



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

Volume 24, Number 3

March 15, 2024

PJ2T World #1 High Claimed Scores, ARRL DX Both Modes, M/M

CW: 8587 QSOs 358 Mults 9,220,290
SSB: 11711 QSOs 340 Mults 11,943,180

Dayton Hamvention CCC Meeting Announcement

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium (PJ2T) will be held during the Dayton Hamvention on Friday May 17, 3:00 to 5:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Hope Hotel in the P-51 Mustang Room as in the past two years. The Hope Hotel is adjacent to Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Mark your calendars, and make plans to attend! (This is one of many reminders to come.)

*CCC Annual Meeting
Friday May 17, 2024
3:00 -5:30 PM*

*Hope Hotel & Conference Center
P-51 Mustang Room
10823 Chidlaw Rd # A, Dayton, OH 4543*

Tentative agenda items (not yet finalized):

- *"Keeping PJ2T Alive: A Groupthink." - Led by W0CG*
- *25th Anniversary Contest: 2024 CQWW CW*
- *Generator Project Status*
- *2024 PJ2T Yearbook - K8ND*
- *Real Estate Financial Report - W0CG*
- *Treasurer's Report - W8WTS*
- *Election of Officers for New Two Year Terms*
- *Discussion of Policy for Very Long Term Stays*

*73, Jeff PJ2ND K8ND
President, Caribbean Contesting Consortium*

ARRL DX CW Contest Report: World #1 M/M Win



PJ2T's Winning ARRL DX CW Team: L-R Chuck (AD4ES), Scott (W4SO), Geoff (W0CG/PJ2DX), Dan (N1ZZ), Rudy (NF9V), Tom (VE3CX), and Randy (K7TQ). Remote ops N7NR and N7WA not in photo.

Based on claimed scores we have won the plaque again this year in spite of a small team and numerous visits from Murphy. Our claimed score is

PJ2T 8587 358 9,220,290

This is the highest claimed score of any station in any category on the DX (non US/VE) side. It is also the highest number of QSOs made by any station in any category from the DX side, and only KP2M had more multipliers, by one, at 359. We lost out on the second night on 160, and that cost us a mult or two. We should all be very proud of this outcome, the product of hard work by the on-site team, great help from our two remote team members, and all of the efforts and resources that everyone in CCC contribute throughout the year in order to bring off these major contest efforts.

Congratulations to team NF9V, VE3CX, N1ZZ, W0CG, AD4ES, W4SO, K7TQ, N7NR, and N7WA for this super win with a small team.

The contest started off with a bang, glitch-free, because we had carefully configured and tested all the hardware and software before starting. Below is the log from the 4th minute, when we logged 13 contacts in 60 seconds. That's rate. (Notice that Rick, N0YY, is in this segment.)

QSO: 21027 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	KT5C	599 TX
QSO: 14048 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	W7OXB	599 WA
QSO: 28062 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	KE2WY	599 NY
QSO: 21027 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	VE7ZO	599 BC
QSO: 28062 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	N0YY	599 VA
QSO: 14048 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	KO4VW	599 GA
QSO: 1832 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	N4RJ	599 GA
QSO: 7043 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	WA3C	599 OH
QSO: 28062 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	K3JT	599 WV
QSO: 14048 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	W8FN	599 NC
QSO: 21027 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	K17ID	599 TX
QSO: 14048 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	W2XYZ	599 FL
QSO: 21027 CW 2024-02-17 0004 PJ2T	599 K	N9ZI	599 IN

There are no 80 meter QSOs in this minute. The 80 station was shared with 10. Because the team was so small I did not set up Station 5 since we could not have kept it manned. These opening rates continued nicely, with 568 in the first hour, followed by hours of 531 and 572 before things settled down. When 10 closed we switched that station to 80 with excellent productivity, logging 97 contacts on 80 in the third hour.

Conditions were good, and that was bad. Generally, this contest was characterized by frustration here in the deep Caribbean because conditions were so excellent that US/VE was able to work Europe prodigiously, and beams and attention did not turn south. There were many times when the bands were open with little to no noise, and loud signals, but stations were not calling. This was particularly noticeable on 80 and 20. Our best score in the contest was three years ago when sunspots were not as high, thus we were more popular. Paradoxically, better conditions mean worse scores from this location. It's a level playing field, though, and we came out on top in non-US/VE.

Note, of course, that this is a different contest for US/VE because they can work the entire world while we are limited to US/VE QSOs. Scores across these two groups are not comparable.

We lost the 160 TX antenna for the entire second night, costing us probably about 150 QSOs and two multipliers. Saturday was massively windy. When the sun came up Sunday morning we saw that the 160 TX antenna had blown up and hooked onto a trap clamp at the east end of the WARC antenna director. It was

wedged in there firmly, shorted out to DC ground. I climbed up with a 150 foot long aluminum tube with a hook on the end, and managed to free it. But this was too late. Sunday just before the end of the contest we managed two daylight QSOs, one of which was a mult. This problem demonstrated how events can cascade, because one of our ops rotated the WARC antenna earlier in the week, contrary to instructions that never reached him, and the rotor jammed. I went to the top with tools, but was unable to swing the antenna back to its preferred parking position, so that created the situation where wind could toss the 160 up onto that director.

We also suffered from a couple of pilot error problems, including hot switching of the antenna system, mis-configured transceivers, missing a handoff to the remote station, and one instance where I was rousted out to a report that the 40 meter amp had failed. I was so foggy from sleep that I couldn't find the problem, and swapped in a different K3. That cost us about 20 minutes of contacts. Diagnosis after the contest revealed that the operator had somehow turned the PTT delay pot down to zero, causing the radio to act like it was in near-QSK. Problem solved. Our new operators seldom read the K3 or antenna switching tutorials that I reference in the orientation message. Luckily we had no equipment damage from an op trying to run on 20 after the remote station had already taken over 20.

Thanks to N7NR and N7WA who saved the day for us via the remote. The late cancellation by N0VD and then the technical failure of the remoting capability at K8ND left us in a short-handed situation. Dink went with almost no sleep all weekend, N7NR stepped up his planned contribution of hours, and the remote station technology performed well. Our on site ops doubled down and covered long shifts, including the un-fun graveyard hours on the low bands overnight when rates are low.

N1ZZ, founder of West Mountain Radio, made the CW trip instead of coming for SSB because that weekend he was in KP2 for a big family 85th birthday party. Dan is superb at 85 and it was a delight to see him again. His PCARS club friends AD4ES and W4SO accompanied him. This was Scott's first time here, and he's super fast, stringing contacts together like lightning at 40+ WPM. Long time ARRL contest mainstay operator Rudy (NF9V) brought his delightful XYL LouAnn for the first time and, as usual, Rudy made the most QSOs on the team, 2160. AD4ES was next at 1342. Top Canadian contester Tom, VE3CX was on site for two full weeks, escaping the horrid

winter conditions in and around Thunder Bay, making about 2200 non-contest contacts and contributing magnificently to the contest effort.

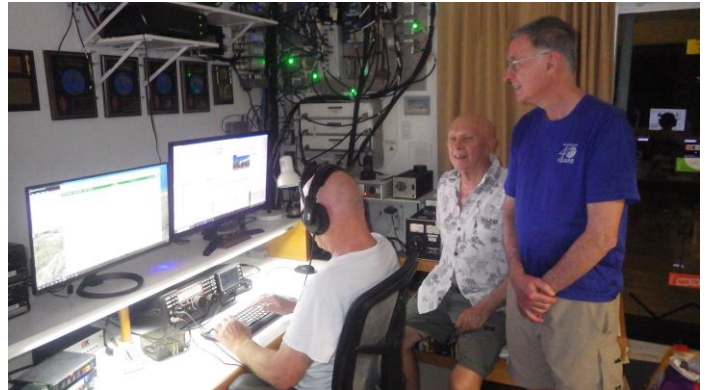


And for the second year we were honored to have the president of my home club, the Spokane DX Association, on the team. Randy (K7TQ) made the killer long trip from Moscow, Idaho, and was an enormous help to the team.

We stayed in a different rental house, # 7, because the owner opted to give our week to a long term seven week renter. That house is booked for essentially every day of the year now thanks to Airbnb, and it is becoming much more difficult for us to schedule that house and work with the owner. House 7 was perfectly fine. It was \$800/week less, but sleeps one less operator. Here's N1ZZ at the balcony of House # 7.



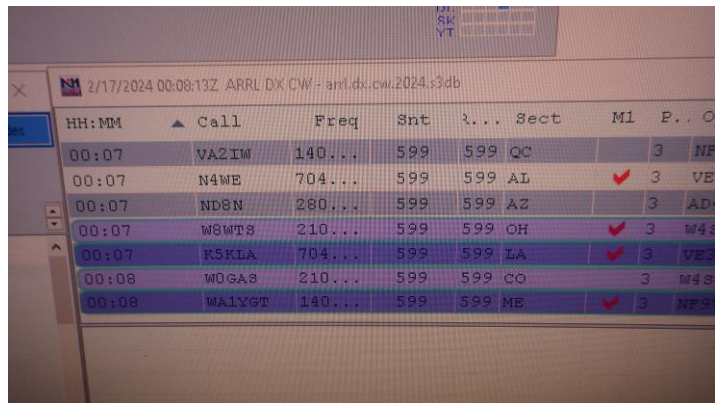
Another view from House # 7



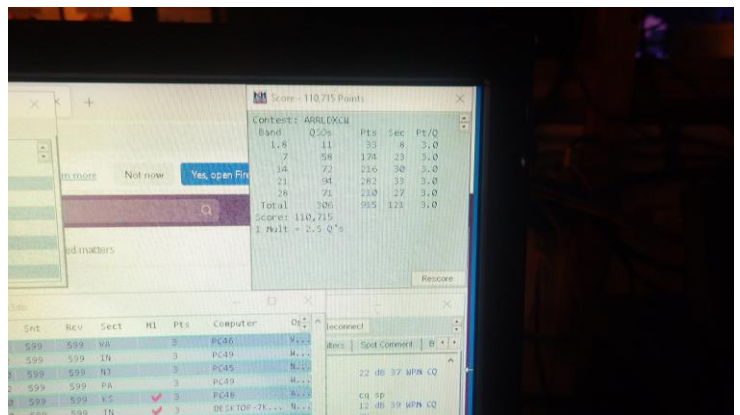
N1ZZ and K7TQ look on as W4SO spools off a 180 hour on 15 at the contest start.



N1ZZ and the magnificent view from House # 7



CCC treasurer W8WTS in the CW log on 15 in the 7th minute



306 QSOs logged in the first 30 minutes



Contest? What contest? Happy Geoff with the beautiful women. That's Rudy's XYL LouAnn.



Super efficient VE3CX on 10 making high rate Qs with little to no apparent effort or strain.



K7TQ on 20 with his napkin note to himself to stop transmitting at 1458 in order to make way for the remote operator to take his shift.

That photo shows off the slick technique we have developed to hand off a band to or from the remote station. At the 58th minute the operator stops and turns off his K3. At the 59th minute the remote operator turns on the shack K3, takes the antenna, and proceeds on that same run frequency. Same thing in reverse also works smoothly.



Two minutes remaining. LouAnn, Scott, and Chuck count down as we press for one last multiplier.



The immortal Dan Gravereaux (N1ZZ) running hot rates on 10 Saturday morning.



W0CG, NF9V, AD4ES, N1ZZ, W4SO, K7TQ, VE3CX at the finish. The beers came soon afterward.



Departure, sob. NF9V, Dorothy, LouAnn, Randy

Randy was in for by far the worst travel, killing all night in the cold, hostile Miami airport before making his way to Phoenix, Spokane, then Moscow, Idaho.

We had fun. And all weekend we were thinking of Bill Smith, W9VA (SK), who has been at this contest every year for decades. Farewell Bill – we missed you!

3830 comments are at <https://www.3830scores.com/showrumor.php?arg=RvYizV7Ynee0YU>.

ARRL DX SSB Report, Another World #1 Win

Unlike the ARRL CW contest, we were lucky to have a full team for SSB, consisting of K8PGJ, N0OJ, ND8L, K4QD, K5LD, W9NJY, W0CG, N7NR, CT1EAT, K4JC, and WX4W. N0OJ, K5LD, and K4QD came a day early to work POTA (following). But before the full team could contest we had to eat. Because of scheduling challenges with the Moran pool house we had to buy all the groceries Tuesday morning, wait for the last guest to exit the rental house, and then unload. Soon after, Geoff was at the airport picking up team members. Thanks to Dorothy for enduring this terribly busy day.



Tuesday, February 28, 2024 at Centrum Supermarket



We placed an extra large beer order for the SSB team.

N0OJ encountered terrible trouble upon arrival on Monday afternoon because his prepaid Hertz car reservation was not honored. In fact there was a long line of arriving travelers at the desk where the sign said “No cars.” After multiple hours he managed to wrangle a car from some other source with patience, persistence, and charm. It had no license plate or road tax sticker, but it got them around.

Dorothy kindly served a late dinner to everyone Monday night, we got everyone bedded down, then collapsed ourselves after a tough long day for everyone.

Early Tuesday morning we struck out for the grocery stores and K5LD, K4QD, and N0OJ headed to Mount Christoffel Park with their kit and an N1ZZ battery to activate that park for the second year in a row. They made hundreds of contacts on 10 and 15 using a mix of CW and SSB, making lots of POTA enthusiasts really happy. Wednesday morning they did the same at Shete Boca park with excellent success.

Both American flights arrived early on Tuesday afternoon, and soon we all settled down to dinner at the Moran house, relaxing by the pool and celebrating that we had all gotten here OK.

Immediately on Wednesday morning, Andy (W9NJY) set about making repairs to his famous Ridge remote coax switch box. In October W3ACO and I determined that two of the three 12 volt relays had failed, and connected the 80 antenna to the remaining functional port. Finally, now in late February, it was time to try to get all four ports functioning again. Andy brought lots of tools and parts, I had new relays on hand at the shack, and Andy got to work (next page).

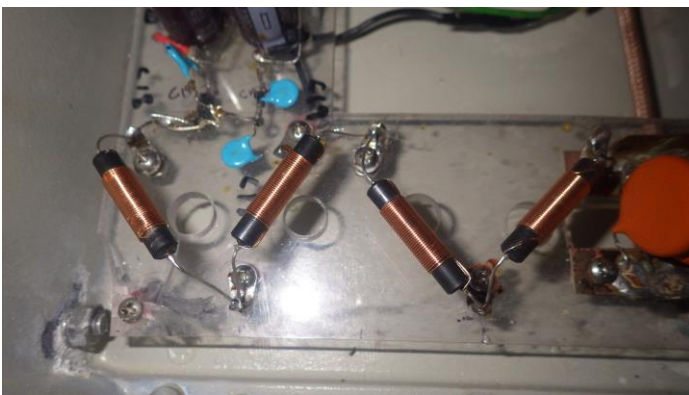


Dr. Andy in the early stages of repairing his Ridge remote coax switch.

This was a difficult and critical repair because the relays were connected using copper strap that intricately wove among the relays' output tabs. This has to be done just right to preserve good SWR performance, particularly on 10. This work required a day and a half of absolute patience and super technique, but he persevered, also replacing a few other possibly suspect components in the box. Here's the operation as the new relays are starting to be installed.



The Ridge part of the NJY switch during the surgery



New inductors installed as a precaution

The next day I reinstalled the completed box on the Ridge. I took the photo(next column) lying on my back in the stickers as I was weatherproofing the cables.

Everything worked perfectly and we used the box to good advantage in the contest.



The long run of coax from the shack enters at the left.

While Andy was laboring away on the coax box, Pete worked on K3(8), installing a digital voice recorder in this radio which had previously not had one.



K8PGJ, grounded static pad, grounded wrist strap, installing DVR in K3(8), 28 February 2024

In a model of planning and self sufficiency, Pete showed up with 100% of the tools he needed, to include magnifiers, a grounded static pad, and full pre-printed directions. He had not done this type of install for quite a long time, but systematically read the guidance and figured it out. He also updated some of the K3 hardware with stainless.

Friday arrived and with that we ate our traditional precompetition pizza. If you've contested from PJ2T, this photo (next page) might make you drool.



L-R: Walter (K5LD), Ray (ND8L), Cindy Foote, Curtis (WX4W), Pete (K8PGJ), Andy (W9NJY), Dorothy, Jan (K4QD), Ryan (N0OJ), Vince (K4JC)

Here's the start. These guys did an astonishing 891 QSOs in the first hour.



20 (K5LD), 80 (W9NJY), and 40 (K8PGJ) at the opening

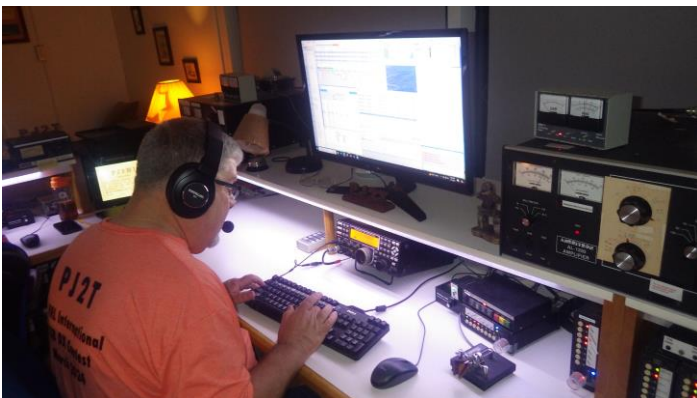


L-R: ND8L (10), K4JC (15), K8PGJ (40), W9NJY (80), K5LD (20)

WO4D (FL) was the first QSO, 14.253 MHz. The 15 meter station did 264 contacts in Hour 1. Here's Vince (below) quietly and calmly reeling off those QSOs.



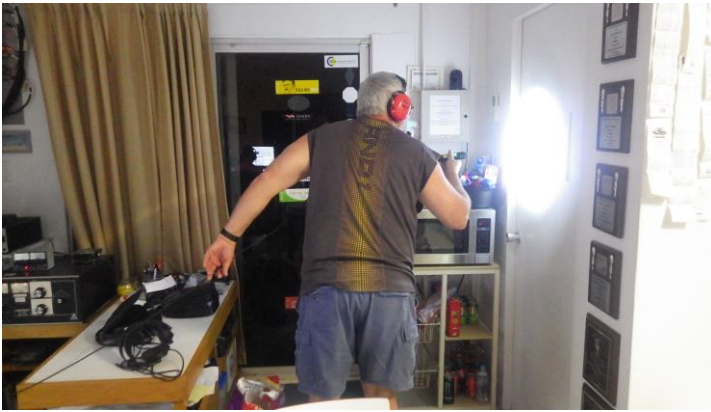
K8PGJ executed lots of successful passes to other bands from his 40 meter position.



K4JC, a true pro with his radio announcer voice and a calm, relaxed approach to high rate contesting



Ray (ND8L) running tremendous rates on 10.



Stretching his headset cable to its limit, Curtis and his flashlight check out the schedule in the predawn hours Saturday.



CT1EAT looks on as Curtis (WX4W) runs 10



Ryan (N00J) patiently mines a not-so-good 20 meter band for points.



K4QD pretending to be happy as he works hard for 160 meter contacts in the wee morning hours.



K5LD working little to nothing on 160 but putting on a good face.



N00J with a Heil headset and contest keyboard instead of his usual FMS keyboard and Telex aviation headset. He's an Airbus 319/320/321 captain.



The little known directional fork antenna (DFA), monitoring the 10 meter station from the rental house.



Disrespect for CW shown by the SSB team



Break time on Saturday

Above, Jeannie the kitty hoping we'll drop a chip while ND8L, K5LD, K4JC and Dorothy take a relaxation break.

Below, halfway finished with 7480 contacts.



WX4W's remedy for slow rates on 80



24 hours to go. L-R: W9NJY, ND8L, WX4W, CT1EAT, K4JC



K5LD and K4QD doing the super dirty work of cleaning the grill after the contest.

Congratulations to this excellent ARRL DX SSB 2024 team!



L-R: Andy (W9NJY), Dorothy, Ryan (N0OJ), Cindy, Curtis (WX4W), Jan (K4QD), Ray (ND8L), Geoff (W0CG/PJ2DX), Pete (K8PGJ), Vince (K4JC), Walter (K5LD)

TUI Blue Hotel Construction Has Begun

Construction is now proceeding very rapidly. Here’s a photo log.

At the curve at the top of the hill: the road now goes left for residents, right for the beach.



Very rapid progress on foundations for buildings



The new road at the left and a construction perimeter and lighting visible at the right



Foundation footer forms in place below



Excavation progresses toward the west

Wire Tracer – How Is It??

It turns out that the wire tracer detects a wire by grounding one output of the instrument and applying modulation to the wire under test. Since that other side is a grounded and buried radial wire, this instrument is not appropriate to our needs. We willed it to a CCC member who had a use for it, and will investigate further what approach we need to take to evaluate damaged radials.

Update on the Apartment Construction

Construction is still stopped. No additional news has flowed except that the owner is reportedly trying to get his project reclassified as a “resort,” which is not subject to zoning or setback restrictions.

End of Month Treasury Balance

The end of February balance in the Station Support fund is \$11,430.36. Thanks Jim.

Remoting Use Contributions

Error: I failed to list N7NR last month in the paid remoting contributions. If you plan to do any remote operation at any time in CY 2024, please send your \$200 contribution to treasurer W8WTS. That covers as little or as much remoting as you care to do for the

entire year, and subsidizes the electricity costs for the QTH. K8ND has now joined this list also.

US/JA Tower Maintenance Update

I started the annual maintenance on the US/JA tower on February 23. It had been exactly a year to the day since I've been up there with paint and the Makita angle grinder. In the process of cleaning bad rust from the top plate of the tower I found significant delamination. I dug deeper and deeper with the Makita twisted wire wheel trying to find a spot beyond the lamination that was good. The east overhead 80 meter vee boom truss attaches to the hole in the bent tab of the top plate, precisely where the delamination was occurring. As I worked, that carabiner fell out right before my eyes when the top plate failed. Luckily I was able to grab the truss cable before it permanently fell beyond my reach.

The next day I fabricated a new attachment point for the boom truss using a DXE saddle clamp and a piece of scrap aluminum angle, and installed it on the tower. From there I continued cleaning and priming rust, working carefully and aggressively because the top two sections of the tower are showing their age and damage is slowly spreading.

Over the ensuing three weeks I've spent many hours working my way from the top down with the Makita wire wheel and epoxy paint, painstakingly cleaning rust and recoating. Next week I hope to reach the bottom, then replace a Big Grip Phillystran attachment on the tower end of the northwest middle guy. All of this is very time consuming.

This process was punctuated by a small disaster on March 8 when my paint bucket support wire broke and a bucket of epoxy primer fell 60 feet from my harness and crashed on the shower pad below, splashing paint everywhere. Dorothy and I did a triage cleanup, I made a new belt attachment and paint pot, and then I climbed right back up for a 2+ hour session.

I have kept this tower in service for 24 years with these maintenance techniques, but it is nearing end of life. Five more years will probably be the limit of how much longer we can safely climb this Rohn 45 tower, possibly fewer as we carefully monitor its condition.

PJ2T/Signal Point Work Lists

Eight CCC members had a chance to talk about the future when we were together in Curacao for the ARRL SSB contest. A central key to sustaining the

PJ2T miracle is finding a way to keep up with the maintenance. Geoff and Dorothy need help. It was suggested that 1) we resume the old practice of setting up maintenance trips to the station, and 2) that we make the work list public.

The best time for the work trips would be in the week before a contest week – people would simply come a week or so early, tackle projects, and then already be in place for the contest that follows.



We're not formally scheduling any work trips yet, stand by for that, but as suggested in our island meeting, I built this starter list, which is in no order of priority.

- Finish rust scraping and priming and epoxy painting the US/JA tower.
- Replace middle guy tower end northwest Phillystran grip.
- Paint the very few and small isolated spots of early rust on the Europe tower.
- Take down the 12/17 beam and rehabilitate the traps, or replace it with a trapless antenna.
- HF-2500 amp is overheating and also folds power back at random times. Amp is unusable. This needs to be diagnosed and fixed.
- Titan III amp only makes 400 watts of output.
- Titan 425 amp makes smooth full power, but from time to time the output drops to 150 watts. Dirty or bad T/R relay?
- South side house soffits need to be replaced with lauan and 1x3 trim pieces, then painted.
- Plants behind West Bedroom need to be removed to stop root intrusion into septic tank.

Then cover with geotextile and decorative gravel and desert plants.

- Set up Station 1 so that RTTY can be run with minimal to zero setup and troubleshooting time.
- Replace rotor in Europe tower and send the bad one north for repair.
- Replace rotor in WARC tower and send the bad one for repair.
- 160 TX antenna radials need to be tested, renewed, and some replaced, then install a new 2:1 unun transformer.
- Solve SWR problem on 20 and 40 when the remote station bandpass filter system is in bypass mode.
- Tape over bad roof tape seals with Eternabond (on site) roofer tape.
- Dig up and locate then repair broken yellow radial connection adjacent to fiber conduit.
- Repair sagging east overhead boom truss on 80 meter US/JA wire beam.
- Trim all tree branches back from all guy wires.
- Spot cover bad areas on all security bars using epoxy paint.
- Grind off rust on top of bars for picture window, then prime and epoxy paint.
- Replace and paint bad conduit straps in Ocean Pavilion.
- Install bottom fill and bracing piece on rotting laundry room door.
- Scrub then varnish inside portion of pavilion ceiling. (Outside portion was done in late 2023.)
- Install switchable light in Radio Closet.
- Patch/replace concrete balustrade posts that are failing.
- Remortar concrete pillars that have large amount of flaked and failed concrete.
- Apply concrete caulk to leaks above Step Closet that were identified in December.
- Install new nylon rope and color markers on property line with hotel to keep the construction activity away from our cables. (This has already been done atop the Ridge.)
- Repair broken 20 meter driven element on Ridge tribander.

We will discuss this at Dayton, then take steps to coordinate a summer or fall season work trip once the Hamvention has occurred.

Callsign Rule Changes in the U.K.

From our friend Roger Jones, M00RD. This is crazy. Now, when you work the U.K., you will have little idea what country it was you worked. Nutso.

The RSL (Regional Secondary Locator) "E" denotes England and may be inserted in existing call signs to form a new secondary call sign.

M00RD is the new optional RSL alternative call sign to M00RD as introduced by OFCOM rule changes in the UK effective 21 February 2024. Both call signs are valid for England. The licensee may choose which call to use at any point in time on air.

On the flip side, MW, GW, MM, GM, MI, GI, MD, GD, MG, GG stations etc. may, if they wish, now drop the RSL and simply operate as M or G, despite being in countries/DXCC entities other than England.

Which is going to be confusing for the DX and contesting fraternities! When working a "G" or "M" station, a DX station can no longer automatically assume they have worked England. They may have worked Wales, Scotland, Isle of Man, Guernsey, or Northern Island! We're presuming contest organisers will start to mandate the use of RSL's by UK stations to circumvent any confusion between the countries and keep the scoring accurate.

Put another way - up until 21 February 2024, stations operating in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Isle of Man etc. were mandated to include their RSL (W,M,I,D,G etc.) in their call. Which made

sense and allowed DX to identify the different countries within the United Kingdom and entities as per the ARRL DX listings. Additionally, until the new changes, England was not mandated to insert E as an RSL. The simple G or M denoted a station call as England.

From 21 February 2024, operators of stations in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland etc. can discard the RSL if they elect to do so. Which will unfortunately make those stations appear to be English stations should they elect to use a new shortened call.

England, however, was the reverse and never able to insert the "E" as an RSL until the changes but is now able to do so as an option.

And, just like that, we've doubled our usable call sign options and confused everyone!

In the real world, one assumes non-English stations won't drop their RSL, to ensure their entity is correctly identified, whilst English stations will embrace the opportunity to add in an E as their RSL, especially in WPX style contests to create interest, but otherwise continue to operate simply as a G or M station.

W1USN Visited Again

Mike Rioux, W1USN visited the neighborhood in late February for his third annual visit. He rents the monster "Galo" house at the top of the hill and puts up wire antennas for FT8. Once again this year he came to the station to run some QSOs, particularly with his friends in a Royal Navy net in the U.K. Mike is a delightful guy, and we always welcome his visits. He made it back home to cold Boston on schedule and put five QSOs into our ARRL SSB log. Thanks Mike!

Ridge Tribander Failure: 20 Meters

On Thursday, February 29, I discovered that half of the west side of the Ridge Skyhawk tribander driven element had fallen off. It broke cleanly at the tubing joint where the element is constrained by the element spacer. This turns out to be a very difficult repair because in spite of applying liberal antioxidant when we built it, the tubing pieces are welded together by salt corrosion.



Break in 5/8 inch tubing of Ridge 20 driven element

The photo shows that corrosive matter accumulated at this small clamp supplied by and specified by Bencher to hold the element spacer in place. This may be a good idea in the real world, but it corroded and eventually caused a break in this salty world of the tropics. You can see in the photo that the corrosion ate completely through the tubing.

I quickly analyzed the needs. We had some of the needed pieces of tubing on site, new in the repair box. For the rest, I hurriedly ordered the needed aluminum tubing from DX Engineering. My "foster" daughter and son-in-law brought these to the island on March 12 after fabricating a PVC pipe carrier for the seven six foot long pieces. We will attempt to rebuild and replace the entire 20 meter driven element. This may not be successful without additional help. News in the next newsletter.

Tackling Leaks in Step Closet

Last November Dorothy and K8ND and I analyzed the sources of leaks in the Step Closet with patience and buckets of water. There is increasing damage in there to the equipment and supplies as the leaks grow worse.

Here is the first remedy, application of concrete caulk to the joints between the steps and the house.



I spent all morning on March 7 applying concrete caulk. This stuff is very difficult to work with, but will stop 90% of the leaks.

Signal Point Roof Repairs

I managed to completely stop all the roof leaks in 2012 by replacing hundreds of fasteners and then installing about 3600 pieces of roof seal tape, one at a time, over a period of several weeks. That Eternabond microtexture repair tape is a fabulous product, but even it will not survive forever in our severe sunlight.

The seals are now failing, so I've been working about 90 minutes each morning before it gets too hot ,overtaping the bad seals (below).



The bright white tapes are the new ones. Thus far I've installed about 200 feet of tape.

Stew Perry Spring Topband Challenge Score Report

On Saturday/Sunday March 9 K8ND piloted PJ2T to the top claimed score in the Single Op High Power category. He operated patiently for just over 11 hours, beating out K1LZ (1,659 points), KP2M (1,133 points) and other notables. Good work Jeff! We've worked very hard on new Beverage antennas since the construction destroyed our original antennas. These new ones are not quite as good as what we had, but good enough, and they will survive the onslaught of heavy equipment going forward.

210 QSOs, Total Score 1,739

Here are his 3830 comments.

Conditions pretty good: no 'letter mining' required! Activity seemed low. From 06:42 to 07:15 (34 minutes) I had no answers to my CQs. This is around the end of sunrise in Europe, and when the North Americans go to bed! (Sleep is for the weak!)

My first two hours, the wind was blowing the Inv-L

wire, shorting it to another antenna and tripping the amplifier fault condition. After that, the wind died down and no more problems.

Countries worked:

DL,E7,HP,K,KH6,KP2,KP4,LU,OH,OK,OZ,SM,SP,UR,VE.

YOTA Contest Result

On Sunday, March 10 we were busily going about our usual maintenance business, painting and cleaning and I was preparing to go up the tower to do more rust control work. Dorothy had been scrubbing the interior ceiling of the Ocean Pavilion all morning and repairing the damaged laundry room door. Because I started at about 6 AM and worked continuously through the morning, I had not yet checked my E-mail.

After mixing the epoxy and just before putting on the harness I checked E-mail, discovering a request from Connor (W4IPC) to run the YOTA contest. He said that he had not thought of it beforehand, and had lost a lot of time, but could he salvage it by getting on to make some QSOs? Knowing of no other planned activity for the remote, I gave him the green light with a request not to use the US 15 and US 10 antennas. I was about to be in physical contact with those antennas for several hours.

Connor hopped on signing PJ2T and, you guessed it, appears to have won with the highest claimed SOAB-6-Youth HP score on 3830 by far. In only six hours of operation he made 678 SSB contacts, with 170 mults.

Band CW Qs Ph Qs Mults

80:			
40:			
20:		162	49
15:		231	59
10:		285	62
Total:	0	678	170
			Total Score 303,620

Our normal procedure is for ops to reserve the remote station for contests, but this came up at the last minute, and I said "OK" not knowing that others were planning to use the remote for some testing. My apologies, this one is my boo boo.

Congratulations Connor – while I was up painting the tower (and my face and clothes) Connor was running super rates. The exchange in this one is your age, and at 21 he stood out. His 3830 posting is at

<https://www.3830scores.com/showrumor.php?arg=RvYizV7YJuxLLU> .

Historic Miscellaneous Photos



October 20, 2014

For several months in 2014/15 we had boxes of tile all over the house. This was part of the 180 square meters I ordered from China that eventually became the floor of the patios and West Bedroom. It seemed to be everywhere – that was a lot of heavy boxes for which we had to find a place.



October 5, 2015

Above, the stations completely disassembled and removed preparatory to replacement of the floor tile and installation of the new N0YY/W0AWL operating desks.



October 6 after we removed the old tile floor.



I'm coating the floor with a polymer prep compound.



Geoff setting up the tile saw prior to cutting pieces.



My brilliant daughter (Amy) cutting tile. Her list of skills, from singer, dancer, stage performer, scholar, handyman, author, builder, and entrepreneur would fill several volumes of this newsletter.

