

KCJ (Keymen's Club of Japan)

How to join us

To those who would like to join us, Keymen's Club of Japan.

Revised: November 2005

We, the members of Keymen's Club of Japan, KCJ, are the enthusiasts of CW communication. We always try to improve our CW skill, and consider ourselves as belonging to the best Amateurs. KCJ was founded in 1976, and we recently have approximately 170 members in the Club. Although the membership has been restricted to the Amateurs living in Japan until now, we would like to invite to this Club as associate members all of the Amateurs around the World who are eagerly interested in CW.

"Key" means, of course, an essential device for CW. At the same time, this word has the meaning of "an important person". The Club name, KCJ, has been designated to make it that all of the members are the best CW men and do their best to be keystones of the amateur radio communities. Actually, some of members are serving as leaders of their regional amateur radio communities. However, we will not intend to direct new comers to the CW world. This is a Club rather for those who want to pursue Amateur Radio as a lifetime hobby, particularly through CW communication.

CW is the simplest and yet the most reliable communication modality which makes it able us to talk to people living in the other end of world merely by means of intermittent electromagnetic wave. As you know, CW is not an efficient way as compared to the phone, and all of us may have had some difficulty to tell what we really think about. (Of course this is, in part, due to the language problem.) Because of its inefficiency, we use abbreviated words and sentences in the communication, and thus CW communication sometimes requires us imagination to compensate words between sentences which makes an additional interest on CW communication. That is why we are attracted by CW more than Phone.

Many young new comers join the world of Amateur Radio every year. However, considerable number of them loses their interest in Radio in a while because they may have hobbies other than Amateur Radio at the same time and

they do not consider Amateur Radio as their lifetime hobby. They need to mature to recognize what is important for them or what they are interested in after all. Now as you can see, KCJ is the club of matured people who know that Radio, especially CW, is one of their major favorites for whole their life.

Although we really love CW, we will not deny those who enjoy other modes or modalities in Amateur Radio. We are rather proud of members having non-CW activities as well. We believe that all of the Amateurs will come back their home, a wonderful world of CW!

Activities of KCJ

KCJ provides Amateurs with tips to enjoy CW communication. Listed below is what this Club is doing:

(1) Issue an award, Keymen's Century of Japan (KCJA).

There are numerous awards or certificates issued for the Amateurs in the world. Some of them are easy to be obtained without even a little effort and some are extremely difficult to be qualified. These kinds of awards are far from a fun. The rules of KCJA are quite simple but require good and worthy effort. QSLs from 100 prefectures of Japan are the minimal requirement for the basic KCJA. Of course, QSOs should be made in CW. Because there are only 47 prefectures in Japan, multi-band QSOs are essential. We have already had many foreign amateurs who have been certified with several hundreds QSOs. KCJ provides the application form at the web site, <http://www.kcj-cw.com/>.

Please contact the award manager, JH7FQK, for the detail of KCJA.

(2) Organize CW contests.

A unique contest, KCJ contest, is held in every August. This contest is getting to be one of the major CW contests among Japanese testers.

An exchange consists of RST and two characters which stand for a prefecture name. This makes a contact short and gives participants the likelihood of QSOs at high rate. KCJ contest used to be a kind of domestic contest. However, we recently have an increasing number of foreign participants enjoying this contest.

All of the participants are required to submit their logs to the KCJ contest committee. One of the most important features of this contest is that all of the submitted logs are crosschecked for all QSOs to observe their data appearing in the log of the others. If QSO data are not concordant with each other, these QSOs are disqualified and omitted for the calculation of the final scores. Therefore, if you won't submit your logs after the participation in the contest or if you will submit irresponsible logs, you will make troubles to other participants.

Some Amateurs do not know that they may cause troubles on the band because of their selfish or imprudent behaviors. Contesting is a kind of recreation but has its regulations to be strictly followed. We think that amateur radio activities including a contest cannot be a good pleasure without an order. However, a lot of unlawful operations are actually found in various settings both in ordinal and contest scenes. We intend to clean these violations out from the band through the KCJ contest and KCJ TOP band contest.

(3) Others

Nowadays, we can get everything on a market to set up our Radio stations, including devices which we have had to make by ourselves a few decades ago. In this situation, even a minimal effort is not required to get on the air. This is a kind of threat for the Amateur Radio. Think about CW communication. Getting on the air on CW requires us a lot of pleasant efforts to master the Morse codes and manipulate a key.

Isn't this an Amateur spirit?

CW is now disappearing in the professional communication. We amateurs may have an obligation to keep CW an active communication way. We are sure that all of Amateurs were so impressed and excited by their very first QSO, especially by the first CW QSO. As far as there are people who do not lose this feeling, CW will never disappear on the amateur bands. All of the members of KCJ belong to this type. KCJ is willing to support those who improve their skill by their own ways such as homebrewing rigs, DXing, award hunting, expedition, etc.

Upon the application for membership

When you would like to join us and submit your application to us, please let us know why you have interest in KCJ. Membership inquiries and general correspondence should be addressed to the manager in charge.

JA5CUX (kcj-mem(a)kcj-cw.com) <----- Please replace [(a)] with [@].

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