



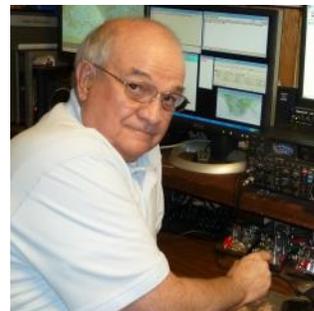
2017 Youth DX Adventure



The YDXA team setting up in Costa Rica in August. See story by Bryant Rascoll KG5HVO on page 5.

President's Message

September really happened fast with many things going on. Old Sol is still having his fits and messing up the RF propagation at times so badly we are straining to hear each other. According to the calendar he's not finished yet so expect more of that. Hurricanes Irma and Maria were not friendly visitors in a lot of areas. Our empathy and sympathy go to those who were afflicted by these storms. The damage was devastating for many and we are thankful for the ham radio operators who were able to assist with rescues and recovery efforts.



The annual W4DXCC/SEDCO (South Eastern DX and Contesting Organization) meeting was in Pigeon Forge, TN in early September. It is always well attended and the speakers have relevant and useful news and information to present. CWops was represented by many members attending along with

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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](#)

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Webmaster: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)

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

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the CW Call Sign Copy Competition activity. The competition action was lighter than usual but in the adjacent room there was an FT8 demonstration going on which was getting a lot of attention.

The 3Y0Z DXpedition Team is assembling their radios, antennas and everything that is needed to survive in the most remote location in the world, Bouvet Island. It will take approximately 12 days of travel to and back from the island. The team has many CWops members enlisted and so it will be fun to make a CW contact with them and realize it's one of our own who is risking life and fortune to be on that island. A group of local Atlanta hams and CWops members were invited to meet the team for a short time while they had a break for meals and rest. We wish them total success on their mission and hope to work them in January 2018.

The September/October CW Academy Level I, II and III classes are more than half way through this semester's sessions. Some of the students have been showing up during the CWI's and they are most welcome. Remember that the second Wednesday after the semester is over that we encourage them to join us during the CWT sessions while we all QRS to 20 wpm. Please make them welcome. Exact details will be announced about the date of this event. Watch the CWops reflector for more information.

Plans are in the making to push the CW Ambassador program in the USA and the rest of the world. CWops intends to be an international organization and we are looking to find enthusiastic hams in RU, Asia, SA, Caribbean and Africa. The primary purpose of an ambassador is to actively spread the word about CWops

President's Message: "Hurricanes Irma and Maria were not friendly visitors in a lot of areas. Our empathy and sympathy go to those who were afflicted by these storms."

President's Message: "Plans are in the making to push the CW Ambassador program in the USA and the rest of the world. CWops intends to be an international organization and we are looking to find enthusiastic hams in RU, Asia, SA, Caribbean and Africa."

by visiting club meetings, be seen at hamfests and make presentations to ham radio clubs/conventions about our mission. We have unfilled positions in the US and other parts of the world that are open and we seek applicants who can and will perform the requested activity. Please see the organizational information on our CWops Website, www.cwops.org/ambassador.

Our outreach to ham radio operators who want to learn Morse code or to improve their CW skills is via the CW Academy. That seems to be working well as we maintain a backlog of applicants. One

area that needs some more attention is with younger hams or aspiring hams. We can all look around the local club meeting room and see lots of mature hams. And we always talk about how to find a way to interest younger people in our hobby. There may be several ways going on but I recall that when I became interested in ham radio, it was the Boy Scouts that seemed to have the connection. Today, the Boy Scouts still have a Radio merit badge in their program. New is their Interpreters Strip, a single recognition badge they can sew on their sleeve at the shoulder that recognizes their ability to be an Interpreter. They have to learn a language (Morse code is included in the list) and demonstrate a proficiency with it to qualify for the Strip. Where better to learn about how to get help with their Radio merit badge and to learn Morse code than from ham radio clubs and CWops CW Academy? The approach I suggest is for someone to contact the local Boy Scout Troop Scoutmaster and extend an invitation for his troop to attend a meeting. The program should be tailored to the troop by introducing what amateur radio is and how we can bridge the way for them to earn the Radio Merit Badge as well as the Interpreters Strip in Morse code. Let's try it.

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I recently read that Girl Scouts have similar interests and requirements. That opens the door wider to find prospects who might become ham radio operators and learn Morse code. The article referred to something that we all may have had in common as we learned CW years ago and that is the desire to be able to communicate in a secret language. I remember that as a motivator for myself. Funny, technology changes but some motivators continue. Include the Girl Scouts if you know some of their troop leaders.

Lastly, the beginning of the contest season is just around the corner. For those who enjoy the contests, we hope you have a great season and a big payoff from all the antenna and station work you have been doing. Best of luck and have fun.

73,

Mac, NN4K, President

From the [Editor](#)

A Day Well-Wasted



This story starts about a year ago. In Fall 2016 I noticed that a couple of bands on my multi-band vertical had problems, 17M and 12M especially. 10M was nothing to brag about. Very high SWR.

I fooled with it several different times, looking for all the usual suspects, with no success. The antenna had been outside for 15 years and I eventually decided I would not get off easy: I was going to have to take it apart, clean all the joints (the main body of the antenna is nested aluminum tubes with seven coils attached at different places), reassemble it and readjust all the coils. I put it off for an entire year, always finding an excuse to not do it, fearing it would be a waste of time.

I finally got to it a few days ago and it took the entire day. Overall there are 20 or so aluminum to aluminum joints which means there are potentially 40 mating surfaces that could be cleaned, not counting all the places where the radials connect to the radial plate. I got to 12 of these joints, or 24 surfaces, addressing the joints that I thought were most likely to affect the bands in question and which, coincidentally, were the easiest to get to. Put the whole thing back together. No change. Which, of course, was disappointing. Then I Googled the antenna and the search returned lots of hits that said this antenna is difficult if not impossible to tune on 17, 12 and 10. Doh (sound of head slap)!

Could I have used it for 15 years and not noticed these specific problems until now? Short answer is, sure, especially since I don't operate much on 17 and 12, and I have another antenna I prefer on 10. One particular hit suggested changing the way the antenna is fed, and I will try that next. All that work for nothing? Well, it was a lovely day, about 70F/21C, sunny, no wind, the leaves changing and falling, and with the bird sounds unique to autumn. The kind of day where doing anything outside is time well spent, and if the day is spent on radio chores, so much the better. It was a good day, and I've marked it down as a day well-wasted.

73,

Tim, K9WX, Editor

News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

Gary, N5PHT: FACEBOOK GROUP UPDATE:

We continue to see new member requests for the CWops Facebook Group. Please keep in mind that membership in the CWops Facebook group is limited to CWops members only, per the wishes of the group as a whole.

From time to time, I will get requests for membership from CWA students and I have to turn them down until they become CWops members. The membership on the Facebook group is now sitting at 195 and growing slowly. If you want to join just send me an email or click on the web page below to make a request:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1621569471440493>

It is a great place to share pics or stories and the traffic is not at all overwhelming - often only about 4 or 5 posts a week - some weeks more and some less but easy to manage.

Jim, NJ3T: Nina and Jim set off on a 1-week road trip to Ohio in mid-September. Nina had never been to Dayton, so we went to expand on what I had seen and to show her all the sights.

We visited the Wright-Patterson AFB, Wright Brothers Bicycle Shop, Native American village, and the fantastic Carillon Park (with its museums that include sections about early American industry, like DELCO (car starter), NCR (cash register), etc.).

It took all day to see the Carillon museums alone. We also visited Orville Wright's house at Hawthorn Hill outside Dayton. While enroute to Cleveland, we stopped at New Bremen, Ohio, where there is the largest bicycle collection in the world (including some of the very earliest models from the early 1800s).

In Cleveland, although we were never big Rock N Roll fans, we ended up spending all day at the Rock and Roll Museum finding it absolutely terrific. It produced a lot of nostalgia because Rock N Roll was the music we grew up with (Nina in Brooklyn, NY and me in Philadelphia, PA).

We wrapped the trip up with a day at the Cleveland Art Museum, one of the finest we've ever been to with its broad collection of antiques and artworks in a combined new building with an old structure setting. And, of course, we had two dinners at Corky's and Lenny's Deli! Great trip, highly recommended. (FYI: We stayed at hotels outside the cities; commuting was very easy in both locations.)

73,

Jerry, AC4BT, News & Notes

The Trip of a Lifetime: 2017 Youth DX Adventure

[Bryant Rascoll KG5HVO](#)

The Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure was founded in 2008 by Dave Kalter [KB8OCP(SK)], Don Dubon (N6JRL), Jim Storms (AB8YK), Keko Diez (TI5KD), and Todd Dubon (KD4YHY). This organization gives young hams the opportunity to operate as the “sought-after DX” in a foreign country. The first YDXA trip was to Costa Rica in 2010. Other YDXA trips have operated in Saba (PJ6Y) and Curacao (PJ2T).



Location

Costa Rica was the destination for the YDXA team this year. We were graciously hosted by Byron Swainey (TI5/WA8NJR) and his XYL Rose Swainey. Our operating

location, atop a 3200-foot mountain and surrounded by lush rainforest, was in San Ramon, which is northwest of the capitol city, San Jose. On clear mornings we enjoyed a view of the Pacific Ocean, which was only 30 miles away from our beautiful location! Because of the low take-off angles in all directions, the location was ideal for radio.

Team

The 2017 YDXA team consisted of eight members—three youth, three parents, and two team leaders. Chris Brault (KD8YVJ), from Ohio, is 15-years old and is an avid single sideband (SSB) contester, DXer, and digital operator. Austin Harris (WA8CCS), also from Ohio, is 15-years old and is a serious SSB contester. He is a member of the W8PR contest group. Bryant Rascoll (KG5HVO), from Alabama, is 13-years old. I, Bryant, am a SSB and CW (Morse Code) operator and enjoy chasing DXCC on SSB. Our seasoned team leaders, Jim Storms (AB8YK) and Ron Doyle (N8VAR), both reside in Ohio and have led other YDXA teams in recent years.

Equipment

Two operating positions allowed us to have an SSB/digital station, as well as an SSB/CW station. The SSB/digital station included an IC-7300 and an Ameritron ALS-500MR 500W amplifier, which improved voice communications during times of poor propagation. The FLDIGI software, our chosen digital mode program, interfaced with the built-in sound card device in the IC-7300, which made setting up for digital modes much easier, and really saved us from many headaches! All QSOs were logged through N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log. Our SSB/CW station consisted of an IC-718 at 100 watts, and an MFJ-490 memory-keyer/paddle combo. We enjoyed some very nice antennas at our QTH! For the high-bands, we had a log periodic Yagi antenna that was 25-feet high, in addition to having two vertical antennas that covered the low-bands.

DX Engineering generously donated a Hustler 6BTV vertical antenna for us to assemble and operate. The Swainey family's front yard provided ample room for radials,

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so we selected it as the site to install the 6BTV vertical antenna. We started the antenna-build process by cutting 40 radials at 20-feet each. Once all 40 radials were cut and prepared, we connected them to a DX Engineering radial plate. Two radials were connected to each nut and bolt set on the radial plate. After we installed the vertical radiator bracket and radial plate, we next assembled the vertical radiator, which was supported by a DX Engineering Tilt-Over Mount. Our follow-on, to-do requirement was to raise the meticulously engineered hunk of metal! The Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) was perfect on all bands supported by our team's newly constructed antenna. This endeavor was fun, rewarding, and educational as we were able to see our hard work put into effective action!



Operating

Some of the modes the group worked included SSB, CW, and PSK31 (digital mode). Most of our QSOs were on SSB. The internal voice-keyer on the IC-7300 was very helpful and saved our voices! We even worked some PSK31-digital on Sunday afternoon when the band conditions were very poor.

The propagation varied throughout the day, each day, and it always kept us on our toes! The team knew that we were in a declining solar cycle throughout our adventure, so we recognized that the-high bands would not be optimal.

The 10m band was very poor during our trip. We only made three QSOs. The 15m band was somewhat useful in the evenings when the 40m band was not yet open. At “grey-line time”, there would sometimes be propagation to the Americas, where most of the stations were pretty strong! The 17m band was a moderately good band for DXing during our adventure. We could usually count on good “openings” in southern Europe that would last approximately two-hours. In the afternoon, the North American pile-ups would increase dramatically. Twenty meters, our “money band,” was a great band to operate during the day and early into the night! On this band, in the mornings, we could effectively work Japan (JA), Europe (EU), and North America (NA). In the afternoons and evenings, we continued to maintain a steady rate and work EU, NA, South America (SA), and even some Australia (VK) and New Zealand (ZL).

The 30m band proved to be reliable on CW and contacts were plentiful. Two facets I enjoy about CW is its efficiency and that no one mistakes me for a YL. This was the band that was typically open when the others were not. The 30m band usually began to open around “grey-line time” to NA. Later in the night, it would open up to EU. In the early morning hours, we had success working some VK/ZL stations with decent signals, and we even contacted a few JA stations. Forty meters gave us some exciting and exotic

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entities like Kalinin-grad and Cyprus. We could usually count on a decent opening to EU and NA in the early evening, but as the night went on, the openings grew more sporadic.

Tourism

Although operating was the primary reason for trip, the team enjoyed some tourism opportunities and explored the local area and culture. Ironically, we dined at a Cuban



restaurant while in Costa Rica. The owner was very welcoming and hospitable to us, and shared some interesting facts about the town and its history. At the end of our meal, he encouraged us to inscribe our call signs on the wall of his restaurant. In “Costa Rica fashion,” we all had lunch at the San Jose Airport’s Smash Burger restaurant before boarding the airplane for our return flight back to the States.

Lessons Learned

Our YDXA did encounter some bumps in the road—literally (during our rides to dinner and to/from the airport) and anecdotally. Operating-wise, unfortunately, we did not have band pass filters which resulted in some inter-station QRM challenges. To solve this dilemma, we created band schedules. For example, if we had a radio operating on the 20m SSB, we usually set-up the other radio to operate on the 15m SSB or CW. Another issue that presented during our adventure was the local weather conditions. Since our QTH was atop a mountain, it was very easy for antennas to pick-up lightning strikes from nearby thunderstorms. This proved to be quite a challenge on our Saturday, as a nearby thunderstorm system sat on top of us for seven hours during the morning and afternoon, which meant no radio. Not fun!! We passed this time by honing our grilled cheese sandwich-making skills as well as playing many rounds of Black Jack and BS. In order to make up for lost ground, on Monday, we made over 1,000 QSOs in twenty-four hours.

Persistence Enables Results

Our team made many QSOs with interesting countries and people! When Austin was operating on 20m SSB, he received a call from A41NN in Oman, and another exotic QSO was with YJ8CW in Vanuatu. We also contacted Mr. Tim Duffy, K3LR, while he was on vacation in Canada. Our team was continually encouraged by the members from our respective local clubs, many of whom worked diligently and tirelessly to contact us during the week. We also appreciated the support from our fellow youth ham operators who supported us throughout the week. Mason KM4SII, Ruth KM4LAO (who was a 2016 YDXA team member), Marty KC1CWF (2017 YHOTY) and Violetta KM4ATT were just a few of the other dedicated young hams contacting us from their home stations throughout the week and on various bands. The YDXA

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leadership's mentoring was obviously imperative, enabling our on-site success.

The final statistics were as follows: 3,100 QSOs on six different bands! 70+ DXCC entities worked! ALL fifty states and ALL continents worked! I highly encourage young hams to apply for the 2018 YDXA to Curacao. It is a high quality, unique, and rewarding radio experience!



CWops Donates to Ham Aid

On behalf of its membership, CWops has contributed \$1,000 to the ARRL [Ham Aid](#) fund to help those in Puerto Rico and elsewhere affected by recent hurricanes.



In a message to CWops Secretary Jim N3JT regarding the use of the funds, ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF said, “Over the past three weeks we have supplied more than \$50,000 in new, modern ham equipment to the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Key West and Puerto Rico a second time. We've also assisted Dominica and are preparing to assist the British Virgin Islands. Equipment ranges from HF kits to VHF repeaters. The response has been overwhelming. The press--[New York Times](#), [CNN](#) and [NPR](#)--very favorable to hams.”

In a separate action, the ARRL also organized a “[Force of 50](#)” volunteers, at the request of the American Red Cross, to travel to Puerto Rico and assist with emergency communications on the island. As of October 2, the first 20 of the 50 had arrived on the island and were deployed for action.

The Ham Aid Fund was created in 2005 in response to the need for equipment and resources to support the Amateur Radio response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Ham Aid equipment is available on loan to Amateur Radio organizations during disaster response when communications equipment is unavailable.

CWops Members Selected for WRTC2018

Twenty eight CWops members are among the 126 ham radio operators invited to participate in WRTC2018. This group of 28 constitutes 22% or nearly one quarter of all WRTC invitees.



Mac NN4K, CWops president notes, "CWops has a lot of talented contest operators and we are very proud of the 28 members who qualified successfully to compete in the WRTC 2018 radiosport competition in Germany." He also noted that one of the two first place winners in the 2014 WRTC was Chris Hurlbut, KL9A #1576, along with partner Dan Craig, N6MJ.

The CWops members invited include:

Call	Name	Call	Name	Call	Name	Call	Name
AA3B	Bud	EA5KA	Raul	K9VV	Fred	N5AW	Marv
AE6Y	Andy	EA8RM	Juan	KG5HVO	Bryant	N6XI	Rick
CX6VM	Jorge	K1DG	Doug	KL9A	Chris	NP4Z	Felipe
DL1IAO	Stef	K2PO	Bill	N2NL	Dave	OM2VL	Laci
DL1QQ	Sandy	K3LR	Tim	N3AD	Alan	VE3DZ	Yuri
DL2CC	Frank	K3PA	Drew	N3KS	Kam	VE7CC	Lee
E21EIC	Champ	K5WA	Bob	N4YDU	Nate	W2GD	John

From the English [WRTC2018 brochure](#): "World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTC) are being held every four years. More than 60 of the best 2-OP-teams from all over the world meet for a competition. Quite different from other Radiosport contests, competitors in WRTCs operate with identical power and antennas on level playing fields from the same geographical region eliminating all variables except their own operational skill. Previous WRTCs were held at Seattle/USA (1990), San Francisco/USA (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), Russia (2010), and New England (2014). To participate in WRTC 2018 teams have to qualify in up to 28 different HF contests during 2015 and 2016. Qualification started with the ARRL-DX-CW contest 2015."



A prototypical WRTC2018 site, tested in 2017

The actual competition will take place during the [2018 IARU HF World Championship](#) on July 14.

How We Were

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)

W2RU, Bud Hippisley, CWops # 65



Bud as K2KIR in North Syracuse, NY, December 1967.

Bud has had a bunch of calls over his sixty-three year ham career: KN2KIR, K2KIR, K1WJD, W2JJ, W2RU. He has also used club calls W2BC, W4AAX, and W4CB in contests.

Bud and I have been friends since the fifties. We did Field Day together. We skied together. We swung from a rope hanging under a bridge across the Oneida River and plopped into the water together.

Much of the best stuff I know about contesting and antennas I learned from Bud. He is one of my go-to experts. Bud's Practical Antenna Handbook (McGraw-Hill) is a masterful blend of accessible and understandable theory and practice.

Today, Bud lives in rural Virginia, farms antennas, and contests with Circle Creek Contest Club call W4CB.

Bud, thanks for being my friend. Here's to another three sun-spot cycles!

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

73,

Hank, W6SX, How We Were

CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

We are almost half-way through the September/October 2017 CW Academy (CWA) semester which runs for 8 weeks with 2 class sessions a week.

This semester I'm advising both Level 2 and Level 3 classes and it's very rewarding seeing the progress that is being made by my students as we near the finish line. From the student standpoint, success is defined in terms of the commitment made by the student to focus on CW and work hard for an 8-week period.

I just checked our Database of student sign-ups and we are nearing 3,000 students who have signed up to take our CW programs! That is quite an accomplishment.

CWA's outstanding team of CW Advisors is the main reason that the CW Academy program has been so successful. The Advisors donate their time and put in a tremendous amount of work in preparing for and running the classes each semester.

CW Academy has a service award program in place to recognize the accomplishments of our Advisors. A Service Award plaque is awarded for advising 6 semesters. When 12 semesters are reached, a beautifully engraved service award is presented. At 24 semesters, the Advisor is presented with a Leather Jacket with the CWops insignia on it. After reaching 36 semesters, an engraved iPad is presented. And after reaching a total of 48 semesters, the Advisor is awarded an engraved Begali paddle. Congratulations to these Advisors for recently obtaining the following milestones:

Advising 12 semesters: Mac **NN4K**, Kate **K6HTN**

Advising 6 semesters: Joe **KK5NA**, Andy **WB7DKZ**, Bill **W0EJ**, Ron **WM9Q**, and Vic **4X6GP**.

Here are the top 15 CWA Advisors who have advised the most semesters (not including the current September/October 2017 semester):

Jerry **AC4BT** 30, Rob **K6RB** 29, Dallas **K1DW** 19, Ed **K6HP** 18, Will **WJ9B** 14,

Kate **K6HTN** 13, Mac **NN4K** 12, Jack **NI8N** 11, Alex **PA1FOX** 11, Bill **KC4D** 10,

Mark **K5GQ** 10, James **VK4TJF** 10, Barry **W4SLV** 9, Joe **N3HEE** 9, Paul **K4JAZ** 9

The CW Academy offers a unique program to the Ham community. The virtual classroom environment presents an added dimension - each student interacts with other fellow students and at the same time interacts with the Advisor. This allows many to succeed in learning CW where they may have given up in frustration if they were tackling this on their own.

The group environment provides structure, support, and encouragement – elements that are not present in self-study. There aren't many opportunities to participate in such an enjoyable and productive group setting especially considering the busy nature of our lives. As we go through life there also aren't many opportunities where people with expertise are willing to share their knowledge and experiences.

If you know of any Ham operators who would benefit from our programs, please tell them about CW Academy. If you want to get personally involved in helping others learn CW then volunteer and become part of our CW Academy family. By working together, we can make a difference!

73,

Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager



CWOps Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

To start with, here is a reminder that the CWT sessions on November 8 & 9 will be special slow-speed sessions in honor of the latest CW Academy graduating classes. This is a chance for recent graduates and other newcomers to the CWTs to dip their toes in the water and try out a CWT under slightly less intimidating conditions than usual. Please keep your CW speed down to 20 WPM or less in the November 8-9 CWTs. Remember, if you make a few more newcomers feel welcome, they may end up participating regularly, and it will probably only take a few more sessions before they come up to speed. You don't need to impress them with your 35 WPM prowess on November 8-9; there will be plenty of opportunities for that later.

The November 8-9 sessions will also be the first ones after the time change from daylight saving time back to standard time in North America. In Europe, the time change will have taken place a week earlier. We can expect an uptick in participation numbers in the 0300Z session, which will be more attractive to members in eastern North America (although it will probably be more difficult for our European members). On the other hand, the 1300Z session may see a slight drop-off in numbers, as it becomes more difficult for people in western North America to take part.

As of October 1, we were exactly three-quarters of the way through the CWT year, with 117 sessions completed out of the 156 total. At this point, we still had six members with perfect CWT attendance records: K0MP, K3WW, N4FP, N5PHT, UA6HZ and UR5MM. By the time you read this, all six of these CWT regulars will have achieved the gold medal participation level for the year. By that time, so will AH6KO, F6JOE, SM3CER and in all likelihood, W9CC.

In addition to these ten, there are over sixty more members who have already reached the silver medal level. Many of them have a good chance of making it to the gold medal level by the end of the year. There are nearly eighty more members who have already passed the bronze level and still have a shot at silver, and of course by the end of the year there will be more bronze medal winners. All in all, I am expecting more than 180 medal winners by the end of the year.

You can get an approximate idea of your progress by checking the [live participation list](#) but beware – this list is created automatically, and does not take into account the 10 (or 5) QSO threshold. It can also be confused by resubmitted corrected scores, misspelled call signs, changed call signs, incompletely filled out submissions, and a variety of other minor occurrences. For a more accurate record of your status, try going to [3830scores](#), entering your call sign in the box at the top left of the page, and counting the number of CWT score entries you find for 2017. Don't count sessions in which you made fewer than 10 QSOs (5 QSOs if you were in Africa, Asia, Oceania or South America).

It seems to be time again for a reminder about on-air behavior during the CWTs. Recently while running in a CWT I was in the middle of a QSO when without warning someone started calling CQ CWT on top of us, obliterating the other station's exchange. Perhaps some folks think this is acceptable during a major competition, but it is really unnecessary in a low-key event like the CWTs. Please, before starting to CQ, listen first, and if there is someone there, look for a clearer frequency.

If you have trouble finding clear frequencies to call CQ on without having to push someone else out of the way, perhaps you should investigate using a panadapter. A cheap SDR plus some free software is all you need. For example, N1MM Logger+ now has an integrated spectrum/waterfall display option that can accept spectrum data from a variety of sources, and using it can give you a good overview of what is happening on the band generally, as well as adjacent to your own fre-

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quency. A panadapter on its own does not qualify as “assistance” under most contest rules, but it certainly can assist you in making decisions about when and where to run and in finding stations to work when you are searching and pouncing.

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

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name
1870	DM4CW*	Martin	1878	K1VUT	Dave	1886	K9KM	Howie
1871	K5VWW	Orville	1879	WA3AER*	Ted	1887	NM1Y*	Jeff
1872	KC0URL	Ray	1880	K0ZU*	Doug	1888	LA7GIA	Ken
1873	W0TG	Bill	1881	KG9X	Fred	1889	K0GUZ	Steve
1874	G3XTT*	Don	1882	NX9G*	Yanko	1890	UX1HW	Art
1875	KC9K*	Dave	1883	N9NB	Ted	1891	N3CZ*	Vlado
1876	F6CEL	Ghis	1884	DL1IAO*	Stef	1892	W4YES*	Glenn
1877	K6RV*	Donald	1885	F5VV	Joel			

*Indicates a Life Member

Current Nominees

As of October 2, 2017

Need Sponsors: WQ7O

Invitations Extended: WA8KAN, CO6RD, OH6NVC, KG6N

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” page on the website: www.cwops.org. For information about joining CWops, check the “Membership” page on the website: www.cwops.org/membership

Notes: If you have updated your personal info, e.g., new qth, new callsign, or additional callsign, please send it to membership@cwops.org so I can add it to the roster. Vice versa, if your callsign becomes inactive I can remove it, too. Then the roster will be accurate and current for our usage.

Thank you.

73,

Trung, W6TN, Membership Secretary



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	891	6641	W1RM	177	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
W1RM	733	4912	F6HKA	168	W1RM	50	F6HKA	45	F6HKA	38
N8BJQ	671	4559	W4VQ	145	W4VQ	50	OK1RR	44	W4VQ	37
VE3KI	662	4320	G4BUE	127	F6HKA	50	N5RR	43	G4BUE	37
N5PHT	650	2375	N5RR	118	W1UU	50	G4BUE	43	VE3KI	36
F6HKA	637	4487	OK1RR	115	VE3KI	50	VE3KI	42	N5RR	36
K1ESE	601	2846	VE3KI	114	G4BUE	50	N8BJQ	42	N5PHT	33
DL6KVA	596	1558	N8BJQ	114	EA8OM	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
K5AX	558	2602	OH2BN	112	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	41	DL6KVA	32
K8AJS	539	1362	EA8OM	111	F6JOE	50	I5EFO	41	VK7CW	30
NA6O	468	1996	DL6KVA	105	W6KY	50	OH2BN	40	JF2IWL	25
KY7M	440	3252	K1ESE	103	N1EN	50	DL6KVA	40	F5IYJ	21
K9WX	430	2164	AA3B	97	N5PHT	50	AA3B	40	N1DC	20
NN4K	425	1531	W0VX	93	F5MNK	50	SM6CNN	37	W6NS	19
K0MP	416	721	SM6CNN	93	K5IX	50	K1ESE	36	NN4K	9
IT9VDQ	409	1369	EA1WX	92	K3SEN	50	IT9MUO	36	ND1R	5
AA8TA	403	623	W9ILY	91	AD1C	50	F6JOE	36		
N1DC	402	1776	N5PHT	86	AB7MP	50	W1UU	34		
KE4S	392	1395	N1EN	86	AA3B	50	W0VX	34		
K0TC	377	2048	KY7M	86	K5AX	50	KZ5D	34		
IT9MUO	369	1636	IT9MUO	85	I5EFO	50	KR3E	34		
K3SEN	366	1263	F6JOE	84	VK7CW	50	EA1WX	34		
K1DJ	365	912	I5EFO	83	DL6KVA	50	W9ILY	33		
W0VX	331	2988	AD1C	83	K0TC	50	RM2D	33		
RM2D	328	1046	K5AX	80	KY7M	50	N1EN	32		
I5EFO	310	549	PA7RA	79	W9ILY	49	KY7M	32		
W9ILY	303	2943	KZ5D	78	W0VX	49	IT9VDQ	32		
F6JOE	303	2758	DL8PG	78	NN4K	49	F5MNK	32		
W1UU	298	2141	4X6GP	76	NA6O	49	PA7RA	31		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
G4BUE	285	3322	W1UU	75	N8BJQ	49	DL8PG	31		
K5IX	274	892	VK7CW	74	N1DC	49	K5AX	30		
W4VQ	273	2586	KR3E	73	KT5V	49	IK0YVV	30		
KE4RG	249	421	N1ZX	70	K9WX	49	4X6GP	30		
W6KY	248	2088	F5IJ	70	K6RB	49	NN6T	29		
AD1C	241	2101	RM2D	69	K6DGW	49	N1ZX	28		
VK7CW	190	1279	F5MKN	68	K1ESE	49	GW0ETF	28		
G0MGM	190	352	NN6T	67	K1DJ	49	F5IJ	28		
AB7MP	179	741	IT9VDQ	67	GW0ETF	49	AD1C	28		
K6DGW	177	1714	GW0ETF	67	WB9G	48	N1DC	26		
G4HZV	173	400	N1DC	57	W6NS	48	K1DJ	26		
G4NVR	164	381	KE4S	57	SM6CNN	48	JF2IWL	26		
4X6GP	156	1095	IK0YVV	57	NN6T	48	G4HZV	26		
DL8PG	150	1743	W6KY	56	N1ZX	48	KE4S	25		
F5IJ	127	590	K6RB	56	KZ5D	48	VK7CW	24		
ND1R	61	67	NA6O	53	KE4S	48	N5PHT	24		
JF2IWL	34	923	K0TC	53	K0MP	48	K6RB	24		
N5RR	0	4098	JF2IWL	51	IT9VDQ	48	G4DRS	24		
K6RB	0	3658	K1DJ	50	IK0YVV	48	K8AJS	23		
KZ5D	0	3239	4Z1UF	50	DL8PG	48	HB9ARF	23		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	G4DRS	49	AD5A	48	G4NVR	23		
EA8OM	0	2758	WB9G	48	4X6GP	48	G0MGM	23		
SM6CNN	0	2477	NN4K	47	VE3MV	47	4Z1UF	21		
N1EN	0	1928	K9WX	46	NU7Y	47	K2ZC	20		
N2UU	0	1774	K3SEN	43	KR3E	47	WB9G	19		
EA1WX	0	1724	K8AJS	42	K8AJS	47	NA6O	19		
OK1RR	0	1618	G4HZV	42	K0DTJ	47	K9WX	19		
NN6T	0	1577	KT5V	41	JF2IWL	47	W6KY	18		
GW0ETF	0	1451	HB9ARF	41	AA8TA	47	NN4K	18		
KG5U	0	1322	G0MGM	40	WX7SJ	46	G3YJQ	18		
PA7RA	0	1200	K6DGW	39	KG5U	46	AD5A	18		
KR3E	0	1136	W6NS	38	IT9MUO	46	KG5U	17		
F5MKN	0	1111	K2ZC	37	G4DRS	46	K3SEN	17		
W6NS	0	1090	W0EJ	36	EA1WX	46	K0TC	17		
KT5V	0	1088	KG5U	35	OK1RR	45	K3WJV	16		
AD5A	0	1071	G4NVR	35	K3WJV	45	KT5V	14		
4Z1UF	0	1032	AD5A	35	K2ZC	45	W6NS	12		
W5ASP	0	1018	K0DTJ	29	F5IJ	45	VE3MV	12		
PA4N	0	955	G3YJQ	27	PA7RA	44	K6DGW	12		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
N1ZX	0	940	K3WJV	25	RM2D	43	W0EJ	10		
WB9G	0	888	K5IX	24	KM4FO	43	G3XLG	10		
K3WJV	0	882	VE3MV	23	HB9ARF	43	K5IX	8		
K2ZC	0	767	AB7MP	22	OH2BN	42	K0MP	8		
IK0YVV	0	767	NU7Y	21	KE4RG	40	W5TM	7		
W0EJ	0	754	G3XLG	18	NV9X	38	KE4RG	7		
K0DTJ	0	742	K0MP	17	G3YJQ	37	G0DJA	7		
HB9ARF	0	723	WT2P	14	G4NVR	36	AB7MP	7		
KM4FO	0	721	AA8TA	13	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	6		
VE3MV	0	664	KE4RG	12	WT2P	34	AA8TA	6		
WX7SJ	0	610	W5TM	11	G4HZV	34	KM4FO	5		
WT2P	0	574	KM4FO	10	W5TM	32	WT2P	4		
OH2BN	0	530	G0DJA	10	G0MGM	32	ND1R	2		
G4DRS	0	496	ND1R	5	G3XLG	31	NV9X	1		
NU7Y	0	479	NV9X	4	ND1R	24				
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								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Gary Stone N5PHT](#)

Welcome to September 2017 QTX report. Band conditions continue to be challenging at least from this part of the world. I am hopeful the Fall will bring us a bit better conditions but time will tell.

I have been home for the past several weeks and by the time this issue is released we hope to be camping in Oklahoma for a few weeks and on the air from Red Rock Canyon State Park near Hinton, OK. I try to update my QRZ page as to our location.

My QTX count is down from previous months. When we are out in a State Park I tend to get caught up into the Parks on the Air (POTA) program and that takes away from rag chews. And when we are home it seems there is never enough time to just sit and rag chew! Oh well, enough of my complaints! It is still very nice to get on the air and converse. I did had a 58 minute rag chew this past month and that was my

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longest in quite some time

If you want to be added to the QTX listings please send in your count for the month from the Members Only Section of the Web Page. Remember any 20 minute or longer QSO counts and it does NOT have to be with a CWOps Member. Only CWOps Members can send in reports but the rag chews can be with anyone and as often as you like for multiple counts.

Rag Chewer Comments

I5EFO: Few DX and so much noise. Twenty QSOs over 20 minutes, about 6 percent of the total. 73 de Emil, I5EFO (1486) (Editor's note: Emil is only 1 QTX short of the Bronze Medal – so very soon he will have a medal in the bag.)

WA3AER: (and welcome to the QTX column): Weekly Wed. evening sked at 0000Z with VE3FXX, my former Level 2 advisor. We missed one evening this month, had one curtailed by band conDX and one by an antenna problem at my QTH. We chat for 30+ minutes each week as I work on my send and receive skills. Ron is a Godsend. I look forward to these sessions and hope to quickly resolve tonight's antenna failure I also had a QSO with a fellow in his Mobile Dawg House (!) to escape his XYL's card party. Lots of laughs during that one.

W3WHK: Chatted with a fellow Vietnam vet. We had both been watching "The Vietnam War" on PBS-TV, so we compared our reflections on that and on our respective tours in VN

KC0VKN: Getting back into the swing of things. Bumped into a few folks I haven't talked to in some time! WX getting cooler, makes it easier to get into the shack!

K1ESE: Several nice QTX chats on 160 meters so the seasons are changing.

N5IR: After 6 weeks QRT, it was great to go QRV. I might have had better monthly totals before, but this month was the most enjoyable. I got into five 1-hour QSOs (one with a VK4) and four 40-minute QSOs (VK,DL & F). All bug QSOs. Thanks to K5RX for loaning me a rig. Someone tell Flex to hurry up!

KB6NU: I had a lot of nice rag chews this month. I think it's the first month that I've topped 20! (Ed. note: you hit 25 back in May but still a great month!)

Remember that we give out QTX Medals at the end of the year for 3 levels:

Gold Medal – 400 QTX Points

Silver Medal – 300 QTX Points

Bronze Medal – 200 QTX Points

And so far this year we have several medal winners:

GOLD – N5PHT, N5IR

SILVER – K5KV, K1ESE

BRONZE – KC0CKN, G4ILW

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QTX Reports for September 2017

Call	September
K5IR	85
N5PHT	60
K1ESE	44
K5KV	30
KC0VKN	29

Call	September
K5YQF	25
KB6NU	22
G4ILW	22
N7YT	21
I5EFO	20

Call	September
W3WHK	13
K8UDH	13
K4AHO	11
N4DT	9
HB9CVQ	9

Call	September
K6DGW	9
K0DTJ	9
F5IYJ	3
WA3AER	3

The big story this month is Bill, N5IR (see his comments in the soapbox). Bill borrowed a rig and jumped to the leader for the month with 85 QTX – and secured his Gold Medal – way to go Bill. N5PHT came in second with 60 and K1ESE third with 44 QTX.

Personal bests for the year: WA3AER, W3WHK, N5IR, K6DGW

We had a total of 19 reports and 437 QSOs and that is not bad! Also 4 members achieved their best for the year. And I5EFO with only 1 QTX shy of securing a Bronze Medal!!

Medal Standings for the year 2017

Call	Name
N5PHT	886
N5IR	471
K1ESE	386
K5KV	377
KC0VKN	276
G4ILW	234
I5EFO	199

Call	Name
KB6NU	178
K5YQF	162
K8UDH	128
K4AHO	126
N4DT	77
WA8IWK	66
N7YT	63

Call	Name
HB9CVQ	62
N4EEV	56
K0DTJ	50
K6DGW	42
W3WHK	33
F5IYJ	27
W5JQ	14

Call	Name
K6HP	11
NN4K	6
N5LB	5
K3TN	4
WA3AER	4
KE4RG	2

Hope to cu on the bands. HINT FOR NEXT month: I want to talk about a QTX WAS.

73,

Gary, N5PHT, QTX Manager



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.

It's here again ... the big, annual CW blowout ... ARRL CW SS. Few, if any serious CW operators need to be reminded that the first weekend in November features the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest. If you treasure the CW experience, you've got to be involved one way or another. For those who are not entirely focused on building up their QSO total there are other elusive goals such as securing a "Clean Sweep", or logging a targeted number of Qs in a preselected time interval. A little creative thought will suggest other paths to follow in order to exercise your CW skills.

In the opinion of many low-band operators "The Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge is among the most unique of all contests. It is held on 160 meters and takes place just prior to the winter solstice in December. This contest uses grid squares for the exchange and a QSO point system which awards points in proportion to the distance between the stations making the QSO. There is also a generous power multiplier (x2 for 100 watts and x4 for 5 watts) and a multi-operator category. There is even a multiplier for those who work QRP stations (x4) - making it worth the extra effort to pull them out of the noise." It features a somewhat lower activity level than either of the major 160 Meter contests and hence less difficulty in making intercontinental QSOs.

One of the more unique CW groups on the air is the *Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club (HSC)*. It is a collection of high speed Morse code operators founded in Germany in 1951 with about 1400 members currently. Full details can be found on their web site. While it may not be a suitable venue for average CW operator, it certainly merits looking into. Who knows, it just may just be the incentive you need to ratchet up your code speed and run with the "big boys".

Don't overlook the state QSO parties. They can be quite challenging. Check the party's website to find a list of CW mobiles along with their planned routes. Most of the activity will be on 20 meters between 30 and 50 up from the bottom of the band. Once you latch on to an active mobile put his frequency in memory ... he'll tend to hang out around the same spot as he changes counties. Often there's a map showing who is going where. It's a good way to keep track of the various mobiles scattered around the state. Don't fret if you miss a county ... someone may pick it up later.

Although the activity level drops abruptly after the weekends, there's still the CWT and various Sprints to provide a quick dose CW.

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER EVENTS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

2100Z, Nov 4th to 0300Z, Nov 6th

Stew Perry Topband Challenge
<http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

1500Z, Oct 21st to 1500Z, Oct 22nd

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10-10 International Fall Contest, CW http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules	0001Z, Oct 21 st to 2359Z, Oct 22 nd
High Speed Club CW Contest http://www.highspeedclub.org/	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 5 th and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 5 th
Arizona QSO Party http://www.azqsoparty.org/	1600Z, Oct 14 th to 0600Z, Oct 15 th & 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 15 th
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 14 th to 0500Z, Oct 15 th & 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 15 th
New York QSO Party http://www.nyqp.org/	1400Z, Oct 21 st to 0200Z, Oct 22 nd
South Dakota QSO Party http://www.kb0wsw.com/SDQP/page_home.html	1800Z, Oct 21 st to 1800Z, Oct 22 nd
Illinois QSO Party http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202016%20Rules.pdf	1700Z, Oct 22 nd to 0100Z, Oct 23 rd
Kentucky QSO Party http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=35&Itemid=56	1400Z, Nov 11 th to 0200Z, Nov 12 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 13 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 20 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 27 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 3 rd
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 10 th
NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 17 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 25 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	1200Z, Nov 11 th to 2400Z, Nov 12 th
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 11 th
NAQCC CW Sprint http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201707.html	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 16 th
FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 14 th

73,

Joe W5ASP, Upcoming CW Operating Events



My Story: New Member Biographies

David Adcock KC9K

I was first licensed in 1979 after passing my Novice Exam as administered by my late Elmer K9INX. The next year I upgraded to Technician; then after improving my code I took the Morse exam at 13 WPM to achieve my General and a new call N9CGO. Taking my Advanced just a few years later I stayed there and was pretty inactive until 2008. In 2012 I changed my call to W9DCA and upgraded to Extra in 2016 – just recently being awarded a shorter more CW friendly call KC9K.

I primarily work all HF bands CW, Digital and phone in that order. I compete in most US and International DX contests and search out new DX in between. I've achieved DXCC, WPX and WAS awards.

I became active in CW Ops and CWT's after I completed my Level 3 Academy to improve my sending and copying skills thanks to Joe KK5NA. After a few CWT's I was fortunate to get a nomination from Larry K7SV.

I'm now a Life Member of CWops #1875, Life Member ARRL, and Member of Society of Midwest Contesters and CIDXA.

Professionally I own and operate a healthcare administrative consulting firm work mainly in regulatory and financial areas. Prior to moving into administration I was a Bio Medical technician in a local hospital and an Electronics Communications Technician in the USAF. I'm married and have four children ranging in ages from 16 to 28. When not spending time with my family and radio hobby I am an avid fly fisherman and proud Harley Davidson Owner.

Dave Clemons K1VUT

I was first licensed at age 10 in 1962 as KN1VUT (novice). My father was getting his license at the time (K1HNP, followed by AD1Z, now SK), so he encouraged me to do so. I upgraded to General class later that year. My father was a builder of equipment and antennas. Try as I might, I never caught the building bug but I sure did love operating, so it worked out well for both of us.

My father (a club founder) and I joined the local club Massasoit Amateur Radio Assoc, and I soon met some great local cw contest operators (W1WLZ now K1DC, W1BPW now W1UU). I fell in love with the CW SS contest, and soon



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others as well. Over the years I have always preferred the CW mode, although I have done a large amount of phone contesting because I also love contests in general.

Due to health and station issues, I took a sabbatical from HF operating for about 10 years, but started to get back into it in 2012. As my antennas have slowly improved, I have been enjoying contests again, and mostly CW at that.

It is an honor to join this illustrious group of CW operators, many of whom I have worked many times over many years. As long as the Lord God gives me life on earth, I hope to keep working you folks in contests.

Ted Bauer WA3AER

A sincere Thank You to the CWops who sponsored me for membership. What a wonderful surprise.

Like many, I got my start as a youngster with SWL. My early forays into electronics were aided and abetted by my parents having supplied me with radios that I disassembled for parts. This was in the 7th and 8th grades. BTW, I'm jealous of all you who made functioning crystal radios; no luck here, but I did build a couple of working transmitters while in high school. One of those served me well when I was licensed as a Tech in 1963 as WA3AER. That I became a Ham Radio op is due to the prompting I got from friends in our high school radio club, W3CDI. My parents continued supporting my avocation, because as a 6M Ham we got plenty of calls about TVI. It got to the point that I invited the FCC to visit and check for spurious emissions - a clean bill of health, but I still kept building and giving out stub filters.



College, work, and family intervened in the mid-70s and my licensed lapsed. Work, however, kept me deeply involved in electronics at Westinghouse in Baltimore. And, somewhere along the line I got a glimpse of the future of radio, SDR, which I doubted would ever be affordable for Hams. I'm glad I was wrong! If not for SDR and DSP I would not be able to operate from my urban QTH.

After 9/11 I got interested in SWL again but was troubled by all the power line interference. Curiosity led me back to Amateur Radio suppliers and the discovery that Ham SDR was available and affordable. DSP and newer NBs offered a path forward and I was relicensed in 2009, and reclaimed my original call sign and upgraded to Extra. Rigs have been IC-756, Flex3000, Flex5000, and now a K3. Originally only bare-foot, I found an AL-80A in late 2015 and upgraded to an Acom1000 last year. I've progressed through a series of antennas, but now use a Hexbeam and 80/40M inverted-V for HF. I'm interested in DMR and find it growing by leaps and bounds. In addition, I'm active in contesting and supporting public service events.

I'm an active member of a number of local radio clubs: PVRC, ARCNEM, CARA, W3CDI, K3SAV, and BRATS.

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Previously only a phone and occasional PSK31 operator, I wanted to contribute to my contest club, PVRC, in CW contests. Until about 15 months ago when I finally registered for CWA Level 1, my attempts to re-learn CW had fallen short of the mark. What was lacking was structure and the discipline to practice that comes with CWA. CWA Levels 1 and 2 and weekly CWT have helped improve my CW operating skill, which still has a long way to go. I'm blessed with supportive friends who have invited me to join them for CW contests. The big leap was 2016 CW SS; I think I dreamt CW for days thereafter.

With Solar Cycle 24 heading for rock bottom, CW has enabled DX contacts that would be impossible for me on SSB. I'm enjoying the CW learning path and it's keeping my 71 year old brain active.

Bill Gilliland WØTG

I am happy to be a member of CWops. I'm 71 years old and have been a ham since 1960. In the early days, I was building equipment, building antennas, chasing DX, working VHF/UHF weak signal, and operating contests. CW was always my first love and I usually didn't even have a microphone hooked up. I took a long break in 1995 when I moved to Texas. In early 2017, I dug out my trusty old Ten-Tec Triton IV, strung up a dipole and got back on CW. I was very surprised that



my speed hadn't suffered a lot during my layoff. I joined the local ARC, met some new friends there and met up with some old friends on the air. I discovered CWops and the Mini CWTs and have been having a blast ever since. My contesting is very relaxed and I'm just enjoying working as many as I can without working too hard at it. And I've had some great 40m CW ragchews with CWops members. I recently retired from 43 years with the same company and am looking forward to more time to spend on CW, both in the contests and just hanging out and talking with whoever shows up. Thank you for inviting me to be a member!

Clark Macaulay WU4B

Greetings from Georgia—the Peach State.

I received my Novice ticket WN6RFR in 1961 just before I left for college. CW was a struggle for me. I didn't believe I could ever achieve 13wpm for the General so when the Novice ticket expired, I applied for a Technician class that I held through college and into my early adult years. A few years later, I managed to get to 13 wpm for General and Advanced but quickly dropped use of CW. Several job relocations gave me WB5OOZ and KE4RQ. Then career and family intervened, and ham radio was put on the back burner for about 20 years.



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In 2006, my bride Tricia and I spent a day at Dayton on the way to visit family in PA. What a life changer. I was introduced to two aspects of ham radio that I enjoy today: DXing and QRP. I had been inactive for so long that it took me a while to determine that to be effective in both I needed to learn CW afresh and anew. Using the K7QO code course, I committed to daily practice of re-learning the code. After a few months of practice, I had my first DX CW contact and was hooked: there is something magical hearing one's call come back through the cacophony of other stations. Since that first contact, I have reached 300 DXCC on CW using 100w to a wire in the trees and 163 QRP DXCC. I never thought I'd do this well.

In 2015, two operators in the local North Georgian QRP (NOGA QRP) club suggested CWOPS as a way to become more proficient in CW. Looking at the website and the standard of 25 wpm, I said to myself, "Self—there is no way you can reach this unless you really try." In 2015, I successfully completed CW Academy Level II and passed copying a QSO at 20 wpm. This meant that the Extra Class ticket I now hold was no longer a "No Code" ticket for me. Learning to "drop the pencil and listen" as promoted by my CW Academy instructor Joe N3HEE was a new habit hard to form but so necessary.

Vaden NN4K is in NOGA QRP and encouraged me (as did Joe N3HEE) to participate in weekly CWT. The first few times it was so daunting. It was so hard to copy the calls at the speeds I heard, but with each CWT, it became a little easier. I still have a long way to go to copy at the speed I hear so many CWOPs members use, and, at age 74, I don't know how fast I will be able to achieve. Since that Dayton 2006 exposure to CW/DX/QRP where I got infected with the CW bug, I continue to press the envelope forward. As I write this, I'm learning about contesting skills. My interest is not to win any award but simple to become a more proficient CW operator and have a lot of fun doing it.

My QRZ page keeps track of the few awards I have pursued. It also identifies my other interests as a Bible teacher, building model railroads and handcrafting QRP rigs. Quite a variety of interests! Hope to make contact with many CWOPs members in the years ahead.

Ken Opskar LA7GIA

I live in Oslo, the capital of Norway, with my wife Julie, 3 children, Elecraft K3, a tribander beam and a considerable amount of wires.

I was first licensed as LA7GIA in 1992 during my University studies as Electrical Power Engineer. I quite early got the passion for DXing – working the weak stations far away was really exciting and that is what brought me into this hobby, as well as trying to learn CW. I have passion for DXing in general, both chasing DX and organizing my own solo DXpeditions. Currently I have worked 307 mixed on DXCC, but one day I hope to reach HR – not sure what to do after that. I like all bands from 160-6 meter.



Organizing my own DX trips has been a very pleasant side of this hobby, bringing me to other parts of the world, experiencing new countries, new cultures – meeting new people and making friendship. So far I have organized 6 solo trips to Africa, mostly working CW and using simple antennas. I'm also an avid contesteer, running about 25-40 contests every year – though I only participate for fun, and never full time.

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It has to fit other obligations as well. In total about 35-40.000 QSOs every year – I guess about 95% CW which is my favourite mode. I also like homebrewing, mostly antenna related work – but as well other projects for the shack.

Beside DXing and using the Bencher, I do some training. I used to play tennis, and was ranked 250 in Norway some years ago. I also spent time riding my veteran 1953 motorbike – but I realized it was too dangerous, and veteran bikes require a lot of maintenance as well. Nowadays, I try to keep up with running, to compensate for the many hours in the shack. You have to stay fit and have stamina for long duration of contests and DXing. I also enjoy walking tours – Norway is a beautiful and peaceful country if you like to go hiking in the mountains, or in the forest outside Oslo. Privately, I run my own consultant business and am a CEO/MSc Electrical Power Engineer, specializing in High Voltage substation construction projects worldwide. I am currently an Engineering Manager for a high voltage substation project.

Glenn Norman W4YES

As W4YES, I live in Nashville, TN with my wife of 40 years. We have two adult daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Growing up in Houston, Texas, at the age of 14 I was introduced to ham radio by happenstance. I was able to speak to someone in South Africa. I was fascinated and became determined to get involved. Being interested in “speaking” on the radio, I tried to bypass the Novice ticket (not interested in dits & dahs). But I was unable to pass the General exam, so I settled for Novice. Building a Heathkit HW-16 was incredible fun, and I got on the air in January 1970. The most fun that I ever experienced in ham radio was as a Novice.



I did not upgrade at the time, but in 1978 I passed the General exam, and was finally on the air with a microphone, a Kenwood TS-520S, and 6-element Yagi as N5AZT. However, I kept my CW skills active. During that time, I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering. Ham radio was directly related to my interest in electronics.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia (in Houston) took my antenna off the air, and I wandered away from the hobby in lieu of a family and career with IBM in-part as a NASA contractor, designing, developing, and integrating the 2nd generation onboard Space Shuttle flight computer. Again, I attribute my career to experience gained in ham radio. I donated the TS-520S to the Johnson Space Center ARC.

Relocating from Houston to Nashville as a retired Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, the ham radio bug bit again in 2014. With a fresh start in “4-land,” I became W4YES, purchased an Elecraft K3 and G5RV. The lure of CW called me back, and I added a N3ZN paddle. My microphone is now unattached. I took the CWops L2 and L3 classes, which greatly improved accuracy / speed and taught me how to head copy. I am now assisting a L1 class.

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Interestingly, the mode that I originally found bothersome and distracting, I now embrace exclusively with excitement and fun. I appreciate the work CWops does for the beautiful art and language of CW. Membership in CWops is an honor.

Other hobbies include cycling, music, and singing.

Arthur Pienko UX1HW

I was born in 1967.

My father was radio amateur but I have started using HAM radio only after Military service, where the big and angry sergeant have taught me Morse code for two weeks. Two years later I got my first ham license. It was 1989.

Since I have had many thousands QSOs. There are 99,9 % CW from them. I live in Kremenchuk city, Ukraine. I'm engaged in printing.

I have two places for using HAM radio. The first one is my dacha where I have ground 20 x 25 m. There are some not big antennas there. The second such place is my car in which one I use FT-100D and antenna GP MFJ. I like having QSOs from my car. I have worked with 118 countries before now. Recently my friend Slava, UW3HM, have recommended me to take part in CWT. And now Wednesday is my favorite day of week. And Morse code is on all life.

Steve Carter K0GUZ

I must have stopped by Gene Link's house at a particularly good time. It was 1961, I was 16 years old, lived in Boulder, Colorado, and had always wondered about the small house with the gigantic antennas a few blocks from our house. So, being young and naive, one day I knocked on the door, and a distinguished older man answered. I told him that the antennas were interesting; what did he do with them? His eyes lit up, and he invited me into his living room. He explained that he had been a colonel with the Signal Corps during World War II, and that he was a ham radio operator, and his call was W0IA. He talked about how much he enjoyed working stations around the globe, and he particularly liked to use CW.

He invited me back a couple of days later, and gave me the chance to look at his equipment, bathed in the warm glow from the filaments, and even let me send out a few dits and dahs on his key. I was hooked.

Fortunately, the Boulder Amateur Radio Club then offered regular Novice classes, and I persuaded my parents that getting a ham radio license was the most important



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thing in the world, and a natural progression from the many Heathkit stereo amplifiers and radios my dad and I had built in the previous few years. All of the instructors were enthusiastic and much closer to my age, which helped. Somehow, I got my code speed up to 5 words a minute, and I was thrilled when Colonel Link walked in the room to give us the exam.

It took the FCC nearly three months to issue my license, and my mother got sick of me coming home and running to the spot on the dining room table where she put new letters and cursing the slow bureaucracy. But finally she put a small envelope from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on top, and I had a callsign. It was KN0GUZ, which (minus the N, which marked you as a novice) is the one I still have.



I badly wanted the brand new Heathkit DX-40, but Heath sent my check back with a form letter telling me that they were back ordered for several months, and no, I could no longer buy a DX-20 or DX-35. Bummer. So instead I ordered a Hallicrafters HT-40, assembled it and got on the air. A group of us high school students made regular contacts just because we could.

All of us practiced the code and the ARRL's opaque book, and got rid of the "N" after passing the General at the FCC office in Denver.

I went to the University of Colorado in Boulder, graduated in 1967 with a journalism degree; then joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Cali, Colombia. There I met a fellow ham at the consulate, who I'm convinced was a CIA spy, who let me operate his very expensive rig as K0GUZ/HK5. I came back, went to law school, graduated in 1971, passed the bar exam, moved to western Colorado and after about nine months as a deputy district attorney, was appointed as the youngest (by about 10 years) county judge in the state. I met my wife in Rifle, and we raised three children there. I retired after 31 years as one of the longest serving judges in the state. We moved to our current QTH in Grand Junction, Colorado three years ago.

There's always been something new in ham radio that has been interesting and challenging. My profession has nothing to do with electronics or radio, but computers, APRS, packet radio...they've all been fascinating. Lately I've discovered DMR, QRP operation using my KX3, NPOTA (the photo is of me and my son Terry, KE0HNW at the Colorado National Monument on the last day of NPOTA in December, 2016). And thanks to K0UK, I've discovered CW contesting, and thanks to the regular CWT contests on Wednesday, I've increased my code speed. Those nice and quiet 25 kHz at the edge of the 20 meter band convinced me that I really ought to upgrade, so last March, 56 years after getting my General, I finally upgraded to Extra. I checked twice to make sure that the form indicated that I did NOT want a new callsign. After all those years and after amassing a collection of ham radio license plates (which started out on a Renault Dauphine, and now identify my Mazda Miata) I'm attached to K0GUZ!

My equipment is a KX3 and thanks to the HOA, a G5RV in the attic.

I hope to work more of the members of CW OPS on Wednesdays and in other contests.