



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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Upcoming Events: A Quick Overview

WPX CW: No activity at PJ2T. The station is wide open if you want to make a last minute trip.

Mid-July: It's likely that the Youth DX Adventure group, led by Jim Storms, AB8YK, will return to Curacao. W0CG will host them on site and, if the dates work out will operate in the IARU Radiosport contest as PJ2HQ using a hybrid remote and local operation as in WPX SSB. This contest is only 24 hours.

CQWW RTTY 25-26 September: Nobody is signed up.

October 9-10: Likely PA QSO Party operation by non-club members. W0CG will host.

October 14: DL8OBQ arrives to operate the Worked All Germany contest, hosted by Geoff and Dorothy.

CQWW SSB: W0CG, ND8L, VE4GV, GM4AFF, and N2BA+XYL are signed up. Five beds remain, including the Moran pool house. Where is everybody?

CQWW CW: W0CG, VE3CX, N7IR, K9DR, W9NJY, probably NA2U, and probably WI9WI+KA9DOC. Three beds remain in the Moran pool house.

ARRL 160 and 10 Meter Contests (December): W0CG and Dorothy will be on site to host you.

Steve Returns

Dorothy and I were absolutely stunned when on April 14 the PJ2T cat Steve walked into the house (photo next column) after over a year of absence. We had long ago given him up for dead.



Steve's unexpected return April 14, 2021

Steve first showed up as a starving little kitten on January 30, 2011, but we couldn't get within 10 feet of him. After a few days of patient work seducing him with food and milk, he had decided that people were OK, and eventually became a full fledged housecat. This early photo of Steve from 2011 is courtesy of K8ND.



By the time April 2011 arrived I had to leave. Steve had moved into our house and into our hearts, mostly preferring to stay inside and watch the radio operations, sleeping on the Station 3 desk, so it was terrible to have to leave. By now it was clear he was about the most intelligent cat I had ever known. I left mountains of food outside for him, but never expected that he would survive. You know the rest. When I returned in October he was there waiting for me, hungry and angry but alive.

Dorothy and I took him to town and got him “fixed” soon thereafter, and he stuck around the house again until April 2012.

That pattern has repeated now for 10 years, others in the neighborhood have fed him when able, and he has survived and survived. KA9DOC (W19WI’s XYL) is a veterinarian, and for many years Annette has been bringing Steve meds and shots, making him a very lucky kitty indeed.

We thought the pandemic and the lack of cat-feeding tourists had done him in, but on the 59th day of our time there in early 2021 there he was, coming in the door with authority, obviously recognizing me and Dorothy, and wanting a good meal and a warm bed. K8ND took care of him until May 5, and hopefully the perpetual feeder that Dorothy invented will keep him and others in the Meow Mix until I return in July.

Many times over the years we have considered bringing him to our home in the States, but he is through and through an outdoor kitty, so we decided it would probably be cruel to do that to him.

PJ2T’s New Eye in the “Sky”

You read last month that we now have five Ring cameras watching the Signal Point property. Here’s an image from the camera (next column) that’s 18 feet up on the WARC Tower. You can see K8ND’s dark blue Kia Soul heading out to get groceries on Tuesday, April 20. With these five Ring cams, two high resolution Foscam cameras, the Curacao Surveillance Services monitored alarm system, and several transceivers and computers in our safe, we are more secure than ever.

That’s a thin aluminum sunshield that you see at the top of the photo, looking yellowish with a coat of epoxy primer.



This camera is connected to a 2.4 GHz wireless repeater in the West Bedroom and, like the others, is powered by a solar panel. Here’s the installation.



PJ2T’s “WARC Tower” Ring Camera and Solar Panel
K8ND / PJ2ND 2021 Pandemic Vacation, by Jeff Maass, K8ND

I had last been to Curacao in January 2020, when I was there for with Jim W8WTS for the CQWW 160-Meter CW Contest. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I then missed two planned trips: my usual July non-contest trip and the January 2021 trip for the next CQWW 160 CW Contest. I spent much time considering a solo 2021 CQWW 160 CW trip, but I was not yet vaccinated and so not comfortable with the risk level. I planned this Curacao trip (my 38th since November 2002) after I got my first vaccination shot, booking flights for April 15 - May 3, to arrive the day before Geoff and Dorothy were scheduled to depart. This would allow me taking over the rental car and the house with a minimum of muss and fuss. I was fully vaccinated with my second Pfizer shot on March 23. This was three weeks before my travel.

Two weeks before my planned trip and while Geoff and Dorothy were there, Curacao was named the #1 worst place in the world for COVID, with a reported 35% positivity test rate: 35% of all the tests done on the island were positive for COVID-19! They had held a ‘super spreader’ island-wide election, which involved

much meeting and celebrating in the street with few masks, and they were seeing the result. The hospital resources were maxed-out, with some overflow sent to Aruba.

Curacao had declared a lockdown, initially for two weeks. No one was to be on the roads except for two days a week for groceries or medical care, and then with only one person allowed in the car. They were serious about it, too, with 1000 Guilder fines and seizure of the vehicle if caught violating. No one could drive on Sunday. Stores and restaurants were closed.

PREPARATION FOR TRAVEL: For entry, Curacao required a pre-travel COVID PCR test, done less than 72 hours before departure. I went to CVS for my pre-travel test on Monday afternoon April 12. \$139. The CVS site did not guarantee test results in 48 hours, but reported that the typical turn-around time at that time was 24 hours. My results had not arrived from CVS by the time for me to depart for Columbus airport at 4 AM April 15.

Decided to go to the airport, and even fly as far as Miami to await the PCR report by email if necessary. As my usual parking procedure at CMH is shut down for COVID, after some research I signed up for 'Lyft', and for my first ride-share experience, I requested a pickup for 4 AM. That worked out OK. \$65. However, at the 'John Glenn Columbus International Airport', I was not permitted to check-in to fly for my first leg to Miami, as my final destination (Curacao) required the missing PCR test. Thanks CVS! Another 'Lyft' ride home. \$65.

With an assist by N7WA and Google, found a place in my area that could do an acceptable COVID PCR test and deliver the results quickly. Got tested April 15, and had the required "Negative" report in 45 minutes! \$200. (The CVS report finally arrived 7 days after the test was run, when it was useless, and I was on Curacao. It was "Negative" too. \$139 wasted, plus the \$130 cost of two useless 'Lyft' rides: thanks CVS!)

TRAVEL TO CURACAO & ARRIVAL AT SIGNAL POINT: In rebooking my flights, I encountered an announced 4-hour telephone wait time with American Airlines, who offered to call me back. So, I left my number and waited up for the call. No call. Eventually, I discovered that the phone number for American Airlines had been blocked in my new phone. Not sure when or why, but once I unblocked the number, I soon was called! I rebooked my flights for Saturday April 17 - Wednesday May 5. I took another 'Lyft' ride to airport at 4 AM. \$65. This time, the documentation of

the negative COVID test and the Curacao Passenger Locator Document completed online allowed me to get on the plane! Travel to Miami and then to Curacao was uneventful, with mask required from the time I left home to the time I got into the rental car.

I arrived on Curacao in the early afternoon and was met by the nice car rental company person at the 'Arrivals' area. On the drive to Signal Point, it was nice to finally remove the KN95 mask for the first time in 10 hours! The roads were nearly empty, as required for the lockdown. During my 19 day stay, I never saw any of the checkpoints or police enforcement that were reported to be active.

As I approached Signal Point, notable was the lack of the buildings that were Sunset Waters (previously Coral Cliff Hotel). When I was last there in January 2020, they were actively demolishing the swimming pool and had yet to start removing the main building. Now, the vegetation has overgrown their former locations, and it was difficult to see where they were except for the roads which provided some reference. Remaining are the 'Savage Turtle' restaurant building on the beach, one building along the road that had been used for a garage for the demolition workers, the tiny 'gate house', and two small structures in the area that was the miniature golf area. All else is gone. The wabi is taking over the bulldozed 'Flats' again!

A video of a drone flight from the site of the former Sunset Waters to the Signal Point PJ2T station is available to view online (best seen at 1080P): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9rMfANdyFg>

(Don't miss Jeff's April 30 video, it's FANTASTIC. – Ed.)

The Signal Point house was in good shape (as Geoff and Dorothy had just departed), but had been prepared for a long-time vacancy, as it was unclear whether I would be able to travel to the island. There was some limited leftover food in the fridge, which was good because it was Saturday and the COVID 'lockdown' only allowed me to drive on Tuesdays and Fridays to get groceries. I 'foraged' for a few days on what was available in the kitchen and that which I normally pack for travel. Tuesday I drove to town and stocked up at Centrum and Cost-U-Less.

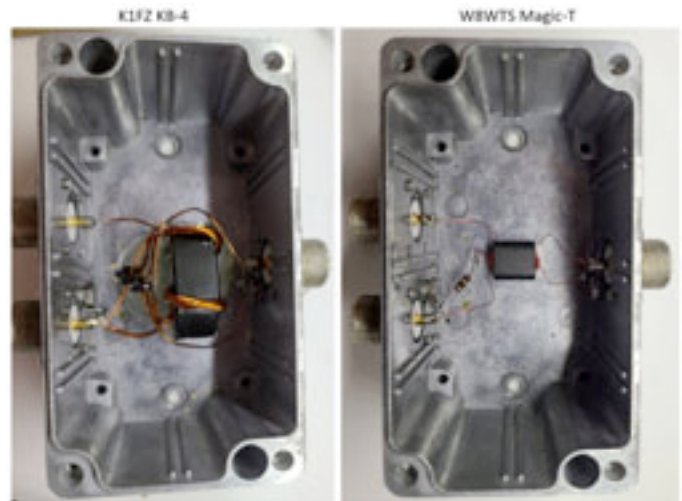
Geoff and Dorothy had prepared the house for long-term vacancy, with 'furniture mountain' in the East bedroom blocking the closets. A table and two chairs had been left out on the pavilion for my use, but otherwise the outdoor furniture had been stored inside.

WHAT TO DO DURING A PANDEMIC: Some of my usual activities on the island for a non-contest trip, including cemetery visits/photography and driving around photographing with my drones, were precluded by the lockdown. The lockdown was due to expire April 30, so I expected to have at least 4 days to do those things. I was to be disappointed, as the lockdown was extended and had not ended by the time I departed Curacao.

After some recovery from my Saturday travel, I spent 8 hours on Sunday April 18 in the CQMM (PY) contest on 15m CW, making 526 QSOs, and with a middle-of-the-pack score.

Propagation during my stay was pretty poor. Including the 526 QSOs in CQMM, I made 3291 QSOs during this trip. Except on 40 meters, substantial runs of Europeans were lacking. One surprising run on 30-meters from 0614Z to 0835Z on May 4, with Europeans the first hour and stations in Japan the second hour. On 160-meters on April 20, DL8LAS recorded the signal as I called CQ in 160-meters. I was not hearing Europe well, but they were clearly hearing me well, as can be heard in his YouTube posting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfF915s6Bs8> While on-site, I was the designated 'control op' for the PJ2T remote station. Regular use was made by N7WA, WI9WI, and NA2U.

Back during our last CQWW 160 CW Contest operation in January 2020, Jim W8WTS and I noted that when we selected an antenna from the Station 3 & 4 receive antennas for a CW Skimmer and the same antenna at station 1, a large noise level was produced. We tracked it to the K1FZ KB-4 splitter for that antenna, and replaced it with a Magic-T splitter I had in my 'kit' to resolve the problem for the contest. We opened up the KB-4 splitter box, and did some testing. Jim was less than impressed with the design, which was not a Magic-T design, and which did not work very well as a splitter. He took that one home with him, and replaced the "innards" with a Magic-T splitter he wound. Afterwards he tested and, satisfied with the performance, wound five more to be retrofitted in the other KB-4 splitters in use at PJ2T. I installed the Magic-T circuits in four additional boxes at the station, tested them, and put them into use. They worked fine. The previous internal splitter parts were discarded.



Having replaced all the K1FZ splitters to W8WTS' 'Magic-T' splitters and DC tested, I function tested by listening to the signals on 160, 80 & 40 on the K3 at

Station 1 and the K3 in the remote at Station 4 (thus listening to both sides of each splitter). I had not listened to the signals from the remote, which are muted when the RRC box is plugged into the K3. It was obvious that there was some odd pulsing noise level on that radio, with and without a connected RX antenna. With the transmit antenna connected, the extra noise level was not obvious, as the noise on the antenna swamped it. I did not hear the same noise on the K3 at Station 1! I spent a few hours troubleshooting, checking the K9AY RX antenna switch, the RRC box, the KB7Q remote Beverage switch, and the switching supply to see who was generating the noise. I finally located the problem outside, a flaky LED bulb in the fixture over the Utility Room door! Unscrewing the fuse for that light removed the noise, making the remote usable on the lowbands again! (The replacement 25W incandescent bulb was locked away behind ‘furniture mountain’, and I could not find one during a grocery run. This problem to be permanently fixed later).

And I had a flat tire in the Cost-U-Less parking lot on a ‘grocery’ run to try to find a replacement 25W incandescent bulb. That was also an adventure!

Geoff had replaced the irrigation controller in the utility room with a new one made in Germany, but it was not coming on as expected five days a week. Referring to the manual (German, translated to English) and working together on Zoom, we went through the programming of the controller with limited success following the instructions provided. Geoff ordered a second controller to experiment with at his Idaho enclave, which will eventually come down to serve as a spare. I stumbled around and managed to program the controller and observe it operating properly for the week prior to my departure. Geoff later figured out the step(s) we missed with his second controller, and documented the process for later use.

For the past 12 years, I have been researching and photographing the cemeteries on Curacao. The photos and location information are displayed on my web site ‘[Curacao Cemeteries](#)’. Although I couldn’t visit any new cemeteries, I spent some time during this trip organizing the information in my digital cemetery records. I was hoping to visit at least a few during the last days of my stay, but the lockdown did not end before I departed.

Each member of CCC includes (discounted) dues for the VERONA club with the dues paid for CCC each year. This support for the local Curacao Amateur community is an important way that we become

member of the local community ourselves! Normally, the VERONA dues for 2020 would have been brought down during one of the early contest operations, but of course there were none last year! So, I carried down the cash and a list of 2020-21 members, and met with Brett PJ2BR and Nena PJ2ZZ at Cost-U-Less during one of my ‘OK to drive’ days and traded the dues money for a pile of VERONA membership cards (2020 and 2019, for which dues had been paid previously). Normally, we would pass these out at the Dayton CCC meeting and mail the remaining ones. As these are membership cards for last year and the year before, I’m not sure that it is worth the effort and expense to mail all of them, at least until we have the cards for 2021. We will discuss.



And, to maintain some of my remaining sanity, I discovered Spotify and listened to some podcasts and music to make noise around the house and let me know what was happening in the World!

The COVID situation on Curacao got better during my stay, with the positivity rate dropping from 11% to around 1% positive COVID tests. Still, they extended the lockdown until May 17 (later revised to May 11) before I departed. So, there was no driving around the island to cemeteries for me this trip. By the time I left, over 75,000 of the 157,000 residents had received at least one ‘jab’, and they were continuing to make good progress getting everyone vaccinated at 2 to 3 thousand a day. I was hoping that this all pointed to an on-schedule end of the lockdown, but they were being quite cautious and extended the lockdown instead.

BIRDS: One of my planned activities at the house was bird photography. While the hummingbirds were quite active in the trees in the back yard, there were not many other bird species around. For the first time in my 37 previous stays on Curacao, I did not see or hear a single Troupiale, usually the first thing heard every morning!

My nemesis, the Brown Pelican, appeared as he has over the past few years. Each evening before sundown, he flies from the direction of Sunset Waters to the East, barely below the top of the cliff below the pavilion. It is not visible until just before reaching the pavilion, as the coast curves around a bit and vegetation blocks the view before then. I saw him a few times, but his wristwatch must have been broken, as he kept varying his arrival time +/- an hour to frustrate my attempts at photography. I got a few shots of him from the rear flying away.

Best photo “get” was an Osprey that flew in from the West with a fish in its talons, and gave me a chance to take a few shots. Other birds photographed were Blue-tailed Emerald Hummingbird, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Black-faced Grassquit, Bananaquit, Magnificent Frigatebird, Tropical Mockingbird, and Yellow Warbler (just one!).

An album of some of the bird photos is online: http://www.k8nd.com/CuracaoBirds_April2021/

CATS & OTHER CRITTERS: No Iguanas seen. One or two small lizards of other kinds. Far fewer birds than normal. More cats. Steve the Radio Cat, now over 11 years old, continues to sleep in the best places on the operating desk and under the kitchen table! While Geoff and Dorothy informed me that there were at least two “mom cats” with kittens, I saw no kittens during my stay, but a couple cats with nipples. At least six different cats appeared, including Crawford, the black and white cat with a fuzzy tail like a skunk. Dorothy has set up an automated cat feeder on the East porch, and all the cats and some Tropical Mockingbirds were seen feeding there.



Steve



Momcat

DRONES: The winds were very heavy for the first twelve+ days of my stay, and so the drones stayed safe inside. After that, things got a bit better, mostly for the hour before sundown. I got some photos and videos of the former Sunset Waters site, the neighborhood cliff down to the water, some of the houses in the neighborhood, and the Signal Point PJ2T station. Some of the photos have been shown on the PJ2T Facebook page, and I will be processing some of the videos to YouTube now that I have a fast Internet link. This is a photo of House #5, often used for PJ2T overflow housing.



PREPARATION & DEPARTURE: As we don't expect anyone to be at the station until perhaps July, the house was put in its 'cold storage' condition, with all furniture inside, station positions covered with tarps, fridge emptied, cats all outside.

Departure from Hato airport was very odd. No one in line to check in a couple of hours before the flight. Going through the TSA-equivalent line was solitary: no other people taking off their shoes and running their carry-ons through the X-ray! Three inspectors and me: no one else.

Another 10 hours straight of mask-wearing until I arrived home after midnight. A 'Lyft' ride from airport to home: \$65.



CQWW SSB 2021 Planning

See <http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/cqww.ssb.2021.preplanning.htm> for the current state of planning for WW SSB.

CQWW CW 2021 Planning

<http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/cqww.cw.2021.preplanning.htm>

Curacao Departure Story – W0CG and Dorothy

Exiting Curacao was easy. Our flight out was on a Friday. That Monday I got onto the web site at ADC Laboratories and registered each of us for a COVID test on Thursday morning between 11 and 12 noon. The web site was professional and everything worked perfectly.

We showed up about 20 minutes early on Thursday at the lab near our favorite mattress store, and they took us right in. They took a nasal swab, charged each of us \$20 on our credit card, and we were out the door in 10 minutes. By the time we arrived back home there were E-mails from the lab containing our negative COVID test results.

American Airlines took a cursory look at those test results when we checked in Friday for the flight, and nobody ever again asked to see those tests, even upon entering the U.S. at Miami. We flew on to Charlotte, spent the night, then on to Phoenix on Saturday and, finally to Spokane Saturday night ending the trip with an expensive shuttle ride to Coeur d Alene. Our total trip duration was the usual 38 hours. The outgoing COVID requirement on Curacao was easy, fast, and cheap to satisfy.

CCC Year 22 Membership Cycle Begins

As always, the CCC membership renewal cycle will begin in mid-May. I'll soon send out the letters by E-mail for the June 1 2021 – May 31 2022 CCC year, and THIS year will be a normal year of high activity from PJ2T. As the letters detail, I'm extremely grateful to all of you for your support of our club in the terrible year just ended, and look forward to renewed prosperity and visibility for PJ2T as we move forward.

QSLing Woes with New Licensees

I returned to Idaho to find an unusually thick stack of QSL cards in my mail pile. Initially I thought they would be for some FT8 contacts I had made in April, but they turned out to be mostly from the ARRL and WPX SSB contests. Nearly all of the cards were from 2x3 callsign new licensees. It was immediately clear that nobody had taught any of these folks anything about QSLing protocols. Not understanding about QSL managers and W3HMK, the cards were sent to me directly in Idaho. There were almost no SASEs or green stamps.

But most of them included handwritten notes about how excited the ops were to make their “first DX contact,” or their first contest QSO, or for whom we were a new country, incredibly. So I happily answered every card, used up most of my supply of envelopes and USA Forever first class stamps, and wrote a nice note to each person. Please if you have new licensees in your local clubs, give them a program about how to QSL. I will do the same in my local club, the Spokane DX Association.

VERONA Dues Handed Off. Finally.

As Jeff noted earlier, PJ2BR (VERONA’s President) and K8ND had a clandestine meeting at 11:30 on April 23 in the parking lot at Cost-U-Less. Hiding behind a big dumpster in the parking lot Jeff handed him the VERONA dues money for all of us, and Brett passed over the membership cards.



Because of COVID, this is our 2020 memberships, finally getting done after great delay. The reason for the intrigue was Curacao’s continuing aggressive COVID lockdown. You’re only allowed to drive on certain days of the week, based on your license plate, and only then to grocery stores and other essential locations. Cost-U-Less is, among other things, a grocery store, so our agents pulled this exchange off relatively legally.

W8WTS’ April Treasury Balance

The end of April balance in the Station Support fund was \$4031.86. Immediately after the close, he made a disbursement of about \$1500 to me for the AL-1200 and other expenses, so we are down to about \$2.5K. After the upcoming annual dues in May we will be in a position to consider acquiring another K3 and making other improvements to the station.

About W0CG’s Novice Examiner

In summer of 1963 I was looking for someone in Wheeling, West Virginia, to give me my Novice Class exam. I had taught myself the code and all the needed

theory, and simply needed a test administrator. Mom and I lived with my grandparents, and my Grandma Dorothy Greig (yes, small world) called a friend of an old friend from high school, remembering that he knew a local ham.

That resulted in a call to Grandma from George Prostinak, W8LBI, and she arranged for the exam. My mother did not drive, so George was kind enough to come pick me up at my grandparents’ house and took me to a piece of heaven, his ham shack at his home on top of a very high hill in Mozart, WV. This was the first ham shack I had ever seen, and I was blown away by the Collins gear inside and a huge beam atop a wooden utility pole in the backyard. Here’s a photo of that shack, EXACTLY as I remembered it from that day.



We got right down to business on the Novice exam. George sent me CW faster and faster, fairly amazed that I had developed good speed studying on my own. This was the first time I had actually ever heard CW, having studied only the dot and dash patterns on paper. He then opened the sealed written exam envelope from the FCC, let me take the exam, and stuffed it back into the envelope with his proctoring certification. Thus began the two month wait to find out if I had passed.

Then came the fun – he fired up the KWS-1 and 75A4 and pumped out a couple of CQs, quickly resulting in a contact with a W0 in St. Louis. I got to talk on the shiny D-104 mic and was then totally smitten, as were we all following similar experiences. The linear glowed orange, smelled hot, the meters bounced and jumped, and I was in love.

Fast forward to March 2021, and I received an E-mail from Laco, OK1AD, pictured on the next page.



OK1AD

Laco was writing a book about notable Czechoslovakian ham operators, had seen my thanks to W8LBI on my QSL card, and contacted me for material about George for his book. I sent him everything I knew about George, but regrettably had no photos. Several weeks later, Laco sent me a copy of an article he had written for the Czech amateur radio magazine. It contained a story about George and photos of him visiting his native Czechoslovakia. See

<http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/W8LBI.article.by.OK1AD.april.2021.pdf>

Interestingly, that article also has a photo of a Knight T-50, the precise transmitter I started out with, and which George repaired for me on a later visit to his shack. We lost touch, and I don't know when George became a Silent Key. And, of course, I did indeed pass the Novice exam that day 58 years ago in George's shack, weeks later opening the envelope with trembling hands to discover that my new name was WN8KUW.

Loss of a Signal Point Friend

Over the years some of you were fortunate enough to have met Jo Frigger (next column), owner of House #4 down the street from Signal Point.



Joachim Frigger, CEO of Emo-Trans

Jo passed away unexpectedly on April 19 at 80, and Zoom forwarded me a tearful voicemail from his wife, Karin, the next morning. He was so busy that I spent limited time with him these past 20 years, but in each encounter it was clear that he was a delightful, kind, people-loving man. Most recently I had swapped a couple of E-mails and chatted in a couple of phone calls with Jo in late 2020 as we worked to try to restore Internet connectivity at his house on the island. We talked of life in that last phone call, and he said that he planned to work full tilt until the day he died, loving nothing more than working at the company he had founded, and of which he was still CEO. Retirement was of zero interest to him.

That company is Emo-Trans, a global freight forwarder and logistics company. See the link below.

<https://www.emotrans-global.com/>

This is a giant corporation with offices in 120 countries. A German by birth, Jo had been in the U.S. for decades running the USA arm of Emo-Trans, and preferred Naples, Florida, for his stateside home. He once told me that he had seven homes around the globe, most preferring his place in Santiago, Chile as the best place to live. The Curacao house was almost always empty, and he did kindly rent it to us a couple of times when I needed ham radio bedrooms prior to the Moran house becoming available.

Jo and Karin have been fabulously generous to Zoom, our Signal Point "caretaker" and my very close friend for two decades, feeding him a steady stream of aid and even buying a new Toyota pickup truck for him a few years back.

Four years ago, after years and years of persuasion, Karin finally got Zoom off the island, the first time in his life he had left Curacao. (He had been terrified to

fly.) He and Karin flew to JFK and spent time at their home on Long Island, then went down to Naples for a few more days. I was so amazed that Zoom had agreed to this trip that I went to the airport to see with my own eyes that he actually departed. That was Zoom's first look at snow and the outside world. He has not left Curacao since!

I know both of Jo's children Sven and Jenny, and it's unlikely that either of them will want to have anything to do with the Curacao house. Jo's XYL Karin is in poor health so it is not clear that she will be keeping the house either. Farewell to a very fine gentleman.

Commander Amp Waits Patiently in Iowa

You may recall that NR0X donated his Commander HF-2500 amplifier to CCC in February of 2020.



Since then our challenge has been to get it to PJ2T. Twice Jason has planned to bring it to Dayton from Iowa and, of course, twice the Hamvention has been cancelled. Most recently I had planned to stop through Eastern Iowa on my drive from Idaho to Ohio next week, but I ended up cancelling that in favor of flying.

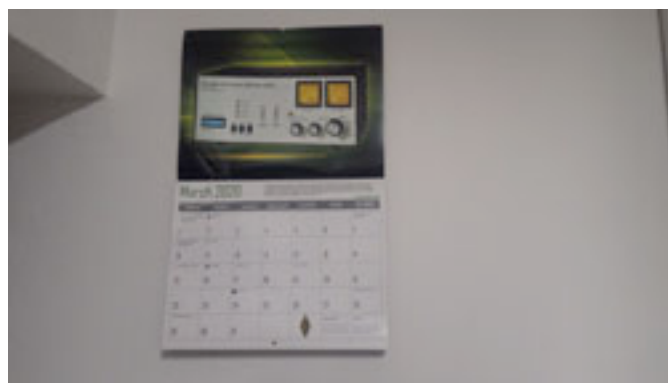
Jason has gotten the correct AC power plug for it (PJ2T compliant) and assured me last week that the amp is still waiting patiently to go to Ohio. My plan now is to pick it up in August as I drive east to Ohio. Then I'll disassemble it, put the RF deck into our CCC hard sided shipping box, and ship it and the transformer and the tubes separately to Miami to be forwarded to Curacao for arrival in October.

This is a magnificent gift to the club. It uses the same tubes as the LK-800 and Titan 425, of which we have on-site spares, and will comfortably make full output of 1500 watts, our first such amplifier at PJ2T. THANK YOU NR0X!

Portraying the Long Time Away

The before and after photos below say it all. Here's the calendar stuck on March 2020 as we found it upon arriving at Signal Point on February 15, and the new

one for February 2021 that we immediately put up in its place. This was a very long period of time when none of us set foot in the QTH, and no RF was radiated. Now we're back at it full bore.



PJ2T License Renewed

We finally got it! The renewed PJ2T club license (next page) arrived on April 19. It's a five year renewal. As you saw in last month's newsletter, it seemed that the E-mails, phone calls, and even on-site inspection procedures for this renewal would never end. But I remained patient and so did Ms. Jovanka Roosburg-Bloeiman at Bureau Telecommunicatie, and we got through the complicated bureaucratic procedure together.



Keyer Paddle: Do you have a surplus paddle lying around after you bought a snazzy Begali or Kent paddle? We have no spares left at Signal Point. Every Bencher paddle is obligated for service, all are in declining condition, and some are dead shot. Do you have a CW paddle that you can donate to the station?



Handbook: W8TK donated an *ARRL Handbook* years ago, but it's now over 15 years outdated. It seems that we should have a fresh copy of the newest one on our reference shelf at PJ2T. It would be well-used and well-loved down there.



Finally, as you know, we are hoping to acquire one or two more K3 transceivers. 3.5 of our five K3s were donated to the station, and that sure would be a nice trend to continue. Remember that

you can also place equipment on long term loan to PJ2T, and retain ownership, as did K8ND with his KPA-500 amplifier.

CCC Golf Shirts on Order

I received 10 orders altogether for PJ2T shirts. I ordered the blank shirt stock on May 7, in the proper colors and sizes. As soon as I return to Idaho on June 2 I will get those to the local embroiderer and put them in the mail to you as soon as the shop can get them done. They are backed up at present because of end of school year orders from our two Coeur d Alene high schools.

Extraordinary N2TTL History from Coral Cliff

In April I was stunned to receive this E-mail from N2TTL. For three years Jay was hands-on helping Chester Brandon build the Coral Cliff Hotel. He even lived in the old maintenance building (our former PJ2T "hardware store" across the road. Please take a moment to read Jay's wonderful story. His adventures make all of our everyday lives sound pretty tame. – Ed.

I read with interest your piece in the January 2021 issue of QST "PJ2 Celebrates 20 Years." I had already quite by accident run across online your article in the May 2018 issue of CQ Communications about Chet Brandon and the old Coral Cliff Hotel in Curacao. Well, I just had to email you and let you know what a small world it is.

I'm Jay Elliott, N2TTL, retired in south Florida 17 years. But I wasn't N2TTL in 1960 when I first met Chet Brandon. I was a 25 year old volunteer diver on a 90' archaeological research vessel sitting in San Juan fitting out for a voyage to Israel. Looking for adventure. There were a dozen of us on board, and there was Chet, the guy at the top of the mast rigging a wire of some sort. No doubt a dipole. Chet was a ham, and our radio operator for the voyage. We became friends. One night in mid-Atlantic he patched me in to my girlfriend in Austin. That was exciting and my first experience ever with ham radio. Chet apparently worked for the wealthy industrialist vessel owner and had been "borrowed" for the voyage. I forget whether Chet got off the ship in Gibraltar or Haifa. But he was gone and I remained with the ship 1962 or early 1963 when I left with nowhere to go! Somehow I got in touch with one of the ship's engineers who had left the ship earlier and was working for a guy who was building a small hotel in Curacao and would be glad to have me join up. What guy? You know him, Chet, the guy with the radio on

the Sea Diver. I'm your man, I said. I flew from Europe to Miami and as per instructions arrived on board a 1936 built 63 foot yacht, rotten to the core, that Chet had just bought and planned to sail to Curacao with his brother Bill , me and Paul. I had just become the employee of Chet Brandon. Paul and I had to get the boat in shape for the voyage over the next few weeks. Chet finally showed up with brother Bill and we sailed. We actually made it to Curacao.

For the next three years worked at the Coral Cliff Hotel, working, eating and fishing with Chet until we had the hotel in shape to receive the first guests. Hard work in the sun, no doubt. In the beginning I lived on the property in the workshop on the east end of the property, towards your Signal Point. Chet bought a 40' boat built in Holland that we rigged for offshore big game fishing. I ran that. I knew nothing about ham radio. I don't remember ever seeing Chet on the air or an antenna anywhere on the property, but there could have been. I guess he had his local call sign. That was near the beginning of PJ2T I guess. Sometime on a hot day in 1966 Chet and I had a falling out over the ethics of big game fishing. I left the island shortly after that for new adventures. I never saw Chet again. In your article you state that after he lost Coral Cliff he went on to other enterprises in the low latitudes. I would love to hear more about that if you know. I became good friends with his son Michael.

Fast forward to 1977, New York State, a few miles north of NYC. I have a real job now, married for the second time and interested in CB. In the early 90's I passed my first ham license test. Later moved up to Extra. In September 2001 as I sat in my office in lower Manhattan drinking coffee looking out the window I happen to see the big jet slam into World Trade One and parts of it come out the other side. In 2003 I retired and we came to south Florida. I put up a horizontal sloping rectangle over my pool with wire length for 40 meters. I talk to the world with it on CW. Many times I have answered contesting calls from your station on Signal Point, just a few hundred yards from where I spent every day for three years with Chet Brandon. I'm 85 now.

Then came Sunset Waters. Like Coral Cliff It died and now lies in vandalized ruin. I understand some locals plan to build a really big operation at Coral Cliff. Soon. A ten year project. I wonder if it too will die? Very remote out there. Tourists don't like it. It too may die. But in the meantime it could overflow into your back yard from the sound of it. Very nice talking with you, Geoff. Brings back lots of memories. 73, Jay

The PJ2T Anniversary Glasses

As you'll recall, N7WA designed commemorative beer glasses for our 20 year anniversary, had a bazillion of them made, donated \$1000 for them, and then KAFLOOIE. Instead of handing hundreds of them out as gifts in the Dayton Contest suites in May of 2020 they ended up piled up in my house in Ohio. I was able to fill some of your orders for these, the small quantities, from my condo in Idaho. A couple of you ordered a lot of them and are still waiting patiently.

I arrived at the W0CG Ohio house on May 12 after 15 months away to find this mountain of PJ2T glasses in my dining room. There are 288 glasses here, awaiting distribution to some CCC members and to the contest community at large. Dayton 2022?



CCC 20th Anniversary glasses, 288 of them!

Member Spotlight? Missing

I invited three members to write themselves up for this issue. They must all be very shy.

K8ND Drone Photos

We close this issue with more fabulous K8ND drone photos from his recent trip. Signal Point awaits our return.



