

**Announcing the New Slow Way to Go!
Every Sunday @ 8:00-9:00 PM EDT
(Monday @ 00:00-01:00 UTC)**



K1USN's New Weekly Slow Speed Test

The CWops Club (**CWops**) promotes the art of CW for those who wish to expand and improve their on-the-air experiences. CWops' CW Academy (**CWA**) program has produced thousands of successful graduates who have gone on to become every day CW operators. Hundreds of CWA grads have become CWops members after demonstrating their ability to understand and communicate in CW at speeds of 25 WPM and higher!

CWops' three weekly 25 to 40+ WPM CWT sprints are exciting, stimulating and a great way to improve CW copying ability, operating skills, and propagation knowledge. The CWTs create bonds of friendship among CW-loving operators around the world.

Now, for those just getting started in CW contesting and others who prefer a more leisurely pace, several members of both the K1USN radio Club and CWops have started a weekly one-hour slow speed CW contest, the SST. Please join us! Thank you to all who took our recent survey. It's helped us choose the day and time for the SST.

K1USN's new Slow Speed Test is designed to encourage and assist those who signed up for CWA to learn CW or to improve their CW skills but are not yet copying 25 WPM, and all others who feel like "taking it slow and easy" once per week both for their own pleasure and to help others out. CWops currently offers a total of nine "slow speed" CWT's per year just after the three CWA graduations where all are asked to slow down to 20 WPM. Many CWA grads make contacts in those sessions, enjoying a well-earned rush of accomplishment. The SST will expand those opportunities for success to **52 weeks per year!**

All of us old enough to remember our Novice days recall the rush of adrenalin and the sweaty grip on our J-38 (or Radio Shack) keys during our first CW QSOs. This is what it must feel like for the new CW operators we want to encourage.

The weekly slow speed SST is also for operators who participate in regular CWT sessions, but only as S & P (Search and Pounce) entrants. The weekly 20 WPM or slower SSTs can build their confidence to find open frequencies and begin calling CQ, first in the SSTs and then in the more crowded and frenetic full speed CWTs. Successfully crossing that CQing threshold is another real accomplishment!

We hope many SST participants become sufficiently comfortable with CW contesting to enjoy the regular higher speed CWT sessions, other big CW contests, and smaller local and regional QSO parties, using N1MM+ (or other) computer loggers, spotting networks, call history files, live online scoring, etc. **But we welcome everybody to join in the SSTs** whether high speed CW contesting is your goal or not, including new ops making their first attempts at completing a CW QSO. In addition to SST's 20 WPM upper speed limit, we ask all to be patient, supportive, and willing to slow down further as necessary to assist another op in completing an SST QSO.

CWA recommends using electronic keyers and paddles, but if you are more comfortable with some other device, please feel free to join us in the SSTs using a straight key, cootie key, bug or paddles. Unlike high speed contests, where QSO rate is king and a CQing/"running" station expects only the required exchange and confirms a contact with simply "dit" or "R," the SST encourages sending brief friendly greetings to the other Op. Friendliness is part of taking it slow and easy!

So please join us in the SSTs! All you need is an HF radio, an antenna, and the desire to become, and assist others to become, better CW operators!

SST Time and Day: weekly @ 8:00-9:00PM US EDT Sunday
(which is 00:00-01:00 UTC Monday)

Exchange: Name + state/province/country

Sample SST QSO:

K1RV: CQ SST K1RV

N1DC: N1DC

K1RV: N1DC PI MA

N1DC: GE PI RICK MA

K1RV: GL RICK TU K1RV SST

Suggested initial SST frequencies:
(QSY +/- as needed)

80 meters 3.532 - 3.539

40 meters 7.032 - 7.039

20 meters 14.032 - 14.039

For more info or questions about our SST, please email us at: k1usn.radioclub.sst@gmail.com
or visit us at <http://www.k1usn.com/sst>