



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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July 15, 2021

CCC Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 17

We're a couple of months late because of COVID-related discontinuities, but the annual meeting will be Saturday, the 17th at 4 PM Eastern time. We will be electing officers and discussing the upcoming plans for PJ2T operations. Here's hoping the 2022 meeting will happen at the Hamvention, in May, in person, but NOT in Crowne Plaza. That part of normal will never return, darn it.

Geoff Howard is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CCC Annual Meeting

Time: Jul 17, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8354776132?pwd=cll1N20wNTFIRWx5MERONmlrR2VBUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 477 6132

Passcode: 5YQXPg

PCR COVID Requirement Dropped for Curacao

Curacao will now accept a rapid antigen test no older than 24 hours for entry to the country from the U.S. No more 72 hour PCR requirement, thank goodness. Rapid antigen tests are available at the Miami airport inexpensively and with almost immediate results.

Upcoming Events: The Latest Outlook

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

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

CQWW SSB: I'm happy to announce that GM4AFF has confirmed, and has flight bookings in hand.



GM4AFF (Stewart) and W0CG at WRTC in Moscow, July 12, 2010.

Stewart is a highly accomplished contester who globetrots among contest locations, and we're fortunate that he has decided to alight at PJ2T this coming October.

We're also excited that Jon Kimball (KL2A) and his friend Rich (NN3W) have indicated that they will join the CQWW SSB team. Jon lives down the road from me in Coeur d Alene but never stays put for long, seeming to circle the globe several times each year. Jon's schedule is somewhat unpredictable, and he has signed on with us before, never showing up, so our fingers are crossed that we will see him and Rich at Signal Point.

If everyone makes it to the island, our WW SSB operator list will be W0CG, ND8L, VE4GV, GM4AFF, N2BA+Eve, KL2A, and NN3W. Three beds remain. We have confirmed rental of the Moran pool house. See

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

CQWW CW: N2BA signed on recently to work the CW contest in addition to his already planned commitment to the SSB team. Brooke and his XYL Eve (and possibly kids) will stay off site and make a vacation of it, and he will come in to operate on the weekend. Three beds remain for the code contest: two in the Signal Point West Bedroom and one in the Moran pool house Queen Bedroom.

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

The CW team presently consists of W0CG, N7IR, VE3CX, K9DR, W9NJY, NA2U, WI9WI+KA9DOC (hopefully), and N2BA. NA2U has flights booked.

ARRL 160 and 10 Meter Contests (December): W0CG and Dorothy will be on site to host you. If nobody is brave enough to show up, W0CG will again run 10 meters as a single op.

CQ 160 CW (2022): Hopefully K8ND and W8WTS.

ARRL DX CW: Our favorite February event will include W0CG, W9NJY, hopefully W9VA, and all other seats are still wide open. It will be sad to run this contest without our beloved friends Keith and Marty, but they sure will never be forgotten. Can you join us in February 2022?

ARRL DX SSB: N1ZZ and his PCARS (Melbourne, FL) group plan to return again, including our newest CCC members K5LD and K4JC. This contest is open to anyone else interested. K8PGJ will hopefully be on hand. Others?

CQ WPX SSB: As you will read below, there is a possibility, presently only in the vaguest stage of planning, that I may be able to get several ops from my home club, the Spokane DX Association, to man this contest. Can you sign up? We have the Moran pool house reserved and Dorothy will still be on site in late March.

W9NJY Rejoins CCC

I'm very happy to welcome Dr. Andy Catanzaro, W9NJY, back to CCC membership. Andy originally signed on with CCC in 2013, then his attention was diverted by a series of major life events. Things have stabilized now, and he will soon retire from a life of practice as an Internal Medicine M.D., freeing time for a return to ham radio contesting and more work

designing and building high end custom audio amplifiers.



W9NJY running QRP at Signal Point, February 20, 2013

In addition to being a crack CW contester, Andy is an accomplished engineer. He designed, built, and then donated the 5 KW remote antenna switch system that controls our Ridge antennas, all of which have worked perfectly for many years. You will see him at Signal Point both in November and again at ARRL CW in February of 2022. Welcome back to Andy, andycatan73@gmail.com.

Are You Thirsty for Another Beverage?

We have all the needed materials on site to install one more Beverage antenna. There's 1000 feet of antenna wire, a termination resistor, and over 1000 feet of RG-6 feedline at Signal Point. Connecting an additional Beverage RX antenna to the shack will be easy because of the distribution box across the road that we installed in October, 2019.



RX antenna feedline box across the road

This white box feeds the Ridge US/JA Beverage and contains three spare RG-6 runs to the shack, very easy to connect.

The present suite of RX antennas at PJ2T includes a 1000 foot Beverage oriented on Europe, and an 880 foot Beverage for the U.S. hidden high on the Ridge safe from bulldozers and other intruders. For weekends we also have the ability to put up the DXE four-square in the “flats” west of the house and connect it into the shack. Besides that, it is a pretty quick job to install a 1000 foot Beverage pointed at the U.S. alongside the water’s edge. That “lower” Beverage hears the States a bit differently than the one high on the Ridge, and that diversity is sometimes of value.



Feedpoint of the “upper” US/JA Beverage

So the question becomes: What else? We could place another permanent Beverage high above the QTH oriented east, or southeast, or even south. As I said, all the parts we’d need are on hand except for splitters and filter chokes. What are your thoughts and wishes?

Looking Toward WPX SSB 2022

As always, CCC members have absolute priority on contest seats for all events at PJ2T. Normally, though, it is very difficult to fully fill each contest with CCC members only. For some reason this late March event is particularly difficult to staff.

Please I need some idea of your level of interest in WPX SSB 2022. If CCC member interest is low, I am going to offer to my home club, the Spokane DX Association, an opportunity to come to the WPX SSB event in late March. For many of those guys, this would be a training opportunity – the first time operating overseas. For others, it might be a lifetime bucket list trip.



If, however, CCC interest is high, or if one of you would like to bring ops from your club group as N1ZZ does for ARRL SSB, then I won’t extend an invitation to the Spokane guys. Let me know?

N7IR Shipment to Ohio

Thanks in advance to Gary for shipping, in early August, two Tailtwister rotors and control boxes, an Autek WM-1 wattmeter, and some other goodies to my QTH in Ohio. He has secured all of these as donations to the station. BRAVO and thanks to N7IR.



Dorothy and I will arrive in Ohio on August 29 after a long trek from Idaho and prep these items from Gary for shipment onward to the island.

Ocean Shipment: September

We will be doing a small ocean shipment to Curacao in September. Items planned include:

- Commander HF-2500 amplified donated by NR0X. Dorothy and I will pick this up from

Jason in Eastern Iowa on our way east from Idaho. This will be in our CCC white hard case from W9NJY (SK).

- Separate box (a CCC Cabbage Case from W8TK) containing the power transformer from above, and a separate section with the tubes inside, extremely triple padded.
- Two Tailtwisters and control boxes, and an Autek WM-1.
- Custom blinds for the Signal Point East Sunroom.
- Custom splint kit for Rohn 45 tower leg swage.
- Bencher paddles, Scotch 33 tape, our new Sala climbing harness and accessories.
- New lawn mower, drop-shipped to the freight forwarder from a Miami local supplier. (Mowers on the island are \$875!)

Since these items are all fairly small, we will package them so that they can be shipped conventionally via Fed Ex to Miami. Avoiding truck freight greatly simplifies the process of ocean shipping. You may recall that in 2018 N5OT and Kathy drove a huge shipment from my Ohio house to Miami. In 2019 my son drove our freight to Miami in his minivan, somehow managing his two year old son in the process of that long round trip. Our 2021 shipment, just a few boxes, will be much simpler. From Miami, our freight forwarder will do the paperwork and turn the fragments over to the ocean carrier, and we'll pick it all up at Caribbean Cargo Services in Curacao in late October.



If you have anything you'd like to get to the island, such as a pallet of donated K3s or Alpha linears, this is a good opportunity to add that freight onto this planned shipment.

Bencher Paddle Arrives from W1FJ

Al (W1FJ) is among the CCCers who reacted to my plea for some newer Bencher paddles. Here's that package as it arrived in Idaho. Thanks Al, and this will make the road trip to Ohio and be included in with the ocean freight.



Scotch 33 Gift from NA2U

Here are more goodies that have arrived here in Idaho recently, this tape courtesy of NA2U. Scotch 33+ is about as important a consumable at Signal Point as are beer and PL-259s, and we're grateful to Fred.



CCC Year 22 Membership Cycle Progress Report

As of July 14, 16 members have renewed for Year 22. DL8OBQ renewed for two years. Three of our members (K5LD, K4JC, N2BA) joined a couple of months ago. This leaves five yet to be heard from. These dues are the financial foundation of everything we do in CCC, so I'm hoping to hear from these remaining five. Please remember that it is perfectly fine to handle dues quarterly. Thanks to everyone for keeping the PJ2T miracle going.

K7ID Field Day

After 13+ years living in Coeur d Alene I finally broke down and joined the city's closest ham club, the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. See <http://www.k7id.org>. This is a very large (about 130 members) and active group presently led by Ed Stuckey, formerly Idaho's SCM. I badly miss the sound of signals and even QRN, and had not been to a Field Day for over a decade, so I visited the K7ID site last month. They had built an excellent setup, professionally administered, with a check-in tent, a hospitality tent, three stations (operating in 2A), and a lot of very welcoming people. My biggest thrill was meeting Quint Webb, W7CQW (photo).



Quint Webb, W7CQW, formerly A9XBB and VQ9QW.

Quint is a retired Navy Commander, rising to that grade after being an enlisted Chief Radioman. He's one of KARS' CW wizards, and I much enjoyed watching him sit down with a straight key and effortlessly start running Field Day CW QSOs. He's the kind of classic gentleman who makes me proud to be a ham.

Vaccinated CCCers

W0CG and Dorothy, N1ZZ, K8IV, K9DR, K8ND, N7IR, VA7AM and Gill, W19WI and KA9DOC, W9NJY, N7WA, N2BA and N2GSG, VE3CX, K4JC, W8WTS, K0MD. Who else might I add to this list? This is a courtesy to all CCCers so that we can feel comfortable and safe contesting together in Curacao.

QSL Woes

It's small potatoes in this world of tragedy and hardship, but I continue to receive QSL cards that amaze me. Here's (next page) one for PJ2/AF4Z that the operator somehow decided to send to my Idaho address by direct mail. I responded immediately via direct, along with a brief note on why these cards should go to the actual operators who made the contacts.



A sample of the amazing QSL cards that land in my Idaho mailbox, inexplicably.

Climbing Harness for PJ2T

Thanks to the generous gift of \$800 from VE3CX we now have a beautiful new professional climbing harness and some accessories for it. This will be the first time we have ever had a proper commercial professional climbing harness on site, and it will help me to work much, much more comfortably and safely. I may still use the old one for painting so as not to wreck this new one, but for all other work the new harness will be perfect.

I solicited advice from W3YQ, the tower professional who replaced our Europe tower in 2018, and from W8WTS, who knows everything about everything, and they both recommended the same thing. If you're curious, see

<https://www.gmesupply.com/dbi-sala-exofit-xp-tower-climbing-harness> .

With tax and a couple of important accessories, such as the fall arrest lanyard and a couple others it totaled \$880, an excellent value for the safety and comfort it will provide. The harness has excellent padding, only weighs nine pounds, and you can sit in it comfortably while hanging on the tower. The photo is from the balcony of our Idaho condo.



If you can fit into a size Medium, you'll be welcome to give it a whirl on your next trip south. THANK YOU VE3CX!!

W8WTS' Treasury Balance

W8WTS has been vacationing in the far West, so we'll have an updated end of July balance for you in the August newsletter. It will be up, up, and up, however, thanks to posting of dues received thus far.

CCC Golf Shirts: Shipped

My local embroiderer finished the new CCC shirts on June 15. Dorothy put them in the mail to you (photo next page) on the 17th. They did the usual excellent job, but you will want to wash and then iron them because the embroidering process crumples them up pretty badly. The dark pink lettering does not contrast as well with the light pink shirts as I had hoped, but they are satisfactory.

