



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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May 15, 2024

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*

Huge Surprise Gift to PJ2T

I was shocked silly on April 20 when I opened an envelope from my six inch high pile of Idaho mail to find a surprise gift to CCC. Our member Jay Lopes, AC7DC, sent along a check for \$5000 toward a backup

generator. This was a complete surprise, completely unsolicited, completely generous. Here's part of Jay's cover letter, dated April 8, 2024. (There was a delay in my opening the letter because I was at my QTH in Ohio for a couple of weeks.)

Dear Geoff,

While at the H40WA DXpedition, I spoke to Don-N6JRL, who was with his youth group in Curacao a few months ago, and he told me that power went out again due to a fault of the local utility. I am afraid the problem will get worse by the utility, capacity vs. demand, and the hotel that is being built near the station. In order to combat this situation I have enclosed a check for \$5000 towards the PJ2T Generator Project.

Sincerely,

Jay, AC7DC

This matches the largest single donation in CCC's history. In 2017 we received \$5000 from a CCC member for the Europe Tower replacement project. That was a \$27K expenditure in total, and this generator project will rival that.

Needless to say, Jay's gift has catalyzed action on the backup power project. W8WTS and I have already discussed this extensively, and we are moving on the project. The following have been accomplished thus far.

1. I found a supplier in Miami that can get us either a 17 KVA or 13 KVA diesel generator, 50 Hz, 240 volt three phase, which is exactly what we need. I have gotten quotations on both, and the smaller one saves only \$700, so we will go with the larger unit. This would be new equipment, including a sound enclosure, licensed for export only, so it fits us well. The

supplier is only a couple miles from our Miami freight forwarder, AMCAR/Lamprecht, so we would avoid the normally high cost of stateside transportation to Miami. His quotation includes an advanced interface that would enable us to control and monitor all aspects of the generator from the States.

2. I have made contact with M&E ABC Caterpillar, a supplier of commercial generators on Curacao. (I visited the company last February.) Their Commercial Manager is working on a quotation for a generator that fits our specifications. I have not yet received that quote.
3. Jim and I have determined that the concrete pad for our generator should be located near the trees in the east-central part of the backyard, about 25 feet behind the sidewalk. This keeps it fairly close to the house, but far enough that fumes and noise will be lessened in the house. It also keeps it a bit more remote from prying eyes and people wandering in the yard. Jim says that four #6 conductors will be needed to the house, and I have priced that cabling. We will also need control wiring, RS-232, and Ethernet cables in the conduit that we will bury to the house.
4. Jim is presently studying the requirements and product availabilities for a simple transfer switch for the house. He does backup power for a living, so we have the best possible expertise on this issue.

Needless to say, an expenditure of this magnitude will require approval of CCC's officers and board, and we will need to wait until after CCC elections at the Hamvention to seek that approval, as some of the players will change as terms come to an end.

But at this point we have enough info to make an initial rough estimate of the costs of this project if we were to buy the equipment in the States.

Generator Quote 17 KVA	12,419
Local Miami Delivery	250
Shipping and Duty to Curacao	6,000
Cabling and Conduit	400
Transfer Switch and Hardware	600
Concrete Pad and Block Walls	1000
CCC Travel Subsidies	775
TOTAL	\$21,444

There is no way to know the ship cost for the ocean freight ahead of time. Those costs are determined and

collected after the shipment is complete. But based on my experience with many other ocean shipments to the island, I'm guesstimating \$6000. We can rely on local Curacao labor to install the concrete pad, with my help and supervision.

Here are the very tentative, not yet approved sources of funds.

From Present Station Support Balance	6,000
AC7DC Donation	5,000
Projected Dues, May/June 2024	4,420
W0CG Donation from Real Estate Fund	4,000
TOTAL	\$19,420

This is about two thousand short of the projected cost. None, I repeat, none of this has been approved by the officers and directors. The above is just an example of one way in which we could achieve this magnificent capability for the station. If we used the above numbers we would still have about 4500 remaining in the Station Support Fund for other maintenance and repairs. I am able to contribute from the real estate fund because 2023 was the first ever operating year that the real estate fund has not been negative. This is thanks to the largest CCC membership we have ever had. The members are making this possible.

If costs exceed the above estimates, or if the leadership is unwilling to spend this much of the station money on a generator, then we will have to look at another funding plan.

This will be a diesel generator with a name brand Perkins engine and a Leroy-Somer generator. The controller will be a Deep Sea 7310, which will give us full monitoring and control capability. We can set it up for autostart, and then turn autostart off if we do not want it from time to time. Fuel consumption under load would be about a gallon an hour.

This is a big deal, but we are up to it. Unreliable power has plagued us for 24 years, and we live in constant terror of having an entire large-team contest effort ruined by a power outage. This is a total solution for that problem.

I'll update you when we receive a quote from the on-island supplier.

If you wish, you can drop a note of thanks to Jay at jay@ac7dc.com



Jay Lopes, AC7DC

PJ2T: 25 Year Anniversary Contest CQWW CW

Our November team is happy to welcome Doug Klein, AD8CW to the team. Most of you will recognize Doug more readily as formerly K4LT, and before that WD8AUB. He is a founding member of CCC. He and I hatched the idea in the late 1990s driving his pickup truck full of tower and antenna parts from Ohio to Florida for ocean shipment to our VP5FXB contest effort. The precise moment when talk translated into action was in Doug's basement when he handed me the first ever dues check for CCC membership. At that moment, we were off and running.

Doug was part of the gang in Curacao who helped me in November, 2000 to get the Signal Point house ready for contesting only a few days after I had bought it. Together with W9EFL (SK) and W0NB we managed to crank up the old John Thompson tower and pulled off many other miracles in getting the station ready for CQWW CW, our first PJ2T contest. He and I had a particularly stressful ride from Cost-U-Less to the house with three much too big plastic tables hanging out the back of a tiny rental hatchback. Those tables supported PJ2T, literally, until 2015 when the N0YY custom operating desks arrived.

Unfortunately, Doug had to go back to Ohio just before the CW contest because of family and Thanksgiving requirements. Since that time his work and other constraints have prevented him from returning to the station, with one exception long ago, so it's exciting to have one of our earliest key people with us for this 25th anniversary.

The team presently consists of AD8CW, W9NJY, W0CG, NA2U, K8ND, N7IR, W8WTS, WA7LNU, NG7M, and possibly W1DED. I'm still hoping that Kevin will be able to confirm as our videographer. You can see more about this unfolding trip at <http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/CQWWCW2024/cqww.cw.2024.preplanning.htm>.

We have both the Moran pool house and also House # 7 rented for this special event. There are two more queen beds available, one king, and one more open queen in the shared West Bedroom. Please let me know if you can join us. This will be a big deal, Dorothy will be there, and the airfares are presently some of the lowest I have ever seen. IT IS NOT ON THANKSGIVING WEEKEND.

October CQWW SSB Update

This contest continues to evolve in the direction of a young female operators event. We're thrilled to have KI5SXY, W7MAH, and K0PZH on that team. Special thanks to Rich for subsidizing much of the travel costs for some of the young operators. Others team members include VE4GV, W3ACO, PC8M, and W0CG, none of whom are young, and none female, but we get by OK on the air also.

CCC members have booking priority, as always. There is one bed still available for a guy, and a king bed available to one more person or couple. Please let me know if you can help this team. Airfares to Curacao are some of the lowest I have seen in years.

Welcome New CCC Member NF9V

We are delighted to announce a new family member: Rudy Verhoeven, NF9V. Rudy has been operating at PJ2T for many years, usually in ARRL DX CW, and he is now a CCC member.



Rudy, NF9V running 20 in ARRL DX CW 2022

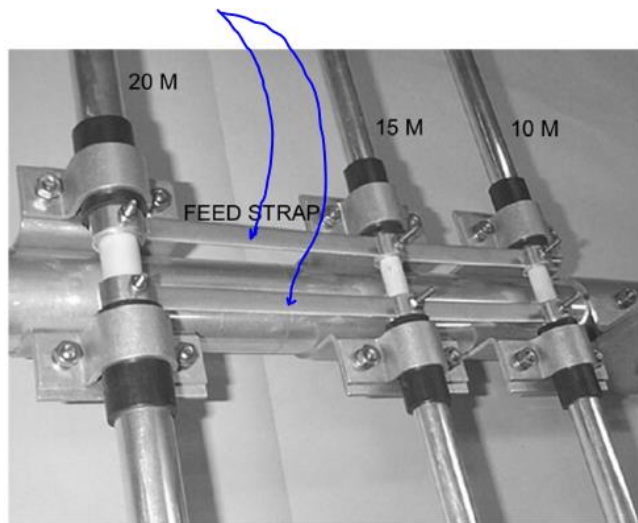
He's a retired police officer, now living in Port Washington, Wisconsin. NF9V is an absolute top world class contest operator, and the nicest guy you would ever want to meet. He will be a very positive asset to CCC in every way. You can say "Hi" at rudedude2140@gmail.com.

End of Month Treasury Balance

The end of April balance in the Station Support fund is \$10557.74. Thanks to Treasurer W8WTS for his time and effort keeping track of this.

Bencher Feed Straps Found

In response to my plea via E-mail, CCC member Ed, K8IV, responded almost instantly that he could obtain two sets of the needed feed straps below, and get them to me in Ohio after the Hamvention. (Ed works at DX Engineering.) He is also the type of person who always, always falls all over himself to do kindnesses for other people. These antenna parts are being donated to PJ2T from DX Engineering.



Bencher Skyhawk driven element straps (arrows)

AA0FU's Drive-By at Signal Point

I heard from Marshall by E-mail on April 15 and sent him a copy of the driving directions to Signal Point. He managed to find the place and sent the following photo, amazed by what he saw there.



Marshall, AA0FO, April 16, 2024

PJ2T CW Skimmer Failure

K8ND does a superb job of managing the PJ2A CW skimmer system. Thanks to his work, we hardly ever hear a word about this system, which just keeps on playing, now in the air for 10 years.

The skimmer is located at the offices of Curacao Surveillance Services, our Signal Point security company. That company is owned by our friend Keach, PJ2KC, who has graciously allowed us space in his climate controlled server room, a spot on his antenna tower, and has picked up the tab for our electricity use for all these years. Direct support of that system is by our friend Jean-Claude, PJ2BVU, who is technical manager at CSS.

PJ2BVU sent Jeff this sad photo in April, showing that the skimmer active receive antenna had literally fallen off the tower. As an added insult, part of it was run over by a truck that, when backing in, did not see the antenna's remains on the ground.



April 15, 2024: DX Engineering DXE-ARAH2-1PE active receive dipole antenna

After some study of the photo, W8WTS determined that the antenna is not as dead as it looks, and could be repaired. But, one better, K8IV (our hero on the Bencher Skyhawk feed straps (above)), made the following reply by E-mail.

I have a complete DXE-ARAH2-1PE , new, never used unit, I cannot at this time find the Active electronics AVA-2 but working on getting a new AVA-3 we make here at DXE in replacement of the AVA-2. I also have (2) full length whips. If you are in town at your Ohio residence anytime soon, I can bring these items over whips include assuming they can be shipped readily. Let me know what I can do, meanwhile going to work on getting an AVA-3 active donated from DXE.

This kind of thing gives me a lump in the throat to see this generosity of effort and resources to keep PJ2T active and on the air. THANK YOU Ed. Since the above E-mail, Ed has confirmed that the new AVA-3 active amplifier is available and is being donated to PJ2T from DX Engineering. The rest of the antenna components are personal donations from Ed. I'll update you in this newsletter as this project evolves.

CCC Member AC7DC at H40WA

As I hope you saw in the June QST write-up, our member Jay, AC7DC, was on another island than Curacao this past February. After delays and shipping frustrations, he and five others braved the heat, humidity, and red tape to put H40WA on the air from the Solomons. I've always wanted to see that part of the world, but from the sound of their story I'd better stay at Signal Point, which is like a top end luxury country club compared to the conditions they endured in Temotu Province.



Interestingly, it was on that DXpedition that Jay and N6JRL had the conversation about unreliable commercial power in Curacao that led to Jay's large donation toward our long dreamed-of diesel generator.

You can read more about this trip at <https://intrepid-dx.com/h40wa/> . It will make you tired and hot just to read about it!

N7NR Is Now CCC's Plaques Manager

I'm grateful to Dave who saw my appeal for help in the April newsletter and offered to take on the duty as CCC's Plaques Manager. In this capacity Dave will establish as accurate a list as possible of what plaques we have now, capture photos of new plaques and add them to the list when we win new plaques, handle ordering of duplicates you may want for your trophy wall, and coordinate thank you notes to the donors of those plaques.

You will be hearing from Dave with requests for information about plaques as he works to build

our list. Please respond when able. And a monster “Thank You” to him for his willingness to do this.

Work Trips to Curacao

As you know, there is strong support for the concept of member work trips to the island, partially subsidized by Station Support funds. You all saw my E-mail of a couple of weeks ago that constituted a first step in setting up these kinds of work projects.

I combed through the list of things that need to be done, divided them into categories, then listed out the kinds of skills that would be needed to tackle that work. The result was a matrix that criss-crossed work with people.

That matrix is at <http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/pj2t.tasks.skills.matrix.htm> .

Please take some time to have a look at this. I wrote in people on the left column based on your inputs via E-mail. If you see errors or any other needed changes, please let me know and I’ll fix the matrix. We are presently discussing who might be involved in the first work trip, and when that might happen. I’m sure there will be discussion on this topic at the Hamvention.

May/June Is CCC Dues Time

Ick, sorry, I hate this time of the year in that it requires that the club once again pass the hat in request of your continuing support in the form of CCC dues.

As you know, the dues revenue is one of the financial cornerstones of our continuing success these 24 years just ending. The amounts will be the same as last year, with \$300 to the Real Estate Fund, and \$250 to the Station Support Fund, from which we draw 28.57 per member to pay your VERONA dues. The real estate dues of \$300 have never been increased since our inception in 2000.

CCC is fortunate now to have several members who believe strongly in what we are doing, and thus who continue to support the club even though they may never actually visit the station. We are very grateful for that help, but also understand that times and fortunes and circumstances change, so if it becomes uncomfortable for some of you to continue this support and you need to stop, that’s fine. We will look back with appreciation, and for the future will eagerly welcome you for a visit to PJ2T if that becomes possible down the road.

I’ll send out the membership renewal invitation letters in a few weeks. Our CCC membership Year 25 begins June 1.

“Ham Radio and More”

Dorothy found this archive in which you may be interested.

<https://archive.org/details/hamradioandmore>

From that site:

Ham Radio & More was a radio show about amateur radio hosted by Len Winkler, KH7LW. It aired from April 21, 1991 to October 26, 1997, and was the first radio show devoted to ham radio on the commercial radio band. Shows originally were one hour in length, local on KFNN 1510AM, Phoenix, Arizona. Later it changed to a two-hour format, with one hour local and the other syndicated nationally. Finally, it switched back to one hour, syndicated nationally.

Photo Strays



W0CG working on the US/JA tower, February 24, 2024, with the Coast Guard chopper monitoring. They waved! (K8ND drone photo)

