



Signals From The Point

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Curacao COVID Travel Requirements as of Mid-January

See <https://gobiernu.cw/corona-travel-to-curacao/> .

In response to Omicron, Curacao slightly ramped up the entry requirement, now requesting a PCR test no more than 48 hours before flying to the island. (In December they were accepting rapid antigen tests.) All the rest is unchanged. On your third day on Curacao it's still necessary to get a rapid antigen test. These are very quick and the charge is only \$20. Results are provided normally within 20 minutes via E-mail. Travelers who can prove they are vaccinated do not need this third day test, but they do NOT accept U.S. vaccination cards because they are too easy to spoof.

Use of Verify

Dorothy and I used Verify for the first time to return from Curacao in December. It does NOT yet work for travel into Curacao. It's slick and easy.

Verify is a smartphone application that you can download and use for free. The app walks you through a process that collects and verifies all of the needed documents for your destination country. Once that is done, airport check-in is super fast and easy because the officials simply glance at your Verify screen, see the green checkmark that means that you are approved, and on you go. Zero delay, zero paperwork.



Use of Verify is not required, but it does indeed streamline the check-in at the Curacao airport.

This software service was created by Daon, Inc., an identity assurance software company founded in Ireland. The Verify product is managed out of a headquarters office in Fairfax, Virginia. You can read much more about this at <https://financebuzz.com/verify> .

K3s Are Flying South

Our two new K3s will be airborne soon. N7IR will take one of them as a carry-on, and Andy, W9NJY, has kindly offered to take the second one down on his ARRL DX CW trip. Gary shipped that radio to Andy in early January. Thanks again to Gary for all his work managing and executing this purchase, and then updating the radios and running all the tests at his home workbench before sending them to the island. Gary donated parts as well. And of course a big, big thanks again to member N7NR for picking up the entire cost of one of these transceivers.

Spokane DX Association's Leader

My local club for the last 13+ years has been the Spokane DX Association. Like most such groups, the changes in our hobby have impacted this club dramatically. Mainstay old-school gentleman DXers such as KL7CQ (Wilse), WA7LT (Lamar), K7OX (Gary) and many other notables have become silent keys. As that has happened we've faced the necessity of recruiting newly licensed hams and gradually encouraging them to take up HF DXing and contesting.

In recent years a magnificent leader has emerged who has propelled this process of change, adaptation, and growth very skillfully. Mel Ming, N7GCO, has been "leading from the rear," not holding an office in the

club but steering it quietly and with a clear vision for the future.

I bought a couple of for sale items through Mel, such as a gorgeous used chrome Bencher paddle and a WinKeyer, and thus had occasion to visit his QTH in December. He's on high acreage in the pine trees south of Spokane.



Mel Ming, N7GCO, December 23, 2021

In real life Mel is a pastor, and he applies those congregational management skills aptly to our local ham club. I hope you're all lucky to have a leader like him in your own local organizations.

Gave Up on CATS – Going with Norm

The Tailtwister rotor atop the Europe tower gave up after three years in the air. That's not a bad service life for Curacao, especially considering that this rotor has been rebuilt twice before. I put a new rotor in the tower in October with help from K8PGJ and brought the bad one home to Idaho in checked luggage in December. It behaves as if the gears are jammed and probably destroyed.

Normally it is straightforward to get these things fixed – I have been sending them to CATS in Ohio, now relocated to Kentucky, for many years. But this past two years he is very slow responding to E-mails. N7IR found a good rotor guy in Tucson, and it is he who rebuilt the Tailtwister that is presently handling our 40 meter beam at PJ2T. But we checked with him on this latest repair, and he deferred because he is having trouble getting parts.

On advice of VE4GV, I contacted Norm's Rotor Repair in Alabama, and he responded immediately and very professionally. <https://normsrotorservice.com/> He said he can to a total high quality like new rebuild with mostly stainless steel parts, while cautioning me that this might be the last time this old rotor can be brought to life.



That rotor is on the way to Alabama, and after it's finished he will ship it to Ohio where it will await the next available transportation to the island. With this Tailtwister returning to service, two additional donated by VE4GV, and three in the spares inventory on the island, we are in good shape. There are also several smaller rotators in spares at the station.

Heil Hospital

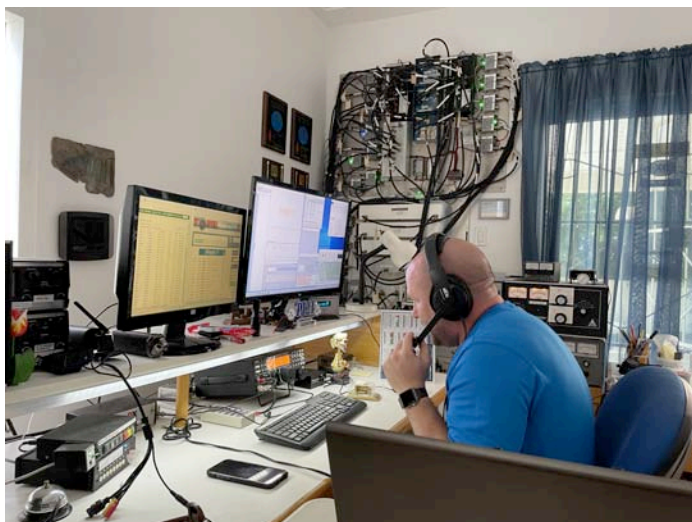
We have never been diligent enough to individually number, inventory, and track boomsets at the station. It just always seemed like there were a lot of them there, and when we appeared to run low we would buy a new one or two. Somehow, though, they suddenly almost all disappeared, and I found myself caught short in October. Because of COVID people brought their own, and we got by OK in the WW contests. But we are still short. We bought two new Proset6 boomsets, and they are now in service down there.



One of our last functioning Heils failed in November, so I brought it to Idaho and shipped it to Heil for total rebuild. It was in horrid condition, so decided to see what they do with it at the Heil Hospital. Heil phoned me on January 10 that the headset was beyond repair and offered us a new Proset6 at a 20% discount. Since this net price was about what we had expected to pay for the repair anyway, I went ahead and got the new one. It was shipped to CCC member K4JC, arriving there on the 14th. Vince will take it south with him for the ARRL SSB contest.

KF2I Visits Signal Point

A big thanks to K8ND for hosting Brad Bowers, KF2I, at Signal Point on January 9. Doing so required a ton of patient E-mails back and forth and Jeff providing detailed driving directions. Jeff was extremely patient with this process, and extended the red carpet to Brad as we do to all visitors at PJ2T.



KF2I, Brad, at Station 1

Upcoming Events

CQ 160 CW (2022): K8ND, W8WTS.

ARRL DX CW: Our team consists of W9NJY, W9VA, N7IR, NF9V, N0VD, and W0CG. That leaves three beds available. I've recruited very aggressively and am more or less dumbfounded that we can't build a full team for this one. Can you join us for this fun contest? We have the Moran pool house for the week.

ARRL DX SSB: For the third year in a row we will welcome a team led by long time CCC member Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ, founder of West Mountain Radio and inventor of the Rigblaster. These guys are affiliated with the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society, Melbourne, Florida. The team is: Chuck, AD4ES, Don, AF4Z, Dan, N1ZZ, Walter, K5LD (CCC), Vince K4JC (CCC), Greg, N4EN, Steve AK4R, K8PGJ (CCC), and W0CG. These guys won the M/M first place plaque the past two years. Can they do it again?

This contest is open to anyone else interested. That still leaves one open bed if you can join us.

CQ WPX SSB: The operator list for this contest is presently W4ATL, K4WK, AE4CW, WT4BT, WA4ZXV, K4UEE, and K4NHW. Bob (K4UEE) is still recruiting, and this contest is absolutely open to all CCC members who may want to fly south in late March. We have the Moran pool house reserved and Dorothy will still be on site in late March.

Update: Vaccinated CCCers

We keep adding to this list as I hear from you.

W0CG (including booster) and Dorothy (including booster), N1ZZ, K8IV, K9DR, K8ND (including booster), N7IR (including booster), VA7AM and Gill,

WI9WI and KA9DOC, W9NJY (including booster), N7WA, N2BA and N2GSG, VE3CX, SM4KYN and Ingela, K4JC, W8WTS, K0MD, W8PT, W9VA (boosted), N7NR, KB7Q and Joyce, K8PGJ, ND8L, NF9V, NA2U+Liz, KY7M (including booster), N5OT and family.

Drop me an E-mail if you'd like me to add you to this list.

W8WTS' End of Month Treasury Report

The present balance in the Station Support fund is \$4108.00. Thanks to treasurer W8WTS for all of his work keeping the dollars straight.

VA2WA Visit

Victor was on the island vacationing in December. K8ND very kindly hosted him on a Sunday afternoon after Stew Perry, and Victor did a good job of finding the QTH on his own in his rental car. He's an accomplished contester, and we hope to attract him to a contest in the future after the Canadian travel restrictions relax somewhat. He made some QSOs, shot a ton of beautiful photos, and left behind the gift of some Quebec maple syrup!!



Victor Androsov, VA2WA, 19 December 2021.

Update on VE4GV Rotor Donations

Thanks to Rob for his work in packing and shipping the donated Tailtwisters to Alabama on December 16. This is part of the never-ending cyclical flow of PJ2T assets so that things will be available and in working condition when you arrive to contest.

Impromptu CCC Encounter

On December 15 Dorothy and I were on a flight from Miami to Phoenix that pushed back on time. Prior to

takeoff a passenger suffered a heart attack, and we rapidly parked at an open gate. The lady in seat 1F was taken to the hospital. By the time the airline collected itself and re-released the flight (almost two hours) we had missed our Spokane connection at Sky Harbor.

I hopped on the E-mail and contacted our friends in Phoenix, and we were fortunate that Lee (KY7M) and Debby were kind enough to take the time to pick us up at our crashpad hotel the next morning and go to breakfast. Lee had just closed out the next quarterly issue of the National Contest Journal and I probed him for editor horror stories. I also much enjoyed getting the first person full account of the giant remote station they have at Safford, Arizona.

Prophetically, once we ordered breakfast we were given a table card of "59" so the server would be able to find us. Dorothy and I are very grateful to the Finkels for taking time from their very busy pre-Christmas activities to extend this kindness to a couple of kids who unexpectedly dropped in from the sky.



KY7M and Debby await order 59 in Phoenix.

Dayton Hamvention 2022

As of this writing the Hamvention is still a "go." We are hoping to have a CCC table at the Contest Dinner, but we will give it another month or so to be sure Omicron cools down before committing to this event. Stay tuned.

PJ2T Historic Photos

We learned about salt corrosion the hard way. In 2006 pieces of antennas began falling to the ground after about five years in the air. One of the many failure points was the Hy-Gain boom to mast brackets, which corroded themselves and all adjacent metal. I designed these side mount brackets (photo), and Steve (N8LGP) fabricated them in Akron. He is a long time CCC participant and a professional machinist. The photo shows two sets, one pair for each yagi boom. They connected to the tower legs using stainless steel U-

bolts, then it was an easy matter to lay the antenna boom in the cradles and put in additional stainless U-bolts. Everything was made from anodized aluminum.



Corrosion-proof side yagi side mount brackets by N8LGP, September, 2006

We made four pairs of these, and they are still in service, trouble free, supporting the Bencher Europe Yard Skyhawk, the 15 and 10 Europe Yard monobanders, and the US/JA 20 meter yagi.



Another view

