

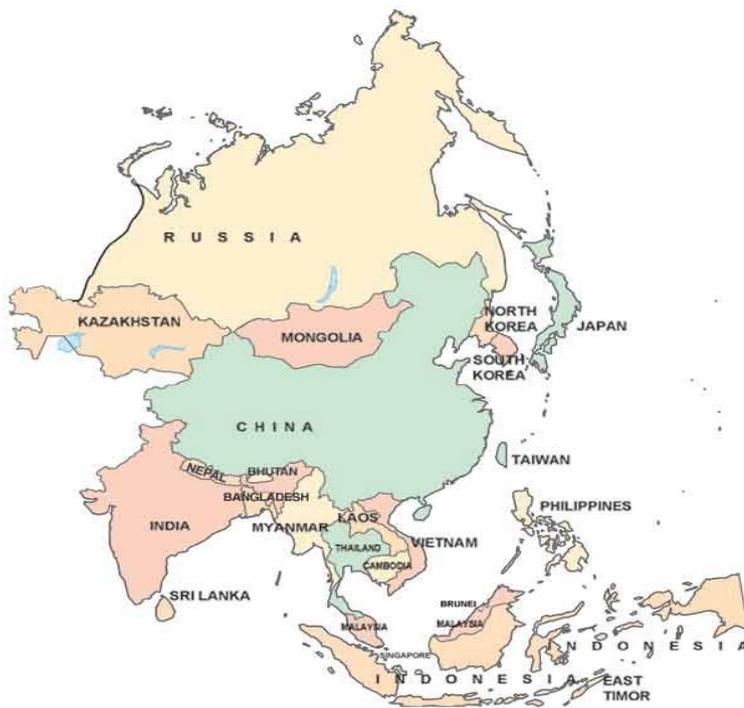
International Morse Preservation Society
FISTS
East Asia Chapter



Newsletter

morsEAsia

November 2005



FISTS EA Newsletter # 4
Editor; JJ8KGZ / Leo H Tsukada
1-25, Higashi 6-6, Memuro
Kasai-gun, Hokkaido 082-0016
Japan
e-mail; jj8kgz@fists-ea.org

<http://www.feacw.net/>

Hello Fellow FISTS,

First off, I would like to welcome Masa / JA8UUM #15019 who joined FISTS EA this October. He sometimes has QSOs with FISTS members and enjoy chatting with CW. I sincerely hope that he will develop friendship with the members.

Well, C2C contest has been held on Oct. 29 and 30 and our FISTS JA national club station JL3YMV/3 # 15000, operator Nao, has QRV on the bands. He had 7 QSOs with 6 club stations and got 42 points. This result did not reach the points of Bronze Certificate but he surely enjoyed the sprint. Especially, he says he was glad to have a QSO with K7FFF/ Paul for the first time.

It seemed difficult to reach the bank of the other side of the great pond without big antennas though, FISTS JA7 club station, JE7YTQ / Sugi and JARL A1 club station, JO1ZZZ / Atsu have been on the air during the contest and they also have got some points. In this issue, I would like to introduce some of the members and their activities, and some messages from our friends overseas.

de JJ8KGZ / Leo
Editor of morsEAsia

What's going on in FISTS EA?

Project 1A; Road to be the First Class Radio Amateurs

By JO3HPM / Naoyasu Hosoda

One day in September, Leo JJ8KGZ posted on the FEA Japanese BBS saying "I will take the state exam for the first class radio amateur operator license in December. Why don't you join me?"

In Japan, you need two licenses to establish your own radio station. One is the license to operate radio stations. The other is the license of the radio station. You can establish the radio stations within the operator license which you have. The ham who has first class operator license can establish stations with no transmit power limit. The ham who has second class operator license can establish stations with maximum 200W transmit power limit. This is the only difference between the classes.

I have a second class operator license now. And my station JO3HPM is allowed to transmit with maximum 100W power. I have never thought increasing the power more than 100W, because I live in an apartment and don't want to produce any interference problems. So there have been no particular benefits for me to obtain the first class license so far.

After I read Leo's post, I changed my mind. This might be a good opportunity to improve my skill. The exam isn't easy to pass. But if some of us will help each other for the same goal, the result will be surely better. I have just begun the road with Leo JJ8KGZ, Jean JL3SIK and Ken JG0MWU.

I will enjoy this long and winding road without giving up.

Comments of Members

My HAM Life

By JE3ECD / Hideaki Kaki FISTS # 8967

I acquired the 4th grade amateur radio license in 1971. It is permitted to operate only Fone in Japan and I enjoyed an amateur radio for about a year on the short wave band. But, I had to QRT for the high school entrance examination. In my high school years, playing soccer became the main part of my life and I did not operate the radio any more. About 20 years later, after I got a job, I purchased a hand held transceiver of 430Mhz. From that time, I resumed my ham radio. But soon, I wanted to begin telegraph because the manners of the operators on 430Mhz FM mode weren't good. Then I got a qualification of the first telegraph practical use in 1991. I like working CW. And I want to get the skill of English chatting. Another hobby of mine is soccer as I wrote above. I am now guiding a soccer club in my high school. So, I don't have time to enjoy my radio very much even on holidays. My antenna for 7Mhz is a mobile whip about 7 meters high and I have my 3-element tri-band yagi about 18 meters high for 14, 21, and 28 Mhz. Please call me if you can hear my signal even though I am not active on the bands. My FISTS number is 8967. CU on the air.

de JE3ECD/Hideki Kaki je3ecd@jarl.com

My Amateur Radio Station

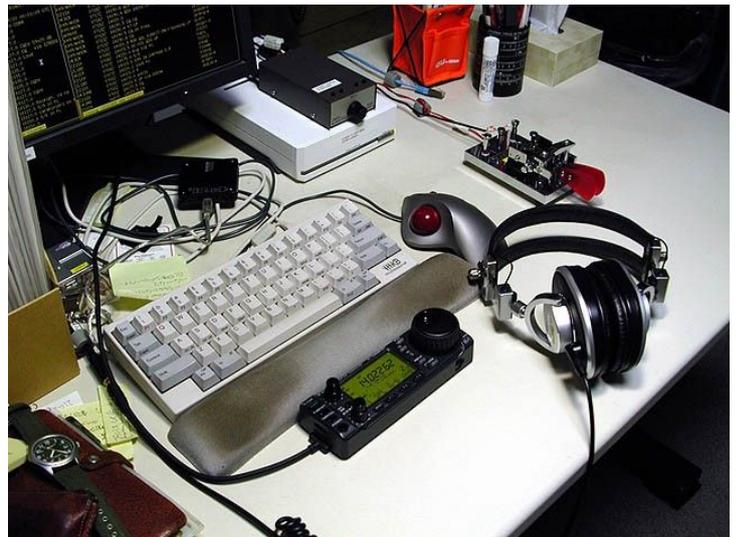
By Kenji Rikitake JJ1BDX(3) es JO3FUO FISTS #8962



Hello FISTS members: let me introduce my HF CW station system. This is my transceiver. A plain old IC-706mkIIG, running 100W PEP, with Idiom Press SCAF-1 filter, mostly at the fully-closed position for CW operation, which nicely works as a no-ringing audio filter at 440Hz, my listening tone for CW, the 'A' tone for the piano. The ICOM machine has FL-232 350Hz RX filter installed. At the bottom the dedicated power supply ALINCO's DM-330MV is there. It works just fine switching between the current flow of 2A (RX) and 20A (TX) in 13.8V. I put a large number of ferrite troids and bars, mostly FT-240-43, to prevent the notorious common-mode RF current, which is the major source of RF interference. All cables around the transceiver systems are wound to at least one ferrite core.

I also insert Array Solution's W3NQN BPF for the 20m band when I am running on the contest to suppress the source of the interference. I've been using this system since June 2002, though the IC-706mkIIG has been changed from the 50W to the 100W version, as my operator license is upgraded. A pretty much reliable system, though I need to add a battery backup for emergency operation.

This is my operating desk. I'm rarely on the phone band so no microphone shown. No fixed rig here, only a controller of IC-706, a paddle, a keyer, and a headphone jack connected to the SCAF-1 using an extension cable. I do not have a dedicated ham radio desk, so I don't want to show up too many gadgets on the desk. I also need to do some jobs here to earn for my living!



The paddle is GHD GD307WS, a nice one with optical sensors so that the operator doesn't have to deal with the clicks. The keyer is Idiom Press Logikey CMOS-4. I also own Logikey K-3. Bob, W9KNI and also Idiom Press owner, knows well about CW fans and his products work rock solid during the contests. Remember all cables connecting the devices are wound to ferrite cores. You need to be very much paranoid for preventing RFI or feedback.

I've got to say a lot about listening to the sound of CW signals. I use the headphones designed for DJ. I've got quite a few headphones though I have obviously only one head to put them on. The one shown in the photo is Pioneer Monitor-10R, which has a very unique brightness on the frequency range between 2kHz to 4kHz. For picking up a weak station, closed-type headphones or ear-plug-type earphones are strongly suggested to minimize the surrounding audio noise. In the modern music culture and among the youngsters, club DJs are the heaviest power users of the closed-type headphones, and many good products are sold for the DJs at an inexpensive price. The engineering and usability introduced for the club DJs are also useful for many of those are also effective for listening to CW.

Do keep in mind that Bob Heil, K9EID and the owner of Heil Sound Ltd., has been gaining popularity among professional broadcasters, as well as among the amateurs; there's no room to develop a shortwave-radio-only audio product any more, if you run a really competitive audio device. I've heard many old hams complain the headphones designed for Hi-Fi audio gives too much hiss noise, but I should rather say it's *your rig* which generates the hissy sound, especially those designed for dealing with wide-band FM listening, including many modern HF/VHF/UHF transceivers.

I should say a reliable band-pass filter or a combination of low-pass and high-pass filters is what you really need to use before connecting *any* headphones to a modern transceiver. My SCAF-1 works just fine and has helped picking up a lot of DX signals. If you are using an expensive hard-core-DX machine which has very low hiss noise, you might not need an LPF or BPF, but if you experience some listening fatigue, try filtering out the noise, using a tone control of an audio mixer, which I was doing before finally migrated into SCAF-1.

Note that my endorsement on SCAF-1 is solely by the personal taste; you can find, buy or homebrew a much better audio filter by yourself.



This is the antenna when fully expanded at my condo balcony. I've been using this since May 2005. It's a full-half-wave-length *vertical* dipole for the 17m band, also can be used as the 20m band dipole, with a little offset for the feeding point, with a element wire added horizontally for proper tuning. You can attach and detach the extended element using the Giboshi terminals. Giboshi is a Japanese flower name, for calling round snap-on terminals for car electronic wiring, which suits pretty well for building antennas. The antenna is made of 2-square-millimeter-area vinyl-coated copper wire (equivalent to AWG14 AC cord) and 3D-2V coax (JIS equivalent to American RG-58 coax), with a 10-turn FT-240-61 current balun at the antenna feed point.

I should repeat that you should always remember to prevent and minimize the common-mode current. The coax cable is sloped down as far away as possible from the radiation element. and a few clamp cores are also installed in the coax cable, to decouple the cable from the dipole antenna.

The antenna is supported by a fiberglass telescopic fishing rod of 10-meter length from the floor of the balcony expanding vertically to the roof direction, with two fiberglass-and-vinyl guy wires. You need to expand and shrink it manually, but the procedure is finished within a few minutes, with proper rubber gloves worn at your hands.

Thanks to the height of the feed point, estimated about 20 meters above the ground, the antenna radiate and receive quite well, regarding the urban environment which is full of artificial electrical noises. I recently earned a WAC award on 20m CW with only 3W PEP, issued by NAQCC (North American QRP CW Club). When feeding 100W into this antenna, I was even able to work KP4SQ at Puerto Rico on 17m, C91CW at Mozambique on 20m, and most notably Jean, VE2JCW, in Quebec, Canada on 20m.

Many people in Japan use roughly-quarter-wave-length vertical and a bunch of counterpoise wires on the balcony floor, with an automatic antenna tuner. I have used this configuration with ICOM AH-4 tuner, which worked very well especially on the lower bands such as the 40m or 80m bands. I noticed, however, that the radiation from the counterpoise wires, which is very close to my operating room, caused a lot of interferences, into Ethernet, MIDI devices, VGA video link, and even to the receiving audio headphones. So I decided to raise the feeding point above the roof of the condo to avoid the RF safety issues and interferences. This also prevented the persistent noise radiated from the air conditioners coming into the transceiver. Even with this rather complicated setting, you need to be really tolerant to wait for being answered in a phone pileup. Without a linear amplifier and a beam antenna, you can't really enjoy the DXing on the phone. On CW, however, you can easily work many people on this configuration, with many General-class American hams obviously including many FISTS, VK/ZL FISTS, and my fellow FISTS-EA members.

I think the most important and fun thing to build a ham radio station is to homebrew the devices or the components which are not sold in the stores as appliances. My current configuration so far gets the most out of my performance on the HF CW bands.

73 de Kenji, JJ1BDX(/3) es JO3FUO



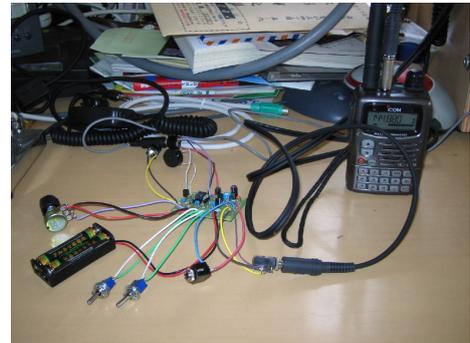
Enjoyed eyeball QSO with a friend

By JK7UST / `Sugi` Hiroyuki Osugi FISTS # 7178

I enjoyed eyeball QSO with JR0QWW/Taro in Tokyo station on Oct.16. I went to Tokyo to see my childhood friends. And Taro had to go to Tokyo for his job. So we had a chance to see and enjoyed talking about our ham life etc. I was surprised to see his small automatic tuner. He made an Elecraft's tuner kit "T1". It works with the small battery that was built in. He used it for our SKD with FT-817. His signal was stronger than usual. His 10m long wire antenna with the T1 works obviously better than the mobile whip antenna he used to have. I showed my F2 keyer to him. It makes CW tone for FM hand held transceiver. I hope it will attract children and help me to make some new CWers.



Left : JR0QWW/ Taro and Right: JK7UST/ Sugi at Tokyo station



F2 Keyer

The World Rally Championship 2005 held in Hokkaido, Japan.

By JJ8KGZ / Leo H Tsukada FISTS # 4843



WRC 2005 was held in Hokkaido, from Sept 31 to Oct 2, and I, JJ8KGZ had an opportunity to act as interpreter in FORD team for 3 days. Getting up very early morning, I went to the headquarters and went to each stage with my boss, Howard, who was from Wales and the leader of the Meteo Crew, to measure the temperature on the road surface and air. We had to rush because needed to collect data of all stages till a helicopter, called Super Vision, takes off at 6:30 in the morning. While the Super Vision was flying over, we had to report the weather data at 15 minutes interval until the first car starts at each stage. Based on our data, the team thinks about which tire type fits into the condition. It was so exciting to see the rally of course, but the most interesting thing for me was to be with those crews who indirectly support the activities of the world championship rally.

Howard was such a nice guy and he was liked by not only his team mate but by crews of other teams such as Peugeot, Citroen, Subaru, Mitsubishi and so on. At lunch time, he cooked some food and served them to the crews from the other teams. We enjoyed talking till the rally starts.



Above; Howard.
Right; Crews of Citroen and Subaru.



The rally itself, unfortunately, our Ford team lost an opportunity to win a prize. But those 3days with the team crews were so nice and I'll never forget it. Thanks Howard for your nice English food! Actually, he said it was Japanese fried noodle, but I'd never seen it B4. HI.



Message from our friend

I2VRS / Giancarlo e Concetta FISTS # 8325



It is the first time that I receive your "FISTS EA Newsletter". I am very grateful to you for that and I hope to continue to receive it. As for my enclosed picture and as many FISTS friends know, at present, and for ever, I am invalid because of a rare uncureable muscle disease so that "Computer and Radio are my Windows to the World" as I wrote on the last QSLs printed. After WW II aged 14, I went to the electrician shop to break exhausted tubes and see how was the inside !!! In 1958 I got my first licence and in 1974 the call "I2VRF". Until ten years ago I have used a Drake Line "C", still operating, but to difficult to tune for my 80% rigid hands, and the same for the straight key. Since ten years I am using also an ICOM 751A. It is the only rig that nowadays I can operate on a small mobile table near the bed (another similar for the Computer). Antenna is an R7000.

I have always liked and used CW. I used FM/SSB in VHF/UHF only for emergency until I was able the go on the field and was responsible for the TLC for the voluntaries of the province of Milan. I stop here, my story is getting too long. In JA I contacted just one FISTS Member: JA1CPZ, Hiro 6096 and I hope to have soon other QSO with EA Members. Again many congratulations and wishes to the EA FISTS.

I2VRF Giancarlo 8325

p.s. In CW I use only the first part of my composite name (=John+Charles) that is "Gian". It is clearer and speedier. Hi!!

Miscellaneous

An objet d'art of giant key is now displayed at a museum in Osaka. This work has been made by an artist named Yoshifumi Sasano. This key is about 6 foot long and about 100kgs weight. It actually can make Morse Code and the visitors of the museum could see its code on the large screen. Mr. Sasano, the artist, is a kind of enthusiast of telegraph key, he is not a Ham but know morse code, and he is about to have an exhibition at Osaka modern art museum, from middle of Oct to November 12th and its title will be "Denken" which means telegraph keys.

Copyright (c) Yoshifumi SASANO. Special thanks to UEDA MUSEN Co., Ltd.



FISTS EA Activities

Suggested Calling Frequencies

You can find FISTS members on/near following recommended calling frequencies.
QSO's should be QSY'd another frequency.

FISTS	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	2m
<u>East Asia</u>	-	-	-	10.118 10.138 (*1)	14.058	18.085	21.058	24.918	28.058 28.158 (*2)	-	-
HQ/Europe	-	3.558	7.028	-	14.058	-	21.058	-	28.058	-	-
North America	1.808	3.558 3.708	7.028 7.058 7.118	10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28.158	50.058	144.058
Down Under	1.808	3.528	7.028	10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28.158	-	-
QRP calling freqs (*3)	-	-	-	10.106 10.116	14.060	18.086 18.096	21.060 21.110	24.906 24.910	28.060 28.110	-	-

(*1) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use 10.130 to 10.150.

(*2) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use above 28.100.

(*3) International QRP calling frequencies are neighborhood.

FISTS East Asia CW Net

We have informal CW sessions for ANYONE who wants to practice English QSO.

When	on Sundays @ East Asia
Part I	between 7.025MHz and 7.030MHz, sometimes between 18.080MHz and 18.085MHz
	starting 2300UTC on Saturdays (0700 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 0800 JST on Sundays)
Part II	between 14.050MHz and 14.055MHz
	starting 0800UTC on Sundays (1600 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 1700 JST on Sundays)
Speed	12WPM to 15WPM
Controlled by	Nao, JO3HPM, Sugi, JK7UST/JE7YTQ, and Chen, BX2AH
Managed by	Nao, JO3HPM
Any other announcements	might be posted to the English BBS.*

* <http://www.feacw.net/en/bbs/light.cgi>

FISTS EA NET Result

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participant
46-2	2005/11/06	0800-0830	14.0525	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
46-1	2005/11/05	2300-2340	7.0275	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao)
45-2	2005/10/30	0800-0845	14.055	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JL8MIL(Jun), JO3FUO(Kenji), BX2AH(Chen)
45-1	2005/10/29	2300-2400	7.027	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JL3YMV/3(Nao)
44-2	2005/10/23	0800-0910	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	9V1VV(John), JE1TRV(Atsu), UK/JI2MED(Manabu)
44-1	2005/10/22	2300-2400	7.0275	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JL8MIL(Jun), JR0QWW/0(Taro), JG0SXC(Man), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JF3KNW(Nobu), JO3HPM(Nao)
43-2	2005/10/16	0800-0910	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JO3FUO(Kenji), VK4TJ(John), JL8MIL(Jun)
43-1	2005/10/15	2300-2400	7.0255	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE3ECD(Hide)
42-2	2005/10/9	0800-0910	14.047	JO3HPM(Nao)	JL8MIL(Jun), JE1TRV(Atsu)
42-1	2005/10/8	2300-2320	18.084	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JO3HPM(Nao), [JJ8KGZ(Leo), JL8MIL(Jun) @7.0016]
41-2	2005/10/2	0800-0900	14.055	JO3HPM(Nao)	9V1VV(John), JL8MIL(Jun), JE1TRV(Atsu), VR2AJ(Mak)
41-1	2005/10/1	2300-2400	7.026	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JG0SXC(Man)
40-2	2005/9/25	0800-0910	14.055	JO3HPM(Nao)	JL8MIL(Jun), VR2AJ(Mak), JR0QWW/0(Taro)
40-1	2005/9/24	2300-2400	7.0255	JE7YTQ(sugi)	JL8MIL(Jun), JO3HPM(Nao), JJ8KGZ(Leo)
39-2	2005/9/18	none	none	none	none