



Signals From The Point

Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium
<http://asgard.kent.edu/cccl>

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CQWW DX CW 2000 PJ2T

Pictures by Jeff Clarke KU8E



From The Editor

By Jeff Clarke KU8E

Greetings !! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. The beginning of 2001 brought a new addition to the **KU8E** family. Randall Jeffrey Clarke was born on January 8th, 2001. Other than being a little sleep deprived we are all doing fine! Andy has even started to adjusting to having a new little brother. I'm sure in a year all heck will be breaking loose in the house with two little boys running around !!

January was a very busy month for the CCC. **W0CG** spent just about the whole month in Curacao working on the house. Also there were some very generous donations that were made to the **PJ2T** station by some of our members. Read all about it in the **CCC News** section of the newsletter.

The dates for contest operations from *Signal Point* for 2001 are also filling up nicely. There are some CCC and non-CCC operations planned for almost every major contest weekend during the year. The CCC has plans for ARRL DX CW, IARU, and CQWW DX CW. **KU8E** has reserved the house to try to win the CQWW DX SSB Multi-Single crown, with a group of world class operators. Two of the participants, **K8NZ** and **WC4E**, were members of teams in the *WRTC 2000* that took place in **Slovenia** this past July. Some well known testers are also using the station for ARRL DX SSB and both modes of the CQ WPX contest. Hurry up and reserve your slot before they are all gone !

I am still looking for contributions to include in the newsletter. Please send me anything you think might be interesting reading... or better yet just sit down and tell us about yourself. All I need is a plain text file, or just write it on paper and I will take care of converting it to what I need for publication. Until next time.....

73, Jeff KU8E

Over Flow Lodging Options in Curacao

By Jim Livengood , KP2L

Here are the some recommended housing options for those traveling to Signal Point for a contest.

- 1) SIGNAL POINT CONTEST STATION.** This "free housing" comes with the station rental package. There are three double-beds in the west bedroom. They COULD sleep six bodies if members wish to be that cozy. Make arrangements among yourselves, or we could draw straws under the moonlight. There is also a sofa in the operating room which could sleep one during the overnight period, but its not a good idea, especially in the daytime. Nighttime: it will be noisy. Daytime: it would deny access to the couch to others, you will be interrupted, it will be burning daylight and you will require anesthesia of some kind to sleep. The three beds are on a first-come, first served basis. Geoff is the innkeeper. Per original intentions, Geoff and Cindy will occupy the east bedroom when they are there.
- 2) SUNSET WATERS RESORT :** *Sunset Waters Resort* is our neighbor to the north. Our state-side beverage and radials for the 160-meter L, the low end of the 80-meter sloper, and radials from the mult-station 80/40 vertical all reside on their property on a handshake agreement until further notice. The other handshake agreement is discounted rates (below) to CCC members. (They have asked us to keep quiet with the other guests about this discount.) Rates (unfortunately) nearly double starting on Feb 9 for "high season." **ALL-INCLUSIVE:** (All meals + drinks + facilities + room included) \$150/night per person double occupancy less a 20% CCC discount **NON-ALL-INCLUSIVE:** (Breakfast only + room included) \$150/night per person double occupancy less a 50% CCC discount

Visit the *Sunset Waters* web site at <http://www.sunsetwaters.com> . I recommend you book a "STANDARD" room with breakfast at 50% off the posted rate. To make a reservation, e-mail HilbertCicilia@hotmail.com.

Liz Smith is the general manager. The resort is totally remodeled, well run, and just re-opened officially December 10, 2000. Required booking info: Your name identified as CCC member , and names of all in your party plus ages of children if any. Dates of arrival and departure. Room category preferred. **OUR CONTEST OCCURS DURING A PEAK TOURIST SEASON AND ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR BOOKING SO ACT NOW** if you wish to stay next door. Mary and I have booked a standard room and plan to enjoy the only Caribbean resort to offer half price rates at peak season! By the way, we recommend the breakfast-only package because CCC traditionally runs a food coop at the contest site and we'll do a number of meals together at *Signal Point* with Cindy Howard in charge.

3) FLAMINGO PARK APARTMENTS : Noel and I stayed at Flamingo Park apartments in July and they are spartan , but very nice and have good prices. If anybody stays there, would you PLEASE book through our friend **Korra Juliana**. She is the person who helped us get the tower permits. She gets a small booking commission from Flamingo Park, which will in no way increase your rates to stay there. Her web site is <http://www.intac.an> . You can book online. The Flamingo Park Apartments web page can be found at <http://www.curacaoweb.com/flamingo/> (**DE W0CG**)



Flamingo Park Apartments



SunSet Waters

CCC News

Summer Camp Work Days - N8NR and others have been asking what dates we will be working on the tower project this summer. It looks like **9 June through 15 July** is the date range. We hope to have various combinations of folks down there in that range, and the goal will be to put up both towers and all the antennas. Big doings. I hope this helps you as you get started with your summer vacation planning and so forth. This same information is on the CCC web site at <http://asgard.kent.edu/ccc> then click on "**PJ2T Station Home Page**" and then on "**PJ2T 2001 Building Plan**." You may also want to click on "**Signal Point Home Page**" then "**House Improvements Plan**" then on the Phase 2 detailed work plan link to see what we hope to accomplish during the three weeks down there in January. **de W0CG**

Thanks to Hillar (**N6HR, ES1HR**) who shipped us a beautiful, gleaming new eight piece set of cookware for the QTH! We were asking for hand-me-downs and so this is REALLY a surprise and a treat to have the new stuff. It is green enameled ware, so we will have to coordinate the motif of the rest of the room around green, now, of course. The BIGGEST thrill for all of you will be that great future day when you get to sample the goodies Hillar prepares using this new PJ2T cookware --he is a Master Chef! Thanks, Hillar and Elsie **de W0CG**

K9GX Update . Just a quick note to update you on progress here at **K9GX**. I've been "camped" at the new place for nearly 3 weeks...painting and general chores continue. I decided after being here for a couple of days that ALL the rooms on the main level of the house needed repainting, so that's what I'm doing. Carpet and vinyl will be installed between Christmas and New Years...followed by the delivery of all the furniture, washer and dryer, the shack operating desk and the record collection! So, I'm making progress. Weather permitting I'll be QRV with a vertical and dipole soon! I've got an Indiana driver's license now and, as of today, I'm "good in the call book" ...FCC address change was listed today on "QRZ". Amazingly, Uncle Charlie processed my change of address in 5 days! Small milestones to be sure, but after 6 months in transit it's fantastic to be able to be considering where to put the first antenna and to have the rigs out of their boxes!!! **de K9GX**

Station Donations . Thanks to **N0AX** for a gorgeous classic Triplett VOM, a serial port switchbox, a BEAUTIFUL assortment of hand tools which we needed very badly down there, many PL-259s and connectors/adapters, some clip leads, several fresh rolls of Scotch 33, the world's biggest porcelain bulkhead feed through insulator, bunch of floppy disks, a Wen soldering gun that took me back to MY Wen in my kid-hood, a big set of super Allen wrenches, assorted coax jumpers, an MFJ-202B RF Noise Bridge, a bunch of assorted crimps, and a Heil boomset (sans ear pads -- we'll get new ones from **K9EID**). Thanks to **W9JUV** for a B&K VOM, a great assortment of RF-eating ferrites, and some Type N connectors, including a VERY rare Type N female to PL-259 male adapter, which will be immediately placed into service at **PJ2T** upon arrival.

In response to Goose's station needs list, **N8NR** has offered to kick in a HUGE quantity of Rohn products. The stuff is now living in his pole barn, but it looks as if it may find a new home in the tropics. 7 sections of Rohn 45, 1 Rohn 45 top plate, 1 Rohn 45 base plate, 1 Rohn 45 rotor mounting plate, 3 sets of Rohn guy attachments, and 18 1/4 inch pre-forms. The street value of this stuff is right at about two grand. I still have a lump in my throat -- this is an incredibly generous act. I know Bob can always use this stuff for his own super station, but he is opting to offer it instead to the **PJ2T** super station. This gives us a HUGE boost toward reaching our goal of having the towers in the air this coming June/July. The list of needs continues to shrink, thanks to everyone's generosity. Please have a look at the web site, click on "PJ2T Station Home Page" and then click on "Building Plan 2001" for the list of what is still needed. There are even links there to photos of the Rohn material from Bob's pole barn today. And we thought that Christmas was over. Thanks Bob !!!

GREAT NEWS: To my infinite surprise, the Cary **LK-800** linear that we inherited from **W1BIH** along with the house works PERFECTLY. I took it and the power supply apart and cleaned and lubed everything and then gave it the big smoke test. Instead of smoke, I got over 1200 watts of clean RF out, on all bands!! The good part is that it is doing that with one tube missing!! This amp uses three 3CX800A7s, and one is missing. Please keep an eye out for a good deal on a third tube -- the linear will run cooler and longer if we can stick that third tube in there. This is a great unexpected surprise, given that NOTHING else in that house worked, not even the plumbing, when we took it over. **De W0CG**

Recap of W0CG's January 2001 Trip to Signal Point

By Geoff Howard , W0CG

As you may recall, my friend Jim Murphy was here from 6-13 January. Cindy and I met Jim and his wife in our high school Band Boosters organization. We have served thousands of beers and hot dogs together at our concession at the Cleveland Browns stadium, as well as working together on lots of other band activities. Jim is not a ham. In spite of that, he used up a week of his vacation and a pile of airfare dollars to come down here and work on the house. And work we did, like dogs. We spent VERY little time playing or goofing off in anyway. Some nights we were working as late as midnight. Jim replaced screens on sliding doors, completely disassembled and rehabilitated all of the sliding glass doors and screens, helped on the station ground strap project, painted and painted and painted, did the horrific project of removing rotted out ceiling panels inside and outside and replaced something like 17 of them, requiring no small amount of carpentry ingenuity, fabricated and installed more shelving in the kitchen cabinets for Cindy, helped me with wiring in the duct, prepped wall cracks for re-hab, and came up with many clever suggestions on how to do nearly everything better than I would have done it. To boot, he even donated some hand tools to the permanent station stash. As if all that was not enough, he also hauled three very large and heavy pieces of baggage, plus a carryon, most of which were crammed with house wares and radio equipment and stuff like coax, Cu strap, lots of heavy-gauge Cu grounding wire, a blender, a Mister Coffee, and MANY plates and dishes. In addition, Jim is a professional photographer, and he took a lot of shots of the place, one of which we are hoping will serve as the photo for a drop-dead beautiful **PJ2T** permanent QSL card. PLEASE SEND HIM A MSG AND THANK HIM FOR ALL THAT HE DID FOR CCC at jmurphy443@aol.com
Thanks, - Geoff

More January 2001 News de W0CG/PJ2

By Geoff Howard , W0CG

I am pleased to report that the first of many lengths of 1/2" Heliac is finally in the air. It is amazing what we can do as a group. The Heliac itself, 1800 feet of it, was located on EBay by **K8RF**, the routes and lengths specified and designed by **K8RF** and **W0CG**, ordered by **W0CG**, and then paid for (\$1800 + nearly \$300 shipping) from donations made long ago by some of the original CCC members. Noel handles all of the accounting and mailings for that account. Similarly, the Andrew Heliac connectors, all factory new, were found at auction by **K8RF**, bought by CG, and paid for using part of **N8LGP**'s donation some time back. Goose, Doug, and CG worked for hours one October evening in CG's garage putting Heliac connectors on one end each of the nine cut lengths of cable. This first cut of Heliac (155 feet) was hauled down here by CG in checked baggage. Before going up the tower this morning, I had eggs that were cooked in a pan from a cookware set donated by **N6HR**, and served on a plate from the set from **N8BJQ**. The tea was in an **N8BJQ** cup and fruit was served in an **N8NR** Pyrex bowl. All the above was in kitchen cabinets laboriously painted by **KP2L**, **W9EFL**, and Cindy. I went up the tower with the assistance of a beautiful climbing belt from **N8NR**, and connected the CL-33 coax pigtail which had been put up there in November by **K4LT**. Most hand tools used were from **N0AX**. The key to making the connection was a Type N adapter sent to me by **W9JUV** (Type N female on one end, PL-259 on the other) and using a coax barrel from **N0AX**. I lubricated the threads on the connectors with conductive silicone from the Heliac, sealed it in duct seal bought by me at Home Depot, and taped the connection with one of many rolls of Scotch 33 send by **N0AX**. The Heliac will run to the house hanging from the installed messenger cable consisting of steel guy wire we bought for **VP5FXB** (surplus wire) that had been in my yard for years taking up space and accomplishing nothing. The Heliac attaches to the messenger with UV resistant black tie wraps from Home Depot (CG) and comes into the shack through an 8 inch long hole drilled with the Black and Decker drill we bought using **PJ2T** donated funds from **W9EFL**. The Heliac is routed hanging on hooks below ceiling panels that were replaced only yesterday by my friend Jim Murphy. It will connect to the **W8TK** IC-765 through the **W3NQN** filter panel that was mainly funded by CCC donations. That station uses a **W8TK** keyer and Bencher paddle ,and is powered by the AL-1200 from **W9EFL**. The AL-1200 is powered from the newly completed AC wiring duct that was obtained for us at a nice discount by my friend Jim Murphy. The station sits on one of three tables paid for by a donation from NP2L, in a room that was initially scrubbed down and painted by **KP2L** and **W9EFL**. I could go on, but you have the picture.

This is a true example of the POWER OF GROUP EFFORT. Together, we're pulling off a major radio construction project, and the station and house will be the envy of the entire ham radio world very soon. As I sit at this computer, I am looking straight out the window at the blue Caribbean, only 40 feet away. The sun is bright, the water turquoise, the palm leaves green and waving gently in the breeze, there's a fishing boat nearby, and it's 83 degrees. The birds are singing. This place is YOUR club station. Thanks to everyone for making it possible, and for the work and generosity yet to come to bring it to a culmination. I hope everyone will soon be able to sit in this seat and enjoy the climate and beauty and the best propagation conditions in the world. 73 and Thanks, - **Geoff/PJ2**

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