



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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We're Ready: Quick Report on CQWW SSB

This newsletter is out early because I depart from Idaho on October 13, hopefully arriving in Curacao the next day. Thankfully, AG3I has offered help, and will be on that MIA-CUR flight with me on the 14th. He will stay on site until the following Sunday to help me set up. W7EY will also be around on Sunday and Monday to lend a hand before the team arrives. I was unsure of how I could possibly tackle these tasks without Dorothy on site, but CCC President Marty has stepped up to save the day. I'll have some reports for you via E-mail once we get there and start on the work.



Look for lots of pre-contest contacts coming out of Signal Point in the week preceding the contest.

Tragedies in the CCC Family

There seems to be a deluge of sad news within and around our PJ2T family. On September 19, our good friend Al Rosseau, W1FJ, lost his partner Ruth. She had been in declining health and was in a care facility. But Al was able to visit with her every day until the last. Al was our VIP guest of honor at CQWW CW in 2017, as the last surviving crew member (then W1FJJ) from the famous 1967 PJ1CC operation from the Coral Cliff Hotel. Since that visit he has been a generous and enthusiastic supporter of PJ2T.



Ruth with W1FJ in Curacao, November, 2017

Al now plans to relocate to a group home that has a ham radio club, so he will still be winning contests with his QRP signal at 40+ WPM. Our condolences to him and to Ruth's entire family.

On September 12 our long-standing loyal CCC member Uli Thielke, DL8OBQ, experienced the death of his niece, Jennifer Kaesberg. This was particularly tragic because she was only 29 and chose to take her own life. Jenny had been suffering for a long period of time from mental health problems, and through many years Uli had endeavored diligently to help and care for her when his work and other demands enabled.

In July of 2025 he took her along to Curacao when we went to support the Youth DX Adventure team, and he reported that she enjoyed her time there. That had been her lifetime first overseas trip. During this trip she snapped this selfie (next page) on the Signal Point West Porch.



Jennifer Kaesberg, DL8OBQ's niece, at Signal Point

We extend our sympathy to Uli and everyone in his family on this tragic and unexpected loss.

These tragedies compound our sadness over losing Jim Livengood, W0NB, on August 12.

Team-Building Is Nearly Complete for CQWW CW

There is still one slot left on the November "25 Years Completed" PJ2T team. The operators include VE7NZ, W8WTS, M0ORD, W7JET, VE7KW, PA2DK, AG3I, W0CG, and VA7DX. NA2U, K8ND and possibly others will join the team by remote operation.

We have the Moran pool house, and Dorothy will be on site. I can already smell the hot amplifiers, hot mashed potatoes, and turkey and dressing.

Thanks K8ND for LoTW Renewals - 18 Sept 2025

Gents,

FYI, the every-three-year renewal of the PJ2T Logbook of the World certificate was done today.

The four CCC LOTW Certificates and their expiration dates are:

- PJ2T 9/17/2028*
- PJ2HQ 3/20/2026*
- KP2F 3/20/2026*
- W0DX 3/20/2026*

73, Jeff K8ND PJ2ND

CCC Year 26 Membership Renewal Progress

Only one member has not yet renewed. I thank all of you for your continuing faith in the PJ2T adventure and for your tangible support that is critical to keeping it going.

Thanks to NA2U: Again

Fred won't be traveling to PJ2T any more, thanks to the advice of his mean, but careful M.D. But he's still very much a part of the life of CCC, continuing as a member. Fred will also play a big role on contest teams, beginning with CQWW CW, via the remoting capability.



NA2U, November 2023

In addition, he is again repeating his many-years tradition of doing the dog work with the tee shirt company to get team shirts made for the WW CW team, paying for all of them (!), and will ship them to a team member for luggage transportation to Curacao.

Fred has also been very generous in supporting youth travel to Curacao, most recently for the WW SSB contest which comes up in just a few more days. Thanks to the CW Man, NA2U.

Congratulations to Globe-Trotting KN2P

Violetta Latham, KN2P, has been to PJ2T on three occasions, counting the upcoming CQWW SSB Youth Team contest. She was part of the PJ2T WW SSB team in 2024 at the age of 20. You may have noted in an earlier newsletter that she is training to be a professional pilot, having recently passed her checkride for Multi-Engine Instructor.



KN2P and W0CG at Dayton, 2024

She's continuing to grow in stature within contesting and DXing, having recently contested from St. Lucia. As this newsletter is published, she is at E51MWA, Manihiki Atoll, Cook Islands, on the kind of DXpedition we all dream of but few ever experience. She'll arrive at PJ2T on contest Friday directly from this South Pacific trip. It's an honor to have operators of this caliber on our PJ2T contest teams.

Noted CCC Author Ray Fallen, ND8L

Check out the October issue of *SWR* magazine, pp. 20-23, for an excellent article co-authored by ND8L. The authors point out that the only time it's OK not to have a will is while we're still alive, and they lay out a common sense guide for how we as hams can properly prepare for our departure. Ray spent his professional career in insurance and is extremely well qualified to provide this guidance.

CCC Financial Report

Per Treasurer W8WTS the end of September balance in the Station Support fund is \$7539.61.

News on Our AL-1200 Amp and Tubes

Our # 9 AL-1200 is now at W0CG in Ohio. I completed testing in mid-September, and can report that this amp is very healthy and in near mint physical condition. The HV modification is also an excellent additional feature, making it less likely that the electrolytics will fail prematurely. It was a chore to get it there from Louisiana, but we're on trajectory now to get it to PJ2T.

I'll bring the empty white shipping amp case to Idaho from Curacao in mid-December, take it to Ohio in early January, then use it to take the RF deck to Curacao in late January as overweight checked airline luggage. The power transformer and tube will be in a separate piece of luggage, extremely well-padded.

Classic PJ2T Early Videos Discovered

I have been working intensely at my Ohio house to complete the last of the construction and to clear out everything but essentials so that things will be easier for my family when I pass on. In that process, I discovered an incredible forgotten treasure trove of old compact video cassettes.

Because these tapes are susceptible to damage by TSA scanners, both for carry-on and for checked baggage, I shipped three big 25 pound boxes of tapes to Idaho in August via USPS Media Mail in order to escape the scanners. Those arrived fine.

Among those tapes are live video of Signal Point from July, 2000, before I bought it, several hours of the initial renovation in early November 2000, a bit of the first ever CQWW CW contest and our first PJ2T QSO, hours of construction of the big towers and beams in mid-2001, and other treasures. I also found video

documentation of CCC operations from PJ2C in 1999, and several VP5 CCC trips prior to that.

I've bought the necessary conversion equipment and cassette adapters and am starting to digitize these nearly 200 tapes. These are raw video – not edited or narrated productions, but you may find some of them to be fascinating and interesting. As I get the first few converted, I'll put them on our PJ2T server so you can have a look. Those addresses will reach you either in an E-mail or in next month's newsletter.

As a preliminary sample, here's a link to the very first efforts in November of 2000 to get the QTH into shape to host people and go on the air. It opens with W9EFL (SK) cranking up the old aluminum tower, followed by athlete K4LT (now AD8CW). KP2L (SK), Jim Livengood is also prominent in this video.

<http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/VideoHoward/PJ2T.renovatio.n.nov.2000.part.1.mp4>

I also found many, many early videos of my kids, grandparents-in-law, and other family treasures, so I have been having fun.

This digitization process is about to be severely disrupted by the Curacao trip from mid-October to mid-December, but I'll plug away at it when I get back to Idaho over Christmas.

Congratulations QST Star WX4W

Check out page 79 of October QST. CCCer Curtis Foote, WX4W, is pictured in the ARRL SS contest announcement. His team won the 2024 SSB SS in M/S LP. A well-deserved moment of fame!

The Things We Do for Love

This is a 1977 top forties song by 10cc. But it's also a slogan that keeps me going when Curacao life becomes challenging.

This is the label on a one gallon can of spar varnish.



This matters because, in my quarter century of taking care of a house in our severe tropical ultraviolet climate, this is the ONLY varnish I have found that works well. It's expensive, but is by far the best product to keep the Ocean Pavilion ceiling and front and side gates in decent condition.

Unfortunately, Kooyman quit importing this product from the States three years ago. I have tried several alternate varnish products and brands since then, and none of them are worth a hoot. On October 6 I searched and searched and called and called and finally found a supplier in Michigan that would retail three gallons of this Lenmar product to me. I actually got a human being on the phone who agreed to bag, then double-box and double-pad the three gallons so that they would survive the rigors of a lot of shipping and handling to get it to the island. So it left Detroit October 6 and was delivered October 9 via UPS Ground to the freight forwarder in Miami, then on to the island. I've coordinated with my contact gal at the ocean freight handler and sent her all the needed paperwork.



The box of varnish as received in Miami on October 9

In about three weeks I hope to pick up that box at Caribbean Cargo Services. \$501.67 spent thus far, plus the ocean freight and duty to be billed and paid later, but that is about what it would have cost to buy it off the shelf if it were it still available on the island.

This is not meant to sound like a complaint, but rather an exposition of the normal everyday stuff that's required to have a Caribbean home in an import economy and in a very severe climate. It's never easy.

Our Generator Is Healthy

After six weeks of dormancy, I gave the generator a test run on September 18.



PJ2T Power and Light Company

Working from my computer in Ohio, the engine started easily after about a second of cranking, and all electrical and engine parameters came up to normal values. I ran it for 15 minutes, and was able to hear it running via the surveillance cameras. This is the capability we wanted – to be able to leave the QTH for months at a time but still keep the generator healthy through periodic remote initiated test runs.

Once we get back to the island this week we will run the entire house load on the generator now and then because it is time to use up most of the dated diesel fuel in the tank so that we can freshen it up. The fuel is inexpensive and easy to obtain. Our remote control capability was very difficult to establish, but is working beautifully now.

PJ2T Article in November *QST*



As you may have seen, there's an article about us in the current issue of *QST*, pp 62-64. As you have read here before, I was quite unhappy with how this unfolded.

I initially asked to submit an article noting our 25th anniversary contest. *QST* said they would only run it as a short stray. That never happened, then much later they invited me to write an article that centered on all the problems we had with the event because more than half of the operators cancelled. I did so, and it languished for a few more months in Connecticut.

Then an edited proof arrived that bore only limited resemblance to the manuscript I had sent in. The theme, flow, tone, and flavor of what I wrote was lost in the editing, and they also injected a couple of factual mistakes and introduced what to me are violations of the rules of syntax and style. Even the first sentence, as edited, does not quite make sense if you read it closely and literally. They fixed the factual errors but ignored my other complaints.

I'm embarrassed to have my name on this thing, but at least it's some publicity for PJ2T.

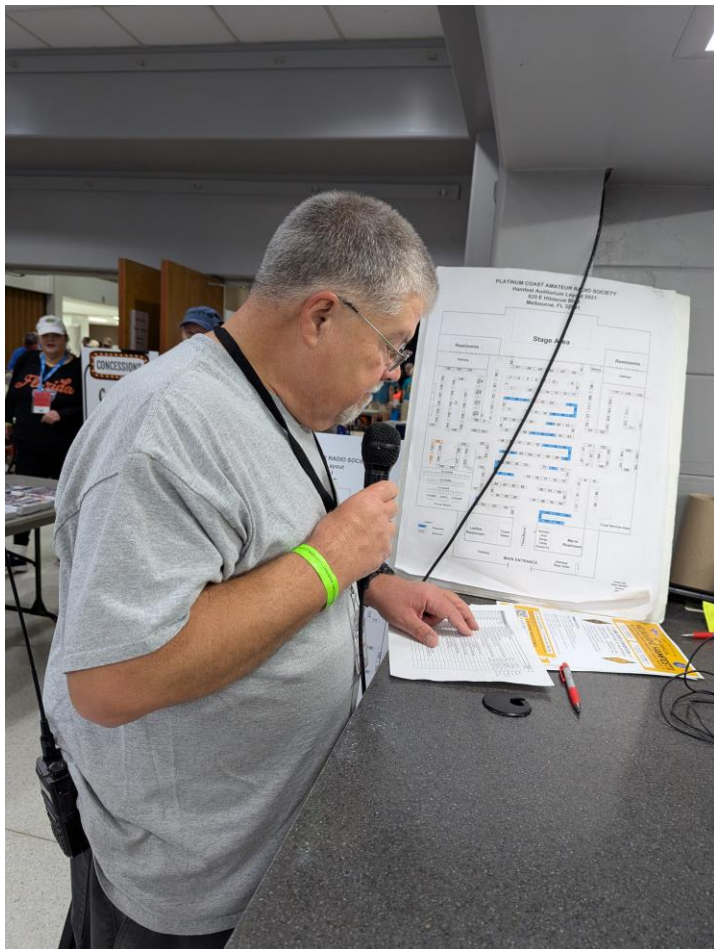
I won't write for *QST* again because of the aggressive editing and hackup of what's submitted.

Another Successful Melbourne PCARS Hamfest

Several of our CCC members and frequent Signal Point visitors are very heavily involved in the Melbourne, Florida hamfest, held this year October 10-11. Chuck (AD4ES) was this year's chairman, Walter (K5LD) is the club president, and others including N00J and K4JC worked on the event.



Ryan, N00J, showing off his PJ2T shirt



Vince, K4JC announcing with his radio broadcasting professional voice

This is a big deal, with ~2000 people attending, and it was also this year the ARRL State Convention for Florida. Congratulations and thanks to all of them for this service to our hobby. Sorry I could not go!

WRTC 2026 Referee Process: Busted



WRTC 2026 collectors' coin

I was shocked and pretty well incensed to discover on September 27 that the WRTC referee application process had come and gone between September 1 and 7. I had been stalking the WRTC website for a year

watching for some word about referees, but nothing had appeared.

When I pinged the organizers last night they admitted that they had failed to keep the web site updated, and that I should have instead been watching Facebook. They announced on Facebook on August 31 that applications would be open September 1 – 7 only. I missed that while in Ohio dealing with an electrical crisis at my house. This was very, very poorly done, and I immensely regret not even having had a chance to apply. I hope that some of you did better. So there will be no Europe trip for me and Dorothy next summer. Maybe I'll still be alive to try again for WRTC 2030.

Congratulations to CCC member Connor, W4IPC, who will be a team member on the Youth #2 team. Also, several of our CQWW SSB 2025 PJ2T youth team will be competing in the U.K.: DL3ON, EI5LA, and N4ML.

We also congratulate CCCer Dink, N7WA, who was selected as a referee. He told me that he too had been watching the web site for referee application news, and found out about the open dates on the last day. With just a few hours left he shot in a last-minute application and made it in.

CCC and PJ2T operators will be very visible in WRTC 2026!

Photo Strays



Replacing water heater, 18 October 2016

I arrived in October 2016 to cold water, bought a new water heater in town, and the photo shows everything out of the mechanical room in the process of changing out the legacy water heater. This was pretty tricky for one person working alone, but it came out OK.

I bought that old large water heater in the photo in May of 2001 at a Home Depot in Akron, Ohio and shipped it to Curacao because items like this were not available on the island in Year 2000.

