



# Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium  
Editor: W0CG

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May 15, 2025

## Annual Meeting is Here!

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium (PJ2T) will be held during the Dayton Hamvention on Friday May 16, 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 three years. The Hope Hotel is adjacent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Mark your calendars, and make plans to attend! **Don't miss out on important club news, business, and plans.**

CCC Annual Meeting  
Friday May 16, 2025  
3:00 -5:00 PM

Hope Hotel & Conference Center  
P-51 Mustang Room  
10823 Chidlaw Rd # A, Dayton, OH 45433

## Agenda:

- Welcome and Announcements
- Welcome to New Members W2APF, W4SO, PC8M, W7EY, AG3I
- "Celebration of the PJ2T Facility" W0CG
- "2024-2025 Photo Review" K8ND
- Video Report on US/JA Tower Condition, W0CG
- "Review of Remoting in CCC Year 25" K8ND
- "Reliable Power for Signal Point, Finally" W0CG
- Completing 25 Years: CQWW CW 2025 W0CG
- Group Discussion: "What's on your mind? and Work Trips" W8WTS
- Business Meeting Call to Order W8WTS
- Treasurer's Report W8WTS
- Ownership Entity Financial Report W0CG

- Approval of Financial Statements
- Election of President for 2025-2026 Term
- Prize Drawing for \$200 Curacao Travel Discount
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- Group Photo



## WI9WI Visit: WPX CW

WI9WI and Annette (KA9DOC) arrive at PJ2T May 19 for their annual operation in WPX CW. He will run in the Classic overlay, competing for 24 hours. They will be on the island until May 28. Jim will carry the flag for CCC in this event. He has an excellent chance of a very high-ranked outcome in the Classic category.

## Work Trip Volunteers

PC8M, W7EY, and AG3I have volunteered for future work trips to the island. Since this came up after the March opportunities for work trips, we'll hope to schedule these projects for the fall season. There are tower climbers in this group, so I'm optimistic that we can complete everything on the list.

In addition, we have a strong indication of interest from ND8L's friend Ralph, K8NK, to come to the island to repair our sick linear amplifiers. He's a wizard and is very confident he can get this gear back on its feet. This will require a diagnostic trip and a

return with parts to do the work. Scheduling of Ralph's first trip will probably be in mid-October.

Here's the latest work trip task list.

- Repair 20 meter driven element on Ridge tribander
- Install new feed straps on Ridge tribander
- Rebuild the ruined and collapsed Europe 80 3 el delta loops
- Diagnose and repair the 6 meter 5 el yagi
- Replace rotor in Europe tower
- Take down 12/17 yagi, rehab the traps, install new trap caps, reinstall the antenna
- Repair and replace bad 160 Inv L radials
- Paint Ridge tower with epoxy finish coat
- Diagnose and repair problems with three amps: Titan III, HF-2500, Titan 425
- Sanding, varnishing, painting, various locations

We have had offers of financial assistance with the costs of these work trips from two members who wish to be anonymous.

### **Remote Station K3 Failure**

As reported last month, the remote station K3 suffered a front end blowout. Thanks to efforts by AD4ES, that radio is now at N7IR's in Chandler for repair. Thanks Chuck and Gary!

### **Tube Testing at W8AV**

On April 21 I drove down to W8AV's QTH in Wooster, Ohio. Goose was one of the original CCC members and a stalwart worker and operator at PJ2T for many years. We installed the new 3CX1200A7 tube bought for the club by K8ND, and let the filaments season for 24 hours.



W8AV installing the tube-in-test.

Goose put some RF to it the next day. He brought it up to 200 watts and called CQ for awhile at that low power. Slowly and carefully he inched up the power to about 700 watts, and almost immediately there was a pop, his HV fuses blew, and all went dark. After a long safety cooldown he put new fuses in his amp and tried again. Bang, the fuses blew right away, indicating probably a plate short inside the tube.

Goose then put his old tube back in the amp, replaced the fuses a second time, and the amp ran perfectly. The problem is the tube and not the amp. This forces the conclusion that the tube has in its lifetime been dropped or somehow suffered a high G shock that weakened the internal structure. Once RF was finally applied, it failed quickly.

Thanks to W8AV for his time and trouble taking apart his AL-1200 and hosting the testing of the tube, and thanks to K8ND for his efforts and generosity in trying to add one more spare AL-1200 tube to our inventory.

### **Another Try at a 3CX1200A7 Purchase**

Thanks K4JC for spotting one for sale on April 29. The seller is Stan Stockton in Arkansas, well known to us from his contesting work from Grand Cayman.

This tube is used, but reported good by Stan. He bought a new tube for one of his amps, and then decided to just leave the new one installed. So the one we are getting was running fine at the time he took it out of service. Stan reported that it was making 1200

easy watts on 160 at the time it was removed. That was five years ago. He has shipped it to W8AV to be tested, and assured us that he will refund our \$850.00 payment if the tube is no good.

Regrettably, I heard from Goose on May 11 that this tube is kaput. He seasoned the filament for 24 hours and then gently tried to bring it up to 200 watts output as a beginning. The grid current indicated negative, and there was zero RF power output. Another bad tube, now the fourth one we have tried to buy with a negative result. I informed the seller, and Stan returned our payment within five minutes!

These tubes are one of the few items that are very strategic for PJ2T, and could stand between us and the long term usability of our amps. The tubes have been out of production for years, and are difficult to find. We will keep trying.

At this point it might make sense to buy an entire functioning AL-1200, just to get the tube. Let us know if you hear of one for sale.

### Final Report: Major Infrastructure Work

Done! The power came back up at Signal point on Friday, April 18 after a 76 hour outage. The contractor initially connected power to the wrong cable in the ditch across the street, and missed the one to our house. The cable they energized was the obsolete and unterminated feed cable to the Maley house next door. I could have prevented that error if I had still been on the island.

The photo shows the cludge of pipes, conduit, and AC cables in the ditch across from our radio house.



Legacy water, new water, old AC, new AC, coax to the Ridge, legacy telephone lines, and splice blocks all co-existing in the same excavation across the road.

With a lot of prodding from our neighbor Dirk, they disconnected the Maley AC feed cable and added ours to the splice block shown in the photo. Signal Point

and the entire neighborhood are now running on an entirely new AC distribution system, fed from a buried conduit up on the Ridge. The phone poles and transformer platform along the road are now out of service and due to be removed.

This was a very good outcome for Signal Point. The contractor did what I had begged him to do, which was to simply connect the new power feed cables to our legacy feed to the house and not dig through the road or require us to install an electric meter base on our perimeter wall. This way we can keep our fuse system (much preferred) and keep the meter in the laundry room. We positively did not want them digging in the yard, nor forcing us to upgrade to unreliable circuit breakers. This was a BIG WIN for all of us going forward. After three months of tremendous stress, mess, and disruption, this is done, and done well.

### Remembering Kathy Stewart

I much regret to report the loss of N5OT's XYL, Kathy Stewart, on February 9. By now this is old news to most of you, but I had not heard about it at the time. Her pancreatic cancer progressed very rapidly.

N5OT has been active from PJ2T and was a CCC member and officer for several years. Kathy made the contest trip to Curacao numerous times, very generously offering to cook for all of us, indeed a huge treat!

Notable among those trips was CQWW CW 2017, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration of the PJ3CC win in 1967. This contest spanned Thanksgiving, and Kathy, with help from Dorothy and Mark, feted us to a full scale, full-featured Thanksgiving dinner. Over the years, Kathy's smile, great enthusiasm, and wonderful meals elevated the contest experience for every one of us.



N5OT's XYL Kathy Stewart, CQWW CW, November, 2017

On behalf of all of us in the CCC family, I extend the deepest condolences to Mark and Megan. Kathy greatly brightened our Curacao contest experiences.

This is, regrettably, part of a terrible pattern in CCC as XYLs are being lost to our members too often, W8WTS and N7WA coming to mind in the recent past, and others further back. How tragic.

Here's a link to Kathy's obituary. As you probably knew, she and Mark met through music, both highly accomplished professional musicians and performers.

<https://www.examiner-enterprise.com/obituaries/pok11107145>

### **CCC Financial Report**

Per Treasurer W8WTS the end of April balance in the Station Support fund is \$3847.14. Dues revenue from our Year 26 membership renewals will be a welcome addition.

### **IARU Radiosport and the Youth**

Our long term member Uli, DL8OBQ, will host the youth from the Dave Kalter DX Adventure for the July IARU Radiosport Contest on July 12, signing PJ2Y. (This is a 24 hour contest.) This team will be on site July 17-22. K8ND will sequence into the QTH on July 22 at the end of the youth trip, remaining on site until August 13.

CCC provides the QTH at no cost for this event, although the group does usually make a donation to help us with utility costs. DARA, DX Engineering, QCWW Foundation, and numerous individuals and other clubs are supporting this operation. The team members and chaperones and leaders have rented the Moran pool house, as per their normal practice.

I'll report more details on this team as we know them. You can check out their booths 4106 and 4206 at the Hamvention.

### **New Member Spotlight: Thaire Bryant, W2APF**

Greetings to all CCC members. My name is Thaire Bryant and I hold the US call sign, W2APF, inherited from my wife's Grandfather, "Uncle Dave" Marks. "Uncle Dave" was the founder of Uncle Dave's Radio Shack, later, Fort Orange Radio in Albany, New York. He was one of the early supporters of Amateur Radio at a time when most equipment was homebrew. He was one of the first distributors of Collins, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, and Johnson

Viking in the US. My love of this hobby comes directly from "Uncle Dave".

Geoff Howard asked me to write up a short introduction to the group. After years of spending increasingly longer times in the Caribbean during the cold New Hampshire winters and spending the last three in Montserrat, my wife Debbie and I settled on Curacao. It had all of what we found lacking in Montserrat: easy and frequent air connections, great healthcare, good infrastructure and it would be a great place to play radio!

Serendipitously, we ended up renting a house 300 yards from PJ2T! Hoping to meet Geoff we kept checking for his arrival and were surprised to get a warm welcome and an invitation to visit as soon as he arrived. That introduction led to meeting many of you and getting to operate with you in both ARRL contests this year. That was one of the great thrills of my radio career!

I was a late entry into the ranks of amateur radio. I had an interest in high school but no role models or elmers. My connection to radio then was as a SWL. It was only when I met Debbie and her family and got to know "Uncle Dave" that I found a way to get into the hobby. Every visit to Albany centered on spending hours in the shack of W2APF. After we got married and bought our first house I was excited to see a tri-bander on the roof of one of our neighbors, WB1ABM. Hal helped me through licensing and station set up. He aided in putting up my first tower and tri-bander and in putting together my first station, financed by the sale of a Collins 30S-1 that "Uncle Dave" had given me.

My working career was in food sales and distribution, the last 28 years with Sysco Corporation from which I retired in 2009 as President, CEO and Chairman. It was amateur radio that kept me sane and focused. In addition to a love of radio, I inherited a love of travel from "Uncle Dave". With Debbie's help and encouragement I have combined both for a lot of adventure. Though the vagaries of licensing rules I hold V47JR and VP8DML for life. In addition I have held: VP2MDX, C6APF, VP2MBU, ZF2LT, and have been licensed and operated in ZL, VK6, VK8, KH6, KL7, KP4, KC4, VO1, VE1, VE2, VY2, GM, EI, JW, CU, CT, I, SV, DL, OZ, EA, EA8, P4, PJ7, FJ, OA and TI. We have never traveled without a radio except for China and Ecuador.

Debbie and I have, because of Amateur Radio, made friends across continents and around the world. We have been attending Hamvention for 30 years and Ham

