



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
Editor: W0CG

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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. We will do our best to provide limited Zoom access to the meeting subject to equipment and setup limitations. We will E-mail that link to you when it is set up.

Preliminary agenda items at this writing include a discussion of CCC policy for cancelled contest trip bookings, a possible change in the Curacao remote host hardware, the usual brilliant K8ND year in review report, financial summaries, election of officers, and Geoff's past year's maintenance as well as the look-ahead report for the next contest season.

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

I'll drive back to my Ohio home Friday night and close out that QTH prior to my Sunday morning flight back to Idaho after having been away from Dorothy for over a full month.

WPX SSB 2026 Report

CCC president Marty, AG3I, stepped up at almost the last minute and did a heroic SOAB HP effort with this (next column) excellent result.

Band	QSOs
160:	
80:	92
40:	701
20:	401
15:	1201
10:	1285
Total:	3680 Prefixes 920 Total Score 12,076,840

This contest was impacted like others this season with operator and team cancellations. The four person team that had originally planned to come to Curacao to cover this contest cancelled. Dorothy and I had set up our rental car and airline travel schedules so that we would be on the island to support that team that cancelled.

When AG3I saw that this contest would not be covered, and that we would be in place on the island to support a remote operation, Marty made arrangements to do a two-man Multi-Single effort with Fred, NA2U. Unfortunately Fred had an emergency just prior to the contest and had to withdraw, so Marty did the single op. Fred is fine now and the emergency passed, thank goodness. Marty was not able to operate the full 36 hours because of family and other commitments, but did a tremendous job of raising the PJ2T flag and keeping the call sign visible and on the air in this major contest. His outcome was particularly good in that he had to miss the first 3.5 hours of the contest as well as other high rate hours.

Marty's experience was that the remote station performed flawlessly and seamlessly, and he will have more to say about that in a subsequent report. For now, may will enjoy reading his 3830 comments about the contest at <https://www.3830scores.com/showrumor.php?arg=RvYizV7nDx7YJU> .

We also thank Marty for saving the day financially with a big donation associated with his WPX SSB

contest effort. The club's survival depends upon revenue dues and from seven major contest operations per contest year. Each of those contest operations has historically generated on the order of ~\$2600 for the station support and real estate accounts. When one of those major contests is lost, or greatly diminished in team size, the club loses significant income. We can't continue indefinitely with the kinds of shortfalls we have had this year. Fortunately, we have presently a large and generous base of dues income, and that for now is offsetting the operational losses. But dramatically fewer ops are coming to Curacao these past couple of years, and we can't continue like this long term. In 2022 we had a team of 10 operators at Signal Point for WPX SSB. But the past two years that number has shrunk to zero. This is a worldwide problem that most of the world's contest stations are facing. We thank Marty for his personal generosity in making his large contribution for WPX SSB to help keep us afloat.

Spring Stew Perry Report

Jeff reports that he "Got soundly beaten by ZF9CW (~500 raw points)."

171 QSOs, 1394 Points

Jeff is too humble because he scored World #2 in the SOHP category, topping Caribbean rival KP2M. Also, ZF9CW is many hundreds of miles closer to the U.S. Conditions were good, and the remote station worked solidly for him both nights. Jeff's 3830 report is at <https://www.3830scores.com/editionscores.php?arg=Rvn7izV770YLU> . And at Signal Point I finally got time to hang his most recent 160 meter contest plaque above the door to the West Bedroom, adding to the collection of Top Band "trophies" at the site.

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.

Thanks N7WA for Router

We thank Dink, N7WA, who was aware enough to know that we use an ASUS RT-AX3000 router here to support the Ring cameras and guest accounts, and bring a second AX3000 as a donation in February. We did not ask – he simply saw the need and brought it to the island as it was surplus to his needs. Now we have a perfect backup router on site. Thanks Dink!



CCC Financial Report

Per Treasurer W8WTS the end of February 2026 balance in the Station Support fund is \$8381.71. Thanks again to Jim for continuing to serve as treasurer on top of his many other responsibilities.

Quick Sketch of Plans for Upcoming Contests

CQWW SSB October: VE4GV, K8PGJ, ND8L, AG3I, and W7EY have plans to operate as a M/S or M/2. ND8L said that he would serve as chef. (Dorothy will not be on site in October.) KN2P, W4IPC, and N4ML are also possible. I will soon cancel the Moran pool house for lack of operator sign-ups, and this smaller team of operators will stay at Signal Point and at rentals in our neighborhood.

CQWW CW November: The Moran pool house is scheduled and rented, and there have been expressions of interest from multiple CCC operators including W8WTS. NA2U plans to operate large shifts remotely. But unless we hear from more of you soon, I will be cancelling that house rental so that I won't be again left holding the bag out of pocket for the \$2700 rental cost. Dorothy will be on site in November.

160 CW January 2027: K8ND will be on site for sure, and we are hoping that W8WTS can join him.

ARRL DX CW February 2027: Several have expressed interest, and I am confident that we will have a full team. I have the Moran house rented.

ARRL DX SSB March 2027: The Florida PCARS group is expecting to come in force, so I have scheduled the Moran house.

WPX SSB March 2027: This is too far off to plan as of yet, but I did not rent the Moran house for this contest based on an almost total lack of interest the past two years.

Maintenance Work Progress Report

You have read elsewhere of the almost nonstop daily maintenance work that is necessary to keep up a facility in the severe tropical climate. We work about 75% of the time we are on the island. The photo speaks for itself, and I will not bore you with details in this abbreviated newsletter.



The Tui Blue Hotel

Work continues at breakneck speed. We have been told that at times there are 300 – 400 workers on site on any given day. The hotel plans a “soft opening” this summer on 1 July, with one residence building open and one restaurant. Full opening will be in the fall season with 300 rooms, six restaurants, a huge expanded beach, and many other high end facilities.

Take some time to see what the place will look like at https://www.tuibluecuracao.com/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23328444168&gclid=EAfaIQobChMI3sLVvKTvkwMVEDcIBR2QJjeoEAAYASAAEgLpJPD_BwE

This will be a high end luxury all inclusive operation with rates announced in the neighborhood of \$400/person/night. Suddenly the cost of staying with contest teams at the Moran house looks very much more attractive because lodging for a WEEK in the Moran house is about \$400.



February 11, 2026



Jobseekers waiting for interviews at the hotel, February 12, 2026.



One of the six residence buildings taking shape, March 1, 2026.

New Soffits on North Side of House

For nearly 15 years we have wanted to replace these soffit panels. They were rotten, full of holes, and nibbled away in places by birds and rats. The other three sides of the house had been done in years past, but we had never gotten the time to do it ourselves nor been able to find a contractor to do the north side.

Finally that changed on March 13 when Ribert, Zoom's uncle who has helped me with many other projects here, agreed to take on the job. On the 21st Zoom showed up with a truck full of plywood sheets and said that Ribert would be coming the next morning to start the install.

This was good news but also created a crisis. We did not want to install bare plywood, so at about 5:15 PM that Saturday I jumped into action, laid out all the sheets against the front and back of the house on blocks, and started varnishing. I had a gallon of Kooyman exterior oil based varnish that was surplus, and a quart of leftover spar varnish from two years back. Fortunately there was also a good paint roller available on site, and I managed to coat one side of every sheet, finishing just after dark, working frantically.

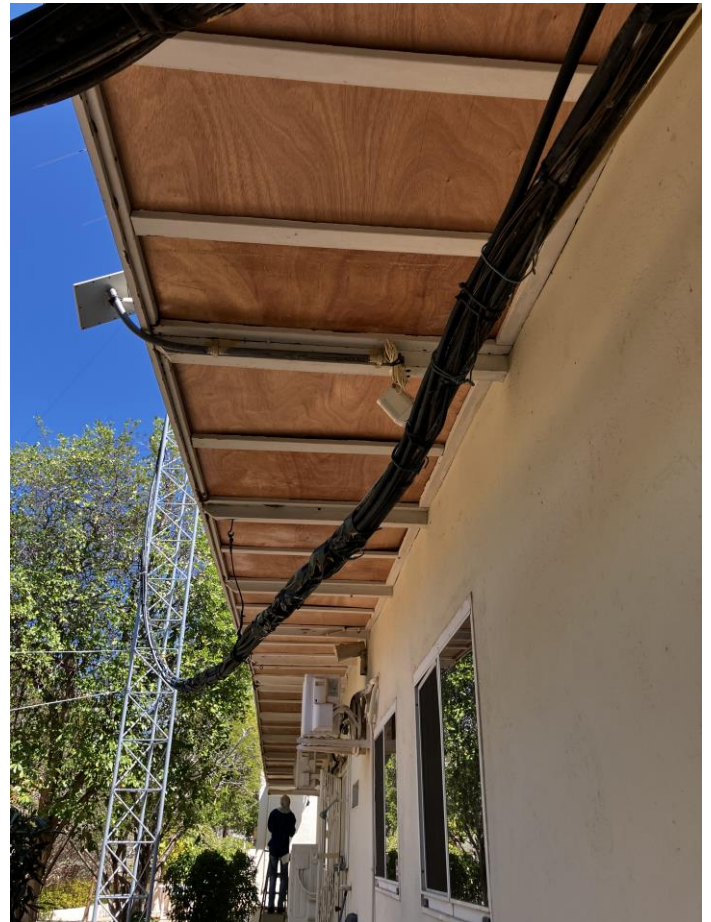
Ribert showed up early Sunday morning and jumped on the project, installing the varnished side "up," as we had planned. This was an extremely difficult project because he had to pry off every single wood support piece in order to get the old panels out. They came out with sodden masses of fiberglass insulation, rat and bird droppings, dust, and filth right on his head.



Ribert replacing soffit panels, 23 March 2026

By the end of a very long day we had the new soffit panels installed and a giant pile of foul, smelly batts of insulation in the backyard almost half the size of a VW Beetle. (That day included two fast trips to

Kooyman so that we had the right fasteners for this dynamically improvised job.) On Sunday evening most of the neighbors' garbage cans are out at the street for Monday morning pickup, so I filled empty spaces in all of those many cans with icky fiberglass, and 10 hours later it was gone.



All the new panels installed with trim and support boards back in place. This was a very long day for Ribert.

Dorothy gamely volunteered to do the painting. The photo (next page) shows early stages of application of an oil based primer.



March 24, 2026

This long-standing project is DONE. It felt good to scratch this off the work list after it had resided there on that list for so many years. This was the final major renovation project planned for the house.

New Messenger Cable from House to US Tower

W2APF offered in February to help install a new messenger cable in the coax bundle from the northwest corner of the house to the US/JA tower. The old 3/16 steel cable had rusted and broken completely, leaving the cables hanging with no support except themselves. It is undesirable for these cables to hang in tension over the long term.

Thaire and I started on 13 March, cutting a length of new 1/4 inch EHS guy wire and coating it with epoxy primer. The next day we put on a coat of epoxy finish paint.

The cable was installed on 16 Mar using new 1/4 inch deadends. I later coated the deadends it with epoxy primer, and put on a finish coat on March 23.



The tower end of the new messenger showing grey epoxy coated dead end and attachment point.

The cable bundle is now hung using wraps of insulated #14 solid copper wire. This will last much longer than the old method of tie wraps covered with Scotch 33. Our careful installation and weatherproofing means we will not have to worry again about this in our lifetimes.

The existing messenger cable from the house to the Europe tower is in very good condition. WI9WI and KA9DOC and I used new 1/4 inch EHS guy cable in 2018 and coated it with multiple coats of epoxy prior to installation.

Remote Access to ASUS Router Reestablished



ASUS router with the Anydesk PC in the back

On March 17 I installed PC50 at the ASUS router in the East Bedroom. This router handles the Ring cameras and all of the on-site user accounts as well as

our TVs and phones and other personal Wi-Fi devices. I now have Anydesk access to that router for remote troubleshooting. The old PC in this role had failed late in 2025. PC50 is configured to automatically reboot and log in after a power failure.

“Do Not Dig” Markings

The buried concrete anchors for the West Europe tower guys and Northwest US tower guys are slightly off our property, west of the white perimeter wall. If an aggressive backhoe operator from the hotel were digging for some unknown reason along the outside of that wall, he could easily destabilize or destroy a guy anchor. That would bring down one or both towers, falling southeast, one on top of the house roof destroying it. Since we are about to depart for over six months it seemed prudent to post a warning on the wall.



“No Dig” markings

Heavy equipment operators are generally very responsible professionals, and will not dig as long as they know there is a hazard. The photo shows the two red warning markers we put on the wall in late March. It may look trivial, but stuff like this takes time.

Condition of Our Towers

In short, very good. In late March I took a bucket of epoxy paint to the top of the Europe tower and worked down, cleaning and patching a few spots on this 7.5 year old tower. Between 15 and 5 feet the coating was in diminished condition because I got hit by a heavy rainstorm immediately after painting it last year. So I totally recoated that portion last month, and that tower is now in very good shape.

The US/JA tower is also in good condition at present. In mid-March I worked from the top down with epoxy

primer and the grinder and cleaned and recoated some bad spots. The next day I put on a finish coat in those areas. By October it will need more aggressive work, and I am hoping to be able then to train W7EY on how to do this going forward, as he has kindly offered to take on some of this work. After Bouvet this will seem easy to him. And warm.

I repainted most of the Ridge tower last December. It is in decent condition. But we will need to watch it closely. The WARC tower is aluminum and except for the breaks in the legs from dissimilar metal corrosion, it is fine. Those bad spots have been splinted for years with good effect. All feedlines look very good including the runs to the Ridge, and those cable routes are, thank goodness, no longer threatened by the hotel construction. We have been fighting that for six years, but now we’re safe.

Here and There in CCC



W8WTS at the new Kent State University College of Business and Entrepreneurship building, W0CG’s former employer, following lunch in Kent, Ohio, April 10.

