NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome our latest members: Sam, JL3AYP #22874, and Adi/Adison, VU2AFL #23140.

EYEBALL MEETINGS—MANABU, JI2MED, #15020

It is becoming a routine that the meeting with George san 7J1ATG/JS2PNZ at HAM Fair in Tokyo in the end of August. Sorry for no photo but we were busy in discussing the future of amateur radio's development! How good to drink a pint of beer in the day time is!

On the other hand Atsu san JE1TRV/JS2AHG visited my tiny house in Shima in the mid of September. It was a great meeting that we talked about various theme not only radio but also current international issues! He showed how his remote system work with lap-top PC and I was so impressed. Sorry he had no luck on QRV as a guest operator from my shack.

THE FRUIT OF A HOT SUMMER: ANYCW—TAKESHI, JA4IIJ #15084

I am an old man who enjoys FT8 during the weekdays and chatting over CW on FEANET and A1NET on the weekends. Solar activity has been very intense this summer, with Es-layer ionospheric propagation often observed throughout the day, making it difficult to enjoy long-distance HF chats regularly. It was also a record-breaking hot summer. The weather was so extreme that I barely went outside, except for a short morning walk and shopping. Instead, I spent most of my time indoors. Having plenty of time to devote to my favorite radio-related activities is one of the privileges of being retired.

CW enthusiasts each have their own reasons for loving it—whether it is the keys themselves, the technique of operating them, the sense of accomplishment in the learning process, or the musical aspect of CW sound. For me, it is the strong musical appeal of the sound and rhythm of Morse code, especially played by CW masters.

When listening to CW QSOs, I notice a wide variety of keying styles, some truly fascinating, others difficult to interpret. I have been thinking about how to quantify keying characteristics from the sound itself. So, I'm working on software that can assess CW audio by analyzing its tempo and rhythm. To get started, I created a CW encoder in Python.

The current test version of my encoder, named AnyCW, is depicted in Figure 1. Its goal is to allow flexible adjustments of tempo and rhythm, enabling the reproduction of various commonly heard CW characteristics. In AnyCW, you can adjust parameters such as unit time (100 ms in Fig. 1), dot-dash ratio, character spacing, and word spacing. When I tested sending some characters at an extreme dot-dash ratio of about 1:5, it sounded so familiar that I couldn't help but laugh. By the way, the 100 ms unit time corresponds to a speed of 12 WPM since the word "PARIS" consists of 50 unit

times.

At the moment, there are no issues at speeds up to around 40 WPM. However, at higher speeds, the stability of the codes I send relies on my computer's processing speed. I am satisfied with the results so far, although I am still in the process of updating AnyCW. Additionally, I am developing a CW decoder, which I will introduce at a later time.

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, I have been working with computers since my undergraduate days in 1970. Back then, I had the opportunity to assist with a HITAC mainframe computer. At that time, FORTRAN was the primary programming language used for scientific and technical calculations. Later, when NEC released personal computers— the PC-8801 in 1981 and the PC-9801 in 1982—BASIC became widely used for both hobbies, especially gaming, and business applications. This led to the development and availability of various radio-related software. I was fascinated by articles about CW and RTTY encoder/decoder software found in Japanese CQ magazines and Ham Journals. I always thought that, one day, when I had some free time, I would like to create such software myself.

Years ago, after retirement, I tried making CW software in BASIC, but I found it wasn't powerful enough to handle CW signals for several reasons. So, I began learning more robust programming languages. However, I discovered that it was quite difficult for an older person to learn a new language. Over the past year, the language I have been most interested in is Python. It has a rich library of audio processing functions and is easy to understand. Audio input/output, COM port control, filtering, and fast encoding/decoding are all required—and Python makes these relatively easy to implement.

Most crucial of all are the recent advances in generative AI. I have received powerful support from Gemini and GitHub Copilot—support unlike anything I have experienced before. They have been incredibly helpful in pointing out errors in my programs, correcting them, and helping me achieve my goals. It reminds me of the kind of support my seniors gave me when I was a student learning FORTRAN. I have not experienced that kind of mentorship in a long time, so I am grateful to have lived long enough to see this. It is also a wonderful way to stimulate my aging brain. Thank you for reading. 73 es CU SN. JA4IIJ/TAKESHI
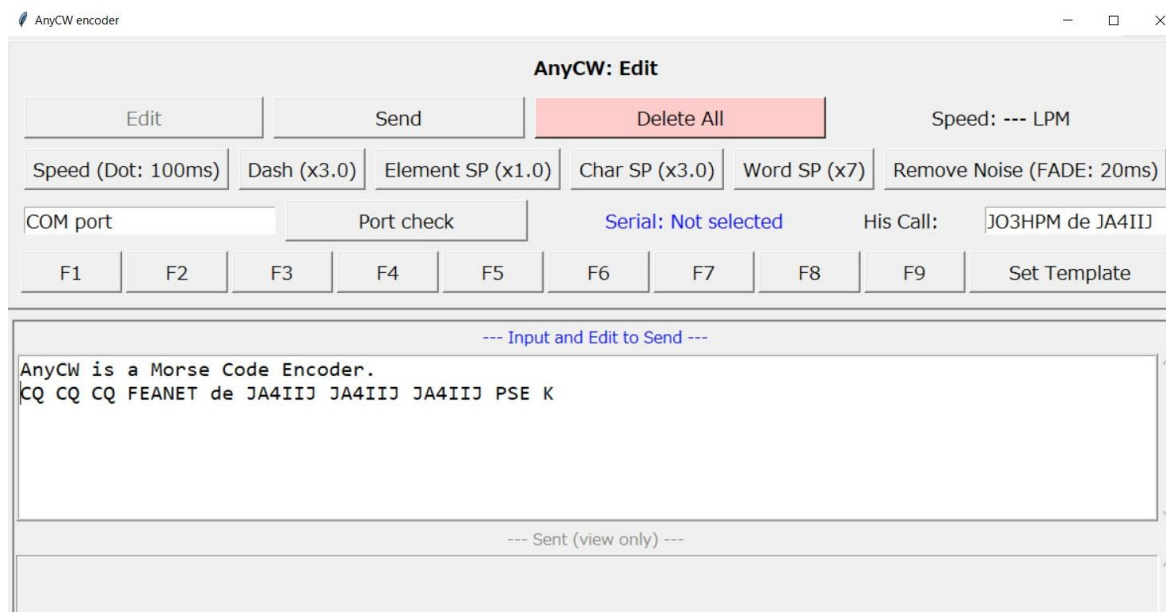

Figure 1. AnyCW in editing state.

MY 1ST QSO ON 1200 MHZ CW—SUGI, JK7UST, #7178

We conducted V/UHF scheduled contacts from September 9th to 16th. I operated every day except the 16th. I worked with 4 stations of 7 area. One of them was on 1200 MHz. I had never QSO on 1200 MHz CW before. The station I worked with was Yoshi, JN7DOR, an amateur station in Iwate Prefecture. My rig was an IC-9700 and an antenna was a GP. I hope to see any FISTS members on V/UHF some day.

A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CW ACTIVITY ON THE HIGHER BANDS
—GEORGE, 7J1ATG / VK4BGR / GW3YTC / JS2PNZ, #15076

Hello FEA members. My favourite HAM RADIO mode is CW (my usage is 99% maybe—and occasionally SSB/FM or even FT8—but keep the FT8 a secret please!). I get a lot of pleasure on the 40 m operating with JA Stations. Sadly I cannot, so far, manage to use WABUN and I know I miss a lot of CW QSOs because of that inability. However WABUN is on my list of things to learn (after I conquer better Japanese language ability—which may take some time :-)).

The subject of this article is to highlight, within the FEA, a proposal that I have already circulated within the A1 CLUB. That proposal is aimed at agreement on the use of specific "CW CQ calling frequencies" on the higher bands (6 m, 2 m 70 cm & 23 cm) and thereby increase CW activity on those bands.

BACKGROUND

Ham radio is a very privileged hobby to have access to so much of the radio spectrum on so many bands—but if we do not use it—we may lose it to commercial radio communications companies or satellite companies who are hungry for spectrum access. Currently the USA satellite company AST has made an application to the FCC to allow them to use the 430 MHz to 440 MHz ham band for the control/command of their proposed low orbit satellite network that will have over 200 satellites globally! I understand that the FCC are still considering this application.

A nice thing about CW mode on these higher bands is the low noise levels that often mean that even the incoming signal is not moving the S-Meter—the CW signal is usually QRK5.

I have been investigating this matter of CW on these higher bands recently and have discovered some CW nets that I was not aware of and there seems to be more CW activity especially on 2 m than I thought was occurring. However—this CW activity is group based and often maybe only once a week or in the evenings for an hour or so only. The QSOs are also on pre-arranged frequencies so unless you know the net times / frequencies these CW nets are easy to miss. These higher bands have a wide spectrum made available for CW mode (e.g. 6 m = 4 MHz / 2 m = 0.63 MHz / 70 cm = 1.7 MHz and 23 cm = 5.5 MHz) so it can be hard to select a good frequency to make a CQ call on that "might" have someone QSXing! I have tried several parts of these bands for CW CQ calls and also heard CW CQs going unanswered many times now. If your receiver does not have a waterfall screen—it can be almost impossible without scanning or constantly tuning the dial to find a CW CQ station. Even if you have a waterfall feature you may need to constantly stare at the display hoping to see a caller :-(—not the best way to spend your time maybe?

What I am proposing is that we have an unofficial agreement detailing a system where we have dedicated CW CQ calling frequencies on the 6 m / 2 m / 70 cm & 23 cm bands. This way your receiver can be left on that "CW calling channel" on any of the bands and you have more chance of hearing the CW CQ and making a QSO.

This is not intended to change any of the current arrangements for the various groups that already have fixed nets / or on-air gatherings—such existing groups are great and they can remain as they are now. This proposal for dedicated CW CQ calling channels is just an additional means to have more CW activity on the higher ham bands (6 m thru 23 cm) and I think this proposal will increase the use of these higher bands for CW mode.

As you know the FEA have agreed calling frequencies on HF and these are very helpful in making HF QSOs globally and within Japan. What frequencies to be used for the CW CQ calling frequency can be discussed but I like an idea Atsu-san (JE1TRV/JS2AHG) had apparently some years ago (when he was also thinking about this idea of dedicated calling channels) to use the "81" as part of the CW CQ calling frequency as "81" and "A1" are similar in sound :-).

So for example having calling frequencies as follows:
6 m = 50.081 MHz,
2 m = 144.081 MHz,
70 cm = 430.081 MHz, and
23 cm = 1294.081 MHz.

Upon a reply to your CQ the QSO can be carried out on these calling channels until such a time that the calling channels become very popular and at that time a QSY to have the QSO may be necessary. I hope the calling channels do become that popular :-)!

Such an agreed calling channel system may also help portable operators (e.g. SOTA / POTA etc) to get QSOs rather than calling "somewhere" in the band and hoping that "someone" may be QSX :-).

With relatively simple and easily transportable equipment and antenna plus, if possible, an elevated location—considerable distances are possible during these higher band QSO using relatively low power.

The snipped image below shows results achieved from my Izu QTH (JCG 18010) on 2 m and 70 cm during a recent A1 CLUB SKD session where the times / planned frequencies were pre announced. In this case QSOs as far as Osaka to the west, Narita to the east and Hachijo Town Island to the south were possible. The paths are possible and with a "Calling Channel" system the "on demand" QSOs will likely follow.

Below the yellow arrows shows my simple 2 m / 70 cm Yagi antenna mounted below my HF Hexbeam and a triband 6 m / 2 m / 70 cm vertical antenna at my Izu QTH.
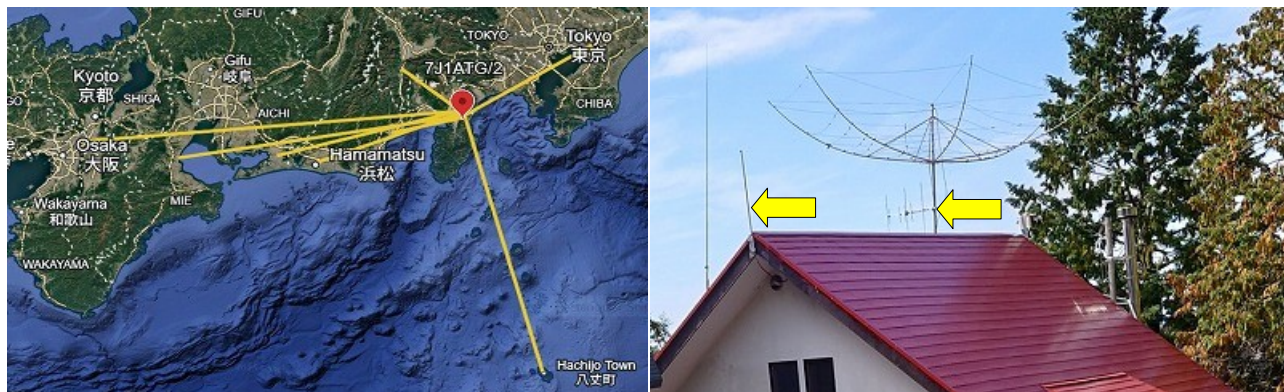
So—let us start using these higher band calling channels now! from today!
Please feel free to send any comments or feedback and suggestions to me at george.rutherford@projectsetc.com.
Best 73s.

FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 1072 TO 1084—NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

No.	Part	Date (Y/M/D)	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participants
1084	2	2025/09/28	08:00	08:32	14.054	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, JO3HPM, VK6RR, JS2AHG
1084	1	2025/09/27	23:00	00:03	7.026	JI2MED	JS1QIZ, JE1TRV, JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JK1QYL, JL1GEL, JA4IIJ, JJ1FXF
1083	2	2025/09/21	08:00	08:30	14.054	JI2MED	JO3HPM, VK5GG, VK4BGR
1083	1	2025/09/20	23:00	23:44	7.0255	JL3YMV	JA4IIJ, JL1GEL, JI2MED, 7J1ATG/2, JA4MRL, JK1QYL, JJ1FXF
1082	2	2025/09/14	08:00	08:16	14.0545	JL3YMV	VK4BGR, VK6RR
1082	1	2025/09/13	23:00	12:55	7.0255	JL1GEL	JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, JI2MED, 7J1ATG/2, JJ1FXF, JK1QYL, JS1QIZ
1081	2	2025/09/07	08:00	08:33	14.054	JL1GEL	JK7UST, JS2AHG, VK6RR, JI2MED, VK4BGR
1081	1	2025/09/06	23:00	23:45	7.026	JS1QIZ	JO3HPM, JI2MED, JL1GEL, 7J1ATG/2, JE1TRV, JK1QYL
1080	2	2025/08/31	08:00	08:31	14.054	JI2MED	VK6RR, VK4BGR, JO3HPM, JK7UST, JL1GEL
1080	1	2025/08/30	23:00	00:08	7.0265	JL3YMV	JS2AHG, JI2MED, JL1GEL, JS1QIZ, 7J1ATG/2, JM4AOA, JI6MDA, JJ1FXF, JK1QYL, JA4IIJ
1079	2	2025/08/24	08:00	08:20	14.0545	JL3YMV	VK6RR, VK4BGR
1079	1	2025/08/23	23:00	23:25	7.024	JS1QIZ	JL1GEL, 7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM
1078	2	2025/08/17	08:00	08:25	14.0495	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, JS2AHG
1078	1	2025/08/16	23:00	00:02	7.0085	JI2MED	JS2AHG, JS1QIZ, JA7MBT, JL1GEL, JF2PHJ, JA4IIJ, 7J1ATG/2, JK1QYL, JO3HPM
1077	2	2025/08/10	08:00	08:42	14.054	JI2MED	VK4BGR, VK6RR, JS2AHG, JK7UST, JF3KNW
1077	1	2025/08/09	23:00	00:00	7.026	JS1QIZ, JO3HPM, JI2MED	JS2AHG, 7J1ATG/2, JJ1FXF, JA4IIJ, JL1GEL
1076	2	2025/08/03	08:00	08:38	14.054	JL3YMV	JS2AHG, VK4BGR, JI2MED, VK6RR, JL1GEL, HL1MIM
1076	1	2025/08/02	23:00	00:13	7.0085	JL1GEL	JS1QIZ, JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JI2MED, JE1OFR, JK1QYL, JJ1FXF, JS2AHG, JA4IIJ
1075	2	2025/07/27	08:00	08:33	14.054	JL1GEL	JS2AHG, JO3HPM, VK4BGR, VK6RR, BX8AAD
1075	1	2025/07/26	23:00	00:02	7.026	JS1QIZ	JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JS2AHG, JL1GEL, JI2MED, JJ1FXF, JK1QYL, JA4MRL
1074	2	2025/07/20	08:00	08:32	14.054	JE7YTQ	JS2AHG, JO3HPM, VK4BGR
1074	1	2025/07/19	23:00	23:47	7.027	JS1QIZ	JL1GEL, JE1TRV, JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/1, JI2MED
1073	2	2025/07/13	08:00	08:13	14.0535	JL3YMV	VK6RR, VK4BGR
1073	1	2025/07/12	23:00	23:48	7.026	JA4IIJ, JO3HPM	7J1ATG/2, JI2MED, JL1GEL, JJFXF, JS1QIZ
1072	2	2025/07/06	08:00	08:50	14.054	JL1GEL	JK7UST, VK4BGR, JS2AHG.JO3HPM, VK6RR, JA4IIJ
1072	1	2025/07/05	23:00	23:49	7.026	JL3YMV	JI2MED, JE1TRV, JJ1FXF, JA4IIJ, JK1QYL

FINALE

I counted again how many bands are licensed for amateur radio in Japan. There are the following 25 bands: 135 kHz, 475 kHz, 1.9 MHz, 3.5 MHz, 3.8 MHz, 7 MHz, 10 MHz, 14 MHz, 18 MHz, 21 MHz, 24 MHz, 28 MHz, 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 430 MHz, 1200 MHz, 2400 MHz, 5600 MHz, 10.1 GHz, 10.4 GHz, 24 GHz, 47 GHz, 77 GHz, 135 GHz, and 249 GHz. How can we operate on as many bands as possible? Most recent HF rigs also include 50 MHz. It enable us to operate on 11 bands. How about higher bands? The only VHF/UHF/SHF rig on the market now is ICOM IC-905XG enabling to operate on 7 bands from 144 MHz to 10.4 GHz. If we could prepare them in the shack, we could operate a total of 18 bands. Of course, the 18 bands are obviously an ideal case. In reality, it will be hard to set up all antennas for the 18 bands. Anyway, since we have been permitted by low to use a lot of radio wave resources, we should actively use them. How many bands do you operate now? I pray for a peaceful world. 73/88 and stay sober de Nao.