



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

Volume 25, Number 12

December 15, 2025

25 Years COMPLETE!

With the final QSO keyed into the log in CQWW CW on the evening of November 30, 2025, PJ2T completed 25 years of very high profile active contesting from Signal Point. We can all be extremely proud of this monumental, dare I say “signal” accomplishment.

Conditions were good, the equipment and antennas performed, and our excellent team achieved a score of which we can be proud. Based on claimed scores it appears we will be 4th World in M/M. (CN3A is unbeatable from their superb location close to European multipliers.)

1	CN3A	55,422,465	17,897
2	ZF5T	34,343,400	15,279
3	TK0C	34,253,109	18,637
4	PJ2T	34,216,245	13,565

Notice that the scores of #2, 3, and 4 differ by less than 0.4 %. We came that close to achieving our goal to be top on our side of the globe. Here’s our claimed line score.

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160:	569	17	65
80:	1282	24	90
40:	2685	35	123
20:	2970	37	133
15:	3164	39	128
10:	2895	37	127
Total:	13565	189	666

Total Score **34,216,245**

Besides myself, only two CCC members were able to make the trip for this anniversary event. AG3I and W8WTS flew south, and the rest of the team was composed of guests PA2DK, G3AKX, VE7KW, VA7DX, VE7NZ, and W7JET. Remote operators W4IPC, K8ND, and NA2U also manned shifts.

We had the Moran pool house rented, and now-healthy Dorothy was on site and handled the huge job of planning meals, shopping and hauling, and cooking for all of us at the pool house, including for two XYLs. She did a full-scale American Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday. Her work makes all the difference between a delightful and affordable easy meal experience for the team versus semi-chaos and semi-starvation when she is not around. We owe her!

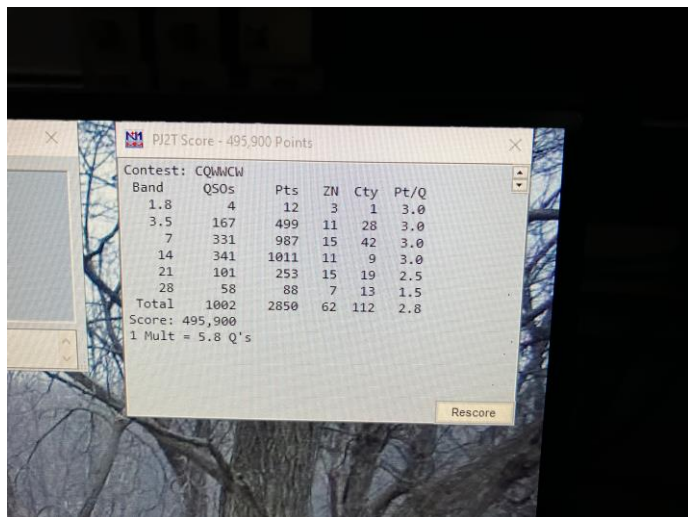
The team came from all points of the compass. VE7KW (Keith) and VA7DX (Neil) flew from Vancouver to Toronto, took a red-eye to Bogota, then arrived in Curacao the next morning pretty crumpled up. G3AKX (Roger) and PA2DK (Dennis) made their way to Amsterdam and then rode KL735, 10.5 hours to Curacao. VE7NZ and Daniela arrived here Wednesday after a couple of days in Havana and an overnight in Bogota. W7JET and Eve (W7EVE) flew in from Phoenix, and were fully self-sufficient in getting a car and finding the QTH. AG3I arrived from Pittsburgh and W8WTS + Gale from Cleveland.

Tuesday-Thursday were filled with the usual multiple airport trips, attempts at station orientation, and the usual endless tinkering with F-keys in N1MM and general familiarization with the station. Many hundreds of fun DX QSOs were made in that time. Thursday night we did our 0000 UTC contest mock-up start with good result. During this time I was working with the remote operators to be sure all the technology would work for their shifts.

The contest start was a little rocky on Friday because one of the local ops put three QSOs into the live networked log about six minutes before the contest. This was full panic for me as I coordinated frantically to get our remote ops in Phoenix, Virginia, and Columbus and the six local stations to clear the logs before the start. That worked out, but I was almost overwhelmed doing this and trying to fix a couple of last-minute questions and set up my video equipment.

Once the contest started, my stress dropped markedly, as usual. The three days of terrifying tinkering were over, and now all we had to do was have fun and make contacts. This opening was particularly novel because the opening 40 meter op was NA2U, seated comfortably in his shack in Phoenix. Fred's doctor does not want him traveling here any more, but instead of his usual spot here in the 40 meter chair, he was in his Arizona 40 meter chair. No problems with the remoting, and the rates on 40 were excellent.

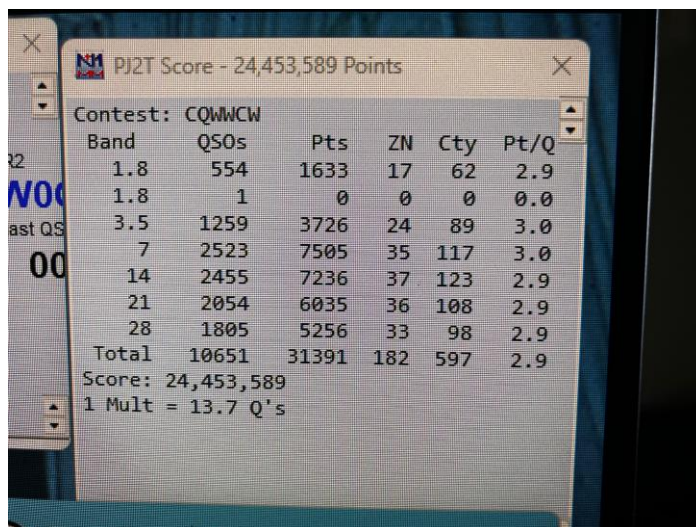
The team achieved 1000 contacts by 0155 UTC (screen shot below).



1002 QSOs. As you see, 10 and 15 were disappointingly poor in the first two hours, and VE7NZ on 20 was leading the pack.

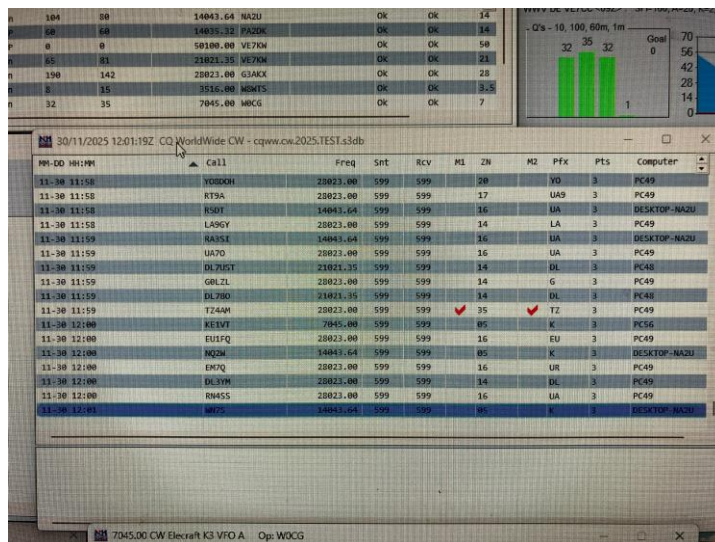
Notice that the 40 meter count of 331 contacts and 42 countries was the biggest point producer in the first two hours, with remote operator NA2U doing so from Phoenix. If you're not using the PJ2T remote capability you're really missing the fun.

Here's the score summary at 1200 UTC, 8 AM local Curacao Sunday morning (next column).



The contest is 75% complete.

Here's the log Sunday morning, showing almost exclusively Europe being worked on the Ridge tribander through the triplexer.



75% of the contest completed; heavy Europe activity.

The ever-wonderful view out the window from the 40 meter operator's position (next page).



I was running 40 on Sunday morning. Looks like ham radio paradise?!

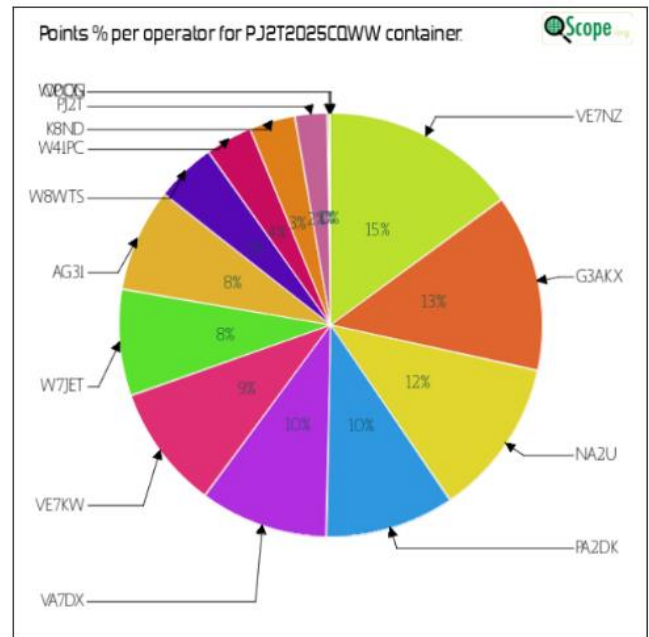


Raw tropical beauty Sunday afternoon as we continue building the score inside and much of North America is shoveling snow.

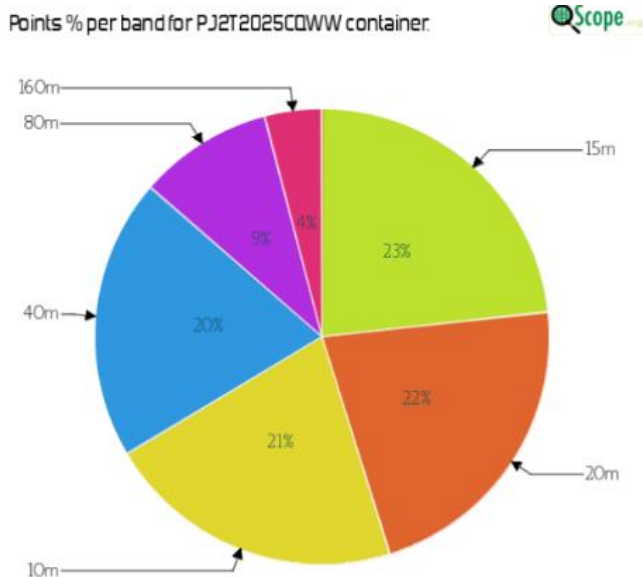


The contest is at an end, and on Sunday night we put out the garbage. I'm tossing the last of 11 defunct PCs. The Windows 7 era is now a distant memory at PJ2T.

VE7NZ ran a very interesting log analysis, and this chart is particularly telling. Operator productivity depends heavily, of course, on luck of the draw for the ops who get good high rate band shifts. That said, though, note that NA2U made almost as many points as VE7NZ and G3AKX, and FRED WAS IN PHOENIX. Point? The remote station kicks it.



The next chart depicts point production by bands.



This shows the kind of high band domination that we would expect at the peak of the sunspot cycle.

Here's our entire group on rainy Monday morning.



CQWW CW Team Photo: (It was raining outside.) L-R: Daniela (VE7NZ XYL), Dennis (PA2DK), Marty (AG3I and CCC President), Neil (VA7DX), Keith (VE7KW), Adrian (VE7NZ), Dorothy, Brian (W7JET), Roger (G3AKX) and in right foreground Eve, (W7EVE and W7JET's XYL). Our remote operators were W4IPC, K8ND, and NA2U.

This was a super team. Many had never met prior to this contest trip, yet the team gelled, had great fun, and did very well on the bands. And this was a really successful event that closed out our 25 years.

Fun facts: In setting up this contest I logged 363 E-mails, about 35 phone calls, made 11 international financial transactions, and rented the Moran house, paid in full at about \$2800, almost two years prior.

Dorothy made five trips to the grocery stores, hauled three car loads of food and supplies into the Moran house, and after the contest did five loads of laundry and turned around five beds and two bathrooms. And that's just the short list, saying nothing about all that was done to get the stations and antennas ready, tuned, tested, and on the air. We are getting tired. ☺ But it's a good, soul-satisfying kind of tired.

Welcome New CCC Member N4ML



New CCC member Max Freedman, N4ML, checking the project list during CQWW SSB, October, 2025.

We welcome Max Freedman, N4ML, to CCC membership. Max is with ARRL HQ full time as Education and Learning Support Specialist. He was on the PJ2T youth team in October at PJ2T for CQWW SSB. Max is a young, enthusiastic, articulate, multi-skilled new member and a world class contest operator. We're very happy that he has chosen to become part of the CCC family.

He also has the distinction of being the youngest member on the upcoming 3Y0K DXpedition to Bouvet.

I'm thrilled to have him on board as we work toward a club structure that is increasingly capable of sustaining PJ2T and Signal Point operations when the time comes

for me to throttle back because of age and diminishing capability.

You can say "Hi" and welcome Max at max@n4ml.net.

ARRL 160 CW Contest Report

Once again this year Topband guru K8ND ran PJ2T remotely as an assisted HP single op. Jeff's score as posted on 3830 (below) presently makes him the top DX-side score in the category.

Call: **PJ2T**
Operator(s): **K8ND**
Station: PJ2T

Class: **SO Unlimited HP**
QTH: Curacao
Operating Time (hrs): 22
Location: South America
Remote operation

Summary: [Compare Scores](#)
Total: QSOs **646** Sections **76** Countries **0** Total Score **97,736**

This excellent outcome demonstrates Jeff's patience and endurance in running the long nights of noise as a single op. His 3830 comments, though, indicated that conditions were at times pretty good, enough so that he was sometimes hearing signals better on the TX antenna. At all other times, our Beverage antennas did their jobs. Neither of those Beverages is quite as good as in their previous configurations, but the radical hotel construction of the past six years forced us to modify the Europe antenna and completely relocate the US Beverage. The "Flats" that used to host the superb US/JA seaside Beverage are no more. In fact they are no longer flat, instead populated by vast mountains of rocks, soil, and concrete chunks.

This outcome also highlights the tremendous utility of our remote station. My involvement in this contest was zero. I did nothing to support Jeff because the remote station ran fine all weekend without any intervention whatsoever from me. Thanks again to Gene (KB7Q) for making PJ2T remoting happen, and to N7NR for his help with the advanced antenna switching system and greatly enhanced independent remote station that I designed and homebrewed.

Call for Operators: ARRL DX CW, February, 2026

ARRL DX CW is February 21-22, 2026. WI9WI and KA9DOC will arrive early and run the WPX RTTY contest the weekend before.

N7WA, NF9V, K7TQ, VE3CX have booked. Dorothy will be here. N7NR and others will take some remote

shifts. We have four available beds at this writing. Can you join us for the best ABC island weather of the year and a fun and relaxing contest?

Call for Operators: ARRL DX SSB, March 2025

This is a crisis. We need people. At present AC7DC, N5BR, W7JET, W7EVE, and W2APF are scheduled for this contest. Seven of our other usual Florida PCARS stalwarts and their friends have all cancelled as of last week because of other important commitments and considerations.

It is too late for me to cancel the Moran pool house reservation, so we may be in line to eat a very large loss to the club accounts. PLEASE let me know if you can possibly make it to this contest? We have five available beds. Thanks.

Preliminary Report on ARRL 10 Meter Contest

N7NR, W4IPC, and K8ND operated PJ2T remotely, and I did a very small amount of operating locally from Signal Point. We were mixed-mode, high power, assisted. These were probably the best 28 MHz conditions we will see for 11 more years, and it is hard to figure why we did not have any members traveling to Curacao for this contest.

But the remoting technology saved the day, and the team posted this claimed score on 3830. More news on this contest next month because Dorothy and I are only hours away from departing for Christmas in Idaho.

Class: **M/S Mixed Unlimited HP**
QTH: Curacao
Operating Time (hrs): 33.5

Band QSOs Mults

CW: 2203 150
SSB: 1269 126

Total: 3472 276 Total Score = 3,131,496

Situation with the 80 3 el Europe Delta Loop Beam

As you know, the 80 meter Europe 3 el transmit antenna is mostly on the ground in a heap. DL3ON and W7EY started the repair on their last day here for CQWW SSB, but there was not time to finish it. Doing so requires two climbers. For now, it remains inop.

Windows 11 Conversion Update

Thanks to the generosity of donors ND8L, W7EY, N5BR, W5XU, N7NR, KE3VV, N0OJ, W8WTS, and NA2U we are now funded for ten refurbished Windows 11 – capable PCs. W7JET, W8WTS, and AG3I brought five of them to Curacao in checked luggage in connection with the CQWW CW contest, and they were not asked to pay duty.

The week after CQ WW, AG3I and I went to work installing Windows 11 and N1MM+, Hamachi, and Anydesk on them, and setting them up for PJ2T contest operation. I finished this process on December 7, with the result of six configured, labeled, and ready to go Windows 11 computers, below.



PJ2T PCs PC56 – PC61 loaded, labeled, logged into inventory, and ready to contest.

PC56 arrived before the others, and we used it with success in CQWW CW at Station 3. It is in service there now, and the other five are stashed in the PJ2T safe for the time being. We'll put them all into service for ARRL DX CW.

After the first of the year we will acquire five more machines for Windows 11, shopping carefully for young refurb or even possibly new ones for Station 1, Station 2, and the remote station.

CCC Financial Report

Per Treasurer W8WTS the end of November balance in the Station Support fund is \$11566.14. Following this statement, we had expense of about \$1800 for the computers, so the balance shown is a bit artificially high because of the timing of receipts and payments. It will settle out next month.

K3 (10) Performance Report

We used K3 (10) at the 80 meter position in CQWW CW with zero problems, so now it has become a proven addition to our collection of superb gear. Thanks to our various members and friends who made this happen, as detailed in last month's newsletter.

50 Hour Generator Oil Change

The technical guidance for our Perkins 404D-22G diesel engine recommends an initial oil and oil filter change at 50 hours. This is common for all kinds of new engines after initial breakin. The engine specification calls for 12 qt of Shell Rotella 15 W 40 oil for diesels and a Perkins 140517050 filter. I "Amazoned" two of these Perkins filters to W8WTS, and Jim brought them to Curacao on November 25.

On Tuesday after the contest, December 2, AG3I, W7JET, PA2DK, G3AKX and I tackled the oil change. We started by warming up the oil with 15 minutes of running time. The generator provides a drain port on the outside of the case, so draining was as simple as turning on a valve and capturing the 10 quarts that slowly drained into our collection bucket. The trick came with the oil filter, which we could not get off with two different designs of filter wrenches or with the *vast* human strength of W7JET. Brian is an aviation mechanic and professional pilot, and he eventually used the time tested technique of piercing the filter with a screwdriver. I could not have gotten the filter off, but Brian is very strong, and he eventually prevailed.



CCC President AG3I and W7JET during the oil change. Notice the new Ring camera on the house looking directly at the generator.

We put on the new filter and poured in about 8.5 quarts of oil. Following the factory advice, we then cranked the engine without starting by disconnecting the DC control to the fuel solenoid. That filled the oil filter. We then ran the engine, cooled it, measured the level, and I repeated that process into the following day until we had the dipstick at the perfect level, having put in 10 qt.

This oil is expensive and a bit hard to find. I went to five stores before collecting the needed 12 quarts. PJ2T and the house fund split these costs equally because both entities benefit from the generator.



The new Perkins OEM filter in place, brought in from Ohio by W8WTS.

After this initial oil change we're good for 500 hours until the next one.

Capacitors for AL-1200

Our order of 18 spare HV electrolytics for the AL-1200s arrived at K8ND in November. Jeff will bring them to the island in January. Your Station Support dollars at work.



As received at K8ND. We bought 18 of these.

microHam Antenna Selector Acquired

The 10 meter "system" antenna selector box soft-failed during the summer. It would no longer support simultaneous selection of the Europe and US antennas. Checks with experts quickly convinced us that fixing this on site would be nearly impossible. AG3I cast a line in the water and quickly found that there were nine of these on Bonaire, on a shelf in a back room and out of service. The Bonaire guys quickly agreed to sell us four of them, then changed their minds to one.

That one switch box is now in Pennsylvania. AG3I donated the \$125 cost of that box, will secure it from the PA seller, and will arrange for someone to bring it south in early 2026.

Ironically, the in-place 10 switch box started working correctly again just prior to WW CW after several days of air conditioning and lower humidity in the shack. But it failed again in the 10 Meter contest. We can no longer trust it long term, so getting the replacement on site is still an essential move. Thanks AG3I for his many patient phone calls and E-mails in acquiring this essential equipment.

New K8ND QSL Show Coming

Jeff reports that he has bought and set up a new display device for his historic and now famous collection of PJ2 QSL cards. There are now 729 cards in that set. He will install the new display in January. THANKS! This is great entertainment during slow rate times.

New A/B Selector Installed

After 10 years of flawless operation gremlins appeared this fall in the antenna switching system. The problem with the 10 meter Stack Max selector box was described above. A second problem came up just before the CQWW CW contest when I discovered that the 15 meter Europe Ridge/Europe Yard selector had gone dead. We were unable to select the Yard antenna because the relay was not keying.



Considerable testing led me to the firm conclusion that the Top-Ten Devices A/B relay selector box itself had failed. On November 27 VE7KW wandered into the shack to find me up on the ladder beginning replacement of the bad box. Keith asked what was up, and I launched into a quiet lament about the extreme difficulty of getting the hardware off because of the cramped quarters. There was no room to get a nut driver where we needed it.

Keith then very kindly offered to have a look, and thus ensued an hour and a half of patience-testing work with him up on the ladder and me feeding him tools. After a breadboard test that verified that the new relay would work, he did the permanent install, but in a way that will make it easier to replace the next time. This consumed one of two spare A/B boxes I had on site.

Do any of you have a Top-Ten Devices A/B antenna selector relay or two that you could sell to the station? And THANKS VE7KW for your patience and skill! We now have recovered full control of 15 Ridge/Yard.

A New Chair Is Coming

We are still shopping for the new chair offered as a donation by VE4GV. The stores right now have either junk chairs or \$2500 Herman-Nelson chairs but nothing in between. We will keep looking for the \$400

chair that would fit our needs. Curacao Office Systems knows what we need and will call when one comes in.

Maintenance Work on Entry Gate

This task is turning out to be agonizing. We now have sanded the entire inside of this mahogany gate and managed to get on two coats of spar varnish. Unrelenting rain showers are making this very difficult. AG3I and Dorothy and I fashioned a tarp umbrella which helps.



Final sanding of the inside side

We finally got a couple of forecast dry days, and I put on the second coat of varnish on the inside and a first coat on 10 boards on the outside on December 9. This is extremely labor intensive. We've consumed about 85 sanding pads for the Makita orbital sander. It takes a couple of hours and two pads to fully sand one board, leaving 23 boards to go! Dorothy is working with chemical stipper and I with the sander. This won't get finished until into 2026.

New PVC Furniture Cushions On Site

Here are the four new patio chair cushions (next page) that we had custom made locally. The old ones have failed after many years of exposure to the sun. Dorothy has painstakingly re-stitched the seams in these for years, but they are now beyond repair.



We picked these up on November 20. They were \$560.00, but will last for many years if we are all careful not to leave them in the direct sun.

Onboard Generator Battery Charger Now in Service

As you have read before we have gone through quite an odyssey figuring out the best way to keep the battery in the generator charged. This is important because the controller is on at all times to support Internet connectivity, and that flattens the battery in about a day.

Embarrassingly we finally deduced that the invisible Triton battery charger that supposedly did come with the generator really was somewhere in the installed circuitry. W8WTS and I verified that it was there by studying the wiring diagram in between very slow QSOs on 80 as Jim did his early morning shift in WW CW.

Last week I got my courage up and connected 120 VAC from the generator's convenience outlet to terminals 55 and 58 on the controller's ATS panel and, voila, the "charge" light on the front panel turned green, and the battery voltage is holding at 12.6 VDC. After a week and a half and a couple of successful starts this seems to finally be our permanent charging solution.

Curacao Municipal Power and Light, so named by ND8L, is completely in service finally.

Sprucing Up the Entry Portal

In March artist N1ZZ repainted the badly faded logo at the entry to Signal Point. On December 11 I completed repainting of the entire north wall to the property. Everything looks very much improved now.



W0CG close to finishing repainting of the entire north wall. Note the masking tape around the CCC logo.

VERONA Christmas Party, December 10, 2025



Dorothy and I went to the VERONA club Christmas party last night. There were 42 in attendance. The photo shows most of the crowd at the event center, including the seven piece VERONA band which did live music with vocals. It actually felt like Christmas in spite of the 85 degree temperatures.



VERONA President Brett, PJ2BR with his XYL PJ2ZZ, three kids Ian, Joshua, and Caleb, and the boys' long term girlfriends.

Ridge Tower Repainted December 10

At mid-morning on the 10th I set up my kit, mixed some epoxy paint, and hiked it all up to the Ridge. The tower was in much greater need of paint than I had noticed last month, and I spent three hours scraping and sanding rust off from top to bottom and recoated almost all of it with fresh epoxy. All that remains is the bottom five feet, which can be finished later without climbing. That bottom portion is in very good condition as it is.



Not happy W0CG all kitted up with paint and the climbing belt and ready to hike up to the Ridge tower, December 10. I came back down later with epoxy paint all over me and the gear, but the job got done.

Thanks for New Unun Transformer

We thank W8WTS who constructed and donated a new unun matching transformer in November, 2025. This box is Jim's usual masterpiece of electrical and mechanical construction, far exceeding the quality of anything commercially available.

The characteristic feedpoint impedance of a healthy 160 Inverted L transmit antenna is around 25 ohms. The 2:1 unun transformer is used to match the antenna to a 50 ohm feedline. Jim's donation replaces the old unun that was destroyed by a lightning surge two years ago.

But our Inv L is not healthy because it is missing many radials that were either destroyed by the bulldozers when hotel construction began, or which have been broken by accidents and even the lawn mower. As a result, our Inv L feedpoint impedance is almost exactly 50 ohms at 1.830, indicating that we are suffering unacceptable ground losses. For now, we are running that Inv L with no transformer because it matches the feedline exactly, as was pointed out to me by W3ACO two years ago. When we are able to get enough people here for the project, and enough time, we will do our best to restore the radial system and then we'll install Jim's new unun. In the meantime it is stored here in Box 3a and logged in our inventory spreadsheet. Thanks W8WTS!

Photo Strays

Where to get a Christmas tree on a Caribbean island? Kooyman!



Fresh trees, December 9, Kooyman

And how to get it home (next page):



Why You Miss Signal Point



December 8, while it is subzero temps in parts of North America.

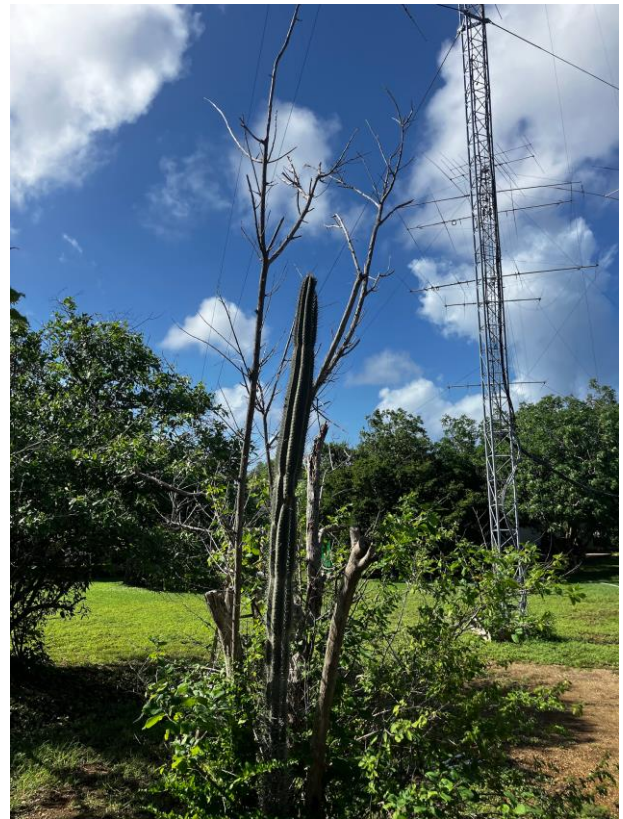
Paper QSL via Direct !?

Mail on the island is extremely unreliable. That makes it all the more remarkable that this QSL (next column) arrived at our mailbox last week.



This is almost unheard of here – actual accurately delivered mail. I’ll send him a card from Idaho.

Farewell to the “Dead Clump”



This unsightly and mostly dead clump of shrub and cactus growth and weed bushes just inside the front gate has been here forever. I removed it December 8. This is the “before” photo.



Progress on the Tui Blue hotel is very rapid now.



Barb Earnest at Signal Point, December 4

She and Sam follow PJ2T very closely, cheerlead excitedly from the sidelines, read every word in every newsletter, and have PJ2T shirts and beer mugs.

They were here off a cruise ship for a very brief visit.



Operators on break at Signal Point? They prefer the Yaesu CAT radio system.

VIP Visitors: December 4

This is my high school friend Barb Platz (next column), now Barb Earnest. We were in high school band together in Youngstown, Ohio in the late 1960s. I might even have been called her boyfriend for a period of a day or two, but that's a whole long and separate story.



Sam and Barb on a day the bands were dead and the meteorological weather the worst I have seen here in years. I hope they will return when it's nicer here!

