

The 25th birthday of KCJ

We KCJ celebrated the 25th birthday on Nov. , 2001. The president of KCJ, JA6BJV, announced the ambition based on new structure reformation of KCJ.

The VHF & UP CONTEST results,

The results of the 7th KCJ VHF & UP CONTEST held in the last July, was announced by the Contest Committee. The KCJ member, JJ1KXB was the winner of this contest. JJ1KXB run a portable station at the half-point in the climb of Mt. Fuji to get a geographical advantage.

There were 82 participants, and even JJ1KXB couldn't get many QSOs. It was only 65. The records were poorest so far since the CONDX was not good. Ordinarily, this contest is advantageous to Hokkaido area (8 area), the northern edge of Japan, but no participant was there. No station in 8 area was found in logs of the participants.

KCJ Common design QSL card, now requesting to order

The KCJ Committee is now accepting orders for the KCJ common design QSL cards. The minimum quantity for order is 2000 and a multiple of 1000 above 2000. A KCJ member can also use the KCJ common design for printing own card individually.

Start of KCJA-me

The KCJ Award Committee was announced that KCJA is changed to KCJA-me and it will be issued under the new rules. According to the announcement, submitting the QSL cards for checking is no longer necessary and applicants should send a KCJ-me award application form with his/her vows.

Alternation of the JLRS president.

The president of the JLRS (Japan Ladies Radio Society), affiliation with KCJ, took over from JA8AQY Ms. Masako Izumi to JE7KCH, Ms. Teruko Saito.

New city was born

The new city named Ritto was born in Shiga-pref. on Oct. 1st, 2001. According to this, the county named Kurita disappeared.

On the Occasion of The 25th Anniversary of KCJ

president JA6BJV

I joined KCJ in 1981, five years after the foundation of KCJ. I have been active in radio with aiming high in spite of the change of my surrounding due to the transfer of work place or taking up a post alone. Why have I been able to be active more than 20 years? It's because, I think, I have been proud of being member of KCJ.

Getting to know the development of digitization last 20 years, I have been studying it intensely. It was very tough since textbooks are just for specialists and I got aged over 40's. However, it was so glamorous that I got over difficulties one by one.

When I read the article from the committee in The Key, I thought the brains of KCJ had not been reformed and unchanged as they had been. This was a feeling I had when I attended the general meeting in Yokohama. I met and talked with members in the committee meeting and in a social night before the general meeting. I learned, contrary to my expectations, a lot of members wanted KCJ to be changed and didn't consider that the way with which KCJ had been run was good. Hence, being recommended me to be the president by Masa JA1AYC, I accepted it because of no reason to deny it. Since then, it has already been one year. Time does fly!

I will run KCJ in the way that I will preserve good things which my predecessors and members constructed and will accept the reformation which is needed according to the development of the society. This is the fundamental way to run KCJ. However, there must be members who are OK with the old way. There also exist members who insist to follow the change of the society. I think balancing both each other is important.

1. KCJ-me

Gradual reduction in applications. Introduced an endorsement system in order to give an incentive to apply KCJA. This is not making KCJA easy but making application easy. Hope you quit hibernation.

2. KCJ-Web Site

It is useful to let everybody know about KCJ contest, KCJA and etc. For example, our web site was accessed by hundreds of peoples at the release of the contest results. Its English version is getting enriched. I expect a lot of access from DX. Exclusive section for members was set for their privilege.

3. KCJ-ML

The 65% members have ID for e-mail and its rate intends to increase. Set a reflector for communication among members. Subjects are not confined to radio. Various things appear showing a large stock of players.

4. Problem in future.

I infer the average age of members is about 60. When I participated a contest where a number for exchange was age. I found many young hams whom KCJ hopes to be members. What should we do to have them join KCJ?

Think about this together.

< The results of a questionnaire >
= How do you send your QSL cards? =

Editor of The Key

Editor thanks for the 76 answers to the questionnaire that attached to The Key #289.

[In the case of the first QSO/QSL]

They have no objection to send a QSL card for the first-ever QSO. And there are some comments on the QSLing for the contest.

5 members have objections.

Even if it is the first-ever QSO, they don't send their QSL cards for the contest QSOs. But, they are sure to reply when they received the QSL card.

Editor asks an elfish question to them, " Even if you can make contact with a rare station, don't you request his QSL card, do you? "

The answers are;

Four of them send their QSL cards and request to exchange them each other. Editor thinks that it is an innate behavior of ham. But one of them does not do this for the contest QSOs. We pay honor to his consistency.

[Over 2nd. QSO]

The next item is how we send QSL card on and after the second QSO. All of 76 respondents send their QSL card if it is the first-ever on band or mode. They send QSL cards for a band new or a mode new QSO.

However, there are 6 answers that they don't send their cards on and after the second QSO in a contest, even if it is a band new or a mode new one. But, they reply to the request.

Editor asks the same elfish question to them as before. Four of them request to the rare station. The others did not answer.

Conclusion 1. All respondents are sure to send their card for the first-ever QSO. Some members don't send their cards for a contest QSO, but they reply to the request. So we can say that the QSL card is sent perfectly. It confirms the belief of KCJ members.

[By the way, it can happen to contact the station that you have exchanged the cards each other for band new and mode new QSOs. Do you send your cards for all QSOs, though it is not the first-ever for the band and the mode ?]

Don't send it definitely: 2.

Send them for all QSOs: 31.

Even if it is in a contest, they send their cards for every contact. Then the station that contacts with them is to receive their cards. (2 respondents make a comment that they do it with the exception of the no QSLers.)

Do on a case-by-case basis: 43.

He or I operate at the new QTH: 35.

It is LTNS (Long Time No See): 17.

It is during the special events. (in commemoration of XX): 6,

I have made new design cards: 7,

It is fancy: 2,

I reply it when I received his card: 21,

Others

"I reply to 'PSE QSL' on the card"

"I send my card if his card is available for the date restricted award such as JCA."

<Question: How do you count the mobile stations? >

For example, you had a contact with JA1DCL/1 in Yokohama-city. Then you had a contact with JA1DCL/1 in Saitama-city. Are they different stations?

66 answered;

Yes: 56,

It's not necessarily: 10 *1.

Editor asks the 56 respondents, "Do you apply your policy to the mobile stations?"

Yes: 10,

That depends on the case: 2 *2.

If they had the contacts with JA1DCL/2, JA1DCL/5, and JA1DCL/6, they regard them as another station. Then they send their cards for band new and mode new.

(Remarks)

*1 JA1DD: If his call is with / X and his QTH is same as his home's, I don't regard him as a mobile station. I think that Japanese station is in heavy usage of /X under the direction of the Bureau of Telecommunications or JARL. The reason might be that the points of call sign with /X is counted double in the JARL field day contest. Even in the case of parking a car in front of his home, he uses his call sign with /X. But, it is unmanageable that the call sign such as W2xx operates in California, U.S.A.

*2 JH3JYS: I don't send my card in the case of the same QTH, band, and mode each other.

Conclusion 2. Hereby, the members of KCJ are keen on sending their cards. And there are cases that they don't send cards owing to the circumstance. If someone at the other end of the line has a policy to request the cards for all QSOs, it may cause friction.

Editor forecasts this result a few and gets satisfaction from the proof of 100 % QSL sending rate. But unfounded rumors say that the sending rate of KCJ members is 80%. Editor thinks that no QSL rate of 20 % is a bit much for BURO troubles.

The respondents' profile

The interest level for the awards and the frequency of joining in on the contest are as follows.

Interest level of award	Frequency of joining in on the contest			
	No	Few	Usual	Often
None	1	0	0	0
Few	0	11	1	8
Usual	0	5	22	12
Much	0	2	1	11

The QSL delivery service of JARL

We have a coincidence in opinion for sending QSL cards. But, there are many comments about the QSL transfer service of JARL.

< How is your cards sent? >

Standard-size mail: 27

Non standard-size mail: 8

Either: 1 Total 36 respondents (Group *A)

Parcel post package: 2

Parcel delivery service 30

Either: 2 Total 34 respondents (Group *B)

No answer: 1

Multiple answer: 5 Total 6 respondents(Group *C)

The 6 answers (*C) are not counted for both group (*A) and (*B). But, all answers are counted for next questions.

< **Do you want to transfer your cards every month? >**

	Group *A	Group *B	Group *C
Yes (monthly)	17	26	2
Current bimonthly	19	8	2
No answer	0	0	2
Total	36	34	6

The respondents (Group *B) who receive or send many cards want monthly transfer services more strongly than others.

<What is your idea in order to improve JARL through breakthrough? >

	Group *A	Group *B	Group *C
Current condition or feeling constrained	12	6	3
Monthly services even though they raise fees.	1	5	0
Monthly services, but the fees are same as current.	3	3	1
Benefit assessment	15	13	1
Etc.	4	5	1
No answers	1	2	0
Total	36	34	6

One third of the respondents who receive a small amount of cards (the Group *A) affirm the current condition. But, the most of the respondents who receive a big amount of cards (Group *B) want the monthly services by some means. Members who absolutely want the monthly services are minor, because it is something like KCJ that they think the current situation of JARL.

The comments of the respondents who want the monthly services

+JA7GAX: The QSL transfer service is authorized to JARL as an organization per country. So I think that the transfer service should be the top priority and other activities should be managed in the reserve capacity.

+JA1PHE: I think that the drastic review of the budget, simplification of JARL News, budget cut of ARDF and the review of life member system should be done.

+JH1NXU: How about packing and sending to the registered club?

+JR3KQJ: Unfortunately, the life member system has failed. I think that a substantial change of this system should be made and then, JARL can make money for the transfer fee. However, I am a life member of JARL.

+JH4RGH: I think that the annual membership fee should be reduced to ¥4,800 as before in order to increase members

<<The way of benefit assessment>>

	Group *A	Group *B	Group *C
Stick the stickers	8	4	0
Pay the additional amount if the number of cards is more than the regulation.	3	7	1
Cash on delivery	3	2	0
Etc.	1	0	0
Total	15	13	1

According to the opinions sent, let's make a discussion

JQ1NTJ: I think we have no choice to accept the raising of membership fees because JARL is an association. I do not necessarily hope the monthly QSL delivery .

JQ1NGT: Unfortunately JARL cannot provide such services that we used to receive in the past. Economic condition in Japan is getting worse, it is not easy for companies to survive. JARL is not an exception. It needs to throw away needless tasks. The raising of membership fees is necessary, and the benefit principle to the QSL delivery service, too.

Ed: You are a little news-caster like ... hi hi. By the way what do you think about the sticker system ?

JH4PCD: It is good to make use of the sticker system. It makes us feel fair. Now, JARL deals QSLs of each member under the same membership fees. So it makes us feel unfair.

Ed: It can solve the unfair feelings between heavy QSLing members and light ones.

JA4OEY: So, it can also reduce the fee, can't it ?

JA8BOL: 5000 yen a year, the sticker system. And I want JARL to deliver QSLs to non-member, too.

JR5DMS: No raising of fees, and the sticker system. For example, 10 yen per a domestic QSL and 20 yen DX.

JA7MF: 5 yen for a domestic, for example. It is 45 yen less than post card (50 yen). If JARL dealt three million cards, it could draw fifteen million income !

Ed: Wait ! Do you imagine how hard it is to put a sticker on each card ? And even if it costs 10 yen per card, 1000 QSLs comes ...

JF2VUF: I don't agree the sticker. It takes time. I think it necessary to commission some delivery companies and to cause a price competition.

JA8TMJ: It is possible to make 50 QSLs sticker or 100 QSLs sticker to reduce the labor.

JH1HTK: It is also possible to put one sticker on the package of the QSLs.

JA1IVL: If it costs 1 yen per card, I have to pay 2000 - 3000 yen ... It may make myself a no-QSLer ...hi. I prefer to raise the membership fees to maintain the present QSL service.

Ed: Small amount QSLers don't seem to be worried about the sticker but big amount ones do. It is not easy to accept the charge for the stickers and spend much time to put the stickers on cards...

Next, I'll ask about "the extra charge system".

JA8XIC: No extra charge within a basic amount. You have to pay the extra charge only when the cards exceed the basic amount.

Ed: How do you pay it ?

JE8RKV: For example you pay ¥500 for the cards from 200g to 1kg. You can send a money order with the cards. Or you can pay some money beforehand, and get it adjusted at the year end.

JH6KEE: I agree.

JA4AVO: You pay ¥10000 a year and it covers your membership fee and the cost of QSL. It is possible with a computer.

JA4BRW: How about the idea to pay yearly the balance between the basic postage and the additional one ?

JK1EBA: It is needful to lay down a new price for each 100 QSL cards.

JE6QFP: How about sending a money order sheet to those who sends more cards than a certain quantity ?

Ed: You mean, no pay makes no cards ?...hi hi Half of the big amount QSLers agree to the additional fee system. We need to discuss the details further, but I'm sure this idea must be a considerable opinion to JARL.

Next, how about the C.O.D (cash on delivery) system ?

JR2ASL: How about using COD when it comes over the standard-size mail ?

Ed: You can send only 15 cards by standard-size mail... I wonder how many stations receive QSLs by standard-size mail.

JH3JYS: It is tough to count the cards, so COD is better than the additional fee system.

JG1BAH: Can COD stop the raising of membership fees ? The raising causes a decrease of members.

JA1THL: Those who use the bureau should pay for the QSL service. It makes the basic membership fees down.

JH1XSB: Both QSL service and JARL News must be mailed monthly... A lowering of service makes a lowering of members.

Ed: I think it the best idea to adopt the COD system. It would be possible to lower the membership fees.

JA6BJV: Electric QSL (e-QSL) can solve the problem...

Ed: Thank you very much for your opinions. We'll tell JARL the result of this discussion.

Letter from VK

VK4CXQ: Summer is coming down here to the southern hemisphere and with it the hope of some good activity on 6 mtrs. Already signals are being heard from the northern hemisphere but as yet no European or American QSOs. According to the log book this should start about 1st Oct. I hope my new 9 el Yagi is in good form and my ICOM is also in good condition. with my FT920 connected to my old Y 7 and with my tow stations at the same time. Hi Here in Townsville it's been very dry even though we are on the coast and we have had bush fires in the area. Perhaps November will bring some rain. Good wishes to KCJ from Australia for its first 25 years. Hope I'm operating in 25 years time also. 73.

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