



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

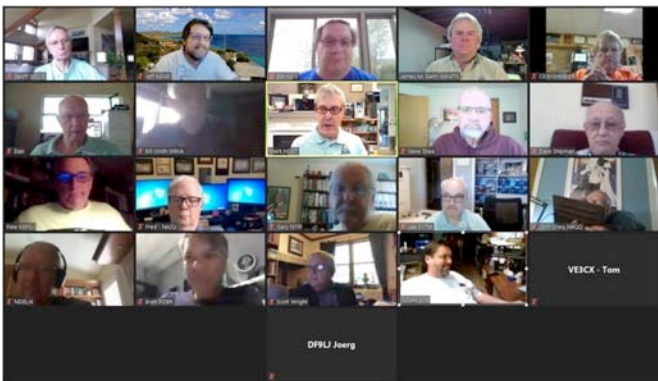
Volume 20, Number 6

June 15, 2020

CCC's Annual Meeting Was a Success

A big shoutout to Jeff (K8ND) for setting up and hosting our CCC annual meeting via Zoom on Friday, May 15. 20 of our members showed up, an attendance record since we started these meetings at the Dayton Hamvention in 2001. Rather than a detriment, the pandemic was an aid in that it forced us into using technology that enabled several of our members to show up who do not normally go to the Hamvention. It was fun seeing KB7Q, VA7AM, and DF9LJ, for example. Our special guest was Brett Ruiz (PJ2BR), president of VERONA, Curacao's best amateur radio club. Brett has attended our annual meeting in person at the Hamvention in some years past, but the pandemic prevented that this year.

Here's a screenshot during the meeting.



Congratulations and thanks to President Mark (N5OT), Vice-President Gene (KB7Q), and Treasurer Jim (W8WTS) for their willingness to continue serving as our leaders. This was not a tightly contested election, and we're grateful to all three of them for continuing to do this sometimes thankless work.

Rather than provide minutes, K8ND has kindly provided us with a recording of the entire meeting. Use the link in the next column.

http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/temp/CCC_Annual_Zoom_200515.mp4

If you only want the audio, click on this link.

http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/temp/CCC_Annual_Zoom_200515_audio_only.m4a

We customarily award a \$200 PJ2T trip discount door prize to a lucky randomly drawn member who is in attendance at the Hamvention meeting. Last year's winner was WA9S, who is still waiting to collect on that because of the pandemic. This year the group opted to not have the drawing given the tough budgetary conditions caused by COVID. We'll resume the prize drawing next year.

The customary financial reports were presented during the meeting, and I explained the rationale for this year's dues reduction. All was approved.

Probably the high point of the meeting was K8ND's always magnificent yearbook. If you missed it, please take some time with the link below.

http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/temp/2020_PJ2T_Yearbook.pdf

Jeff did a fabulous job of capturing the high points of CCC's Year 20. His flight photos from the drone are especially fun to see. None of us are able to be on hand for everything the club does in the course of a year, but Jeff's presentation will put you on site for *everything*, no airline travel required.

The Latest on Curacao Travel

I had to cancel my June 3 trip to the island because the border was still closed. Through lucky coincidence, my planned MIA – CUR flight on June 4 was the first that American had operated into the island for weeks, but I was not permitted to be on board.

They have now announced that beginning June 12 travelers from Bonaire, St Eustasius, and Saba are allowed to enter the country. Effective July 1, travelers from the Netherlands and “some other countries from Western Europe” will be permitted to enter. Those travelers are required to have proof of a no older than three day PCR test, need to carry travel insurance, and have to submit a health history form. A maximum of 10,000 tourists will be permitted onto the island.



Travelers from the U.S. and Latin America are not allowed because of the poor job we have done containing the pandemic. Those from Aruba and St. Martin are also still prohibited.

The curfew has been lifted totally but group sizes are limited to 25 and the 2 meter distancing requirement still stands.

American Airlines was professional and cooperative (shocking) in allowing me to change my June flight into an October arrival and December return. The additional fare was only \$80 and there was no change fee. We watch and wait and hope.

Contest Update for Fall 2020

It's still my intention to be on hand to host both CQWW SSB and CQWW CW. Dorothy plans to be along for the code contest. W3ACO has opted out on the SSB contest on advice of medical professionals, but I have not heard from anyone else yet. We are all in “wait” mode to see what happens. I have the Moran pool house rented so there are sleeping spaces for nine ops. Can you come? As usual, the planning detail for the phone contest is available online:

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

The link for the CW contest planning is below.

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



Update on Annual CCC Membership Renewals

I sent the membership renewal invitation letters on May 21. Of our 23 present members, 17 renewals have already been received. Two additional members were already prepaid for the year, so that leaves only four. This year's dues amount was reduced from \$550 to 389 because of the part year unavailability of the station during the Curacao border closure. But in a shocking surprise that warmed my heart, four members renewed at the \$550 amount anyway, and four others included additional donations above the 389 dues level. Even more incredible, VE3CX renewed within minutes of receiving my membership letter with \$1200! This kind of generosity from our membership stuns me, and I'm very grateful. The universal message that accompanied these upcharged amounts was that CCC is a bargain, and let's do whatever it takes to get through this pandemic.

I'll keep you updated on the membership renewals in next month's newsletter.

CCC Financial Snapshot:

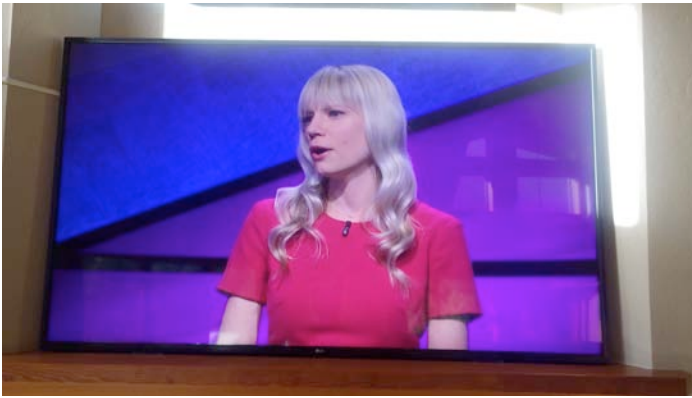
Per W8WTS the end of May balance was \$3608.53 and headed south.

Celebrities in the CCC Family

K8PGJ's daughter Lindsay was on “Jeopardy” on Monday, June 8! She did a great job, held the lead at several points, and was in the running to win the round except for getting tripped up by “Gone with the Wind” on the Final Jeopardy question. That question would have sunk me also.

I grabbed a couple of shaky quality photos directly from our TV screen.





This is very exciting parent stuff – congratulations to Pete.

And as long as we're talking celebrities, here is Herbert Seifert, CCC president N5OT's grandfather, a noted theatre organist.



Continuing to brag on family, here's the Wikipedia info on my great-great grand father Benjamin Stanton. (My middle name is Stanton.) His name is engraved on my burial vault in Wheeling, West Virginia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Stanton

Celebrating Our PJ2T Maturity

Almost continuously since the inception of our club in 2000 we have been grappling for resources and “begging” for money. It hit me early this calendar year that for once we are not asking for special donations. For the first time in our history we are in very solid shape on station equipment and antennas and the house, while far from five-star, is not in need of any immediate large improvements.

We have five K3 transceivers and only had to buy one and a half of them with club funds. K8WDN (SK) donated his K3 through W9NJY. KB7Q obtained the donation of another from KE7X's (SK) estate. W1FJ generously donated one without ever having even been asked. KB7Q donated half of the cost of another and a few of us quickly made up the other half. Only the SN 101 (upgraded) had to be bought fully from our treasury. In addition to the K3s, we have three fully working FT-2000s, two FT-1000s, an IC-765 and a Ten-Tec Omni VI. We are in solid shape on transceivers.



There are now seven AL-1200 amplifiers on site, all of which work fine. We also have the LK-800 (Station 3), a very good Ten-Tec Titan I (425), and two Alpha 76As for backup in a pinch. The Titan III is down (as usual), but when it works it is a fabulous amplifier. And, best of all, NR0X has recently donated a Command Technologies HF-2500 which will become our beefiest amplifier (Station 1) once travel resumes and we are able to get it to the island. It will be wonderful to be able to run a full 1500 watts output without guilt or fear that we're trashing our equipment. The AL-1200s are particularly of value because they are easy to fix on site, and we have adequate spare parts on hand. The 3CX1200A7 tubes for the AL-1200 are no longer made, but we have some spares on the island and a line on a source for yet another one. Thus, as you can clearly see, we are in good shape on linears. We're excited about solid state amplifier technology and eagerly await the time that they become affordable enough to incorporate at PJ2T. Finally, we have the K8ND on-loan KPA-500, but that is limited to use at

the remote station. Thus far it has proven to be utterly reliable after quite a long period of time in the difficult climate at the station.

It's the same story for computers. As most of you have seen, we're now relying almost totally on the tiny new generation PCs.



Dell Optiplex 7040M

These are about the size of a couple packs of cigarettes, and KB7Q has brilliantly brought them all up to full functionality with updated Windows 10 operating systems in many of them and all necessary application software aggressively kept current. We owe a big thank you to Anders, SM4KYN, who started us using these tiny computers, donating nine of them to the station beginning in 2013. Their tiny size belies their performance, and they are also desirable because we can put four of them in the safe, together with four K3 transceivers.

In the shack we almost have come to take the antenna switching system and new operating desks from October, 2015, as granted. So let us not forget all that N0YY did for us and keep enjoying and appreciating what we have.

Outside, things are just as good as in the shack. The epic project to replace the Europe tower saved the day for CCC. With that magnificent asset in place, and all our transmit antennas now fed with durable and survivable hardline, we are in a comfortable spot on towers, which are our primary asset at PJ2T. The 80 foot US/JA tower will still require continuous scraping and re-painting, but this is do-able, particularly with our professional climber NR0X now taking over. The John Thompson aluminum tower requires about a four foot tall concrete sarcophagus around the base, but this too is do-able and affordable.

The antenna situation is equally good. One of the 10 meter yagis is presently on the roof terrace awaiting reinstallation after I rebuilt it in February, but that will be straightforward and all else is good. There will always be a need for repairs here and there outside, but in general our efforts over the years to design and build for minimum maintenance in the salt air are now paying off. We are thinking of more and better receiving antennas on the Ridge, a salt water vertical for 80, triplexers for the low bands, and several other "dreams" for new antennas, but if we were never to do any of that we'd still be in a great position to win contests.



December 4, 2018. W3YQ working with the crane to replace the Europe tower.

And as you know, we have swapped out all the old masts for lifetime very strong thick wall aircraft grade aluminum masts. Those, the N0YY stainless steel thrust bearings, and the new DX Engineering stainless steel accessory plates require absolutely zero maintenance.

Rotators continue to challenge. If we have a weak spot, this is it. N7IR recently found a Tailtwister for a bargain and we bought it immediately. Also, he has a T2X he's donating, and once it gets to CATS for a rebuild we'll have it on the island. No matter what we do, these sons of guns are life limited in the extreme wind. If you don't climb you can't begin to imagine the strength of the easterly trades at the top of our four towers.

We should not become complacent, but at present we are in great shape. One hurricane would wreck it all, so let's keep our fingers crossed as we head into this so far very active storm season. One big theft would also wreck us, but we've done very, very significant things in the past few months to combat theft vulnerability.

As time goes by and we recover financially from the COVID losses there are all kinds of fun goodies that we could be getting for the shack and station. All of these are nice-to-haves and not necessities. A good AC transfer switch, diesel generator, more state of art

transceivers, solid state amps (mentioned previously), and many others come to mind. As our station Strategic Planning Lead, K8ND is scanning the horizon for new things that will keep us competitive and support even bigger fun on site. What's on *your* dream sheet?



CCC Ancient Papyrus Documents

Thank you W9VA for digging out this paperwork. Bill found and recently sent out the cover page of this document, "Proposal for Purchase and Ownership of Real Estate in the Caribbean and Business Plan," 14 May 1999. With two demanding jobs, one at the university and one in the Air Force, I can't imagine how I found time to do things like this, but it somehow happened. Thanks to Bill for his kind words and his digging this reminder of our CCC roots out of the catacombs.

Caribbean Contesting Consortium



Proposal for Purchase and Ownership of Real Estate in the Caribbean

and
Business Plan

Draft Version 1.0
14 May 1999

Please direct correspondence to:

Geoff Howard, W0CC
1984 Trarasa Road
Suffield, OH 44260
330.628.5707
ghoward@kent.edu

Congratulations KB7Q

As you've all surely seen by now, our member Gene Shea, KB7Q, received tremendous recognition in "CQ," May, 2020, page 74, for his MHz EME work from Signal Point (below).

VHF PLUS
BY TONY EMANUELE • K8ZR

PJ2T EME DXpedition to Curacao and HamSCI Online

Over the past three years, Gene Shea, KB7Q, has been refining and perfecting his portable EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) station with intent, making it the lightest, most compact, travel-worthy station he could assemble without compromising his ability to work a reasonable number of stations from Santa Marta Bay, Curacao (FK52kg), the location of the PJ2T HF contest station. His 2019 activation of the Caribbean Island on 2 meters with a single 12-element LFA Yagi and 800 watts resulted in 242 stations worked. The 2019 6-meter effort with a single 5-element Yagi and 500 watts netted him 17 QSOs via EME — given the small antenna, a noteworthy accomplishment.

Gene's 2020 effort, scheduled from February 26th to March 13th but out short by Covid-19, was on 70 centimeters. He modified the boom of an M2 9m² Yagi so that it would fit in a normal-size checked bag and built a 500-watt SSPA using a W6PQL's LDMOS module.² It was driven by an ICOM 9700 which, on receive, was aided by a WDSAGO 70-centimeter preamp to make it suitable for EME (see Photo A). The 9700, with coverage on 2 meters, 70 and 23 centimeters, has become a popular multimode transceiver with the weak-signal crowd. Small and lightweight, it easily lends itself to travel. With the addition of an external reference such as the Leo Bodnar injection board with GPSDO (Global Positioning System Disciplined Oscillator),⁴ the transceiver — as KB7Q will attest — is "rock steady" with stability within 1 Hz. Gene reported that he worked most of the stations he heard and, over the abbreviated 12-day effort, made 50 QSOs, despite "waxing" with Faraday rotation that resulted in cross polarity at times, far exceeding his goal of 20 EME contacts on the band. Photo B shows Gene's solution to mitigate Faraday rotation by turning the antenna by 45°, reducing the effects just enough so that stations in Europe could copy him. A printed picture QSL is available via W3HNK and the logbook has been uploaded to LoTW. Additional pictures and details can be found on Gene's blog at: <https://kb7qgrid.blogspot.com/>.

HamSCI Workshop 2020
The HamSCI⁵ Workshop originally scheduled to be held at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania in late March was in jeopardy of succumbing to Covid-19 (like so many other events in March, April, and May.) With less than two weeks remaining before the start of the workshop, coordinator Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, and his team were able to transform the in-person meeting into a virtual event via Zoom Webinar Services. It went off without a hitch and set a rather high bar for future virtual workshops. Over the two-day event, 290 participants logged in from 24 countries. Moderators took questions during breaks and an active chat feature permitted participants to submit questions to the moderators for later discussion by the presenters with their answers / comments made available post-workshop. At the start of each day, a brief overview of amateur radio was given, as many of those participating were not hams.

Photo A. PJ2T operating position. (Photo courtesy of KB7Q)

c/o CQ magazine
email: k8zr@cq-amateur-radio.com

74 • CQ • May 2020

Visit Our Web Site

In 2018 he activated Signal Point on 2 meters, in 2019 on 6 meters, and this past February/March on 432 MHz. He cleverly built a checked-baggage capable long boom yagi by modifying a stock M2 and then homebrewed a 500 watt amplifier based on W6PQL parts. He combined these with some off the shelf gear and a GPSDO board for extreme frequency stability, and proceeded to make 50 Qs on 432. This was all done with an Armstrong-pointed antenna mechanism relying on black twine and a lot of trips up and down the stairs.

See <http://kb7qgrid.blogspot.com> for much more about Gene's EME on the road operations. He's an impressively versatile radio amateur who can do these EME feats, run fabulous rates in DX CW contests, and everything in between. He's an inspiration. I need to find the time to get out from behind this desk, quit whining about living in a restricted condo, and get on the air here in the beautiful mountains of the far west.

W0CG / Contesting Hall of Fame

When K3ZJ phoned me at home in Idaho about the CQ Contest Hall of Fame recognition I was completely floored. Dorothy will tell you that I almost didn't answer the call. The caller ID said "Washington D.C." and it was dinnertime, and so it looked for all the world like another spam call. But I picked it up out of curiosity and was caught completely by surprise. Dorothy will tell you that my knees half buckled and I was choked up with excitement and appreciation. It was hard to talk for the first few minutes, and I'm very much a cold-hearted and unemotional person.... Normally.



It's humbling beyond words to be somehow included in the same list with the likes of W4KFC, W2GD, W0AIH, OH2BH, N6TJ, G3FXB, G3SXW, and ON4UN, to name just a few. I absolutely meant what I said in the acceptance talk that of all I have done in this long life, this is the recognition that by far means the most to me. I'm grateful to N5OT who spearheaded the nomination effort and to those from CCC, VERONA, and the Arizona Outlaws who participated in the process. Now the ball is in my court to do my best to live up to this honor.

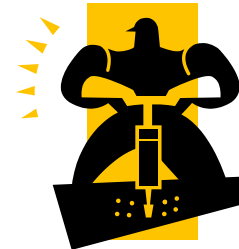
If you missed the on-line presentation of the Hall of Fame awards, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEEUpsWUtAA>. This is a 10 hour video. Use the slider at the bottom and go to 9:15:30 for the K3ZJ introduction, then WB9Z (a former CCC member) introducing me, then my brief online thank you.

In the aftermath the magnificent generous-spirited contesting community amazed me. E-mails of congratulation came in numbering in the hundreds. I

answered every one of them individually. I even received several very kind handwritten cards of congratulation in paper mail, most surprised of all by a very gracious handwritten note on a card from Trey, N5KO.

Contesting Technique: Loud Isn't Necessarily Loud

We've all experienced the giant variations in SSB operating style during contests at PJ2T. There are a few operators whom you can barely tell are talking. Notable among these in my experience are W8WTS and PA1CC. They can run high speed pileups at rates of 350/hour, yet standing at the kitchen sink I can barely hear them talking. At the other extreme, we have had ops who can be clearly understood (This is no exaggeration) from the street in back of the house. There's one guest op from overseas for whom I could accurately paper log from the backyard. Most of the rest of the ops are somewhere in between.



This would be of no matter in single transmitter formats, but when there are other ops in the room running multiple stations, the loud ops make it difficult to impossible for the rest of the people to be effective. Even with noise cancelling headphones, the loud ops come through and make it hard to hear your own receiver.

I do recall seeing a study or two over the years that claimed that the total power in the transmitted speech envelope of a quiet operator using a properly adjusted speech compressor was higher than that of a shouter. I have not, however, been able to find that hard data. Do any of you know about analyses of this sort?

It's a very hard habit to break. Understandably we get excited in the heat of the contest and instinctively our brains tell us to turn up our volume if we're not getting through the pileups.

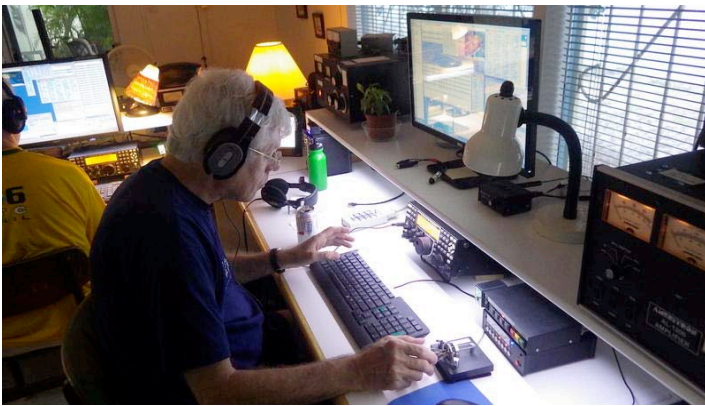
Practically, though, we could probably show the loud ops all the analyses in the world, but it would still be hard to break the "loud" habit. So that's my challenge to the PJ2T community. What can we do? How would you suggest we break this cycle? If we can do this, our scores and our sanity will probably both benefit.

Celebrating the W9NJY Ridge Switch Box

For several years we ran the Ridge tribander and the Ridge 80 meter inverted vee through an Ameritron RCS-8 remote antenna switch box. This thing imposes DC and 50Hz AC control voltages on the coax transmission line itself, and the relay box at the Ridge end decodes these voltages and enables remote selection of one of four antenna ports.

This worked fine until we got the triplexers. With the triplexer in place, there were going to be times when we were imposing as much as 4500 watts of RF on the feedline when operating 10, 15, and 20 concurrently. That would have instantly fried the 1500 watt Ameritron antenna control box.

In the spring of 2013 I sent out a challenge to the club group to see if anyone was willing to take up the task of building a massively beefed up 5 KW RCS-8V remote switch box. Our member Andy Catanzaro W9NJY (below) responded almost immediately, accepting the challenge. Andy is an Internal Medicine M.D.. but he became an E.E. for this project.



Andy Catanzaro, W9NJY

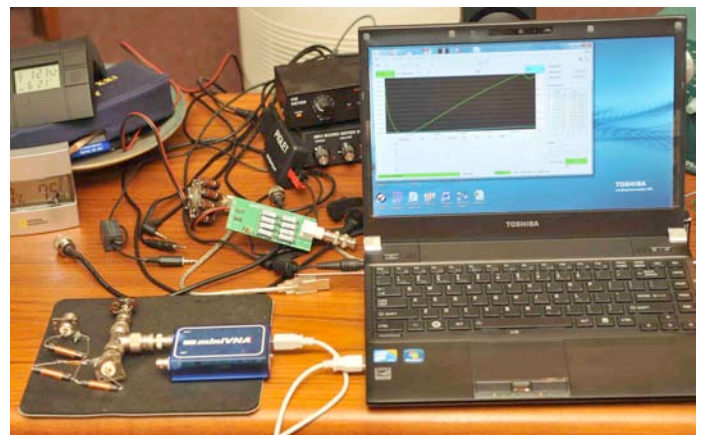
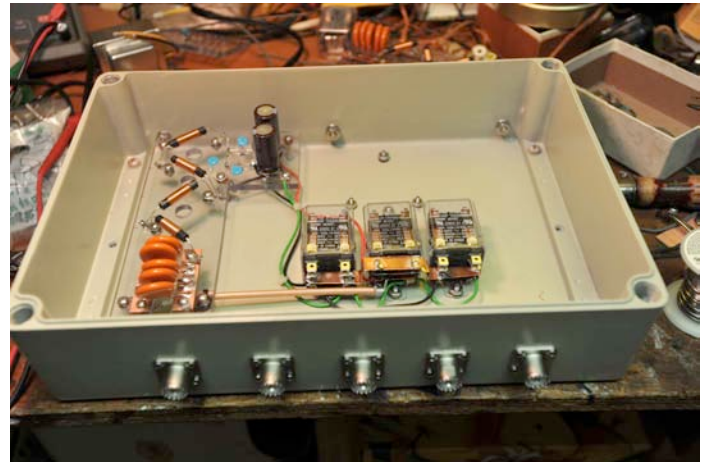
What followed was a much bigger and more costly project than he had anticipated. Andy did the design and component specification, breadboarded and tested parts of the system, and then put it all together in enclosures for the shack and as well as the remote Ridge box. The final result was a fully functional remote coax switch that handled 5 KW with ease and has been 100% failure-free since its installation in November 2013.

The total cost of all the parts was about \$1400, all of which Andy donated out of pocket, saying nothing about all of the workbench hours he invested in this over the summer.



The W9NJY remote coax switch control box in place at Signal Point.

Below is the remote end of the box that has been on the Ridge, trouble free, since 2013. This is a very expensive Hammond all-weather sealed enclosure.



Here's part of the bias-T breadboarded circuit in test on Andy's workbench in Wauwatosa.

The next photo shows the remote box in place in the Ridge tower. We sprayed it with some camo paint to

make it less visible to potential vandals, then after the photo buried it in brush.



A few years later as I was studying our vulnerabilities it became apparent that failure of this box would be a major operational problem. To protect against that we developed a comprehensive list of parts for the W9NJY box, then ordered sufficient replacement components so that we could repair the boxes on site from any failure. Luckily we have not needed those parts yet, but they are in the inventory for when that time comes.

Hats off to Dr. Catanzaro for his superb design and construction. His hardware has been flawless for seven years.

Our Glasses Are Getting Around, Gradually

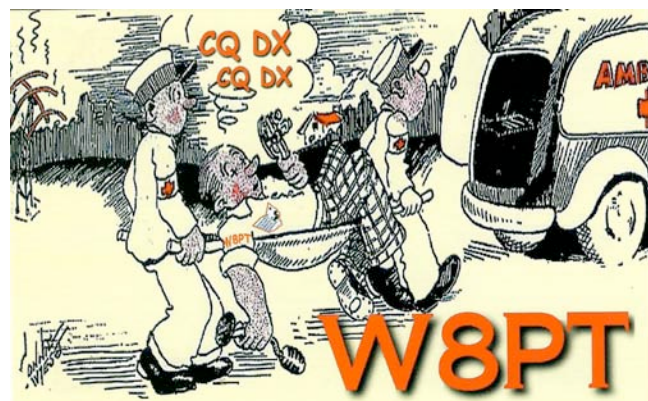


Here's famous author and CQ Contest Hall of Fame member H. Ward Silver, N0AX, at his home in

Missouri with one of our N7WA commemorative glasses, in this case full of iced tea.

Welcome New Member Chuck Patellis, W8PT

K0MD ran a photo of our 20th anniversary beer glasses in the most recent issue of "NCJ." Several contesters contacted me afterward wanting a glass or two, and I responded to all of them. One such request came from W8PT near my old stomping grounds of Youngstown, Ohio. I sent Chuck a couple of glasses at no charge, he quickly reimbursed the postage, and we began corresponding. He's an old timer DXer and contesteer like the rest of us and a fine, extremely courteous gentleman.



We've never met, but we are connected with the same club, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (Ohio). Chuck saw an online presentation about PJ2T that I did for that club last month. He has been working us for years and must have liked my presentation. Via E-mail he said that his situation might never permit him to come to Curacao, but that he'd like to support what we do and could he become a member?



This is a CCC first – someone willing to support PJ2T in spite of limited chances that he could come to Curacao. This is very flattering for us as club group and attests to the fact that we must have been something right on the air because we have a lot of fans and friends.

Not only did W8PT pay the first year dues, but he refused the 20% new member discount and sent in the full amount. I'm very pleased to welcome him to our CCC family, and I hope you will also at chuckw8pt@gmail.com. He kindly agreed on short notice to be our member spotlight person for June, so you can hear more from him at the end of this newsletter.



Contest University Was Online This Year

If you've never been to Contest University, this year was your big chance. Because of the pandemic everything was done on-line. This was the first chance for many of us to access the excellent content free of fees.

All of the Contest University professors' presentations are available to everyone, and I think you'll find material in here that's new, interesting, and very exciting. Here's the list, including live links to the content. Thank you to K3LR for all his effort in making Contest University open to all in 2020.

Click on the presentation to view/download the slide deck.

[W3LPL – “Effective Low Band Receiving Antennas”](#)

[W2NAF – “2020 Solar Cycle Update and the HF Response to Ionospheric Storms and Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances”](#)

[N6TV – “Everything You Need to Know About USB and Serial Interfaces”](#)

[NN1C – “Exuberance and Youth Contesting – Update on What is Going On”](#)

[W0YK – “Digital Contesting Hints & Kinks”](#)

[K1DG – “Optimizing your Station for Contest Operations”](#)

[N0AX – “Grounding & Bonding for Contest Stations”](#)

[NC0B – “Contest & DX Performance A Complex Subject Today: Great RX Performance – TX Limitations”](#)

[W3LPL – “60 Years of Competitive Contesting — the W3LPL Story”](#)

Member Spotlight: Chuck Patellis, W8PT

Here's the quick story on our newest member. It's a small world because I well remember going to Armie's Electronics in 1966. That was the local goodies store in Youngstown on West Federal Street. I didn't have any bucks, but it was free to browse and dream. Chuck also mentions an Eico 720. I coveted that transmitter in junior high and never got one, but I made a cardboard replica of it in 8th grade. I finally found one in a flea market years back, and it's on my workbench at the Ohio house. I'm dreaming of someday getting time there to restore it and put it on the air. -Ed.

My name is Chuck Patellis, and Geoff and I hail from the same area in NE Ohio. I was raised in Campbell, OH. And as I always said during my QSOs, it's spelled like the soup and pronounced like the cigarette.

My Amateur Radio journey started when I received an RCA transistor radio for my 15th birthday. The radio had a telescoping antenna and a switch that would allow me to listen to short wave. It just so happened that it covered some of the HAM bands and one evening I threw the switch and pulled up the antenna and tuned in a HAM on AM with a tremendous signal. He was from Twinsburg, OH and he was talking to someone in Saint Louis. I was bitten right there.

The next day my very best friend, Duane Spatar, K8DI (SK) came over and we both listened to HAMS talking across the US. He got his father to give us both a ride down to the local "candy store" (Armies Electronics in Youngstown) and we both bought an ARRL license study manual. We studied and both got our Novice ticket in the Fall of 1962.

My Novice station was comprised of an EICO 720 and a Hallicrafters SX-110. We got our Tech tickets in 1963. I enjoyed my next station, Hallicrafters HT-40 and the same SX-110 with an Ameco 6M transverter. In 1965 my dad bought me a great gift. A Clegg Venus (which I still have), and I was set on 6m SSB until 1974. Having gotten married and moving several times and with a growing family I allowed my ticket to lapse. Duane continued and upgraded finally to his Extra ticket.

I stayed involved even during my non-ticket time, building a Heathkit SB-401 and the SB-303. They didn't get on the air until after 2004. In 2004 Duane talked me into getting my General ticket and I then upgraded to Extra. I had K8CMP for a few years and then got W8PT as a vanity call in 2008.

I have to say that when I got back into Amateur Radio, I jumped in with both feet knowing that I had missed 30 yrs of the hobby. I now have a desk filled with rigs and am in the process of building two towers to hold a number of yagis. I really enjoy contesting, DX hunting and ragchewing. I'm not much into talking about aging and my aches and pains as some do on the low bands. But I have really enjoyed the hobby and my bucket list includes being included in a first class contest group and also getting to hit 340 DXCC entities. Holding at 307 at present.

In real life I worked in the air pollution control industry as a senior sales manager for 33 years and was also an ordained minister, pastoring a non-denominational, evangelical church for 23 years. I retired from there in 2015.

Well, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. QRZ.com has a pic of part of my operating desk.



W8PT, Middleburg, Ohio



Coral Cliff History: P42E, CQWW CW 1982



Expand this in your PDF client. This shows some of the crew setting up at the east end of the single story buildings at the Coral Cliff Hotel. All of this is now long gone, darn the bulldozers.