



Recommended calling QRGs: 7.026/7.028, 10.118/10.138, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058/21.138, 24.908, 28.058/28.158

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## NEW MEMBERS

We're very pleased to welcome our latest members:

Sapa', YC8DFR #15139

Deo, JQ1OLT #15140

Praveen, VU3CKP #15141

John, JR2MDI #15142 (also VA7EAT)

Kyo (studying for license exam) from Hong Kong #15143

## DEO, JQ1OLT #15140

Hello FISTS EA members. I am Hideo "Deo" Hayashibe from Yokohama, Japan. I was born in 1949.

I had been in QRT for more than 10 years until last February. When I resumed QRving, I noticed most of the CW QSO's are held in the style of "5NN BK". Actually 10, 15 years ago, there were a lot more QSO's with, at least, what is called "rubber stamp" style, from which sometimes rag-chewings were blossomed out.

I believe one of the pleasures of amateur radio activity is to communicate with a lot of people from various countries, in which we can improve our techniques of communication in every aspect. Although DXCC hunting is exciting and fun, I would like to enjoy CW QSO's more, meaning brushing up my technique, enjoying fulfilling CW communication and of course preserving CW QSO. So I wanted to become a FISTS member.

I usually use two antennas 20m up above the ground. One is 4 element dual-bander Yagi for 20m and 15m bands. It is not bad for 15m band, but rather poor for 20m band. The other is 2 element HB9CV for 17m band, which works very good. When I find quite feeble signals on 20m I usually give up, though, on 17m I always make a call to feeble signals and often it works. Now I am considering to set another vertical antenna up which covers some HF bands, especially 40m band, on which Japanese FEA members seem to be active.



Thank you very much and see you on the air.

## KYO, #15143

Hello, I am KYO and new to amateur radio. I am based in Hong Kong living in the city area, surrounded by high-rises in every direction. I am still studying for my license, so it will be some time before I can transmit. Between my job and my family, I know it will be hard to find the extra time to have a hobby. But I decided to take the plunge.

I write software and manage a number of systems at my workplace. Like every other job it has its interesting moments; but ultimately the interests of the company I work for has higher priority than what I prefer and enjoy. So one day when I discovered that some people can take a piece of wire and communicate with people across the ocean, I am fascinated. These people are always courteous, always trying for the next higher goal, tinkling with toys, learning new tricks and having fun - I believe these are elements that I can enjoy.

I become interested in CW because I can rarely find time to leave the city area of Hong Kong, and the operating conditions for radio will be very bad indeed. Most of the time I cannot see the sky because the high-rises are everywhere. Not a day passes for me without thinking about what antenna I want to get - it has to be small and it has to operate well despite the high-rises all around me. So every day I read a bit more about radio operations, the bands, the modes; and I am trying to learn about watts, ohms, SWR, gains, efficiencies, polarization, propagation, band openings, and beacons. At this point I am not confident at all when I can be on the air and have a QSO with anyone, but I believe if I ever get to that point, CW will be an important tool if I want to go any distance.

I have started to practice the Morse code by tapping my fingers. You see, they are the only transceivers that I own. When I got to the letter "B" I found my finger does get a bit cramped doing dah-dit-dit-dit. So I realized I will need a lot more practice before I can send "adduction vs abduction of my big toe" in code. Meanwhile, although I know I cannot reach that level of skills any time soon, I would enjoy learning how others do it and the amazing adventures they have.

Thank you for accepting my application to join this group of yours. I look forward to knowing more about the adventures that you have and the achievements that you make. 73.



The view out of my front window of my apartment.



The photo taken through the window out the back of my apartment. The little vertical gap to the right is towards the Victoria Harbour and is my best line of sight to anything.

### **OUR TRIAL TO COMMUNICATE USING EASY ENGLISH. - TUBO, JL8KUS #15033**

I lived in an apartment before. So only when I QRV, an antenna was installed on a balcony. For this reason, I was not usually able to communicate.

I rent a single house in June, this year. It had been my dream for a long time. After moving to the house, a dipole antenna was installed in my garden immediately. Now, I can always enjoy ham radio. I appreciate my antenna.

Now, I am enjoying Morse code any time. In addition, I am studying English little by little. Because I am still not good at English. I think there are a lot of ham radio stations who want to use English. But English is very difficult for Japanese.

The end of July, I posted a message, "Let's try communication using easy English." on A1 club's web-based forum. Then I received many responses more than I expected. So I answered, "Let's get started right away together!" I and some stations who interested in started an activities named "CQ A1 CHAT". We hold the activities on 7025.5 KHz or 7026.5 KHz at 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. every day.

We made some rules. For example, when one can't understand English told by the other and get panics, the one is allowed to send only "SRI 73" and QRT soon. In a normal QSO, such one-way final is rude behaviour. But thanks to the rule, we could join and practice English without any worry.

The number of participants gradually increased. We enjoyed a relay-style QSO every night. It often continued more than three hours.

When autumn came, 40 m band condition changed and keeping our activities on the band became difficult. So we decided to pause our activities and resume it again next spring. I hope everyone will learn English and a lot of stations will take part in our activities next season. Until then, I practice English using my Nintendo DS more and more!



## SPECIAL TOPIC: ANTENNA

### INSTALLING CUSHCRAFT R9 – TAKESHI, JA4IJJ #15084

How are you, dear members? Responding to the editor Nao-san's announcement, I would like to report the assembling, installing and operation of a Cushcraft R9 vertical antenna in this note. Since the ant was installed only 10 days ago (on 16 Sept), this note is a kind of progress report. Since the ant is not exactly upright as you can see in the attached photo (Fig.1), I will reinstall later taking care of guying etc. However, I am happy if this article is helpful for the members who are thinking of installing R9.

1. General information: R9 is a vertical ant that covers 9 bands (6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80 m). It is very long (ca. 9.5 m) to cover 80 m and consequently rather heavy (11.3 kg). However, since I was using two GPs to cover several bands including 80 m, covering 9 bands by one ant was attractive. The other point is the necessary space to install is fairly small, that is, no long radials like a GP ant are necessary.

I ordered directly to the company using Internet, because the total price including carriage was cheaper than that in Japan. A long cardboard box containing R9 kit came quickly (about two weeks) without any damage and part-shortage.

2. Assembling: This was not very difficult, because the manual "Assembly and installation instructions" from Cushcraft is well described with a lot of figures showing how to assemble parts. Only one problem during assembling process was

that I had to enlarge the hole in the base assembly, because the position of a hole in the assembly to support the matching network (the black box in Fig.1) was not very precise. Otherwise, no problems at all.

One advice in assembling is that rods for radials and spoke hats (stainless and aluminum rods, max 1.2 m) should be attached in the last stage of assembling. They are naturally dangerous not only to children but also to us. So, Cushcraft attached lots of stickers "DANGER" for the rods in the kit. Besides, if the radials were attached in the early stage, obviously R9 is not easy to handle. If they are not attached, most of assembling works can be done in your room depending on the space. In fact, I have assembled most of the parts in my room into three assemblies and combined them outside. The radials were attached during the installing process. Although seemingly the metal parts are of high grade, I used conductive grease to all joints. I needed two weekends for assembling due to some other jobs, but R9 may be assembled within one whole day.

3. Installing: R9 is very long and heavy for me, an old guy. It should be noted that R9 is a top-heavy ant due to loading coils for 40 m and 80 m (see Fig.1). I am not very sure, but the gravity center may be around 4-5 m from the bottom. Due to the flexible structure R9 warped considerably, which was very much annoying when installing. Instruction manual says that the minimum height of the base assembly should be about 3 m. I simulated how to install the flexible R9 at the top of a 3 m mast (48.5 mm O.D. iron pipe was used on a small tower) and found that it was almost impossible to install R9 alone. So I asked my XYL's help. She accepted my request, because she was very much uneasy whether I might snap branches of trees in her garden! Using a self-supporting step ladder (I went up and down repeatedly), I was near the top of the 3m mast that was extended by the additional 1 m mast to set a moving pulley. Simple dynamics really worked very nicely! A rope for the pulley was connected to the top of the additional mast and the ant. At the first stage, the rope was fixed to the upper part of the ant above the gravity center, and finally the base assembly. Thanks to the moving pulley, the apparent weight of R9 became half: I can easily pull up by hand and R9 connected loosely by U-bolts to the mast could rise slowly but steadily. XYL took important role to keep the base assembly near the mast using the other rope. Frankly, at first, I thought it was impossible to set up the ant properly, because it was too long, too heavy, and too flexible: This meant R9 would lose balance very easily and turn upside down! Although we took half a day for installing, R9 was successfully installed in such a way.



Fig. 1 Cushcraft R9 installed in my garden (you can see a half moon near the top radials)

During the process, guy ropes were tentatively bound to appropriate places and the height of ant was increased step by step until the upper U-bolt of R9 reached to the top of the mast. To my big regret, I made a mistake in the final stage: Since the U-bolts fixing R9 to the mast were a little bit loose, the ant gradually slipped down about 5cm during guying process. It should be corrected ASAP (now the lowest radials are insulated from the mast). In addition, guying is very important for safe operation and maintenance of such a long and flexible ant. I am using nine non-conductive ropes for the ant and mast, and four for the short tower.

4. Operation: This is most important after installation, but to my regret I have not enough data to show. Anyway, except for 6 m band, I have tried all bands and confirmed that the SWR was good enough as in the specification (the feeding point was about 3.5 m from the ground). Although the RST report from Nao-san in the first QSO on 22 September on 40 m band was just the same with the previous GP, I thought R9 did good job for me considering the recent condition.

Although much better performance could not be expected than the previous GP in principle, I like R9 and would like to use it for several years from now. Since we are in the typhoon season, wind survival is very important. The specification says 35 m/s (80 mph) is Ok, when properly guyed. I would like to see carefully the behavior in windy WX. BTW, my XYL hates a thunderbolt. No chance to continue my HAM life even if small static buildup occurred! Seriously, I took good care of grounding. Thank you for reading! I am looking forward to meeting you members. Wish you good health and nice ham life, 73/88!

## MASUMI, JA3AVO #15029

Home antenna. Super Rad for 160 m, CD78Jr for 80 m, and SteppIR for 40 m - 6 m



SIGMA-5 for 20 m -10 m at VK9X (Christmas Island). Despite compact size, it worked well on a bluff.



Bravo-5 for 20 m -10 m. I'm testing it in my garden to bring next DX-pedition.



Cobra Ultralite Jr. for 80 m - 10 m. at VK9L (Lord Howe Island). Though the height was only 3 - 4 m, it worked well.



## MASA, JJ1IZW #15026

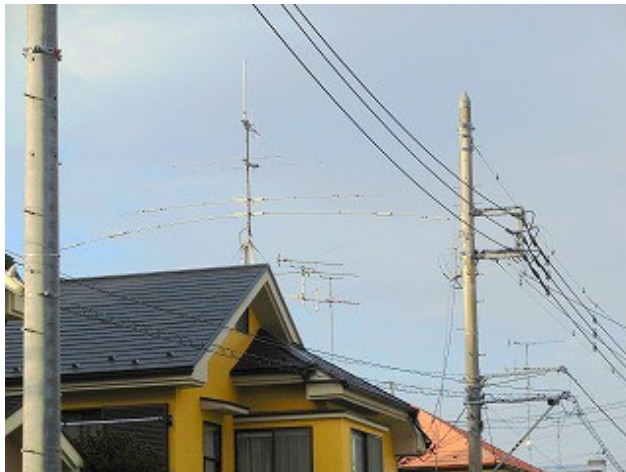
Antenna view from north. The height of roof tower is 3.5 m. The lowest antenna composed of 2 elements is Mini-multi MDP-7 covers 7 bands from 40 m to 10 m. I feel good for sending, but poor for receiving on 20, 17, and 12 m bands. The middle one is Diamond HB9CV for 6 m. Nice antenna. The upper one is Diamond GP for 144/430 and Comet yagi for 144/430. The GP is useful than yagi for daily QSO.



Antenna view from east. The left antenna is Radix V-dipole for 80 m.



Antenna view from south.



## KIYO, JH1KMU #15129

I am using the vertical antenna with the ATU. The length of the element is about 11 meters but 6 meters part is like letter L. I am using a 5.4 meters long fishing rod as the pole of the antenna. Height of feeding point is about 4 meter but the ATU gives good matching from 3.5 MHz to 50 MHz except for 10MHz.

I put some radials on the fence made by trees around my house. I think that the radials will operate like the 2 meters high elevated radials.



## YOSHI, JH0OXS #15032

I have a T2-3VX (18/24 MHz 3ele), a AFA30 (10 MHz 2ele), and a TA-351-40 (7 MHz DP, 14/21/28 MHz 4ele) on a tower 14 meters high. I sometime think if I built 5 meters higher tower, it would be better. But it's too late. My QTH, Nagano prefecture is surrounded by mountains over 2000 meters above sea level. So I never have a trouble by typhoon fortunately, though the mountains are disadvantage for DX QSO. The problem is wet and heavy snow in winter. We get caught in snow storm about 3 times a year. I have nothing but giving up to use my antenna during snow storms. The greatly-bent antennas in lower right photo show great patience.



## AMA, JI3SBA #15115

Home antenna. 2-element 3-band antenna (Mini-multi HA32X). I rotate it by my hand. So when I catch the signals, at first I must go out to rotate it



Portable antenna. When I enjoy QSO in the field, I use VCH whip antenna. Setting is quick and packing is very compact



## MAN, JG0SXC #8934

After I found that an old V-type dipole for 4 bands was broken in 2009, I made up my mind to build a vertical antenna on the roof tower in September that year. A fishing rod is very useful for me when making a homebrew antennas. So I used it for the vertical antenna of 40m band with a loading coil, a matching box and 8 radials. Unhappily, it has been working not so well for DX, though very well for most of domestic QSO. Signals from North America are relatively weak, while a local station with a dipole gets it well. It often happens like that. I had less than 10 QSO with USA using this antenna so far.

I had always wanted to set up other antennas especially for high HF bands. So I planned and finally made a HB9CV for 15m band of aluminum pipes in March 2012. Until now this is my main antenna for DX and I have done around 80 QSO on 15m band since then.

I think that we should have a wide variety of antennas to have as many chances of contacts with DX as possible. So I made dipole antennas for 20m and 17m of fishing rods at the beginning of this year. I hear some DX signals when radio propagation is good. However, I had less than 10 QSO for each band until now.

Lastly, the motivation is the most important key to DX as well as good antennas. I need to sit on the shack desk and turn on my rig to watch bands much more often, you know. I will do so from today, hi.



Three antennas on the roof tower.



Matching box and loading coil.

### OHTER MEMBER'S ANTENNA



JE1RZR.



JO3HPM. The nine metre wire along the fibre grass pole on a balcony enable me to QRV from 80 m to 10 m.



## FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 446 TO 458 - NAO, JO3HPM #15008

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participants
458-2	2013/9/29	0800-0821	14.054	JO3HPM	ZL2AOH, JE1RZR
458-1	2013/9/28	2300-0018	7.026	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, JP1BJB, JA4IJJ, JG1BGT, JG0SXC
457-2	2013/9/22	0800-0850	14.055	JE1RZR	JQ1OLT, ZL2AOH
457-1	2013/9/21	2300-0000	7.025	JO3HPM	JP1BJB, JA4IJJ, JG1BGT, JE1RZR
456-2	2013/9/15	0800-0845	14.054	JO3HPM	ZL2AIM, JE1RZR, JK7UST
456-1	2013/9/14	2300-0003	7.026	JG0SXC	JO3HPM, JK7UST, JA4IJJ, JG1BGT, JP1BJB, JE1RZR
455-2	2013/9/8	0800-0815	14.054	JO3HPM	JK7UST
455-1	2013/9/7	2300-0010	7.026	JO3HPM	JP1BJB, JG1BGT, JG0SXC, JA4MRL, JK7UST/7
454-2	2013/9/1	0800-0819	14.054	JE7YTQ	JE1RZR, JO3HPM
454-1	2013/8/31	2300-2357	7.026	JG0SXC	JR0QWW, JO3HPM, JA4IJJ
453-2	2013/8/25	none	none	none	none
453-1	2013/8/24	2300-0004	7.026	JO3HPM	JG0SXC, JA4IJJ, JF1TTN
452-2	2013/8/18	0800-0900	14.055	JO3HPM	ZL2AIM, JK7UST, JE1RZR
452-1	2013/8/17	2300-0000	7.026	JG0SXC	JO3HPM, JE1RZR, JP1BJB
451-2	2013/8/11	0800-0815	14.054	JO3HPM	ZL2AIM, JE1RZR
451-1	2013/8/10	2300-0009	7.026	JO3HPM	JE1TRV, JK7UST, JA4IJJ, JE1RZR, JG0SXC
450-2	2013/8/4	0800-0850	14.054	JE1RZR	JO3HPM, JE7YTQ/3, JQ1OLT
450-1	2013/8/3	2300-0001	7.005	JG0SXC	JP1BJB, JK7UST, JE1TRV, JA4IJJ, JE1RZR
449-2	2013/7/28	0800-0900	14.055	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, JQ1OLT
449-1	2013/7/27	2300-0002	7.026	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, JR7OEF, JK7UST, JP1BJB, JG0SXC
448-2	2013/7/21	0800-0855	14.051	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, JK7UST, JQ1OLT
448-1	2013/7/20	2300-2351	7.027	JO3HPM	JK7UST, JP1BJB, JA4MRL, JE1RZR, JA4IJJ
447-2	2013/7/14	0800-0856	14.053	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, JK7UST
447-1	2013/7/13	2300-0000	7.0263	JO3HPM	JP1BJB, JE1RZR, JA4IJJ
446-2	2013/7/7	0800-0826	14.054	JE7YTQ	JE1RZR
446-1	2013/7/6	2300-0845	7.026	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, JE1TRV

### FINALE

My daughter is a high school student and visited a VK family this summer. The family is a wildlife carer and my daughter who likes animals very much was interested in their stories. During her two-week stay, she learned how to take care joey's. In spite of her relatively-short stay, she could taste both joy and sorrow of animal care. As a matter of fact, the family is John-san VK4TJ and his wife Catherine-san. Words are not enough for their kindness and hospitality. 73/88 and stay sober de Nao.