



Recommended calling QRGs: 7.026/7.028, 10.118/10.138, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058/21.138, 24.918, 28.058/28.158

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

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## All JA MEMBERS ARE SAFE

North-eastern Japan (Tohoku, JA7) struck by a massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake with huge 15-meter tsunami on 11th March. All JA members and their families are safe. But many disaster victims lost their family or friends. As of Apr. 2, the death toll rise to 11,828 and 15,540 people are still unknown. We express deep sorrow.

## NEW MEMBERS

15089 Yasu JG3TSX

15090 Toshi JF1RDC (also JO7WXN)

## CHRIS HS0ZFE

With deep empathy and true sadness am I hearing of the disaster in Japan! When all fails, a QRP home-brew transceiver will get through with CW. Mobile phone networks, telephone and the internet fail. there is no electricity. But CW still works over long distances.

All the best, be strong!



## “THE 3.11” BY LEO JJ8KGZ

On March 11th, after a lunch break, I was sitting at a desk in my office and translating an operation manual of an agricultural machine made in Germany. A regular drowsiness in the afternoon came and I was about to stand up to go to a vending machine located at the corner of the

office and grab a can of iced-coffee from a vending machine.

“You got a phone call from Singapore on line one,” said our receptionist. I soon recognized it was Keng Wah, the marketing manager of Asia and Pacific region of JCB. We were now placing an order of a Fastrac, a big tractor which is capable of running on the public highway with 80 km/h and have been discussing with Keng what kind of essential and optional features on the tractor will suite for the customer since that morning.

While we were talking on the phone, Fumi, one of my co-worker and a daughter of my company's president, shouted “An earthquake !?”. I didn't feel anything at that moment but in a few seconds, I felt the floor of the office start rolling. Initially, it provided an illusion that I was having dizziness but I soon realized some drawings and photo frames were swinging on the wall.

“Keng, we are having an earthquake here”, I said.

“Oh, that's too bad. Are you guys alri.....”, he replied but the line broke up.

Kazuo, the president stood up and said “ Isn't it very big?” and I replied, “No, it isn't”. We all thought it would stop soon, but the rolling was gradually getting bigger and bigger. Having experienced being hit by countless of small and medium earthquakes, we Japanese can immediately weigh the differences between “Big” and “Small” by feeling what type of shock we are having. The rolling didn't stop and got much bigger. “No. It's big!” I said to the president as I supported a bookshelf behind my desk.

Everybody in the office stood up and one of them said “ Look at those trees out side!”. Street-side trees were swaying and I could see some people getting out of the opposite building. “It's really big, isn't it”, said Kazuo and “Yeah, and it's long”. I replied. We felt the shock last for over two minutes.

I became to be worried about my co-leagues who were working in our stock facility and went into the building, which is connected to my office room by a door. There are tons of machine parts and huge tires accumulated on the shelves and I thought they might have crumbled and my buddies may be buried under those stuff. I shouted “Are you guys OK?”

Fortunately, Mamoru, the parts manager and another staff have already got out of the building and they were waiting for us outside.

Mamoru was smoking and said, "You should immediately get out of the building when an earthquake like this hits!". "Yeah, you're right." I replied to his smiling face. Workers of the other offices have also got out of their buildings with a troubled look.

Anyway, the earthquake has gone.

Getting back to the office desk, I was about to resume my task, translating.

Suddenly, Fumi, next to my desk said, "It was near Sendai and its magnitude was 7.9!". Kazuo and I took a look at her computer screen. It was a website of Met Office Japan.

"Gosh! It's massive", Kazuo said.

I was worried about Sugi, JK7UST lives in the city of Natori just south of Sendai and thought there might have been a lot of casualties.

There was no TV sets and radios in our office so we couldn't figure out the situation in the area located about 500Kms south of our island. But Fumi kept gleaning information on the Internet accessing Twitter, Facebook and other news sources.

It seemed to be worsening every moment and we held our breath for fear when Fumi showed us a photo, which was uploaded on Twitter.

We weren't sure where it was taken but there were a lot of vehicles engulfed by Tsunami. "No, way! It must be a Computer Graphic." Kazuo said. I stopped my work and concentrated on seeking news on the Internet.

As I surfed websites of Kyodo News Service, NHK Breaking News, Japan Met Office and Yomiuri Breaking News etc., I become to feel rather strongly that the photo was a real one and it was actually a massive disaster.

"I wonder if Takumi is al-right", Kazuo mentioned about his first son resides in Tokyo and tried to call him several times. But at that time, we recognized most of the mobile phones in main Island were not reachable and even some fixed phones in town were inaccessible.

After the several trials, I could reach my son Taiga at home.

"There is no damage and trouble at home and I switched off the oil heating", said Taiga. "Good. But be aware of aftershocks and get out of the house when big one comes", I advised him and he said "OK, dad".

I was relieved a little.

<To be continued.>

## JUN JQ1BWT

TV broadcasting are changing from analogue system to digital system in Japan. Analogue broadcasting will be stopped 4 month later. I constructed a new antenna to receive digital TV broadcasting on a roof of my house.



Please don't mistake. I am not a professional electrical worker

## KAZU JK1TCV

In last November, I newly build a 21-meter-high crank-up tower with a HF multi-band Yagi antenna. The antenna works as a 4 elements Yagi for each band. The performance of the new antenna is greater than a 2 elements HB9CV which I used before. Mostly I operated QRP, but I could make contact with new entities. Since a propagation condition is becoming better, I'm looking forward to meeting many stations using the new antenna.



## "ONE YEAR TILL RETIREMENT" BY TAKESHI JA4IJJ

How do you do, FISTS EA members? This is JA4IJJ, Takeshi, a new comer living in the north part of Hiroshima city. I was asked by Nao-san, JO3HPM, to write a short story for the News letter. Due to such a bad condition that I have never experienced after starting again amateur radio after about 30 years, sorry to say, I have not been very active on the air in these days. Where has the cycle 24 gone? Besides this condition, one of the reasons of my low activity is my poor antenna system as in the photo below. BTW, my rig IC-7600M is very nice in comparison with my old one TS-930.

Another excuse of my low activity is that I am still under pressure from my work: Going to the office, working, driving back to my home, eating a dinner with one or two glasses of wine, watching 9 p.m. news, bathing and sleeping, that's all for every weekday except for occasional business trips!

I am already 63 years of age. Only a few years ago it was thought that the compulsory retirement age was my present age. However, situation changed due to the pension issue of our organization and I have to work one more year (!), that just postponed my preparation for having such a comfortable life with enjoying amateur radio in the fine condition and listening to music in the bad one. From what I have heard, the amount of work will be considerably reduced but no one knows the truth, since this is the first case. Hopefully, my amateur radio activity

will increase from April, together with the sunspot number.

When the condx is so so, my activity is concentrated on some hours in the Sunday afternoon (3.5 MHz and 7 MHz). Most recent QSO with a FISTS EA member was with JQ2SFZ on 8th Jan on 7 MHz (thanks, Isao-san!). Frankly, I love chatting like Shin-san (JA1NUT) and Atsu-san (JE1TRV, long time no see for both stations) do, but I occasionally joined some contests (e.g. ARRL CW test on the 20th of Feb, WAS CW test on the 27th) only to check the condition of the ionosphere and my antennas. You can see two commercial GPs in the photo, the left one is only for 3.5 MHz (originally it was the five banders from 3.5 MHz to 28 MHz, but the other bands were detuned). The right one is for 7 MHz and 21 MHz (originally four banders from 7 MHz to 28 MHz), with full size radials for 7 MHz. When condx is not enough for my system, I am making an amp with ceramic tubes for fun using junks still stocked in my mother's home. I really love vacuum tubes: it's a pity that I have discarded many MT and GT tubes, but still have bigger tubes like 3-, 4-, 4CX tubes etc (and still collecting!).



My dream is to build up a big tower with full size Yagi for HF, but no chance for that due to a limited space of my site as you can see. My wife loves Japanese style gardening. While I have been away from amateur radio activity for ages, she fixed up her garden and I need negotiation to set the GPs, hi.

If you, members hear my weak signals, please call me up at any time. I will respond you for sure, if I can read you. That's all for today. I enjoyed writing after many years. Last but not least, thank you, Nao-san for inviting me. Very best 73!

P.S. I would like to express my sincere condolences and deep mourning for those lost life in the biggest earthquake and subsequent tsunami on 11th March that we have never experienced for centuries. I am in deep sorrow over the tragedy of the towns in Tohoku and Kanto district. I have written the above note before the disaster, allow me if the content is unsuitable on this sad occasion.

## “A SMALL TRANCEIVER HAS TAKEN A YEAR TO BE BUILT UP” BY MAN JG0SXC

It was Xmas season in 2009 that I had planned to build it up. Then I had ordered a kit of SW-40+, a small CW transceiver for 40m band, to Small Wonder Labs in U.S.A. soon after that. But I finally got it very late around the last day of my New Year's Holidays because of the stock shortage. I was so disappointed that I had to gave up building it up for a long time. And a year had passed since then and I started to assemble the kit late in December 2010. It was so lucky that I finished it at last on January 1 in 2011.

I embedded it with a “Freq-Mite” and a “Cal-keyer” within the aluminum case. “Freq-mite” is a frequency counter which tells you the VFO frequency by three-digit Morse code, like “026” for 7.026 MHz. This is a small circuit board kit which can be built into almost any transceiver. It's very useful if your transceiver doesn't have a digital VFO display. “Cal-keyer” is a one chip electronic keyer kit provided by Calibration. The main board of SW-40+ is very small sized of 7 cm x 10 cm including about a hundred of parts to be soldered. Don't you think it is much easier to make than an Elecraft K1?

Though while adjusting the kit after assembling, I couldn't get the hoped-for VFO frequency at first, I could finally succeed in getting the range from 7.000 to 7.035 KHz by adding a couple of turns to one of the toroidal coils. Eventually I set the power output at 1.5 watts for 12V battery.

Its four pole XTAL filter nicely cuts QRM and very easy to hear the band. It seems like 400 Hz filter. But it shouldn't be right for contests or DX pile-ups, of course. So I like it very much especially for chatting with CW enthusiasts like you guys, hi.

I willingly admit that I love QRP transceivers. My ham life started in 1993 with a Mizuho MX-21, a handy transceiver of 21 MHz SSB/CW, output 2 watts. So I know its small power is useful enough to make contacts with ham radio stations all over Japan and even overseas. I have made various QRP transceiver kits so far such as OHR-100A, DSW-80, Rock-mite, K1 and K2. The reason that I chose SW-40+ this time is that it is so low- priced as



\$32!, that it is such a board kit that you can add some options or circuits if you want, and that it deals with useful 40 m band. On top of that, this is such a palm-size rig that you can take it out to anywhere you go.

I someday hope to put it into my pocket of my backpack with a small antenna and a battery then hike to mountains and have chatting with you guys. I look forward to seeing you. 73s from Nagano

#### “BEGINNER'S DIARY” BY SAM 7N2XUZ

I indeed began CW QSO on September 2010. I have a poor rig and antenna. When I turn on rig, I often discover something new about CW QSO. Of course I'm a slow operator, I can understand little, listening others' high speed QSO. But I have great pleasure, when I suddenly understand them on the way. I use whip antenna HA750BL, John VK4TJ says “pirate antenna.” I could do QSO as far as Korea. I hope to contact China, Singapore, Australia and other countries in future. It's my dream. Recently I found “a beginner will be able to enjoy CW QSO as a beginner.” This photo is my ANT, set on the 5th floor balcony of the condominium.



#### “THIS IS NOT MY SHACK” BY SAT JK1JHB

When I started CW in my late-teens, I trained myself to be a left-handed operator as I was told by one of my ham radio friends who eventually became professional in the field. Since then, I had been on and off for some time; I became completely off the air about 15 years ago.

Less than two years ago I made a comeback to the world of ham radio, and I decided to go CW only this time. After 15 years of long QRT, my brains were unable to process the code and my thumb and fingers completely forgot how to send it accurately and stably. I realized that I needed to restart CW from scratch, this time working much harder than in my teenage days so that I can hopefully become an OK CW operator again.

There is a big problem, though. It is that I now have very little time for CW practice. Now I work full-time; oftentimes I even have to work on weekends. As for copying practice, I could do it by listening to Morse code files with iPod on my way to work (and on the way back). However, I have more difficulty making time for sending practice, because the time I spend in the shack is very limited. When I am busy, for instance, I can't even touch my paddle, let alone turn on my rig, for several days....



To cope with this problem, currently I am trying a couple of things. First one is very simple: Use my left hand whenever possible, for instance, moving a computer mouse, operating cell phone, pressing floor buttons in elevator, touch-keying at ATM machine, etc. I was born right-handed and I gathered that part of the problem is that my left hand had been “idle” for a long time. By using my left hand as much as I can, I am hoping to regain some delicate feel or touch on my left thumb and fingers needed to manipulate the paddle stably.

The other thing I did is to install a small setup at my office, hoping to make up for the lack of sending practice in my shack. What you see in the picture is not my shack but my work desk. With an old G4ZPY paddle and a GHD Morse Training Unit, it becomes a very convenient CW training lab. Now I can practice sending the code whenever I have time in my office!

While I don't think these would substitute real-life QSOs and on-the-air code practice, I am hoping they would help me somehow regain my proficiency in CW communication. And I sincerely look forward to seeing you all FISTS members on the air. And please do not be so hard on this middle-aged comeback kid: )

#### KEN JG0MWU

I am Ken JG0MWU living in Nagano city where the 1998 winter Olympics game held. I have been enjoying a telemark skiing since 5 years ago. This season, my telemark skiing skill made steady progress. I can ski in the deep new-fallen snow using it like using a snow board which I was crazy before. When I was taken an attached photograph, I skied as if I was swimming! I always have a



hand-held transceiver to the snow field. Lately I bought a Standard VX-3, 144/430 MHz FM hand-held transceiver, and I made 18 years old C401 retire. The VX-3 have a function to learn Morse code. I will learn the code again using the function and comeback on the air after melting snow on mountains.

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### “ADDICTED TO FOREIGN OPERATIONS” MASUMI JA3AVO

4S7AVG	September 2003, September 2004, January 2006
8Q7NM	January 2006
XU7AVO	November 2008, July 2010
VP5/W3AVO	January 2008
KP2/W3AVO	January 2009
9M6/JA3AVO	January 2010
VK9XO	January 2011

My operational history

In recent years, I sometime went to foreign countries to operate ham radio. And soon after returning JA, I think “Where next?” This is really fun!

Easy operation using rental-shack is called DX-vacation. It was mostly our style. In January of this year, we went to VK9X (Christmas island, Territory of Australia). This time we must bring all rigs and antennas. We really struggled with bad weather. Antenna construction was hard. Strong wind blew off the antenna we just built. And returning flight was delayed one day. We had to consider a worst-case scenario that we could not return for an additional week. This was not a real DX-pedition that go to a deserted island. But we tasted a bit of it.

Next I will go to T8 (Palau) in July with my daughter and her family live in Seattle. They will return JA during summer holiday, and we will go together. The operators

will be Masumi JA3AVO, my wife JH3PBL, and my grandson Syota W7AED.

Where next next? Current target is CE0Y (Easter island) in January 2012. Meeting Moai is I and my wife's dream. Nothing definite has been decided about the plan yet. But I want to go.



### RICK JJ0MPI

Hello. In colder JA0 areas, I play with a snowboard in winter. But I have already begun preparations for QRV in spring. I won a prize at some CW contests last year. The highest result was a JA0 area 1st prize on 50 MHz band. I could not forget that contest, because it was my first QRV on 50 MHz band! This year, I am planning portable CW operations again. The photograph shows my portable style at neighbouring mountain. It is 5 years since I got my call-sign JJ0MPI. Still most of my QSOs are rubber-stamp and 599BK. But I am looking forward to meeting you on the bands.



### YAMA 7K1CPT

Hello dear friends. I like CW mode and QRP. Most of all QSO using 5 Watts output.

I'm living in an apartment house. I have only poor wire antenna at my home. So I often go to field and build antenna. Dipole antenna is good for QSO and easy build. Sometime I use loop antenna and others. Now I want to make YAGI beam antenna and use for DX QSO.

I have 3 station license. All stations call sign is same 7K1CPT. Japanese license need equipments. A station power 50 W or less can operate all place portable. Most of all operate is this station. Over 51 W must use fix station. I have 100 Watts station at my living home. And I got 1KW station at KASUMIGAURA-CITY Last winter. It is my friend shack He approves me to get 1KW License. This shack have 4-tower and YAGI-beam antenna for 3.5

MHz to 430 MHz. I have chance to operate 2 or 3 times per year. Maybe next time will May by 8J1ITU and JUNE by 8J1VLP special station call sign. I hope to QSO many friends.



### YASU JG3TSX

Hello all, I am Yasu JG3TSX FISTS#15089. I have been a ham at Kobe city since 30 years ago. At that time, I used a 21-MHz 3-element HB9CV and other 7 antennas on a roof tower of my house. It was a peak of solar cycle 21 and I could enjoy many QSO with both DX and domestic stations. In 1995, my house was completely destroyed by the Great Hanshin earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3. After, I moved to a condominium. I mainly use a HF multi band whip antenna Outbacker now. I think it is the greatest in the many whip antennas including JA products. My operation style has been QRP since last autumn. Every QSO by small antenna and low power make me happy. My dream is CW chat with DX. I am looking forward to meeting with you.



### MASAG JA4MRL

I have used Cushcraft R7 antenna since 20 years ago. The antenna is a half-wave vertical and covers 7 HF bands from 40 m to 10 m. Several years ago, I found VSWRs of some bands became high due to aging degradation. I added a manual tuner to improve VSWRs. Fortunately, it brought me a chance to operate on 6 m in addition to the original 7 bands. Two years ago, the propagation condition was very poor. Especially, I had much frustration during winter night. So, I added junk

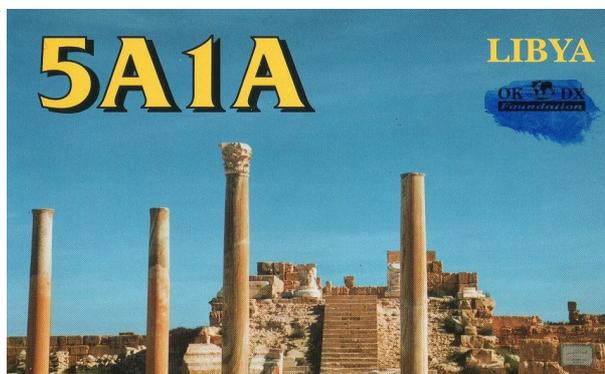
coils from a broken Butternut vertical and radial wires to the R7 to operate on 160 m and 80 m. That work as a GP with elevated radials. Because the elevated radials make a radiation angle low, I can enjoy low-band QSOs despite the small size of the antenna. I built a GP for 2 m lately. Therefore, the bands I can operate are from 160 m to 2 m now. But I feel the most important thing to enjoy QSO is not having multi bands system, but finding QSO partners on the bands. Let's on the air actively!



### “UNFOGETTABLE QSO” BY NORI JR7OEF

5A1A, 2001 June 22 1945UTC 17m CW.

I used a ICOM IC-706 and a balcony antenna of 20, 15, and 10 m bands at that time. On that morning, I listened 17 m band without any purpose and found a CQ. When I copied his call sign, my heart started beating. He was the only Libya amateur station, 5A1A. I tuned the antenna using an automatic tuner ICOM AT-130 and called him soon. Very luckily, still nobody found him and I could make a QSO with a 449 my report. It was difficult to receive his QSL card. I sent him a registered letter and received the card half a year later. Now Libya is hard situation. I pray for 5A1A operator's safety.



**“FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 315 TO 327” BY NAO JO3HPM**

No.	Date(Y/M/D)	Time(UTC)	Freq.(MHz)	Controller	Participants
327-2	2011/3/27	none	none	none	none
327-1	2011/3/26	2300-2330	7.0233	JG0SXC(Man)	none
326-2	2011/3/20	0800-0842	14.0545	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John)
326-1	2011/3/19	2300-2343	7.022	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JG0SXC(Man)
325-2	2011/3/13	0800-0825	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	ZL2AOH(Ralph)
325-1	2011/3/12	2300-2340	7.0245	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JP1BJB(Aki), JG0SXC(Man), JN1WFF(Nao)
324-2	2011/3/6	0800-0850	14.054	JE1RZR(Manabu)	JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), VK4TJ(John)
324-1	2011/3/5	2300-0002	7.026	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	7N2XUZ(Sam), JP1BJB(Aki), JG0SXC(Man)
323-2	2011/2/27	0800-0848	14.054	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JO3HPM(Nao), VK4TJ(John)
323-1	2011/2/26	2300-0005	7.026	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JP1BJB(Aki), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JE1TRV(Atsu), JG0SXC(Man), JK7UST(Sugi)
322-2	2011/2/20	0800-0900	14.054	JE1RZR(Manabu)	JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), 9V1VV(John), VK4TJ(John)
322-1	2011/2/19	2300-0000	7.0257	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JP1BJB(Aki), JK7UST(Sugi), JA4MRL(MasaG), JG0SXC/0(Man)
321-2	2011/2/13	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu), JK7UST(Sugi)
321-1	2011/2/12	2300-0005	7.026	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JP1BJB(Aki), JK1JHB(Sat), JG0SXC(Man), JA4MRL(MasaG)
320-2	2011/2/6	0800-0900	14.054	JE1RZR(Manabu)	9V1VV(John), VK4TJ(John), JK7UST(Sugi), OK1MGW, 9M2LMF, JL1IRB(Hoz), JO3HPM(Nao), RV9CFS
320-1	2011/2/5	2300-0005	7.0255	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JP1BJB(Aki), 7N2XUZ(Sam), JG0SXC(Man)
319-2	2011/1/30	0800-0827	14.054	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1RZR(Manabu)
319-1	2011/1/29	2300-0005	7.0247	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JP1BJB(Aki), JK7UST(Sugi), JJ1TTG/7(Aki)
318-2	2011/1/23	0800-0903	14.054	JE1RZR(Manabu)	JL1IRB(Hoz), ZL2AOH(Ralph), JK7UST(Sugi), VK4TJ(John)
318-1	2011/1/22	2300-0000	7.025	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JK7UST(Sugi), JJ1TTG/7(Aki)
317-2	2011/1/16	0900-	14.054	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	none
317-1	2011/1/15	2300-0005	7.0262	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	JP1BJB(Aki), JE1TRV(Atsu), JN1RVS/0(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JJ1TTG/7(Aki)
316-2	2011/1/9	0800-0847	14.054	JE1RZR(Manabu)	G3ASG(Ray), JE1TRV(Atsu)
316-1	2011/1/8	2300-0015	7.026	JL3YMV/3(Nao)	A4MRL(MasaG), JP1BJB(Aki), JK7UST(Sugi), JE1TRV(Atsu), JJ1TTG/7(Aki), JG0SXC(Man), 7N2XUZ(Sam)
315-2	2011/1/2	0800-0817	14.054	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	ZL2AOH(Ralph)
315-1	2011/1/1	2300-2320	7.026	JO3HPM/1(Nao)	none

**FINALE**

I received emails worry about JA member's safety from FISTS around the world. I appreciate their friendship. Sugi JK7UST lives Natori city where is hit by the disaster. He reported tragic situations to FEA Japanese BBS and finished as follows. “But we try to live by

helping each other.”

From this issue, I became an editor of morsEAsia and plan to publish it in January, April, July, and October. I use a layout of an old KEY NOTE edited by Geo ex-G3ZQS. So, my last words is “73/88 and stay sober de Nao.”