



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

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

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

FISTS members can receive the morsEAsia via e-mail. Please email the web admin with your FISTS#.

Treasurer, Contest & Award Manager: Sugi JK7UST,

<http://www.feacw.net/> or <http://www.fists-ea.org/> (Secondary)

NEW MEMBERS

Unfortunately, no new members.

PJ4JA (BONAIRE) DX VACATION - MASUMI, JA3AVO, #15029

In mid-January, a group of six ham radio operators from Kansai will be active as "PJ4JA" from Bonaire in the Caribbean. Please see the website for details.

<https://bccweb.bai.ne.jp/~asg99501/pj4ja.htm>

QRV SKD: Jan. 13 - 20 (UTC) 2025

FREQ. & MODE: 160 m – 6 m : CW, SSB, Digital.

We will also try "Satellite communication".

SHACK: [Rental-Shack PJ4G-THE GOAT](#)



50TH ANNIVERSARY - ATSU, JE1TRV/JS2AHG, #7763

I really enjoyed FEA NET through this year 2024. Special thanks to net controllers for their great efforts. And wish healthy and happy new year 2025 to all FISTS members!

2025 is the 50th anniversary year of my Hamming life since I got Denshin-kyu (Tegraph-class) license in 1975. So, I'll make special QSL card. If you worked with me in 2025, please ask me for the special card. See you on the bands 73!

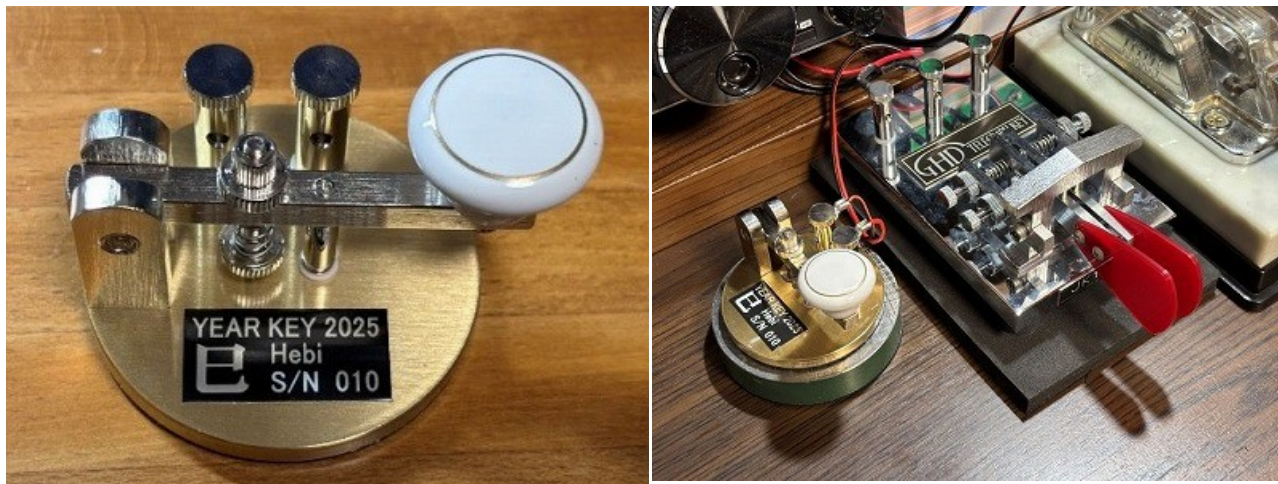


The sunset view over web camera from my remote station JS2AHG.

NEW YEAR'S KEY DISTRIBUTED BY A1 CLUB - NOMO, JK1QYL, #22496

Every year, A1 CLUB distributes miniature straight keys featuring the zodiac signs. JE1TRV/Atsu-san planned the project and made by GHD Key.

Since 2025 is the year of the snake, it was named Hebi-KEY. Hebi-KEY is a little larger than the conventional zodiac keys. It looks cute, but it's also very practical as a key for daily use.

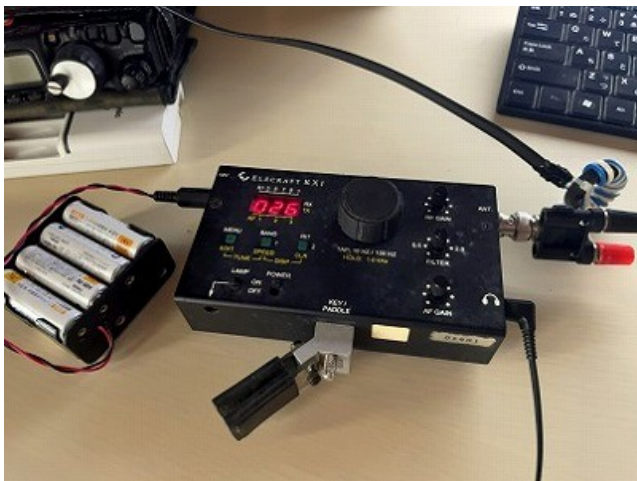


NEW PROJECTS ARE GOING IN NEW QTH - MANABU, JE1RZR, #15020

After 30 years office worker's life in Tokyo and abroad, I retired last year though I have another five years and more till I get a pension. Some people say it's FIRE ; Financial Independence Retire Early but it's not financial independence for my case. Anyway I moved to Mie prefecture in July, 2023 and started to work as a craftsman of Japanese traditional charcoal; BINCHOTAN.



It's really tough work physically especially in summer. I got I.V for the first time in my over 50 year life. Finally I quit charcoal job in the end of September 2024. Then I started QRV with small equipment. I made a link inverted V and set it up at apartment house in Kihoku town, Mie Pref. Many thanks for picking my weak signal.



Now I'm going to QSY to Shima city, Mie pref. where I got a small land for building a tiny house. I'm dreaming to spend so called country life there and of course HAM radio reviving my old callsign JI2MED issued back in 1983! So please QRX.



A WILD CAMP WITH A RADIO – TAK, JS1QIZ, #15150

Don't you sometimes wish to be alone? If yes, I can recommend this camp field. It is officially not a camp field but a bush with some spaces where you may be able to pitch a tent. You should pay a small fee and in exchange, you are allowed to collect firewood or twigs on the ground for cooking your meals. A whole small hill with bush is booked only for you and there is nobody else, at least within 500 m or 1 km. No water supply is there, meaning you have to bring enough water with you. A toilet is "there," meaning you walk 15 minutes through the bush to reach. As I did so, I recommend you bring "portable toilet kit" or a plastic bag with dehydrating powder and firm sealing. Anyway, it is an ideal place to spend a night alone with a tent and a radio.

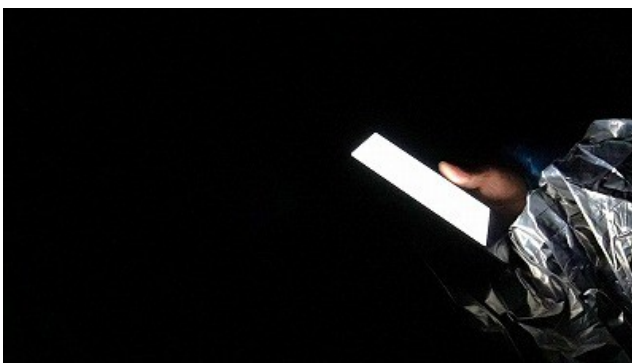
Of course, you can pitch a wire antenna of your choice. In my case, an 8 m long wire tied to a tree branch of about 4 m high from the ground. I threw a relatively big rotten branch on which a paracord is fixed, toward the branch, and hoisted the end of the wire with an insulator toward the branch. The antenna decides the place of the tent, because the coaxial cable from the tuner on the ground, to which the antenna wire is fixed, is only three meters long.

Although I could hear some HL stations, I did not call them because it was a domestic pile-up to call a special suffix station of HL. I made about 1000 km distance QSOs with JA8 area and an attempt of chat with JA2 which ended up very short because of the poor propagation.



Cooking dinner and breakfast was a bit tough because all the twigs or firewood I collected were totally wet due to the rain covering the area for two days just before my visit. I started with very tiny and thin twigs and carefully made the fire big, and eventually was able to cook the rice and stew for dinner and rice with curry for breakfast. Of course, I made the fire with the help of an artificial fire starter (large match.)

In the evening, in the pitch-black forest and bush, I enjoyed reading a novel with Kindle for hours, because the HF propagation was dead. The reading was also fun. There seemed to be no wild animal near my tent except I heard a far voice of the animal.



Two days, completely immersed in the wild environment took all the stress out from me, and I came back to my house fresh.

The YouTube movie of the trip above can be seen from the following links: Day1: <https://youtu.be/dwzraVoowmA>, Day2: <https://youtu.be/4gWF9ytiJrI>

72/73 JS1QIZ, Tak

JUST STICK IT OUT! (BUT ... BE MINDFUL OF DANGERS FROM POWERLINES AND FOR PEOPLE BELOW!) – GEORGE, 7J1ATG / VK4BGR / GW3YTC / JS2PNZ, #15076

Hello - my name is George - I was born in Ireland - I have lived in various Countries before settling in Japan in the early 90's and I hold the Callsigns 7J1ATG / VK4BGR / GW3YTC (G3YTC was my first callsign - obtained in 1968 in the UK) and more recently I was granted a fixed station callsign JS2PNZ. CW is my favourite operating mode.

In the July Issue (#100) of the FISTS Newsletter I told of how my normally S8/9 local QRN Noise level at my Yokohama Aparto suddenly disappeared ... and thankfully it has not returned ... so far! This - very welcome change - in my local QRN coincided with my then next door neighbour moving out ... and presumably taking with them their powerful "Broadband Electrical Noise Generator - whatever that was? They were nice people - but I hope that their new location is nowhere near a fellow Ham Radio Operator. :-)

After my local QRN environment dramatically improved I was keen to try various antenna on my 3rd Floor (in a 10 Floor Aparto Building) South facing balcony. Not really a great location for HF Antennae. Some trial antenna were homebrew and made of wire / others were commercial Mobile Whips mounted on the balcony railing.

Whilst these antennae "worked" ... "a little" ... and occasional QSOs were possible on 40 mtrs / 30 mtrs the results were "not great" and quite disappointing - although it allowed me to use a straight key (or practice with Paddles) something that so far is not really feasible with my Remote IZU Station - as I need to use the PC Keyboard for CW TX.

The balcony was quite "enclosed" and I guess the steel reinforcement in the concrete was having a detrimental effect on the radiation properties of all the antennae I tried.

I was mainly interested in getting at least reasonable results on 40 mtrs / 30 mtrs for local QSOs and first I tried a short loaded 40 mtr mobile Whip Antenna mounted horizontally on the balcony rail so that the radiating part was sticking outside the balcony enclosure. The result in reception AND transmission was significantly improved!

I had been trying a UHV-10 (Multiband Vertical) - but with very limited success inside the "balcony enclosure". My next trial was to use the base section of the UHV-10 (about 115 cm long) with only the 40 mtr element fitted to the point that the 80 mtr element is normally fitted to and mounting this at about 45 degree angle outside the balcony enclosure on the balcony rail.



The result was very pleasing indeed! On 40 mtrs - signals that were peaking S4/5 with the antenna mounted vertically and just inside the balcony enclosure - were now peaking S9++ at the 45 degree angle "OUTSIDE" the balcony enclosure! Similar results were obtained on 30 mtrs using only the UHV-10 base and single 30 mtr band element.

The UHV-10 has separate elements for each band between 80 mtrs – 6 mtrs and although I was initially mainly interested in only 40 mtrs / 30 mtrs I wanted to be able to quickly change bands over that full range if I wanted to do that.

A Satellite Dish bracket and Mobile “swivel” mount and a couple of trusty TDK Ferrite Cores were the answer to this aim and now “as installed” I can quickly retract the UHV-10 base and element back into the balcony enclosure to easily change the band element and then reposition it outside the balcony enclosure.



So far 40 mtrs / 30 mtrs now have a reasonable result (within JA and also to Korea / China) and the other bands are looking promising too - although I have not tried this antenna arrangement much on the higher bands so far - something I am planning to do over the Christmas / New Year period. However - I have not tried 80 mtrs yet as I still recall the issues I caused with neighbour's door bells ringing in the middle of the night - when I lived in Shinanomachi - Shinjuku :-) - see FISTS Newsletter (#098) issued in January, 2024.



An important CAUTION though! In my case there are no nearby powerlines to worry about, from a safety aspect, but please do not do such an installation if there are powerlines or other utility cables in close proximity (above or below or within foreseeable reach of your antenna). Additionally - ensure that you use a good quality rope securely attached to the antenna and balcony to prevent any part of the antenna falling on persons below. Finally - use high visibility tape (or the like) to warn people of potential eye injuries from the pointed ends of the Band Elements...

Enjoy your radio time - I look forward to a QSO with you on 40 mtrs / 30 mtrs as 7J1ATG/1 - please call me if you hear my CQ - 73s / George

A CANADIAN AMATEUR VISITS JAPAN- ALLEN, VY1KX, #22836

My name is Allen Wootton, VY1KX, and it is with great pleasure that I am writing this note for your newsletter. That I am doing so is the result of a chance encounter on the 20 metre band with Nao, JO3HPM, in October 2024. We had a very enjoyable QSO and afterwards I contacted him by e-mail to say that my wife Maureen and I were travelling to Japan at the end of October and that I wondered if we could meet with him. He replied that he would like that very much and we arranged to meet at the Himeji rail station on as we travelled south from Kyoto.

Previously, I had also had a number of very enjoyable QSOs with Taka, JA1KIH, so I had also asked him if we could meet while we were in Japan. He too, had replied to say that he would like that and we arranged to meet with him on 28th October, our first full day in Japan.

Taka met us at our hotel in Tokyo and took us to meet with Shun, JJ1RZG, at his home. There we had a great visit and it was very nice to see Shun's station. I was surprised when Shun showed me QSL cards from three Yukon Amateurs - my card from a QSO in 2023 and cards from VY1JA and VY1CO, both of whom live just a few kilometres from me! Afterwards we went for lunch with Taka, and then to the Akihabara district of Tokyo where I was amazed by the stores selling parts and equipment. I had never seen such a variety of components, nor had I seen most of the radios on display except in magazine advertisements.

We were amazed at Himeji Castle too, where we went with Nao on the morning of November 1st. In addition to amateur radio, I am also a woodworker, and seeing the beautiful wood and wood and stone construction of the castle really impressed me, especially as I thought about how the work all must have been done with hand tools and hand labour. We had a wonderful visit with Nao before boarding the train for Nagasaki in the afternoon.

On our last full day in Japan we again met with Taka who had invited us to visit him at his home near Chiba. As before it was a pleasure to meet with him and to see his very impressive station and electronic work space. We enjoyed a lunch with him and with Hiro, JJ1FXF, before returning to our hotel in Tokyo.

Altogether, we spent three weeks in Japan. It was a wonderful experience and we saw many beautiful and interesting places. Always we were impressed with the courtesy and kindness of the people. It was really special to be able to meet JA1KIH, JJ1RZG, JO3HPM and JJ1FXF. With them we saw a lot and learned a great deal that would otherwise have been impossible. We certainly appreciated their kindness and the effort to which they went to make us so welcome.

When Nao asked if I would write something for this newsletter he didn't specify a topic. I thought a brief outline of our visit would be appropriate, and then, that readers might find it interesting to hear something about Amateur Radio in Canada.

At present, Amateur Radio in Canada is under the jurisdiction of the federal department of Industry, Science and Economic Development (ISED). The Amateur organization Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has a very good relationship with this government department. Some RAC members are "accredited examiners" for the "Certificates of Proficiency" necessary for Amateur operation. There are two categories for these certificates - Amateur and Advanced Amateur. Morse proficiency can be added to either. I am one of two accredited examiners for the Yukon Territory.

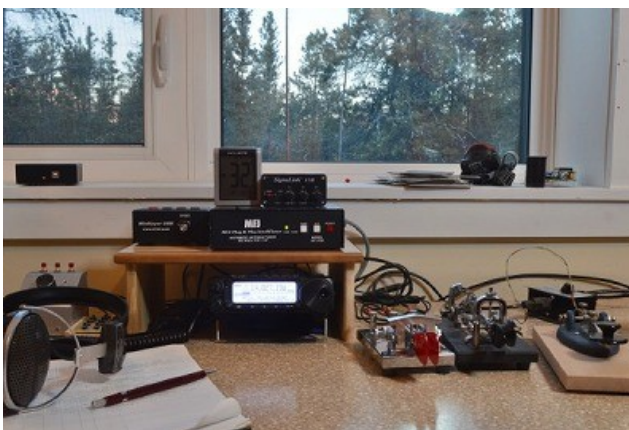
I have been an Amateur since 1964 when I was 15 years old. Since I lived in the province of British Columbia at the time, my callsign was VE7BQO. When my wife and I moved to the Yukon Territory I had to change my callsign to match the Yukon prefix of VY1.

We have a two hectare property about 25 kilometres north of Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon. Our nearest neighbour is about 300 metres distant - the only electrical noise is from the electric fence we have around our chicken coop, and its effect is very slight. My station is simple - a Yaesu FT-891 running at 80 W to a doublet at about 17 metres height fed with homemade open wire line. I also enjoy portable operation during hiking and canoe trips. On these trips I use an FT-817ND and lightweight dipoles or doublets.

CW is by far my favourite mode for its simplicity and the satisfaction it brings. Usually I use a set of GHD paddles and a homemade electronic keyer, but I also really enjoy using a Vibroplex bug and a straight key. I have two bugs, both Vibroplex originals. The one I use the most is about thirty years old and the other is older than I am. The older one is hard to slow down to comfortable "rag chewing" speeds even with an extra added weight. You can see my home and station and collection of keys in the photos.



A picture of my home, December 2024. The centre support for my doublet is visible behind and to the right of the house.



VY1KX station, December 2024.



GHD paddles, 30 year old Vibroplex original and "Wilson" straight key that I've used for 60 years. The Wilson key is a fairly common Canadian key dating from WWII.



A Vibroplex original from the 1940s with its carrying case.

A number of years ago my wife and I spent two months travelling across Canada. Along the way I operated using my FT-817ND from as many places as I could. I found propagation and operating conditions quite different than those that I am used to from the Yukon. From where I live at about 61 degrees north latitude, Whitehorse (population about 30,000) is the big city. Anything bigger is more than 1500 kilometres away. The Yukon has only a handful of CW operators and fewer than ten active HF operators. This means that Yukon Amateurs are sometimes in demand, during contests for example, but all our contacts involve long distances. However, it often seems that people forget to turn their beam antennas in our direction. We get wonderful auroral displays but radio propagation suffers from our proximity to magnetic north.

I think that no matter where one lives there are difficulties imposed by lack of space, electrical noise or natural phenomena that have to be overcome in order to be an active Radio Amateur, but that these difficulties help to make each contact special and exciting. I really appreciate QSOs in which real, meaningful communication of ideas take place. My QSOs with Taka, Shun and Nao were all very enjoyable; I hope to have one with Hiro before long. Meeting these Amateurs in person was extra special to my wife and me.

I notice that Nao ends each of the newsletters with a prayer for peace. I share this hope and feel that Amateur Radio, through its ability to connect people from different places and cultures, has a role to play in furthering peace, especially at this time when the world is in such turmoil.

I hope to hear many of you on the air and wish you all 73.
Allen Wootton, VY1KX

SUMMARY OF FEA NET IN 2024 - NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in 2024. Hiro, JJ1FXF and George, 7J1ATG/VK4BGR did a great job again. New member Nomo, JK1QYL started to join the net since November. From FDU, we are happy to hear Roy, VK6RR actively. The FEA net controllers were Sugi, JK7UST, Aki, JL1GEL, Tak, JS1QIZ, Takeshi, JA4IIJ and me. All results are listed in http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA_Net_Result.html. Though we suffered from some major X-class flares, the propagation condition will be still good in 2025. We are always waiting for your call from all over the world. We welcome you, even if you are not an FEA member. See you at the FEA net!

Summary table in 2024.

	Part 1 (7 MHz)	Part 2 (14 MHz)
Total number of nets	52	52
Average participants per net (including controllers)	7.0	5.2
Number of actual participants (including controllers)	24	14
The day with most participants	11 stations (23 Nov., 30 Nov.)	8 stations (4 Aug., 29 Sep.)
Number of nets with no participants	0	0
The persons who participated most (excluding controllers)	JJ1FXF (51 times)	7J1ATG (50 times)
The day with most countries	none	15 Sep., 6 Oct. 3 countries
Countries	JA	BV, JA, OH, VK

Participants list excluding controllers.

CALL	PART1+2	PART1	PART2			
JJ1FXF	79	51	28	JF3KNW	2	1
7J1ATG	77	27	50	JJ0SFV	2	1
JO3HPM	76	46	30	7K1FRM	1	1
JE1TRV	63	41	22	7L3JAR	1	1
JL1GEL	58	39	19	HL5JZB	1	1
VK6RR	36	0	36	JA3SYK	1	1
JA4IIJ	35	30	5	JA7WTH	1	1
JS1QIZ	24	24	0	JH2HTQ	1	1
JE1RZR	23	23	0	JJ2GZC	1	1
JK7UST	19	4	15	JM4AOA	1	1
VK5GG	8	0	8	JR7OEF	1	1
JK1QYL	7	7	0	BX8AAD	1	0
JA4MRL	4	4	0	OG4Z	1	0
JG1BGT	4	4	0	VK3DRQ	1	0
JJ1TTG	2	2	0			



One day on FEA net, George, VK4BGR mentioned that jacaranda trees were in full bloom in Brisbane. The purple jacaranda is beautiful in VK in autumn, just as pink cherry blossoms are beautiful in Japan in spring. He enjoys both blossoms.



The other day on FEA net, Atsu, JS2AHG mentioned that Mt. Fuji was beautiful with snow on the top and red in the sunset. He was watching it through a live camera at his IZU remote shack. According to a Japanese proverb, it brings good fortune to see Mt. Fuji in one's first dream in the New Year.

FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 1033 TO 1045 - NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

No.	Part	Date (Y/M/D)	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participants
1045	2	2024/12/29	08:00	08:47	14.054	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, JS2AHG, JO3HPM, JJ1FXF, JK7UST
1045	1	2024/12/28	23:00	00:19	7.0265	JS1QIZ	JO3HPM, JE1RZR/2, 7J1ATG/2, JE1TRV, JL1GEL, JK1QYL, JJ1FXF, JA4IIJ, JJ1TTG
1044	2	2024/12/22	08:00	08:51	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR, VK6RR, JO3HPM, JL1GEL, JS2AHG, JJ1FXF
1044	1	2024/12/21	23:00	00:15	7.026	JE7YTQ	JS2AHG, JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, 7J1ATG, JL1GEL, JS1QIZ, JK1QYL, JJ1FXF
1043	2	2024/12/15	08:00	08:33	14.054	JL3YMV	VK6RR, VK4BGR, JS2AHG, JJ1FXF
1043	1	2024/12/14	23:00	00:08	7.026	JA4IIJ	JS2AHG, JO3HPM, JJ1FXF, JL1GEL, JK1QYL, JS1QIZ, JE1RZR/2, JJ2GZC, JA4MRL
1042	2	2024/12/8	08:00	08:43	14.054	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, JK7UST, JO3HPM, JS2AHG, VK6RR, JJ1FXF
1042	1	2024/12/7	23:00	00:02	7.0255	JL1GEL	JS1QIZ, JE1RZR/2, JE1TRV, JO3HPM, JK1QYL, JJ1FXF, JA4IIJ
1041	2	2024/12/1	08:00	08:33	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK6RR, VK4BGR, JL1GEL, JO3HPM
1041	1	2024/11/30	23:00	00:05	7.0265	JS1QIZ	JK7UST, 7J1ATG/1, JK1QYL, JL1GEL, JO3HPM, JJ1FXF, JR7OEF, JA4IIJ, JE1RZR/2, JA4MRL
1040	2	2024/11/24	08:00	08:36	14.0535	JL1GEL	JK7UST, JO3HPM, VK4BGR, JS2AHG, VK6RR
1040	1	2024/11/23	23:00	00:26	7.026	JA4IIJ	JS1QIZ, JS2AHG, 7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM, JJ1FXF, JL1GEL, JE1RZR/2, JK1QYL, 7K1FRM/1, JA4MRL
1039	2	2024/11/17	08:00	08:29	14.054	JL3YMV	VK4BGR, VK6RR, JJ1FXF, JS2AHG
1039	1	2024/11/16	23:00	23:58	7.0265	JS1QIZ	JE1TRV, 7J1ATG/2, JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, JE1RZR/2, JK1QYL, JJ1FXF
1038	2	2024/11/10	08:00	08:49	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR, JO3HPM, JS2AHG, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF, VK6RR
1038	1	2024/11/9	23:00	23:33	7.0265	JL3YMV	7J1ATG/2, JL1GEL, JE1TRV, JE1RZR/2, JJ1FXF
1037	2	2024/11/3	08:00	08:29	14.055	JL3YMV	JS2AHG, VK6RR, VK4BGR, JL1GEL
1037	1	2024/11/2	23:00	00:11	7.0265	JA4IIJ	7J1ATG/2, JL1GEL, JS1QIZ, JS2AHG, JO3HPM, JE1RZR, JJ1FXF
1036	2	2024/10/27	08:00	08:32	14.054	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, VK6RR, JS2AHG, JO3HPM
1036	1	2024/10/26	23:00	00:07	7.0075	JL1GEL	JO3HPM, JS2AHG, 7J1ATG/2, JS1QIZ, JJ1FXF, JA4IIJ
1035	2	2024/10/20	08:00	08:40	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK6RR, VK4BGR, JO3HPM, JS2AHG, JA4IIJ
1035	1	2024/10/19	23:00	00:00	7.0255	JS1QIZ	7J1ATG/2, JS2AHG, JE1RZR/2, JJ1FXF, JO3HPM, JA4IIJ
1034	2	2024/10/13	08:00	08:26	14.048	JL3YMV	VK4BGR, JL1GEL, JJ1FXF
1034	1	2024/10/12	23:00	00:00	7.0095	JA4IIJ	JO3HPM, JJ1FXF, JS1QIZ, JL1GEL, JE1RZR
1033	2	2024/10/6	08:00	08:42	14.054	JL1GEL	VK4BGR, JO3HPM, JS2AHG, VK6RR, JJ1FXF, OG4Z
1033	1	2024/10/5	23:00	23:58	7.027	JE7YTQ	JS2AHG, JS1QIZ, JA4IIJ, JE1RZR/2, JJ1FXF, JO3HPM

FINALE

Allen, VY1KX and his wife Maureen got off at Himeji, where I live, to visit Himeji Castle during their trip. Himeji Castle is a 400 year old wooden structure, a Japanese national treasure and a World Heritage site. Allen was taking pictures with his old Nikon SLR camera loaded with black and white film. I especially remember him taking pictures of one wooden door. Most tourists would have missed it, but he seemed to notice its interesting wood combination. He said he develops the film by himself. I hope he got some good black and white photo prints. Now, the calendar of beautiful views of Yukon that he gave me as a souvenir is on the wall of my shack. Thank you for visiting, Allen and Maureen. Our time passed too quickly! I pray for a peaceful world. May all the children of the world born in 2025 be happy. 73/88 and stay sober de Nao.

