



NEWSLETTER

No.39 2010 Jan.

3 area meeting

JR3XEX Toshio Date

We successfully had the 3 area meeting in Dec. 5 through 6, 2009 at Hikone city in Shiga prefecture. Participants were, as shown in the photo below, JH3HGI, JR3KQJ, JR3SIJ, JR3XEX, JE3PED, JG3MJS, JG3SVP, and JI3DST.

We planned a special event, "Portable operation around the northern part of Biwa lake with presents to those who worked many of us". Thanks to KCJ members who called us.



Portable operations in Shikoku Island by JA4OEY

Nov. 20, 2009

Yesterday afternoon I started at my home town, Yasuura city in Chiba pref. I arrived at Toyokawa city in Aichi pref. and stayed there yesterday night. I got up early in the morning and went over to Awaji island. Newly opened Second Meishin road was very nice since it provided shorter way by 50km from Toyokawa to this island compared with old one. Seeing a down town of Kobe city from Awaji reminded me of the ham in three

area whose signals I had not heard since that big tremor. I got to Takamatsu city of Kagawa pref. in Shikoku Island through Tokushima pref. and ate Sanuki noodle. Taste of Jyakoten, topping of the noodle, was really good everywhere in Shikoku Island. I bought Soy sauce brewed in Shodojima where I had operated a portable station in my junior high school age with my friend. During passing through Miki interchange, I looked for antennas because I knew Aki/JA5CUX is living around here. I couldn't find his antenna. I found a big tower just after passing Takamatsu city in Kagawa pref. I wondered whose tower it was. I recalled a few JA5 call signs. Today I will stay Matsuyama city in Ehime pref. After having a hot spring I drunk good local brewed sake, disregarding ham radio.

Nov. 21

Breakfast was very delicious so I enjoyed it leisurely and didn't access to VO-52 satellite. I went to Seiyo city in Ehime pref. and waited next satellite at a parking lot of the museum on the hill. The parking space was large and most cars parked there seemed to belong to the museum staffs. I was worry about its business situation. This, however, was none of my business. After 12 QSOs via satellite including KCJ members, there



remained no time for HF operation. I got to Uwajima city in Ehime pref. Objective of this travel was to attend a wedding ceremony of my niece who would marry the vice priest of the old temple in this city. The ceremony was very gorgeous, having the mayor and representatives as gusests. Even in this situation I was thinking someone held microphone badly. I was crazy about radio.

Nov. 22

In the morning I drove down to Ainan town in Ehime pref. and found a good place for operation. After a few QSOs via satellite, I operated on 40mtrs. My CQ yielded a small pile-up and I enjoyed for one hour. On the way to the boundary of Ehime and Kochi pref., I found a museum for Shidenkai, a Japanese fighter in WW II. Viewing took long time beyond expectation. I came across the rail road station of Sukumo city in Kochi pref. There was a hint of melancholy in the atmosphere of the terminal station.

I arrived at Shimanto city in Kochi pref. next to Sukumo city. I had lived Shimanto city for two years in my elementary school age. A parking fee was free because the town's festival was being held today. I was lucky. Looking at the school, I parked my car

there and fired up CQ on 7 MHz. This city is not active but pastoral and good place. Maybe, I would build a big antenna if I had lived here. I stayed at this city. Had grilled fish and sake of local brew in dinner. Happy!

Nov. 23

Fine WX all day long. I gave up going to the cape Ashizuri yesterday, so I would go there today. I had visited there several times. On the way to the cape Ashizuri, I got to Tosashimizu city and I tried to access the satellite VO-52, but there was trouble in my rig. I regretted not having spare rigs. I operated on 7MHz. I got to the cape Ashizuri. Remembering the experience in my childhood, I asked myself “Does the cape Ashizuri located this far?” Unconsciously I looked at an Inv. L antenna though there was a beautiful light house at the cape.

I had to come back home at a dash today. On the way home, I came across the parking area of Kuroshio town and ate half raw-half grilled bonito. I operated last run on 7MHz from here. During this operation, batteries have discharged and I had to QRT even though pile-up grew heavily.

I got home at 6 AM in Nov. 24. A run of 2200 km. 228 QSOs. Leisurely enjoyed easygoing radio and driving. OK, let's go to work!

Reminiscence of Akihabara

NHK-TV has been broadcasting the program “PuraTamori”, where TV personality Tamori was wandering towns of Tokyo. One day in the program, he visited Akihabara (abbreviate Akiba below, as almost of all Japanese people say.). Watching the program reminded some of our members about their experience related to Akiba and contributed to The Key. Below are their articles.

JR3KQJ

Watched NHK TV program “PuraTamori” with much interest. This time he roamed Akiba.

He dropped in a coffee shop called “maid café”, small shops in the Radio

department store, street stalls selling electronic parts, vacuum tube shops. A vacuum tube 807 reminded him about his ham radio age, his old good days. In addition, he put vacuum tube radio together and listened to Portugal program transmitted by NHK.



「お帰りなさいませご主人様・お嬢様♪」

(Photo: In a maid café, waitress wears the outfit of maid and serves you as if you are her master.)

My first visit to Akiba was around

1985 in the business trip, wandering there in the spare time of work. Last year I went there again on the way to the general meeting of KCJ, and found many maid café.

JR3XEX

When I for the first time went to Akiba, it was my primary school age.

Later when I was active in business, I often went there because I was in charge of Tokyo in business and my work place was near Akiba. When I got the station license and started ham radio, I carried a small tower for antenna by Shinkansen.

Just before the primary school graduation of my son, I took him to Akiba and he was pleased to learn software for games were not expensive. He is now working in Tokyo so I often go to Tokyo (of course, to Akiba) under the reason I take care of my grandchild.

JH3EZV

In my case, I am more familiar with Nipponbashi in Osaka than Akiba. People in Tokyo call that town Nihonbashi not Nipponbashi.

In old days, when I went to Nipponbashi from my home town located in the countryside of Wakayama pref. to get electronic parts, I watched many shops on the town. These shops, maybe, developed from those in the black market after World War II.

I have been believing that Akihabara is Akibahara after the name of mount Akiba in Wakayama pref. I for the first

time went Akiba by a sleeping car with a small bottle of whisky in my pocket. I impressed the difference of culture of Tokyo from that of our place, west Japan, but there was no difference between Akiba and Nipponbashi.

Later I moved to Tokyo and lived near Akiba but didn't visit there often. It is presumably because I was busy at work or I lost eagerness to visit there since I can easily go there whenever I want. The other possible reason was that I was not so-called "Otaku". I now have opportunities to go there because the council of JARL is held near Akiba.

JO7EGJ

I also watched "PuraTamori" with a lot of attention. I am younger than Tamori, so I didn't know 807 but because I loved tubes, I was able to understand the emotion of Tamori and enjoyed the program.



(photo: example of part shop in Akiba)

When I went to Tokyo on the school excursion in 1977, I visited Akiba for

the first time. It was scheduled that we went to Nara and Kyoto from Hokkaido, and stayed at Tokyo on the way back home. We had free time to roam Tokyo, so I went to Akiba. Akiba had already changed to the town of electric appliances from that of electronic parts. Nevertheless there were so many part and junk shops that I couldn't check all of them out. There also were a lot of ham shops, where I bought expensive parts such as a vernier dial and a siemens key.

Recently I can go there by walk from my work place but there is few shop which would remind me of old good days. Even now I fitfully bought a equipment for testing rigs. When I took it home, my wife used to complain about my behavior.

JA1COP

My first visit to Akiba was in Apr. 1976 when I went to Tokyo to study at a university. I was impressed to see there were many high class rigs and a lot of parts. I had lived Okayama pref. It had taken almost one month to get small parts such as registers and capacitors by a postal mail. Thus, I could not believe that we were able to buy them on the spot.

Now I buy parts via internet. Visiting Akiba is for drinking.

Akiba grew unique culture like maid café against the background of the character that Akiba has been particular about pursuing special hobbies. I am happy to watch the

change of Akiba from the vacuum tube era to the internet culture age.

JA0GZ

I accidentally watched this program after the scene that checking out 807, Tamori reminded himself of his old days.

In a long time ago, I wanted 807 but it needed a transformer yielding 500V and 250mA. The transformer was too expensive for a student riding on his parent's coattail. I put up with 5 watts output power for first home brewed rig.

Akiba grew up from street stalls after the World War II. I had opportunities to go near Akiba, so I used to stroll every day at that time. I regret that Akiba doesn't keep its air of good old days.

JI6TJL/1

I again want to build radios made in my childhood such as 0-V-2, a 4 tube regenerative receiver, and so on.

Following are recent my shopping at Akiba. One Saturday I bought a coil for a 4 tube receiver, vacuum tubes 6BA6, 6C4, 6AQ5, an out put transformer at Uchida radio in the radio department store. I found a beautiful 9R59 here and was fascinated for a while.

In the same radio department store, I bought a steatite variable condenser (VC), a vernier dial, couplings for extending shafts of VC, other various parts at various shops. At the vacuum tube shop, bought MT and GT sockets and ate lunch at the restaurant across

the street from here.

In front of Akiba rail road station, young gals, staff of maid cafes, were handing out leaflets to pedestrians.

JH3HGI

In the high school age, in order to buy electronic parts I went to Kobe city by bus from my home town. When I lived in Kanagawa pref. to study at a university, I for the first time visited Akiba in 1965. I saw breathtaking scene in Akiba. At both sides of very narrow footways, too narrow for two persons walking in parallel, there were many small shops and each shop sold only one kind of parts. I remember that I bought vacuum tube 2E26 and power transformer in that day. Later I made 50 MHz transmitter using these parts and fired up at my place. Old man next door got angry with saying "what do you do now". TVI!

In my university age, I visited Akiba every two or three months. I have not visited there last 20 years.

JA1FCY: Unfortunately I didn't know the program "PuraTamori". When I come back home by Sohbu line, I always get off and drop in electric part shops. If only PC or cellar phones are sold there, Akiba is rather boring town, so maid-cafe are feast for the eyes, no matter how old you are.

By the way, my electronic history started at the old barrack five stories department store in Nihonbasi. Does anyone know that, just about 60 years

ago, there were several part shops on an alley at the side of the department store. I would be excited if someone in our members were wandering when I was there, even if we didn't know each other at that time.

An old man, an owner of a part shop, told me that thin wires were for B+ power or thick ones for filament power. The other day, I asked why electric current flowed through a tube with three legs and he told me about tubes for rectifying. Anyway, many mentors were there.

KCJ donates to ALL JA Contest



KCJ is a donor to the category "Single Operator All Band Medium Power" in ALL JA contest. Winner, JM1LRQ

expressed his acknowledgment to KCJ.

VOICE OF MEMBERS

Short Break (2010-Jan.)

JH3HGI: China launched a satellite first time. The name of the satellite is "XW-1" call sign of which is BJ1SA.

Tried to hear the beacon at Dec. 21 and could listen to it clearly. It was so clear that I thought it didn't seem to be signals from the satellite at 1200 km height with 200 mW. I recorded it and you can hear it at

<http://www.jh3hgi.net/temp/xw-1-091221.mp3>

I expect nice QSO through this because of unsteady functioning of FO-12. XW-1's height is higher than VO-52, so the window to the wide region of DX will open.

JA8AJE: Bought a telescoping rod for antenna support, built a 13m vertical ANT and operated in WW CW contest. Comparing with the signal strength with that of an inv-L ANT with an 8m vertical part and a 5m horizontal one, I could not say the 13m vertical ANT is better than inv-L ANT. Want to build 18m vertical ANT for low frequency band but the part of support is only one meter so it would not sustain against strong wind.

JA8PON: I was not able to hear signals on high bands because of poor condition and it was a hassle to extend fishing rod for antenna because of snow on the veranda. I check out QSL cards from JARL. I am afraid to be ordered to transfer this year.

Short Break (2010-Feb.)

JA1TCF: Need only two more cities for WACA (CW) by satellite, but had several unconfirmed cities.

JA2MYA: Sorry for miscounting of WAZ score in member's activities.

JE3PED: Time for facing to rig was gradually reduced. Operation in Dec. was just at the end of the year.

JH3HGI: My activity of RTTY has recently been increasing. It is not because I lost interest in CW but because I want to try various things. Chinese satellite HO-68 launched last year produced downlink no less stronger than that of VO-52. Thus, activities of satellite QSO, which I thought reduced recently, have again become high.

JA7TJ: Thinking that I have to report my activity to KCJ every month have been encouraged me to get on the air.

JA8AJE: Tried the electronic application of the station license. In order to get qualification for using this system, I sent my personal information to Japanese FCC and waited for a few days. It sent me an ID and a password. Thus, I could apply and get the extension of the expiration term of my station license. Fast and inexpensive.

Short Break (2010-Mar.)

JA2MYA: DXing was not good but received QSL card of 4U1UN. My DXCC score is 326 entities now.

JH3HGI: In day-off, I didn't get on the air much but often watched TV. This is because it is cold in my shack. I found this year is 40th birthday of my station.

JE6QFP: Built a full size dipole antenna for 80mtrs and 160 with self-brewed loading coils. It worked well. My worry is that its one leg trespassed on the garden next door. Thus, this must be named as "one night special" dipole antenna.

JA8AJE: Who said this winter season

would be warm! It has been so cold that I couldn't messed around with trying to improve my antenna on a veranda.

KCJ AWARD

JA1CC : KCJA350 #082 Dec. 24, 2009

JA0CJK: KCJA350 #083 Dec. 24, 2009

JA1FCY: KCJA475 #020 Dec. 25, 2009

JA5CUX: KCJA500 #024 Dec. 26, 2009

JF0FOH: KCJA425 #026 Jan. 11, 2010

JR3KQJ: KCJA640 #002 Jan. 11, 2010

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