



morsEAsia

April 2018
Issue #75

Recommended calling QRGs: 7.028, 10.118/10.128/10.138, 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

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

Membership Secretary: Hoz JL1IRB (join-fea@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,

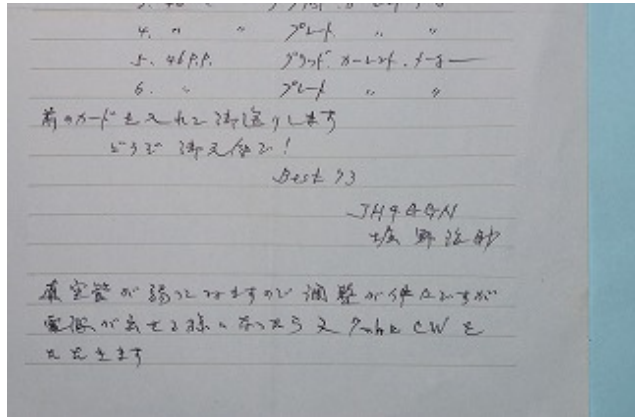
<http://www.feacw.net/> or <http://www.fists-ea.org/> (Secondary)

NEW MEMBERS

We're very pleased to welcome our latest members: Toku, JP7MLT #15259, Kazu, JR4GGT #15260, Sun, DS5PXJ #15261, Chang, BX2AK #15262, Lee, BX2AB #15263.

MY MEMORABLE QSO, KAZU, JR4GGT, #15260

It was a QSO with JH4GGN (Ex J4CT), Horino OT at 7 MHz on 1984. He used a tube TX assembled about 50 years ago. According to his mail, the TX consisted of 2A5 - 2A5 - 46 - 46P.P.



CHANG, BX2AK, #15262

Hello! My name is Chang, QTH in Taipei Taiwan. My hobbies are a HAM radio CW, an installing DIY antenna and a riding a bicycle. This is my first time to introduce myself in English. Anyway, if there are any questions, please give me your advice kindly. At last, attach a few photos of my radio, QSL card, key and antenna. Thanks for your attention!



TOKU, JP7MLT, #15259

Hello, nice to meet you. I am Toku, JP7MLT.

I was born in downtown, Tokyo, and now, live in a part of Morioka-city, Yamagata, formerly called Tamayama-village. I got my first license, for phone-class radio amateur, in 1967. At that time, I enjoyed A3 communication with my friend on the 50 MHz band.

I soon stopped to be on the air, and for the following 50 years, I was not dealing with any radio communication either on my job or my hobby.

About four years ago, a young married lady who came to my job section, consulted me on the ham radio as "I would like to talk to my son on ski-slopes or campsite when I go there with him. Since you are an experienced ham, could you please coach me getting a license of ham radio?" Of course, I accepted, as a 64 years old, ham operator.

Fifty years are long enough to forget technical and operational knowledge on ham radio. Therefore, I bought textbooks for third-class and fourth-class radio amateur exams to re-learn. By the time I felt that I was ready to teach her for the third or fourth level exams, I knew that there are no code exams for the first and the second class radio amateur exams. I instantly decided to take the second class exam, but, after some time, I decided to proceed to first class, because I felt I would aim at this class shortly, anyway.

I took the first class radio amateur license in 2015. However, I was not confident enough as a licensee, because I did not have to pass the code exam. I felt that my first class license could be the fake one if I do not operate code. Therefore, I started practicing it using the webpage of A1 ham club, the club which is specialized in the Morse code operation. Soon, I became a preliminary member of the club, and my call-sign was issued when I was 65. Although I practiced the code extensively, I was so nervous and could not copy a word in my first on-the-air meeting of the A1 club.

After getting the call-sign, I often called CQ at 144.070 MHz CW. I assumed that no-one would answer my CQ call and just enjoyed practicing sending the Morse code. However, one day, JI7FBM, Kaz-san called me. It was he who recommended me to join FISTS. He also led me to join KCJ (Keymens' club of Japan) and JARL QRP club.

Kaz-san is about twenty years younger than me but has been solely operating CW as a ham for 30 years, meaning experienced radio amateur. He taught me how to use Ham-log program or making a summary and log sheet for contests, which my aged brain sometimes felt difficult to catch-up, HI.

I will be retired from my job by the end of this March. However, I am seeking for the opportunity of part-time work (my wife says, I must earn money for my ham radio myself.) Since I expect to have enough spare time, I am planning to be on the air also from outdoors.

In addition, I am planning to encourage amateur third class licensees (who took license just for 50 W power operation admittance), operating CW. Also, I would like to help children who took basic radio amateur license through the training-course (but not operating), being actively on the air.

At the moment, my CW operation is limited to "599 BK" style and QTH or name exchange. I will continue practicing the code operation for full chats both in English and in Japanese Morse codes.

I assume I will soon have a chance to see FISTS members on the air. If you heard my code, I would appreciate your help and patience for having enjoyable QSO.



The photo shows my radio, FT857DM mounted on my car with a straight key GT503A. I enjoy pounding CQ on 7MHz CW.

HOMEBREW RADIOS ON MY OPERATING DESK., MIC, JI1XJB/6, #15162

Hello, everyone. I am Mic, and Michio is my given name. I am 62 years old and have been working in Kagoshima for five years away from my family in Ibaraki Prefecture. There remain three more years before my retirement, and after that, I will be a happy “homecoming”. I got my license in 1976 and never interrupted ham activity for more than 40 years. But the number of QSOs is quite small, partly because I have spent much time, maybe too much time, for building radios. I am not an electronic engineer but very fond of using a soldering iron, of course just as a dabster. Almost all contacts except some QSOs in the very early days were made using my homebrew equipment. At some point in my ham life, I made up my mind not to buy/use any commercially available radio!



With Mt. Sakurajima in the background.



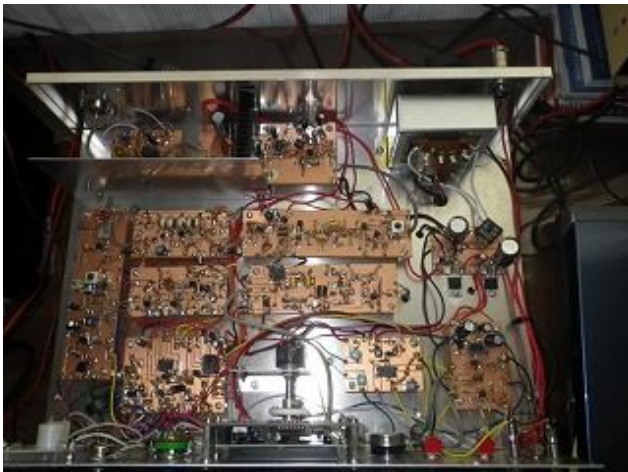
My operation desk in Kagoshima.

A: transceiver for 18 MHz SSB/CW, a 2SC1971, 5 W out,
B: transverter to 7 MHz, using a 2SC1971, 5 W out,
C: linear amplifier using a pair of 6146s, 50 W out,
D: AFC-VFO, E: DDS-VFO,
F: manual antenna tuner,
G: electronic keyer and
H: power units.

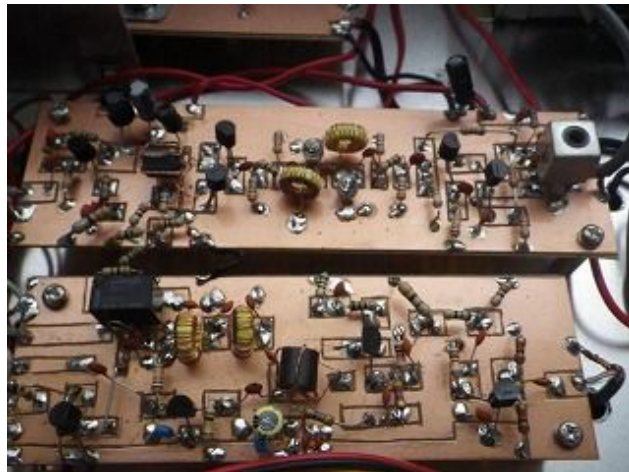


Operation desk of my home shack in Ibaraki.

My main transceiver is a 5-watt single bander for 18 MHz SSB/CW using a 2SC1971 as the final transistor. I built it just before I moved to Kagoshima because I didn't have a portable gear/license at that time. The schematic diagram was the one originated from JE1AHW/Uchida's AirGoose 15 [1]. It has a unique design concept: the main active components are general-purpose small transistor 2SC1815Ys which are used even for the RF/IF units. I only half believed it, but now I am quite satisfied with its performance.



Inside look of my 18 MHz QRP transceiver.



Carving copper foil on a piece of non-etched board with a chisel, and then soldering everything on this side. An easy way but you should expect neither compactness nor super-high-performance.

A separate linear amplifier using a pair of 6146W tubes boosts the QRP signal to 50 watts out. This unit is one of my earliest rigs. Originally, the unit's final tubes were 6146As manufactured by Toshiba. I got the tubes from a friend many years ago, but I am not sure they were new or used ones at that time of transfer. It was sad that, they came to the end of their lives in 2016 after running for more than 20 years. I replaced them with a new pair of 6146Ws and slightly adjusted the idling plate current. The set has revitalized completely! I love vacuum tubes and built several HF TXs and RXs including a GG amplifier with a pair of 811As. They are kept in my home shack now.

The 18 MHz band is surely exciting and fruitful when the propagations are fair. However, you may feel lonely when the band is dead or in the off-season. Therefore, I built a transverter that converts 18 MHz into 7 MHz. The final transistor is a 2SC1971, too. I brought all of my tools and parts with me to the apartment in Kagoshima. Since no family chores are here, I have been able to devote my spare time to rig building.



Inside look of the 50-watt linear amplifier using a pair of 6146 tubes.

After the transverter was completed, I started working 7 MHz CW using the new setup. But I occasionally received reports that my signal had some QRH! Homebrewers are very much grateful to OT/OM/YL giving proper and severe reports on their signals. Yes, indeed! I think that most CW operators are so kind as well as having good ears. On the other hand, SSB operators often say: "The band is too crowded and your signal's too weak to comment on your signal quality. Sorry!" You need a kilowatt TX and a reasonably good antenna to talk on technical issues using 7 MHz SSB.

Anyway, I made two external VFOs covering 8 MHz band (the IF frequency of the 18 MHz rig is 10.24 MHz). One is an analog type oscillator controlled by an automatic frequency controller (AFC) with a 1 MHz crystal oscillator and several digital ICs [2]. The other is a direct digital synthesizer (DDS) controlled by an Arduino microcomputer [3]. The schematic diagrams as well as the software were dead copies from the websites and modified slightly, as always I do. The AFC type VFO usually works well but the frequency shifts several hundred Hz if room air temperature changes rapidly and extremely. As for the DDS VFO, I added some filters to the output stage to suppress noise which spread across wide range of frequency. Its stability is excellent but I prefer analog VFO because I like to tune in from station to station continuously. My DDS's incremental step (10, 100, 1000 ... Hz, etc.) needs to be selected by a push switch which is a bit annoying. However, I use the DDS VFO for long lasting QSO such as FEA on-air meeting.

Many CW enthusiasts might be interested in keys. I use an old homemade electronic keyer using TTL ICs and a Hi-Mound manipulator (type unknown). It's nothing special. In addition, there is a cheap tiny straight key (baby-key) on the desk for tuning the final tank and antenna tuner. Except for QRSS, I usually don't use the baby-key in QSOs.

When the old 6146A tubes have gone dead, I newly built a linear amplifier using 8 pieces of low price FETs, RD16HHF1 [4]. It was a challenge for me to use a technique of dividing/combining RF power for my first time [5]. The amplifier outputs about 80 watts into a dummy load on 7 MHz and somewhat less on 18 MHz. The test was successful but it has never been actually used because as a portable station, I am not allowed to operate more than 50 W. This is the restriction by Japanese radio law. I would apply for an amendment of my fixed station license to register the amplifier for it.

The current antenna is a quarter wavelength wire spread horizontally about 0.5 m out in the air from the balcony of the 8th floor on a 12-story apartment building. Unfortunately, my room is NOT on the top floor where the landlord family resides, of course. A handmade C-L-C manual type tuner on the balcony rail with a counterpoise works fairly well. I have tried fishing rod whips and a few magnetic loops on both 18 MHz and 7 MHz. They performed well especially for 18 MHz and I enjoyed some DX contacts, and worked on mechanics and electronics to tune them remotely. But I took them down later because I became too lazy for extending the whip/loop out and retracting it again from the balcony every time before and after the operation.



A small magnetic loop for 7 MHz using a bundle of coaxial cables (not multi-turn).



A larger magnetic loop for 7 MHz with a single main loop of a 5D2V coaxial cable.

My currently ongoing project is a new transverter for 3.5, 14 and 21 MHz bands. The three-band units should be installed in a single cabinet. This may be technically challenging for me, and will take plenty of time to complete. I hope I could have a lot of pleasant time during building/assembling/testing the rig even with my farsightedness getting increasingly worse these days. I would like to check in the FEA on-air meeting held weekly on 14 MHz with it when I finish the rig and get official permission someday.

I hope to meet you all on the air and have my signal's reports together with your stories on rigs, antennas and various interesting topics. Thank you for your time in reading my text with photos.

Best 73s - Mic

References:

- [1] http://www.cyttec-kit.com/AG-15/AG15_make_Main.htm
- [2] <https://blog.goo.ne.jp/ceiver98/e/902f2280a668fc7c94b3958976ad3137>
- [3] <http://ja2gqp.blogspot.jp/2014/02/arduino-ad9850-dds-vfo.html>
- [4] <http://ja2nkd.blog.so-net.ne.jp/archive/c35368363-1>
- [5] http://www5a.biglobe.ne.jp/~jh2clv/hf_powerdivider&conbiner.htm

SUGI, JK7UST, #7178

There was a Tohoku reconstruction amateur radio festival on March 11. Ham, who resumed amateur radio, gathered without losing the huge earthquake that was 7 years ago. I enjoyed eyeball with Atsu san JE1TRV and Jun san JQ1BWT who came from Tokyo.



I went to Miyakojima Is. in Okinawa at the end of 2017. The sky was blue, the sea was emerald green and the mind was healed. I moved with my rental car and operated a little 7 MHz CW. Shin san JA1NUT who is very active and responded immediately to my CQ. And I was able to QSO with FISTS members MasaG san JA4MRL, Hoz san JL1IRB, Jun san JQ1BWT etc.



HIDE, JE3ECD, #8967

I became retirement age last year. I'm working for 3 days a week by a reemployment system now. I changed my main rig and an antenna to something new last year. I'm enjoying an amateur radio on the day when I have no work.



SPECIAL TOPIC: ACROSS BORDERS

MORSE CODE KEYS ARRIVED ACROSS BORDERS, AKI, JL1GEL, #15147

It has become easier now than before to buy goods from abroad, thanks to the Internet. Especially for telegraph keys, the number of telegraph key manufacturers in Japan has decreased and it is impossible to buy special keys like semi-automatic keys in Japan. Couples of years before when I started learning Japanese Morse code, I became interested in bug keys because many of Japanese Morse code enthusiasts use many types of bug keys, and I bought a bug key directly from Vibroplex by ordering through the Internet. The other key I got across borders is the Begali paddle “Leonessa” with magnetic return. Magnetic return gives light touch when using the key and I feel it is easier to send codes faster than when I use paddles with conventional spring returns. I am using this Begali most of the time recently.



CW OVER THE INTERNET, TAK, JS1QIZ, #15150



If your antenna and power are compromised and if you have frequent travels, you may be starving for English Morse code chats. In this case, “QSO.net” may help you, at least, to some extent. I joined the system about half a year ago and had 27 CW chats over this internet VOIP mediated QSO system. Once you register, you can download “CQ100”, virtual transceiver running on your Windows PC. You can call CQ at “calling frequency” and eventually have responses from overseas operators who are willing to chat with you as long as you (or they) want after QSY to some other virtual “frequencies”. After one

month trial, you have to choose if you pay a small amount or leave the system. I chose to pay. About half of my “QSO.net” QSOs are from the hotels I stayed in my business trips (in Japan and other countries). It is a perfect relaxing time after taking a bath that you launch CQ100 on your laptop and have some chat before going to bed. If you already have registered to it, please activate it when bands are dead. You may find your FISTS friends there. 73 JS1QIZ Tak

DX VACATIONS, MASUMI, JA3AVO, #15029

I am going abroad with my ham friends every year starting with 4S7 in 2003 and enjoying the radio. When we borrowed rental shack, we try to have opportunities to interact with local hams. After returning home, it is a lot of fun to continue interactions by reunion through ham radio and e-mail exchange. Members have aged, including me, but we will continue this fun as much as possible.

Year	Callsign	Entity
2003	4S7AVG	Sri Lanka
2004	4S7AVG	Sri Lanka
2006	8Q7NM	Moldive
2006	4S7AVG	Sri Lanka
2008	VP5/W3AVO	Turks & Caicos Island
2008	XU7AVO	Cambodia
2009	KP2/W3AVO	US Virgin Islands
2010	9M6/JA3AVO	East Malaysia
2010	XU7AVO	Cambodia
2011	VK9XO	Christmas Island
2011	T8XO	Palau
2012	XU7AVO	Cambodia
2012	P40X	Aruba
2013	W7AVO/VK9L	Lord Howe Island
2014	TO3JA	Martinique
2015	XR0YJ	Easter Island
2016	E51J	South Cook Island
2017	V63AVO	Micronesia
2018	6Y6J	Jamaica



2006 4S7NE(Nelson) & 4S7DF



2008 VP5JM(Jody)



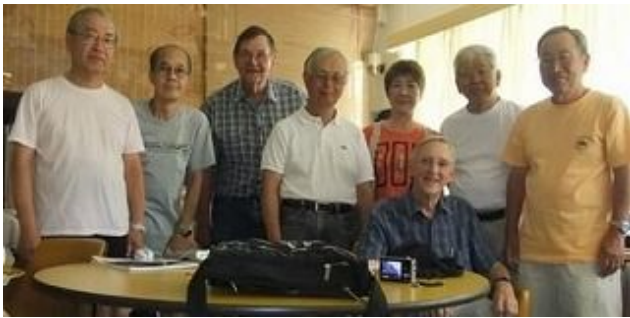
2010 9M6XRO, DXX, GY



2012 P43A P43C



2012 XU7TZG(Wim)



2013 VK9LHI VK9LH



2014 FM5BH



2015 Radio Club de Chile



2016 E51CG



2016 E51JD



2018 6Y5WJ(Josh)



2018 6Y6J QSL

A TRANSMISSION OF THE INTENTION BY BLINKING FLASHLIGHT WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE OF THE TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION!, JAY, JA3UMK, #15103

It was an incident in Guam about 20 years ago. I was assigned to Guam as an operation manager to be in charge of every event customers facing during their stay. The apartment where I was staying in Guam was on the 10th floor of the building in the Tamuning district that was located a bit of distance from downtown.

I think that it was around 9 o'clock in the evening. In the room and veranda on the rooftop of the Palace Hotel at that time that was about 200 m away, I happened to see that three to four people were doing something suspiciously. For a while, I was staring the scene and I had realized that they were looking forward to enjoying the mini radio expedition. Because they looked like setting up some antenna and the other equipments. In those days, since I had barely experienced real one single CW communication. I did neither know much about telegraph nor the knack of CW QSO.



Then I found out the flashlight in the drawers and I began to irradiate the Morse code by flashing to them in faltering way. I managed to send the CW to them at QRSS “QRA? DE JA3UMK” (without adding KH2/) on the blinking, it looked like they had noticed my blinking signal. After a while, in response to my flashing irradiation, it seemed like they were talking about something each other. Then it turned out that a signal was answered back at the Morse code due to the flashlight flashing from the irradiated opponent and I somehow advanced telegraphic communication in the same way, as a result of some confused and faltering CW QSO flashlight, I finally grasped their room number and so on, Yes, I could make an eyeball QSO and I had a wonderful chat with them at their room in the hotel for a while.

Until then, I had only some experiences in communicating by SSB and I just learnt the Morse code only to obtain a telegraphic license not for actual CW QSO. But this event I had experienced dialogue which was a transmission of the intention by blinking due to flashlight became a truly unforgettable memory. It was an abrupt opportunity to make me feel something big fascinated in the QSO at the Morse code.

So, every time when I was beaten back by the actual CW QSO due to the lack of CW knack. This event in Guam reminds me of this experience and that memory of the event always encourage me to struggle with CW chat in QOD1. I know everyone has each own style of QSO. But on my personal note, I believe there is nothing better than CW dialogue in QOD1 even though I am not good at English conversation.

FOLKS! CW2CU ES PSE GO EASY ON ME WHEN WE COME ACROSS ON THE AIR DE JA3UMK JAY

SEASON'S PICTURES



Sojiji, Yokohama by JH1MHM



Senzo water treatment plant, Itami, Hyogo by JA3AVO



Koyaike park, Itami, Hyogo by JA3AVO



Inano primary school, Itami, Hyogo by JA3AVO



Wakabadai, Tokyo by JJ1IZW



Sagamihara, Kanagawa by JJ1IZW



My house, Machida, Tokyo by JQ1BWT

ATSU, JE1TRV, #7763

I love this tree. My mother also loved it. In the spring of 2014 when she came to my home, she insisted to bring back same tree. After she planted the tree at her home she has been expected to see its beautiful flowers for month while she was fighting against pancreatic cancer. Sadly she passed away on Dec. 25, 2014. she could not wait next flower season in 2015. So this flower Mimosa Acacia always reminds me my mother's smile.



FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 681 TO 692, NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participants
692-2	2018/3/25	0800-0845	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR,JL1GEL,DV9/K5EIE,JO3HPM
692-1	2018/3/24	2300-0008	7.026	JL1GEL	JK7UST,JA4IJJ,JS1QIZ,7J1ATG/2,JS2AHG,JI1XJB/6
691-2	2018/3/18	0800-0828	14.054	JO3HPM	VK4BGR,JS2AHG
691-1	2018/3/17	2300-0010	7.026	JS1QIZ	JO3HPM,JA4IJJ,JI1XJB/6,JL1GEL,JH2HTQ,7J1ATG/2
690-2	2018/3/11	0800-08??	14.054	JO3HPM	JK7UST,9V1VV,DV9/K5EIE
690-1	2018/3/10	2300-2354	7.0235	JL1GEL	JO3HPM,JA4IJJ,JS1QIZ,JI1XJB/6
689-2	2018/3/4	0800-0840	14.054	VK4BGR	JE1TRV,JO3HPM
689-1	2018/3/3	2300-2344	7.027	JS1QIZ	JK7UST,JA4IJJ,JR7OEF,JL1GEL,JO3HPM,JA4MRL
688-2	2018/2/25	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM	JK7UST,VK4BGR
688-1	2018/2/24	2300-2358	7.0265	JL1GEL	JA4IJJ,JK7UST,JR0QWW,JG1BGT,JS1QIZ,JO3HPM
687-2	2018/2/18	0800-08??	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
687-1	2018/2/17	2300-0003	7.026	JS1QIZ	JA4IJJ,JO3HPM,JL1GEL,JI1XJB/6
686-2	2018/2/11	0800-0820	14.055	JO3HPM	VK4BGR
686-1	2018/2/10	2300-2359	7.0265	JL1GEL	JA4IJJ,JS1QIZ,7J1ATG/2,JO3HPM,JI1XJB/6
685-2	2018/2/4	0800-0821	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR
685-1	2018/2/3	2300-0000	7.027	JS1QIZ	JA4IJJ,JO3HPM,JL1GEL,JF1TTN
684-2	2018/1/28	0800-0827	14.054	JO3HPM	JK7UST,VK4BGR
684-1	2018/1/27	2300-0006	7.0265	JL1GEL	JA4IJJ,JS2AHG,JS1QIZ,JI1XJB/6,7J1ATG/2
683-2	2018/1/21	0800-0832	14.054	JL1GEL	VK4BGR,BX8AAD
683-1	2018/1/20	2300-2350	7.0265	JS1QIZ	JA4IJJ,JI1XJB/6,JL1GEL,JO3HPM
682-2	2018/1/14	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM	UK/JE1RZR,JK7UST
682-1	2018/1/13	2300-2355	7.029	JE7YTQ	JA4MRL,JA4IJJ,DV9/K5EIE,7J1ATG/2,JO3HPM,JI1TTG
681-2	2018/1/7	0800-0818	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR
681-1	2018/1/6	2300-2340	7.023	JS1QIZ	JA4IJJ,JL1GEL

FINALE

My family got a cat from a shelter. Her name is Mugi. Because she was a feral cat, she is still unfriendly. We have never held her in our arms. We look forward that day when she will open her mind and permit us to hold. 73/88 and stay sober de Nao.

