



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

Volume 26, Number 2

February 15, 2026

Farewell to W5XU, David Assaf III

I'm sorry to report the loss of recent CCC member Dave, W5XU on January 18 in Louisiana. Dave joined CCC in 2023, full of enthusiasm and ideas, and excited about future trips to Signal Point. Fate intervened, however, and he lost his beloved bride (as he liked to call her) Paula, and then began having to fight his own medical battles. Thus he was only able to be an active member for about a year in 2023-24.



W5XU, David Assaf

Dave was an engineer's engineer, making his career in very, very large HVAC project design and execution on a vast commercial scale. He owned his own consulting firm in that product/service space.

I will never forget his asking if there was anything he could help with on the first day of arrival in Curacao. I smirked and jokingly started rattling off a list of needed repairs in and around PJ2T and Signal Point. I was, of course, kidding. Dave was not, and for the ensuing two or three days he was a blur of motion, finding tools, scoping projects, and making repairs in the station, in the outdoor lighting system, on irrigation lines and fittings, bad concrete spots and cracks, and every other doggoned thing. He was incredible,

smiling all the while, needing no guidance, completely independent.

When we decided to get a big generator in 2024 he joined that generator committee and was instrumental in helping guide the design choices and select the generator that we ultimately bought and has been so successful at PJ2T.

I have been keeping in touch with him in these past couple of years as he dealt with the blizzard of paperwork associated with Paula's death and then underwent one surgery after another, all major, to the point where he had almost no abdominal parts left. But he pressed on gamely. The most recent message from him was that he had one final operation scheduled to "clean up" a couple of minor bleeders, as his surgeon put it. He was even involved in the very recent discussions about our Windows 11 computers and donated one of those PCs.

This is a sad loss of one of the most interesting and lively people we have been privileged to know at Signal Point.

Reminder: CCC's Newsletter and Video Library

Don't forget that you can access all CCC newsletters and many of the YouTube videos at <http://www.pj2t.org/ccc/newsletters.htm>. You're only a click away for most of these.

CCC Annual Meeting: May 15

Mark your calendar. Our annual meeting will be at the Hamvention from 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Friday, May 15, in the Mustang Room at Hope Hotel. This is the same time, day, and location as in several past years. We thank Tim, K3LR, for providing this room for us free of charge.

I WILL NOT BE AT THE HAMVENTION EXCEPT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Report on WPX RTTY 2026

WI9WI and KA9DOC arrived as planned on February 11. As usual, Jim is in the WPX RTTY contest this weekend. He's doing a low key operation. I'll report that score here next month because the contest is still underway at newsletter publication time.

Results of CQ 160 CW Contest

W8WTS was not able to make the trip, so K8ND adjusted his plans and ran the 160 CW contest as an assisted high power single op. Here are the top ten claimed scores.

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score
C4E(5B4AMX)	SO2R		915	15	71	27	763,680
PJ2T(K8ND)			666	54	50	23:17	686,088
LY4A	SO2R		1128	28	79	30	657,087
9A5M			1124	31	71	30	623,220
OM3GI(@OMØR)			1155	23	70	30	570,276
OM2ADM(@OM8A)		x	1084	27	69	28	554,112
S53O			1036	24	70	30	513,240
LX7I(DL3BPC)			1052	24	65	27	504,986
G6P(G4FAL)			950	32	63	26h	493,715
S5ØK			969	27	69	24:00	492,960

As you see, Jeff nearly won the world. His score is extremely good because you'll note that PJ2T is the only station in our hemisphere in the top ten. Europe pretty much owns this contest now that 160 activity has grown so high there. Note also that the way the world turns enables the Europeans to have almost five more hours of darkness in the duration of this contest. Congratulations and thanks to TopBand master operator PJ2ND.

Update on ARRL DX CW, February, 2026

ARRL DX CW is February 21-22, 2026. The team is VE3CX, W2APF, WI9WI, W0CG, NF9V, K7TQ, PA5PR, AG3I, and N7WA. We will also have help from remote operators N7NR and K8ND. Dorothy will be on site, and we have the Moran pool house booked and paid for. CCC member W2APF, an accomplished chef, has offered to do some meals for the team.

As noted above, WI9WI and KA9DOC have arrived to run the WPX RTTY contest the weekend before.

ARRL DX SSB, March 2026, Coming Up

Cancellations continue to be the signature of this contest event. After a great deal of coordination and communication, IV3FSG had to cancel, even after she had booked her flights. Luckily, W3ACO was able to recruit Morgan, KI5SXY, to replace Elvira. Morgan is a young Aerospace Engineering graduate student, and

has been to PJ2T before. Rich, W3ACO, will be covering essentially all of her costs for the trip to Curacao, as he is also doing for K0PZH. The team is now N5BR, W0CG, AC7DC, KD0BTO, W2APF, W7JET, W7EVE, K0PZH, KI5SXY, and K8LG. Those last four operators are YLs. Rich has been incredibly generous in supporting young contesters for several years running. Hopefully this team is finally stabilized, because my fingers are all about a centimeter shorter from writing E-mails and working out all of the coordination.

Thanks W1FJ for Top-Ten A/B Switches



Dorothy in Ohio with the first of two A/B switches from W1FJ. The second one will be there waiting for us when we get back from PJ2.

Thanks to W1FJ for his trouble in "recalling" these two boxes that he had just passed on to other owners, and then packaging them up and sending them to us for PJ2T.

Werner Henle, DL5SDN Visits PJ2T



DL5SDN surrounded by Jeffs, January 22, 2026

Werner has been to PJ2T previously, an avid SCUBA diver who relishes getting out of the winter weather in Germany.

He's a high profile visitor. At home Werner is the distinguished mayor of Otisheim, Germany, retiring at the end of August, 2026, after 32 years of service! He is the longest serving mayor in his district, and was re-elected in the last election with 94% of the vote. His city has been debt free for the past two decades under his leadership.

He enjoyed QSOs on both 15 and 10 from PJ2T with several of his ham friends back home. Jeff and I filled out paper QSLs which he will hand-deliver to these guys in a couple of weeks.

More Signal Point Visitors

On January 25 we had a planned visit from K8DX and his girlfriend Rebecca Marshall. They were vacationing in Curacao for the week. Scott is an accomplished contester and my former Ohio neighbor, and we enjoyed getting caught up after many years. His girlfriend is very curious about ham radio and asked all the right and intelligent questions. In the midst of that visit DL5SDN and Petra dropped by to say goodbye and bring a bottle of wine.



L-R: DL5SDN, Petra, Dorothy, Rebecca, Scott (K8DX) and unidentified old guy, January 25.

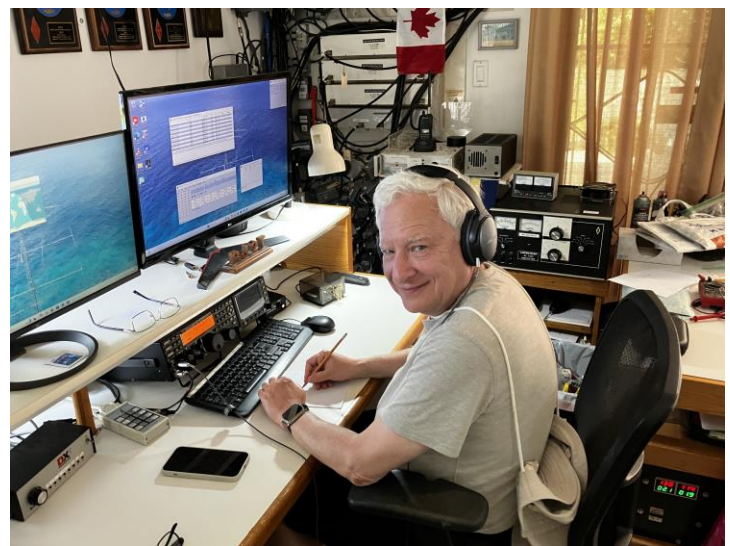
Here's HB3YFC (next column). Kurt has a place in Westpunt and spends about eight weeks here each year working on it. The rest of the year he does property maintenance and management in Switzerland. He had a QSO with K8ND on the morning of the 29th of January and decided to surprise Jeff by dropping by and hand-delivering the QSL.



Kurt Kalt, HB3YFC with PJ2ND and the QSLs

Signal Point is indeed a ham radio tourist stop now.

On February 12 we had a visit from Stuart, WA9ZPL. He's a friend of W2APF. It was a super busy day in the shack here, but we did manage to get Stuart on the air for awhile on 10 CW. Thanks to Thaire for bringing him by.



Stuart, WA9ZPL, 12 February 2026

And here's Signal Point day visitor Bob Redoutey, N5KF (next page) who was on the island off the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship on February 13. This is of note because it's a clothing optional cruise with about 2400 passengers on board, an ever-growing cruise industry niche.



Bob, N5KF, knocking off SSB QSOs into Europe and the States on 15 meters. 13 February 2026.

This is Bob’s second visit to the station. He made his way to the station in a taxi (\$100), and we returned him to the port later in the day.

Windows 11 Project Complete

The computers at each operating position at PJ2T now look like this, with the legacy Windows 10 machine in place and the new Windows 11 computer sitting on top of it. There’s also a pair of computers on the lamp table that serves as the hot backup position.



Windows 11 on top, 10 below; typical installation, this is at Station 3.

I’ve connected all of the Windows 11 machines, and all are configured, all software is installed, and the N1MM network runs fine. Higher capacity 90 or 135 watt power supplies for these new machines are also now in place at every operating location. Any time there is a problem we can revert to the legacy machine

underneath and be running on it after quick cable swaps. The PC at Station 1 is “big” with 32 GB of RAM, a fast processor, and a 1 TB SSD drive.

The remaining four Windows 11 backup machines are in the Signal Point safe, fully configured and ready to go.

We also have a brand new (non-refurb) machine for the remote station, but we’ll not install that until after ARRL DX CW. That computer is ready and is fully configured and loaded to support the remote. It’s also set up to auto-boot and auto-logon after power failures.

Thanks to W7EY who evaluated all of our Signal Point PCs in October. That resulted in 11 inop Windows 7 machines being discarded and made clear the necessity to convert to Windows 11. Every one of the computers was donated. Thanks to W7EY, ND8L, N5BR, KE3VV, W5XU (SK), N7NR (two PCs), NA2U, N00J (two PCs), and W8WTS for donating the Windows 11 machines. Nobody even asked for donations – these gents saw the need in the newsletter and before I knew it funds were raining down onto the PayPal account. I bought all the machines and configured them either at Signal Point or in my Idaho office. Thanks to AG3I for working through the initial Windows 10 upgrades. Thanks also to Marty for coaching me on which adapters would be needed to make the new DP port computers work with some of our older HDMI monitors. Thanks also to several contesters who helped haul the machines to Curacao in checked luggage. None of us were assessed any duty.

Project complete.

PJ2T Club License Renewal

PJ2T’s club license expires March 30, 2026. I sent E-mail and the renewal application papers to RAC on 21 January and received their acknowledgement two days later.



Now we are waiting for them to process these applications and create an invoice so that I can go to

the office and make payment. Dealing with the agency is always stressful, and I am hoping that we don't run up against the expiration date.

CCC Financial Report

Per Treasurer W8WTS the end of January 2026 balance in the Station Support fund is \$9156.47.

Maintenance Work Progress Report

Dorothy and I arrived on January 19 and immediately set to work. I repaired the 30 vee (again) and radically trimmed the tree that was abrading the support ropes.

We then started the long task of washing down and then varnishing the inside ceiling of the Ocean Pavilion. This was the main use of the Lenmar Spar Varnish that I imported from Detroit last October.

On January 26 we took delivery of an 8 foot Werner step ladder from Kooyman. There was no way we could get it home with the Kia Soul, which has no roof rack. This turned out to be an excellent expenditure because now I can reach the inside top of that ceiling without nearly the danger when I used to stand on the absolute top of our 6 foot ladder.

After several days of work, complicated by the need to move around a large drop cloth to protect the tile, I had an accident, with a drop of varnish landing squarely in my left eye. This was a stupid move, as I knew better than to try to varnish close directly above my head. Thus we had an immediate crisis, with a severe burning sensation. I had Dorothy rinse the eye for about 20 minutes with warm water and then we set out for the clinic in Barber. She had managed to get me an appointment quickly.

The Barber doctor ran a flourescein stain test, and the UV light revealed no serious damage to the cornea. She complimented us on the prompt and liberal eyewash, packed the cornea with an antibiotic healing ointment, and sent me home with an eye patch for eight hours.



Pirate Geoff, back from the clinic, and the can of varnish that attacked me, January 28, 2026

The total tab for that medical treatment was \$34.65.

On July 29 I finished the interrupted varnishing job, and we expect that work to hold up for about 12 years because that area is protected from UV.



Dorothy on the new 8 foot ladder showing off the glossy new varnish job.

We've also resumed sanding work on the front gate. I brought 75 five inch sanding pads, 65 grit, in January to continue the work on the front gate.



The right hand panel of the entry gate in the middle of the sanding process, January 30. The five panels in the center have been sanded. I had to get down to bare mahogany.

This is extremely labor intensive and consumes sanding discs hungrily. The inside part is done, and I finally finished the outside street side sanding on February 2 after countless hours and consumption of about 45 pads and two hook and loop backers. Fortunately this full sanding only needs to be done every seven years or so.



A Vanna White pose showing off the completed job, 12 February 2026.

The photo shows the result now that I have put two coats of varnish on both sides of the gate. This project is finally finished.

Mortality at Signal Point

One morning in late January our three cat friends did not show up for breakfast. Several days went by, and we reluctantly concluded that they had either run off or

been killed. Then when mowing in the weeds just west of our patio wall I found the badly mutilated body of one of our three kitty friends. It was clear that she had been attacked and ravaged by one of the neighborhood dogs. I took a photo as evidence, but I assure you that you would not want to experience that image.

We reported this disaster to our neighbor. As you know, not all of his dogs are passive, and it is known that one dog in particular has killed other cats in the neighborhood. That same dog has also attacked other dogs, most recently sending two of them to the vet for extensive and costly repairs. For reasons we don't understand that aggressive dog was still being allowed to live. Dirk promised to be extra careful to keep his dogs in his yard.

On February 2 my dream was realized when I wandered into the shack to find one of our missing cats there. Coral had let herself in by opening the screen, as she has known how to do for a couple of years. She was thin and very, very nervous, but gobbled down food and water and was then staying inside the house most of the time. She was still very nervous when outside on the patio with us.

A couple of hours later, the third cat also showed up. He is very feral and standoffish, but clearly needed food and is sticking around here warily.



Coral in her safe spot at Station 2, February 2, 2026.

Dorothy knocked on doors in the neighborhood trying to find out if anyone claimed Coral, but with no result. Meanwhile we were hoping that the killer dog(s) would be neutralized in the coming two months, as promised by his owner.

For three nights we kept the shack room set up so that Coral could sleep inside, and she elected to do that,

knowing that she could exit through a break in the screen whenever she wanted. The fourth night she started sleeping in the shack, but by morning she had chosen to go out. A few hours later Dorothy found her body in Solange's yard. Two cats dead now. We were furious and extremely broken up over this. Mike Maley said he had heard the attack at about 2 AM and had video from his Ring camera of Dirk's dogs in his backyard. Further, the client staying in House # 3 as an AirBnB showed us he had captured a video of the dogs attacking our cat. So there was no question that the neighbor had failed in his promise to contain his dogs.

We had a courteous meeting with him that afternoon and laid out terms, furious and hurt. Now we wait to see if he makes good. He has promised before to get rid of most of the dogs, and to have the dangerous ones euthanized. The police have also directed him to take action multiple times, but yet we still have dead cats. It's too late to save the lives of our beautiful and friendly furry friends.

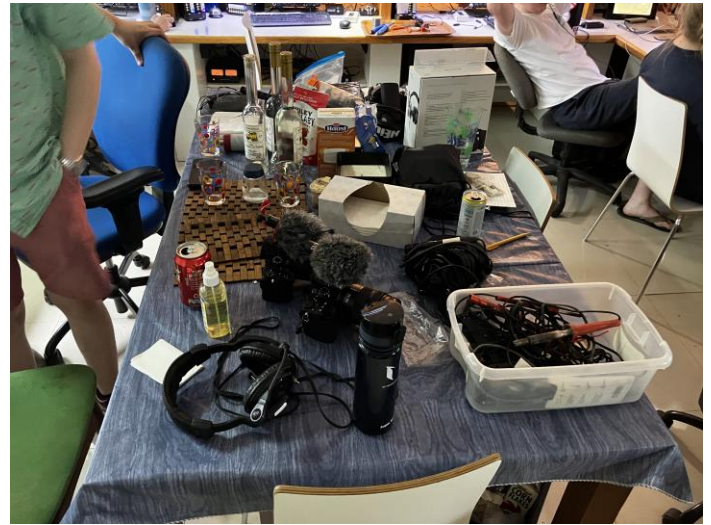
He has started the project of adding a wire mesh on the inside of his wall that will make it impossible for the dogs to get out. We still wait news that the killer dogs have been dispatched.

If action has not happened in a couple of weeks I will become a very hostile and active neighbor.

An Assessment of PJ2T Interstation Interference

As you know, we cleaned up almost all of the interstation interference last February, led by Dink, N7WA. But in CQWW CW last November we had very severe problems with 20 getting into 10 with S7+ buzzing, and also causing severe problems into 40. On February 3 I ran a full test with all stations, full power, and all bands and antennas and found the interference to be essentially zero for all band combinations on SSB. On CW, we do still hear about S2 hash on 10 from 20, which is where we were after last February's clean-up. This happens on CW because the harmonics from the CW subbands multiply up such that they are quite close together on the higher bands. No such harmful multiplications happen from the SSB subbands.

Why was it so bad in WW in October and November? Gadgets. When teams arrive a flood of laptops, cellphones, cameras, audio recording devices, extra RF and audio cabling, spectrum display devices, audio patch boxes, additional IF cabling, and many non-linear power converters abruptly arrive in the shack and bedrooms.



Some of the electronic gadgetry and other clutter that blankets the shack when big teams arrive.

What had been a quiet and well-engineered station becomes like an Army surplus store of extra gadgets. I am going to make myself unpopular in February and March by pressing for a sterile shack, and I'll hope that these problems will be much reduced.

WARC Beam

The 12/17 meter antenna is a Cush-Craft A3WS that we bought new and installed in the early 2000s. AC7DC recently let me know that he had just bought an A3WS locally for the princely sum of \$25, and that it is in good condition. Jay is very kindly going to bring the traps and center insulator to Curacao in early March. Thanks to him we will have spare parts that are in very good condition.

AL-1200 Amplifier Tubes

I never expected to say this, but we now have enough spare 3CX1200A7 tubes. K8ND donated yet another one in January, but it did not survive transport, having been very poorly packed by his seller. It has zero RF output and shows evidence of a collapsed control grid. But in the good news column, both of the tubes from AC7DC are here now and test good, and Jay (AC7DC) is bringing one more 3CX1200A7 tube in March. Altogether we are now in a very solid position with five of these strategically critical spares. Thanks to everyone for your diligent searches for these rare tubes, and to the donors who have picked up the costs of these very expensive assets.

W2APF Is on the Island

CCC member Thaire, W2APF and his XYL Debby are now on the island for their long winter stay. He has been coming to the shack for his net control duties on

Sunday afternoons for the Collins Collectors Net. He will also be operating with us for the ARRL contests, both modes.

On February 11 he and Debby were kind enough to host us for lunch at their Curacao home. Thaire has put up a hex beam and is using K8ND's KPA-500 amplifier. Here he is in the shack with his K4. He's getting out well, and he worked a POTA station on 17 while I observed.



PJ2/W2APF with his K4



Thaire and Debby with the Hex Beam

Multiplier Chasing at PJ2T

Nobody responded with any advice about this technical challenge except N0YY. Rick has experience with same-band multiplier stations and was not optimistic about our being able to make it happen with our restricted space small yard.

It appears that we will have to continue to do our best with second VFO mult chasing. A skilled operator can do well with this technique, but it takes some practice.

Critical Internet Outage on February 11-12

Most of the houses in our neighborhood lost connectivity at mid-day on February 11. This was bad timing because WI9WI was setting up software on the new PC at Station 1. After the usual teeth-gnashing and long on-hold phone calls to the trouble line, including hangups, a crew finally arrived on the morning of the 12th. This was an exceptional group of technicians. At one point there were seven Flow personnel, four vehicles including a bucket truck, and a senior supervisor working this problem.

It proved to be very difficult to solve, and in the process I worked with them all day as they replaced optical splitters in an underground cable vault at the hotel entrance, put in one new splice box on the ridge that had been invaded by insects, and finally replaced an optical splitter on the utility pole outside Signal Point. That last one turned the trick, after six hours of hard, hot work. These guys were persistent and highly skilled. It turned out that a third party technician who had been working on our splitter box the day before had bent a couple of the feed fibers beyond their tolerance limit, fracturing them internally and causing a big light leak. He showed me the orange light leaking out.



Testing a fibre splice box on the Ridge while an amazed heavy equipment operator looks on. February 12.

