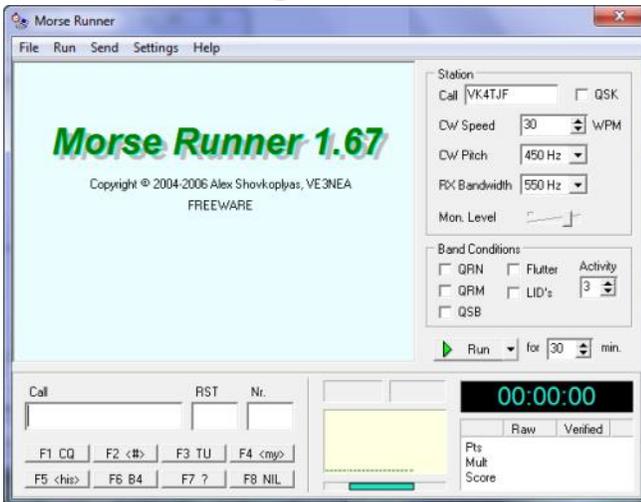




Teaching CW at CWA

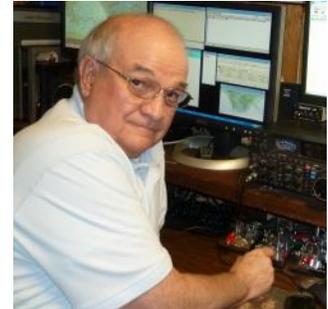


James, VK4TJF, has developed an effective approach as a CW Academy instructor, including the creative use of software. See story on page 7.

President's Message

June CW Weekend:

The second weekend after the Dayton Hamvention another gathering of CWops members happened under the banner of The CW Weekend. This is a social event managed by Don W4ZYT and supported



by Jim Talens N3JT and his wife Nina. The Friday evening meeting started with a group of about 25 members showing up for pizza and conversations. It was a lot of fun to meet more members that I had not seen before. You know them by their call signs but to get a chance to associate a call to the person adds another dimension of friendship. Saturday was open and my grandson Austin and I ventured on

(Continued on page 2)

CWops "CWT" Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1), 1-hour each session

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

Special Slow Speed sessions for CWA graduates will be November 8-9, 2017

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 "and up"

13+ wpm practice: Tuesday, Friday, Sunday 6-8 pm "local time" 7.035-7.045

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Mac McDonald [NN4K](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Stew Rolfe [GW0ETF](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

Director: Nodir Tursoon-Zade [EY8MM](#)

Webmaster: John Miller [K6MM](#)

Editor/Publisher: Tim Gennett [K9WX](#)

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the Metro to the Washington Mall. Austin is a recent high school graduate and we had a lot of fun visiting the Smithsonian Museums. We needed more time and hopefully we can do it again next year. Saturday evening we gathered again for a great meal together. Sunday morning Jim and Nina hosted a Brunch and another round of fellowship. Afterwards we all departed and are looking forward to the next CW Weekend.

CWT's: The weekly CWT activities on Wednesday continue to attract strong participation. For the month of June I don't think there was a session with less than 100 unique call signs. Most of the time it was closer to 140 call signs. In spite of the propagation conditions we still call it fun when we have CW QSO's. We greet new calls who seemingly are well qualified to become members and hope they will return. If you haven't participated for a while, dust off the paddles and join in again.

13 Colonies: This activity, the annual 13 Colonies, created some fun. I don't know all the CWops members who manned the keys but it was nice to hear a greeting from the operator along with his name and state. Pete W1RM was one of those contacts for me. Somehow, South Carolina had a shortage of CW operators and I had to resort to finishing my clean sweep by pulling out the microphone. Thanks to all the CWops members who volunteered to be on the air during this event.

President's Message . . .

“The annual 13 Colonies, created some fun. I don't know all the CWops members who manned the keys but it was nice to hear a greeting from the operator along with his name and state.”

CWops Awards: The CWops Awards Manager (CAM) is very useful for keeping track of your performance data. After each CWT your log can be saved into an ADI file. Once saved the CAM can be used to import that file and the process of keeping your records can be started. I try to do the import weekly so it's not a big chore for a monthly report. If you haven't tried using this excellent piece of software to keep up with your records, I recommend it. The program was designed and made available by N5RR, one of our CWops members. The monthly numbers can be input into the new app that Pete W1RM has devised. It is easy and I encourage you to use it.

Welcome to the new members who have joined CWops. The CW Academy is just one source of prospective members. There are a lot of excellent CW operators that participate in the weekly CWT events and who may be interested in being invited to become a member. Be sure and read the information in the Members Only part of the CWops.org website about membership. Prerequisites include the 25 wpm proficiency and prospects interest in being a member.

CW Open: Lastly, the CW OPEN sponsored by CWops is coming in September. It's similar to the weekly CWT's except that there are three 4-hour sessions. Awards are given for each session. Plan on being active during one or all three sessions. Check the CWops.org website for full details. <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html> Mark your calendars for September 2, 2017.

Good luck and have fun.

Mac, NN4K, President



From the [Editor](#)

Field Day Reinvented



Did you operate Field Day this year? I am most familiar with the ARRL Field Day held the last full weekend of June, so that experience is fresh in my mind. But there are several other Field Day events held throughout the year in other parts of the world, most notably the IARU Region 1 FD which has a CW session in June and a SSB session in September.

One of the things that makes Field Day unique is the wide ability range among participants. From seasoned veterans (which can't refer to me, I'm too young) to newbies, Field Day brings us all together, often in the same geographic location, and most certainly on the air working each other.

Here's the Field Day thing for me, at least prior to this year. I identify myself as a contester, and primarily a CW contester. Looking back, Field Day for me has always been another contest, albeit operating as a group instead of as an individual. But in my mind still a contest, and almost everything I did in past Field Days stayed true to the Prime Directive of trying to make as many QSO's as possible. Both for the benefit of my group, to claim bragging rights over other groups, and as an individual to claim bragging rights within my Field Day group. As a consequence, I often found more frustration than joy working stations whose operators slowed me down.

In any contest you always have some QSO's that take longer than others due to the skills of the other op, but FD has a much higher incidence of slow QSO's. It's not just the slower CW speed of the other op that hurts your rate, it's the other op's inclusion of non-contesting debris in the QSO. Worst case scenario: they answer my CQ by sending my call twice followed by de and then their call twice, include a signal report in their exchange (not required for the ARRL FD), repeat each element of their exchange twice including the signal report, and liberally sprinkle TU's RRR's, BK's and 73's throughout. At the least it slows your rate (there go the bragging rights) and in a worst case scenario you lose your run frequency because you spend so much of your time listening instead of transmitting.

If you're a CWops member and you have been paying attention, you will have noticed our organization's commitment to teaching and mentoring CW, especially through the CW Academy. If you hang out very long in the presence of other members as I had the chance to do recently at the Dayton Hamvention and the North American CW Weekend, this commitment is even more apparent, and it's a wonderful thing.

A recent discussion on the Society of Midwest Contesters Listserv had its members reminiscing about their first Field Day experiences and how those experiences got them hooked on CW and contesting. A comment from CWops member Pat WW9R was typical: "My first FD was in 1982. I logged for the novice station all night. In the morning Dave WB9BWP gave me the novice CW test. I took my novice test at his home a month later. My novice call KA9OIZ arrived in September. FD has meant great memories for me."

All of this inspired me to take a different approach to Field Day this year. "To hell with rate," I said. Was I the anti-[Admiral Farragut](#)? I resolved to call CQ more slowly than usual, knowing there were CW ops at other stations who might find a slower rate more inviting. If my CQ was answered by someone who was sending even slower than I was, I would QRS to their rate to complete the QSO. I'd take lots of deep

From the Editor . . .

"'To Hell with rate,' I said. I resolved to call CQ more slowly than usual. . . ."

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breaths during those extra long exchanges to maintain my inner peace. And while I didn't always do it, I ended some of my QSO's with a "dit-dit," my way of giving the other op a Gold Star.

How did I do? The ARRL won't publish its 2017 FD results until December, so group bragging rights are on the shelf for six months. And, OK, my approach may have cut my rate a bit, but I operated enough total hours to still claim the QSO-beast title for my club.

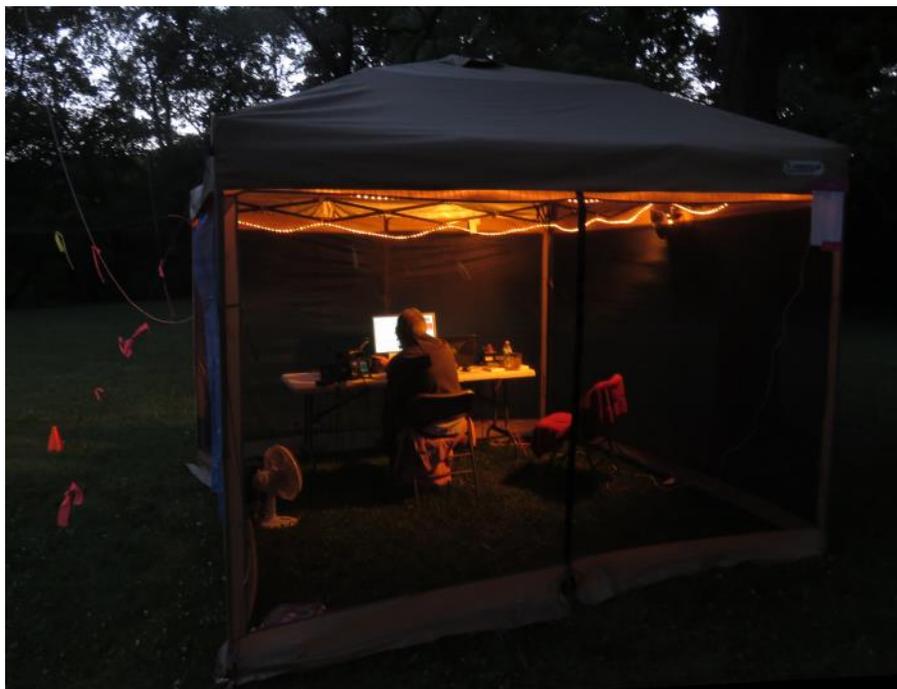
However, I worked a lot of slower stations, especially during those typically tedious, overnight hours.

I'm a decent-enough CW op, but I was reminded of the gap between my CW skills and the skills of many CWops members who are so much better at "celebrating the unique art form" than I will ever be. There is always room for improvement and when it comes to CW, that room for me is huge. It also felt pretty good to complete a Field Day QSO at 15 wpm, send the other op a "dit-dit," and have them send a "dit-dit" back to me.

The most important thing I may have accomplished was giving my Field Day efforts a new focus going forward. Even a hobby needs an occasional refresh and, this one feels pretty good.

73,

Tim, K9WX, Editor



Running 80M at sunrise at W9LDX, 1A IN. (K9WX photo)

Coming in your August Solid Copy

- John Getz, AD8J reports on his recent trip to HR9. Yes, ham radio and scuba can co-exist.



The June North American CW Weekend, [see story page 15](#) (N3AM photo)

News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

John, KM5PS: John, #1776 has just received a new vanity callsign of **K5RM**.

Juan, LU1AW: Juan, #1835 is our first Argentine member.

Gary, N5PHT: Here is a photo of Gary, N5PHT, staffing the CWops booth at the recent HamCom in Irving, TX.

Gary did this in his official capacity as the CWops Ambassador for the South Central US.

Rick, N6XI: N6XI has been enjoying his new toy, an Elecraft KX2 that replaced a KX3.

The KX3 is a great little radio, but the KX2 is "littler" and, for my use cases, that's more important than MF, VHF, a panadapter and a roofing filter.



I took the little box down to San Diego on a family vacation, drooped a SOTA-Beams dipole off the "towering" second-floor balcony, and found a CWT in progress. Good ears there - my QTH was behind not only its building but also substantial hills, really a poor place for ham radio!

Also used the KX2 for a little FD activity for which its battery way-outlasted the one in my logging computer. Next up are some SOTA hikes.

Mark, AB7MP: I have finally broken into the 6-meter world! (what was I thinking??)

Being an owner of one of the current generation HF rigs that includes 6-meters (for over a year!!) I decided it was time to test the waters of the "magic band". With limited resources, I decided to try a simple inverted V cut for about 51 MHz. After some testing, pruning, testing, pruning, etc. I finally had a working antenna that I hoisted to the 25' level of my mast – just in time for the June VHF contest.

That's when I learned why 6-meters is the "magic band" – life as I know it disappeared!! Now, I am constantly on the watch for Es openings and I keep the laptop loaded with a spotting page while I'm supposed to be spending some quality time with my wife. When I see an opening, I hustle back to the rig in time to see the signals fade into the noise floor. I heard one CQ that faded between the C and the Q. Of course, even with a limited window like that, I still sit at the rig, staring at the waterfall that only reveals a couple of weak birdies for the next 30 minutes while the spotting page starts to go blank on me.

I did make three contacts in the contest – one was about six miles away, but the others were in California (I live in Spokane, WA). Now, I have a fixation on anything aluminum and how it can be formed into a 6-meter antenna to improve my new life as I know it.

I do have the critical information memorized – 599 DN17 – this old dog has learned a new trick! See you on the bands!

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Dale, K3SEN: My summer QTH is in a strict HOA. I can't even use a stand-alone flag pole! Flags must be attached to the house with diagonal staffs.

So, I have been using a Buddipole set up between houses for the CWTs. I put it up, operate the CWT and take it down. This happens 3 times each Wednesday. It also gets old very fast. On longer contests I set up in the morning and take it down in the evening. So far no complaints...yet. I have recently installed a Diamond BB7V (stealth) vertical. I say stealth because when retracted it is about 5'6"! I planted it amongst several 5' bushes. I hope by next year the bushes are 5'6" tall! To operate I extend the antenna to its full height of 22'. Of course, after the contest I retract the antenna. It is very easy to extend and retract. The antenna uses NO radials and will run 250 watts.

I don't agree with verticals that don't use radials BUT, I have been told adding radials will de-tune the antenna. So far, I find the BB7V to be about the same as the Buddipole except it is much easier to put up and take down. With my Yaesu FTdx-1200 internal antenna tuner, the SWR is below 1.5 across 2.0 MHz thru 30 MHz. I has only been up about a week but so far, I have not heard from the neighbors or HOA. I wonder how long that will continue?

I bring this up because I know there are many of us that live in HOAs. This antenna works, but it ain't no Yagi!

Roger, G3LDI: Last weekend, the Norfolk ARC held their annual Barford Radio Rally. Barford is a small village just outside Norwich in Norfolk. This rally attracts lots of traders and the attendance is usually around the 300 mark. The weather was superb, lots of bacon butties, and other refreshments plus of course the usual natter and banter that goes on!

We always have a CW table in the hall, attracting a lot of visitors and hopefully converts to the mode. We have a display of various types of CW keys and they can all be tried. I run the table together with Jim G3YLA and other helpers. We try to promote GB2CW, as I am the RSGB GB2CW Coordinator, getting volunteers to volunteer for tuition or become a student, whichever is appropriate. It is a fun day and enjoyed by all, also raising money for a designated charity of the year, which happened to be the Asthma charity this year.

The picture shows Jim G3YLA with the bacon roll, and next to him is Chris G0TZZ with the coffee. Leaning on the table talking to Chris is Ray G3XLG, also a member of CWops and with his back to the camera is Robert G4TUK, one of our local students. In the background is Peter G4KLM talking to David M0WEL. The person standing in the middle is Chris G4CCX, a very keen CW tutor.



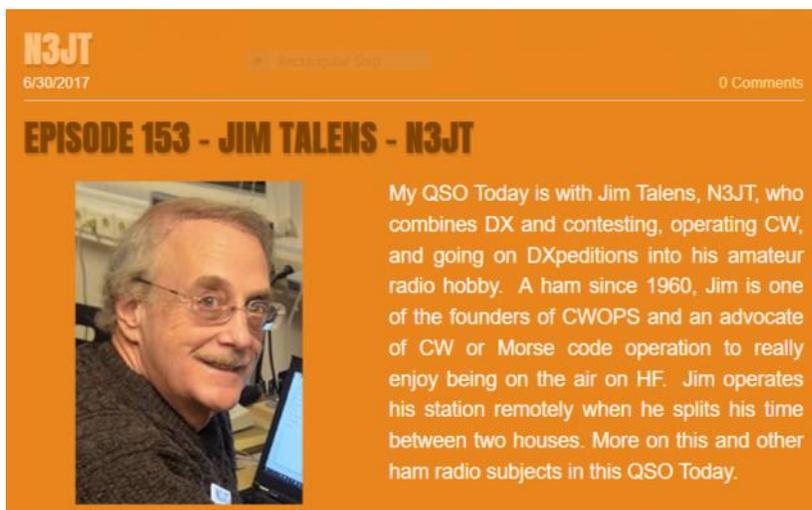
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Jim N3JT (CWops Secretary and founding member) was the subject of the June 30 QSO Today podcast published by Eric 4Z1UG. You can listen to it by navigating to www.qsotoday.com/

73,

Jerry, AC4BT, News & Notes



Using Computer Software to Teach CW

[James Fleming VK4TJF](#)

I'm told that my thinking is a bit different, more linear straight, forward and direct. I don't jump around a lot. I was told I was also unique in my thoughts and atypical in my thinking. So there may not be others who do things the way I do. On the other hand, I may bring new light and new ideas to a situation. With my military background I'm fairly regimented.

Here is a way to teach the CWops courses that is more by "the book" and uses computer programs to help. Yes, it is repetitive and boring at times, and practice is done twice daily, this is how we learn by being repetitive and reinforcing the material. Perhaps by having a more controlled outline on how to teach, those new to teaching won't feel so intimidated and they can just go by the lesson plan.



Level 1

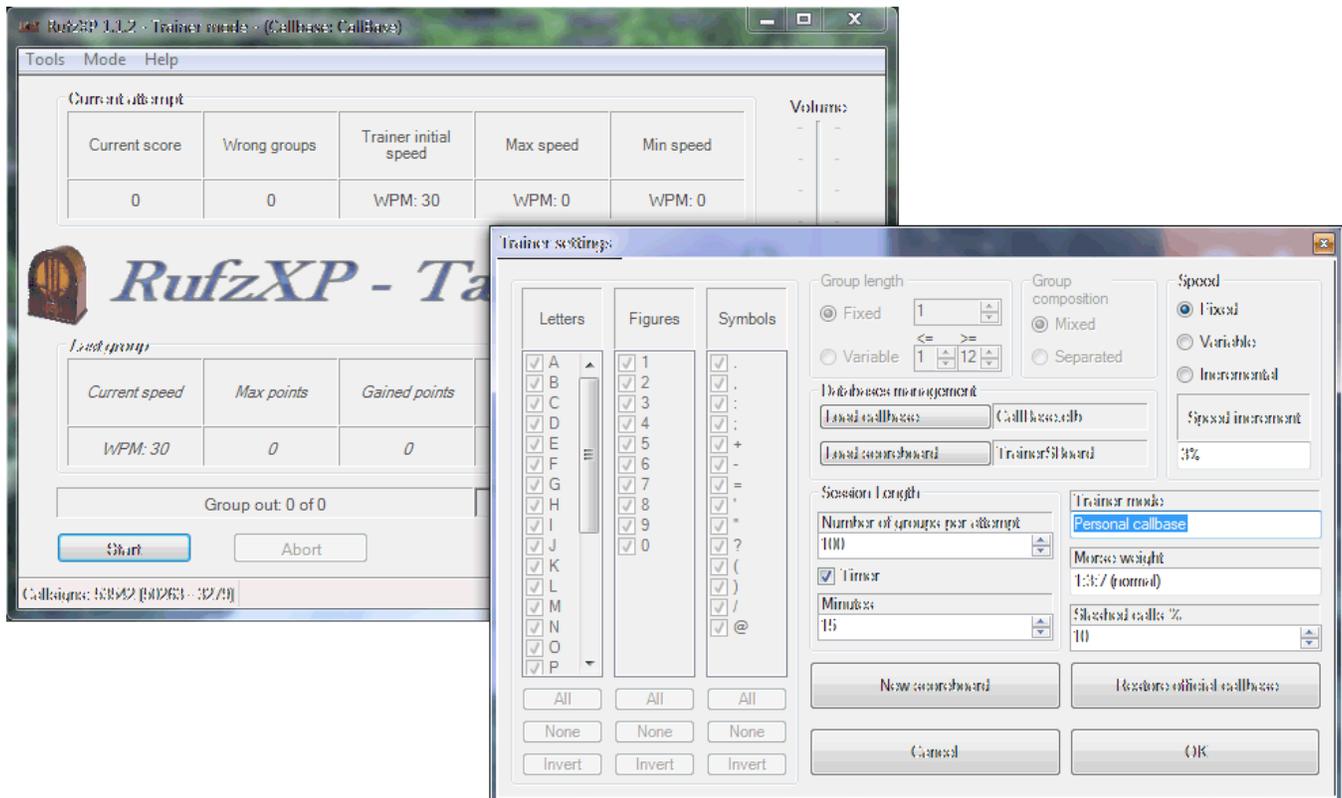
As an instructor for the CW ops CW academy I use a different approach to teach people CW. I use the free program RUFZ. With RUFZ I can email my students a notebook file that they plug into the program and which sends each line of the file in a random order. I tell my students not to type anything into the program as this is not an exercise in typing, just sit there and keep hitting the "Enter" key.

There are other advantages to using this software. It sends in perfect code, it uses varying tone and you

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have as much time as you need before hitting the Enter key to absorb the sound of the letter. I tell my students that, yes, they will have a horrible score and a sad face on the program but do not let that have any effect on you at all. They will have to replay the file over and over again to get to the required 15 minutes of practice. Again, the good part is that each time they play the file, RUFZ mixes it up and sends the lesson text in a random way.



I use the CW academy handbook and have made files for each week of the semester. Each week the students receive 2 files with an increased number of letters and words. I explain to my students that each letter and word has a unique sound and pattern to it. They are to memorize the pattern by ear. Just as my 5 year old has sight words that she memorizes, CWops students have hearing words that they memorize. I do not include any call signs. Remembering call signs is all about very short term memory and copying ahead, not long term memory. I feel these two skills are better suited for my Level 2 course.

When my students are done with the Level 1 course they will know all of the alphabet and numbers, some punctuation and some words. They will have instant recognition of these. I have found that there are some students that are tone deaf and need a constant tone or just want to sit back and listen to the code without hitting the enter key. For this there is another computer program that also accepts a notebook file and that program is "Just Learn Morse Code," again free for download off the internet. It sends the code in a random order and, just like the RUFZ program, the student can even go into the program and have it send certain letters and or numbers if they need to practice certain ones that they are having difficulty with. A lot of students can get hung up on the difference between the B and the 6, or the H and the 5.

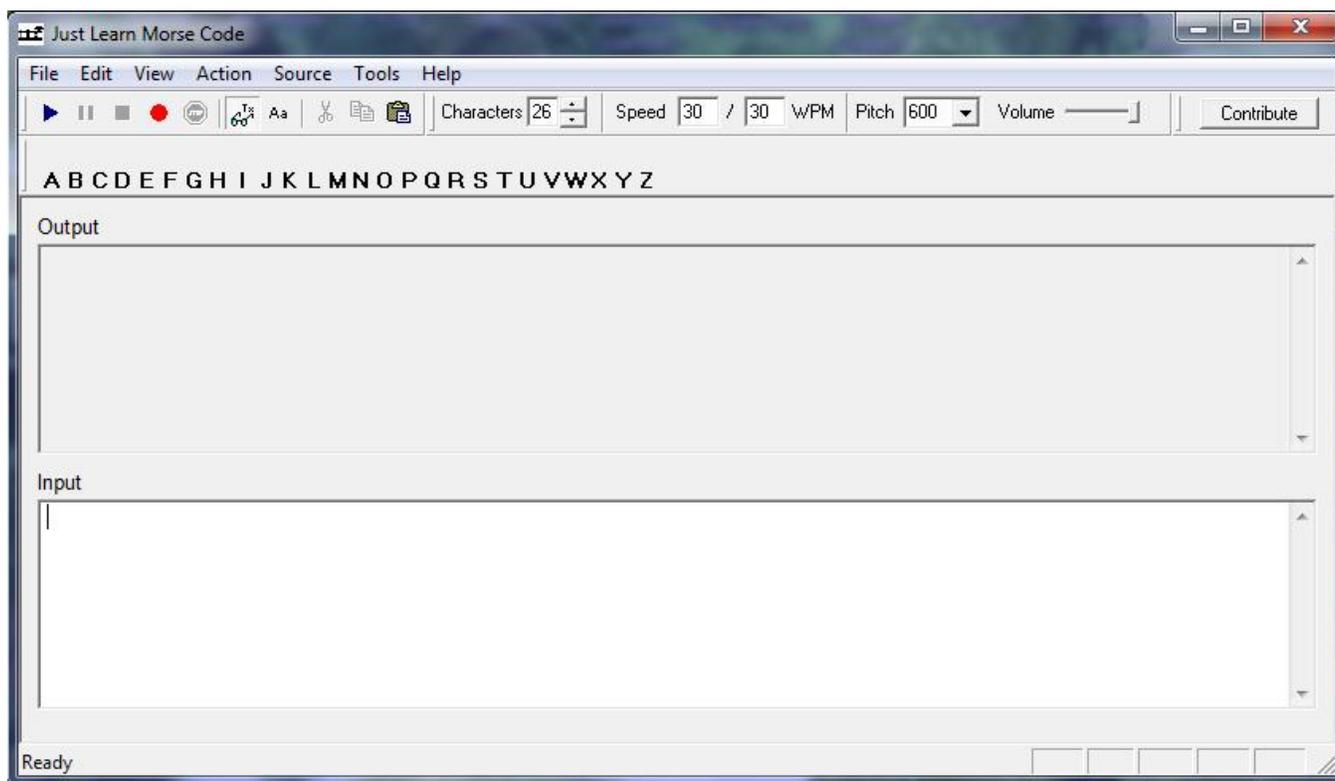
With all these programs I have my students learn the code at a 20 wpm sound. When using the Just Learn Morse Code program, it is helpful in the beginning to use a Farnsworth method and put a bit more time

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between when the letters and words that are sent. It is important to explain to the students that they are adult learners and if they feel a need for more practice or to do things a bit differently to speak up. Some students will progress faster than others and will need a bit longer for the homework assignments. Many students will need encouragement to show them that they are learning the words and are making progress. I do this during our weekly web meeting and send code over Skype. I send letters, simple words, Q-codes and words that have ham radio meanings. I also play games like sending abbreviations for US states, and prefixes for DXCC entities and easy baby names. So between the RUFZ and the Just Learn Morse Code program, this is how I get my students to practice and mainly how I teach on the Level 1 course.

I find that when using these computer programs, it is easy for the instructor to give out the assignments. This way there is a weekly lesson plan all set out and put forward. The main reason for getting together on



Skype is to find out if they are having any problems, trouble shooting, giving encouragement, showing them that they can in fact copy code and are learning and encouraging independent thinking. Some of my students have downloaded apps to their smart phones and listen to the code from my files on the train/bus to work. That is fine.

I also find that there is a great need to explain pattern recognition. CWA is taught in Japan for example, and when a Japanese student learns the pattern of a CW word, they associate a meaning with that word that is culturally significant to them. When I hear the same pattern I associate an English meaning with it based on my language and background.

Finally, there is a language and spelling component to CW. It is helpful for the student to know spelling and language in their native language. Further, what should be noted is that the student has 3 semesters with 2 month breaks to become proficient in CW. That is basically a year and 1-3 months. This will in-

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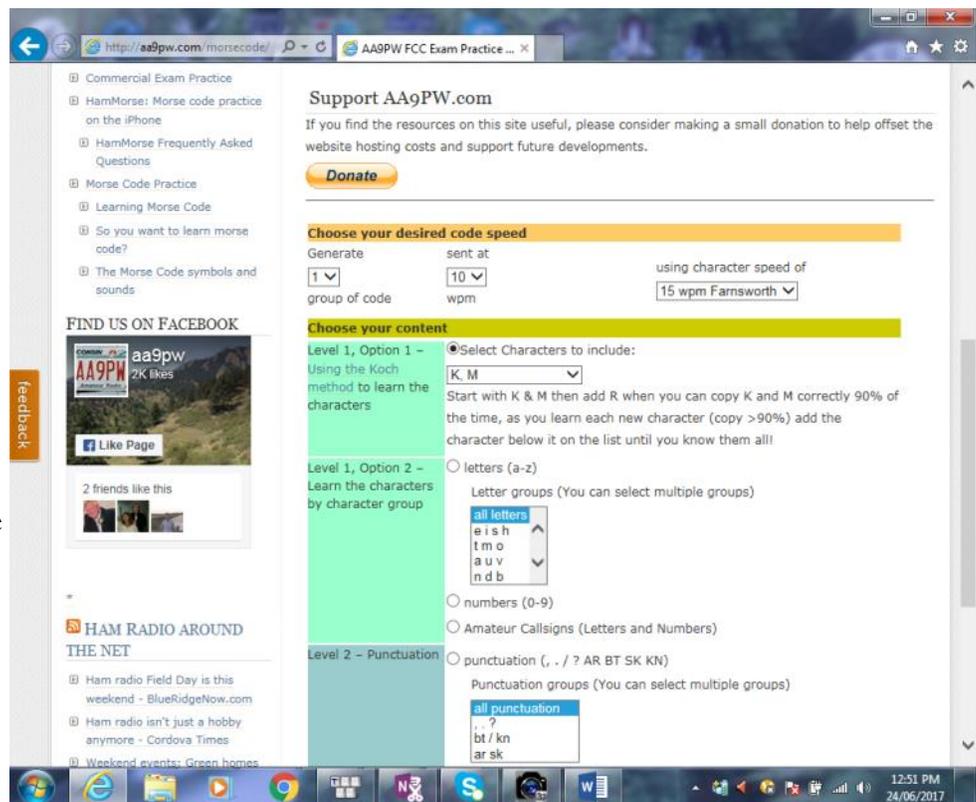
clude going through all three levels of the CWA. Of course, that is just the beginning, as learning should be a life-long effort.

Level 2

For the Level 2 course, I have found that there were no lesson plans and no hard and fast way set out to teach the course. Here's the approach I take. I start out with a revision of the letters using the RUFZ program but this time over the next, say, two weeks, the goal is to listen to letters sent 2 at a time, then 3 at a time, then 4 at a time and then 5 at a time. This is to increase the student's short term memory. I also add in the numbers till they can copy them 5 at a time. Again, each practice time is 15 minutes twice a day and code is sent at 20 wpm. This may take about 3 weeks or so depending on the student.

Then it is time to change up and start giving them words. First they listen to the 100 most common words, then the 200 most common words and then the 300 most common words. They again will have to memorize the patterns and will have a working memorized CW vocabulary of 300 words. Then I give them a file with all the Q codes and abbreviations to memorize. All the while I'm gearing them up for QSO's during my weekly web meetings.

Time to switch gears. Using AA9PW's website, the students listen to a bunch of rubber stamped QSO's for 15 minutes twice daily. Think of it as taking your CW medication. For the following week's lesson, I have them go to the ARRL's website and download about 5 of the CW 20 wpm practices and play them over and over again, just listening to them. At this stage, the students are also listening to the 300 words on Just Learn Morse Code program as well on true timing. For the last weeks of the semester, I have them start typing in call signs with the RUFZ program and seeing what they can get their scores up to.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the AA9PW website. The browser's address bar shows 'http://aa9pw.com/morsecode/'. The page has a navigation menu on the left with items like 'Commercial Exam Practice', 'HamMorse: Morse code practice on the iPhone', and 'Morse Code Practice'. The main content area is titled 'Support AA9PW.com' and includes a 'Donate' button. Below that, there are sections for 'Choose your desired code speed' (with dropdowns for 'Generate' and 'sent at' set to '10' and 'wpm', and a '15 wpm Farnsworth' option) and 'Choose your content'. Under 'Choose your content', there are radio buttons for 'Level 1, Option 1 - Using the Koch method to learn the characters' (selected), 'Level 1, Option 2 - Learn the characters by character group', and 'Level 2 - Punctuation'. The 'Level 1, Option 1' section has a dropdown for 'Select Characters to include' set to 'K, M' and a text box for 'Start with K & M then add R when you can copy K and M correctly 90% of the time...'. The 'Level 1, Option 2' section has a dropdown for 'Letter groups' with 'all letters' selected. The 'Level 2 - Punctuation' section has a dropdown for 'Punctuation groups' with 'all punctuation' selected. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various icons and the system clock '12:51 PM 24/06/2017'.

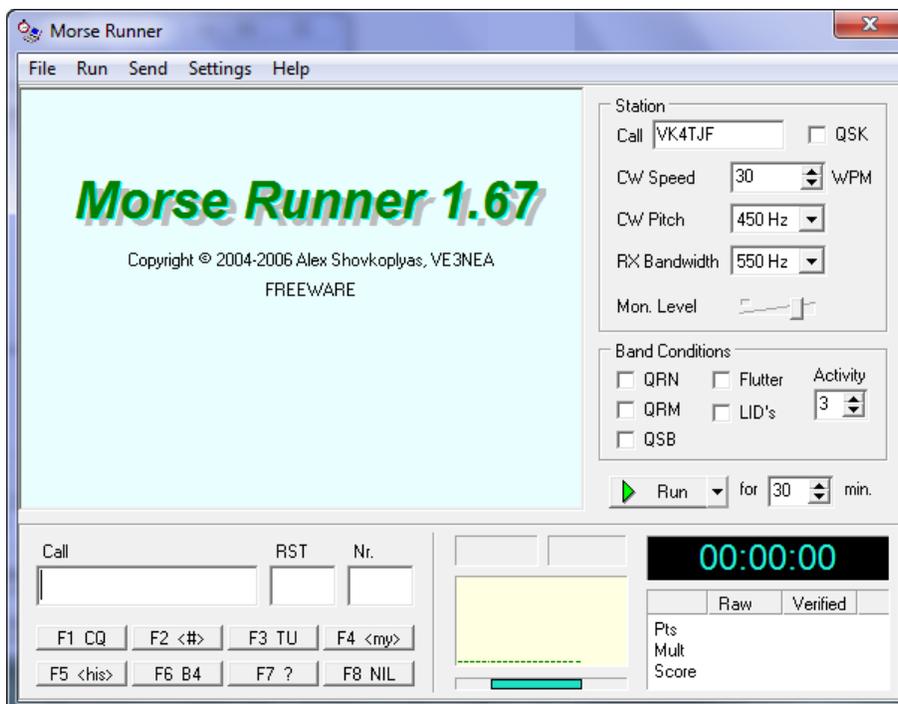
I then have the students use the program Morse Runner and have them simulate a contest with only single callers, and no lids or QRM or anything. In addition they have the task of going on air and writing down 20 QSO's that they hear copying RST's names QTH's and what was said. My students graduate the Level 2 course when they go on air and make 20 actual real time QSO's nothing fancy just easy rubber stamped QSO's with RST name and QTH.

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Level 3

The Level 3 course is all on air, so students must have a radio and an antenna. The goal of Level 3 is getting speed up to 25 wpm and to getting comfortable with radio operation. This means listening to the 1,000 most common words on the Just Learn Morse Code program at 25 wpm and listening to 10 different ARRL files at 25 wpm. It also serves as a nice recap and consolidation to the knowledge already learned. After these tasks are mastered they move to Morse Runner program to learn how to deal with pile ups. They first practice with only 2 callers at a time and build up to 5 callers at a time.



The balance of the semester is a matter of making both long and short air QSO's at varying speeds. Time is also spent contesting, to include running as a CW contest station. It is easier to find on air activity during the weekend and during contests, nets and special events. If the student has the opportunity to use a station with a better antenna system that will also help. Basically, students are encouraged to take part in virtually any CW opportunity: on air activity, field days and activations of any sorts.

I continually try to impress upon the students that this course is just the beginning of their learning; making new friends and connections and joining the wider CW community will follow. Needless to say, they are encouraged to join CW Ops.

Of course I have not touched here on sending CW. There are many ways to send CW: paddle, keyboard, computer program, side swipe or single paddle key, bug. Perhaps the student does not want to send at all, or they may want to know CW for emergencies, short wave listening, or aviation. Most students find that sending is the easy part, but copying and understanding take the most time. We must listen before we speak. A good way to practice sending is by sending short news articles and sending comic strips. There are computer programs out there that can monitor what you send such as Flwkey 1.2.3 and CW Get. These programs give positive feedback to let you know that you are indeed sending correctly. One could also easily send a news story taken from the Web, have CW Get decode while you send the story, copy the received text from CW Get into a text editor and then compare your text as received by CW Get to the original text.

That's a summary of my experiences as a CW Academy instructor. I hope other instructors find a tip or two that will help you to be more effective.

James Fleming K8UP/VK4TJF

New Appointments Announced

President Mac MacDonald has announced three new appointments within CWops.

QTX Manager

After serving CWops for many years as the QTX Manager, John K1ESE has requested to be relieved of his duties effective June 30, 2017. John's work has appeared in the monthly Solid Copy Newsletter under the QTX column. He has encouraged members to make CW QSO's during the month and reporting the number of them that were 20 minutes or longer to him by the end of every month. Let's keep the torch burning for John by making it a goal to have more CW QSO's every month and sending in a report.

Gary N5PHT is super energetic and was quick to speak up with his desire to replace John. It is a pleasure to announce that Gary will become the new QTX Manager effective July 1, 2017. Gary is on track to win a QTX Gold Medal for 2017 and you can frequently hear his call sign and CQ being sent on the bands. His monthly efforts prove that there are other CW operators out there who respond and are helping fill the CW sections of the Amateur Bands with the sound and language we all enjoy.

Web Master

John K6MM has been the CWops.org webmaster since the club began. That's a record of ten years of dedicated service. We all appreciate what he has done and created for the membership. John had requested to be relieved of his position as webmaster and that transition has occurred and was effective on June 1, 2017.

John is the new President of the NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation) and we wish him well in his new position.

We are fortunate to have many talented and professional people in our membership. Among those who stepped up to be considered for John's replacement was Dan KB6NU. Considering that Dan has many years of experience managing client websites and maintaining his own kb6nu.com website I have appointed Dan as our new CWops Webmaster. The CWops website is a frequently visited place on the Internet and we all welcome Dan to his new position and wish him a lot of success and satisfaction in the future.

CW Open Administrator

Alan, AD6E has requested to be relieved of his responsibilities as the CW Open Administrator. He has done a great job. With his request to be relieved Alan presented a list of names whom he had worked with in managing the CWO. It was from that list that we have found a replacement for Alan. I'm introducing Bruce N1LN as the new CWO Administrator who will also handle Region 2 CWO.

Bruce recently retired from his commercial work and was looking for something to take on during his retirement life. Managing the CWO will go a long way toward filling in his time and let's wish him success and satisfaction in his new role. You can expect more information from Bruce related to the Annual CW Open Competition. Mark your calendars now as the CW Open is coming in September.

Mac, NN4K, CWops President

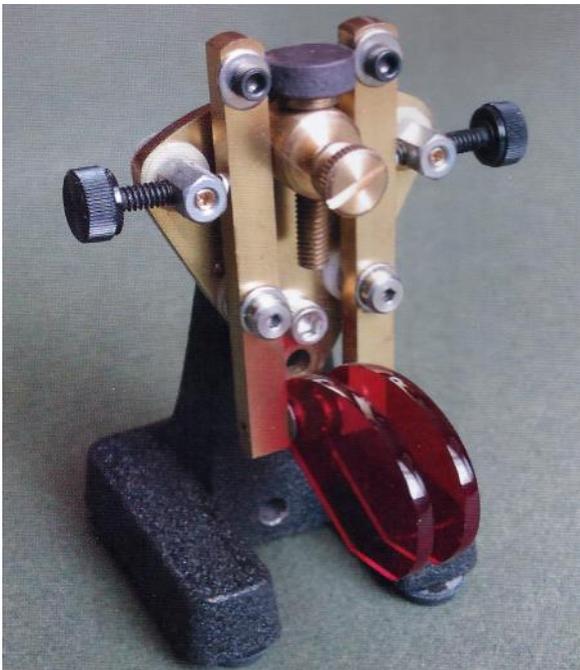


Bool Review: “Compendium of Automatic Morse Code” by Ed Goss, N3CW

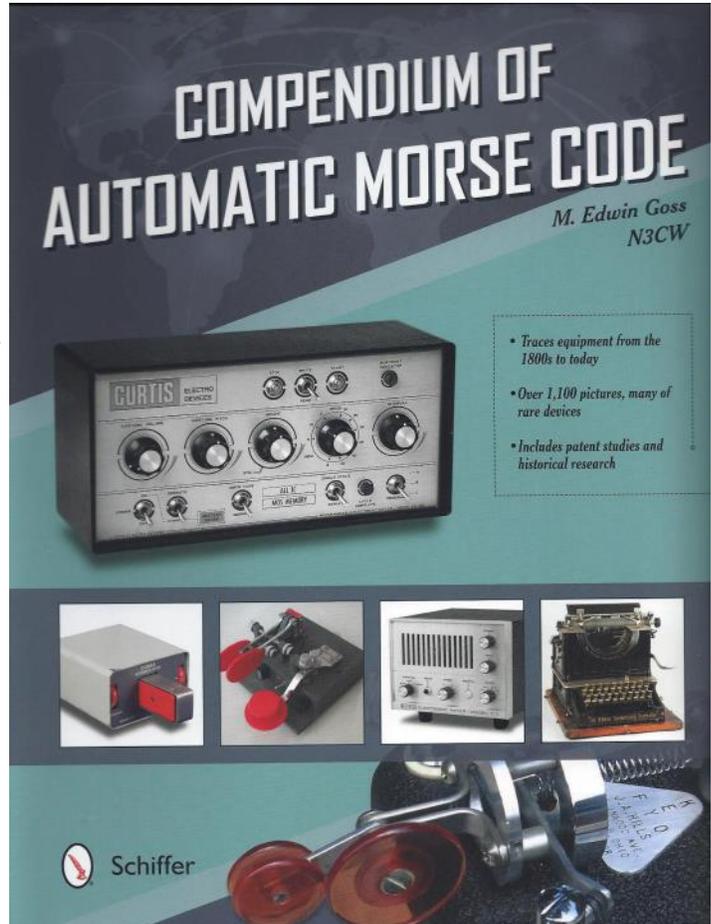
Reviewed by [John Pescatore K3TN](#)

There was an episode of Seinfeld years ago where Kramer wrote an enormous coffee table book about coffee tables – and it actually opened up to be a coffee table! Ed Goss N3CW has written an equally large coffee table book describing and illustrating over 1,100 devices that have been used to automate all or part of the process of sending Morse Code. For a lifelong CW operator and user of just about every new keyer that came along, it is a great read but, no – this book does not actually turn into a keyer if you open it up....

The book starts with some basic history of the code and keys which may be familiar to many, but the opening section includes pictures of many very exotic keys I'd never seen before. Ed even includes a 20 page section on code oscillators and other Morse trainers – when was the last time you saw the old Ameco OCM many of us started out with? My next door neighbor and I had them and ran speaker wire between our bedroom windows so we could send code to each other as we prepared for the Novice test.



The March Vertical Paddle



The meat of the book starts with the 68 page section on electronic keyers. I was an early adopter of electronic keyers (anyone else build that shoebox-sized Heathkit HD-10 monstrosity with the micro switches on the paddles?? See page 92) but I'd never seen or had forgotten about most of the keyers Ed shows. Some are works of art, like the Hi-Mound UFO-001 art deco model. Many others look like Rube Goldberg briefly got interested in producing ham gear.

That chapter is followed by over 100 pages of pictures and descriptions of paddles: dual lever, single lever, miniature/portable, commemorative, and even paddles with straight keys built-in – more Rube Goldbergian head scratchers in that section in particular.

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A lot of mechanically handy hams retire and think about building their own keys. The book includes very informative sections on the basic principles of paddle design, adjustment and maintenance. But, wait there's more – the book closes out with sections on accessories (dust covers! knee mounts!), Morse keyboards, printing telegraphy readers, methods for learning the code and some Morse Code trivia. There is even an appendix listing related patents!

Anyone who loves Morse Code enough to join CW Ops will love this book, it is full of high quality pictures and informative text written in an engaging style. At \$75 and 1750 grams (almost 4 pounds!) it could strain both your budget and your actual coffee table. This might be the perfect thing to hint to your XYL if he or she is looking for a birthday or holiday present for you – as the sunspots continue to decline, flipping through the “Compendium” will be a great way to fill the long hours of dead bands.



How We Were

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)



N0AX, Ward Silver, CWops # 1744

First licensed at age 16 in 1972 as WNØGQP, primarily Elmered by WBØDYV, now KJ7PC, then upgraded to Extra and NØAX in 1975.

Ward is a super operator, technical author, and master of all trades. Also a Lincoln reenactor who sent the Gettysburg Address with a Vibroplex at the St, Charles, MO 4th of July parade.

Here are links to his presentations at Contest University 2017:

[Introduction to Contesting](#) and

[Shack Design](#); and leading the [Spurious Emissions Band](#) at the Visalia Contest Dinner.

Please send your How We Were pictures and stories to w6sx@arrl.net.

73,

Hank, W6SX, How We Were



The 2017 North American CW Weekend June 2-4, 2017

[Don Lynch W4ZYT](#)

This year's North American CW Weekend - a social event celebrating CW operation and operators - was held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia, the weekend of June 2-4. In attendance for all or part of the weekend were: Pete W1RM and Bobbie, John N3AM, Jim N3JT and Nina, Frank W3LPL and Phyllis, Bud AA3B and Debbie, Peter W1UU and Maria, Wayne N4FP and Marty WB2VYK, Tony N2ATB and Rosemary, Rob K6RB [and cousin Marc], John AA4JJ and Marlene, John K4HQK and Sheila, Jim K4TMM and Nancy, Bob N2UU, Don K6ZO, Lar K7SV, Steve NR4M, Gary WB4DNL, George WB5OYP, John KN4VV, Riki K7NJ and Becki, Dave K8CMO and Pat, Scott K9MA, Tim K9WX, Dave KE4S, Mac NN4K and grandson Austin, Dale KG5U, Frank K1EBY, Jason W1UJ, Pat K0OO, and Don W4ZYT.

We were fortunate to enjoy splendid weather, and although the unexpected closure of two of our usual restaurant haunts created some confusion, Jim was able to locate excellent replacements that all agreed met the needs of our largest group very well.

Friday evening found us at Joe's Pizza and Pasta in Arlington, as Joe's Vienna site is now permanently closed. The Arlington restaurant did not disappoint, and provided Joe's usual quality, variety, and excellent service. Joe's makes just about any kind of pizza imaginable so everyone enjoyed trying both their favorites and new toppings! Most folks had trouble standing up afterwards but smiles were widespread, so we know the food was great! The group managed to return to the hotel and continue chatting and exchanging fun stories in the hospitality suite at the Fairview Park Marriott.



Jim N3JT and Nina laid on their traditional and always excellent Saturday brunch, which included a tour of the N3JT emergency backup power system and the N3JT station, which has remote operation capability when Jim and Nina spend their winters in Florida. This gathering may be the highlight event of the weekend because it lends itself to easy socialization, discourse, and exchange of ideas and experiences - all manner of topics are discussed. The wives present gathered in the living room and enjoyed themselves while the guys carried on elsewhere.

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Following brunch, many went to museums or enjoyed other attractions in the area. In the evening, we gathered at the Blackfinn Ameripub, a new venue for us, not far from the hotel, and enjoyed dinner in an area which we had largely to ourselves. Food and service were very good and we hope to return there again next year. Many then repaired to the hospitality suite at the hotel or more socializing. N3AM stocked the hospitality suite so there were plenty of munchies and beverages for all, both nights.



Several of the crew met for breakfast at the hotel on Sunday, but by midday nearly all were headed home – with fond memories of another great gathering of CW operators.

Next year's CW Weekend will be June 1-3, 2018. Stay tuned for details! But in the meantime, why not circle the weekend and plan on joining in the fun? Photos of some of the events should be on the CWops website, too. And talk it up - we had our best turnout this year, and it would be great to welcome more of our CW brethren next year.



A New Way To Submit Monthly Scores

[Pete Chamalian W1RM](#)

Each month, members can submit their results for the following awards. These results are tallied and reported in Solid Copy. Members may find using [CAM, the software developed by Bill, N5RR](#) most helpful in keeping track of your results. You will keep track of the member by their number, not call so if you work W1RM (CWops 8) on 80 then W1RM operates from VP9XX and you work him on 40, you now have 1 ACA point, 2 CMA points and 2 DXCC countries. There is no limit to the number of times you can work W1RM from different countries (WAE and WAZ as well) and each one will count for the country but only 1 ACA point and 1 CMA point for each different band.

Thanks to our web master, Dan, KB6NU, we now have a new and hopefully easier way for you to submit your scores! From the members section on our website, scroll down to the Awards section to the first block that says “NEW the CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW” and click on the green button.



This will take you to a page that explains the CWops Operating awards. Scroll to the bottom and you will see this:

CWops Awards

Call:

Month **Year**

For each of the awards below, enter the number of contacts that you are claiming.

ACA	<input type="text"/>
CMA	<input type="text"/>
DX	<input type="text"/>
WAS	<input type="text"/>
WAE	<input type="text"/>
WAZ	<input type="text"/>

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Enter the call you are reporting for, the year and the month you are reporting. If you miss a month, just submit your current totals. If you have multiple calls please pick the one that you want the report to show.

ACA – this is an annual tally of the number of different members you have worked on CW, regardless of band . The tally resets to zero each January 1.

CMA – this is a cumulative total of the number of different members contacted on each band 160-2, excluding 60 meters . Your tally starts on the date you became a member. Contacts prior to that don't count. This total does not reset and is carried over each year.

DX – the number of different countries you work a CWops member operating from. It makes no difference if they are a resident or on DXpedition.

WAS – the number of different states you work a CWops member in. Again, it makes no difference if they are a resident or just passing through.

WAE – the number of different European countries as defined by the DARC. The present WAE list is 72.

WAZ – not tallied by CAM but you can do this on your own. Like DXCC, this is the number of different CQ zones you work a CWops member operating from.

Once you have completed your entry , simply click on the submit button and you're done! An email will be created and sent to CWopsCAMScores@comcast.net for recording.

If you make a submission then wish to update it, simply fill in the values and submit it again. W1RM will use the latest email for results.

As an aside, Alex, VE3MA, a graphics designer by trade, has volunteered to develop a series of certificates for each of these awards. Each certificate will be available on the web so you can pick the certificate you have earned, fill in the appropriate information and your certificate will then be created so you can download it and print. We hope these new certificates will be in production sometime in the fall so watch for future announcements about that.

If you have comments or questions, please submit them in a separate email to CWopsCAM-Scores@comcast.net

CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

The April-May 2017 semester of CW Academy (CWA) has recently concluded. Student signups to our popular and unique service for teaching CW continue to roll in at a record pace. We have had over 600 new signups since the beginning of January 2017 and are in need of additional CW Advisors to continue to provide timely and high quality instruction to our students anxiously waiting to get into a CW class.

If every active CWops member volunteers to advise just one class, at a minimum, our stellar CW Academy program will continue to flourish.

Advising level 1 is very straight-forward. It is 100% structured to the point where lesson plans for each of the 16 sessions are outlined in the Handbook. The student works on each lesson on their own using the Morse Trainer web application (customized for CWA), comes to class and the Advisor reinforces, corrects and encourages each student. It is perfectly laid out and suited for someone with little experience in running a class but one who has expertise in the topic - CW.

Signing up to be a Level 1 Advisor is easy to do, just fill out the Advisor form on the [CWops web site](#). This is your chance to give back to a hobby that has given you so much satisfaction.

CW Academy

“We have had over 600 new signups since the beginning of January 2017 and are in need of additional CW Advisors to continue to provide timely and high quality instruction to our students anxiously waiting to get into a CW class.”

Results

*** Please note that the below results are what has been reported back to me to date. I am still awaiting final April-May 2017 class results from several advisors.

The CW Academy April-May semester graduated 129 CW students led by 47 Advisors and 6 Associate Advisors.

Below is a list of advisors, Associate Advisors, and student graduates from this semester:

April-May 2017 Semester – 47 Advisors and 6 Associate Advisors

Advisors - 2 classes

Rob K6RB, Ed K6HP, Joe KK5NA, Dallas K1DW, Jack NI8N, Jerry AC4BT

Advisors – 1 class

Mac NN4K, Don K6ZO, Andy WB7DKZ, Paul K4JAZ, Barry W4LSV, Kate K6HTN, Alan AD6E, Bill K1AQB, John K4AFE, Lar K7SV, Bruce K1BG, Carl K9LA, Dan AQ4SQ, Rich K1DJ, Pete AG3R, Dan N5TM, Jay VY1JA, Dennis K2SX, Phil G4NVR, Bill KC4D, Bob K5WA, Kory WA5RR, Rocky AE7US, Ed K1EP, Bill N0KQ, Eric NM5M, Al K0AD, Zdenek OK7DR, Bill AJ8B, CJ WT2P, Ed N9EP, Mark K5GQ, Joe N3HEE, Ron WM9Q, Scott KF7GGN, Bill N7YT, Ron VE3FXX, Will WJ9B, Eric G0HKC, Vic 4X6GP, James VK4TJF

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Associate Advisors

Jim N4TMM, Doug VE3MV, Jason AI6PA, Jim AD5TT, Jim W4MJE, Bob K9FS

April – May 2017 Semester – Students who completed: 129 graduates

Level 1 Graduates: 82

AG6ZE, K7WXW, WC6J, KC9YL, AB9XI, K3JH, N1RLT, K1KJR, N3OMR, W3MCD, KM4GCK, N2DET, W4RJF, KM4KNV, WY1TMS, KI7FUT, K4FZK, KD8KOR, KC1ENX, AC8XP, KC3RV, N5STT, KW9W, W0AF, KK4TJP, KM6AXC, AF6UY, KG7MWQ, N0MTN, N1ZTY, N0CM, KA9GEU, KD0WDH, AD0UA, WA0DOM, AK4JL, W4KTR, K4CMNK, KB8KHW, KC9UXC, KB3LUE, NC6D, K8JLW, AI6QJ, K4CHF, N4EFS, N3UKO, W4JHU, KJ4J, W2JDT, KC4FKX, KD2KRG, KD2JQG, N4MMT, K3YMI, KJ4TID, K2FF, KM4VJC, KG5C, VE3KRX, N9DMA, F4WAR, VE3ZSR, SQ6GIT, NR5Q, KA9NOH, KC3HMY, KJ8R, KG7NJF, W7MMT, AI6V, KC9ZVD, KB1ZQ, KG5QLB, KG5PFD, W9NYX, K4HIN, KA5DON, NI4MX, KB3SAR, KD8RTT, Geraldo Schlossberg

Level 2 Graduates: 39

K4DIZ, WD0END, N3AO, W4ZY, KD1YV, N3AO, W4ZY, KD1YV, AA8P, WB8YXF, KJ4YM, HJ4GDB, AC3K, N1ZRG, KB4WLF, AI0IA, W6BQZ, W5NWT, W5UTW, K5CUB, W3JVC, WG0R, W7JJL, KG5DKG, N3NFL, W4TDV, NM1Y, K1CHM, AB6JY, AI6JZ, NR7Z, AH0U, KH7AL, KI7AXH, IZ0DIO, GM0EUL, G7KSE, M0UAT, ZL1HB

Level 3 Graduates: 8

WA5LXS, KM5PS, W9DCA, K2DIW, K4AEN, LU1AW, K5BRY, WQ7O

Thank you.

Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

CWOps Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

I'll start out with a reminder that we are not the only people on the band, and the guys with Drake twins and wide filters organizing their next face-to-face meeting at an upcoming hamfest have just as much right to use the band as contesters trying to increase their QSO count in the CWTs. Before starting to CQ, stop and listen, possibly with wider filters than you will be using. Send a QRL? and stop to listen for a response – it can take the guy on the other end a few seconds to react. They're not contesting and their reactions aren't on a hair-trigger the way yours may be.

We also share some of the frequencies we use with other modes. You may have noticed what seem to be

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persistent carriers near 7040 kHz. That's WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter), a beaconing mode invented by Joe Taylor K1JT. This isn't the place to get into a description of the various modes K1JT has invented that are revolutionizing weak-signal communications like EME, meteor scatter, etc. Suffice it here to point out that there are hundreds of mostly low-power stations around the world using WSPR, and on 40 meters they are located between 7040 and 7040.2 kHz.

From the point of view of the CWTs, the WSPR beacons are a group of narrow signals (6 Hz wide each) occupying various parts of that narrow stretch of spectrum for 110 seconds out of every two-minute period. If you have ever tried CQing at a nearby frequency, within say a couple of hundred Hz or so, you may have had a lower level of success than at other frequencies. That could be because depending on the locations and exact frequencies of the beacons that happen to be transmitting during that particular two-minute period, there might be some that are relatively loud either in your receiver or in the receivers of stations you are hoping to work, making it more difficult to complete a successful QSO.

The solution to this is pretty clear – it's best to stay away from the immediate vicinity of those frequencies. How far? Far enough so they are outside the bandpass of a typical 400-500 Hz filter would be my suggestion, i.e. you might want to avoid using frequencies between 7039.8 and 7040.4 kHz unless you like trying to work through QRM. If you operate within that range, you could have trouble making QSOs with folks who can't hear your signal through the forest of weak WSPR carriers.

Another source of QRM that can make certain frequencies difficult to use is Ethernet equipment (routers, switches, and so on). Some Ethernet equipment generates spurs at a variety of frequencies. These sound like a cluster of unstable carriers within a range of a few hundred Hz of one another.

One common such spur is near 14030 kHz, and that's the one that is of most interest for CWT operators. If you are hearing this yourself, the source might well be in your own home. I used to find frequencies close to 14030 kHz to be virtually unusable until a change of ISPs led me to change routers as well. The new router is much cleaner than the old one, and after the change I could hear signals at 14030 kHz that formerly would have been covered up. The thing is, though, even if your own QTH is clear, some of the people you want to work may have local Ethernet QRM. There being not much you can do about that, once again the solution is to stay away from that particular frequency if you want to maximize your ability to make QSOs.

The end of June marks the halfway point in the year. For the CWTs, that's 78 sessions completed out of the year's total of 156. The 7 members with perfect participation records at the beginning of June continued that way through the month (AA3B, K0MP, K3WW, N4FP, N5PHT, UA6HZ and UR5MM). We have 55 members who are halfway to a gold medallion, 65 on the way to silver and 67 are on track for bronze.

The CWTs continue to grow. We had our largest number of reported scores yet in the 1900Z session on June 28th, with 181 scores submitted to 3830scores.com. For the year so far, 563 different amateurs have submitted CWT scores – 445 CWops members and 118 more non-members.

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

73

Rich, VE3KI (aka CG3KI in 2017), CWops Test Manager

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.

In the table below, members whose call sign is in **RED** have achieved a milestone: 100 DX entities, 40 WAE entities, 50 states (WAS). Members who wish to track their totals for these awards can use the CAM software developed by N5RR. It's available at no cost here: www.bbcyber.com/cam/

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	685	6503	W1RM	177	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
N8BJQ	591	4449	F6HKA	168	W1RM	50	F6HKA	45	F6HKA	38
N5PHT	581	2291	W4VQ	145	W4VQ	50	OK1RR	44	W4VQ	37
VE3KI	580	4234	G4BUE	126	F6HKA	50	N5RR	43	G4BUE	37
F6HKA	578	4424	N5RR	118	W1UU	50	G4BUE	43	VE3KI	36
W1RM	567	4767	OK1RR	115	VE3KI	50	VE3KI	42	N5RR	36
K5AX	558	2602	VE3KI	114	G4BUE	50	N8BJQ	42	N5PHT	33
K1ESE	548	2780	N8BJQ	114	EA8OM	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
DL6KVA	536	1336	OH2BN	112	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	41	DL6KVA	31
K9WX	374	2126	EA8OM	111	F6JOE	50	OH2BN	40	VK7CW	30
NA6O	363	1853	K1ESE	102	W6KY	50	AA3B	40	JF2IWL	25
K8AJS	363	973	AA3B	96	N1EN	50	DL6KVA	38	W6NS	19
K0MP	357	617	DL6KVA	95	N5PHT	50	SM6CNN	37		
NN4K	342	1441	W0VX	93	F5MNK	50	K1ESE	36		
W0VX	331	2988	SM6CNN	93	K5IX	50	IT9MUO	36		
KE4S	318	1284	EA1WX	92	K3SEN	50	F6JOE	36		
IT9VDQ	315	1231	W9ILY	91	AD1C	50	W1UU	34		
IT9MUO	311	1574	N5PHT	86	AB7MP	50	W0VX	34		
K3SEN	307	1200	N1EN	86	AA3B	50	KZ5D	34		
W9ILY	303	2943	IT9MUO	85	K5AX	50	KR3E	34		
I5EFO	285	518	F6JOE	84	I5EFO	50	EA1WX	34		
K5IX	274	892	AD1C	83	W9ILY	49	W9ILY	33		
W6KY	248	2088	K5AX	80	W0VX	49	I5EFO	33		
AA8TA	247	346	PA7RA	79	VK7CW	49	N1EN	32		
AD1C	241	2101	KZ5D	78	NN4K	49	IT9VDQ	32		
G4BUE	234	3287	DL8PG	78	NA6O	49	F5MNK	32		
W4VQ	224	2581	W1UU	75	N8BJQ	49	PA7RA	31		
KE4RG	215	353	VK7CW	73	N1DC	49	DL8PG	31		
W1UU	204	2038	KR3E	73	KT5V	49	K5AX	30		

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CWops Member Awards

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K6DGW	202	1710	N1ZX	70	K9WX	49	IK0YVV	30		
N1DC	184	1529	F5MNK	68	K6RB	49	NN6T	29		
F6JOE	178	2677	NN6T	67	K6DGW	49	N1ZX	28		
G0MGM	159	318	IT9VDQ	67	K1ESE	49	GW0ETF	28		
AB7MP	132	697	GW0ETF	67	GW0ETF	49	AD1C	28		
G4NVR	132	332	F5IYJ	66	DL6KVA	49	JF2IWL	26		
DL8PG	130	1733	IK0YVV	57	WB9G	48	VK7CW	24		
VK7CW	128	1214	W6KY	56	W6NS	48	N5PHT	24		
4X6GP	70	1032	K6RB	56	SM6CNN	48	KE4S	24		
F5IYJ	64	551	I5EFO	54	NN6T	48	K6RB	24		
ND1R	61	67	KE4S	53	N1ZX	48	G4DRS	24		
JF2IWL	34	923	NA6O	52	KZ5D	48	F5IYJ	24		
N5RR	0	4098	JF2IWL	51	KE4S	48	HB9ARF	23		
K6RB	0	3658	4Z1UF	50	K0MP	48	K8AJS	22		
KZ5D	0	3239	G4DRS	49	IK0YVV	48	G4NVR	22		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	WB9G	48	DL8PG	48	G0MGM	22		
EA8OM	0	2758	NN4K	45	AD5A	48	N1DC	21		
SM6CNN	0	2477	K9WX	44	VE3MV	47	4Z1UF	21		
N1EN	0	1928	N1DC	43	NU7Y	47	K2ZC	20		
N2UU	0	1774	K3SEN	43	KR3E	47	WB9G	19		
EA1WX	0	1724	KT5V	41	K8AJS	47	NA6O	19		
OK1RR	0	1618	HB9ARF	41	K0DTJ	47	K9WX	19		
NN6T	0	1577	K8AJS	39	JF2IWL	47	W6KY	18		
GW0ETF	0	1451	K6DGW	39	IT9VDQ	47	NN4K	18		
KG5U	0	1322	W6NS	38	WX7SJ	46	G3YJQ	18		
PA7RA	0	1200	K2ZC	37	KG5U	46	AD5A	18		
KR3E	0	1136	G0MGM	37	IT9MUO	46	KG5U	17		
F5MNK	0	1111	W0EJ	36	G4DRS	46	K3SEN	17		
W6NS	0	1090	KG5U	35	EA1WX	46	K3WJV	16		
KT5V	0	1088	G4NVR	35	OK1RR	45	KT5V	14		
AD5A	0	1071	AD5A	35	K3WJV	45	W6NS	12		
4Z1UF	0	1032	K0DTJ	29	K2ZC	45	VE3MV	12		
W5ASP	0	1018	G3YJQ	27	F5IYJ	45	K6DGW	12		
PA4N	0	955	K3WJV	25	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	10		
N1ZX	0	940	K5IX	24	KM4FO	43	G3XLG	10		
WB9G	0	888	VE3MV	23	HB9ARF	43	K5IX	8		
K3WJV	0	882	AB7MP	22	AA8TA	43	W5TM	7		
K2ZC	0	767	NU7Y	21	OH2BN	42	G0DJA	7		
IK0YVV	0	767	G3XLG	18	KE4RG	39	AB7MP	7		

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CWops Member Awards

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
W0EJ	0	754	WT2P	14	NV9X	38	K0DTJ	6		
K0DTJ	0	742	K0MP	13	G3YJQ	37	KM4FO	5		
HB9ARF	0	723	W5TM	11	4Z1UF	36	KE4RG	5		
KM4FO	0	721	KM4FO	10	WT2P	34	K0MP	5		
VE3MV	0	664	G0DJA	10	G4NVR	34	WT2P	4		
WX7SJ	0	610	KE4RG	9	W5TM	32	ND1R	2		
WT2P	0	574	AA8TA	7	G0MGM	32	AA8TA	2		
OH2BN	0	530	ND1R	5	G3XLG	31	NV9X	1		
G4DRS	0	496	NV9X	4	ND1R	24				
NU7Y	0	479	KE6K	4	KE6K	17				
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8				
G3YJQ	0	234								
G3XLG	0	201								
NV9X	0	149								
G4HZV	0	120								
KE6K	0	116								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[John Huffman K1ESE](#)

To add your callsign to the QTX list, just count up your monthly total of CW conversations lasting 20 minutes or longer. Remember, any QSO longer than 20 minutes counts, with any ham, as many times per month as you like.

QTX Standings

Here is how we all did this month, the QTX standings –

Call	June	Call	June	Call	June	Call	June
N5PHT	101	K5YQF	20	F5IYJ	7	K0DTJ	4
K1ESE	43	KB6NU	15	N4EEV	6	K8UDH	3
K5KV	37	K4AHO	13	HB9CVQ	6	K6DGW	3
N5IR	35	N4DT	11	WA8IWK	4	KC0VKN	1
I5EFO	23	G4ILW	7	K3TN	4		

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Poor band conditions continue to haunt us. June was the lowest QTX count of the year, even with a couple new stations reporting. Gary N5PHT bucked the trend and was once again over 100 QTX points for a single month. K1ESE, K5KV, and N5IR were second through fourth, but far, far behind Gary.

There were no personal best scores for the year in June. A bright spot was the reports of F5IYJ and K3TN, their first reports of the year.

We totaled 343 QSOs, down almost a hundred from May, and had 19 stations reporting, up two from May.

QTX Medal Standings

But, you don't have to have a top score to be a winner. 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. Good luck with your totals and enjoy making new friends and chatting with your regular pals.

We are now half way through the year. Here are the Medal Standings for the year to date –

- GOLD – N5PHT
- SILVER – K5IR
- BRONZE – K5KV, KC0VKN, K1ESE

There is plenty of time for all of us to earn a medal for 2017.

This will be my last report at QTX Manager. I've enjoyed the job for almost 5 years and really enjoyed working with a great bunch of hams. I appreciate all those who have participated in QTX over the years. Thank you for your support!

As I step back I am leaving the program in good hands. Gary N5PHT has agreed to take over. He is easily the most active member of our group and has a real passion for conversational CW. He will do a great job. You can congratulate Gary at n5phtgs@gmail.com

Thanks to all for everything. I will see you on the bands.

73,

John, K1ESE, QTX Manager

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
1833	K7LVJ*	John
1834	K0CF	Craig
1835	LU1AW*	Juan
1836	WA5LXS*	Dennis
1837	K3DMG	Lee

CWops	Call	Name
1838	K7XC	Tim
1839	WA1VAB	Henry
1840	W6LEN	Jess
1841	W9NXM	Joel
1842	F5IYJ/NK2F*	Phil

CWops	Call	Name
1843	G3LDI	Roger
1844	K0XQ	Sean
1845	K3YP*	Ray

*Indicates a Life Member

Current Nominees

As of July 10, 2017

Need Sponsors: KE4TWI, K5BRY, WS4P, WQ7O, K4AEN, K3YEO, W4RVU

Invitations Extended: W8UE

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>.

For information about joining CWops, check the “Membership” page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>

Notes: If you have updated your personal info, e.g., new qth, new callsign, or additional callsign, please send it to membership@cwops.org. Thank you.

73,

Trung, W6TN, Membership Secretary

Upcoming CW Operating Events

Joe Staples, W5ASP

This list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in not only the more popular contests but also in other more casual on-the-air activities.

The RSGB's IOTA and the WAE DX CW are both contests that are highly regarded by CW operators. Each has its unique flavor whether it be the search for exotic islands or the exchange of QTCs, and are well worth some serious operating time.

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WAE CW can be CQer's "toy box". Nearly everyone is a counter for someone. It's a very busy event. Sending QTCs can be an excellent opportunity to polish your cw sending skills for those choosing not to rely on their contest software to handle this chore.

Unfortunately there is a minor downside to the IOTA event. Without access to the IOTA directory the contest can be less than exciting, as it will be difficult to know who/where your contacts are coming from. Keeping track of the various island designators does provide a multiplier count, but it lacks the sense of perspective most testers prefer. However you can make some headway by referring to the [RSGB IOTA Contest Announced Operations](#) site.

For a CW operator there are very few contests that have basic appeal of the NAQP CW. It has its roots in the early ARRL CD parties, and many still feel the nostalgia creeping in as they operate this event. Chances are you'll run across many of your old and new friends and have chance for quick greeting. As a bonus, you may want to keep a check list of CWOps members handy to see just how many you run across. If you want a challenge, try working all 63 mults. (Lots of luck finding Nunavut!)

Japan's Keyman's Club contest is true test of CW skill. All exchanges are compared and are not valid unless they are exact duplicates. This is one place for the operator not be hesitant in asking for "fills". Obviously propagation will play a big role in your success, but who ever said contesting was easy.

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

Joe, W5ASP, Upcoming Operating Events

JULY / AUGUST EVENTS

RSGB IOTA Contest http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/riota.shtml	1200Z, Jul 29 th to 1200Z, Jul 30 th
North American QSO Party, CW http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf	1800Z, Aug 5 th to 0559Z, Aug 6 th
WAE DX Contest, CW http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/	0000Z, Aug 12 th to 2359Z, Aug 13 th
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest http://www.kcj-cw.com/contest/17_kcj_contest_rule_e.pdf	1200Z, Aug 19 th to 1200Z, Aug 20 th
West Virginia QSO Party http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/wvqp.html	1600Z, Jun 17 th to 0200Z, Jun 18 th
Maryland-DC QSO Party http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/Maryland_QSO_Party_Rules_2014.pdf	1600Z, Aug 12 th to 0400Z, Aug 13 th & 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 13 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 14 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 21 st
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 28 th

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NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Aug 4th
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Aug 11th
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Aug 18th
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Jul 26th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon 1200Z, Aug 12th to 2400Z, Aug 13th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jul 20th
NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Aug 9th
<http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201707.html>

My Story: New Member Biographies

Dennis Allen WA5LXS

I grew up in Tulsa Oklahoma and was originally licensed as a Novice in 1963 as WN5IDT. Upon getting my general in 1965, the FCC assigned me my current WA5LXS call while in High School. I later moved up to Advanced class when it was introduced then Extra class.

After graduating with a BSEE from Oklahoma State University, I completed Army basic training for the USAR and then accepted a job at Nelson Electric in Tulsa designing 480 volt and 2400 volt motor control centers. I then got my dream job in 1974 as an Area Systems Engineer with Motorola C&E, now called Motorola Solutions Inc. in the Dallas Texas area. I retired from Motorola as a Principal Staff Engineer in 2014 after 39 years with the company.



I enjoy HF and working special event stations but have a very modest HF antenna since my little chunk of Texas does not have the room for a proper antenna system. I am currently using a random length doublet fed with 450 ohm window line that runs from the peak of my roof to the corner of the back yard (28 ft. to 15 ft.). Using either my LDG auto tuner or my Palstar AT2K, I can operate 40M to 6M with my Icom IC-756 ProII. (And marginally 75M)

I now have renewed interest in CW after enjoying several NPOTA CW contacts and discovering the best DX and special event contacts are on CW. Having completed the CW Ops (cwops.org) CW academy, I am now a club member and hope to continue improving my CW skills. On CW I use Dallas as my QTH.

I also often monitor our local VHF Metrocrest Amateur Repeater Society (MARS 145.21) repeater and enjoy DMR with my UHF portable radio and often can be found on one of the Texas talk-groups.

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Jess Guaderrama W6LEN

First call sign was KN6QQB in 1955 then moved up to General and dropped the "N". Joined the US Army in 1959 and spent time in Germany as DL4TU and chief opr at club station DL5AU (Augsburg Germany). Lived in the midwest for a while so changed my call to W9JWD. Returned to California and was issued W6LEN in 1969. Native Californian but I have operated from XE, 4U1TU and also from HV3SJ.



I operate only CW. yes I tried SSB during the ARRL NPOTA activity and was not impressed no so I re-

turned to the tried and true mode of CW. SKCC # 14017, Other activities are cycling (as in on a bicycle). That's me and my daughter Julie in the picture.

I use E-QSL as well as the buro, LOTW and Club Log, but my days of "impressing" people with "wall paper" have long since passed. wink I have just started uploading my logs to Club Log.

Retired from Grumman Aircraft and have all of the time in the world to chase DX and contest (mostly cherry picking). Moved in to an "over 55" community so couldn't put up big antennas or run high power. Running 100 watts (Icom IC-746PRO) and a vertical. Still able to work my share of DX and have fun in contests.

Henry Christle WA1VAB

Amateur radio sparked my productive years excitement, and more,. Ham radio was my ticket off the farm tractor and into the dynamic world.

In 1952 at age 14 teachers judged me as a belligerent unfocused student with unreachable potential. I learn by doing. My big take away from HS was 7th grade typing, like amateur radio, a good choice.



WA1VAB 1978

In 1953, I discovered potential in ham radio, and was absorbed learning how to improve myself with self-reliance training. Learning though reading and doing, kit building, and troubleshooting.

Afternoons in HS (?55), I was earning money fixing car radios, and color TV house calls. Accelerated technology dragged me with it spanning 50 years from 1958 – 2008, and covered the full spectrum of instrumentation management, Electron Microscopes, NMR, Mass, ION Implanters, Computer data bases, and programming.

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During my hard working 70-80's ham radio was my relaxation. CW Traffic work provided training for speed, the need for QSK, the discovery of a TenTec 540 on my desk in '78 and on my desk today 40 years later. In '79 I added an M-300C keyboard and could attained conservational CW at 60 wpm. CW gets though like the Pony Express, and very reliable.



WA1VAB 2017

Now I'm 80, and "looking forward". The sudden increasing need for reliable, deployable emergency shortwave mobile communications, to replace the reliance on digital networked communications is real. This means batteries, QRP, CW, antennas and young operators.

We must create and provide the young with inspiration with something more objective than Facebook and Selfie obsession. They need to obsess about the world to external them. This is what short wave radio did for me.

CWops is actively leading CW to a permanent future in Ham Radio. ARRL, and my local club BARS, in Billerica Mass, are working developing CW Ham Radio as an alternative obsession for youth. I have a lot of stories to swap and am looking forward to QSO's with CWops members.

Nancy Yoshida KG0YL

Hi, my name is Nancy Yoshida from Thompson, ND. I am married to an ENT and have one adult son who is a news reporter. I received my first license in 2006 and my second 6 months later in 2007. I was always intrigued by CW but did not have a mentor to help me. I tried learning CW on my own and achieved the Triple Play Award but was not really able to copy very well. When I heard about CWops and your CW academy I was excited to try to see if I could learn to



copy better. I remember how thrilled I was in John's class (K4AFE) when I could copy when we would go shopping. My Partner from John's class and I have been practicing many times a week since level one. We took Level 2 and continued practicing all the time. I think CW is so amazing and love every minute while practicing or doing CWT's. I am overjoyed to be a CWops member and hope to continue to improve my skills.

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Philippe Givet - F5IYJ/NK2F

Hooked up when I was 10 while listening to short wave broadcast on the family receiver, I started reading the French periodical Radioplan like others were reading comics.

At 12, I tried to build my first receiver from a kit which was made available from Radioplan. Of course, as I did it alone without any help and assistance to fix my beginner errors, it never worked. I was a bit upset my piggy bank savings went to this silent amount of components soldered (melted?) on the circuit board.

In my village was a house with a lot of wires around. My parents reported the man who lived there told them one day they were radio antennas.



Having so many antennas around the house made me thinking he must be a radio 'expert' so after the school I rang his bell and asked him to help me to have my receiver working. He refused but explained he was an amateur radio operator and he would teach me about radio technics if my parents approved, so I could repair it myself. So for few years I started learning radio tubes, antennas and operating procedures after school. I wasn't able to operate myself because no novice license existed in France. At this time you needed to build your own radio before asking the inspector to check it and test your technical skills. Far too complex for a teenager and even if you will be able to, you couldn't pass the Intelligence Service inquiry needed to get a license approved.

Then I went to the 'Lycee' (French High School) and the University and as my Elmer sadly passed away, I fell out of the hobby.

In 1992, after I was relocated to a new city for my job, I saw a radio club season opening announcement in the local newspaper. This recalled me the great sessions in my Elmer's shack. I decided to meet with the club members and was able to pass my license few months later, first with VHF privileges only but glowing radio tubes and having lights blinking with the Morse rhythm quickly missed me, so I upgraded to the full privilege license.

For now more than 10 years, I am a CW operator only. I enjoy chasing DX, long CW ragchews and modestly participate to some HF contests. Operating HF bands is my 'secret garden', where I can take rest after a business trip or stressful project meetings.

Managing IT topics in the northern European countries for a large American company, I am traveling a lot in Europe, Middle East and the US. I am usually traveling with a radio so you could have contacted me from about 40 different countries, signing with my own call signs F5IYJ and NK2F (my call sign while in the US) or my host call sign when I am authorized to.

Elmering the new generation of operators is also very important for me and I am trying to free time to promote amateur radio and telegraphy and assist youngsters. I am married, father of 3 and will turn 52 at the end of the year.

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Juan Gutierrez LU1AW

I began in the 60's. Those were AM years, home brew gear, open line feeders and link transmitter output. SSB and Pi output were on the news.

In 1974 built my first SSB transceiver. It was a 40 meters, 250 Watts from a paralleled pair of 6KD6, and Collins 455 mechanical filter.

My first commercial gear was a Kenwood TS520 in 1978. My new toy is an IC-7300. I do CW. Just some SSB now and then when DX chasing.

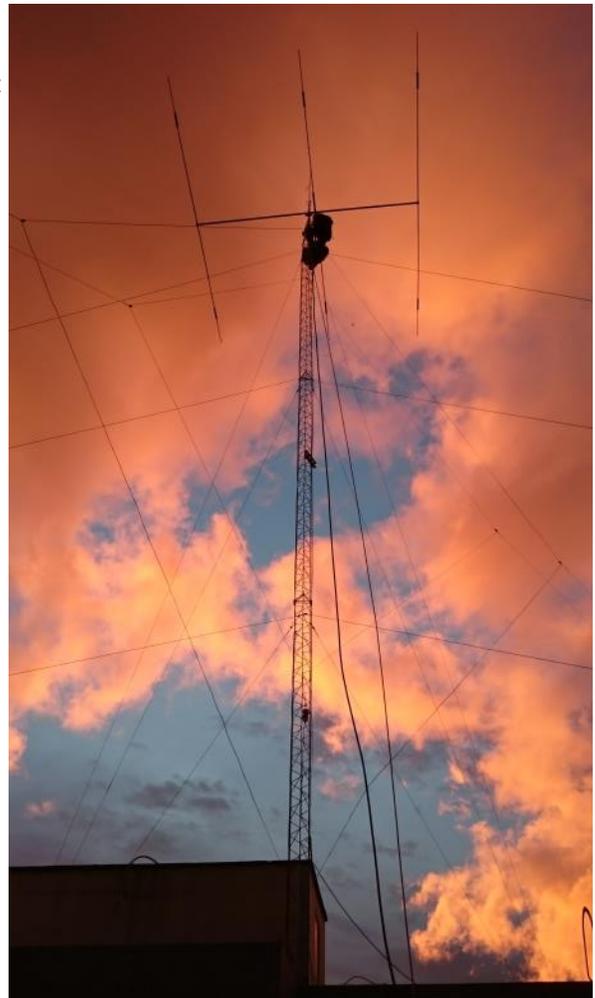


Served in Air Force 1980 thru 1990. Then I had a 15 years radio break since my job took me out of Argentina and kept me traveling as a Field engineer.

Back home, I settled down in Buenos Aires, but job moved me temporarily to the south of Argentina, on grid FD58.

My station is at a remote location at the south of Patagonia. That's a picture of myself with the Perito Moreno Glacier 200 miles from that QTH. Have to live with strong winds here, so I raised only a small Yagi for 20-15-10 and 2 diamond loop antennas, name them single element QUAD if you want, for 30-40 on a tower, with ropes pulling the side corners

It was a real pleasure meeting such nice guys at the CW Academy as Jack, NI8N and Bob, K9FS as well as classmates Joe, Michel, Tom, Richard, and Phil.



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Lee Sholley K3DMG

It's my great pleasure to become a part of the CWops gang and now having my own personal member number. I've played with the Wednesday events for the past several months and it has been a great way of keeping sharp on CW while the bands ebb during the present solar cycle.

Starting as a Novice at age 15 in 1958, CW was the only allowed mode and I couldn't wait to pass the General so I could move on to joining the AM phone crowd. Well, I got the General while still 15, migrated from a homebrewed rock bound single 6146 CW rig to a Heathkit Apache, and QSY'ed to the higher end of the bands. While this was great fun, the lure of CW always drew me back to the low end of the bands.

Over the next 50+ years, the station equipment changed and evolved and the many varied aspects of the hobby were tried. I built a satellite station during the early bird flights, chased weak signal on the VHF/UHF bands from 6M thru 1296 MHz, operated fast scan TV, built a number of repeaters, homebrewed lots of equipment, etc. However, for some reason, I always returned to CW as my favorite mode of operation. After confirming 336 countries on CW, new ones were becoming very difficult to find, so over the past year or two, I've gotten into working more RTTY and digital modes.

As a retired "old timer" I have been able to focus on personal interests without the interference of having to work for a living. Other hobbies and interests include woodworking, golf, hunting, fishing, travel and the grandkids. The XYL and I have been able to travel all around the world, but our favorite place is the island of Aruba. We have been vacationing there for a couple of weeks a year for the past 28 years and during the past two years, we have stayed on the island for a couple of months during the winter and will again be there next winter. I've gotten approval to operate and have taken a rig along to operate as K3DMG/P4. Swing the beam south next winter and you may hear my IC-7300 exciting an EFHW wire on all bands. I expect to participate in the Wednesday CWT as time permits.

I have arranged my golf schedule to keep Wednesdays free, so I'll be for every event whenever possible.

Sean Warner K0XQ

I've had a long history with radio, but relatively speaking a fairly short time in ham radio. As a kid, I was fascinated with an old shortwave radio given to me by my grandfather, a Zenith Trans-Oceanic that he fixed and restored. I served in the Army from 1984-1990, and got to use some top shelf Watkins-Johnson receivers & direction-finding equipment, supporting Field Station Augsburg, West Germany, as a Voice Signals Intercept Analyst (Russian) 1988-1990. In 1997, I decided to take the plunge; I got my ham ticket (KC0BTD)



K3DMG/P4 2016



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in February 1997 and made my Extra in November of that same year.

I was lucky enough to run into 3 local hams when I was first starting out; Mike Sigelman, K0BUD (not a CW guy but a legend in the Twin Cities ham community), Al Dewey, K0AD (CW Ops #138) and Dave Ranney, KT0R (SK). Al & Dave really pushed me and helped get me involved at a higher level than I ever thought possible, both DXing and contesting. One could never hope for better Elmers.

I've always operated from a small setup at my home station. Right now, running a FT-1000D & FT-1000P Mk V, barefoot, configured for SO2R using a microHam MK2R+ interface, with 2 verticals (Cushcraft R-7000 and Gap DX Titan) and a multi band parallel dipole (Alpha-Delta DX-LB+.) I got my DXCC Mixed and CW using an FT-920 barefoot and a R7 from a "postage stamp" sized lot in North Minneapolis; moving to my current QTH in 1999 allowed an additional vertical and the dipole. I've had a lot of great opportunities to work from big stations; KT0R (SK), RU1A, and "The Farm" W0AIH/9. One of the highlights of my ham radio experience was being part of the W1AW/9 @W0AIH crew for IARU '99.

I also am a member of the Minnesota Wireless Assn Contesting Club, the Twin City DX Club, FISTS-NA (#4955), the American Legion Radio Club, and the Anoka County ARC. One of the things I am most proud of during my ham radio experience is having had a small part in resurrecting MWA and getting the Minnesota QSO Party put together. The reformed MWA and MN QSO Party took off and brought together a whole bunch of our superb MN/Western WI/ND/SD/IA contesters in the "Black Hole" of Zero Land; they have shaped the MN QSO Party into one of the best state QSO parties in the country, and turned MWA into a national club powerhouse. I'm glad to have had a small bit part in reforming MWA and getting the MN QSO Party off the deck.

In addition to my current and former domestic calls signs, I also am the Trustee for the club call WK0V. I have also operated as R1/K0XQ (March 1999, from contest station RU1A, and DOSAAF station "Yunost" RZ1AWO, both in St. Petersburg. I also operated as EW/K0XQ in January from 2004, from the QTH of EU1SA (now VE3IAE) in Minsk.

Professionally, I spent 25 years in finance before moving to private consulting. I have a B.A. from the University of Minnesota (Russian Language & Literature/Russia Area Studies), a M.A. from Norwich University (VT) (Diplomacy & Conflict Management), and I have currently completed all of my classwork for my PhD in Public Policy and Administration; now working on my dissertation.

Outside of work and radio, I am an avid outdoor enthusiast, especially when it comes to fishing. I compete on the NAIFC pro ice fishing circuit, as well being a member of the the USA National Ice Fishing Team for the past 7 years. I currently serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors of the US Angling Confederation and the USAC Executive Committee. I've already sent in my paperwork to operate



USA Ice Team Ukraine 2016

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abroad at the XV FIPSeD World Ice Fishing Championship in Temirtau, Kazakhstan in March 2018 as UN/K0XQ, and hopefully will also be QRV as RA/K0XQ with the USA National Team at the X FIPSeD World Predator Fishing Championship this September in Konakovo, Russia.

I am a member of Trout Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, the National Rifle Association, the American Legion, the Federalist Society, and the United States Chess Federation.

Roger Cooke G3LDI

I was licensed in August 1956 and have been an avid DX chaser since then. First big build transmitter was the Elizabethan, in a five foot rack, lots of smaller transmitters and then on to SSB exciter, linears and ATU's. Spent a number of years teaching Morse at home, then at night school, then back at home again, still teaching, but this time up to 30 wpm and with an interest in contest operating and DX-ing. I have DXCC Honour Roll, all current countries confirmed with one exception, North Korea.

I have been writing since 1980, for CQ Mag, RSGB, 73 Mag and PW. I wrote "Morse Code for Radio Amateurs" and "RTTY and PSK for Radio Amateurs" for the RSGB.

I am Chairman of BARTG, AMSAT NA, FOC, FISTS and still run a DX Cluster and BBS although now on the Internet.

I have two children, and two grandchildren. I am also the programme secretary of the Norfolk ARC.

Other hobbies include music, classically trained on piano, ran my own band for 40 years, gardening, ornithology, and astronomy. I have been retired for 24 years and was a TV/Video Technician.

Ray Burns K3YP

I began my amateur career as a high school student in 1965. My Dad came home with a CB radio around 1963, and while "playing" on the CB I met a lady that lived a few blocks away. She invited me to her house to meet her husband, Ted, he was a ham. I was overwhelmed with all that high tech tube equipment and distant land QSL cards he had in his basement, so much better than CB! I was hooked. I was a boy scout and "knew" the Morse Code, so with the help of my new Elmer, I got my speed up to 5wpm and took my novice exam (WN3DYP). Shortly afterwards my Father got his license (WA3EST), which was great because as a kid, I really couldn't afford equipment on my 65 cent a day newspaper route, and my building skills were close to non-existent.



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Less than a year later I graduated High School and enlisted in the Navy. My novice ticket expired, and being a young kid gallivanting around the world, I had little interest in Ham Radio. Eventually I settled down and got married to my high school sweetheart. With the urging of my Father, my interest was renewed in Ham radio. I studied and went down to the local FCC office and took my General in 1971. Requested and got WA3DYP as my call.

Still in the Navy, I was transferred to Guam in 1973, this is back when you could have a secondary call, so I applied for a KG6 call (prior to the now KH2 prefix) and got KG6JEU. While stationed on Guam I upgraded during an FCC visit to the island. Eventually I got stationed at Misawa, Japan, where I obtained the AMRS KA8RB call (1980-1982). Many of you “old timers” will probably remember that KA calls were unique to US Forces in Japan. Things have changed...

I finally retired from the service and accepted a job in the Washington, DC area where I took up residence in Northern VA for the next 22 years. In 1997 I decided it was time to get a shorter call and grab a 1x2 while they were still available. I selected K3YP, a bit shortened version of my WA3DYP call. I had planned to settle in Western Pennsylvania (home) when I retired, so I stayed with the 3 call.

Finally, in 2008, I moved to North East Ohio, yelling, screaming, and kicking I might add. The XYL (now K8EST) wanted to be close to the kids and grandkids. In 2001 my number 1 son moved to NE Ohio for a job, and eventually number 2 son and numbers 1 and 2 daughters moved to Ashtabula county OH. So here I am, a 3 call living in 8-land.

The station is modest, a FT-950 barefoot to a GAP Titan “vertical” and 14 AVT and a 160 meter dipole. I was active in Navy MARS until the program was terminated.

Although I’m not much of a paper chaser, I do enjoy CW and digital contests as well as county hunting. Oh, and just to clarify, I only upgraded to Extra because I’m greedy and really wanted the bottom 25 KHz of the HF bands. I’m not on SSB much, probably because I simply don’t get out that well. At least on CW I have a fighting chance.

