



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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New CCC Member AG3I

We're happy to welcome Marty Newingham, AG3I, to CCC membership. Marty hails from Greensburg, PA, not far from my hometown of Wheeling, West Virginia, and very close to one of my alma maters, the University of Pittsburgh. I first met Marty at an ARRL donor reception at the Hamvention a couple of years ago and then ran into him again on the Greene County Fairgrounds midway this May. At that time he indicated that he has long been impressed with PJ2T's record of activity, and that he would like to help support what we do. He responded quickly to our membership invitation, and we are grateful for his support. At present he plans to support the station from afar, but I hope that we may be able to entice him to come to the island as time goes by.



Marty Newingham, AG3I

Welcome Also to James Erickson, W7EY



James Erickson, W7EY

Also joining the CCC family is James Erickson from, believe it or not, Bozeman, MT. As you know, our long time member Gene Shea, KB7Q, lives in

Bozeman, but he and James had never met. They remedied that last week when they got together at Gene's condo for a brief tutorial on using the PJ2T remote station. Once his new RRC box arrives he will become one of our remote users.

The average age of the CCC group continues to drop, amazingly, inasmuch as W7EY is only 43. He has a broad range of high level industry engineering experience as you can see from this excerpt from his QRZ.com page.

My professional background is in software and security engineering on Unix systems. I'm fluent in Terraform, Python, C/C++, Java, and X86 ASM. I've worked for Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter, Oracle, and Salesforce.

Beyond that technical experience he is highly experienced with all phases of construction and maintenance work and is also an active tower climber, building a large remote station outside of Bozeman. He has already helped us with technical support on the generator project, is signed up to be on the CQWW SSB team, and is offering to get his hands dirty in any way necessary to help sustain PJ2T as an active DX contest station. We're happy that he has signed on, and I hope you will get to meet him soon.

CQWW SSB Team Is Full !

Our already full team is getting even more full. The team now consists of W0CG, W3ACO, W7MAH, Erica Haendel, VE4GV, PC8M, KI5SXY, K0PZH, W4IPC, KM4CLT, KN2P, DL3ON, W7EY, and possibly KG5XR depending on Navy OCS dates. W7EY and his XYL will stay offsite on their own, and the rest of us will work out some innovative sleeping arrangements so that everyone has a spot and is comfortable.

As I mentioned before, six of our team are female, and except for me and Rich, they are all young. This is super! But it's 15 people. I was wracked with worry about how I will be able to get the stations and Signal Point house and the rental house all ready for this team on my own, without Dorothy's able assistance, but Melissa, W7MAH has saved the day by arranging to come to Curacao five days early. She and I will use those days to set up the stations, clean up the house and grounds, and take care of antenna projects on the Ridge. Melissa is extremely physically fit and strangely seems to enjoy treks to the Ridge in the heat!

I particularly thank W3ACO, VE4GV, and W7MAH who are very generously sponsoring significant parts of the costs for our youth operators.

25th Anniversary CQWW CW Contest



We have been fortunate to be able to add Vince, K4JC, to the operator list. He's coming with his XYL, and they managed to grab the last sleeping space for a couple in the Moran pool house. There is still a bed available in the shack West Bedroom, and space for a couple in the last available queen bedroom in the King rental house, #7. Thus, our team now consists of W0CG, K8ND, NA2U, N7IR, W9NJY, WA7LNU, NG7M, W8WTS, AD8CW (formerly K4LT), M0ORD, and K4JC. W1DED is having family crises but will try his best to make it to the island in November to operate with us. If Kevin comes, he and his XYL will make a vacation of it and stay off site. VE9AA is also possible to attend, depending on how well he heals following a motorcycle accident.

You will recall that I have been trying to recruit a videographer in order to professionally capture the history of our 25th anniversary event. After getting multiple negative answers in that search, I have given up and decided to do it myself. I will be asking all of you to send me various short video clips, requests to follow, and I will also shoot considerable video on site. I will buy my equipment during this coming week. I'll be asking everyone on the team to help me out as I shoot interviews, capture contest video and audio, and trek around outside and on the Ridge. We'll also include some off site "footage." This will be done in a way that would be of interest and comprehensible to the non-ham public, to licensed hams who do not contest and to, of course, practicing contesters. The video will encapsulate the 25 year history of PJ2T. This is a better approach than my writing a book about PJ2T because YouTube will reach a much wider audience.

After the fray, I'll edit everything together and create a spiffy YouTube video with music, textual graphics, and excellent visuals.

WE NEED TWO MORE OPERATORS to fill out the available spaces.

Trap Caps from K4JC via N3BJ

Vince, K4JC, knew that we were looking for parts for Cush Craft antennas, and caused this box of trap caps to arrive in Idaho, sent from N3BJ. Thanks Vince!



Box of Cush-Craft trap caps from N3BJ

Our hope is to get that WARC beam down for maintenance on an upcoming project trip. This will require an accomplished climber, as working on that aluminum tower is very tricky at the top.

K4JC and K5LD Are TV Stars

CCC members K4JC (Vince) and K5LD (Walter) managed to get some excellent publicity for Field Day and for their local Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society on Orlando channel 13. This is the same club group that comes to Curacao each March and absolutely kills it on ARRL DX SSB, Multi/Multi, from PJ2T. See the TV clip at the link. Good going guys!

<https://mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2024/06/20/hm-radio-field-day-this-weekend>

End of Month Treasury Balance

We will have a report from the Treasurer next month on the end of July balance in the account after he has time to catch up.

Plaques

As you have seen, Dave (N7NR) has now initiated work on his quest to organize and preserve our CCC/PJ2T contest plaques, which have been in a chaotic state for years. Please respond to his queries when they arrive. THANK YOU to Dave for taking on this task!

The Generator Went to Sea Yesterday

After countless hours of pre-work and cogitation, and approval of the purchase at the Dayton CCC Annual Meeting, our generator is bought and was delivered to the freight forwarder in Miami the morning of July 2.



Delivery July 2 to our freight forwarder in Miami

There is more beauty in this photo than may meet the eye because the shipment you see in the photo was from 61st St. in Miami to 25th St. in Miami, a miniscule distance. Our ace in the hole was that the manufacturer of the generator set is in Miami, mere blocks from the port. They charged us only \$250 for this local delivery. Had we gotten the generator from somewhere in mid-America the truck freight to Miami would have been thousands and our project would not have been financially feasible.

Before delivery the vendor set up the generator to our specification of 220 VAC line to line and 127 VAC line to neutral. This is a 50 Hz three phase generator, precisely our requirement to directly substitute for the Curacao commercial power when it dies.

The freight forwarder has completed the export paperwork that I started, which is quite complex, combined the generator with other cargo in a container destined to Curacao, and turned the container over to

King Freight, our ocean carrier. (NN3W, if you're curious, the HTS code for this item is 8502.11.0000.) The ship sailed for Curacao yesterday, Saturday, July 13 and will arrive the following Wednesday. Following arrival on Curacao, Caribbean Cargo Services will receive the unit, calculate all of the aggregated shipping charges, and E-mail me the bill. I'll pay that by on-island intra-bank transfer from my Curacao bank account, and we can then arrange for local delivery. I have made arrangements with Zoom and Dirk to receive the generator and put it in a secure spot. Their goal is to set it on blocks or boards, and wrap it tightly in rope-secured tarps to protect it from the salt. It will then wait patiently for us to arrive in mid-October. W7EY will then assist me in the checkout and initial hookup. Later in the fall season or possibly in early 2025, we'll build the concrete pad and put in the permanent cabling.

Thanks again to AC7DC whose gift of \$5000 started this whole process.

PJ2T 160 Meter Incredible Accomplishments

As most of you know, K8ND and W8WTS are 160 meter experts. They have put PJ2T on the air nearly every year in the CQ 160 CW contest in late January. In fact, many of you have noticed the array of contest plaques above and around the door to the West Bedroom. They are all from the 160 contests.

But you may not realize the depth of these accomplishments. I'd encourage you to have a look at the excellent compilation kept by K8ND at this link.

http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/Planning/CQWW160/PJ2T_CQWW160CW_YearlyResults.pdf

Congratulations Jeff and Jim, and keep it up!!

Hotel Construction Is Moving Fast

Here's a shot from Brett, PJ2BR, of the first hotel building, structurally complete in early July. As you see, it is five stories, and this is the first of five planned buildings.



Building 1 at the new hotel (Photo PJ2BR)

Remote RRC Boxes Are in Production

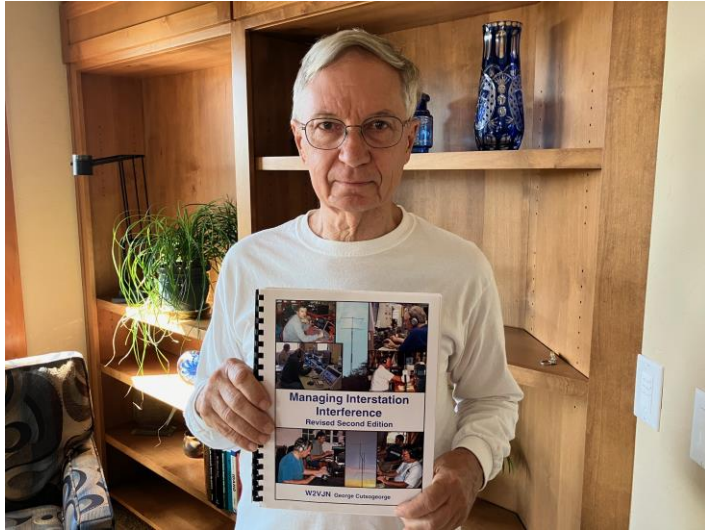
Amazingly, we have a report that the long-awaited remote interface boxes are back in production. SM4KYN found them and let us know. Thanks Anders! See <https://limmared.nu/en/903-remoterig>

W7EY ordered one, so it seems that this is real. These things have been incredibly scarce for years.



You only need the top one shown in the photo, with the speed control pot at the right for CW control. The companion unit is on the island connected to the remote K3 transceiver.

W2VJN Book from K4JC



W0CG in Idaho with the W2VJN book

Here I am with a copy of “Managing Interstation Interference, 2nd Edition” by the famous W2VJN. Vince very kindly sent this to Idaho as a gift to PJ2T, and it is now in my take-to-Curacao pile. Heaven knows we need the guidance in this book as we try to obliterate the problem of 20 meters getting into 10, one of the key objectives for an as yet unscheduled work trip. The book includes a general description of the underlying theory, then turns to excellent guidance on the construction and application of coax stubs and bandpass filters. There is nothing in there about isolating nonlinear sources of broadband interference, but the book still provides us with a super starting point in figuring out whether we can gain anything by modifying our system of stubs.

Thanks Vince!

Membership Renewal Progress

Our CCC annual membership renewal cycle is almost complete. Only three members remain to renew. They are all three very active members of the club, so I’m confident that they will renew soon. That will give us a total of 28 members counting our two most welcome new members W7EY and AG3I. I thank you again for these resources that are so essential to keeping PJ2T visible on the bands and loud in the contests.

This Just In: IARU Contest from Signal Point

PJ2HQ was on the air in the IARU Radiosport contest. Once again this year we obtained permission to use callsign PJ2HQ and represent Curacao as our national

headquarters station. Operators included N7NR, N7WA, W0CG, and K8ND. As a multiop station the rules required that we run mixed mode.



Here’s our outcome from the contest that ended just a few hours before this newsletter went out.

IARU HF World Championship - 2024

Call: PJ2HQ
 Operator(s): PJ2DX PJ2ND N7NR N7WA
 Station: PJ2HQ

Class: Headquarters HP
 QTH: Curacao
 Operating Time (hrs): 24
 Remote Operation

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs Zones HQ Mults

160:	0	0	0	0		
80:	62	0	8	2		
40:	266	128	21	18		
20:	743	10	18	21		
15:	726	277	25	27		
10:	221	84	19	14		

Total: 2018 499 91 82 Total Score = 2,074,443

This was done entirely via the remote, and thus was a very taxing test of the remote station in unattended mode. The QTH has been closed and unattended for a considerable period of time. I have not been there to do any maintenance since the end of March. The ambient heat in the shack is high. So we crossed our fingers, monitored the heat sink temperature on the KPA-1500, and hoped it would all hold up OK. The worries were

for naught, the equipment worked great, and we have now a serious all-remote unattended facility multi-op contest operation under our belts. I can tell you from my operating experience that it was no different from being right there in the chair on the island, except that it is more comfortable in every way in my nice cushy home office in Idaho. N7NR had the high rate hour for the contest. The pileups were fun and challenging, and we all enjoyed resharpening our skills. I know I was plenty rusty, but we did OK anyway.

Thanks to KB7Q for conceiving PJ2T remoting years ago and for bringing it to life, to N7NR for funding radical improvements in our remote station, to KB7Q for his ongoing patient tutoring of all of us, for his guidance with the log VPN, and to this super IARU 2024 team. This is what we live for: putting our club station on the air prominently whenever possible.

Photos from Tower Day, December 4, 2018

Our newer members will not know about this. In CY 2018 we miraculously managed to raise \$23,000 to replace the 17 year old Rohn 55 tower that had become a death trap from corrosion damage. The key to this project that got us off center and moving was a kick start contribution of \$5000 from K8PGJ who was then a brand new member of the club. All but one of our members followed with contributions to enable this mega project. It was a real team project.

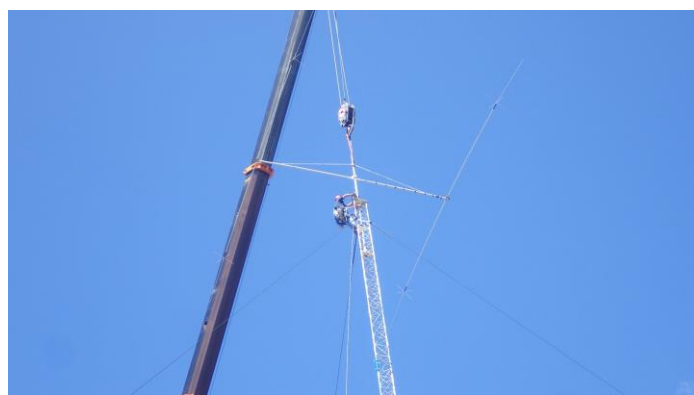
The photo in the next column shows your tower team at dinner the evening before the big day. This was the calm before a very big storm of activity. VE3CX, W8WTS, and tower professional W3YQ all traveled out of their own pockets to come to the island to do the install. It had taken eight weeks of full time work on site to be ready for this day. WI9WI, KA9DOC, AD7XG, Gary's XYL Svetlana, NR0X, Holly, Dorothy, and W0CG led this effort along with lots of able help from CQWW SSB and CW team members who "volunteered" to pitch in to build and prepare this tower for installation.



Tower install crew VE3CX, W8WTS, Dorothy, W3YQ



Setting up the crane outside Signal Point's west wall, December 4, 2018.



Tower professional Tim Jellison, W3YQ cutting off the mast. Tim rode up on the crane hook.



Easing the old tower to the ground.



Very brave and capable, W3YQ maneuvering the new 40 meter yagi onto the new tower and mast. Tim donated all of his time as well as his travel costs!



Hanging from the crane hook 120 feet above us, we're finessing the new tower onto the base bolts. Note the crane boom in the distance at the right.



Rigging the Bencher Europe Yard antenna to go up on the crane. We managed to put up two yagis on December 4 before we ran out of time and daylight. We did the rest of the installs the next day using Armstrong methodology, with VE3CX serving as the Human Winch.



A very relieved W0CG tensioning one set of guys while W8WTS and VE3CX concurrently do the other two sets.



W8WTS rustling a very heavy and unruly bundle of feedlines back onto the messenger cable to the new tower.

