



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

Volume 21, Number 2

February 15, 2021

Another Sad Day for CCC

As you have all seen we lost Marty on January 19. This has been a rough time for all of us, having said goodbye to NP2L, WA9S, and now K2PLF in fairly rapid succession.



Marty Green, K2PLF, at Signal Point December 13, 2011

Marty began coming to PJ2T 14 years ago, initially enticed by Jack, N4RV, who were good friends through PVRC. I still clearly remember my conversation with Marty about CCC membership, and his surprise that we were encouraging him to become a member. He said “I thought this was for elite contesters only,” and I let him know right then and there that he *was* an elite contester, and that we’d love to have him in the group. He broke into a wide smile and right there asked where he could sign. Since then

Marty has been a very frequent visitor to PJ2T, became a close and valued friend, and taught us all by example about courage and humility.

His Parkinson’s diagnosis came many years ago, and in all this time he never once complained in the least about the hand he had been dealt. Instead, he dug diligently into an advanced treatment regimen at Johns Hopkins, religiously following their guidelines, applying all the recommended therapies, and pressing forward with a smile and good humor. One of the many innovative therapies was boxing, and so he enthusiastically became a gym rat and started knocking around with the best of them.

As time went by a CW paddle inevitably became more challenging, so he quietly and professionally switched to Ctrl-K keyboard sending, never missing a beat. He could run 200+ contest CW rates seamlessly.



K2PLF with a bug and his Gonset Communicator, 1955, Westfield, Connecticut.

Like so many of us, amateur radio preceded career, college, marriage, and parenting. Marty was featured in the CCC newsletter’s “Member Spotlight” in the August, 2019 issue. Click the link below to go to that issue, then scroll to the and for the K2PLF writeup.

<http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/Newsletters/volume19.number8.pdf>

Marty was so quiet and humble that he spoke little about his own accomplishments. He spent most of his professional career as a very senior executive with Baxter International, a health care multinational. Among his many duties, he ran Baxter's west coast operations for many years, always regretting selling a beautiful home in California when the company moved him back east. He always said that he and Patti could have been "bicoastal." He was also, for much of his life, a highly accomplished distance runner but, as with all else, it was hard to get him to brag on himself. He also has served generously helping to divvy out scholarships for the ARRL foundation. In addition, he generously funded scholarships for young amateurs, gave very generously to CCC, and was a Maxim Society and Legacy Circle member of ARRL.



One point of pride for Marty in contesting is that for all of his trips to Signal Point, he never set foot on site for a phone contest. He liked speed, as you can see from the photo below, but not the SSB kind.



K2PLF, Nov 23, 2017, at Signal Point for the World #1 CQWW CW M/M win that honored Al, W1FJ, returning after 50 years.



Marty running 15 meter contest pileups in ARRL DX CW, February 18, 2018.

In September of 2019 Dorothy and I were privileged to spend a night at Marty and Patti's beautiful home in Street, Maryland. Here they are in Marty's shack.



September 1, 2019, Street, MD, in Marty's home shack.

Dorothy had been at a museum convention in Philadelphia. I joined her there, and then we drove back to my Ohio place, stopping at Marty's to pick up an AL-1200 that he had generously donated. For a wonderful 18 hours we were welcomed as part of Marty's great family, and treated to a home barbecued dinner made by K2PLF's delightful son Marty Jr.

Here is the link to the obituary. Also, Marty's Facebook page says there may be an additional commemoration sometime in March or April. We'll update you on that as we know more.

<https://evansfuneralchapel.businesshomepage.info/obituary/Martin-Green?fbclid=IwAR3ob9vQ6Z5h2HSx8TAcKxfqO3YeKUKIMVoXMfOAcze5mP8T10LTFdM71Uk>

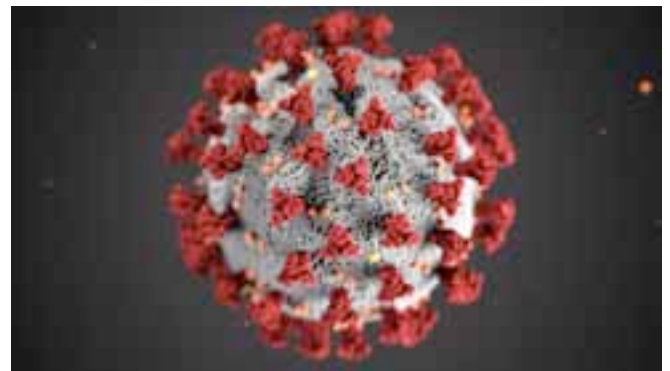
This is just so incredibly sad. Marty and Keith always asked to be roommates at Signal Point, preferring the East Bedroom, so that they could sit up late together and talk politics. It's hard to believe that they have both departed, but their memories will be very, very vivid in our minds during all of our future on the air events from Signal Point. 73 Marty, we miss your smile and good humor.

I Took Florida at their Word

In early January Florida announced that it was vaccinating anyone over 65, and that residency was not required because of the large number of snowbirds and temporary-duration tourists in the state. Concurrent with this, Idaho was completely lost, with no clear plan, no solid vaccination timetable, doses being wasted because they were not administered in time, and their best guess that my age range might, just might qualify for the shots beginning sometime in

March. The situation in my legal residency state of Ohio was just as chaotic, and I was becoming overcome by helplessness and anger at this poorly administered project.

My high school friend in Florida let me know she had gotten an appointment fairly easily in Orange County, and had already gotten the first Pfizer shot. Out of total frustration I jumped online and spent two full days researching the complicated patchwork of vaccination plans, differing drastically among the 67 Florida counties. Some counties were taking E-mail addresses manually for waitlists, some were asking you to phone to get on a list, some had crude queueing software in place, some were announcing open vaccination events with only about 12 hours' notice, and some seemed lost. It was the wild west, but I saw an opportunity amidst this confusion.



I did everything I could to register and or waitlist myself in 42 Florida counties, focusing on the small rural counties. I also began clicking at live websites trying to get an appointment. After many, many days of frustration, I received a text on January 20 from Nassau County that I had cleared their waitlist, and that they had sent 975 E-mails with instructions on how to get a ticket through a web site. I clicked frantically for two hours and got a ticket number! The instructions said to phone them the next morning beginning at 6 AM (Idaho time) to try to get an appointment based on my ticket number. After about 90 minutes of busy signals I got a live person who offered me an appointment for a shot on Saturday morning, the 23rd. I made it clear that I did not have Florida residency, and she said no problem, just bring proof of age and a filled out Pfizer release form. 22 hours after hanging up that phone call I was on a flight, my first in 11 months, arriving in Jacksonville that evening. I got the shot as scheduled, no problem, as well as a firm, guaranteed appointment for the second dose on February 17.

Since then, it has been in the news very prominently that Florida has cut off vaccination tourism because

there have been too many people like me. But the governor also made it clear that they would protect the supply for second shots for those of us who got “in” before the residency requirement was imposed. I’m grandfathered, and the ladies at the tiny county health office in Yulee assured me that my second shot would be available as scheduled. Also, Idaho yesterday announced that nobody could get vaccinated here, once the shots begin, without an Idaho driver’s license. My driver’s license is from Ohio, so I would have really been screwed. There would be no reason for you to care about my story, except that my getting vaccinated was the key to re-opening Signal Point and getting us all back on the air!

Interestingly, as soon as I E-mailed you about my experience in Florida I heard from CCCer Jerry, WB9Z. He had gotten his first shot in Florida the day before I did! He and Val had been renting a place in Florida, and managed to sign up for a vaccine shot in the same general fashion I did. He said that they didn’t blink when he showed his Illinois driver’s license, and in fact met another ham at the vaccination site. This was five days prior to Florida lowering the boom on vaccine tourism, so we both were doing the great minds parallelthink, and got in under the wire.

Congratulations K0MD and KY7M

In truth we should probably congratulate Scott and express our sympathy to Lee. Effective with the January/February 2021 issue CCC’s Lee Finkel, KY7M, is *NCJ*’s editor.



This is an exciting opportunity for Lee, and he’s fabulously well-qualified for the job after a lifetime of accomplishments in DXing, most particularly his 10 trips with the Voodoo Contest Group, including such exotic callsigns as 5V7A. CCC member K0MD has served extremely admirably for the past three years as Editor. None of us can quite figure out how he managed this on top of his responsibilities at the Mayo Clinic, but Dr. Scott is a stellar example of ‘Want something done? Ask a busy person!’

All of us in the contesting community owe both of these great gentlemen a huge round of applause and a “Thank You” for their service to this magazine that means so much to all of us. It’s a big job, big responsibility, and we appreciate their work immensely.

Bravo J68HZ!

We congratulate and salute Bill Schmidt, K9HZ, on his establishment of another big Caribbean-based contest station. Bill operated at PJ2T several years ago and had at that time just acquired a beautiful home on St. Lucia. Now his station is on the air and sounding great.



Bill has shown the necessary patience and tenacity to make things happen in our part of the world. His tower permit, for example, required interaction with the Fire Services Authority, the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, and a Planning agency. To install his tower he shipped a concrete mixer, jackhammer, and hydraulic rebar bender from the States, and he and his helpers mixed and poured 15 cubic yards of concrete on site. As we well appreciate at PJ2T, this do-it-or-else attitude is essential to accomplishing things in the islands. See the Jan/Feb issue of *NCJ*, pp. 4-7, for much more about this superb new station.

The more Caribbean stations the better, as this enhances everyone’s contesting fun all around the globe. Welcome to Bill!

New Generation Stainless Tower Splints for PJ2T

Years ago Jerry (WB9Z) had his machine shop guys fabricate a huge set of tower splints for the rapidly rusting towers at Signal Point. These were a great gift from Jerry, and they enabled us to keep the Europe tower in the air much longer than by rights we should have. Some time afterward, he made a second batch of magnificently strong splints, brackets, and hardware and shipped them to me, In the process he also fabricated a couple of splint sets for the Rohn 45 tower legs, but we’ve used all of those.

Since we have the new Europe tower, focus shifts to keeping the 45G US/JA tower in the air for many years to come. To that end, I had some splints made for the 1.25 inch legs of this tower, following Jerry’s idea, except that these new ones are stainless! I bought four 12 inch pieces of Type 312 Schedule 80 stainless steel

pipe online. Then on February 3 I took them to a local machine shop to have them split longitudinally.



The photo shows Clarence Cook, owner of Kootenai Machine in Coeur d Alene, using a band saw to convert one of the pieces of the stainless pipe into two half shells on February 3. Here's the result below.



The advantage of this splint is that it will not need to be coated with epoxy primer and finish paint. The inside diameter is precisely correct to fit around a Rohn 45 tower leg that has a layer or two of paint on it, and then the splint will be clamped in place using 1.75 inch stainless steel DXE saddle clamps. This will result in a maintenance-free splint assembly that will help keep our tower in the air hopefully for a long time to come.

Geoff and Dorothy Reopen Signal Point

As you saw from my excited E-mail, Dorothy and I plan to arrive at Signal Point late afternoon Monday, February 15. For that reason, this newsletter is shorter than normal, and I'm sending it early because we will be on the road on the 15th.

This arrival will mark just 10 days short of a full calendar year since I have been to the QTH. At times it seemed that we would never get out of the pandemic and its attendant travel block, but light is now emerging.

I managed to get my second vaccination shot on February 11 in Idaho once they announced that they would accept utility and tax bills as proof of residency. This was about 40 hours sooner than the Pfizer recommended 21 day interval, but the tech guidance from CDC says that you can go as early as four days, so I am well within that window. I was one of the very first shots given in Idaho to the age 65+ population. As you see below, I had already bought an Amazon tee shirt to commemorate the big event.



Travel to Curacao still requires a negative PCR test no older than 72 hours at the time of arrival. This is tricky because of the long elapsed time to travel there from Idaho, but we will be able to barely thread that needle. They also require that you fill out online tracking forms prior to arrival. Things will be much simpler for us staying at a house versus a possible government quarantine facility.

Jan Thiel Rental Car has been very gracious in applying a credit of 21 days because we turned the prepaid car in early last March, and they will meet us at Hato with the car.

We'll E-mail you as soon as possible with an eyewitness description of the arrival process.

It will be an uphill battle to get things out, clean, repaired, and on the air, but I'm hoping to be able to make a few QSOs with the PJ2T callsign by mid-week. That will be momentous. I'm doubly excited about the trip because Dorothy will stay with me the whole time, and we'll return on April 16. She's finally retired.



