because they're fun, so let's all make sure they continue to be fun for everyone.

73,

Rich, VE3KI

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CWops Member Awards

[Pete W1RM](#) and [Peter W1UU](#)

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
W1RM	492	4113	W1RM	167	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
AA3B	478	5440	F6HKA	144	W1RM	50	F6HKA	44	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	464	3737	W4VQ	136	W4VQ	50	N5RR	43	W4VQ	37
K6RB	429	3380	G4BUE	119	F6HKA	50	G4BUE	43	G4BUE	37
G4BUE	428	3136	N5RR	114	W1UU	50	OK1RR	42	N5RR	36
F6HKA	408	4012	OH2BN	112	VE3KI	50	EA8OM	42	VE3KI	35
N5RR	387	3781	EA8OM	110	G4BUE	50	VE3KI	41	IK0YVV	32
N8BJQ	382	3824	VE3KI	109	EA8OM	50	W4VQ	40	N5PHT	28
K1ESE	301	2225	N8BJQ	99	W0EJ	50	OH2BN	40	JF2IWL	25
W4VQ	293	2351	K1ESE	95	F6JOE	50	AA3B	40	W6NS	19
IT9MUO	289	1086	SM6CNN	93	W6KY	50	N8BJQ	39		
W0VX	263	2549	OK1RR	93	N1EN	50	SM6CNN	37		
IT9VDQ	258	787	AA3B	93	N5PHT	50	F6JOE	36		
DL8PG	254	1695	EA1WX	89	F5MNK	50	W0VX	34		
K3WJV	238	882	W0VX	88	K5IX	50	KZ5D	34		
NU7Y	232	479	N1EN	86	K3SEN	50	KR3E	34		
N5PHT	220	1487	W9ILY	84	W9ILY	49	W1UU	33		
EA8OM	215	2754	PA7RA	79	W0VX	49	K1ESE	33		
K3SEN	214	840	F6JOE	79	N8BJQ	49	W9ILY	32		
N1EN	200	1928	KZ5D	78	K6RB	49	N1EN	32		
K6DGW	181	1500	DL8PG	77	K6DGW	49	F5MNK	32		
W9ILY	169	2537	W1UU	74	K1ESE	49	EA1WX	32		
F6JOE	154	2481	KR3E	73	GW0ETF	49	PA7RA	31		
NA6O	151	1101	AD1C	73	AD1C	49	IT9MUO	31		
NN4K	144	741	N1ZX	70	AA3B	49	DL8PG	31		
W1UU	136	1939	IT9MUO	69	WB9G	48	IK0YVV	30		
KE4S	132	709	F5MNK	68	SM6CNN	48	NN6T	29		
K5IX	116	558	NN6T	67	NN6T	48	N1ZX	28		
K2ZC	112	767	GW0ETF	67	NA6O	48	IT9VDQ	28		
W6NS	104	911	N5PHT	60	N1ZX	48	GW0ETF	28		
I5EFO	81	201	IK0YVV	57	KZ5D	48	AD1C	25		
JF2IWL	77	872	IT9VDQ	55	KT5V	48	K6RB	23		

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AB7MP	50	478	W6KY	54	IK0YVV	48	JF2IWL	23		
KZ5D	0	3239	K6RB	54	DL8PG	48	HB9ARF	23		
SM6CNN	0	2477	4Z1UF	50	AB7MP	48	G4DRS	22		
W6KY	0	1840	WB9G	48	W6NS	47	4Z1UF	21		
N2UU	0	1774	JF2IWL	47	NU7Y	47	N5PHT	20		
EA1WX	0	1655	G4DRS	45	KR3E	47	K2ZC	20		
AD1C	0	1630	HB9ARF	41	JF2IWL	47	I5EFO	20		
OK1RR	0	1618	KE4S	37	WX7SJ	46	WB9G	19		
NN6T	0	1577	K6DGW	37	KG5U	46	KE4S	18		
GW0ETF	0	1451	K3SEN	37	K0DTJ	46	G3YJQ	18		
KG5U	0	1322	K2ZC	37	IT9VDQ	46	KG5U	17		
PA7RA	0	1200	W0EJ	36	EA1WX	46	W6KY	16		
KR3E	0	1136	KG5U	35	NN4K	45	K3WJV	16		
F5MNK	0	1111	W6NS	33	KE4S	45	NN4K	15		
PA4N	0	955	KT5V	32	K3WJV	45	K3SEN	15		
N1ZX	0	940	NA6O	29	K2ZC	45	KT5V	11		
4X6GP	0	906	G3YJQ	27	IT9MUO	45	K6DGW	11		
WB9G	0	888	NN4K	26	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	10		
W5ASP	0	869	K3WJV	25	OK1RR	44	G3XLG	10		
KT5V	0	814	K0DTJ	25	KM4FO	43	NA6O	9		
IK0YVV	0	767	I5EFO	24	HB9ARF	43	W6NS	8		
W0EJ	0	754	NU7Y	21	G4DRS	43	W5TM	7		
HB9ARF	0	723	K5IX	19	OH2BN	42	G0DJA	7		
K0DTJ	0	668	G3XLG	18	NV9X	38	K0DTJ	6		
WX7SJ	0	610	WT2P	14	G3YJQ	37	KM4FO	5		
WT2P	0	574	AB7MP	14	4Z1UF	36	K5IX	5		
OH2BN	0	530	W5TM	11	WT2P	34	WT2P	4		
KM4FO	0	500	KM4FO	10	I5EFO	33	AB7MP	3		
N7WY	0	403	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32	NV9X	1		
G4DRS	0	353	NV9X	4	G3XLG	31				
W5TM	0	235	KE6K	4	KE6K	17				
G3YJQ	0	234			G0DJA	8				
G3XLG	0	201								
NV9X	0	149								
KE6K	0	116								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

73,

Pete W1RM

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New Members

[Colin Jenkins KU5B](#)

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWops:

1595	N3ZL	Greg
1596	VE2AXO	Bob
1597	K8AAV	Rod
1598	NX8Y	Ron
1599	KD8RQE	Mike
1600	WH6YH*	Mike
1601	WB4RFQ*	Daniel
1602	DK1WI*	Ed
1603	PA1LIO	Adriaan
1604	KK6GHA	Ken
1605	WB8HF	Bill
1606	N5KT*	Gerald
1607	NX8L*	Gary
1608	W4MY	Marty
1609	W5TUF	Jim
1610	N4IQ*	Bill
1611	N4NQ*	Sid
1612	WG0M	Mike
1613	NT2A	Gene

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of April 6, 2016:

Need Sponsors: N2WY, W5BQ, KC3CVN, VA3PM, W9GL, KE8G

Invitations Extended: SV5BYR

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” pages on the Website: www.CWops.org.

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

by [John Huffman K1ESE](#)

QTX is a way of counting conversational CW QSOs. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - the QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.

Here's the latest tally of this month's CW conversations of 20 minutes or longer.

QTX Standings

Below find the March QTX reports received -

<u>Call</u>	<u>March</u>
K5KV	88
WB6BEE	70
KI4XH	65
N5IR	46
K1ESE	43
K5YQF	35
AC4BT	34
NN6T	28
KB6NU	27
K4AHO	22
K6HP	16
KC0VKN	15
W3WHK	15
KE6OIO	15
HB9CVQ	15
N1ZX	10
N9SE	10
K6RB	9
I5EFO	8
WA8IWK	6
W5JQ	3
N5PHT	2
K0DTJ	2

Benny K5KV has jumped to the lead in March with nearly three QTX QSOs per day. Don WB6BEE is steadily chugging along in second place. This puts Fred KI4XH in third with more than two QTX QSOs per day. Several of us fell back from the blistering pace set by the three leaders.

We totaled three more participants, and QSOs were up by 74. These are the most participants and highest QSO totals for the year to date. Well done!

Personal bests for the year were submitted by K5KV (in a big way), KI4XH, KB6NU, K6HP, W3WHK, KE6OIO, N9SE, I5EFO, and W5JQ. HB9CVQ, N5PHT, and K0DTJ sent in their first reports of the year.

We award QTX medals for the following totals at the end of the year -

- Gold Medal - 400 QTX points
- Silver Medal - 300 QTX points
- Bronze Medal - 200 QTX points

It will be fun to see if you can accumulate the contacts needed to reach each level. Average about 18 rag chews each month to receive an award.

QTX Year to Date

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
WB6BEE	199
K5KV	196
KI4XH	184
K1ESE	156
N5IR	137
AC4BT	131
K5YQF	111
NN6T	77
KB6NU	74
K4AHO	72
KC0VKN	55
N1ZX	39
W3WHK	38
K6HP	34
KE6OIO	27
K6RB	23
I5EFO	19
WA8IWK	18
WC5W	17
N9SE	16
HB9CVQ	15
W5JQ	5
K3TN	4
N5PHT	2
K0DTJ	2

Don WB6BEE is hanging on to his lead but Benny K5KV is close behind after a big month in March. Don is only one QSO away from a Bronze medal! By the end of April, Don, Benny, and Fred KI4XH will have qualified for a medal already this year. By the end of the year, if everyone keeps their current pace, we will have three Bronze medal winners (50-74 so far), one Silver medal winner (75-99 so far), and seven Gold medal winners (100 or more so far). The rest of us can still win a medal just by picking up the pace a bit.

Good luck with your totals.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John KIESE, CWops #792, *QTX Manager*

QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW

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Upcoming CW Operating Events

[Joe Staples W5ASP](#)

This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities.

As most of you know, the weeks ahead are one of the slower times of the year for the CW operator. Between WPX CW and IARU, only Field Day gives the brass pounder a chance to really shine. But as you can see from the activities listed below, all is not lost. At least it's sufficient to keep the dust off the paddles and the ear attuned to the gentle tones of the code.

The two more significant contests are the Japanese and the Italian weekends. They give each of the US East and the West coast folks, as well as their own Asian and European comrades, a shot at some activity. One caution ... if you don't happen to read Italian, try the SM3CER site. It has the basics you'll need to handle the ARI. *[Or you can use Google Translate via the Chrome Browser for a serviceable translation into many languages. – Ed.]*

I mentioned the FISTS group in this column a while back. According to their website "FISTS supports the use, preservation and education of Morse code. The club is devoted exclusively to CW operators, CW operating and people who are passionate about Morse code." Its membership is perhaps ten times that of CWOps. Unfortunately, their operating events don't seem to draw the level of participation experienced by CWOps. Perhaps some stimulus from our group would "stir the pot" a bit ... i.e. a helping hand to other like minded CW operators.

As usual, there's a bunch of QSO parties on the agenda. Among the most notable is the Florida QSO party. It features numerous mobile stations staffed by top notch operators. And there's a full slate of CW contacts covering all counties. Don't miss it!

Until next time ... Keep on pounding.

APRIL/MAY EVENTS

JIDX CW Contest 0700Z, Apr 9th to 1300Z, Apr 10th
<http://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html>

[ARI International DX Contest](http://www.ari.it/) 1200Z, May 7th to 1159Z, May 8th
<http://www.ari.it/>
[SM3CER Contest Service](http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/aridxc.htm)
<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/aridxc.htm>

FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, May 14th
<http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 8 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 15 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 22 nd
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 29 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 6 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 13 th
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 13 th
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 12 th
www.naqcc.info/	
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 9 th to 2400Z, Apr 10 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 27 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8 th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 9 th to 0200Z, Apr 10 th
http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/	
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 9 th to 0359Z, Apr 10 th and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 10 th
http://www.georgiasqsoparty.org/	
Nebraska QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 16 th to 0200Z, Apr 17 th and 1400Z-2300Z, Apr 17 th
http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025-rules-ne-qso-party-2016.pdf	
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 16 th to 0400Z, Apr 17 th
http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm	
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 16 th to 0500Z, Apr 17 th and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 17 th
rules at: http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm	
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 16 th to 1800Z, Apr 17 th
http://w0nd.com/ndqso15.pdf	
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 30 th to 0159Z, May 1 st and 1200Z-2159Z, May 1 st
http://www.floridasqsoparty.org/rules.html	
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 7 th to 0700Z, May 8 th
http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules	
Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 7 th to 0300Z, May 8 th
http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html	

Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, May 7th to 2359Z, May 8th
<http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm>

New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 7th to 0500Z, May 8th and
1300Z-2400Z, May 8th
<http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

MARAC USA QSO Party 1400Z-2400Z, May 14th and
1400Z-2400Z, May 15th
<http://countyhunter.com/MARAC%20RULES%202016.htm>

Arkansas QSO Party 1400Z, May 14th to 0200Z, May 15th
<http://www.arkqsoparty.com/#!/rules/c205y>

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