



Recommended calling QRGs: 7.028, 10.118/10.128/10.138, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058/21.138, 24.908, 28.058/28.158

FEA Net: 7.026 MHz 2300UTC on Saturdays, 14.054 MHz 0800UTC on Sundays

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NEW MEMBERS

We're very pleased to welcome our latest members: Kurt, HS0ZBS #15188, Sho, JH4DUQ #15189.

A NEW RADIO AND A NEW ANTENNA, TAK, JS1QIZ, #15150

I got a new radio, IC-7300 about half a year ago and recently, a new GP antenna CP6S.

The new radio enables me to have QSO much easier than before because it reduces noise with its DSP NR very effectively. In addition, tunable IF filter which I set at 400Hz width also eliminates the noise outside of its bandpass and helps me very much in reading Morse codes of low level signals. Band scope also helps me finding out vacant frequency for FEA net. Indeed, I have not used many of the radio's new functions, but I already have an impression that the radio was a good purchase for me. The old radio, FT-897, is now, exclusively used for VHF and UHF. It is also reserved equipment for emergency, because it has two built-in batteries and works independently from AC power supply, if needed.

The new GP antenna, CP6S enables me to operate 80 m, 20 m, 15 m, 10 m, and 6 m in addition to my old combination, a zep for 40 m and a



glass fiber coated GP for V/UHF. I added five 5 m counterpoises to the new GP for better reception and transmission. The old zep is still kept with an antenna switcher, because it has somewhat better transmission compared to the new GP which also have 40 m capability.

The new GP brought me some fun to QRV on the other bands which I have not been on for more than 10 years.

You may notice the existence of a small receiver, DJ-X81, which also came to my desk recently, and is bringing maritime VHF and air traffic control communications through the new GP antenna. Although it does not have BFO for CW signals, it is also a nice gadget.

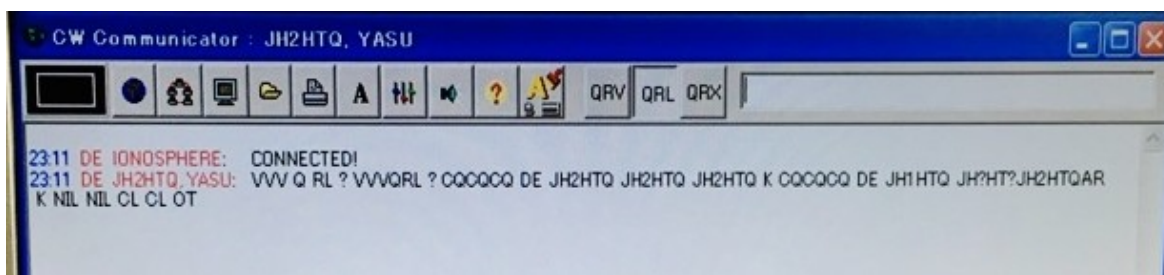
Overall, the new setup made my ham life much more comfortable. However, it may spoil some of my "useless" skills such as selecting a signal from multiple CW tones coming together through the "broad" filter by using my ears / brain, memorizing the frequencies used in the



band by rotating the dial, or struggling with manual antenna tuner for the QRV on the “not-tuned” bands with 40 m zepp, HI.

YASU, JH2HTQ, #15166

Recently, 40 m CONDX is so bad every morning. So I can't check in to the FEA NET in Sunday morning. I'm afraid of my CW skill's down for chat QSO. So, I have been building up CWCom on Windows XP since 12 Dec 2016. CWCom is the internet telegraph system. It's so simple to operating. I'm using a straight key. Around in 23:00 JST / 14:00 UTC, I can do QSO with OM of UK and EU. I'm can't nicely keying English yet. So I say a short greeting and simple message only.



SPECIAL TOPIC: CONTEST

AKI, JL1GEL, #15147

Until I restarted amateur radio in 2011, I had not taken part in any contests until then. When I restarted amateur radio, I made up my mind to challenge as many activities as possible so that I can enjoy amateur radio as long as possible. It could be said that contesting is one of my challenges.

I am not young enough to stay up all night to compete with other stations to get good results, so I rather prefer sprint-type contests, which last couple of hours, 6 hours at most. I also like local contests.

When I take part in a contest, I usually analyze the past results of the contest and plan the bands, modes and power, taking my rigs and antennas into consideration, which may increase the chance of my receiving letters of commendation for the contest.



I am looking forward to working with FISTS members at the contests!

CONTEST IS FUN!, MANABU, JE1RZR, #15020

I like contest. Mainly participate QRP category. Won the first place for several time at major Japanese contest like All JA. It was not easy to exchange the number on high bands by QRP with 2-element beam due to poor condition. But it's good on 80 m 'cos I could extent full size sloop. 5 watts was enough for running.

QRPs challenge toward to DX contest too. US big gun stations have a very good ear so I don't feel stress when I work S&P style. My favorite contest is WAEDC. I really want to applause when he/she could copy all my QTC completely. It's so thrilling.

I know some people doesn't welcome today's trend in contest. Yes, it's really similar to a kind of computer game; finding new multi through DX cluster, keying by PC. The big station has an advantage obviously. I myself keep such feeling recently. Wondering it comes from mannerism. It must be great fun if I win the big event by self-made TRX and ANT. See you in the next contest!

KUNI, JI3NOF, #15125

I entered 3 contests in 2016. These were KCJ (Keyman's Club of Japan) contest in August, Kyushu (JA6) contest, and WW DX CW contest in October. Though the score was comparably low, I was the highest in my prefecture. My setup was a FT-1000MP (50 watts) and a inverted V dipole up 12 meters high.

Aside from contest, the last picture shows my grandchild and a HK-3S straight key. He was curious about the new toy. Will he be an heir to the key?



SUGI, JK7UST, #7178

I like contests. Why I like the contest, the contest is my stress relief method. During the contest, I concentrate on receiving the call sign and the contest number. Therefore, I never think my job at all. This is very important for me.

This is my equipment in the contest. I often join the contest with my favorite K3. I choose K3 because of its wide Dynamic Range. Even if a 1 kW station starts operating next to 500 Hz, I can operate it without worrying about interference.

I often enjoy the contest with QRP. In the contest the radio waves are out, so it's better not to worry about interfering. To compete with dozens of stations at QRP, the contest is fun.



A FIELD DAY CONTEST, TAK, JS1QIZ, #15150

It was 1984 when I participated in a JARL field day contest which I cannot forget.

I was a member of JA8YBY, a university club station, which setup an operation and transmission site on a hilltop campsite in Yubari city, Hokkaido.

The station setup was big: One "operation" tent for each band, a few "sleeping" tents, together with two big rental gasoline-driven electric generators for construction work. Full size dipoles were set for 80 m and 40 m using trees surrounding the campsite, and beam antennas were set for higher bands. We had electric illuminations for all the tents and also had two big electric rice-cookers for meals, because the big generator supplied more than enough electricity. Of course, we booked the whole campsite for ourselves.

I was allocated to the "night-shift" for 40 m CW. From 9:00 PM to 6:00 AM, I called CQ with home brew CQ generator assembled with a relay and a switching circuit which converts audio tape coder signal to key signal. I recorded CQ TEST calls onto an end-less cassette tape before the contest. The QSOs were made with a straight key since our club did not have enough electric keys for all the bands. The electric key at that time was too expensive for me to buy.

The view of the site was somewhat strange yet beautiful. When I took a short break in the midnight, I saw all the tents (except for sleepers) with different colors brightly illuminated from inside, were scattered all over the campsite in a pitch black night under the roaring sound of generators. No voice was heard because all the operators are on CW with headsets.

Next morning, after sitting in a small tent for 8 hours pounding the straight key, I was totally exhausted and fell asleep after put some hot meals in my stomach.

We had tens of thousands QSOs and won 3rd prize in all Japan.

SUMMARY OF FEA NET IN 2016, NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

Thank you for joining FEA net in 2016. All results of the net is on http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA_Net_Result.html. In this year, average participants per net of part 1 recorded the maximum 7.7. On the other hand, that of part 2 was 2.9 and below 3.0 for the first time in a decade. This reflected the truth that the number of nets with no participants of part 2 was 10 (19%). Why so many times? Due to poor propagation condition? Due to loss of interest?

Without any question, the best way to preserve Morse code is to use it on air. FEA nets provide the good opportunities. Anyone and everyone who love CW is welcome to the FEA net.

	Part 1 (7 MHz)	Part 2 (14 MHz)
Total number of nets	52	52
Average participants per net (including controllers)	7.7	2.9
Number of actual participants (including controllers)	27	19
The day with most participants	13 stations (20 Feb.)	6 stations (6 Mar. 16 Oct.)
Number of nets with no participants	0	10
The persons who participated most (excluding controllers)	JA4IJJ (43 times)	VK5EEE (21 times)
The day with most countries	JA only	16 Oct., 4 countries
Countries	JA only	9V, BV, JA, UK, VK, ZL

Next table shows participants list excluding controllers.

Call	Part 1	Part 2	Part1+ Part2				
				JL8KUS	4	0	4
				JL3YMV	3	1	4
JO3HPM	42	13	55	VK2BTJ	0	4	4
JA4IJJ	43	0	43	JJ1TTG	3	0	3
JH2HTQ	42	0	42	JR7OEF	3	0	3
JK7UST	28	11	39	JE3ECD	2	1	3
JL1GEL	22	17	39	JF3KNW	2	1	3
7J1ATG+VK4BGR	23	8	31	BX8AAD	0	3	3
JG1BGT	25	0	25	JL3AMK	1	1	2
JJ2GZC	18	5	23	9V1VV	0	2	2
JE1TRV	21	0	21	ZL2AOH	0	2	2
VK5EEE	0	21	21	JA1NUT	1	0	1
JS1QIZ	19	0	19	JA4AVO	1	0	1
JR0QWW	14	2	16	JJ1XJB	1	0	1
JJ3NOF	11	0	11	JJ3UVB	1	0	1
JE1REU	8	0	8	JJ0RBX	1	0	1
JE1RZR+ UK/JE1RZR	2	5	7	JL1IRB	0	1	1
JA9MAT	5	0	5	VK4BOW	0	1	1
JA4MRL	4	0	4	ZL1ARW	0	1	1

FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 615 TO 627, NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controll er	Participants
627-2	2016/12/25	0800-0815	14.0535	JO3HPM	none
627-1	2016/12/24	2300-0000	7.026	JL1GEL	JS1QIZ, JK7UST, JA4IJJ, JJ1TTG/6, JO3HPM
626-2	2016/12/18	0800-0828	14.054	JE7YTQ	JO3HPM
626-1	2016/12/17	2300-0003	7.026	JS1QIZ	JA4IJJ, JI1XJB/6, 7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM
625-2	2016/12/11	0800-0852	14.054	JO3HPM	UK/JE1RZR, JF3KNW
625-1	2016/12/10	2300-0000	7.0265	JL1GEL	JS1QIZ, JK7UST, JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JJ1TTG/6
624-2	2016/12/4	0800-0815	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
624-1	2016/12/3	2300-0003	7.026	JS1QIZ	JA4IJJ, JL1GEL, JL8KUS, JE1REU, JO3HPM, JF3KNW, JH2HTQ, JK7UST
623-2	2016/11/27	0800-0819	14.0935	JO3HPM	UK/JE1RZR
623-1	2016/11/26	2300-0012	7.0265	JL1GEL	JE1TRV, JG1BGT, JH2HTQ, JK7UST, JA4IJJ, 7J1ATG/1, JS1QIZ, JI3NOF, JO3HPM
622-2	2016/11/20	0800-0818	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
622-1	2016/11/19	2300-0000	7.0264	JS1QIZ	JO3HPM, JL1GEL, JI3NOF, JA4IJJ, JR0QWW, JE3ECD, JH2HTQ, JA4MRL
621-2	2016/11/13	0800-0830	14.054	JO3HPM	BX8AAD
621-1	2016/11/12	2300-0002	7.0265	JL1GEL	JS1QIZ, JH2HTQ, JA4IJJ, JL8KUS, JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JI2GZC, JE3ECD
620-2	2016/11/6	0800-0843	14.054	JE7YTQ	JO3HOM, VK4BGR, VK5EEE, JE3ECD
620-1	2016/11/5	2300-2350	7.026	JS1QIZ	JA1NUT, JH2HTQ, JR0QWW, JL1GEL, JI2GZC, JK7UST, JL3AMK
619-2	2016/10/30	0800-0826	14.054	JO3HPM	none
619-1	2016/10/29	2300-0009	7.026	JL1GEL	JH2HTQ, JA4IJJ, JS1QIZ, JG1BGT, JR0QWW, JI3NOF, JK7UST, JO3HPM
618-2	2016/10/23	0800-0831	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
618-1	2016/10/22	2300-2345	7.007	JS1QIZ	JE1TRV, JA4IJJ, JH2HTQ, JO3HPM, JI2GZC
617-2	2016/10/16	0800-0848	14.0545	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, VK5EEE, ZL2AOH, JO3HPM, BX8AAD
617-1	2016/10/15	2300-0000	7.0255	JL3YMV	JK7UST, JE1TRV, 7J1ATG/1, JL1GEL, JG1BGT
616-2	2016/10/9	0800-0805	14.047	JE7YTQ	JL1GEL
616-1	2016/10/8	2300-2355	7.007	JS1QIZ	JO3HPM, JH2HTQ, JR0QWW, JL1GEL, JA4IJJ, JA4AVO
615-2	2016/10/2	0800-0839	14.054	JO3HPM	JK7UST, VK5EEE, JL1GEL
615-1	2016/10/1	2300-2347	7.026	JL1GEL	JK7UST, JO3HPM, JA4IJJ, JE1TRV, JE1REU, JS1QIZ, 7J1ATG/2

FINALE

I have been thinking of throwing out some amateur radio equipments in the closet. They are old rigs, a tuner, coaxial cables, antenna parts, electric parts, and keys. When I moved to the current house 20 months ago, I brought them in case they would be used again. Despite the expense, I never use them until now. The Japanese word 断捨離 (danshari) came into use since about 2010. It is often translated as "decluttering" or "minimalism" in an English word. But it doesn't only mean to throw out junks or clutters. It also means to get peaceful mental state to throw out all persistent thoughts to materials, things, relations, and burdens created by our own. I would like to carry out many 断捨離 in this year. How about you? HNY. 73/88 and stay sober de Nao.