



Signals From The Point

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 Editor: W0CG

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ARRL 10 Meter Contest Report

We did this contest entirely by remote. This was another epic demonstration of the ability of our remote station to put PJ2T on the air even when the QTH is closed up, mothballed, and absolutely nobody is on site. The numerous supplemental cooling fans on the remote station equipment allowed us to run a full KW for the entire contest even though the indoor ambient temperature was 32C.

N7NR, NA2U, K8ND, W7EY and I teamed up to operate the contest from California, Ohio, Arizona, Montana, and Idaho! The technology worked perfectly, particularly owing to the Hamachi VPN (thanks KB7Q) which enabled us all to use the same networked log in real time. The fact that we were not on the island seemed transparent to we operators, with no noticeable latency delays or distortions on CW or on SSB. When the pileups get hot, and they were hot, you soon forget about the 4200 miles in between your operating chair at home and the Signal Point shack.

Call: **PJ2T**
 Operator(s): **K8ND N7NR NA2U W0CG W7EY**
 Station: PJ2T

Class: **M/S HP**
 QTH: Curacao
 Operating Time (hrs): 35
 Location: South America
 Remote operation

Summary: [Compare Scores](#)

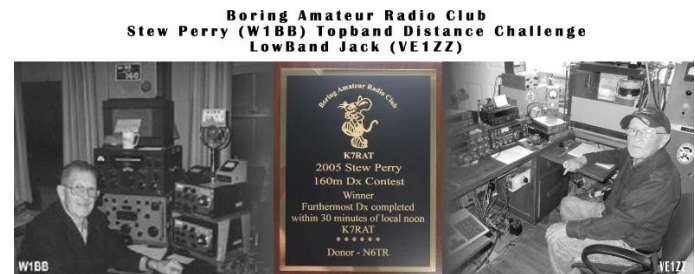
Band	QSOs	Mults
CW:	2208	161
SSB:	1339	126
Total:	3547	287

Total Score **3,303,370**

The peak of the subspot cycle did not disappoint. What a welcome contrast this was from six years ago when we did well to make 150 contacts in this contest.

Report of Stew Perry Contest December 28-29

In another unattended remote operation K8ND once again ran the Stew Perry contest on the last weekend of the year. If you're unfamiliar with this contest or with SK W1BB, there's a convenient summary at <https://www.kkn.net/stew/>.



Jeff (PJ2ND) reported that the conditions were among the worst he had every seen from Curacao, making only around half the usual contacts. But his stamina and patience are well known and widely celebrated, and he managed to place well among the top ten.

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score
K3JO(@K1LZ)		x	411	14	2,381
ZF9CW		x	283	12	1,838
VA2WA			460	11	1,768
KP4AA			226	10	1,630
PJ2T(K8ND)		x	181	12:14	1,545
K1LT	SO2R		499	11:41	1,535
VE6WZ		x	261	9:42	1,457
LY4A	SO2R		375	13:30	1,374
K1KI			420	13:23	1,342
F6AGM			327	11:07	1,306

Jeff's 3830 comments are at <https://www.3830scores.com/showrumor.php?arg=RvYizV77J7YY0U>

I hope you'll particularly note his exhortation to stay on the air even after European sunrise, when there's still propagation in our hemisphere and the band will still support scoring points!

Article Submitted to *QST*

On December 9 I was surprised to receive an invitation from Becky Schoenfeld, ARRL's Director of Publications and Editorial (sic), to write an article about the PJ2T 25th anniversary contest event. I had suggested such an article much earlier in 2024, but *QST* turned down that request, instead giving us the consolation prize of a "Stray."



Her December request was for an 1800 word manuscript and approximately four photos telling the story of the CQWW CW 25th Anniversary event in retrospect. Drafting this was a bit tricky for me in that I was not on site and had very few photos. I did what I could, and submitted the article within 12 days of her request. Let's hope they run it.

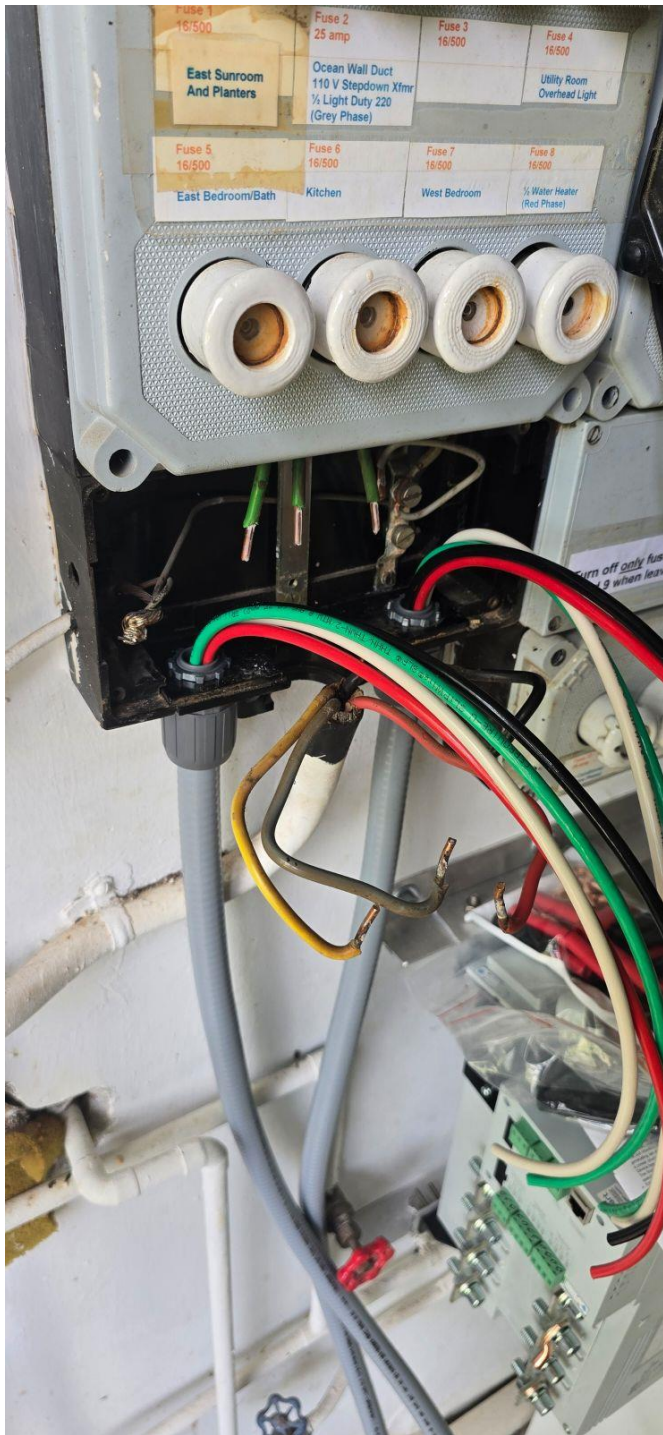
Plexiglass Ordered for Transfer Switch

You may recall that the Slovenian transfer switch we bought for the diesel generator was "open frame" so that it could be installed within a pre-existing metal electrical box.



Our Three Phase 50 Hz Transfer Switch

I mounted it on the wall in October (photo), and in November W8WTS wired it into the house's permanent circuitry (next page).



W8WTS' photo of the four #8 conductors leaving the master switch box for the transfer switch, then returning. This was extremely difficult work because of the heavy duty wire and crowded conditions in this ancient master switch box.

Now that that box has been mounted on the wall (W0CG) and wired (W8WTS), it is time to enclose it for safety. We decided to use plexiglass to fabricate this protective cover because it is corrosion proof, very strong, easy to work with, will enable us to easily see inside and check the condition of the switch and status lights, and can be removed and reinstalled with no fear

of shorting out the electrical lugs as would be the case with a metal box.



Those are the upsides. The downside of plexiglass is that it is expensive. But this was an essential item, so on December 31 W0CG ordered four pre-cut pieces of very strong 3/8 inch thick material to be delivered at his Ohio QTH. We'll put it together with aluminum angle and lots of stainless hardware once we arrive on the island on January 21.



The plexiglass arrived in Ohio on January 13.

We'll pre-drill these sheets and the aluminum angle at W8WTS' on January 17 or 18. Jim has a great drill press.

Dorothy Is Doing Well !

On December 31 we had the much anticipated visit with the cardiologist who has been handling Dorothy's illness. The news is overwhelmingly good. Her EKG is dramatically better, she has been taken off one of the tough medications, her lungs and sinuses are now clear and healthy, and she has been told to live normal life, subject to taking a rest when she feels tuckered out. We will return to the doc in late April for a final echocardiogram, but all indications are that she will have a full recovery from her October heart not-attack. Dr. Larson said to definitely go to the Caribbean for the winter and to "Have fun."



Thanks again to so many of you for your concerns and cards and messages wishing her well. We're hoping for a much less eventful year in 2025

CCC Member Emergency Contacts File

At our 2024 Hamvention CCC meeting we decided to create a file of emergency contact information for everyone who visits PJ2T. This did not get done, my fault, and K8ND kindly reminded me in December. The info simply consists of names, phone numbers, and E-mail addresses of a couple of contact people you would want us to reach if there were a problem while in Curacao. Also, if you have arrangements for medical evacuation, as does Jeff, that information should also be on file.



Thus far we have only compiled information for K8ND and W0CG. Please send your contact info to Geoff, and we'll add it to the collection that will be available on site at all times in Curacao. Thanks.

CQMM Contest Invitation and Honor

In early December I received the very kind membership invitation below by E-mail.

Dear OM **Geoff – PJ2DX !**

The CWJF GROUP Board held its last meeting of the year on December 4th (which takes place every first Wednesday of the month). We have many reasons to

be happy, as there were countless achievements obtained this year that is ending.

But 2025 will be a **VERY SPECIAL YEAR** for us on the Board and for our more than 1,250 Members spread across 126 different countries located on 6 continents.

The **CWJF GROUP - PY4KL**, which is the largest CW Group in South America and one of the largest in the world, **will complete 40 years (1985 – 2025)**, without ever having interrupted its activities throughout all these years, always supporting, encouraging and promoting the dissemination of CW.

Our history fills us with pride (learn a little about our history on our page) and we want to continue doing much more, especially with the support we always receive from our Members.

And we have more reasons to be happy, because we are the organizers of the **CQMM DX CONTEST**, which will hold its 15th edition next year and which has quickly become one of the largest CW contest in the world (if you have never participated in our contest, visit the CQMM DX CONTEST page).

It was with the aim of making our party even more special in 2025 that the CWJF GROUP Board decided at the last meeting of the year to extend a **SPECIAL INVITATION** to 40 radio amateurs **(equivalent to the 40 years that we will celebrate next year)**, who were chosen for their CW activities, whether by their constant presence on the bands, by their participation in CW contest, by their support for expeditions or by nominating one of our Members.

By receiving this email, it means that you are one of the 40 radio amateurs to whom the Board of Directors of the CWJF GROUP is sending a **SPECIAL INVITATION (completely free of any membership or annual fee)** to become a **MEMBER** of our Group.

We await your response to our invitation, which we hope will be positive, but we will respect any decision you make.

Sincerely,

Ed – PY4WAS, President – CWJF GROUP

CWJF GROUP : www.cwjf.com.br

CQMM DX CONTEST : www.cqmm.com

I responded in the positive and soon afterward received a welcome message from PY4WAS. Even though Signal Point is not on the mainland we are absolutely part of the South American ham radio community, so it

seemed important that we participate with CWJF. When their contest approaches in April I'll see if we can field a team via the PJ2T remote. Participation in this contest is high.



Call for Operators: ARRL DX CW February 15-16

For many of us this is our favorite contest of the year. The stateside and Canadian signals are mostly strong and easy, and we have a natural geographic advantage that gives us a strong chance of a World #1 win.

We have the Moran pool house reserved, and we expect that Dorothy and I will be on site.



A reminder of what you'll be missing if you don't join us in February.

We have a top team scheduled to come, including WI9WL, VE3CX, NF9V, W4SO, VA3CW, AD4ES, and N7WA. There is still one bed available. I will not

recruit outside of CCC for another 10 days or so, hoping that one more of our members will sign up for this fun operation.

Late flash: VA3CW just cancelled, so we now have TWO beds available and need help!

CQWW CW 25th Anniversary Video Update

I only yesterday (January 8) received the files from W1DED, so it will not be possible for me to have time to work on the November video until at least late April. It will be a diminished version since I was not on site to capture material and because we lost half of the team to cancellations.

So What About the 25th Anniversary?

We will try again next year. Because Murphy hit us so badly this time we will shift the commemoration to November of 2025. That will mark the completion of 25 years of contesting from PJ2T, and we'll again go for a big team. Dorothy and I will be on site, and I'll put together a lavish high quality video.

PC55 Purchased and Configured

The tiny form factor Dell computers have performed magnificently. This hardware has vastly simplified the cost and difficulty of the computing part of our operation because they are so small, so cheap, and so reliable.

But even these machines can not be expected to last forever. Thus, as a hedge, I bought one more in December and configured it for PJ2T as shown below. This was a refurbished commercial grade PC, as we always buy, and was a ridiculous bargain at \$113.49. I'll put it into the Signal Point inventory in late January.

We thank SM4KYN for making us aware of this technology and for the many computers he donated to the station.

PC55, Box 462
Dell Optiplex 5060
i5-7500 3.4 GHz
Model D10U
16.0 GB RAM
64 bit SN 80N9JL2
Anydesk 711 718 813

Help Wanted for Work Trips: March 2025

The following are possible opportunities for a work trip to Curacao. None of these interfere with any major contests. Dorothy and I will be on site to support this. CCC would cover half of your airfare, with assistance from a presently anonymous donor. We will have the Kia Soul available on site. We have fallen seriously behind on maintenance because I lost half of the 24-25 contest season with our medical crisis.

March 4 – 11 or
March 11 - 18 or
March 18 - 25

Here are projects that need to be addressed, followed by a priority level of Highest, High, or Moderate. Obviously we won't get these all done, but we need to make a sizeable dent in this list.

- Diagnose and eliminate 20 into 10 interference problem. Highest
- Repaint Europe tower with finish epoxy, top to bottom. Highest
- Repair and repaint bad spots on US/JA tower. Highest
- Install stainless splints on bad diagonal braces in US/JA tower and on bad spots in legs. Highest
- Replace broken 20 meter driven element and feed straps in Ridge tribander. Highest
- Repair/rebuild Eur 3 element 80 meter wire beam. High
- Replace rotor in Europe tower. Moderate
- Replace rotor in WARC tower. Moderate
- Diagnose why Commander HF-2500 amp is running dangerously hot. High
- Isolate problem and parts needs for repair of Titan III amp. Moderate
- Locate and repair bad radials on 160 Inv L and install correct Unum. Moderate
- Install new soffits on northwest part of house. Moderate
- Dig out most plants behind West Bedroom, Roundup, and seal with membrane. Moderate

- Assess T/R intermittent problem in Titan 425 amplifier. Moderate
- Sand and re-varnish mahogany front gate. High
- Varnish inside ceiling of Ocean Pavilion. Moderate

There is space at the QTH to bed down up to four people. We need preferably two tower climbers, one very good amplifier technician, and a general purpose handyman who can handle working in the heat. This is all work that I have been doing for many years, but which is now beginning to exceed my capability. A team approach is needed going forward to keep your station healthy and on the air.

We tried to set up work trips last year, but because of schedule problems, many of which were my fault, we did not get this done. March 2025 is a much better time and situation.

Please let me know if you can help, and we'll swap around some messages about scheduling and see what might be possible. Also, if March is not workable, are there other times of the year that you might be able to come?

Youth Team Update CQWW SSB

This is a go! WW SSB 2025 will be an almost exclusively young team. W4IPC has already recruited approximately 10 young operators. Violetta, KN2P, is coordinating the fund-raising for this contest. The young people will need considerable assistance in order to be able to get to Curacao and participate on this team. K8PGJ will also join the team, and I will probably be on hand with the sole duty of performing as videographer. (If I don't operate, my seniorness won't mess up the average team age.) It is likely that KB7Q and Joyce will be the site hosts for this team.

The CQWW SSB 2024 contest is chronicled in brief in the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXuaEFrysF8>.

As always, all CCC members are welcome to join this team, but I have not heard any interest from anyone as of mid-January.

CCC Financial Report

As of the end of December the treasury balance was \$6388.35. Thanks W8WTS for the financial reports.

CQ 160 CW Contest

K8ND will arrive at Signal Point on January 15. We're thrilled that Jeff's medical issues have abated and that he is able to make the trip. W8WTS plans to fly in on Friday, just prior to the contest, and will need to jet back to Ohio the following Monday. This contest has become much more difficult to win with the rise of lots of 160 activity and competition in North Africa and Europe, so get on and give them and many others a QSO if possible.

Signal Point as Viewed by the Coast Guard

I received this photo (next page) from KM3T (Dave) on January 8. He has a friend who crews the Curacao Coast Guard flights and is aware of PJ2T's role in the ham radio world. He sent this photo to Dave, who sent it on to me.

We have all seen these flights zooming by at low altitude and high speed as part of their drug interdiction and perimeter security mission around the island.



Signal Point from the Coast Guard plane, December, 2024 (Thanks KM3T)

K8IV in Snowy Ohio

Oops, 12 PJ2T 25th anniversary glasses got sent in error to KI8V rather than K8IV. Finally after some period of confusion and delay I managed to hand off Ed's glasses to him today at lunch in snowy Ohio. Our favorite Subway is only minutes away from my house and from DX Engineering, where Ed works.



CCC Member Ed, K8IV, Mogadore, Ohio, January 8, 2025

ARRL DX SSB Contest Planning

K5LD is leading the planning for this fun contest, and we have him, me and Dorothy, AK4R, K4JC, K8PGJ, N0OJ, ND8L, KE3VV, and N1ZZ on the team. ND8L will serve as chef. There's room for one more op, and we have the Moran pool house. Interested? Let me know, thanks.

Lunch in Ohio January 10

I manage to meet a couple times per year with Tim Duffy for lunch. My Ohio home is just a few minutes' drive from DX Engineering and some attractive and yummy places to eat. We were neighbors and friends here in Northeast Ohio over 40 years ago, and have kept in constant touch ever since.



W0CG and K3LR, Tallmadge, Ohio, January 10, 2025.

