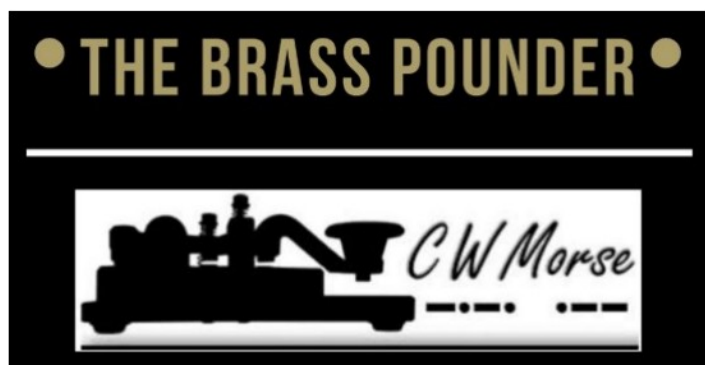




August 2025

So Mike ZS6MSW felt the need to invite many of his friends back into **The COOL CW Operators Club** WhatsApp group. This is a group of rather enthusiastic radio operators that like to see and to share each other's activities and in so doing inspire each other to be radio active, especially CW of course. Never forget, SSB operators are our friends too.

Mike added Paul ZS2PS. Paul has found a supportive group and has become an inspiring radio amateur to the rest of the group. He started using The COOL too! Mike then added Richard ZS6RKE. We haven't heard much from Richard, yet. Matthew ZS6MDV and Janre ZS6SI were added too. Mike added an additional thirty two others. I agree with Mike, we are not going to grow as a club if we do not initiate an invitation of friendship.

Almost immediately ZR6... (serves on the council of the South African Radio League (SARL), focusing on contest operations and contributing to the SARL Contest WorkGroup) left. Then our dear friend from the Cape ZS1... left too. A few others left soon after. ZS6... (another council member with no qrz bio) left. Our passionate WAZS chaser ZS6... left. Another left, at least he gave a reason, too many messages, the rest just turned their backs on Mike's friendly invitation.

So we can safely say, the above list of leavers need never to be invited again and welcome to the others that cared to stay. Everything we offer as a CW club is free, no club fees and The COOL website is usually supported through donations. We are paid up for the next three quarters. So The usage of The COOL is basically free too!

Mike ZS6MSW wrote, "When possible and when WhatsApp allows, I send an invitation for them to join first. However, due to occasional WhatsApp updates, the invitation option is sometimes unavailable — in those cases, I add them manually."

Mike never pushes people to join but offers options to bail at any time they want. Not long after this, a few days in, another number left. Not in my contacts list but apparently a SOTA supporter. Do South African SOTA operators not see the value in CW? The rest of the world of SOTA operators are mainly CW operators from what I can see looking at various YouTube videos posted of exciting SOTA operations using CW.

Mike and I a few months ago pushed our speeds up to 40 wpm which is insane. We could send on the paddle, we could read a word here and there. Granted those speeds are really impractical. We gradually came back down to 30 to 25 to 20 and then things started to feel sluggish. The comfort zone is 20 to 25 wpm and that is what all of our goals should be.

I've been doing CW for over fifty years, the majority of which I was STUCK in the dead zone (12 to 15 wpm). This group got me out because guys like Mike liked to push the limits. Now we push each other. Ed joins in occasionally. Frank is an amazing CW operator, Toy really is an inspiration.

We are here for each other.

The COOL Main - The OPEN View [v 27.07.25] (Sorted by Date and Time) Note: Click on sortable column headers to sort.

New Log

Edit Log

Delete log

Upload ADIF

Export to Excel

COOL Evaluator

Reload COOL

Search callsign

Search other

Prepare for selective download

Download ADIF

Download Cabrillo

PDF QSL

***	Callsign	Other	Comments	Date	Time (UTC)	Frequency	QSL	Mode	Watts	sRST	Own Exchange / Grid	rRST	Other's Exchange / Grid	CHK
	ZS6BNE	ZS6MSW	25 WPM	2025-08-07	14:20:00	7.0300	Y CW	5	559		WX WARM NO WIND	559	OVERCAST	
	ZS6MSW	ZS6BNE	NOW WARM AND NO WIND	2025-08-07	14:19:00	7.0300	Y CW	5	559		KG33XV	559	NIL	
	ZS6UT	ZS3VSM	RODNEY KLOOF	2025-08-07	06:16:00	7.1900	SSB	100	59		KG44DE	59		
	ZS6UT	ZS6RHZ	RODNEY	2025-08-07	05:52:00	7.1900	SSB		59		KG44DE	59		
	ZS6UT	ZS2BIM1	MIKE PLETTENBERG	2025-08-07	05:47:00	7.1900	CW	100	569		KG44DE	599		
	ZS6UT	ZS2BIM1	MIKE PLETT	2025-08-07	05:44:00	7.1900	SSB	100	57		KG44DE	59	NIL	
	ZS6UT	DL60AZBL	SES RADIO CLUB	2025-08-06	18:19:00	14.0180	CW	100	599		KG44DE	579		
	ZS6UT	LZ1FAX	GEORGI PERNIK BULGARIA	2025-08-06	17:52:00	18.0820	CW	100	539		KG44DE	339	NIL	
	ZS6UT	SK17ASTRO	SPECIAL EVENT	2025-08-06	17:37:00	14.0179	CW	100	599		KG44DE	599	NIL	
	ZS6MSW	ZS6TBJ	JOHN JACK	2025-08-06	15:43:00	7.0200	CW	100	599		KG33XV	599		
	ZS2PS	ZS6TBJ	QRM	2025-08-06	15:38:00	7.0200	CW	100	599		KF26SA	599	NIL	
	ZS6MSW	HA5AQ	HUNGARY	2025-08-06	15:24:00	18.0730	CW	100	599		KG33XV	599		
	ZS6UT	ZS6BYT	PIETER	2025-08-06	14:53:00	7.1600	SSB	100	59		KG44DE	59		
	ZS6UT	JD1BRC	FUMI OGASAWARA	2025-08-06	14:22:00	18.0795	CW	100	599		KG44DE	559	NIL	
	ZS6UT	ZS6MSW	MIKE FB QSO	2025-08-06	12:16:00	7.0300	Y CW	100	599		KG44DE	599		
	ZS6MSW	ZS6UT	THX ED	2025-08-06	12:15:00	7.0300	Y CW	100	599		KG33XV	599		

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So nice to see the dark blue indicators in this display. Actually the difference between Mike's usual 100W signal and 5W signals today are not that different. Only a few dB only measured by ear on a QCX receiver.

It gives me a sense too to imagine how Mike hears me on the other side as I'm always only 5W output from the QCX into an inverted vee which is actually closer to a dipole, keeping those wires high in the air so as not to affect any wild buck that may cross through the area at night.

73 de Eddie ZS6BNE

OUR TEAM

There are many team members. These members have specific portfolios

Eddie ZS6BNE

The COOL / RaDAR Developer

Fifty years of amateur radio

Mike ZS6MSW

CW Trainer

Passionate about the Morse code

Woody ZS3WL

Public relations

Promoter of The COOL among communities

Ed ZS6UT

Top COOL Supporter

Excellent CW operator and Base station operator

Danny ZS5DG

Promoter of CW

Encourages others to learn the Morse code

Toy ZS1WJG

Event / Contest coordinator

Enthusiastic CW Operator