



# Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium  
Editor: W0CG

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January 15, 2020

## ARRL 160 CW Contest Report

Band QSOs Zones Countries

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160: 571 19 63  
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Total Score = 31,023,905

K8ND ran this contest remotely with me on hand at Signal Point as a support technician. Jeff was plagued by many frustrating Internet dropouts, but he remained patient and posted a good score in very poor conditions.

After I went to sleep Steve took over as control operator (below).



## ARRL 10 Meter Contest Report

Band Mode QSOs Mults

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10: CW 152 32  
10: SSB 50 6  
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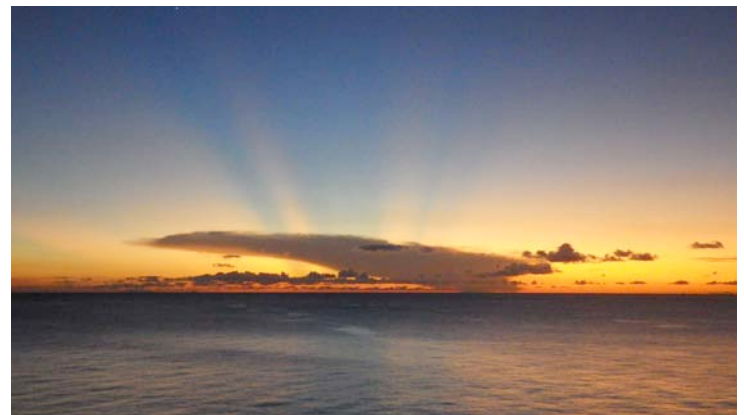
Total: 202 38

Total Score = 26,904

Most years I am the only op at the QTH at the time of the 10 meter contest, and I usually make a serious effort in a single op category of my choice. Frequently I manage to be the high DX side score in my category, and that was the case again this time.

This year I opted into the Single Op Low Power Mixed Assisted category. This imposes a power limit of 150 watts, and you're allowed to switch between CW and SSB without constraint.

In the low sunspot times this contest ALWAYS begins with a frustratingly low number of QSOs into South America only. I operated until 0131Z when the band was totally gone, and to my great surprise worked about 25 stateside guys, every one of them in Florida. The occasional spots from K8ND and others aided in this process. Our newly-repaired South America yagi made for easy S9+30 QSOs into PY, LU, ZP, CX and others. SSB was pretty quiet and I only found four guys to work the first evening. When the western sky looks like this, Pacific QSOs on 10 meters should not be far behind, but that didn't happen this year.



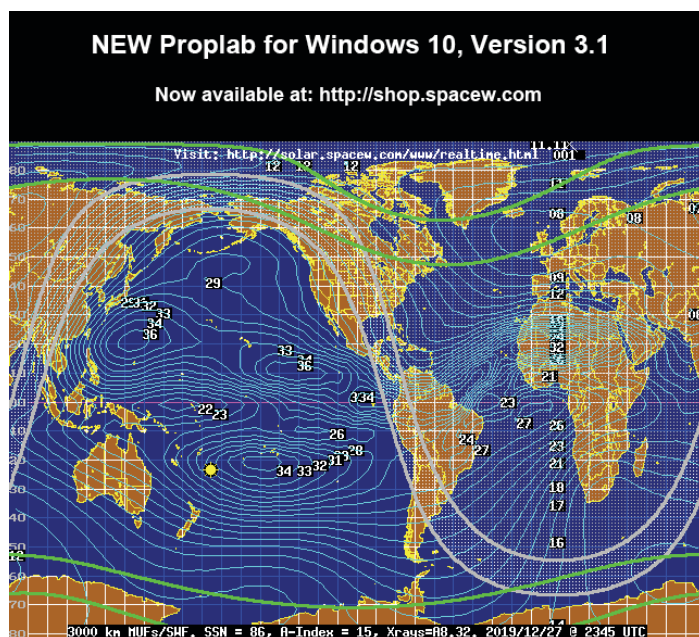
The next day the band began to re-awaken at about 1600Z on Saturday, and I logged several more South Americans on CW, a slow process. At 1746 NV9L

magically appeared. Working Val provided me great optimism that a true U.S. opening was about to unfold. About 90 minutes later the Stateside opening ended as fast as it had begun, but I managed around 100 QSOs in that time.

At almost 2100Z one of my frequent listening trips to SSB surprised me, and thus began a furious run of about 40 South Americans on voice, every one of which presented a challenge because my poor Spanish skills do not decipher the heavy accents very well.

The rest of the contest was pretty much a washout, with no U.S. opening on Sunday except for some Texans. I managed only one AZ contact, our member KY7M, and a tiny handful of Californians.

When the MUF map looks like this, as it does most early evenings, you can expect conditions to the Pacific. I had my fingers crossed for a couple of Pacific contacts, which are normally expected around 2100Z, but no such luck.



This contest is always dominated by deep South America: Argentina, Uruguay, and the southern reaches of Brazil. For us much farther north, the trick is in choosing a category where the competition is light, and I appear to have done that successfully. Running the 10 Meter Contest at this stage in the sunspot cycle is an act of self-inflicted torture, but I have done it many times now and believe that as a result I've developed a very good understanding of how 28 MHz behaves and what it takes to win.

## Stew Perry Contest Report

K8ND ran Stew Perry remotely with generous support from SM4KYN on site at Signal Point.

Operating Time (hrs): 12.5  
Total QSOs = 404 Total Score = 3,671

Here are Jeff's 3830 comments.

*Conditions were not nearly as good from Curacao as have been reported from the more Northern latitudes! All signals seemed weak, and the 0400Z and 0500Z hours provided record-low rates: just 6 and 18 QSOs per hour when the rate should be soaring, with signals from Europe and North America!*

*No pileups of Europeans, and only 20 Europeans worked! This is not normal from Curacao, even during non-contest days. Four calls in Japan logged and their signals seemed pretty typical. Only three signals heard in South America. Worked KL7RA.*

*We have observed that in Topband contests when conditions are good between North America and Europe, our score from PJ2T suffers. This was different, some sort of propagation effect. I do hope that it does not occur again for CQWW 160 CW at the end of January!*

## CCC Financial Snapshot and a Note from CCC Treasurer W8WTS

With 2019 coming to a close, I took a high altitude look at the club's treasury and finances. We managed to survive another year. In 2019, the club had \$10,348.77 in income and spent \$12,908.18. The club departs 2019 with \$2,559.41 less than it had at the start of 2019. Fortunately, the club still has \$5,067.23 in the bank at the end of the year. That may look like a lot of money, but we will soon disburse \$2500 for a week long visit from our tower professional, and \$1300 for a safe, and the remainder needs to keep us going until dues and contest revenue start to come in later in the spring. Cash goes fast when even modest station projects happen.

Looking at the reasons for the \$2,559.41 deficit, the most apparent problem is that there remain still some members that have either:

1. Not paid their club dues for membership year 20 (the one that we are half way through).
2. Not reimbursed Geoff for their contest rental and expenses.

Dues payments keep the club solvent and allow us to maintain the station. There are a lot of K3s, computers, antennas, amplifiers (and the spare parts that amplifiers consume like black, 240 V Pac-Men), that need maintenance. Plus, there are always projects underway to keep the station moving forward and improving. Gary, N7IR recently finished a MAJOR upgrade to the entire receive antenna switching system. The lion's share of that project was the labor (which Gary of course provided for free), but it needed over \$1000 of materials. Member dues are the mainstay revenue source for funding our ongoing operation.

Contest rental expenses that are not reimbursed by the operators come straight out of W0CG's pocket. Things like groceries, car rental, utility bills, rental for the pool house up the street, all need to be paid promptly. It is not fair for us to watch Geoff shell out for these up-front costs and then fail to reimburse our share. Most operators reimburse Geoff immediately after or even during the contest trips (often including an additional donation), but sometimes it is months before Geoff gets reimbursed by everyone.

You can send your dues or contest reimbursement via PayPal to ghoward@kent.edu. Geoff partitions the expense reimbursement and sends the station support and maintenance charges to me for the club treasury. You are welcome to pay in quarterly installments if that is a better fit with your cash flow. Paper checks work as well, sent to the W0CG CBA. I look forward to sending you a receipt for your CCC dues or contest reimbursement shortly.

HNY and 73,

Jim, W8WTS  
Treasurer, Caribbean Contesting Consortium

## **Below: Tropical Beauty that Only a Ham Would Understand**



Ridge Tribander, November 21, 2019.

## **Father Time Is Chasing Us All**

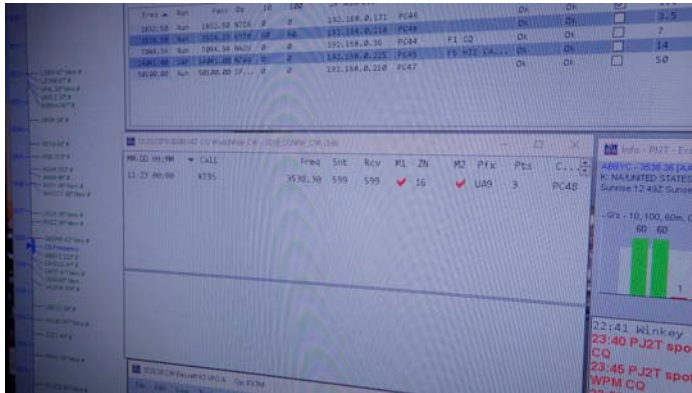
Aging is inevitable, but that doesn't mean we have to like it. It's catching up with several of us at present, but we're fighting back. As you know, K2PLF has been fighting Parkinson's for years, gamely adapting to using the keyboard to send CW and continuing to be an extremely effective contest op at PJ2T. N7IR is dealing with an artery disease and the awful side effects of prednisone and other parts of the treatment. N0YY has myasthenia gravis and has to withstand IV therapy five hours for five days each month, another day for blood transfusions, and a half day for other IV drips. In addition he has to undergo a procedure to drain the vitreous humor from one eye and replace it with fresh fluid, keeping the pressure as close to original as possible so his eyesight does not change. And in the worst of recent news, WA9S is presently undergoing chemo for lung cancer. He's being told that it's "treatable," but of course this prevents him from coming to Curacao in February. Also, it's been hard for him to feel good enough to keep up with his clients, but just prior to the date of this newsletter he reported that he was doing somewhat better and is working three-quarters time.

N4QQ and WI9WI have also had serious medical battles in past years. Most recently Jim was hit with pneumonia in Sedona (That's not a song title) on what was supposed to have been a relaxing Christmas trip. Given the average age of our group, I'm sure that many others among us have similarly scary medical stories to tell. But everyone is bravely keeping calm and carrying on, and hopefully a few days at Signal Point now and then when able are a welcome and relaxing escape from reality.



**Photo Memorabilia from CQWW 2019 Contest**

Below, it's a heck of a good sign when the very first QSO of CQWW CW turns out to be RT9S on 80!  
Good work by operator KY7M.



Here's NA2U making it appear to be effortless handling the 40 meter pandemonium.



Above, KB7Q masterfully handling 40 at 3:51 AM local time.

Below, while the contest rages on inside I'm installing hardline connectors in the backyard. Notice that I've trimmed down. My old normal weight in the high 160s is down to 149, and I feel much better as a result.



Above, N7IR eats noise on 160.

Next column, Saturday morning when rates into Europe are tremendous on 15 and 20 using the Ridge antenna. L-R: KY7M, K9DR, KB7Q, N7WA.



Next page, a component of Gene's incentive system, this at the 80 meter position. "Hit the 80 meter target 2143 QSOs." (We did that easily.)



## KB7Q's PJ2T Remote Operations Manual

I recommend Gene's manual (link below) as *excellent* reading. It is of New York Times bestseller caliber.

[http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/RemoteOperation/PJ2T\\_Remote\\_Operation\\_021119.pdf](http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/RemoteOperation/PJ2T_Remote_Operation_021119.pdf)

If you're curious about how remote operation is done at PJ2T, this is the definitive source. If not interested, I still recommend this as a masterpiece example of very, very good pedagogy. Gene's manual is organized, lucid, interesting, and totally up to date. He adds updates frequently. If you ever need to write technical documentation, this is a superb model to emulate.

After Gene led us into this fascinating technology, I was the first CCCer to use his manual to set up remoting. It came off very smoothly, the true test of quality documentation, and I can still remote effectively from my condo in Idaho without a K3 – it's all emulated in software. Thanks to Gene for his leadership.

## Securing PJ2T: We're Getting a Safe

Hurricanes and thefts are the greatest threats to our continued success at PJ2T. The latter is somewhat within our control. We already have good physical security at Signal Point, and our security monitoring company, owned by PJ2KC, is the top company on the island. They helped us immensely in the attempted September 27 break-in attempt. But we can always do more to protect ourselves.

Our next security measure is to buy a small safe. The product we selected will be bolted to the concrete floor in the right side closet in the East Bedroom, and will accommodate four K3s and two of the small Dell micro-PCs. The K3s represent our greatest dollar density, and because they are so small they are a good match for a safe. The safe we're getting is \$1260 and is available on the island. This will provide unmatched security for about \$9000 of our most valuable assets. This (next page) is the Sistec MT6 safe that we're going to buy. The Curacao supplier is holding the safe in my name until I can pick it up in late January.



Above, the much deserved Sunday night dinner celebration. Thanks to chef N5OT we ate wonderfully. The contest was a ton of fun. Being there during these operations is exciting. Even if you don't like CW, or just want to spectate for any reason, come on down. L-R: N7WA, K9DR, KB7Q, N5OT, VE3CX, KY7M's XYL Debby, KY7M, NA2U, and in the foreground N7IR.

Finally, well earned relaxation on Monday for N7IR, VE3CX, and KB7Q.







When construction begins on the new hotel we will be very exposed in the long April – October period when few of us visit the station, so it makes sense to spend 1.3K to protect 9K. The CCC leadership studied this issue closely, and three of us independently made measurements that verified that four K3s will fit in this small safe.

As for the hurricanes what happens happens, and one good storm could be the end of us. Part of why we opted for Curacao is that it is south of the nominal hurricane belt. We're playing the probabilities and keeping our fingers crossed.

### **This Is PJ2T's 20<sup>th</sup> Year!**

The purchase of the house was concluded on October 31, 2000 when my lawyer, notary, and the bankers met on the island and exchanged documents and signed all the papers. Soon after, we operated the first PJ2T contest, CQWW CW, in November. That means that we are presently in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of activity, and that the big anniversary contest will be CQWW CW 2020.

I am hoping to be able to place an article about this in "CQ" sometime this year. In the next couple of weeks I'll work up a publicity and P.R. plan for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and share it with you for comments. What are your ideas? How can we make a big publicity splash for our 20<sup>th</sup> year?

### **Internet Ping Times a Problem**

Our DSL Internet service has been very good for many years; much better, in fact, than one would expect given our location. The data arrives via buried fiber at a big equipment box adjacent to the old Sunset Waters gatehouse, and from there to the QTH travels by hardwire using young, quality cable. We pay about \$53/month for this, a completely reasonable figure.

In recent weeks that great service has been plagued by brief periods of long ping times that have made remote operation nearly impossible. K8ND and KB7Q and SM4KYN have been working together to try to determine if the problem is heavy usage from another device in our neighborhood, or whether it originates in the larger world. K8ND experienced almost no such disruption in late December when he ran the Stew Perry contest, but we're not yet confident that the problem is gone. K8ND and W8WTS will bring some sleuthing weapons in January to try to further characterize this. It's a small problem when running SSB remotely, but a larger problem for CW. We'll keep you posted.

### **Upcoming Contests at PJ2T**

Here's what's coming.

#### **CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest, CW**

K8ND and W8WTS will pilot PJ2T 2200Z January 24 until 2200Z January 26, 2020. They always place very high and in some years have won the World in this one. Jeff and Jim make extremely elaborate preparation for this contest, installing multiple SDRs that support extra CW skimmers they install on an accessory table beside Station 1. They also plan to install the DX Engineering 4-Square in the flats for the weekend, hoping that there's no construction underway that weekend. We'll put that antenna on the Ridge permanently sometime after this contest.

#### **CQ WPX RTTY Contest**

As most years, WI9WI will make a solo effort from PJ2T in this contest. Jim usually does not go full bore in this contest, it's more for fun, but he always posts an enviable score.

#### **ARRL DX CW Contest**

February 15-16 will see the running of what is for many of us our favorite contest of the year. The February weather is usually exquisite, and the operating fairly easy with mostly loud signals from W/VE. Our operator list for this one is NF9V, W0CG, W9VA, WI9WI, KB7Q, K9DR, VE3CX and K9JF. We will miss seeing Marty (K2PLF) and Keith (WA9S) for the first time in many, many years at this contest. We have the Moran pool house rented and look forward to a relaxing week in the tropics. As you will read later in this newsletter, NR0X will be on site that week for his tower work, thus Jason will have

plenty of rope handlers and other support when he's climbing.

### ARRL DX SSB Contest

March 7-8 will be the phone complement to the above contest, to be staffed mainly again this year by our member and West Mountain Radio founder N1ZZ and his friends from the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society, Melbourne, Florida. In addition, CCCer K8PGJ will be on the team with KB7Q and me on standby if needed. Here's the full op list: N1ZZ, W0CG, AF4Z, WB5ZGA, W4QD, AD4ES, KE3VV, and K8PGJ. The overflow lodging will again be the Moran pool house.

### CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest

After my many queries nobody in CCC expressed interest in a team operation for this one, so our member Egon, KF4DX has happily signed on to run it as a single op March 28-29. He has a clear operating plan already in mind and expects to score very well on this weekend.

As always, everyone in CCC is welcome at every contest. If you'd like to join any of the multi-op teams it is always possible to find a sleeping space for you, and if that involves off-site lodging that cost will be distributed evenly across the whole team so that you're not unfairly overburdened.

### CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest

For countless years WI9WI has run the CW weekend, this year May 30-31, as a single operator. But he also consistently expresses openness to operating partners if anyone is interested. Contact Jim or Geoff if you'd like to explore the possibilities for this late spring competition.

### Security Enhancements for the QTH

Our Curacao next door neighbor, Mike Maley, is a retired police officer and a security fanatic. Following our break-in attempt, he has strongly recommended that I install three Ring cameras at the station, two looking at the main entrance doors and one on a tower looking down on the area in general.



These wireless cams run on power from small solar panels and connect wirelessly. They can be programmed very flexibly to capture motion video triggered in multiple ways, depending upon the parameters selected. Additionally I'm studying the addition of additional very powerful motion sense lights. And as you saw above, we also can benefit greatly from hardening the storage areas for our equipment indoors by storing equipment in safes and hardened vaults in the house. I've spent about a thousand dollars this past week on security equipment that I'll take in my baggage in late January. (This is all funded out of the real estate account – not the station treasury.) I'll let you know in the February newsletter how these installations worked out.

### PJ2T Antenna Stories: 15 Meter US/JA Yagi

As with all of our antennas, there's a quite a story and a lot of copper, steel, and aluminum behind that little button in the shack. When you push the "US" button on the 15 Meter System box, you're connected to the longest boom yagi on the lot. That 5-element optimized monobander has a 37 foot boom and is mounted at about the 60 foot level on the US/JA tower.

In 2000 I bought a pile of assorted LTA (K3LR) antenna parts from my neighbor Scott Detloff, NI8L. It was obvious when I got them home and did the inventory in my driveway that there was almost enough there to build a complete killer long boom yagi for 15. I added some additional parts and a ton of stainless hardware and an overhead truss assembly, and put together our present US/JA 15 antenna in my driveway in Ohio. Goose, W8AV, created the optimized electrical design with his software.



I then tore it all down and shipped the bundle of parts to the island and finally got around to beginning the assembly on September 11, 2002 (below).



September 11, 2002

The photo shows the boom pieces laid out in the Signal Point side yard as I was putting everything together. This photo was taken from what is now the site of the East Sunroom where Dorothy and I live. I then moved the antenna to the Europe tower in the backyard and assembled it piece by piece at a height of about three feet (photo).



September 18, 2002

The photo shows the 15 yagi ready to go on September 18, 2002. Unfortunately, I came down with the flu and had to miss the CQWW SSB trip in October when I had hoped to install the antenna. But K1AR and N8BJQ and the rest of the guys on that crew decided to hoist the beam to a temporary position about 30 feet up the Europe tower and hook up a temporary run of coax from the shack and give it a go in the WW SSB contest. The yagi passed this first test with flying

colors, and the team told us we would be nuts to move it from that spot. In fact K1AR ran the PJ2T record rate hour of all time, 417 QSOs in one clock hour, using this temporarily installed antenna.

But move it we did, and the next photo shows that big beam in the process of being installed on November 19, 2002. K8ND, N1ZZ, W0NB, K8GT and I strung up a tram to the side yard outside the wall (photo) and ran the beam up and down the tram many times in the process of tuning the gamma match. When I was finally satisfied we mounted it on the US/JA tower and connected the Heliac feedline.



Nov 19, 2002, raising the US/JA 15 meter monobander.



This photo from January 19, 2003, shows that antenna in place. You have all experienced the phenomenal performance of this yagi, and we must have done it right because in the intervening 16 years I have only had to take it down twice for maintenance.



## PJ2T's Wish List

Our wish list is short because our station is presently very wealthy in equipment and other assets.

- \* Another K3??
- \* SSB operators
- \* A full power amp for Station 1

I'm still coveting a very high power amp that could run 1500 watts coolly and effortlessly at Station 1. N5OT has a possibility, but we're still discussing. Something like this might be under the hood of my dream amp.



## RX Antenna Plans for 2020

As you well know most of our RX antenna project is complete. We've moved the focus from the "Flats," which were claimed by the bulldozers, up to the Ridge, and installed a sophisticated feedline cabling system.

After much discussion it was decided to attempt to install the DX Engineering four square permanently on the Ridge. The target location is immediately across the street from the QTH and a little east, with one of the whips to be nearly at the edge of the cliff we see from the house. This will keep the array as far as practicable from the 80 meter TX antenna adjacent to the Ridge tribander, and will keep our coax runs to the 4SQ fairly short. Also, this area is gently sloped, and we hope to be able to stay close to the specified slope limit of 10% as recommended by DX Engineering.

We'll install one RG-6 run from the white box for signals and a second RG-6, with the shield and center shorted together, for the DC control line.



The area up there is covered with vegetation, but it's not as thick as at some other points on the Ridge, so the survey, while difficult, is feasible. I bought five two foot 3/4 inch solid aluminum rods for the supports. We'll drill into the rock, drive these rods, and those will provide mounts for the whips and center controller. The plan is for the feedlines, phasing lines, and radials to remain in place permanently, and we'll only have to install the whips and their amp boxes at the time of each contest. Goats sometimes wander around up there, so the phasing and feedlines will need to be protected with conduit, plenty of which is on hand at the station.

Who knows if this will work, but we need to give it a try. If it performs well, then we will have a new antenna up there that requires vastly less effort to set up and take down afterward.

I have a knee injury from November, but if it's healed sufficiently we'll tackle this project early in 2020.

## The Final Chapter on my Sedula

You'll recall comments from earlier newsletters about the tribulations with the Curacao bureaucracy in getting my ID card renewed. I finally succeeded on December 12, after a year of trying, but even that was not smooth. I showed up early for my 11:15 "appointment," was given a number tag, and told to sit down. About 45 minutes later I was finally called to the window. After much head-scratching, keyboard tapping, and inspection of my residence documents, passport, and old Curacao ID card, and a couple of phone calls, a frown came over the clerk's face and my heart sank.

It took awhile to understand through the language barrier that I could not get the card renewed because my address was not registered? What is THIS? Never heard of it, and this is the third fourth time I have done a five year renewal of this ID.

I was told to go to the reception desk, get a number for address registration, and start all over again. So I sat for another 45 minutes and watched the numbers wind down until it was my turn at the “Address Registration – Civil Registry” service window. The gal there asked for my address and then disappeared into the bowels of the office, looking in books, copying some documents, and then making three phone calls with a puzzled look on her face. Finally she came back and asked if I owned my house, I said “Yes, 19 years” and off she went again, more calls, more books. Miraculously she finally returned to the window, stamped some documents, handed me an official letter of registration, and sent me on my way, no fee.

From there I went back to the ID card window, jumped the line, waved the registration certificate at the clerk, and she took me immediately. All was smooth until it was time to pay the massive 15 guilder fee for the new card. I showed her my proof of payment statement and reminded her that the web site said plainly NO CASH, bring proof of a prepayment transfer. She said, oh, has changed again, and we take cash now, so I passed over a 50 guilder note. She said no, oh no, you shouldn't have to pay twice. So again she disappeared, made phone calls, clicked computer keys, and finally 20 minutes later came back with a smile, handed me my card, and off I went. Gawd help me in five more years when it's time to do this again. But I constantly remind myself that if we want'a be the DX, we have to be patient and get through these challenges.

### **Tower Maintenance Upcoming**

Our professional climber Jason Joens, NR0X, will be on site during ARRL CW 2020 to do a week of tower and antenna work. This will be his first trip since we approved the plan at Dayton of having him to the station once or twice per year to take over most of the tower and antenna work from me.

Here are some of the planned tasks for that week.

- \* Take down the WARC yagi and replace all corroding and failed parts with stock from VE3CX's donation and reinstall the beam.
- \* Remove the WARC rotor, install the home made aluminum stiffener plate, and install a working rotor.

(This is a big job because that rotor does not have a quick disconnect.)

- \* Take down the top US 5 element 10 meter yagi and replace a broken driven element tip
- \* Total sand and paint of rust spots on US/JA tower – train Jason to do this.
- \* Install DXE 4SQ on Ridge if this has not yet been done.
- \* Replace guy equalizer plate on US tower ocean guy and retrofit with stainless steel bolts.
- \* Replace rusted out rotor plate in US/JA tower with new stainless plate and repaint legs in that area
- \* Train Jason on how to do routine maintenance of both Beverage antennas.
- \* Install concrete sarcophagus on WARC tower base
- \* Retune Europe 80 3 element wire beam and replace wire where needed.
- \* Replace driven element spacers on Ridge tribander.
- \* Touch up epoxy paint on Ridge tower.
- \* Replace and repair 160 Inv L radials as required.
- \* Bury additional 160 Inv L radials in yard (take metal detector).

Jason will also operate some in the CW contest over the weekend if he wishes. As decided at Dayton, we'll reimburse Jason \$2500 for that week, and he will use that as he sees fit for airfare and to replace lost Iowa wages for the week. He has opted to use part of that amount for airfare so that his YL Holly can probably accompany him to Curacao. To fund this work we increased membership and station support dues slightly this year, and we'll also add the “Outside Maintenance Surcharge” revenue to this pot.

### **YA-1 Filter from W1FJ**

Our friend and 50 year PJ3CC veteran Al Rousseau, W1FJ, read in the newsletter about our need for Bencher YA-1 low pass filters. In the fashion of ND8L's donation Al kindly sent a YA-1 to me in Idaho. It arrived on December 30, and I'll haul it to the station in January. Thanks Al! This kind of teamwork is how we are able to get so much done at PJ2T.

Here's Al (next page) running 15 in the 2017 winning CQWW CW contest operation.





## The Need for Speed

That's Tom Cruise's famous line in "Top Gun," but it applies equally to contesting. When the band is open and we're running hard and fast and there are multiple callers on every over, our score depends on our ability to be quick.

The following photo is a screen shot of the log from CQWW CW last November, and shows speed at its best. If you enlarge your newsletter image you'll see that on 10 meter CW in the 1826Z hour we logged six QSOs within one clock minute: K5FNQ, W4UT, K2AX, K8MM, N5DX, and N0KK. And the first two contacts at the top of the next minute were also on 10. In that "26" minute the 20 and 15 meter stations also made five additional, a total of 11 contacts within one minute. That's rate.

MM-DD HH:MM	Call	Freq	Snt	Rcv	ML	ZN	RD	Pfx	P..	Op
11-23 18:25	KCBURL	21842.18	599	599	04		K		3	KY7M
11-23 18:26	K2IW	14848.08	599	599	05		K		3	VE3CX
11-23 18:26	K5FNQ	28891.06	599	599	04		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:26	W7VO	21842.18	599	599	03		K		3	KY7M
11-23 18:26	W4UT	28891.06	599	599	04		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:26	UM6AJA	14848.08	599	599	16	UA			3	VE3CX
11-23 18:26	K2AX	28891.06	599	599	05		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:26	K3SV	14848.08	599	599	05		K		3	VE3CX
11-23 18:26	K8MM	28891.06	599	599	04		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:26	N5GX	28891.06	599	599	05		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:26	KAB3ZR	14848.08	599	599	04		K		3	VE3CX
11-23 18:26	N0KK	28891.06	599	599	04		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:27	K4S1R	28891.06	599	599	05		K		3	W6CG
11-23 18:27	AC7P	28891.06	599	599	04		K		3	W6CG

Getting this kind of speed requires departing temporarily from the robotic behavior of ESM mode and using F1 through F5 manually and creatively.

This is how we can overcome our competitors. It doesn't matter how much bigger antennas they have, or how much more power they run, or whether they're on

a mountaintop. If we can outspeed them in these rate times, we have an advantage. Of course this hyperrunning is only one component of a 48 hour contest. In the slower times we need patience and accuracy, and at all such times multiplier awareness is paramount. But, like Tom Cruise, the speed times are when most of us get our contesting highs.

## Halotron

On good advice from W8WTS we now have a Halotron fire extinguisher in the shack pantry, fastened to the wall below the ABC bottle. I sent this thing down on the September ocean shipment. It was expensive (\$170 !!), but if we ever need to put out a fire in a radio or amp without destroying it, this bottle of Halon is the proper weapon.



## Six Meter Bypass Installed

Each station has a Bencher YA-1 installed at all times. They do their jobs and cut off at 30 MHz, so of course running six meters requires cabling around the low pass filter, always a pain in the neck and often forgotten.

So on December 9 I installed this switcharound setup (photos next page) at Station 1. All you need to do is

reach down and flip two switches and you're on six. I tested everything at full power afterward and was careful to select only Amphenol adapters. If someone forgets to switch it back for the other bands, everything still works, but sans the 30MHz cutoff. No big harm.

NROX retuned the six meter beam in November 2018, and it is working now with perfect SWR at 50.1, and of course it now has full rotation.



The only exception is in strong wind conditions, when even the Tailtwister gets stalled, lacking the torque to handle the howling easterly tradewinds.



#### **Welcome New Member K9DR**

We're very happy to welcome Dan Roberts, K9DR, to CCC membership. Dan snowbirds in Arizona and responded to Phoenix local N7IR's invitation for someone to help out the CQWW CW team when we had two cancellations. He's pictured below with me in the yard working on putting on one of the many hardline connectors associated with the "All Helix" project. He's well qualified to do this after having worked, among many other places, for Andrew in the Chicago area.



Dan arrived at Signal Point in November ready to contest and was a tremendous asset to the team, willing to operate any shifts and any bands. He quickly adapted to the PJ2T station and systems, and is a very proficient CW contest operator. He was sufficiently



impressed with what he saw there that he immediately accepted our invitation to join CCC.

His permanent QTH is in Casper, Wyoming. Most of his professional career was in and around the broadcasting industry, starting near the bottom and eventually ending up as a station owner and operator in Wyoming. There were also many years when he was a commercial sales rep in that industry and thus became well known nationally within broadcasting. He's already signed up to come again for ARRL DX CW in February. We welcome him to the CCC family!

### Welcome New Member N7WA

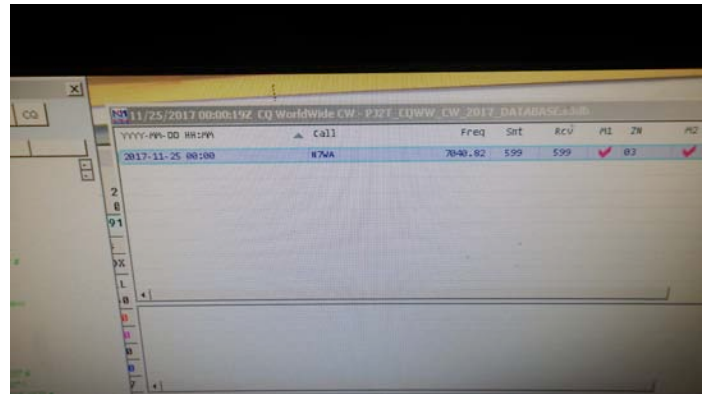
Mike Dinkelman is a prominent contester and club leader in the Seattle area, employed as a software engineer at Medtronics. He pictured below at Station 6, the 15 meter position in an era where we used to have solar flux. The photo is from November 21, 2013.



Following that 2013 trip Mike penned a wonderful article about his PJ2T experience for the May/June 2014 issue of "NCJ"

In the intervening years Mike's professional and family commitments constrained him from traveling to Curacao over the Thanksgiving holidays, so as soon as last fall's not-Thanksgiving CQWW contest rolled around he was once again back in a seat at Signal Point.

In years when he was not able to make it to the island, he was always in our logs, as the following shot of the CQWW CW log shows from 2017, when he was our first QSO.



Our first QSO in the 2017 winning CQWW CW effort: N7WA on 40. Now Dink's a member!!

Mike is an active leader in the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club and in the Western Washington DX Club, sponsor of the well-known Salmon Run contest.



Above, N7WA runs fabulous rates on 20 meters in CQWW 2019.

Mike's busy situation still limits his ability to make frequent trips to Curacao, but he was fascinated with the remote access capability and opted to join CCC now in order to assess that facility, hoping to be able to be with us in person again at some time in the future. The trip from the Pacific Northwest is as daunting for him as it is for me and Dorothy in North Idaho, but that has not deterred Mike. We're very happy to have him in CCC and appreciate his support and confidence.

### Phoenix CCC Rendezvous

On the evening of December 19 I was fortunate to be able to have dinner in Phoenix with Gary, N7IR and his XYL Linda. Typical of American Airlines' outrageous behavior, my originally great one-day flight connections from Curacao to Spokane, Washington, were forcibly changed. The result was a 38 hour odyssey that required an expensive and unwanted overnight stay at MIA and a two day trip. On the plus side, they also forced me into about a five hour layover at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport, and Gary and Linda

were kind enough to take time from their evening to come out to the airport to keep me company at dinner time (photo below). Thanks again to Gary for creating a clean, workable, up to date RX antenna system at the station. He's the PJ2T Station Equipment Lead, and since taking that responsibility has brought quantum improvements to all aspects of the shack's capability.



Linda and Gary Hembree, Phoenix Sky Harbor, December 19, 2019

### **Member Spotlight: Pete Gladysz, K8PGJ**

It probably all started with a Yellow Crystal Radio and an antenna in the attic. I was about 7 years old and it was amazing what you could hear especially at night and I still have the Crystal Diode, 1N914, I think.

My Uncle was an Engineer at Chrysler and loved radio and conveniently lived only 1 block away. I was down there often creating little projects and I am sure armed with Questions. He had been in the Korean War in some kind of radio communications.

Christmas gifts included kits from Radio Shack, Lafayette Radio and editions of Popular Electronics. There was even a High School Class in building and testing computer circuits. There was also a constant withdrawal of ARRL Handbooks from the local library.



I managed to get my Novice License, WN8JHC, at the age of 19. I struggled with Code but eventually conquered the test. First Radio Package was an archaic military radio receiver from my Uncle and single Xtal transmitter with a 6146 final and a huge power supply which I built from plans out of an ARRL Manual. I was part of the University of Detroit Radio Club, W8MA, which turned out to be more social but I did end up with a Heathkit HW- 101. Our family's very small lot defined the antenna package, a 14AVQ Hygain vertical antenna, which allowed me to make a few contacts. I did meet My to be Wife, Judi, on the first day of Sophomore Year and Engineering Classes consumed all of my time along with a number of Jobs and the radio operations ceased. I left college with a BEE degree in 1975 but the US Economy had collapsed so I took a job at Sinai Hospital in Biomedical Engineering.

With an upturn in the Economy in 1976, I managed to get the First Engineering Position when Chrysler Motors reopened its doors. I am sure my Uncle had something to do with it, but I do not know that officially. Engine Electrical was responsible for hardware to run the engine, from basic alternators and starters to the distributors and all the way the Lean Burn Electronics which I was responsible for in 1978. Designing this Computer, coordinating its manufacture with Chrysler Huntsville and the Calibration data with the Proving Grounds for all the engine and vehicle lines was a huge Job. At the same time, I managed to get a MEE Degree and I did manage to work at Sinai Hospital and Chrysler at the same time for 9 months. Somehow thru the work effort and group of the people I hung out with, I was tapped on the shoulder and asked to run the Chrysler Shelby Engineer Team. Carol Shelby had just come on board with Lee Iacocca and he wanted to put a car of his own into production. I had been hanging out with the performance group and knew just enough to design the Shelby Charger and put it into production early 1983.





I had also convinced Engineering Management to allow us to race 3 of the prototype cars in a 24 Hour Endurance Race at Nelson Ledges, Ohio, and tapped Car and Driver Magazine, Chrysler Engineers and Racers to drive it. We finished 5, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> overall with a naturally aspirated 4cyl engine against V6, V8 and Turbo Cars and Team Shelby was Born.

I then got to manage the 2.2 and then 2.5 Turbo Engine Program into 6 different Bodies in 1984 and then was handed to 3.3 and 3.8 Engine Program which went into production in 1986. Now, I am an Electrical Engineer managing all these mechanical programs. The next program needing help was the Mini Van Powertrain Program and the rebirth of the Town and Country which was my first direct contact with Lee Iacocca. It went into production to the day scheduled 7 months later. While there, I was steered to be the first engineer on the Viper Program as Manager of the Chassis and Powertrain.

Let's step back and step into Racing. I was the Manager of Team Shelby and because of that connection thru engineering, a rather large group was put together on their own time to win the 1985 and 1986 Endurance National Championships again with Car and Driver Participating with Turbo Shelby's.



A number of us were also Rallying and I developed a Parts Supply to put individual racers into Shelby's and during the mid to late 80's, we would have 50% of the fields for many of the races. A small group of us put together the 1986 and 1992 Indy Pace Cars with the engine package from the 1986 Pace Car which we then rallied including winning an Overall event (Ojibwa Forest) in 1990 in a 2 wheel, Front Drive Car amidst all the 4WD hardware. In 87 and 88, Team Shelby also fielded a Daytona Turbo GTU car in races such as the 24 Hours or Daytona and 12 Hours of Sebring with a 4<sup>th</sup> in class at this event. Rallying a 4wd Mitishubi Eclipse (starting in 1992) and then a PL SRT4 (starting in 2002) with Doug Shepherd produced numerous class and an Overall Manufacturers National Rally Championship in 2004.



We claimed a class record at Pikes Peak Rally, raced at the 2006 X Games and finished Wales Rally GB in 2006 in a factory Subaru. I also helped build and Co-Drove a Viper Powered Buggy in the Mexican Baja 1000 finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in Class in 2007.



I was also responsible coordinating numerous outside team race efforts in SCCA, IMSA, Off Road, Pro Rally and Grand Am. In 2014, I finally sold the last rally car and all the parts as space was needed for Radio Hardware and Antennas. We will get back to the radio stuff.

In 1996, with the Viper in Production, I was told I was going to Manage the 2000 Neon Program. The Design and Development of a High Volume, Production Program would consume all my time for a couple of years. It went into production on schedule and under budget. We also developed the Mini Cooper Engine as it originally was scheduled to be in the Neon. The Neon was a great platform but did not have a performance version. I had tweaked the body design years earlier to fit a larger 2.4L engine with a Turbocharger but the platform did not want to spend the time to put it into production.

So with only 1 prototype built, I went back to the Performance Group, then Team Viper, and was named Powertrain Manager of all performance vehicles. The Neon SRT4 program was quickly approved (and we rallied it) and I was also given the new 6.1L Hemi Program. That engine program along with two new Viper Powertrains went into production and made Chrysler and Dodge the Performance Industry Leaders. I got the 6.4L engine approved, the Supercharged 6.1L proposed and got to launch the 2008 Challenger as it contained a 6.1L Engine. The US Economy Tanked again and a huge number from Engineering decided to Retire as did I after 32.5 years.

My wife Judi said I could not shut down the pace I was running at, but that happened. During those early years, we had a son, Michael, now an Engineer in Seattle with Lockheed and a daughter Lindsay who is in DC as a Lawyer with granddaughter Felicity. As Judi is a Dermatologist, we took advantage of the

worldwide medical meetings and vacationing on our own and saw the World.



I started golfing as a kid while caddying and took up the sport again after joining Forest Lake CC in the early 90's (11 Eagles, 1 Hole in One). I also got certified in Scuba Diving (270+ dives) down in the Caymans and eventually the kids got certified.

I had continued to help teams race even after retiring including the Challenger in Grand Am, two years with an ARCA Team and did crew for Doug at a few rallies. Then late in 2009 Doug asked me if I wanted to run Car 0, the last safety car before a rally started each stage. I said sure and then he said, you will have to get your license back. "Do I have to?" was the response and within a few week I had a Tech license, did Car 0 at the SnoDrift Rally in Northern Michigan and then quickly had my General License (K8PGJ). Now what am I going to need. Being very Competitive, I started putting a very basic station and was spotted and asked to be the Assistant EC in Oakland County Michigan. I also acquired an Extra so I could talk to the testers on the lower frequencies.

Living in a HOA can be difficult for a Ham especially if the wife is not interested in Aluminum in the Air. I started with a series of vertical and dipole antennas, then modified a pair of 2L SteppIr's and positioned them in the attic at right angles before designing and building 2 and 3 element Yagi's for 20 thru 10 meters that could be assembled and elevated into position by one person, for a short period of time. Prior to one of our family trips to the Caymans, I had emailed Andy, ZF1A, about operating there which started a continuing string of NAQP Contest events in January (as ZF2PG), when it is cold in Michigan, including a 5<sup>th</sup> in 2019. Numerous events connected with the EOC were Skywarn Recognition Day, Woodward Dream Cruise, Marathons, writing up the ARRL Leonard



Award Winner in 2013, along with emergency operation for tornados. Portable operation at W8OAK (EOC) including 2 MIQP Wins, multiple Museum Ships weekends, and Field Days utilized all the Antennas. 2012-19 I was Net Control for the SnoDrift Rally and also for the Lake Superior and Colorado Rallies. W1AW/8 saw my modest home station modified to a 5 station operation which yielded the most Michigan contacts during that event. With the capability in place, MIQP overall wins as KA8O (now KV8O) again occurred in 15, 17, and 2018 and I gained knowledge on doing well in LP contests.



Winter 2015 vacation allowed an individual attempt at an expedition to Bora Bora (FO/K8PGJ) where a single vertical worked the world. In 2016, responding to NCJ article from Geoff, W0CG, in Curacao, I was invited to be part of the CQWW SSB team which Won World M/M. In 2017, I rented a station in Hawaii for the WPX SSB contest (AH7/K8PGJ) and Won Oceania as a SOAB HP operator. Additional contests at PJ2T have produced many new memories and another world M/M win for the 2019 ARRL DX SSB contest. CW attempts now occur during contest at low speed. A BSA JOTA station was assembled in 2019 looking for the next contesters.  
Pete Gladysz 12/30/19