



KCJ NEWSLETTER

The Bulletin of Keymen's Club of Japan

Executive Summary – December Issue

This issue features several important updates from KCJ.

This issue also celebrates DF7TV Tom's achievement of the KCJA 200 Award. And our Morse-code Tenugui was showcased at the National Deafblind Conference, demonstrating the cultural significance of CW beyond amateur radio. KCJ also welcomed 21 new members this year, reflecting steady growth and increased interest in Morse operation. We highlight selected a self-introduction from "THE KEY" journal to strengthen connections among members worldwide. Finally, we provide an overview of the 2026 KCJ Top Band Contest rules and encourage everyone to join us on 1.8 MHz.

Table of Contents

1. KCJA 200 Award Achieved by DF7TV Tom
2. Morse-code Tenugui at the National Deafblind Conference
3. Preview of 2026 – Looking Ahead with KCJ
4. Highlight from "THE KEY"
5. KCJ Top Band Contest 2026 Rules Overview

1. KCJA 200 Award Achieved by DF7TV Tom

Makoto Nakamura, JH1ASG
President, Keymen's Club of Japan

We are pleased to announce that **Tom (DF7TV)**, one of KCJ's international associate members, has successfully achieved the **KCJA 200 Award**.

The **KCJA (Keymen's Club of Japan Award)** is presented to stations that have confirmed CW communications **with 100 or more Japanese prefectures**. Tom's achievement of the **KCJA 200** level represents an outstanding accomplishment in long-term CW operation and dedication to Japanese stations.

Detailed rules and information for the KCJA program are available via the **KCJ website**, accessible from the top page.

KCJ warmly congratulates Tom on this remarkable achievement and sincerely thanks him for his continued friendship and CW activity with stations in Japan.



<https://www.qsl.net/df7tv/>

2. Morse-code Tenugui at the National Deafblind Conference

by JK1FNN – Hiroaki Yamasaki (HITCH)

At the recent Ham Fair in Tokyo, I had the opportunity to conduct a small “face-to-face crowdfunding” experiment using the *Morse-Code Tenugui* (traditional Japanese hand towel). Thanks to KCJ for kindly allowing me to share their booth space, and to all members for their warm cooperation.

(For details, please refer to the KCJ President JH1ASG’s article in the September 2025 issue.)

This report summarizes what happened afterward—how your support was used, and what results we achieved.



Starter Kits



With the above funding, we were able to prepare **20 “starter kits”** consisting of:

- the *Morse Vibration Adapter* (Left & Above),
- a simple Morse phrase booklet (Left & Below), and
- a Braille Morse Code chart (Right).

These kits were intended for distribution to deafblind participants as communication-support tools.

Exhibition at the National Deafblind Conference

We exhibited these items at the **National Deafblind Conference**, held in Tochigi Prefecture (KCJ Code: TG) on October 25–26 at the Light Cube Utsunomiya convention center.

The venue hosted symposia and exhibitions across its entire space.

Most exhibitors aside from deafblind-related organizations were welfare-equipment companies.

As a two-person amateur-radio project team, we initially felt quite “out of place,” but we were warmly received.

Challenges of Participation for Deafblind Individuals

Although the media reported that “deafblind people gathered from all over Japan for the first time in six years,” the reality is far more complex.

For deafblind individuals to participate in such events, many conditions must be met:

- the presence of support persons or communication partners,
- the ability to communicate through tactile sign language or finger Braille,
- accompaniment for long-distance travel, and
- personal motivation to join new communication-oriented gatherings.

Many people live in near-social isolation, and for them, attending such a conference is far from a casual decision. This is a critical reality we should keep in mind.

Communication at the Booth

We prepared materials with Braille annotations, and I practiced some basic sign language beforehand.

Fortunately, many visitors were accompanied by interpreters, and some could communicate using hearing aids, so we managed to interact with all visitors without difficulty.

We received valuable feedback through hands-on demonstrations of the vibration adapter.

When we offered the starter kits for free to those interested, most reacted with surprise:

“Really? I can have this for free?”

Once they learned that the initiative was supported by amateur radio

operators using Morse code, many appeared puzzled—perhaps wondering how such a niche method of communication could attract so much support.

Media Coverage

One participant—the very first user of the Morse Vibration Adapter—was interviewed by **Hokkaido Television (HTB)**, and we were filmed together.

(Other photos cannot be shown here due to permission issues.)



Outcomes of the Two-Day Exhibition

Over the two days:

- **About 40 visitors** listened to our explanation.
- **10 individuals** showed strong interest and received full starter kits.

Remaining kits will be distributed at future deafblind gatherings.

The objective of this exhibition was to demonstrate that **Morse code is a universal communication method**, and that by converting Morse into vibrations, **deafblind individuals can achieve completely barrier-free communication**.

We believe this goal was fully achieved.

We sincerely thank everyone who supported this effort.

Looking Ahead

Next year's National Deafblind Conference will be held in Tottori Prefecture (KCJ Code: TT).

We also exchanged opinions with researchers and engineers from universities and companies, which will help shape future refinements of the project.

However, one major challenge remains: bringing deafblind individuals into the amateur-radio world is still hindered by the **“licensing barrier.”**

Several years ago, we explained the potential of tactile Morse communication to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

While they understood the concept, they stated that “CW operation is a specialized skill” and that *hands-on operation* could not be granted special exceptions for deafblind users.

Although this conclusion was not entirely satisfactory, our project has chosen not to fight this barrier directly.

Instead, we are shifting our focus toward **online telegraphy communities**, such as “Dit-Dah-Chat,” where licensing does not obstruct participation.

That said, I still have a personal desire to invite deafblind individuals into amateur radio someday.

One idea for next year is to build a simple **7-MHz CW listening-only vibration receiver** and encourage deafblind users to try **SWL (Short-Wave Listening)**.

If such a listener later sent me an SWL card—well... what should I write back on my QSL?

“Confirming your heard report?”

That would be an interesting question in itself!

Conclusion

Thank you again for your generous support.

I hope this report conveys how meaningful your contributions have been, and how much potential there is for future collaboration between the amateur-radio community and deafblind individuals.

(End)

Translation by JH1ASG Makoto Nakamura (NAKA)

3. Preview of 2026 – Looking Ahead with KCJ

Makoto Nakamura, JH1ASG

President, Keymen's Club of Japan

Dear KCJ Members and Friends,

I would like to extend my warmest New Year greetings to all of you, and wish you a very happy and successful 2026.

In 2025, KCJ had the pleasure of welcoming 21 new members over the course of the year. This was a truly encouraging development, bringing fresh energy and new perspectives to our club. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all new members for joining KCJ, and to extend my heartfelt thanks to our officers and volunteers who continuously support the club's operations and activities. Thanks to your dedication, KCJ has been able to move forward steadily while cherishing the beauty and tradition of Morse code.

Looking ahead to 2026, our major events are already on the calendar. The KCJ Top Band Contest will take place in February, followed by the KCJ Contest in August. These events have consistently attracted many participants, and we hope that next year will again offer opportunities to enjoy lively bands and the true pleasure of CW operation together. In recent years, KCJ members have also achieved excellent results in contests organized by JARL Headquarters and regional branches, making club competition results increasingly

enjoyable to follow. Please feel free to participate in your own style and at your own pace.

The year 2026 will also be a milestone year for KCJ, as it will include our General Meeting in Japan. We are planning to make the event bright and enjoyable, starting with a festive gathering on the evening before, and to provide a valuable opportunity for in-person meetings among members. We sincerely hope that many of you will be able to join us on site, and we look forward to discussing the future of KCJ together.

In closing, I wish all members a healthy and fulfilling year ahead, filled with rewarding QSOs and new encounters. Thank you very much for your continued support of KCJ in 2026.



4. Highlight from “THE KEY”

Editor's Note:

The following profile introduces JE0ERZ Takashi Sakata (SAKA), a KCJ member whose journey in amateur radio and lifelong passion for football offer a vivid example of the diverse backgrounds that enrich our CW community.

The following article is an English translation of a member profile originally published in THE KEY, KCJ's monthly Japanese-language journal. To enhance readability for our international members, some local place names have been generalized.

Member Profile – JE0ERZ Takashi Sakata (KCJ #645)

Hello to all KCJ members.

My name is Takashi Sakata (JE0ERZ), and I live in Nagano Prefecture. (KCJ Code: NN). I was born in 1962 and am currently 63 years old. I joined KCJ because I wanted to increase the number of CW friends, and I am honored to introduce myself in the “Member Profile” corner of THE KEY.



My Antennas and my shack with my cat

My Amateur Radio Journey

I obtained my first amateur radio license in May 1987 and went on the air in July of the same year. At that time, amateur radio was very popular at my workplace, and several of us obtained licenses together. I started with a handheld transceiver, the IC-03N, and enjoyed operating FM, especially during my commute.

After building my house, I became interested in HF operation. Between 1995 and 1996, I upgraded my license step by step and eventually obtained a First-Class Amateur Radio Operator license. This was during the period when the Japanese Morse reception test was abolished, leaving only English Morse reception, which made it possible for me to pass. I purchased a TV-416J antenna and an IC-706 transceiver and began operating mainly on 7 MHz, later expanding to 14, 21, and 28 MHz. Although my antenna height was only about six meters, I enjoyed HF operation very much.

Discovering FT8 and CW

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself with more free time and became interested in FT8. In June 2020, I purchased an FT-991A transceiver and an HFV5 V-dipole antenna. After installing WSJT-X and connecting the radio to my PC via USB, I was soon enjoying FT8 QSOs, including contacts with many overseas stations. As my list of new contacts gradually decreased, I began looking for a new challenge.

Since I already held the license, I decided to try CW. Having almost forgotten Morse code, I started practicing reception with a Pico Morse trainer. I mainly use a paddle key, although I also have a straight key, which I still find difficult to master. I made my CW debut in March 2021 and was extremely nervous—after each QSO, I was soaked in sweat! Even now, CW contacts still make me nervous, and I continue to study every day. I later installed a CHA-250BX antenna, allowing me to operate from 1.9 to 50 MHz, and I try to participate in contests

whenever possible. My CW may still be clumsy, but I sincerely appreciate the patience of my contacts.

My Passion Outside Radio: Football (Soccer)



As a football referee and at Alwin Stadium

On weekends, I devote much of my time to football (soccer). I am involved as a player, referee, and supporter.

As a player, I participate in an Over-60 league with six teams in Nagano Prefecture, playing ten matches per year in a round-robin format. Matches are played in two 20-minute halves with unlimited substitutions. As long as my body allows, I hope to continue playing football. My team often battles near the bottom of the standings, but that actually makes it more fun—we can enjoy the game even if we are not very skilled. A couple of years ago, I had the chance to play at Alwin Stadium, a sacred place for football in Nagano, during the Around-Nagano Over-55 Cup. (It was a host-region entry, but that is a little secret.)

I have also played beach soccer at the beach court in Nagano. Playing barefoot on sand feels wonderful. I even competed in an Around-Nagano tournament, where I faced a Japanese national team player from Niigata (KCJ Code: NI) —needless to say, I was sent flying! That tournament, too, benefited from being hosted locally.

As a referee, I officiate football, futsal, beach soccer, and even electric wheelchair football. I also serve as a referee instructor, which takes

me all over Nagano Prefecture. Since the Laws of the Game are revised every year, constant study is essential.

As a supporter, I cheer for AC Nagano Parceiro, a J3 club, part of the Japan Professional Football League.. The team is currently fighting to avoid relegation, and I support them with all my strength. In short, my weekends are completely filled with football.

Because of this, I am sometimes unable to participate in OAM activities, which I regret a little. Nevertheless, I look forward to continuing my involvement with KCJ and hope to work together with you all for a long time to come.



**SAKA, left and MOREIRA Ozu, Right
(Japan National Team of Beach Soccer) played together**

Translation by JH1ASG Makoto Nakamura (NAKA)

5. KCJ Top Band Contest 2026 Rules Overview

The 42nd KCJ Top Band Contest Rules



Your Log Submission is Indispensable.

— without your log, your QSOs cannot be validated.

1. **Name of Contest:** The 42nd KCJ Top Band Contest.

2. **Period:** From 1200 UTC on February 14 to 1200 UTC on February 15, 2026

3. **Categories and codes:**

CP: Single Operator 5W or less

CL: Single Operator over 5W up to 50W

CM: Single Operator over 50W up to 100W

CH: Single Operator over 100W

CMM: Multi Operator

SWL: SWL

DX: Station overseas

EX: Check Log

Any kind of assistance for station operations for a category of Single Operator is prohibited. However, you may use "QSO finding assistance" such as, but not limited to, DX cluster, CW skimmer, Reverse Beacon Network and so on.

4. **Frequency: 160-Meter**

Please follow your band plan.

JA stations: 1801 -1820kHz

1820 -1825kHz: JA stations are able to respond running DX stations.

5. **Mode:** CW.

6. **Exchange:**

JA: RST plus Prefecture/district code (e.g., 599 TK)

DX: RST plus CQ Zone number (e.g., 599 03)

7. **Point:** All logs will be collated with each other and each complete contact counts points as follows.

For JA: one (1) point for a contact with JA, two (2) points with DX

For DX: two (2) points for a contact with JA, one (1) point with others.

When logs of other stations you contacted are not submitted, those contacts do not count points. Therefore, YOUR LOG SUBMISSION IS INDISPENSABLE.

— without your log, your QSOs cannot be validated.

8. **Multipliers** For JA: Each prefecture/district and CQ Zone worked

For DX: Each prefecture/district in JA worked

QSO data are cross-checked each other and coincidence QSO counts points.

9. **Scoring:** Multiplying total points by total multipliers

10. **Log instructions:**

Cabrillo file format or JARL file format are recommended.

For the N1MM+ users, please visit the following site.

https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/manual-supported/contests-setup/setup-udc-contests/#KCJ_DX

Both the KCJ Contest and KCJ Top Band Contest are supported.

- a. Each entry must be accompanied by summary sheet showing all scoring information, name and street-address of a participant.
- b. A QSO data should contain date, time, band, call sign and exchanges both sent and received.
- c. JA must log the time of QSO in JST and DX in UTC.
- d. Output power must be described in the log of category Single Operator.
- e. Names of all operators must be described in the log of the category Multi Operator.

11. **Log submission**

a. Web upload of logs is available at <https://www.kcj-cw.com/contest/?DX>

b. Logs in Cabrillo format may be submitted directly to the following e-mail address:
2026toptest(a)kcj-cw.com (a) must be replaced with @.

Be sure to put your call sign in the subject line of your e-mail.

c. Paper logs may be mailed to

Mr. Hitoshi Tanaka JH4RAL
4-31-13-513, Ohe, Ohtsu-City, Shiga, 520-2141 JAPAN

12. **Log Deadline:** 1500 UTC on March 2, 2026

13. Releasing Results:

Results will be emailed twice to stations that provide their email addresses and submit logs.

The First Email: The preliminary results will be sent in early March.

The Second Email: The official results will be sent at the middle of March. Simultaneously, we will announce the official results on the KCJ Website.

Please access the URL on the above second email for the official results, a certificate (winners only), a participation certificate and an award KCJCA.

If you do not receive the email by March 31, please contact us at the contact address below.

14. **Awards:** Certificates will be awarded to several high rank entrants and the top in each prefecture/district for JA and the top of each entity.

The number of the stations to be awarded depends on the number of participants.

Awards for SWL follow the same policy.

15. **The Certificate of Participation:** KCJ proves the participation of entrants in KCJ Contest with this certificate in which your call sign, name, score and rank appear.

16. **KCJCA:** KCJ issues the award KCJCA (Keymen's Club of Japan Contest Award) for the achievement of working many Japanese prefectures/districts.

17. Prohibition:

Two or more simultaneous signals for a single operator

Two or more operation positions for multi operator

Two or more signals on a band for multi operator

18. **Disqualification:** Participants are expected to follow laws of each country and the KCJ Contest rules. The KCJ contest committee makes the final decision.

19. **Appeal:** If you have any objections to the provisional rankings, please email us with your

concrete evidence to 42top-qstn(a)kcj-cw.com within 5 days of the release announcement.(replace (a) with @)

REFERENCE

Japanese Prefecture/District codes

1. Area 1 (for JA1 through JS1, 7J1 and 7K1-7N4)

CB: Chiba	GM: Gumma	IB: Ibaraki	KN: Kanagawa
MT: Minamitorishima	OG: Ogasawara	ST: Saitama	TG: Tochigi
TK: Tokyo	YN: Yamanashi		

2. Area 2 (for JA2 through JS2)

AC: Aichi	GF: Gifu	ME: Mie	SO: Shizuoka
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3. Area 3 (for JA3 through JS3)

HG: Hyogo	KT: Kyoto	NR: Nara	OS: Osaka
SI: Shiga	WK: Wakayama		

4. Area 4 (for JA4 through JS4)

HS: Hiroshima	OY: Okayama	SN: Shimane	TT: Tottori
YG: Yamaguchi			

5. Area 5 (for JA5 through JS5)

EH: Ehime	KA: Kagawa	KC: Kochi	TS: Tokushima
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6. Area 6 (for JA6 through JS6)

FO: Fukuoka	KG: Kagoshima	KM : Kumamoto	MZ: Miyazaki
NS Nagasaki	ON: Okinawa	OT: Oita	SG: Saga

7. Area 7 (for JA7 through JS7)

AM :Aomori	AT: Akita	FS: Fukushima	IT: Iwate
MG: Miyagi	YM: Yamagata		

8. Area 8 (for JA8 through JS8)

HD: Hidaka	HY: Hiyama	IR: Iburi	IS: Ishikari
KK: Kamikawa	KR: Kushiro	NM: Nemuro	OH: Okhotsk
OM: Oshima	RM: Rumoi	SB: Shiribeshi	SC: Sorachi

SY: Soya TC: Tokachi

9 Area 9 (for JA9 through JS9)
FI: Fukui IK: Ishikawa TY: Toyama

10. Area 0 (for JA0 through JS0)
NI: Niigata NN: Nagano

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