



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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Thanks SM4KYN

A big note of appreciation to Anders (SM4KYN) for his unsolicited donation of \$200 toward a new Signal Point lawn mower. He knows as well as anyone how awful the legacy mower is, having wrestled with it for many years on his Christmas stays at the QTH. It still runs, but we both have had to nurse it along for a very long time.

I intended to pick up a new mower on the island in March, but I could only find one in stock anywhere on the island (at Dijthman), and the price on that one was Naf1 1500 (\$857.14). This was a very basic low-end mower of the sort we can get in the States for about \$220.



It will be cheaper, even after paying ocean freight and processing and duty, to ship one to the island from Miami. Anders' contribution is a huge and surprising help!

Outcome of CCC Annual Meeting July 17

At one point we had 18 in the CCC Annual Meeting Zoom session. To me, the most treasured part of this was some moments of silence as we remembered with thanks the great times we shared with NP2L, WA9S, and K2PLF. I can scarcely believe that these great friends have departed.



K8ND captured this official photo of the 2021 meeting. Top: W0CG, K8ND, W8WTS, VE3CX. Second from Top: N7WA, KB7Q, W8PT, K4JC. Third Row Down: KY7M, NA2U, N1ZZ, N7IR. Bottom Row: N5OT, K9DR, W9VA, NR0X.

K8ND was elected CCC President, and KB7Q and W8WTS kindly agreed to continue as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. We are grateful for Jeff's willingness to serve, and are very optimistic that the club and the PJ2T operations will recover strongly from this COVID disaster of the past year and a half.

PJ2T Assets Are Heading East

Dorothy and I will get on the road on August 25 from North Idaho with lots of PJ2T goodies on board. We'll add that stuff to what's already in Ohio and send off the ocean shipment from there.

Along the way we plan to visit with KB7Q and Joyce in Bozeman on the 25th, K0MD in Rochester on the 27th, and stop at NR0X to pick up the Commander amp in Eastern Iowa the next day. Then we'll do a quick stop at WB9Z in Eastern Illinois on the 29th before pressing on to the Ohio QTH. Geoff's Kent State classes begin on August 31, and this year we will have in person class meetings (with masks).

While in Ohio we hope to see W8PT, ND8L, W8AV, W8WTS, K8AZ, K3LR, K8MFO, K4LT, and others who have been connected with CCC over these long years.

Photos from all of these visits will provide some good material for the September 15 newsletter.

Curacao COVID Travel Update

Here is the latest from

<https://www.curacao.com/en/article/travel-updates>

(Notice that the rapid antigen test, which is very quick, cheap, and available at the Miami airport, is acceptable to enter Curacao.) The third day after arrival the rapid antigen test is very easy to get, and is only \$20.

High Risk Countries: Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Belgium, Bonaire, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, French Guiana, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Luxemburg, Portugal, Saint Martin + Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, US Virgin Islands

Travelers departing from any of these countries must take these 4 mandatory steps:

- 1. Complete the digital immigration card online before departure.*
- 2. Digitally fill out the Passenger Locator Card (PLC) 48 hours prior to your departure and carry a printed document of proof with you.*
- 3. Each visitor entering Curaçao will need to show a negative result from a certified COVID-19 PCR-test taken at most 72 hours before your flight to Curaçao or a negative result from an antigen test taken at most 24 hours before your flight to Curaçao. You will need to carry a printed document of proof with you. You will be required to upload the negative test results of the COVID-19 PCR-test on dicardcuracao.com before departure.*
- 4. 3rd day on-island Antigen test. All passengers departing from these countries are required to undergo an Antigen test at a local laboratory on the 3rd day in Curaçao. The reservation and payment of the 3rd day antigen test is part of the PLC process. Please [click here](#) for more information.*

Rapid antigen tests are available at the Miami airport inexpensively and with almost immediate results.

I found reference to this on the CDC FAQ page: [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/faq/requirement-for-proof-of-negative-covid-19-test-or-recovery-from-covid-19-for-all-air-passengers-arriving-in-the-united-states).

Please see also

<https://www.divecuracao.info/dive-news/dive-curacao-update-coronavirus-on-curacao/> .

This describes some light additional measures imposed on August 13, including curfew from midnight to 4:30 AM, and a requirement to wear masks in grocery and hardware and some other stores. That will be re-evaluated in three weeks.

All of these measures are reasonable and logistically very do-able. We will discuss all of this in the next CCC Zoom, yet to be scheduled. Dorothy and I have perfected our techniques for getting in and out of Curacao, and we will share these on the Zoom. It's much easier than it appears from the guidance you may be reading.

Here's the Latest DX Idaho License Plate



July 21, 2021, spotted on a Coeur d Alene street. But QRZ.com says there is no such person in France.

Upcoming Events: The Latest Outlook

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

October 14: Geoff and Dorothy arrive October 13. DL8OBQ arrives on the 14th to operate the Worked All Germany contest, hosted by Geoff and Dorothy.

CQWW SSB: We now have solid confirmations and flight bookings for Jon (KL2A) and Rich (NN3W). Thus our team now consists of GM4AFF, ND8L, VE4GV, W0CG, KL2A, NN3W, and N2BA+Eve. That leaves three beds available for additional

operators. In late July I paid the remaining balance due on the Moran pool house both for this week and for the WW CW week. Now we are committed.

Below are some very good reasons why you should join us for CQWW SSB. This is Chef Ray's (ND8L) draft meal plan.

Tuesday night... Mac & Cheese w/ham, stewed tomatoes and green beans

Wednesday night... Gumbo & Rice / Cole Slaw

Thursday night... Coq au Vin (fancy chicken stew) tomato/green pepper & onion salad

Friday night ... Ray's beer Chile & corn bread

Saturday night ... Italian Beef Sandwiches & tossed salad (buffet style for the contest)

Sunday night (post contest)... Burgers & dogs on the grill ... I'll make potato salad & cut up some cold veggies, carrots/celery/peppers/olives/etc & dip

Monday night ... Cold cuts for sandwiches and/or BLTs and Shrimp/crab/fish chowder (depending what's available)

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

CQWW CW: Because N2BA and his family will be staying off site, 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 is W0CG, N7IR, VE3CX, K9DR, W9NJY, NA2U, WI9WI+KA9DOC (hopefully), and N2BA. NA2U and W0CG have flights booked.

WA7LNW, VA3WB, and AA7A are seriously considering joining us for WW CW.

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.

Comments and Suggestions on RX Antennas

Last month we asked for your ideas and wishes for one more receiving antenna, given that all the materials for one are on hand at the QTH. No responses.



Transformer and common mode choke for US/JA Ridge Beverage

Rotors and Autek Have Arrived in Ohio

Huge thanks to N7IR for shipping two Tailtwisters and control boxes to the W0CG Ohio QTH. I'll send them on to Curacao from there in late September. There's also a much needed Autek WM-1 wattmeter in that grouping.

Looking Toward WPX SSB 2022

Interest in WPX SSB 2022 has been low among CCC, so I am presently talking with K4UEE to see if he can put together another Georgia Invasion, as has been done several times for this contest in past years. Bob is pretty sure he can assemble a team, so we wait. This event is as always 100% open to any and all CCCers. K8PGJ? VA7AM?

If the Georgia group opts out I am going to offer the contest to my home club, the Spokane DX Association,

as mentioned above. This will be an opportunity to come to the island as a training trip.

Ocean Shipment: September



Updated shipping list:

- 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.
- Repaired Tailtwister from my Idaho garage.
- Custom new 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!)
- Lots of miscellaneous Signal Point and PJ2T housekeeping assets.



The W0CG ocean shipment staging garage in Ohio.

CCC Year 22 Membership Cycle Progress Report

As of August 14, we have not yet heard from four of our members.

Update on Feedline Maintenance

Nil.

Yep, that's right, zero. This was exactly our objective in going to all-Heliox for all of our transmit feedlines. No problems, no maintenance, no headaches, no repairs. The null set. This was a hugely successful project. A big thanks to all who helped, who made donations, and particularly to VE3CX for picking up a huge coil of feedline in Quincy, Illinois enroute to Dayton. (Remember Dayton?)



Crawford the cat attacking one of the coils of Heliox from the ocean shipment, November 15, 2019.

Debugging Signal Point

Our island friend Anthony and his son again sprayed the perimeter around the house on August 7 to keep the bugs under control. Later that day I saw Crawford the cat (above) on the security cameras chowing down on the East Porch. I hope he didn't eat any chemicals!

Vaccinated CCCers

W0CG and Dorothy, N1ZZ, K8IV, K9DR, K8ND, N7IR, VA7AM and Gill, WI9WI and KA9DOC, W9NJY, N7WA, N2BA and N2GSG, VE3CX, K4JC, W8WTS, K0MD, W8PT, N7NR, KB7Q and Joyce, K8PGJ, ND8L. Drop me an E-mail if you'd like me to add you to this list.

W8WTS' Treasury Balance

The end of July balance reported by Treasurer W8WTS is 6678.46. This reflects dues revenue, and will be used partially to support the costs of the October ocean shipment. We're very grateful to Jim for agreeing to serve another term.

Internet Is Fixed at Signal Point

We got back online on July 16. On the 14th Zoom and Brett and I got together on WhatsApp. Zoom had a friend with him at Signal Point who knew what he was doing, and he quickly found that the DSL modem was literally toast, burned blackish and smelling like hot plastic. End of life. This device is supplied by the local telecomm provider, Flow LLC. (Flow replaced UTS last year, badly.)

Zoom and our new friend Michael Demei went to the Flow office, stomped and shouted, and got them to give us a new modem rather than awaiting arrival of a serviceman at the house.



Here's our new modem, on the lamp table by the bathroom in the East Bedroom.

We believe this to be a Huawei HG-659. K8ND has found the manual online, and Michael managed to get us the secret password from his friends at the phone company.

Since the two Foscam cameras were connected to that toasted MODEM, they will not be online until we can get someone (probably me) to the QTH to set up port

forwarding for the Ocean Pavilion and Signal Point Backyard cameras. All five Ring cameras run off the ASUS MODEM in the shack, so they all came back up normally when the internet came back up.

We owe PJ2BR a great big thank you for coordinating all of this by phone from his home in Miami. He served as Papiamentu translator between me and Zoom.

W0CG's First Condominium QSO

It may not seem like a big deal to you, but it's huge for me. After 5.5 years in this hyper-restricted condo and lots of political maneuvering and then collecting together of equipment, I made my first QSO August 6. After getting things more or less wired up and working, I fired off a couple of CQs on 20 CW, expecting nothing. To my vast astonishment I was called by NI4E, Boone, N.C. Eric gave me a 579 with the roof 80 meter dipole, tuned feeders through the Johnson Matchbox, and 500 watts from the AL-80 that has been on the shelf here for 12+ years.

The problem is that I could barely copy him through the local electrical noise, and made a mess of the contact. Still, that's a starting point for me. W0CG/7 is now chasing WAS all over again, one down and 49 to go, and also chasing sources of local EMI. If not for the wall of S9 EMI I would be seriously on the air here right now. This RBN shot shows that I'm being heard.

The RBN map is coming back!

A beta version of RBN maps is available for general use at: beta.reversebeacon.net/dxsd1/dxsd1.php?f=45, which indicates RTTY mode.

show/hide my last filters

no filter selected, showing all spots

search spot by callsign

de	dx	freq	cq/dx	snr
OH6ZQ	G4TPJ	3555.3	CW CQ	13 dB
W3UA	KP4AA	21010.1	CW CQ	28 dB
3V8SS	KP4AA	21010.1	CW CQ	24 dB
KM3T-2	KP4AA	21010.0	CW CQ	12 dB
IK3STG	SV1QEK	10117.0	CW CQ	8 dB
SM7IUN	SV1QEK	10117.0	CW CQ	20 dB
WC2L	KP4AA	21010.0	CW CQ	16 dB
W2AXR	KP4AA	21010.1	CW CQ	13 dB
N6TV	W0CG/7	14012.8	CW CQ	16 dB
WA7LHW	WB5USB	10105.0	CW CQ	5 dB
WA7LHW	W0CG/7	14012.8	CW CQ	11 dB
F4VSQ	DR50AGCW	14028.1	CW CQ	41 dB
W6YX	W0CG/7	14012.8	CW CQ	34 dB
DD5XX	SV1QEK	10117.0	CW CQ	8 dB
N4TVC	W0ECS	14035.0	CW CQ	1 dB



W0CG/7 in the mechanical attic, 6th floor of our condo building. The ladder line by my head goes out to the roof through an existing conduit and weatherhead to a 135 foot flattop only a couple of feet above the roof shingles.

A Shocking Pleasant Surprise

There were three invoices in my E-mail on August 8 from Fatum Guardian Insurance in Curacao. Each year I renew our three separate coverages in September, and each year it is a nightmare of phone calls, E-mails, and lost payments to try to get them to send me the invoices electronically. This year things worked RIGHT for the first time in the last 10 years or so. They sent the invoices, and I made the three payments without ever having to get out of my chair in Idaho.



CCC Member Spotlight: Dave Heumann, N7NR

Greetings,

I am Dave, N7NR, and so far as I know the newest member of the CCC. Of course I have worked the iconic PJ2T station many times over the years, but I never fully appreciated the rich history of the station until I viewed an extremely impressive video presentation by Geoff in approximately April. Then instantly I knew I wanted to try to be involved in any

way possible with such an outstanding station and group. I could not be happier to be involved and hope to be a helpful member.

Speaking of which, Geoff informed me a few days ago that the first way I could be helpful would be to write a ham bio for this newsletter. I knew my bio would be boring compared to most others, but I was not about to refuse Geoff's first request!

Since first becoming licensed as a WA0 in the mid-sixties as a teenager I have been passionate about ham radio, especially contesting and DXing. During my high school days it would be a gross understatement to say I spent more time hamming than studying. As a result my high school academic record was quite unnoteworthy!

Luckily for me my best friend at that time was not only a ham but also a serious student (he went on to medical school) and he was one year ahead of me in school so I was able to see that he studied diligently in his first year of college. So, in a rare instance of rational, long term decision making, I sold all of my ham equipment in the summer before my first year at college. The decision whether or not to continue hamming and hopefully do well in some contests, but as a result probably flunking out of college my first year, was a close one for me. Fortunately, I made what was the right choice for me. (Unlike many hams, my college courses were not technical in nature so there was no way I could rationalize staying heavily engaged in hamming.)

I continued to be rigless through my college and post-graduate education and until I was able to buy a house in Phoenix (where I had taken a job to escape the mid-western weather). While in Phoenix, in very late 1977 I passed the Extra Class exam and chose the callsign N7NR because it was short on CW and therefore my first choice among the 1X2 calls then still available. Shortly thereafter I was back on the air, making up for a lost decade.

Well, I should clarify it wasn't a completely lost decade – I did meet and marry Linda, my wife of 43+ years. Fortunately for me, we got married just prior to my entry back into ham radio, so I suppose she did not really have full disclosure. 1978 was a great year to get back into the hobby as the SS cycle was ramping up big time. In October that year I operated in CQWW SSB as part of a MS effort at W7KW's big station just outside of Phoenix. In that contest there were a number of excellent ops, but two ops in particular have remained friends over the years: Ned, AA7A, who has

had a legendary career, and Rick, K7GM, who also loves contesting and has been serving for some years now as the Treasurer of the ARRL.

Within a few years after being married Linda and I concluded that Phoenix was too hot for too long a period, so we moved to Southern California where we have lived in the same house for four decades. By 1985 I had accumulated more than enough QSL cards to qualify for DXCC Honor Roll, so when a business trip presented the opportunity I visited ARRL HQ where Don Search checked my cards (which of course I carried on the plane with me).

By this point in my life I had come to realize that making good friends in the ham world, when all is said and done, is what I love the most about our hobby. As an example, Rick, K7GM, and I operated a contest together from a station in Hawaii in the mid-80s. It was so much fun we actually rationalized making an offer on a 4+ acre vacant parcel on Maui but that deal fell through. Rick and I still communicate frequently even though he ended up on the EC.

Fortunately I had a ham friend who lived on Maui and I talked him into letting me put up a tower there, so I was able to operate in contests from Hawaii usually twice a year for the rest of the 80s. My XYL also loved Hawaii but never quite understood why I would voluntarily spend most of a weekend in beautiful Hawaii contesting.

I think sometime around the very late 80s I had worked all of the then current DXCC countries, which was good timing because my life got a lot busier in the 90s (a daughter was born and a big promotion conspired to soak up my spare time). It was again clear, even to me, that I would need to put ham radio in abeyance if I wanted to responsibly meet these new obligations. As a result, I was virtually QRT for two decades, but at least my deferred gratification allowed me to retire at a younger than typical age.

It wasn't until 2012 (when my commitment to be a consultant to my former employer ended) that I was completely retired and able to get back into ham radio "full time". I knew that my small, noisy, city lot would not permit the kind of antennas necessary for serious contesting. Unable to talk my wife into moving to where acreages were affordable, I began researching remoting with a goal of setting up a remote station, either by myself or preferably with a few other hams.

In 2013 an already existing dream station on a mountaintop in Anza, CA came on the market due to the owner's death. A ham friend and I intended to submit a bid (at a small fraction of the original cost of the station) when it was put up for auction, but we were persuaded by another ham friend of mine, who was willing to live at the station, not to drive up the price by bidding. He promised us if he got the property in the auction we would be given access to operate the station remotely and I am happy to say he has more than lived up to his word. John, WA6TQT, has generously made his station available to a group now comprised of half a dozen of us who help support his station in various ways. BTW another member of the CA group, Axel, KI6RRN (aka NO6T), scored first in the world in the recent qualifying contests for WRTC using the Anza, CA station. I have learned a lot from Axel – he is a machine!

My next bit of good luck arrived a couple of years ago when Ned, AA7A, invited me to join the Top Band Club of Arizona, a now four person club that operates NA7TB, a station built lovingly by Milt Jensen (SK), which sports a full size 8 circle with an awesome ground system on Top Band. The two other members are Lee, KY7M, and Fred, NA2U, who you all know. All three of those guys are world class CW ops and truly outstanding individuals and I am crazy lucky to be part of their group. A phrase I use on the tennis court – "It's better to be lucky than good" -- seems to apply to me in ham radio as well. BTW Ned and I are currently partnering on a 6m EME station being built at the Safford, AZ remote station, so new adventures await.

In recent years as I turned back to more serious contesting my first focus was to get up to speed with the current logging software, particularly N1MM+ (but we also have used WinTest and DX Log). As for the actual contest operating, I found that my SSB contesting skills, such as they were, came back to me fairly naturally because I had mostly done SSB contesting during my half century of being a ham. On the other hand, I had not done a lot of serious CW contesting so that area has been a key focus of my efforts. I signed up for the Advanced Class of CWOps last Fall but due to a waitlist I did not get into the class until this Spring. The class was fun and it forced me to be diligent in practicing CW, thus resulting in my getting my CWOps member number 2N27 early this summer. Very recently I've been practicing in the CWTs and find it immensely enjoyable! Obviously I still have a considerable amount of ground to make up before I'm ready for operating a major CW contest at a station such as PJ2T, but I'm working hard on

improving and can honestly say I enjoy CW even more than SSB. In the meantime, I am hopeful an opportunity arises to operate a bit of SSB at PJ2T (either remotely, or when the COVID situation allows international travel to become more palatable, in person).

Aside from my focus on CW, I am enjoying many new facets of ham radio made possible by new technology. In addition to the stations I'm involved with in AZ and CA, which I remote into regularly, I've been able to do a bit of contesting from a few other great stations both in the USA and abroad. Just this Spring I arranged to use, remotely, a contest station in Croatia for the CQ WPX SSB contest where four of us intended to try a multi-single effort. Unfortunately, just days before the contest the amp there blew up. But one of the other members of our team for that contest -- which consisted of Mike, KC7V, Gerry, W1VE, and Cary, VE4EA -- was quite resourceful and just prior to the contest we were granted permission to remote into a station in Panama (the owner of which was a long time friend of one of our group members).

Joe Taylor's amazing WSJT-X has affected us all and has made it possible for me to engage in a number of new ham activities: (1) DXCC on Digital mode, (2) EME, and (3) as of this morning I completed my first meteor scatter and Q65 mode QSOs. Suffice it to say I have had a blast experiencing various aspects of our hobby made possible by new technologies and my retirement has exceeded my high expectations.

And yet, perhaps the best is still in the future! Certainly an opportunity to operate a bit from PJ2T, remotely or in person, would be a highlight of my ham career. Also, I hope to get to know more of the CCC members. From everything I've heard the membership is comprised of outstanding people. Having had the opportunity recently to talk to Geoff, who has quite obviously done an amazingly impressive job of managing the CCC and PJ2T, it does not surprise me that he has assembled so many high quality members. Let's just say I am humbled and excited to be a part of the CCC.

Well, if any reader actually made it this far, I will close by apologizing for leading such a boring life. Dit, dit.

VY 73, Dave, N7NR

More CCC Pictorial History



Station 1 in January, 2003.



The feedpoint end of the US/JA 15 meter monobander, January, 2003.



W0NB working on the LK-800, November 17, 2002.

