



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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Brief?

This newsletter is always as long or as short as it needs to be depending on what's going on. This is a quiet time in the contesting season, so this one is brief. Enjoy the respite: less to read!

HAMVENTION! The Announcement from President K8ND

In association with the Dayton Hamvention, the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium (CCC - PJ2T) will be held on Friday, May 19, at the Hope Hotel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Date: Friday May 19

Time: 3:00 - 5:30PM

Room: P-51 Mustang Room, Hope Hotel

The Hope Hotel is at 10823 Chidlaw Road, WPAFB OH 45433.

As in past years, a drawing will be held to award a \$200 discount on a future trip to PJ2T to someone in attendance!

Hope to see you all there!

73, Jeff K8ND PJ2ND, President, Caribbean Contesting Consortium

Tragic Loss in Our CCC Family

As you have all heard by now, we've collectively lost a great friend with the passing of Dr. Janis Galm, XYL of Jim, W8WTS. She departed on May 6 after about two and a half years fighting cancer. Jan was an M.D., and Jim is, as we all know, a genius, and they both aggressively plowed the depths of technical knowledge on this particular type of cancer. Besides all of the

resources of the Cleveland Clinic, Jan's local provider, she and Jim went to various top-rated hospitals and centers around the country. But there are still problems that the best of medical knowledge can't crack, regrettably, and this was one such variant.

Jan was a very important friend in helping me through the throes of my divorce in 2008/9. She quickly became good friends with Dorothy and helped us with encouragement and moral support and validation during a very rocky period of time. I owe her a great debt as a friend.

In 2007 she happened to be the pediatrician that took care of my foster grandson, who was issue of a difficult pregnancy and birth. On the day of Jan's passing I happened to be attending a major stage production of "Into the Woods" at Kalen's high school, and he was a cast member. Jan would have been so proud to see him at 16, driving, healthy, happy and successful.



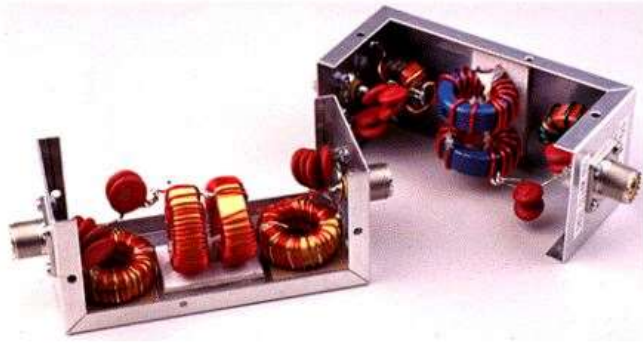
Dr. Janis Galm, KD8RXV

Jim and Jan were regulars at Howard family parties over the years, and we met for dinner whenever possible during my sporadic trips from Idaho back to Ohio. I have a small family and few friends, and the Galms became like family over these years. This is a terrible loss.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jim as he moves forward day by day.

Progress on Remote Station Filters

As previously mentioned we are in the midst of a project to add bandpass filters to the remote station. These will be between the K3 and the KPA-1500 with the purpose of protecting the K3s from front end blowout. Normally, the remote station operates when nobody is on site at Signal Point, but when there are rigs operating on site concurrent with the remote, there is a chance of problems. N7IR about had a cardiac event when I said that I did not see a problem, and thanks to Gary we are going to get this new capability before I had a chance to blow something up.



The filters will be automatically selected, following the band data from the K3. To implement this we bought a “Y-Box” from N6TV on Gary’s advice. This takes the K3’s accessory output and splits it to the KPA-1500, the RRC box, and the new filter block. One of nine filters will be selected. Six of those are W3NQN filters that we had on site in surplus at Signal Point. I brought those to Ohio in April for integration into our new system. Band selection is implemented by a Bandmaster II donated by K8ND, two Top-Ten coax switches donated by N7IR, and two Top-Ten boxes that we had in surplus in Curacao. We’ve shipped everything to Gary in Arizona, where he will make up the needed custom control cables, test everything, fabricate the 12, 17, and 30 meter filters himself, and then test it all.

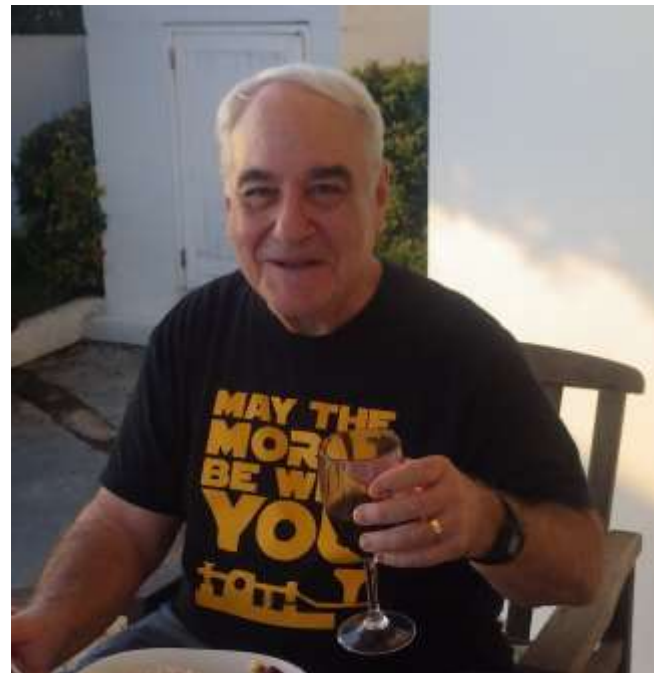
Once this is complete Gary will ship the whole thing to me in Ohio, and I’ll make up all the coax jumpers and will build two panels that will mount on the wall right of the remote station, sized to fit the areas available. I’m hoping to get this install done in late October.

Because adding this automatic filter switch module to the remote system introduces another point of potential failure, the system will default to “Through,” meaning that no bandpass filter is in-line. When the remote user wants to invoke the filter system, we will click a button on the remote PC via Anydesk labeled “Use Filters.” Otherwise, any failure of any component in the bandpass filter system would render the entire remote station useless until someone could get to the site to troubleshoot.

As usual, this remote station enhancement will be funded entirely by the users of the remote station.

KY7M Departing CCC

The collective stature of CCC was diminished last month when Lee announced that he would be leaving the club. He said that he simply had “too much going on between NCJ, NCDXF, CADXA, and our Safford remote station. I am now involved with the Foundation’s RIB project (Radio in a Box) remotely operating from its various locations in the Pacific along with editing the NCDXF newsletter.”



Lee Finkel, KY7M

It has been a great pleasure sending time with Lee on the island, and Dorothy and I greatly enjoyed his and Debby’s visit to our Idaho home last summer. Our contest teams will miss his operating skill, the ongoing horror stories about editing *NCJ*, and his ever interesting tales from the VooDude trips. Best wishes Lee, and thank you for your years of support of the PJ2T adventure.

AC7DC New Member

For years I have been acquainted with Jay Lopes, AC7DC, in my home club, the Spokane DX Association. In February he reacted very positively to my invitation to all members of that club to come to Curacao for the WPX SSB contest.

Intention became reality, Jay bought airline tickets, and he joined our eclectic WPX team. He made a huge number of contacts and was a great contributor to the team.

Now he is one of us, having liked what he saw in Curacao and deciding to become a member. We welcome him to the CCC family, and you'll learn more about him if I am able to persuade him to write a mini-bio. The world is small, and Jay and Dorothy discovered in their chats that Jay's father worked as a volunteer at Dorothy's Museum of North Idaho years ago. Dorothy remembered him well.

Jay has small engine skills, among many other engineering and scientific skills, and he worked patiently on the generator after it carried us for a few hours through a power outage the day before the contest. We couldn't find a spark plug wrench that would fit, so after returning home he sent me a surprise gift box with tools, notably a plug wrench, and a new carb and plug for that generator. He has also done some engineering estimates relative to a possible new source of backup power.

Thanks Jay, and welcome to CCC.



Jay Lopes, AC7DC

Please Don't Schedule Without Checking

Every CCC member is welcome at every CCC contest. That's a fundamental matter of club policy. But we still need to carefully coordinate visits to the QTH because there is only so much space, there are only so many beds, and only Geoff, as the main coordination guy, knows what all is happening.

We had an instance recently of a member booking airline travel for an upcoming contest and also for a week prior and a minor contest in that week. Unfortunately, the spaces in the house that week prior were already obligated to other CCC members who had coordinated with me before booking their flights, and who had planned to work that contest. The house was full.

This is no crisis thanks to the adult-like flexibility and adaptability of all involved, and we will work it out. But please do not book airline travel to a contest without first coordinating to be sure that the needed spaces and resources are available.

N5BR's Whimsical CQ Cover

Cal Birdsall, N5BR, was with us in March on the WPX SSB team. It was a delight meeting Cal, and he enjoyed his Curacao and PJ2T experience. We got crushed by a Zone 33 station, as expected, but Cal still felt that our effort should make the cover of *CQ*. Here's how he made that happen, with powerful software and an attitude. Good work Cal!

