



Signals From The Point

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Editor: W0CG

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CQWW SSB Planning Status

For October we presently have W3ACO + Melissa (W7MAH), K0PZH, VE4GV, WX4W + Cindy, W5GAI + Pam, and W4IPC. W4IPC may also bring a friend if he can work out his passport woes. If both of them show up, all beds are filled.

WRTC 2022 – Italy

I was fortunate to be appointed referee in WRTC 2022 (Held in 2023 because of COVID). Dorothy and I left our home in Idaho on June 24 (below) so that we could spend nine or so days touring prior to the WRTC event week.



Self portrait, one minute before going out the door of our Idaho condo for Italy.

We had seriously considered cancelling because both of us had been ill the week prior, but I did not want to shirk my responsibility to the committee, so we decided to press forward. We rode a flight from Spokane to Dallas, spent a night in Dallas, and toured the museums at the JFK shooting site at Dealey Plaza. We then boarded a British Airways flight to London Heathrow that I had specifically chosen because I wanted to ride the world's largest airliner, the A-380.

I paid a bit extra for exit seats, and we had six feet of legroom in front and a lav that was only two steps away. It was nearly as good as first class. The A-380 did not disappoint, with an incredibly smooth and quiet ride at a cabin altitude of 6,000 feet.

The experience at LHR was horrid, moving along in a loud, hot, disorderly flow of people until we made it to the totally chaotic boarding process for a BA flight to Bologna.

Here's the quick summary, details to follow. Arrival in Bologna was smooth and professional, we picked up our rental car, and drove straight to our hotel from my memory of the map. We toured Bologna, went to Florence the next day on the bullet train, moved to Padova for two nights, and from there took the train into Venice. On July 1 we made the long drive to Croatia, passing through Slovenia on the way and getting lunch there. We spent two nights in Croatia in a gorgeous seaside apartment at the Valamar Solaris resort, then on the 4th turned in the rental car in Bologna and joined the WRTC crowd at the venue in Castel San Pietro del Terme, about 35 minutes southeast of Bologna.



Arrival at our hotel, one of four supporting WRTC 2022 in Castel San Pietro del Terme.

At our table (random seating) for the WRTC opening banquet.



L-R: Dorothy, XYL of Dale (CE2SV), CE2SV, Roberto (CE3CT), Jorge (CX6VM), Luis (NP2Z), Mathias (CE3LR), Otis (NP2G) .



Our long term PJ2T close friend and famous contester Leo, S50R.



Beautiful countryside just outside our WRTC hotel.

Below is the famous Nodir, EY8MM, always the photographer of WRTC. (He thanked me profusely for all the PJ2 multipliers.)

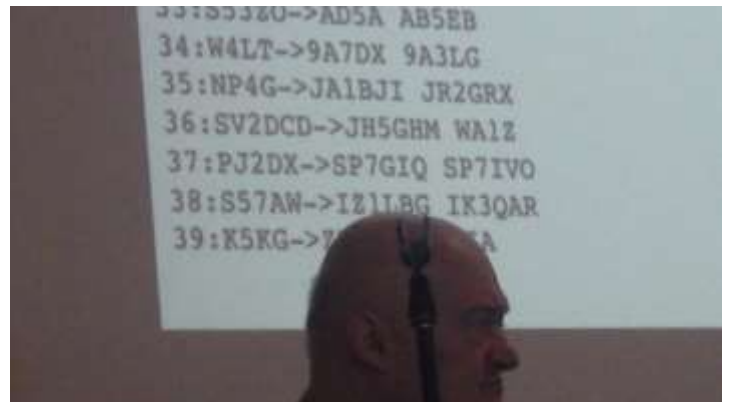


Nodir, EY8MM



The youngest WRTC competition team, DL3ON (Leon) and EI5LA (Megan), who is 16.

Following the usual WRTC procedure, the pairings of teams and referees were announced on Thursday morning. Here's Fabio (King of WRTC) in the foreground with my announcement with the Polish team on screen.



Team 37: SP7GIQ and SP7IVO to be refereed by PJ2DX.

Some interesting license plates and frames spotted here and there at WRTC (next page).



Here's some very intense contesting horsepower all in one place.



K5ZD, NP4Z, N2NT, W2SC, K1DG, K3LR, K3LA



Thursday's competitors and referees meeting was difficult and maddening because people would not shut up and give Fabio, I4UVH, the simple courtesy of speaking and being heard. Some of us were terribly disappointed and embarrassed by the poor comportment in this room. Arguments and clarifications about rules fine points were the grist for this chaos. The only time things got quiet were when Chief Judge Rusty Oates, W6OAT, took the mic to provide a clarification or explanation. He was able to control the room and obtain the courtesy of silence.



Rusty, W6OAT, in full control



I was so disgusted by the discourtesies in the room that I walked out 20 minutes early.

S50R shot this photo (next page) of us kids at dinner at a nearby restaurant on Thursday evening. Dinner was provided at 8PM, but we were starving and couldn't wait that long.



Friday morning dawned clear and cool as the draw for sites and callsigns was about to commence at the Hotel Castello ballroom.



All of the WRTC callsigns, but not their assignments to teams.



Site of the location and callsign draw Friday morning.



The site and location draw in process

I'm sorry to have to report that much of the activity at the venue the week before WRTC was somewhat chaotic. On multiple occasions we had no idea where to go for this or that meeting, or which of a couple of differing schedules was really correct.

Fortunately, we were completely clear on the Castello and 8 AM Friday as the location of the site and callsign draw. A cute five year old kid drew the locations, and my team was the 9th draw, for site FI09. My team leader SP7GIQ then drew a callsign envelope that was sealed in a black envelope that I could not disclose to them until 15 minutes before the competition.

At the site draw Fabio did, finally disclose the list of secret special callsigns, (next column).

After the draw we were told to go to the IT room (at a different hotel) to pick up our site boxes and Site Manager packets. Unfortunately, my site manager had not yet gotten there, and the box issuance procedure was unbelievably slow and painful. Some people stood in line in a hot, noisy hallway for a couple of hours. While I was waiting, my site manger called my personal U.S. cell number, and he came to the room and met me there as I got the box.

Below are some of the unhappy campers in line waiting forever to get their boxes. I was near the head of the line because I got an early random draw.



Prior page: Lots of unhappy WRTCers waiting for their site packages. I'm at the head of the line, and the photo looks backwards.

Ugo, IU4NYV leaning in the door, showing up at the site package release point to meet me and take us to the site. The guy in the grey shirt who was issuing the site packages was totally overwhelmed.



Ugo (left), IU4NYV, the Polish team's Site Manager.

Ugo turned out to be a GREAT guy with fluent English. We went to the hotel in his car and found the Polish operators and their entourage of friends, and headed for the site in three separate vehicles, all following Google maps, which worked perfectly everywhere we drove. Ugo was kind enough to drop off Dorothy in the village so she could get lunch and buy some necessities

Photo excerpt: I caught this shot of Uli, DJ2YA at the site draw because I thought he might have been NA2U's brother.



DJ2YA, NA2U's brother?

After about a 50 minute drive through gorgeous countryside we arrived at our FE09 site. Immediately team leader SP7GIQ sat down to size up the operating situation (next column).



SP7GIQ deciding where to put the operating positions.

After the team started setup, Ugo and I went to the nearest town (Maggiore, 6 KM) to pick up some groceries. He insisted on paying for all this stuff out of his pocket.



Site manager picking up groceries for all of us.

The Polish team brought along four additional folks on top of the two competitors. This is absolutely allowed as long as third parties depart 30 minutes before the contest starts.

Here's site manager Ugo clarifying some of the rules to SP9KR, Andy, with the rest of the guys working in the background.



SP9KR and IU4NYV



Poland's Team Leader SP7GIQ with visitors Aleksander (SQ9UM) and Pitor, SQ9D.

Pitor showed up in a dual motor Tesla. I asked all about it, and he said he has had it for six years, trouble-free, and loves it. Charging stations are ubiquitous in Europe.

The WRTC sites were mostly at agritourism BnBs. These are scattered all around Bologna in about a 150 km radius in the flat, rich farm country. They are intended to generate income to help support farms and also provide people with opportunities to get out of the cities on holiday. Our site was at the Agriturismo L. Unicornio, about a 55 minute drive from Bologna. None of us were prepared for how beautiful and high-end welcoming this site would be.



Site FE09, the location drawn randomly for us. It turned out to be almost like paradise. Note the WRTC yagi in place in the background. There were all manner of critters, including this menagerie of birds wandering all over the grounds (next column).



Ducks, geese, and peacocks at the site.

By dinnertime on Friday the stations were pretty well set up and we were hungry. The committee allocated 100 Euros to each site manager for dinner that evening, so Ugo and I went to town and picked up, what else, a big stack of pizzas.



Ugo ordering five pizzas for the SP team and visitors.

Saturday morning we had some time to relax before the 2 PM local start of the contest. Our site manager Ugo brought his QRP rig, and SP7GIQ had never seen anything like it. Here's Krzysytof (next page) trying it on. He loved it – was amazed.



SP7GIQ's first encounter with a QRP rig, including the leg key.



Amazement all around that IU4NYV's QRP radio could actually make QSOs.

As the contest time approached I made this friend just outside our shack. But she could tell I prefer cats.



My four-hooved friend Clio.



SP7IVO making last minute repairs with his 40 year old Polish soldering gun. He said it has never failed him.



A Chinese “everything” store where we got some 32 GB USB sticks.

SP7IVO with the station ready to go, about 20 minutes before the contest. All the guests had departed by now, per the rules.



SP7IVO ready to go.

With exactly 15 minutes to go, I passed on the sealed callsign envelope to the team leader. Until then we had no idea what the callsign would be for this team.



SP7GIQ receiving the callsign envelope from Geoff

And the winner is: I46Q. Kristoff was thrilled because he contests as SN7Q.



The team got off to a bit of a slow start, but found a groove over time. I was watching for any CCC calls in

our log, and it took over two hours, but ND8L finally called in, as you can see from the log excerpt below. I saw Ray again later in the log.

08-07 14:07	SP7BQA	21811,85 Cw
08-07 14:08	K5TU	21826,39 Cw
08-07 14:09	BA7LJK	21826,39 Cw
08-07 14:09	ED4J	21824,61 Cw
08-07 14:11	GB0RY	21826,39 Cw
08-07 14:11	WBVX	21826,39 Cw
08-07 14:11	I49A	21814,61 Cw
08-07 14:11	AGSI	21826,39 Cw
08-07 14:11	RH3DY	21814,61 Cw
08-07 14:11	RH3F	21814,61 Cw
08-07 14:12	ND8L	21826,31 Cw
08-07 14:12	UI3A	21814,61 Cw
08-07 14:12	DN5EJ	21814,61 Cw

ND8L in the S46Q log at 14:12, 21026.31.

About an hour later we worked the PJ2T station, signing PJ2HQ. N7NR also appeared in the log. Al, W1FJ also got in the log. Apologies to anyone I missed, because watching the log for friends was hit and miss.

08-07 15:05	CT10RB	21836,39 Cw
08-07 15:07	IK4PHQ	21831,38 Cw
08-07 15:07	K8IW	21837,98 Cw
08-07 15:08	K8EA	21829,48 Cw
08-07 15:09	K3VUT	21848,83 Cw
08-07 15:09	I41R	21842,53 Cw
08-07 15:10	PJ2HQ	21824,24 Cw
08-07 15:10	LU7YS	21823,89 Cw
08-07 15:11	GH3HQ	21843,82 Cw
08-07 15:11	I46V	21843,58 Cw
08-07 15:11	YD8H	21821,92 Cw

Signal Point (PJ2HQ) in the log at 15:10 on 10 meters.

Here’s the sight just outside our shack as night fell.



A pivot irrigator and tall corn at nightfall at our shack.

I packed for cold nights, but it really never went below 70. Here's the shack from outside in the middle of the night. As you see, we closed the barn doors to keep out the chill, but I never had to put on long pants. The peace and quiet outside belies the chaos on the radios inside.



I46Q hard at work in the barn

Sunday the contest is nearing its end. Here's the incredible beauty just outside the Agrotourismo site.



Immediately outside the gate of our site

Referees are not permitted to assist or advise the competitors in any way. That was hard: I was dying to drop in suggestions that would have really boosted their score.

2 PM local on Sunday, it's over.



SP7GIQ (Krzysztof) and SP7IVO (Boguslaw) celebrating the end.

Immediately at the end a host of Poland friends showed up to help take down the site. I copied the needed files off the computers onto USB sticks, and Ugo (site manager) and I beat it to HQ about 50 minutes away to turn in the kit and the USB sticks. Given the horribly slow experience Friday issuing site kits, we wanted to be close to the front of the line. The photo shows the relevant signage, simple and effective.



This is definitely the place.

Here's the REAL fun in WRTC. While the log-checkers did their work, Dorothy and I sat at dinner with these two guys (next page) S52NE (Nejc) and S52KJ (Jakob). They volunteered to work at WRTC and drove down from Slovenia to do so. Sadly, they said they had only been asked to do one small task, and spent the week sitting on their hands.



S52NE and S52KJ

They are 14 and 22, respectively, speak dead-on perfect English, and give me great hope for the future. Jakob is working on a master's degree. They seemed very excited to meet a PJ2T guy, but I was much more excited and impressed to meet them

On our last afternoon (Monday) before the closing ceremony we stumbled onto a gigantic street fair that filled up most of the streets in Castel San Pietro del Terme. I bought stuff and Dorothy did not. Sounds backwards, huh?



I found a top quality leather belt for 15 Euros. And some socks.

Monday afternoon and it is almost time to go. On the whole I has been a good experience except for a lot of logistical and communication glitches.



This is on the street in the cluster of four event hotels.

The closing ceremony was live-streamed, so many of you have probably seen it. I'll tell y'all about it in person.

<https://www.wrtc2022.it/>

Below the results is a click box to view the closing ceremony. I was excited to tears when Marconi's daughter phoned in and spoke to the crowd. She was very classy and gracious. You will hear that in the video.

Here's the link to the final results, with the gold very deservedly going to UW7LL and VE3DZ (who has lived many years in Ukraine and studied in Kiev). We were all very excited and happy to see Ukraine come out on top, but the celebration was quiet and reactions measured because there were several Russian teams in the room. Several of the Ukrainian ops were wearing tee shirts in the colors blue and gold of their flag with the slogan "Freedom Is Not Free." No kidding.

I won't bore you with details of the return trip. The photo shows us just after launching out of Bologna Marconi airport on Tuesday morning at 07:50.



After departing BLQ Runway 30, straight out to LHR. It's a British Airways A-321. Thinking of N00J!

We got wonderful views of Milano, HB9, and Paris, fought through the disaster that is London Heathrow, and rode an American 777 10 hours to DFW. Dorothy hates long flights and was dying. Spent a night at DFW, toured around in Fort Worth on Wednesday, and arrived home in Idaho at 23:50 local Wednesday.



WRTC 2026 will be in the U.K., but I think my days as a referee are over. It's exhausting and stressful.

Looking back, for me the high point of the trip was the two days in Croatia at the Solaris naturist resort.

Meanwhile, Back at Signal Point

K8ND (Jeff) and DL8OBQ (Uli) activated PJ2T as PJ2HQ in the IARU contest. It was a thrill for me to see that callsign go into our log in Italy. PJ2HQ is Brett's second callsign in Curacao, and he is an IARU Region 2 official, so each year he lets us use this callsign.

Showing excellent teamwork, Uli handled the SSB and Jeff the CW. Their outcome was very good.

Band	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults		
160:	0	0	0	0		
80:	0	0	0	0		
40:	355	185	26	34		
20:	323	755	31	36		
15:	933	657	31	39		
10:	459	55	22	25		
Total:	2070	1652	110	134	Total Score	4,288,065

Uli made the long trip from DL just for a few days for the contest. And he very graciously did all of the hot, hard work to close out the station and house because K8ND left one day before. That's a lot of work and requires German precision. THANKS Uli!

CCC Membership Renewal Status

As of July 8 only two members remain to renew. THANK YOU to everyone for the support that helps keep PJ2T in the ether.

Monthly Update: Backup Power Project

W8WTS, AC7DC and W5XU have responded to my request for volunteers for the backup power project. Here's W5XU's self-description.

I have designed systems from 2 Mw to 500 watts for various facilities in carrier as a mechanical and electrical engineer. I also did the casino on the Plantation Bay resort on Aruba.

Clearly we have some serious engineering horsepower on the committee, I'll call a Zoom meeting, and we'll get to work.

CQWW CW November – News

The team for November is shaping up. Presently we have K8ND, K5PI, W5MJ, NA2U, N7IR confirmed with W8WTS, K9DR, and WI9WI possible. We have the Moran pool house confirmed, and there will be a full Thanksgiving dinner. And oh yes, also a radio contest. Let me know if you can help this team.

QSL Manager W3HNK

As you know, W3HNK has been handling QSLs for us and many others for many, many years. Unfortunately, he appears to have reached a place where his health no longer permits him to do this. K8ND is presently leading an effort to recruit a new manager.

Progress on Remote Station Filters

I will return to Ohio in mid-August where I have access to tools and my ever-improving workshop. Once the parts and pieces all arrive there I will build the final units to be mounted on the wall with the remote station.

End of Month Treasury Balance

Per CCC treasurer W8WTS the balance in the Station Support fund on July 3 was \$12055.02. The Year 24 Station Support dues have boosted this balance greatly, and there are still a few more dollars expected into this account.

The main obligations we foresee against this balance will be replacement of the shack air conditioner some time in the unknown future (about \$4.0 K), and a generator and transfer switch, the cost of which awaits generation of a design. Pun intentional.

Bad News on the Remote Station

The KPA-1500 amp has failed. We are getting “HIGH DISS” messages on 160, 80, 40, 12, and 10. The amp is OK on the other bands. After much delay Elecraft finally gave us a return authorization number.

DL8OBQ de-installed the amp (He is very tall), K8ND brought it back to the States in checked luggage, and will then re-pack it in his KPA-1500 box and send it to the factory. Luckily, we are still within the one year warranty.

Adding to the insult, the front end of the remote K3 got blown out, Uli replaced that radio with another, and Jeff is bringing back the transceiver for N7IR's magic repair work.

There is evidence in the activity logs that some of our remote operators don't quite know what they're doing. It's very possible that we induced these failures.

We're discussing requiring a practical test before ops are allowed to use the remote station.

Special thanks to Jeff for researching how to document the departure of that amp from the country so we won't have to pay duty when it returns.



When he arrived at the airport he followed the precise procedure he had been told by two customs officers. But, of course, it is Curacao, and the officers at the airport gave him a very hard time because he did not have the preprinted form and had not gone through an export agent, even though two officials had told him it is not necessary. Jeff is very good at handling the bureaucracy, and much more patient than I, and he finally talked them down. Now we have documents

that will get the gear back in the country duty-free. Good work K8ND.



The remote station will continue to be available at 100 watts output.

Acquired an AL-1200 Tube !

Thanks to Uli (DL8OBQ) we have another spare 3CX1200A7 tube on site. Uli found one in good condition for sale in Europe and brought it to Signal Point on July 6. The seller was only asking \$400, a super deal. Thanks Uli! This is one of the highest priority needs for PJ2T. I'll season it and then test it in October.

K5PI to Make Extended Stay in PJ2

Robert has booked a stay of about five weeks, beginning in early November. The plan is for us to spend extended time acclimating him to the house and station so that he will be able to host teams at a closed, mothballed house. He'll run CQWW CW and other contests, of course, and plans a lot of SCUBA diving.

This is part of our important initiative to prepare for a time when I will not be able to be at the station at all times. Despite my best efforts, I seem to get one year older each year, darn it.

