



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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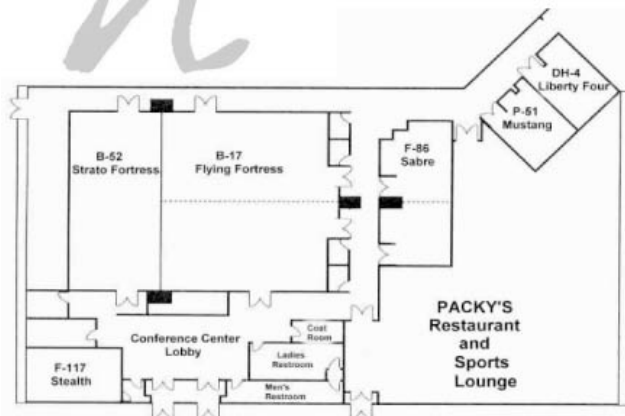
May 15, 2022

CCC Annual Meeting at Dayton Hamvention

CCC has held formal annual meetings ever since our inception. After the two year COVID interruption we will finally be able to get together again in person at the Hamvention.

The Caribbean Contesting Consortium annual meeting will be called to order at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2022. We will meet at the Hope Hotel in the Mustang meeting room. This is the “P-51” room in the top right corner of the diagram below. We have the meeting room for two hours. Thanks K3LR for the free room.

The Hope Hotel is on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Building 823, Area A, Gate 12A.



Hope Hotel is a military facility that operates as a profit-seeking business in the community at large. It's situated just outside security. This is a homecoming of sorts for me because Wright-Patt was my support base in my five years as a ROTC student at the University of Cincinnati, and I attended basic military training there.

As a hook to entice you to attend we will have the usual raffle drawing among those present for a \$200 break on the total contribution amount for the winner's

next trip to Signal Point. Looking forward to seeing you at this new Hamvention venue.

W8WTS' End of April Treasury Report

The end of April balance in the Station Support fund was \$5704.56. Thanks Treasurer W8WTS.

CCC Membership Renewal Letters Sent on May 9

As you all have seen, I sent out the invitation letters for our 23rd year (!) on Monday, the 9th. Those who have recently joined did not receive these letters because they have already signed on and paid dues for Year 23.

In my world 550 dollars is a lot of money, and I know it's the same in yours. This is particularly true in a year when we're all experiencing dramatically increased costs for everything. Therefore I am doubly grateful for your continued support of PJ2T. The real estate fund balance is presently down to about \$600, which will just about cover the upcoming May utility bill and Zoom's oversight for the month, and then we will be zeroed. (The \$5.7K balance cited above is for the station account, not the real estate account.) As you can see, our membership renewal time in May/June always coincides annually with the low water mark for the real estate fund, so thanks in advance for renewing.

Thanks to W8WTS, first to renew, who did so within hours of receiving his membership letter. WI9WI and VE3CX followed in rapid succession. Tom included a generous extra donation. Later that day N7WA and NA2U renewed. We also received an anonymous donation of an additional \$550. Thanks to everyone in the CCC family for keeping PJ2T loud and clear and on the air.

K8ND Is on the Mend

CCC President Jeff Maass, K8ND, has been seriously ill for several weeks.

We do not have the full story, but it seems that he had to call 911 from home on April 20, was admitted on an emergency basis, and spent several days in ICU at Dublin Memorial Hospital, near death, fighting a blood staph infection and possibly other problems. He was moved from ICU to a normal room, then on April 29 into rehab. He says he will be in rehab until about May 15, followed by another 10 days in a skilled nursing facility receiving IV antibiotics twice daily. He has lost 45 pounds since February and altogether 60 since last December.



K8ND at Signal Point on January 25 with Dorothy and W8WTS

Needless to say Jeff won't be at the Hamvention, and we very much regret that we won't get to see him. But he's doing much better, walking with some assistance and doing daily therapy. 160 is not the same without his presence, nor is our CCC Slack channel, and we wish him the absolute best after this close call.

The CCC 20th Anniversary Glasses

CCC member Dink, N7WA had hundreds of commemorative glasses made for our 20th anniversary in 2020, picked up the entire tab, and then COVID hit and we were never able to distribute them at the Hamvention.

I have 216 of them at my Ohio QTH and will bring them to the Hamvention. Please help me out here. Some of you ordered glasses and I sent them out in May/June 2020 to K8IV, WA9S (SK), NA2U, K9DR, NR0X, N7WA, W8PT, K0MD, K2PLF (SK), KY7V, and N1ZZ. I also handed glasses over to W8WTS and others in person. But, and here's the problem, others ordered and paid for glasses (VE3CX for example) and did not yet receive them because their orders were too big to ship, and I failed to keep those records with my usual diligence. So I will bring them all to the Hamvention, and you can take what you ordered. We plan to give out the rest of them to CCC members and friends first, and then to contesters in the Hamvention suites at no charge. Late is better than never.

Massive Error in CQ Magazine

You will note in the CQWW CW article that there's a wonderful photo of the PJ2T team on the first page. Thing is, that is the SSB team, not the CW team, and the caption says that we won the CW contest, which we did not. Right caption, right team, wrong contest. I sent in several photos from both contests, and K1AR or the layout tech made a big boo boo.

W8WTS ARRL Sweepstakes, Winner Great Lakes Division, Single Operator, Low Power

Congratulations to Jim for nailing this divisional SS plaque in November 2021. I don't know if he scored a clean sweep, but it sure is a cute logo.



I apologize to other CCCers whose on air accomplishments I did not pick up in the publications.

Lunch with W8PT

I departed Curacao for Ohio on April 10 and was fortunate to be able to meet with CCC member Chuck, W8PT, for lunch in Youngstown on April 15. This was a deferred get-together because we were both snowed in back in January and had to cancel our plans to meet then.



CCC member W8PT, Chuck, April 15 near Youngstown, Ohio

I was a bit selfish in choosing the location for lunch, the Yankee Kitchen in Vienna, Ohio. I had been on the airbase adjacent to this restaurant to visit the personnel office that day, and the Yankee had been my breakfast and lunch greasy spoon for over 20 years when I served in the 910th Airlift Wing as a reservist. The food is great, and it was a fun homecoming for me to meet Chuck at that place that fed me so many meals for so many years.



The Yankee Kitchen is legendary in the area north of Youngstown, and has made meals for numerous celebrities including Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

Another Fun Ohio Lunch



April 20, Ellet, Ohio

I was lucky to be able to meet (L-R) W3YQ, K3LR, and N3RA for lunch in the Akron area on April 20. This Chinese restaurant is K3LR's favorite spot for a good lunch, very close to the DX Engineering building in Tallmadge, Ohio. Tim and I have gotten together there many times in the past, and this time he brought along Tim Jellison and Scott. W3YQ is the brilliant tower professional who rode the crane hook and managed the replacement of our PJ2T Europe tower in December of 2018, donating 100% of his costs,

charging the club nothing for his time. It was fun to see him again. Scott Jones (N3RA) has been closely involved with the K3LR station for many years, and it was fun for me to see him again after some 20 years.

Internet Problems at Signal Point

Since I departed Curacao on April 10 the connectivity has only been up for about two days. Flow (the telecomm provider) has been relocating lines and rewiring their wiring terminations in connection with construction, so service has been irregular. But the problems this time were my fault. After considerable delay and slow communication and troubleshooting we determined that I had stupidly unscrewed one fuse that I should not have when I departed. I even had the checklist in my hand. Our neighbor Dirk van Daam turned that fuse back in after about two weeks of delay and everything came back up. This pinpoints the critical importance of care when we roll up the QTH and depart. That departure checklist had changed, and the list of fuses to leave on had changed with it, so it was a new pattern, but that was no excuse.

Everything worked for about 30 hours and then connectivity dropped again. All seven security cameras, the remote RRC box, and the building security system were again offline. After about two more weeks of delay I got Zoom on the phone at the house and the line was extremely noisy and "scratchy." The language barrier is so bad that I was not able to talk him through the procedure of unplugging and replugging connections at the modem indoors. A couple of days later Dirk managed to get a Flow technician in the house. He put in a new indoor RJ cable and everything came back up. Connectivity lasted one day, went down again on May 9 and then back up on the 10th. It's down again on the 14th. Paradoxically, everything worked 100% solidly for the entire calendar year that I was away from the QTH because of COVID travel restrictions. Frustrating!

Last Time for 4-Square in the Flats?

As you know we have installed the DXE receive four-square array in the "flats" west of the house for every significant 160 contest for many years. Thanks to K9SG for donating that wonderful antenna. Over time, we surveyed the exact locations for each of the four whips and drove support rods into the ground, leaving the rods and radials in place. Then the 1000 feet of RG-6 feedline and one DC wire were installed each time over the weekend. It was challenging, but fun, and became a ritual of sorts. But with the hotel construction, the installation of that antenna on January 26, 2022, may have been the last time. The area is now

scraped bare, there's lots of construction activity, and the antennas would be glaringly visible to vandals. See the photo (next page) of W8WTS from January.



January 26, 2022, W8WTS preparing to re-survey locations for the RX whips. Notice the Signal Point towers about 1000 feet in the background.

When our originally surveyed locations for the whips were destroyed by the construction three years ago Jim and Jeff cleverly bought some buckets and poured concrete into portable bases (next page).



One of the receive whips in place in its bucket.

It was time consuming to install this array from scratch last January, but the payoff was that it helped Jim and Jeff win the world #1 title in multi-op for CQ 160 CW, beating out some very tough rivals in Europe.

We shall see going forward, but this may have been the last time we install the RX antennas in that field and recover the cable (below) using W8WTS' ingenious system.



W8WTS, K8ND, and W0CG rolling up the feedline for storage after the contest.

In the future we have the option of siting the four square on the Ridge. This will not be quite as ideal as the seaside location by the flats, but will be secure and will eliminate the need to run the feedlines every contest. We could site the bases, radials, feedlines, and power line permanently and then just bolt on and connect the whips and phasing lines when needed. PJ2T has adapted to changing conditions for 22 years, and we can keep doing so.

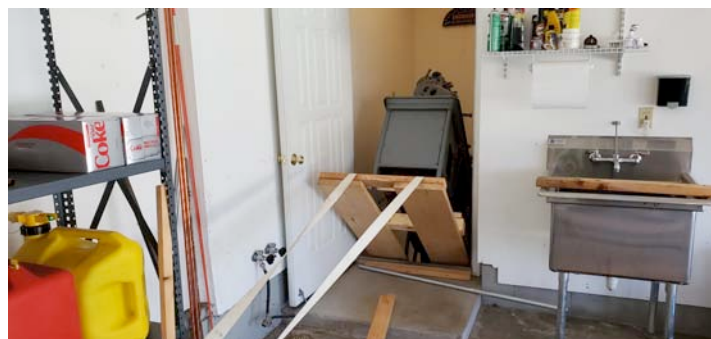
Another Autek Gift from K4JC

Thanks to member Vince Weal, who managed to find and acquire yet another Autek WM-1 for the station. He's donating this and will bring it to the Hamvention. These are the BEST wattmeters for our application, and are no longer made, so it's a huge find.

Ingenuity at W8WTS

Jim bought a classic South Bend machinist's 10 inch lathe for his Ohio place, adding to his already well-equipped machine shop. Next question: how to get this massively heavy thing inside and down to the basement shop with no assistance available.

No problem with an application of ingenuity and patience involving his trailer, his front end loader, a winch, some straps and ropes, a homebrew skid system to go down the stairs, and a dolly at the bottom.



The lathe headed down the basement steps, under control of a winch system at W8WTS.

You can see the full sequence of photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jmgalm/52065280628/in/album-72177720298823997/> . This is nothing short of brilliant.

Strays



Crawford sleeping soundly in a Signal Point tree, dreaming of sardines and milk, January 31, 2022.



My friend Rick on the backhoe very kindly stopped at this point about 200 feet short of Signal Point at my request, retaining the brush and side yard that help Signal Point feel a bit more private.



A smiling N7IR with pretty gals (Dorothy and W0CFF) and good food, February 16, 2022.



Part of the 75 mm PVC fiber conduit prior to installing it in the ditch March 12, 2022.

TS	call	Freq	Mode	Snt	Rcv	PFX	Name	Comment	Com
2022-02-16 23151	3H2YN	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-16 23152	JA1DKT	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-16 23153	JE202IC	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-16 23153	WB63VP	21032.62	CW	599	599	K			PC49
2022-02-16 23153	KH6U	21032.62	CW	599	599	KH6			PC49
2022-02-16 23154	JA13PM	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-16 23154	UA9LAF	21032.62	CW	599	599	UA9			PC49
2022-02-16 23155	338USK	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-16 23156	286FC	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-16 23157	K5XR	21032.62	CW	599	599	K			PC49
2022-02-16 23158	VV3SD	21032.62	CW	599	599	VV			PC49
2022-02-16 23159	J40GZZ	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49
2022-02-17 00100	JA1AD	21032.62	CW	599	599	JA			PC49

The sunspots are back. NF9V running Asia on 15 like they are locals prior to ARRL DX CW.



Progressively repairing broken radials and covering the 50 mm fiber conduit as it approaches the house, March 16.

