



Recommended calling QRGs: 7.028, 10.118/10.128/10.133, 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

FEA Crossing: 7.025 to 7.030 MHz, from 2330UTC on Fridays

FEA-100 Award: [http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA-100\\_Award.htm](http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA-100_Award.htm)

Newsletter Editor, FEA Net Manager, Membership Secretary: Nao JO3HPM ([jo3hpm@fists-ea.org](mailto:jo3hpm@fists-ea.org))

Web Administrator, QSL Manager, Newsletter E-mail Distributor: Harry JL3AMK ([webadmin@fists-ea.org](mailto:webadmin@fists-ea.org))

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Treasurer, Contest & Award Manager: Sugi JK7UST,

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## NEW MEMBERS

We're very pleased to welcome our latest members: Geeno, HS3GEH #20995, and Larry, DU3LA (also 4D3X es N0QM) #11671 (Transferred).

## MY SECOND CHANCE - CLEMENT, VU2CWO, #20949

Hello fellow members, I am Clement, VU2CWO. I am 54 years old and live in the coastal city of Chennai, which is situated in the southern part of India. I have come back to the radio hobby in the recent few years ago and have taken interest in operating CW now.

During my teens I was interested in radio and short-wave listening. I was also into electronics and homebrewing and used to repair and assemble radios. I got to know about amateur radio and wanted to get licensed. I got myself a refurbished post office key from the local amateur radio society, built a code practice oscillator, taught myself Morse and prepared for the amateur radio exam.

At that time, there were four grades of licences in India - Restricted Grade, Grade-II, Grade-I and Advanced Grade. I appeared for the Grade-II exam as the Morse speed requirement was low (8 wpm or so I remember) and it entitled operation on HF too (but only CW), whereas the restricted grade was entitled for VHF only. The Grade-II operator could then submit proof of having made 100 CW QSOs on HF and claim Grade-I, permitting other modes on HF. This was the route I should have taken but alas I did not get the licence even after passing the exam. As luck would have it, I got a job around the same time that I passed the exam, shifted my residence and did not follow up on getting the licence.

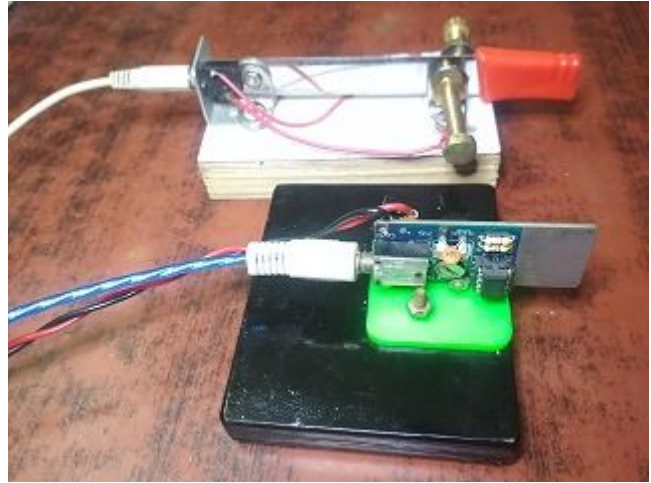
That was in 1987 and after a long gap, I again took interest in getting into amateur radio in 2014. This happened when I took my then teenaged daughter to classes conducted by a local ham club. I prepared for the exam along with my daughter and appeared for the Restricted grade exam. By then the rules had been simplified and there were only two grades - Restricted grade, not requiring to know Morse and General Grade which required passing of Morse test. I got my Restricted grade call sign, VU3PQN in January 2015.

After some time, I got interested in learning Morse code to get a General grade licence. I had all but forgotten Morse code except for a few characters like C and Q! I searched for my old Morse key and found it among the junk! It had been lying unused for thirty years and was all jammed and dirty. I took it apart, soaked it in citric acid and cleaned it to make it work. I bought one more used key at a ham meet. After many false starts, I again started practising regularly in 2020. This time I practised along with some friends. We used computers to generate random characters and words. I wrote a script in python which selected words from a master file and passed it to a Morse program in Ubuntu Linux. After sounding the Morse, the script will use text-to-speech to speak out the characters one by one. This way we could test ourselves whether we had copied correctly. We used Google meet and VHF for our practise sessions.

I found that learning was not that easy at my age but since I practised along with others, I had the group support and did not give up. I took the exam for General grade in March 2021 and got my new call sign VU2CWO in April 2021. I was

pleased with myself to have made it at last! Even though I had not opted specifically for this callsign which was allotted to me apparently by chance, my friends observed that this looks like a fancy callsign - CWO for "CW Operator"! That was all the more encouragement for me to continue my CW journey and not stop just after getting my General grade license.

Before the pandemic, I had bought a touch paddle keyer and also a code practise oscillator cum keyer in a hamfest. I used the code practice oscillator but still used my straight keys to practise sending because the sending test in the exams demanded only a straight key. Now, I find that sending using a paddle is easier. Finding a commercial paddle is not easy here locally so I homebrewed a single lever paddle using a cheap knife. It doesn't look beautiful and is not a great performer but does the basic job. I use the touch keyer and the homebrew paddle alternately. In the coming days, I plan to get a nice paddle. I am including a photo of my touch paddle keyer and single lever knife paddle.



A CW Net is conducted in India in the mornings on 7015 KHz. After the initial hesitation I started to check into the net albeit not without hiccups, mistakes and a few bloopers. I was not conversant with the prosigns and the conventions followed in passing the overs and replying. The net controller is an experienced old-timer and was kind, patient and understanding. Now I have made a few contacts in CW but still cannot answer or decode everyone. I have to practise more and more.

I am happy that I have joined FISTS and hope to improve my CW and to enjoy operating it. See you over the air soon! 73 De Clement, VU2CWO #20949.

### **RECENT DAILY LIFE - TAKESHI, JA4IIJ, #15084**

The fifth wave of Corona is about to end. We old people are trying to keep staying home, but due to the long continuation of such life, we feel a bit tired. Under such circumstances, the only bright news is that my wife, who has been sick since the end of last year, has been recently getting better slowly. Previously, an hour's walk had been our every-morning routine, but it had to be cancelled for months. Recently, we have started taking a walk on half the course.

During our walk this morning, I found a flower that never saw before. It was beautiful so I took a picture. My wife said that it was a Syouga flower, judging from the leaves. After coming back to our home, I looked it up and found that it was surely ginger, but it is different from the Syouga, a flavored vegetable that we eat, but another species raised to enjoy flowers. Anyway, everyday life is gradually returning, but it seems that this pandemic cannot be easily converged.



Our daily routine with Corona is monotonous, but such a boring life is somehow filled up by garden work and some hobbies. After retirement about 10 years ago, I resumed amateur radio activity. Since I can't install a beam antenna because of my house limitation, I had tried some vertical antennas and reached a present system of a Cushcraft R9 (9 band vertical) with a 200 W transceiver Yaesu FT2000D. In this decade, however, HF bands have been quiet, and it seems that I can't expect many CW QSOs with the DX station except for chances from international contests.

At the end of this May, at the timing of reapplying for my ham license, I applied to QRV with FT8. After the first experience, I was surprised by the fact that even a very weak signal can be decoded as they say. More surprisingly, the narrow band for FT8 was very busy almost all the time even condition is not very good for CW and SSB. Anyway I

found FT8 was just suitable to my operation system.

Besides the well-made decoders such as WSJT-X, supporting software like JTALERT is very useful. I especially like the convenience of JTALERT's alerting system and the communication ability by the text messenger. The latter supplements simpleness of FT8 message. My interest for DX communication was restarted by FT8. After three months, I am still learning a lot about HF propagation including ducting along gray lines, etc through operating FT8.

Last but not least, I love CW particularly CW chats with my friends. FT8 is of very different taste but worth to enjoy. My license will expire after five years before my age of 80, and the moment will be the peak of cycle 25. I hope I can manage to enjoy ham life until then.

## **SOTA ACTIVATION ON TATEYAMA - TARO, JR0QWW, #5578**

Recently, I am intent on SOTA program. SOTA stand for Summit On The Air, and it is an award scheme for radio amateurs that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. This summer, our family had plan to go to Tateyama Mountain area for memorial trip of our silver wedding day on 8th August. At the same day of 25 years ago, we submitted a registration of our marriage to city office.

Near the SOTA point of Ohnanji-yama, JA/TY-001, there was small Shinto shrine and Shinto priest pray for mountaineer every day, and we joined there. The Tateyama area are famous for sacred place from Edo era (about 250 years ago), and we also see a Buddhist monk practicing asceticism in the mountains. Needless to say, Buddhism and Shinto are different religion, but sometimes they collaborate.

AT the top of Tateyama, we have not so much time to QRV, and I could not carry up heavy baggage, I have decided to activate only 433MHz, then I had just 4 QSOs at there.

The weather forecast said that many typhoon are approaching to the Japanese Archipelago, and be careful for heavy wind. Fortunately, we had no rain, no cold, but fast mist passed away by us.



## **OUTDOOR, YET THE SAME ADDRESS. - TAK, JS1QIZ, #15150**

As I love to QRV from outdoor, the “state of emergency which literally ban the hiking and camping” has been a big obstacle.

Fortunately, my mother's house next door has a garden that can accommodate a small tent for a “solo-camper.” This allows me to set up a wire with an auto-tuner and counterpoises with IC705 for nighttime low band QRV and daytime 18 M and 24 M QRV, like the one I do in my outdoor activities.

Through 1st, 2nd, and 3rd “state of emergency,” I had three “garden camps” and enjoyed QRP (or 10 W) CW QRV while having coffee prepared with a camp stove.

They were also good chances to be “digitally-detoxed” because I could not sit in front of a TV or PC.

Since the two houses share the same postal address, I do not have to put a “portable” sign after my callsign, although I am operating outdoor with batteries and sleeping in the tent, which was a bit time-consuming to explain over the CW (HI). 73 Tak JS1QIZ





## TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS OR SEA TODAY? - MANABU, JE1RZR, #15020

Besides radio I love to spend time in the mountains and sea.

I climbed Mt. Fuji at the end of July for the first time in my life. It took more than 9 hours through the Gotemba route. It was really tough but I can't explain how I felt about my accomplishment. I brought a handy transceiver for 430MHz and had a QSO from the mountain. Since then I have gone to local small peaks several times to exercise.

The other day I went to the beach near my home. It took less than 10 minutes by bicycle. I enjoyed a really nice view and fishing as well. It's great fun to catch the fish even if they are very small.

When I go somewhere I bring a handy TRX and enjoy a few QSOs. It gives another pleasure of the radio.



## NORI, JR7OEF, #15022

Nori sent me a beautiful picture near his home. The steep V-shaped valley, up to 100 metres deep, carved by the Otani River, is at its most colourful from late October to mid-November. The Naruko Gorge, known for its hot springs, is one of the best places to see autumn colours in Tohoku and attracts many tourists every year. The train is Rikuu-East-Line. (editor)



## FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 863 TO 875 - NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participants
875-2	2021/9/26	0800-0829	14.054	JE1RZR	JA4IIJ, JO3HPM, JL1GEL, 7J1ATG/2
875-1	2021/9/25	2300-2359	7.026	JA4IIJ	JR4GGT, JO3HPM, JE1RZR, JJ1FXF, JS1QIZ, JL1GEL
874-2	2021/9/19	0800-0818	14.054	JL1GEL	7J1ATG/2, JE1RZR
874-1	2021/9/18	2300-2343	7.026	JL1GEL	JS1QIZ, JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, JE1RZR, JJ1FXF
873-2	2021/9/12	0800-0833	14.054	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, BX8AAD, 7J1ATG/2, JK7UST
873-1	2021/9/11	2300-0000	7.026	JS1QIZ	JL1GEL, JE1RZR, JA4IIJ, JJ1FXF, JO3HPM, JI1XJB, JH2VEP, JS2AHG
872-2	2021/9/5	0800-0845	14.005	JE1RZR	7J1ATG/2, JK7UST, JO3HPM, JL1GEL, JS1QIZ/1, JJ1FXF
872-1	2021/9/4	2300-2359	7.026	JA4IIJ	JJ1FXF, JR1WYW, JL1GEL, JS1QIZ, JE1RZR
871-2	2021/8/29	0800-0811	14.054	JE7YTQ	7J1ATG/2
871-1	2021/8/28	2300-2355	7.026	JL3YMV	JS1QIZ, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF, JR1WYW, 7J1ATG/2, JE1RZR
870-2	2021/8/22	0800-0833	14.054	JE1RZR	VK6RR, 7J1ATG/2, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF, JO3HPM, JF3KNW
870-1	2021/8/21	2300-0003	7.026	JS1QIZ	JJ1FXF, JL1GEL, JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, 7J1ATG/2, JI2GZC, JE1RZR, JF3KNW
869-2	2021/8/15	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM	7J1ATG/2, JK7UST, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF, JS1QIZ, JE1RZR
869-1	2021/8/14	2300-0010	7.0265	JA4IIJ	JE1RZR, JS1QIZ, 7J1ATG/2, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF, JR0QWW, JO3HPM
868-2	2021/8/8	0800-0827	14.0545	JL1GEL, JE1RZR	JE1RZR, VK6RR, 7J1ATG/2, JS2AHG
868-1	2021/8/7	2300-2355	7.006	JS1QIZ, JO3HPM	JA4IIJ, JO3HPM, JL1GEL, JS2AHG, JE1RZR
867-2	2021/8/1	0800-0835	14.054	JE7YTQ	JE1RZR, JO3HPM, JL3AMK, 7J1ATG/2, JA4MRL, JA4IIJ
867-1	2021/7/31	2300-2358	7.026	JE1RZR	JK7UST, JS1QIZ, JA4IIJ, JL1GEL, 7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM, JJ1FXF, JG1BGT
866-2	2021/7/25	0800-0458	14.0545	JE1RZR	VK6RR, 7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM, JK7UST, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF
866-1	2021/7/24	2300-0009	7.0265	JL1GEL	JK7UST, JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, JG1BGT, JJ1FXF, JS1QIZ, JR1WYW, JE1RZR
865-2	2021/7/18	0800-0831	14.054	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, 7J1ATG/2, JJ1FXF, VK6RR
865-1	2021/7/17	2300-0059	7.027	JE7YTQ	JS1QIZ, JL1GEL, JA4IIJ, JS2AHG, 7J1ATG/2, JE1RZR, JO3HPM
864-2	2021/7/11	0800-0837	14.049	JL1GEL	7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM, JE1RZR, JJ1FXF, JA4IIJ
864-1	2021/7/10	2300-0011	7.026	JA4IIJ	7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM, JS1QIZ, JE1RZR, JL1GEL, JK1UST, JJ1FXF
863-2	2021/7/4	0800-0835	14.055	JE7YTQ	JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JE1RZR
863-1	2021/7/3	2300-2354	7.028	JS1QIZ	JK7UST, JA4IIJ, JO3HPM, JL1GEL, JE1RZR, 7J1ATG/2, JJ1FXF

## FINALE

When we go on a business trip, it is always nice to meet up with local FISTS members after work. Especially if we are abroad. In the past I have been able to meet local FISTS members in 9V, VR2, and VK3. But now, due to the coronavirus pandemic, a business trip is basically not allowed and the alternative is online meetings. I was due to trip to BY this October, but that has turned out an online meeting. Although there are no FISTS members in BY, I'm sorry to have missed the opportunity. Instead, I'll enjoy the "on-air meetings" as much as ever. 73/88 and stay sober, safe, and healthy de Nao.