



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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COVID Test Requirement Dropped for Entry to U.S.

Effective June 13 it is no longer necessary to get the rapid antigen test in order to return to the States. This means no more worries about getting trapped there by a positive test result, although that never happened to anyone visiting PJ2T throughout the entire pandemic.

Welcome New Member Dr. Rob Kaufman, VE4GV

Below is CCC's newest member, Rob Kaufmann, VE4GV, hard at work on 20 meters in CQWW CW last November.



VE4GV concentrating on pileups on 20 CW

Rob has made multiple trips to Signal Point, most recently for Worldwide CW last fall. He's a top notch operator on both modes and also extremely generous, having donated one of our new operating chairs the year before last and then being the ultimate gentleman in covering his costs for a contest that he was unable to get to at the last minute. Additionally, he has the best collection of rock band tee shirts I've ever seen.

In real life Rob is an endodontic surgeon, the top root canal guy in Winnipeg who will get you out of pain and out of trouble. This is the guy you love to hate to see when you're in dental distress.

We're grateful to Rob for the confidence he has shown in the CCC organization, and I hope you will all have a chance to meet him on site soon. (He's coming to CQWW SSB in October.) You can drop him a note at endoexperience@gmail.com.

CCC Hamvention Annual Meeting Report

The CCC Annual Meeting was called to order at Hope Hotel at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2022 by W8WTS. Here's the meeting photo.



L-R: Chuck (W8PT), Vince (K4JC), Walter (K5LD), Curtis (WX4W), Dan (N1ZZ), Tom (VE3CX), Holly (NR0X YL), Jason (NR0X), Geoff (W0CG), Bill (W9VA), Fred (NA2U), Ray (ND8L), Jim (W8WTS). KY7M and N5OT were on hand but had to leave before this photo.

Following the informal part of the meeting WTS convened the formal business meeting at 4:32 PM Dayton time. Jim's motion to accept the W0CG real estate financial report was seconded by VE3CX and passed unanimously. K8ND, KB7Q, and W8WTS agreed to continue serving as officers and in the absence of any other nominations they were elected to another term. W8WTS proposed an amendment to the bylaws that the directors of the club be appointed by the officers. ND8L seconded and this was passed unanimously. Now, instead of the board members

being the past president and VP and station manager, we will be able to appoint directors in advance of their hopefully becoming officers in the next election cycle. This new policy will invoke when the present directors' terms end. The formal meeting adjourned at 5:01. VE3CX won the prize drawing and will receive \$200 off the costs of his next trip to Signal Point.

For the informal part of the meeting, Geoff presented a quick slide show of our activities October 21 – April 22, and Jim recounted our excellent record of on the air achievements in that time period. Geoff then reviewed what we know thus far about the coming fiber optic service, which is that the trunk is in the neighborhood and we await connection to the house. (See more about this later in this newsletter.)

We discussed spending priorities and the group's wishes for the coming year, with airfare subsidies being at the top of the list as we continue to deal with massive challenges imposed by construction of the new hotel. If we do get the optical fiber and it works well, we discussed that it might make sense to pursue a much more sophisticated remoting infrastructure, but that awaits a better connection to the world.



W8WTS going over the agenda

Geoff then explained that our central, all-consuming objective for the next couple of years needs to be to stand still, and not let the facility deteriorate backward. The point is that it takes absolutely all the resources and effort we have to just to keep our magnificent facility maintained and working well. Normally in life standing still is considered a negative, but in the context of Signal Point if we are able to “stand still” and maintain what we have, that is a major accomplishment. Mother Nature and the forces of the sea and wind and sun and heavy equipment and incompetent government and utility companies are all working hard to diminish our capabilities, so we have to keep fighting.

PJ2T WPX CW Contest Report

As in nearly every one of the past 20 years Jim (WI9WI) and Annette activated Signal Point for the WPX CW contest on memorial Day weekend. This time COVID did not torpedo the operation, and Jim and Annette had, thank goodness, an uneventful trip to the island, arriving on May 21.

All was well at the QTH except the Internet connectivity, a known problem going in. As has been the case for the past two months, it is up for a few minutes very intermittently and off most of the rest of the time. The Fitzpatricks connected to Maley's WiFi next door with Mike's permission, and awaited arrival of the Flow technician to address the problem. Murphy struck in that the moment the technician arrived was one of the rare moments that the connectivity was “up.” In classic Curacao tradition, he said sorry, can't help you, and went out the door refusing to re-check the line terminations in the junction boxes. If I could be on site I would force him to take me to the wiring cabinet at the top of the hill and watch while he re-terminated our signal pair, and then would do the same thing in the box across the street. We will try again to get the technician there at the time the ham radio youth are there in July. Meanwhile, we still await word that the fiber optic technology is ready to be connected to Signal Point. (More soon in this newsletter.)

Jim also had bad luck with equipment. The K3 at Station 1 quit making any more than 12 watts, almost surely owing to the well-known issue of the PA pins corroding. He swapped in the Station 4 K3 and labored forward. Then the AL-1200 at Station 1 began smelling hot and Jim was suddenly getting reports of a 60 Hz CW note. Thus Jim opted to work the rest of the contest barefoot, still netting an excellent result, World #4 in 3830 postings in his category.

Class: SOAB HP

Class Overlay: Unassisted Classic QTH: Signal Point Curacao

Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:
Band QSOs

160: 0

80: 0

40: 715

20: 440

15: 823

10: 302

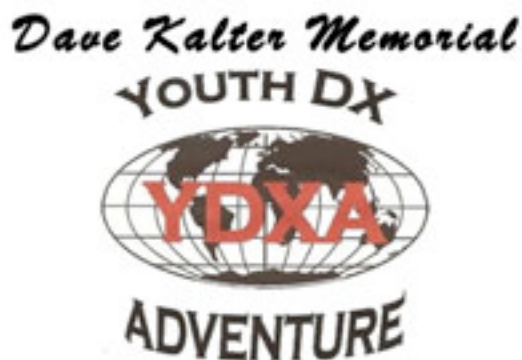
Total: 2280 Prefixes = 726 Total Score = 6,475,194

For WPX CW 2023 W5MJ has expressed interest in a team operation if WI9WI decides he is open to this. But that is a long way off.

Thanks again to WI9WI for making the journey to Curacao and making PJ2T visible on the bands. Annette (KA9DOC) also contributed to the visibility by making FT8 QSOs. Additionally, Annette is a veterinarian, so the Signal Point kitties are always healthier and happier after she has been at the station.

Youth DX Adventure on the Air in July

Long time CCC member DL8OBQ will arrive at Signal Point on July 7. Uli will run the IARU HF World Championship signing PJ2HQ on July 9. He will then set up the QTH for the Youth DX Adventure and host that group, who will sign PJ2Y. Jim Storms, AB8YK, Hamvention 2023 General Chairman, will lead the youth group.



Gentlemanly Action by W1MD

Long time CCC friend Marty, W1MD, was scheduled to arrive in Curacao just a couple of hours prior to the kickoff of the ARRL DX CW contest in February. Work intervened, and he had to cancel that trip only a couple of hours before his planned departure. We are grateful to him for covering his shared expenses even though he was unable to attend the contest. This was a great help in controlling the costs for the somewhat small team that operated (and won) this contest. Thanks Marty – that's a class act.



W1MD

K3(5) Down for Repairs

K3 number 5 is the transceiver donated by Fred Cady's family after his death. Fred literally wrote the book on the K3, and KB7Q brilliantly secured this donation for PJ2T. We normally run it at Station 1.



Professor Fred Cady, WE7X (SK)

During WPX CW the power amp failed, and WI9WI had to swap in another transceiver to finish the contest. According to WI9WI, N7IR, and KB7Q this is a fairly common problem with the PA module pins. Even though Gary put in the gold pin retrofit, we still had a failure, able to only get 12 watts out of the radio. WI9WI was kind enough to haul it back to Madison, and N7IR will evaluate and possibly ship it to Elecraft for repair. This is precisely why we have spare K3s on site.... It could be a very long time until this rig gets back to Curacao.

Fiber Optic Connection: W0CG to Curacao in July

This is the moment we have been waiting for. On June 7 Geoff received word from our neighbor in Curacao that Flow is now ready to install the fiber connection at Signal Point. Further, he reported that his own fiber connection is working incredibly well now that he got a firmware update to his optical modem.

Dirk was able to secure a firm appointment with the utility company to come on July 14 and do the install of the long fiber drop from the road to the Signal Point house. We'll do this through the buried conduit we installed in March. It's critical to get this right so that no portion of that fiber is accessible to be cut by bad guys. We absolutely can not trust the poorly trained utility company technicians to get this right.

Thus, with great reluctance, your editor will be making a quick and costly trip to the island on July 12. I'll work with the techs and with DL8OBQ to pull in this fiber correctly, to retain the conduit pull rope for future work, and will route the fiber into the house

underground so that it is invisible. Further, I'll install a dummy fiber cable into the house that looks live but will not be. Following that, I hope with long distance help from KB7Q to be able to configure the new optical modem to support the RRC remote access box and our surveillance cameras. This should get us 100 MB download and 20 MB upload speeds. The latency is not yet known. That will be \$62.30/month. For \$22.86/month more we would be able to get 200MB/25MB. If this all works out as hoped we will open a discussion about expanding our remoting technology at Signal Point.

This being Curacao, there is always a small chance that the installation will not work out, even though we have solid assurances from Mr. Holle at Flow that our installation appointment is firm. But we have to make this attempt now, because the copper based connectivity has been down since April 11, and because Flow will sometime in August turn off everyone not on fiber.

Travel costs for Geoff are around \$1770 plus there will be a hotel overnight at DFW on the return trip. Airfares are presently astronomical for all the obvious reasons. CCC has covered half of that \$1770 from the Station Support Fund, with approval from CCC's directors and officers per our CCC work trip subsidy rules. I will cover the balance out of pocket. My return flight is July 21/22, requiring two days to get back to Idaho.

Caribbean Callsigns in the Hamvention Flea Market



Dan (NP2J), Walter (K5LD), Torry (PJ2VR) and Brett (PJ2BR) in the flea market.

Including me wielding the camera we momentarily had four Caribbean callsigns together in a tight space. Dan dominates on 160 from St. Croix, and was with me on the earliest pre-CCC operation from VP5VW, 1994. PJ2VR is prominent in the WA7LNW documentary video about Radioteam Finland and Brett, of course, is the president for life (he wishes not) of VERONA.



Three PJs, but not the kind you wear to bed... PJ2BR, PJ2DX, PJ2VR.

Old Dormitory Neighbors



Mike Valentine, W8MM, and Geoff, WA8KUW

In September of 1967 I took up residence in the Freshman engineering dormitory, Dabney Hall, at the University of Cincinnati. Thus began nine months of limited sleep because the guy in the room next door had a BIG audio amp, exercised it at all hours, and most loved to play "Green Tambourine." Very loudly. In spite of the insomnia I became pals with Mike when I found out he was a ham, and we went to a couple of hamfests together.

Decades went by, and in that time Mike became one of the wealthiest people in Southwest Ohio, a giant donor to all good causes at the University of Cincinnati and, most important here, the largest donor in the history of ARRL, now well above seven figures. I enjoyed catching up with him at the Dayton ARRL Donor Reception Thursday night of the Hamvention.

If Only I Didn't Get Seasick

I'm one of the most desperately susceptible seasick people you will ever know. Five minutes afloat and I'm disabled and looking for a way to do suicide. Therefore I'll never be within a thousand miles of a DXpedition. But I can at least stand next to somebody who will. Here I am at the 3Y0J booth at Contest

University with Adrian (KO8SCA/YO8SCA). Adrian was on the team at PJ2T for CQWW CW 2021, and we will be hearing him from Bouvet in January 2023.



W0CG (center) with KO8SCA (Adrian) at the right

Flea Market Fotos

I parked myself at N0YY’s flea market space and quickly discovered that if I sat tight nearly everyone I was hoping to see would wander by.

Here are past CCCers Rick (N0YY) and Joerg (DF9LJ).



N0YY and DF9LJ

Both of these guys were with PJ2T for a period of years. Rick is now retired and living in Southern Virginia and hopes to make a return visit to the station as his health permits. We are also hoping that Joerg will opt to make a return visit to PJ2T now that he is retired.

All of us have experienced the magnificent operating desks at PJ2T with the white formica, overhead trestle, equipment bay below, LED lighting, and flexibility to be moved and expanded. Here are the guys who did it!



Terry (W0AWL) and Rick (N0YY), creators of the PJ2T operating desks.

Rick conceived the idea for the desks and did the design. The actual construction was mostly done at Terry’s place because he had room in his shop and all of the necessary tools. They built the desks in late summer of 2015 in Iowa, knocked them down and packaged all parts for ocean freight, and then we assembled them in early October of 2015, rushing to be ready for CQWW SSB.

The irony in this is that Terry has never been to PJ2T to see the final version in place, and Rick was only able to experience his desks a couple of times before circumstances came up that prevented his traveling to the station. We are grateful to these two gentlemen every time we sit down to operate!

Old meet new below. Here’s N0YY of the PJ2T old guard with recent new members Vince (K4JC) and Walter (K5LD).



Vince (K4JC), Walter (K5LD) and Rick Heinrich (N0YY), father of the operating desks and the pushbutton antenna system.



Ed Parish, K1EP, of the CQWW CW team, November 2021.



Ward Silver (N0AX) and Jack Schuster (W1WEF)

Ward is nothing less than ham radio's most prolific author and technical guru, and Jack was John Thompson's partner at John's Curacao house for decades. Jack was the longest-licensed attendee at the Dayton 2022 Contest Dinner.



Not the flea market, but here's Doug (K1DG) in his usual habitat as emcee of the Contest Forum.

Geoff Meets God

I hope that characterization above will not offend the faithful. But from my perspective, Jim Neiger (N6TJ) is as close to a deity as anyone in our sport. When I was still a wet behind the ears new licensee at the bottom of a valley in West Virginia, N6TJ was spanning the world operating from one exotic location

after another. He was always loud and always fast. I most remember many, many contacts with ZD8Z at a time I could barely work Chicago. Jim always heard my pathetic weak signal and always made me feel like somebody, snapping back immediately at 45 WPM. It was a privilege to see him at the Dayton 2022 Contest Dinner.



Jim (N6TJ) and Geoff (WN8KUW)

N0VD Makes it to Ohio

Here are CCC Treasurer Jim (W8WTS) with state-hopping Kelly Jones, N0VD and his partner Christine (W0CFF). Kelly was an active CCC member for years, then he began state-hopping, changing from a home in Colorado to Texas and then, seemingly suddenly, to Arizona, now near Prescott. He seems to be settled in Arizona now, so maybe he will be able to stop hopping and make it back to PJ2T more often, most recently having visited in February 2022 for ARRL DX CW.



W8WTS with W0CFF (Christine) and N0VD (Kelly)



Howie (K9KM), Dick (N6AA), Jim (W8WTS) and new CCC member Madison Jones (W5MJ) at the Contest Dinner.

I snagged a rare mult at the Contest Dinner but could not figure out how to convert this into points right there on the spot. Chris is frequently at Goose Bay, Labrador, signing VO2AC. It was a delight to chat with him, and I hope he calls in when we're desperate to hear him in the ARRL contests.



Rare mult Chris, VO2AC, at the Contest Dinner

Things Are Big in Canada

CCC member Tom's truck is as big as his personality.



W8WTS' End of May Treasury Report

The end of May balance in the Station Support fund was \$5704.56. Dues renewal amounts will be added in this total at the end of June.

Update on CCC Membership Renewals

As of June 13 20 CCC members have renewed for the year and paid either quarterly or annual dues. Five new members have already paid for Year 23. This leaves only three members yet to renew. THANK YOU to all for providing dollars to help keep the station and the house alive, and a particular thanks to several who donated considerable additional amounts.

K8ND's Spring Hospital Holiday! by Jeff Maass

As many of you know, I recently have recovered from a serious health emergency. Starting last summer, I had been working with my doctor on a number of symptoms: urinary incontinence, dozing off at my desk, low B12, some 'brain fog', etc. Many lab tests, but no clear cause. The last working theory was possible Sleep Apnea at the root.

Late Fall, I found that I was to retire effective February 4, 2022. I opted to take my remaining 2021 vacation and 2022 vacation with a trip to Curacao over Christmas and New Year's through the CQWW 160 CW contest. Medical testing was suspended. I started to notice a new symptom during travel to the island. At MIA airport, the long walk between terminals exhausted me. My heartbeat raced. This lack of stamina got worse at Signal Point, where my heartbeat would accelerate with the slightest exertion. Walking from the car at the back of the yard to the building left my heartbeat at 155 beats per minute. While I had many plans to explore cemeteries during this long stay on the island, I did not have the energy to do any exploring at all. By the time of preparations for the CQWW 160 CW Contest, I was not any use on setting up the DXE 4-square. Returned home through MIA, and during that long walk I had three separate people ask me if I was OK as I stopped along the way to recover. I stubbornly insisted that I was, and continued on.

When I retired a few days later on February 4, I lost my health care coverage. I had applied for Medicare coverage, but had not heard from them that it was in effect, so I put off going to the doctor. I attribute this weeks-long delay in seeking a doctor's care in large part to my diminishing mental state. (Medicare finally sent me a package and card in mid-May). While I waited, I was not making great decisions. I had no appetite and no food tasted good, I stopped eating and

most drinking, and I had diarrhea. I had hand tremors and serious 'eye floaters'. My stamina continued to diminish, and it became difficult to walk from my bedroom to the bathroom or home office, even with a cane. On April 15, I gave up on waiting for Medicare to confirm my coverage, and signed up online for COBRA, to extend the health care plan I had previously from my employer, paying the roughly \$1000 for two months.

A few days later, on April 19, I fell while walking to my home office from my bedroom, and I could not get up. I called to see if my Brother-In-Law could come and help me get up, but he was out of town. My sister, a retired Registered Nurse pointed out that I was an idiot, a moron, and dimwit, and that I should call 911. I did, and the EMTs transported me to the nearby Dublin Methodist Hospital. In Intensive Care, I was seen by several doctors. I was dehydrated, my kidneys were in bad shape, my electrolytes were a mess, and I had 3000+ mL of urine trapped in my bladder. I had lost 60 pounds since November and 40 pounds since February. They found I had a non-bleeding ulcer and staph infection in my blood. I was a mess! One doctor suggested that had I delayed one more day, I might not have needed a hospital. I spent six days in Intensive Care, three more days in a standard hospital room.

Then I was off to the first rehab facility to build strength, learn to walk again, and start a four week series of twice-daily IVs of powerful antibiotics to kill the staph infection. Ten days in, Medicare finally notified me that I was covered and sent me my card. Two weeks in I moved to the second rehab facility to continue the antibiotic IVs and continue building strength (my COBRA coverage health plan decided I was ready to go home from the first). The second rehab facility accepted my Medicare coverage. All of the month of May was spent in rehabilitation activities. On May 28, the four weeks of twice-a-day antibiotic IVs were done, and I was released to go home! As a part of this process, I was tested for COVID and was negative. I was able to walk well with a cane and pretty well without, and was confident that I could manage at home by myself.

The week following release included a few follow-up visits with specialist doctors, with more planned. Then, one week after release on June 3, I got a severe sore throat and could not eat or drink as I could not swallow. I suffered severe coughing jags which were aggravated by either lying flat or trying to swallow. I thought it was a bad cold. Two days later, I had not been able to drink, eat, or sleep and decided that a trip to the Emergency Room was in order. I drove myself there, and after 7 hours (mostly waiting for blood test

results), I was informed that I was COVID positive and badly dehydrated! (I had been fully vaccinated and had had the first booster.) At the ER, I got a big bag of fluids, a steroid, a local pain killer for my throat, and prescriptions for a five-day course of an antiviral medicine and an opioid pain killer, and I was sent home. As I type this, I'm six days in, and most of the COVID symptoms are gone. I can eat and drink, I can lie flat to sleep. Still a bit of coughing up phlegm, but feeling pretty good! I have a few health issues that are still being addressed with follow-up doctor visits, but I am well on my way to full recovery.

The CCC 20th Anniversary Glasses Distributed

As you'll recall, CCC member Dink, N7WA had hundreds of commemorative glasses made for our 20th anniversary. COVID interrupted their distribution for two years, but I'm happy to report that over 200 of them are now in the hands of grateful contesters. With permission from K3LR, I and VE3CX set out boxes and boxes of the glasses in the meeting hallway outside Contest University.



VE3CX with his CCC glass and monster truck

Tim made an announcement, we marked the boxes "Free," and as all true hams everywhere the contesters were instantly magnetically drawn to that price announcement. There was soon nothing left but dust in the bottom of those boxes. This is the outcome Dink had in mind in 2019, that hundreds of contesters would be reminded of PJ2T and our 20 year anniversary whenever they have a cold one at home in their shacks. THANKS N7WA!

PA3EYC Reunion

At CQWW CW in November of 2016 PA3EYC (Martin Bos) showed up at the station, introduced himself, and explained that he was staying on the island on holiday with a friend. His presence was particularly memorable because he was riding a monster Harley. We promptly invited him to share in a

traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. He's at the left in the photo below.



PA3EYC (left) at Thanksgiving dinner, November 24, 2016.



Martin's ride in 2016 at Signal Point

Martin surprised me at Contest University this year, and it took me a moment to place him with the ponytail. He expressed his appreciation for the two seasons of hospitality we extended to him in Curacao. His friend has left the island, so he no longer visits.



With PA3EYC at the Contest Dinner, Dayton Hope Hotel, 2022.

Rare: W0CG on the Air at W0CG !



May 27, WPX CW, W0CG on the air for a couple of hours in a contest from my Ohio station for the first time in almost 15 years.

Erratum

I incorrectly mentioned last month that the DXE 4-square had been donated by K9SG. In point of fact, it was 50/50 supported by K9SG and K8ND. Sorry Jeff. It was very long ago, and I trusted my memory rather than looking it up in the records.

Worth Waiting For



Geoff picking up a new Hy-Gain LJ-204 20 meter monobander at DX Engineering. May 31, 2022.

The antenna had been on backorder for a year and a half. DX Engineering is four miles from my house in Ohio, providing ongoing daily temptations. This is even worse than being next door to a Baskin Robbins.

Member Spotlight – Curtis Foote, WX4W

As a kid in the early 70's, I always wanted to be a Ham Radio Operator. The CB craze was at its height, and I had some walkie talkies that let me listen to the locals. I lived fairly close to a Radio Shack where I obtained a book entitled "From 5 to 1,000 Watts." As a single child of a divorced mom there was no money to do this but I hoped that one day I would be able to. Around 1980-81 the first cordless phones went on the market, I bought a Radio Shack ET-300 that

transmitted on 49MHz and listened on 160M and thought that device was the coolest thing ever. I was working in a camera shop at that time when a customer came in with a Kenwood TR-2400 on his belt. I asked what his radio was for and why it had a keypad on it. He told me it was a Ham Radio and he could make phone calls with it.

Based on my cordless phone and CB experience I replied..."You Can Not!". He asked me for my camera shops' landline number and he called it. I started studying the next day and got my Technician ticket with a couple of months.

Gradually while getting a degree in chemistry and mathematics, working in a camera shop, shooting weddings on the weekends and freelancing (sports photography) for the Courier-Journal, I worked my way up to Advanced Class in 1983. I think the only test I ever failed in my life was the 13 wpm code for my General. Back then the FCC would come to Louisville only twice each year but would come to surrounding cities approx. 30 days later. 30 Days after failing the code test I passed it in Cincinnati. I'm now an Extra and can copy 20 – 25 wpm (call signs but not ragchewing!) but I never had to sit for the 20wpm test as the code requirement was abolished before I got back into the hobby.

Much like in the movie "Diner" where one of the guys made his fiancée pass a football quiz before he would marry her, my XYL got her Technician license (Cindy N4LGL) before we were married so that we had communication while she went to and from work at Uof L Hospital on third shift. I got my Dad (N4RZM - SK) and Step mom (KC4SLG) into the hobby and while my dad never did much HF work he did pass the FCC 20WPM code test to get his Extra! However my two children (Alexandra 32 yrs and Max 27 yrs) show no interest in our hobby. But there is hope. I have a Grandson (Barrett 3 yrs) and a Granddaughter (Allison 5 months). In the next column is a photo of the family with our new granddaughter.



I got out of the hobby for about 15 years between 2000 and 2015 mainly due to moving into an HOA Neighborhood that technically says no antennas are permitted except for small TV or Satellite antennas. In 2015 I got the urge to fire up my dormant TS-850 by running an end fed wire from an antenna tuner and started working the world. I now have a 35 foot Rohn 25 tower with a Hexbeam and very few people have noticed it. The HOA says nothing about towers so if needed, a small TV antenna installed on it is a future option (Grin). I'm a firm believer in asking for forgiveness rather than permission.

As far as career I guess I could be called a Renaissance man in that I'm no expert on anything. I began my career as a Medical Research Assistant for UofL's Kidney Disease Program working on a substitute osmotic agent to replace glucose for use in peritoneal dialysis. I killed so many rabbits with my sterile technique I think I may have been listed as one of PETA's most wanted. Then I worked for a Forensic Failure Laboratory, followed by a few years as an Industrial Chemist for an Air Filtration Company and then an Environmental Regulatory Chemist (I kept them out of Jail) for Chemicals and Coating Company. Over the last 15 years of my career (I retired in 2016 at 56 years of age) I crossed over to the Dark side and became a Sales Manager for the Coatings company....I loved all of these jobs except for management!

In fact I hated being a manager so much that I would knock off work early on Friday's and invite a few ham friends over, that I'd met at a local DX Club, over for drinks. One of the guys named it "Shackapulco" and while the DX Club no longer exists, our Shackapulco Friday's are still going strong. If any CCC Member is in Louisville on a Friday afternoon...you are welcome here! Here is a photo of the Shackapulco 7. I'm on the far left with the "Got DX?" black T-Shirt.



Shackapulco, Kentucky Style, at WX4W

My Ham Radio interest is in both DXing and Contesting. I started over in 2015 and now have 300 confirmed countries. I'm really not a good enough CW op to hang with the big boys but one day I will. I hold a multi-op single transmitter effort for ARRL Sweepstakes Phone where I encourage my local hams that do not contest routinely to operate. We have received first place in the Great Lakes Region for the past 3 years and hopefully will do so again this fall.

In addition to Ham Radio my other hobbies include shooting Skeet and Sporting Clays and avoiding getting tickets in my Corvettes. I used to be love flying small single engine planes (until one of our co-owners crashed our beloved C182) and Scuba Diving but I've largely given that up.

I am truly proud to be a member of this consortium and to be a part of the work all of you are doing to keep PJ2T on the air. Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of it!

Member Spotlight – Skip Cameron, W5GAI

www.qrz.com/db/W5GAI



W5GAI on 40 in WPX SSB 2022 (Ed.)

I was born in Tulsa OK May 8, 1939. My Dad took a job in Shreveport, LA when I was 3 months old.

I have one brother, 3-years younger.

I got my Novice license at 15 in June 1954 after my 9th grade physics teacher, a ham, taught 5 of us CW and how to pass the FCC test. All 4 members of my family were hams in the 1950s.

I still remain in contact with Novice friends Wes N5WA, Bill W5SJ, Dan W5KKQ and Paul K5ESW.

The 1957 sunspot peak, largest in recorded history, made me think working the DX 24/7 was the norm.

I've been "radioactive" since.

I chased DX until getting them all with N Korea and 7O1 Yemen in 2000, then went after IOTAs and have 1056 cfmd/1065 worked of ~1200 island groups, then have been chasing POTAS and SOTAS lately.

My contesting has been "casual" and I had not operated from a super contest station until 2022 at PJ2T.

I have a K-3, an Expert 1K-FA amp, a 20-6M K4KIO Hex beam at 50 ft and a W9INN inv. Vee for 160-30M.

I have been on 2 DXpeditions, P29NI in 2008 to two remote IOTAs, YN2GA in 2011 for 6M contest and DXing, and operated at PJ2T in the CQ WPX SSB contest March 26-7, 2022 with 3 GA guys - Bob K4UEE, Wayne K4WK, Sherman W4ATL, Curtis WX4W from KY, Dale K5GU and Madison W5MJ from TX, David W5XU from LA, and Dawn N7VWH from WA. We major contest rookies placed #1 North Am. and #2 world behind major league contesters at D4Z.

I got my EE + MBA in Production Mgmt at Tulane.

I Met my wife Pam there and we married in June, 1964.

We have a son and daughter, and neither are hams.

We celebrated 58 years together in 2022.

I got to play with an IBM mainframe in the Bus. School and picked the computer industry as my career goal.

Since my EE had no solid state in it and that was emerging, I thought I would go into manufacturing mgmt rather than more education in solid state EE. I spent 35 years in 4 Fortune 500 and 3 start up companies.

