



# Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium  
Editor: W0CG

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## CCC Dues Reduced One Year for COVID

The crisis will compromise our operations from Signal Point for awhile. The drivers will be 1) Curacao's reopening of their border, 2) U.S. reopening to returnees from overseas, 3) American Airlines, and 4) your own judgment about whether you want to travel.

Accordingly, it's possible that you may not get full value from your CCC dues for the 2020-2021 contest season. The CCC leadership has studied this carefully, coming up with the following arrangement for the CCC Year 21 membership cycle.

**Station Support Dues:** The normal amount of \$221.43 is reduced to \$60. This is calculated from station support dues of zero for June-November, and \$10/month for December-May. The logic is that we expect to be operating close to normally by early 2021. If the crisis prevents operation in January-May 2021, the \$60 station support dues will be refunded.

**Real Estate Dues:** These will remain at the normal amount of \$300. This is because the costs of having the QTH continue whether we are using it or not, save for some reduction in electricity consumption. These dues cover about half of the approximately \$1100/month costs for the house (utilities, security monitoring, Zoom oversight, taxes, insurance, Internet.) The other half of the house costs are the problem. Much of that other half normally comes from the rent we collect when we contest. Since contesting has already stopped, and may not continue for some time, I will lose about \$6K, which I'm willing to absorb out of my pocket because of the extraordinary mess the world is in. If the membership can help me carry half of the house, I will carry the other half for a year.

**VERONA Dues:** \$29 (Nafl 50) per year. We'll continue to collect this so that we can maintain the

goodwill and support our amateur radio brothers and sisters on Curacao.



Summarizing, total Year 21 dues will be \$389 instead of the usual \$550. As always, quarterly payments are fine, and all the detail will be in the membership renewal letter I'll send out soon.

We hope you will be willing pitch in on this compromise. If we team up and be smart and stick together we'll come out of this OK, and we can keep our wonderful Curacao ham radio toy alive and well. But right now, everyone is hurting in this worldwide mess, including CCC.



There is still some chance that some form of CQWW RTTY and both CQWW mode contests will be run at PJ2T. Time will tell, and more about that follows.

## President's Message from Mark, N5OT

Greetings and felicitations by remote from my place to yours. This pandemic thing has catapulted us into uncharted seas. On a good day, I look at all the potential for thinking about things in new ways. On a

bad day, I just wish it was over and everything would get back to normal.

On the unfortunate side, ultimately the executive committee of your Caribbean Contesting Consortium had to meet and make some tough decisions about the immediate future of contest operations from Signal Point which Geoff detailed above. But like I said above, this also presents an interesting opportunity to regroup. I feel sure that our club will come out the other side of the COVID experience wiser if not bruised, and better prepared for anything similar that hits us in the unforeseeable future.

I will be honored to serve our club for another term of President, pending the outcome of our annual meeting later this week, but I know the case is actually that nobody else wants the job :-). Now THERE'S a vote of confidence!

We should apply our collective Signal Point conscience to the idea of commemorating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary somehow, in a way that is memorable, not only for us as members of the CCC but for the contesting community at large. Perhaps by offering a challenge to our fellow testers with a worthwhile prize. We should think about this.

I'll close with a short anecdote that reminds me why there is a fire in my belly for our club and keeping it growing, improving and moving forward. I was on for CQ WPX in March, and made a QSO with Ryan, KB9OWD. At the end of the QSO he said, "It's good to hear you, Mark." I scratched my head. I don't know Ryan. So I checked his QRZ page and read a little. Did a little research. On QRZ, the photo on his listing shows him operating from PJ2T in the 2012 ARRL DX CW contest. I realized that Ryan was one of the hundreds of operators who have enjoyed the PJ2T experience. I could tell from his enthusiasm that for Ryan, his trip to Signal Point was a real high mark. All these years later, it's the picture he chooses to paint of himself on QRZ.com.

That's one of the many reasons we need to keep on keeping on. We have a great message to share. Thanks Ryan. Glad we gave you something to crow about, and I hope you're a better tester for the experience!

73  
Mark N5OT  
President, Caribbean Contesting Consortium

## CCC Annual Meeting Upcoming Online

We'll meet online this year. For now, hold these dates and times:

DRY RUN DRESS REHEARSAL  
Wednesday May 13 at 6:00pm Eastern Time

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Friday May 15 at 6:00pm Eastern Time**

K8ND will send out Zoom meeting invitations via E-mail. Please plan on "attending." K8ND and I held a trial Zoom meeting on April 19, and it worked fine.

### CCC Financial Snapshot:

Per W8WTS the end of April balance was \$3663.53.

### Don't Miss the Hamvention QSO Party May 16

In case you missed the announcement about this one of a kind contest, here are the high spots.

WWROF, in cooperation with the Hamvention organizers created a fun way for people to celebrate the Hamvention experience over the air – the Hamvention QSO Party.



**Object:** To celebrate the Dayton Hamvention by working as many Amateur stations as possible during the QSO Party period.

**Contest period:** 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 to 2400 UTC), May 16, 2020

**Bands:** 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters CW and SSB – You can work the same station once per band mode (12 QSOs possible with same station).

**Exchange:** Signal report and first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention send "2020".

**Entry Categories:** Only single operator entries – you may use assistance such as the cluster and the reverse beacon network (RBN). No self-spotting.

There are three power levels:

- QRP – no more than 5 watts
- Low Power – No more than 100 watts
- High Power – no more than 1500 watts.

**Scoring:** Score is number of QSOs + bonus points = final score. There are no multipliers.

Special bonus points:

W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention), will be activated by DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band/mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). You can earn up to 120 bonus points (this is like having 120 additional QSOs).

**To Enter:** Post your score at [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) within 5 days of the event (May 21, 2020). No logs are required to be submitted.

**Awards:** An online certificate will be available to all stations that post a score before the deadline.

**Logging Software:** The Hamvention QSO Party is supported by the following:

N1MM Plus <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>

EI5DI SD <http://www.ei5di.com/>

N3FJP – Use RAC contest  
<http://www.n3fjp.com/news/news2020-04-23.html>

Win-Test – Use the RAC contest <http://www.win-test.com/>

### **PJ2T and the Pandemic**

At present it's still my intention to go to the island to host the CQWW contests in October and November. I might also go down for the RTTY contest in late September if K8IV and others want to run that one. Time will tell whether it will be possible or wise for us to run these contests, but for now I plan to go if at all possible.

The worldwide situation is very fluid, so we watch and wait.

Please keep in mind that American Airlines is allowing

us to book flights now and then change, if necessary, for no additional fee except possible fare differentials. So if you're considering going for these contests, it's probably safe to book now because we have flexibility in changing or slipping those reservations to future contests. Keep close watch on [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) for the rules of the day because they change often.

### **Contest Plans for Fall 2020 (Maybe)**

**CQWW SSB:** Last season we had a top-level SSB team that scored extremely well, placing 4<sup>th</sup> World and 2<sup>nd</sup> in our hemisphere. Several of those ops have already committed to return in 2020 including ND8L and VE4GV. W3ACO has also signed on with us, and VE3CX and CE3CT are working on the possibilities. With both ND8L and W3ACO we have the happy (and most unusual) situation of two superb chefs on the team. I have the Moran pool house rented so there are sleeping spaces for nine ops. Can you come? As usual, the planning detail for this contest is available online:

<http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/cqww.ssb.2020.preplanning.htm>.



**CQWW CW 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event:** This contest will celebrate the exact 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first ever contest from PJ2T. The photo shows Jim Livengood, then KP2L and now W0NB, at the run station.



KP2L, Jim, November 2000

Thus far N7IR, VE3CX, K9DR, N5OT+Kathy, NA2U, W9NJY, and W0CG+Dorothy have signed up for the anniversary operation. That leaves beds for two more operators plus one more operator and XYL. If we have more interest than that we'll rent additional sleeping space. This will be an exciting, fun time. The

preplanning link is

<http://www.pj2t.org/ccq/cqww.cw.2020.preplanning.htm>.

### CCC Financial Snapshot

Per W8WTS the end of March balance was \$3663.53.

### PJ2T Golf Shirts Shipped

My Idaho embroidery shop reopened in early May when our pandemic restrictions were relaxed somewhat, and they quickly filled my order for eight PJ2T golf shirts. I sent those all out on May 6. I tossed in a couple of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary glasses with each shirt because that weight added nothing to the shipping cost for the USPS flat rate boxes. You'll need to take an iron to your new shirt after its time crumpled up in the box.

### About the Anniversary Glasses

Between N7WA and me we have enough PJ2T 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary glasses to build a breakwater offshore from Signal Point. Our plan to distribute hundreds of these at Visalia and Dayton obviously got torpedoed. Dink and I have sent out a few of the glasses, and he has hand-delivered some, but most are still in Ohio and Idaho awaiting distribution.

It turns out to be very expensive to mail these because of the weight and cube needed to safely pack them. Getting boxes and finding packing material, then doing the pack and paying the shipping cost has turned out to be a prohibitive amount of work and expense, so we ask for your patience. We'll get your order to you when the world returns to normal, whatever that may mean.

I sent four glasses last week to the "CQ" magazine editorial office, and four to the ARRL Contest Branch for publicity and goodwill. I also sent four to K3ZJ, CQ's Contest Editor, and Dave kindly sent back a big thanks and this photo of one of our glasses already in service at his QTH.



A PJ2T 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary beer glass at K3ZJ.

I have also filled a couple of the requests for glasses that arose from the publicity in "NCJ," but soon realized that the time and cost involved is over the top, so I won't be doing any more of that. Blasted virus.

### Astounding Curacao Ham Radio Archaeology

In mid-February I fought my way through very thick underbrush, all laden with thorns and stickers and needles, prospecting for a better route to the Ridge for our Heliac. The bulldozers got too close last year, so I'd like to move that cable about 50 feet further east. I was congratulating myself on hacking my way to a spot that I thought maybe had never seen a human, looked down, and shockingly right there was a piece of coax on the ground. It was (or used to be) RG-58, but by now was discolored and very brittle. Investigation showed that it came from somewhere near Signal Point and then climbed up the rock face to the Ridge, headed in about the same direction as our Ridge tribander. The photo shows a section of that ancient coax, now grey and dry, running across a huge rock.



Contrary to what I had thought, we clearly are not the first to have eyed the Ridge with lust and decided to put an antenna up there. This would have been a vastly long run of very lossy coax. Amazing: decades later it marks the area where our radio forebears have trod. What a hoot.

## A Yagi Carved in Granite



W0CG's next long term home

I've mentioned this before. Here's a photo of my major project over the past two years: getting this rock box designed and installed for me and Dorothy. If I'd been smart I probably should have spent the money on the inferno orange Dodge Challenger that I'm craving, but I reckon I'll use this granite box longer than I would have used the car.

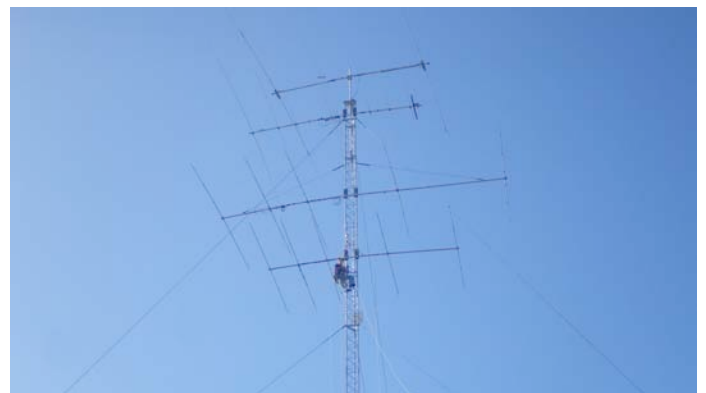
If you enlarge the photo you may be able to see that I had a yagi and a beam carved in the side along with my three main callsigns and the quote "Still listening on the bands." Dorothy's cremation remains will join me in this box. This cemetery plot is only a couple of hundred feet from my high school and from the home where I lived for many years in Wheeling, West Virginia, starting in the hobby as WN8KUW. A great many of my relatives are buried in this cemetery running back to a great-great grandfather. I bought several plots around the box to keep space clear for antennas someday so that I can troll the bands as a ghost.

### PJ2T Antenna Stories – The Europe Yard 10 Meter Yagi

If you are on 10, push the "EU" the button in the photo, then flip the toggle switch at the left down to "Yard," you have this lonesome and seldom-used antenna. (Normally, the switch is up on "Ridge" and you get the Ridge tribander.)



The photo following shows the 10 Europe Yard antenna, the fourth yagi from the top on the Europe tower.



In the days before the Ridge tribander, this was our only antenna fixed on Europe for 10. In mid afternoon it performed extremely well, but at the band opening and closing times we could barely hear Europe because of the low arrival angles.

Today, it serves as a very effective backup if the Ridge system fails during a contest, and now and then I make a QSO on it so it doesn't feel too lonesome. In November 2018 we took it off the old tower, of course, and while it was down I cleaned it up, replaced a bit of hardware, re-taped where needed, and readied it to go up on the new tower at its same height of about 65 feet. Here's (next page) the antenna in the next door neighbor's yard awaiting reinstallation onto the new tower in December 2018.



Below, W8WTS is preparing the Europe 10 Yard yagi to go back up onto the new tower. Like all the xmit antennas at Signal Point, it is fed with hardline.



W8WTS checks the rigging before the Europe 10 Yard yagi goes up the tram line.

This is probably the most eclectic antenna at PJ2T in that it was pieced together from a crazy variety of pieces. N8LGP started out with some parts that used to be from a Hy-Gain 10 meter monobander, then custom manufactured some additional ones and cannibalized others. He fashioned the beta match from scratch. Then in 2006 we took it (and many other) antennas down and reworked it based on what we had learned about corrosion survivability at the seaside. The result is a mechanically strong and very durable antenna that will serve us well into the future. I enjoy making a QSO on it now and then during the contests just so we know it is still working. At times it is more effective into VE1 and W1 than the fixed U.S. 10 meter stack.

### Youth Trip for July Cancelled

I received this note from Jim Storms, AB8YK, on April 21.

*It is with great regret that we have decided the 2020 trip is another victim of the covid-19 virus. Curacao is in a strict lockdown. No travel into or out of the island unless a Curacao resident coming home and then with isolation. There is a nightly curfew enforced by the police with arrest orders for violators. Residents are locked in stay*

*at home with one person allowed to get supplies every other day based on vehicle license plates. Again police are arresting those violating the order. It is anticipated this condition will continue until about July and maybe after. The island may become bankrupt but who knows as they rely on tourist trade.*

*We thank Uli and the CCC for their offer to use PJ2T this year and we will see what 2021 brings. Geoff please communicate our extreme thanks for the generous support the CCC members have provided the YDXA.*

*We are looking forward to the 2021 trip and destination to be determined. The 2020 team will become the 2021 team if available.*

*Jim Storms*

### Good JA News from K8ND

Jeff sent me a copy of this excellent band allocation news for Japan.

### JA - Japan

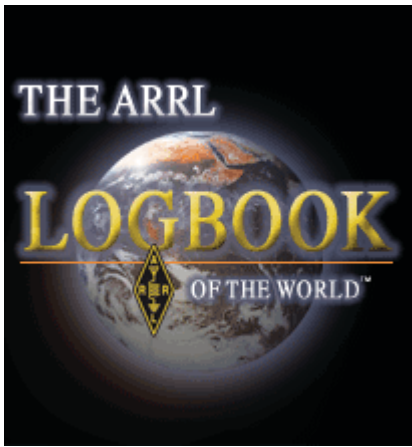
**As of today the following additional frequency allocations have been authorized to Japanese Amateur Radio operators thanks to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications:**

**1,800kHz - 1,810kHz (All modes)  
 1,825kHz - 1,875kHz (All modes)  
 3,575kHz - 3,580kHz (All modes)  
 3,662kHz - 3,680kHz (All modes)**

**JA's can continue to operate on CW on 1810-1825 and from 1907.5 to 1912.5 KHz.**

### Logbook of the World: Thanks K8ND

A big thank you to Jeff (K8ND) for recently renewing the LOTW certificates for PJ2HQ and KP2F for another three years. KP2F is our CCC club callsign from my time in the Virgin Islands.



PJ2HQ is the callsign we use in the IARU HF Radiosport competition. This is PJ2BR's secondary personal callsign, used with his permission as owner of the callsign and as the person who controls all things IARU in PJ2. This makes us a headquarters station, greatly increasing the fun factor in this contest.

Jeff does a lot of Logbook of the World work unseen and un-thanked by most of us, including posting all PJ2T contest logs almost literally within minutes of each contest operation.

### CCCs Score Big in CW SS

Congratulations to Tom, W8TK, and his crew who scored #2 U.S. in Multiop, Single Transmitter, Low Power. He's mentoring new contesters and this team acquitted itself very nicely last November. Gary, N7IR, was #5 nationally in Single Op QRP. I can't imagine the patience required to do that. And CCC Treasurer Jim, W8WTS, placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in Single Op, Low Power. I made zero QSOs and scored zero points, which just might be enough to win the plaque for the southeast side of Coeur d'Alene. Congratulations to these guys! Scores are on page 73 (of course) of May "QST."

Looking back a year, we mustn't forget the big win of KB7Q, U.S. #1, Single Op Low Power Unlimited in CWSS 2018.

### Rotor Rebuilds Are Complete at CATS

CATS was pretty fast this time and shipped our rebuilt Tailtwister rotor out on April 26. The Tailtwister arrived back in Idaho on May 4. It awaits transport to the island in my airline luggage. He put in one new heavy duty gear, all new bearings, a new stainless steel brake wedge, and cleaned, lubed, and repainted. This is the rotor that was at the top of the Europe tower for many years. It was originally donated to us by N6HR (SK) in 2000, and this is its second rebuild. The cost of this rebuild was \$227.50, including shipping back to Idaho. The Ham IV for the WARC tower is still at CATS and will be shipped to my Ohio address. I

arranged this before we knew that there would be no Hamvention, so it will have to wait there until I find a way to get it back to Curacao.

### Signal Point History 2003



Above, we are in the midst of pouring the concrete for the patios, December 11, 2003. We poured all four levels of the patio and the steps all together in one day. All of the concrete was mixed on site.

Below, on December 13, we've started fabricating the forms for the concrete columns of the Ocean Pavilion. All of that concrete was mixed on site also and we poured the columns with individual buckets of concrete. It was a long day that day!



### Member Spotlight: Mark Beckwith, N5OT

Like many of us, Mark's interest in radio goes back to childhood. In 1967 as a boy of 9 he first heard the hypnotizing drone of WWV on an old console radio. His mom had received it as a gift from a suitor. For her kid, the rest is history including a life-long passion for Shortwave Listening which led him to the Radio

Nederland station “on the island of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles,” according to their transmissions.

“I was tuning the Shortwave one day and heard one guy actually talking to another guy on the radio. He said his name was Dave and he lived in the next town over.” I told my mom and she said “That’s probably Dave Bell. He goes to our church. He’s one of those Ham Radio Operators.”

It was indeed Dave Bell, W6AQ, the well known film maker. Mark Beckwith was the little kid that ran up to him after church and asked him about his ham radio. Dave invited him over to see the station. The rest is history - “In 1971 he administered my Novice Class License exam, I passed, and became WN6OTU. I operated my first Field Day as a Novice.”



He upgraded in a few months to WA6OTU. By 1974, as a high school student he was catching rides to K6RR with people like Tree, N6TR. “It was here in the 1970s that I worked stations from PJ9 and PJ1 which would remain indelibly emblazoned into my memory. My best friend in the world David, now N6AN, operated the legendary P42E effort from just down the road at the Coral Cliff Hotel, and perhaps enjoyed a summer fling with a vacationing Dutch girl, whom I invariably daydream about when I see this one come up on K8ND’s legendary rotogravure:”



Beckwith said to himself, “One day I will go there.” But first, he got a seat at the now-legendary Galapagos efforts, way back in 1989. “I came in 5<sup>th</sup> in the world with no 15 meter antenna.”



Then, after quite a number of years of relative radio darkness, it became possible for N5OT to accept an invitation to join a Multi crew on Bonaire. On that trip, they passed through Curacao and met up with the PJ2T team for the very first time.





L-R: N7DD, KU8E, N4GG, W0CG, N5OT, W9RE, N1ZZ (ed.)

“Since then, I truly can't count now the number of times I have joined the team at Signal Point in the CQWW and the ARRL DX. I'm especially proud to have been a member of the winning effort for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of radiosport at Signal Point.”



And my mom's German console radio still sits in a place of honor at N5OT.”

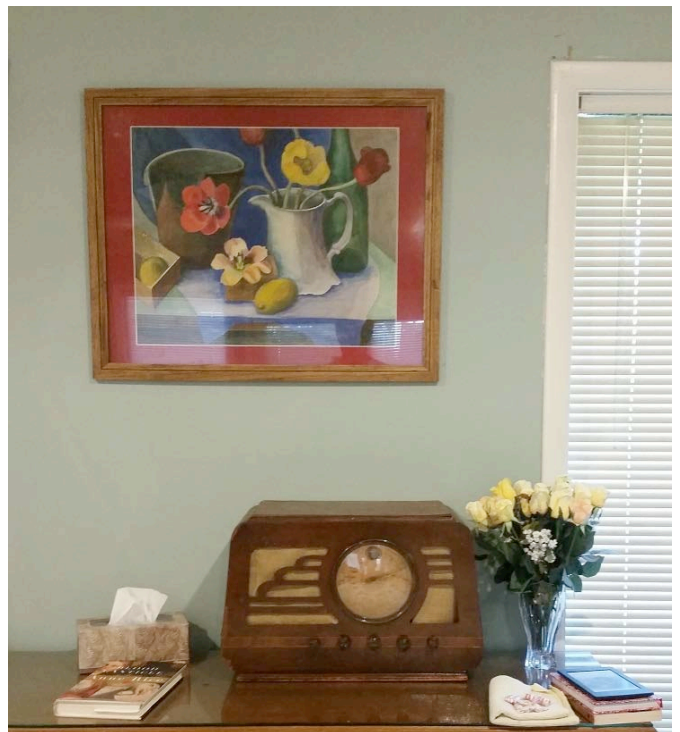


N5OT with W1FJ and the CQWW CW 2017 World #1 team. (Ed.)

N5OT has enjoyed quite a lot of what Ham Radio has to offer, “But there's always new stuff you can try,” he reminds. Last summer he entered the all-new WW-Digi contest just to see what all the fuss was about. “I serve on the Board of Directors of the Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF), and we took a leading role in making sure a new contest bearing the name 'Worldwide' or the acronym 'WW' was up to snuff.”

Despite this global pandemic doing its best to put a damper on everything, N5OT remains optimistic. “The future is bright for the third decade of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium.”

He adds, “And yes, I made it to Radio Nederland on Bonaire before the station went off the air:



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