



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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CCC's New President, Marty Newingham, AG3I

We thank Marty Newingham for his willingness to serve as CCC's president, following a long period of excellent service by outgoing president Jeff, K8ND/PJ2ND.

Marty is an engineer, consultant, business manager and owner, board member of multiple corporate organizations, and also an absolutely excellent golfer. He's from the general vicinity of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and had the wonderful experience of becoming long term friends with Arnold Palmer and playing many rounds with him.

In the ham radio world he's active on the air and with local club groups, having recently managed the operation of the Breezeshooter's hamfest, a historic and large event in the Pittsburgh area. I have known of that hamfest forever and even attended as a kid.

AG3I has been quite active running PJ2T from his remote setup at home in Greensburg, and looks forward to more visits to Curacao and helping keep PJ2T healthy and active into the future.



CCC's President Marty Newingham, AG3I, in W0CG's Ohio shack, August 29, 2024

President's Letter, from AG3I

As a CCC member, I have to say that I am quite impressed with the steady and strong progress made to continually improve the PJ2T infrastructure, as well as the efforts that continue to result in further strengthening of the CCC membership ranks! My personal thanks go out to not only Geoff and the officers for leading the way, and in many instances doing much of the work personally, but also to each, and every one of you for your continued belief, support, and participation in the CCC organization! Makes me proud to be a fellow member of CCC.

In my new role as part of your organization, I want to let you know that I stand ready to support Geoff and each and every one of you toward progress of the CCC! Additionally, I look forward to an opportunity to get to know each and every one of you. I'm interested in hearing how you got started in this hobby, the type of operating you like and your thoughts on contesting and the future. I hope we'll be able to find some time to talk over the next several months.

As I'm writing this letter, the IARU HF World Championship is going on hot and heavy. I've been enjoying watching the progress of the two CCC members, Uli, DL8OBQ (on site) and Connor, W4IPC (connecting remotely) doing an Iron Man as PJ2HQ. What excitement! This is a great prelude to the next nine months of exciting contesting from PJ2T! I hope you have plans to be part of the excitement!

Very 73,
Marty
AG3I

Epic Donation from AC7DC

CCC member Jay Lopes, AC7DC, made another large donation to CCC on July 6 with the acquisition and

donation of two 3CX1200A7 tubes. As you know, these are very rare and very expensive, with a market value of about \$1300 each.



W0CG and AC7DC at Geoff's home in Idaho as Jay delivered this gift of two tubes, July 6, 2025.

Jay has been watching the ham radio electronic marketplaces diligently for a long time, and spotted these tubes for sale from a guy who renovates Henry amplifiers and is shutting down that activity. These were part of his spares inventory.

We of course cannot be certain they are good until I can test them in the fall season, but they appear to be pristine, and I'm very optimistic. I'll transport them to the island in original Eimac foam-fitted factory boxes for 3CX1200A7s, which will in turn be enclosed in foam and a hard case inside another hard case.

Not only did Jay locate, purchase, then donate these tubes, but he was kind enough to deliver them to my Idaho QTH as he was heading out for a business trip to Utah. This was well out of his way, but he did so anyway. It is this kind of energy, enthusiasm, and generosity from our membership that continues to motivate me to press on as hard as possible to keep PJ2T on the air year by year.

We have Jay to thank for the initial motivation and funding of our PJ2T generator, and now he has done this remarkable thing for our club. In addition, he regularly overpays his dues and Curacao visit amounts. Thanks AC7DC.

W2APF Visits Friedrichshafen (and onward)



CCC member Thaire, W2APF with PJ2T veteran Mathias at Ham Radio in Germany.



W2APF's Trash Cans on the Air (TCOTA) setup in the Shetland Islands, July 4, 2025

Thaire also met Harald, DD5DD at Ham Radio in Germany. Harald visited PJ2T in 2012.

Remote Station's K3 Transceiver Repaired

Thanks N7IR! We had some pilot error in the shack during ARRL CW in 2025. The error resulted in our blowing the front end of the remote radio, K3(6). AD4ES was kind enough to take that transceiver to Florida after the contest, and then shipped it at his own expense to N7IR for repair. Gary is no longer in CCC, but he continues to very generously support the equipment when he has the time.

That transceiver has now been repaired, upgraded, and calibrated, and Gary sent it to K8ND in Ohio, arriving July 2. Jeff will take it to Curacao in his checked baggage on July 22. I'll reinstall it into the remote station in October.

Thanks to AD4ES, N7IR, and K8ND for their teamwork in getting this transceiver back to service in Curacao.

CCC Online Newsletter Library

I've now posted all 84 of our CCC newsletters online. You can go to <http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/newsletters.htm> and click on any link to read a back newsletter.

ARRL SSB 2025 Video Released

As you know, I've been trying to learn something about videography, and bought a good camera, a Sony ZV-E10. I also bought lav mics, lots of cables, and tons of memory cards. All of this was in the hope of being able to make some YouTube videos that will very clearly show what it's like to operate a contest at PJ2T.

I shot considerable raw material at the ARRL SSB contest in March. The operators were incredibly patient with me as I stuck cameras and microphones in their faces, and interrupted their contest pileups to plug audio cables into their radios. Finally, in late June, I got time to put all of that together into a cogent video. The result was a 51 minute production that speaks to non-hams and non-contesters as well as to all of us in the contest community. Among other uses, it's a way to show your XYLs and others what the heck it is that we do on these trips to the island. As I write this, that video has been released for about 18 hours and already has had 223 views. You can view it using this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2zeh7wie0k>

There's also a 14 minute video about CQWW SSB at PJ2T last October.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXuaEFrysF8>

There are also a great many superb YouTube videos by K8ND, many of which were shot using the drone that he owns and pilots, such as noted below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3n-SmQnnxo>

I'll be making additional productions, and in the meantime you can search on "PJ2T" on YouTube to access the large collection of interesting material that's hosted there.

CQWW SSB 2025 Fundraising Progress

As you know the CQWW SSB contest in October will be a predominantly youth team. I'm happy to report that their fundraising has now reached \$15,050, including a recent large gift of \$1000 from CCC member W3ACO. Their goal is \$20K.

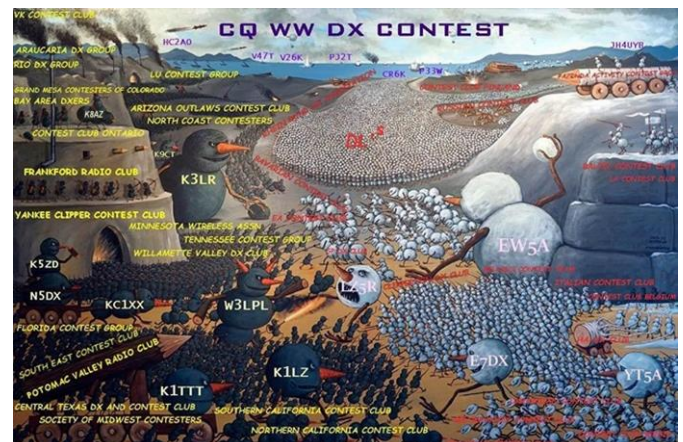
If you'd like to help, the GoFundMe page is at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-our-allyouth-contest-team-at-pj2t>.

CCC Year 26 Membership Renewal Progress

Only four members have not yet renewed. Thank you immensely to our membership for this critical funding that helps keep PJ2T afloat. Membership dues constitute about 43% of the annual cost of operating the QTH and station.

PJ2T at the End of the World

Thanks to CCC President AG3I. Marty found this immensely clever graphic and forwarded it to me, showing PJ2T at the end of the world on a distant sea horizon, just where we like to be. Embarrassingly I don't know who created this. Can anyone fill me in?



PJ2T at the end of the world, top center

Congratulations to W8WTS on the “Sale” of His Company

This is a classic story of immense entrepreneurial success. In 2001 Jim and his business partner founded a company starting with a better idea, immensely high level educational credentials, and vast drive. As in many such classic stories, the initial facilities were in Jim’s basement at home.



Founded 2001

In this case, the rest **really is** history. They built a premier product line that is critical to keeping data centers around the world supplied with reliable AC power. In a major milestone of corporate evolution, they have announced on June 30 that Layer Zero Power Systems has been sold, as you can see from the link below.

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250630015963/en/Advent-International-partners-with-LayerZero-Power-Systems-a-leading-provider-of-mission-critical-power-infrastructure-for-data-centers>

Congratulations to Jim on this success. We’re all hoping that the stress in his life will now decline markedly, and that he will have more human bandwidth to have fun with ham radio and Signal Point. I’m proud that he counts me among his friends.

Curacao Travel Tips from K8ND

Travelers to Curacao are required to complete a free online Digital Immigration (DI) form within 7 days of travel. This procedure has been in place for several years, replacing the paper form that was provided on the plane prior to landing.

Recently, several web sites have popped up purporting to provide the DI card, but charging a fee. **DO NOT PAY A FEE FOR THE DI CARD!** In addition to being free from the official site, providing your information to these fake sites will give them your personal information that could be abused!

The **ONLY** official site for filling out this form is:

<https://dicardcuracao.com/portal>

On another subject, US TSA has eliminated the rule that you must remove your shoes at security checkpoints, effective July7!

Work Trip Volunteers

As reported last month, PC8M, W7EY, and AG3I have explicitly volunteered for future work trips to the Here’s the work trip task list.

- Rebuild and reinstall 20 meter driven element on Ridge tribander
- Repair broken 30 meter inverted vee
- 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

W7EY will arrive at Signal Point a few days prior to the contest week in October, and PC8M will also be on site to work on the above project list. I am still coordinating other help. Stay tuned, and thanks to all who have volunteered.

CCC Financial Report

Per Treasurer W8WTS the end of June balance in the Station Support fund is \$8680.53. This reflects the Year 26 dues contributions thus far.

K8ND’s Heroic Summer Stew Perry Effort

This is toughness at its best. Jeff endured a little over nine hours of awful 160 conditions to make 33 QSOs. This patience netted him the high claimed score from the DX side, as you see below. The remote station continues to serve us well.

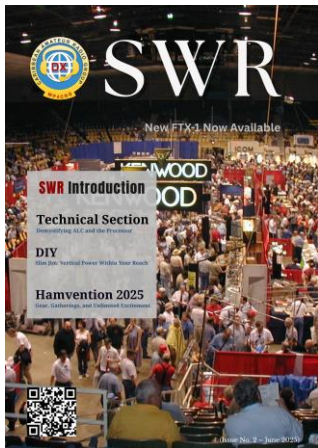
Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time
K9OM			92	5
NØTT			108	5
K1KI			104	4:45
PJ2T(K8ND)		x	33	9.2
K9RS			108	5
W2GD(@KU2C)		x	100	3
W9RE			87	1.5
K2TW			89	2:15
KØPK			62	2
KZ5D			48	1:26

“SWR” – Brilliant New Caribbean Magazine

You might enjoy a look at this new electronic magazine that’s just started publishing out of KP4. It’s very professionally done and specifically targets amateur radio activity in the Caribbean.

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/kqkyd/bmww/#p=1>



IARU Radiosport and the Youth

Our long term member Uli, DL8OBQ, arrived on schedule at Signal Point on July 11. He operated the IARU Radiosport contest signing PJ2HQ together with W4IPC via the remote station. Because he arrived in Curacao only hours before the contest, logistics and jet lag prevented a full effort, but it was super to see our club station on the air. I’ll have the score report next month.

Uli will now host the youth at Signal Point for the Dave Kalter DX Adventure. 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. See <https://youthdxa.org/> for more information on the Dave Kalter Memorial DX Adventure program.

New Curacao Youth Travel Constraint

Thanks to ever-vigilant K8ND who has just spotted information about a possible constraint on travelers to Curacao under age 18. Please see Jeff’s message, below.

It is increasingly looking like the new regulation applies to minors (under 18 years old) traveling from the USA to Curacao, requiring some additional paperwork. It is reported that this is not a new requirement, but they are now enhancing enforcement. Apparently, they are not concerned if both parents are with the child and all last names match, but travel with one parent is apparently a flag.

I posted an inquiry on Facebook, and the active ongoing discussion is at this link:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/curacaotb/posts/31698572056408957/?comment_id=31714194748180021

I found this form on the US Consulate for Curacao website. It’s dated April 2025, and appears to be a Curacao rather than USA document:

https://cw.usconsulate.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/89/2025/04/consent-form-for-travelling-abroad-with-a-minor-2023.pdf?_ga=2.42574625.582343147.1752076779-51385672.1752076779

*"For more information or to request documents:
Kranshi: loketdigital.gobiernu.cw*

The government urges parents and guardians to begin preparations early to avoid delays or issues that could impact travel. "

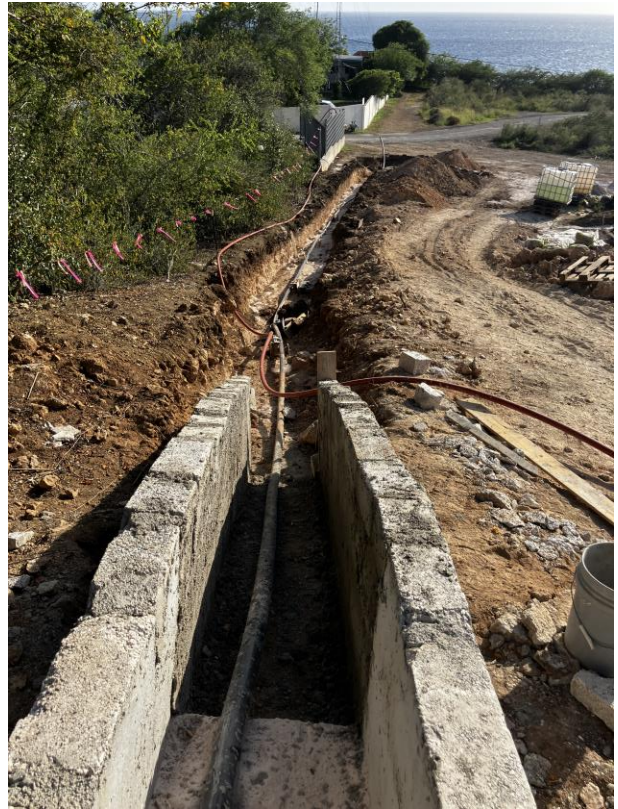
73, Jeff K8ND PJ2ND

Infrastructure Construction Photos from the PJ2T Neighborhood, February/March 2025



Legacy cables that have fed the neighborhood for 53 years, carefully unearthed.

Previous column: The very heavy AC feed cable has turned the corner and is pulled about 400 meters to the neighborhood distribution transformer.



New conduit race that feeds all utilities to us.



Notice the pink markers at the left that I installed and K7TQ renewed to assure that the crews did not violate our property line and hack up the cables to the Ridge.

CCC Acquires Another AL-1200 Amplifier

As you know, we are heavily dependent on the AL-1200. These amps are very attractive to us because they are affordable, they are very reliable because of simple design and beefy components, we have spare parts for them, we can repair them on site, and they are very hard to damage through tuning errors or inadvertent overdrive. Also, they don't have any intelligence, microprocessors, or sophisticated protection circuits, so they tolerate the sometimes dirty AC power that we sporadically experience in Curacao.

Last week AC7DC spotted one for sale at QTH.com, forwarded the info to me, and I grabbed it. The seller is Scott, W5WZ, who is very well known to us from a previous visit to PJ2T. He is a high integrity person and extremely technically astute. Scott sent the band by band power readings, and the tube is a bit tired, but no worse than any of the others at PJ2T, so we can definitely make use of it in contests. Additionally, Scott has installed the well-known HV mod by adding

