

Fall 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

The Fall 2019 CX is now history and I'm sure we're all anxiously awaiting the Winter 2020 event.

For the CW event I found conditions on 20M to be mediocre at best. 80M was local/regional until about 0200Z each night and then faded to nothing. 40M Was again the bread and butter band.

Long time CXer Howie WB2AWQ hailing from Reno NV commented as follows about propagation on Sunday: "20M was open but very little CX activity....80 was strictly "local", out to about 600 miles, and only three CXers"

The Fall event seems to be less attended than the winter event as there is still a lot of outdoor activities vying for operating time. And of course, the sunspot situation doesn't help at all.

As always, we got several submissions that did not include soapbox comments or pictures; if we don't get a writeup and/or pictures, I can't put anything in the CX Newsletter – and we DO want some photos at least.

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4 OR MORE PAIRS						
CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	AM SCORE	SSB SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
JA3KNB	Matsumura	377154	101025	235004		713183
K2RP	Ron	30900		122920		153820
N6KN	Rocco			146732		146732
N3TE	Steve	13248			1500	14748
K3MD	John	12600			500	13100
VE7BGP	Gerry			10800	1000	11800
W8UT	Al	6297				6297

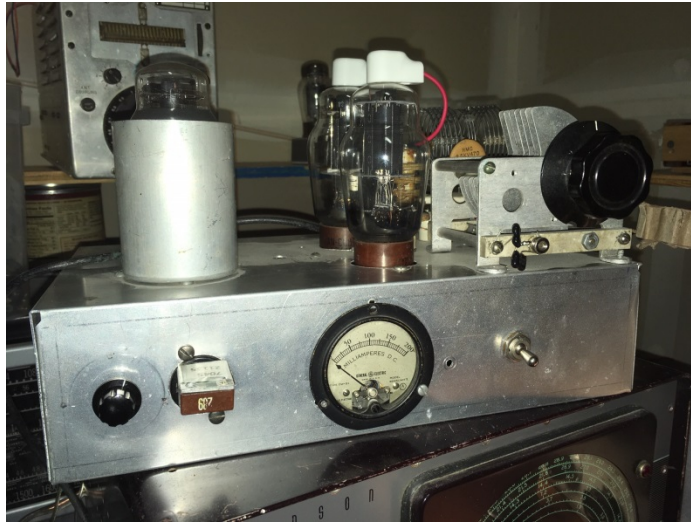
3 OR FEWER PAIRS						
CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	AM SCORE	SSB SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
JO3ATP	Tomonori	14774	8010	11748		34532
K4BSK	Earl	12751				12751
K3OS	Gary	9760				9760
WB2AWQ	Howie	9260				9260
K3MSB	Mark	8992				8992
W8UT	Al			5860		5860
W7FOX	Fox	4116		588		4704
W2JEK	Don	4290				4290
VA7MM	Mark	2550				2550
N4UJ	Gene	1971				1971
W0LPG	Val		1526			1526
K9HF	Pat	1450				1450
KA2L	Burt	624				624

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WB2AWQ – Howie (Reno, NV)

Howdy CXers,

Started out under the weather this CX, so I decided to go the “cheater’s” route for those of us with more than just three sets of stuff, but only because I wasn’t feeling so hot. I had even made a list of the stuff I have, and organized it by date – you know – the highest scoring stuff - to try and make the best of the probable horrid propagation. So it was sort of a no-brainer for me. My oldest transmitters (other than the 1929 style Hartley stuff, of which I have several), are my HB 1939 807 rig:

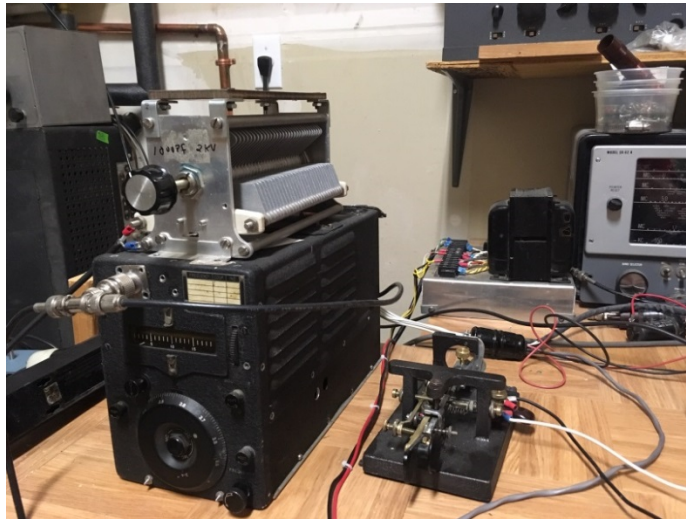


my faithful WW2 GO-9 - It’s my go-to transmitter, no pun intended



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and one of my Command transmitters. In this case I decided on the CBY52208/ATA, since it has not seen any CX duty yet, having been repaired too late for the January party, but good to go.

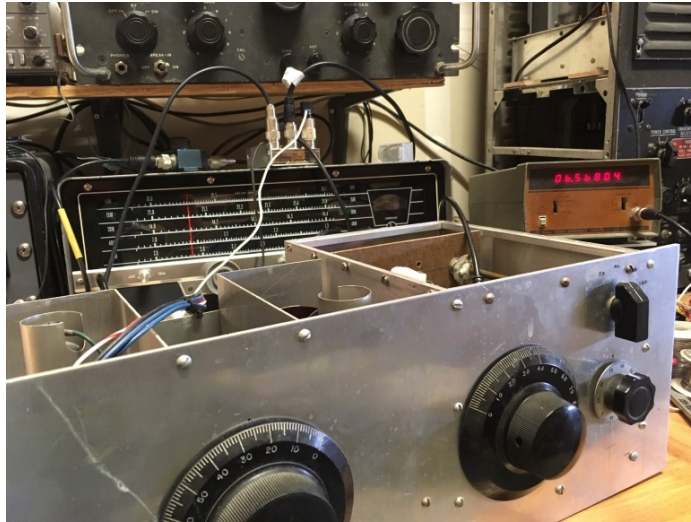


Receivers – there was a problem. I knew I would be starting out on 20 meters, and of my oldest working receivers, none was a stellar performer on 20. So I bit the bullet and decided for 20 it would be the GO-9, which happens to do a fine job up there, and my not-so-old SX101A, which does well on all bands.



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Qualified that setup, then went to 40, which by the time I went there, the local noise from someone's grow-light had ceased, and put on the HB trans, and my HB 1932 Jim Lamb wannabe single signal superhet, built by a dear SK friend W4AWS. Signals on 40 were in and out, but managed to qualify that also.



On 80M, where I set up the Command transmitter and my HRO Sr, there were only a few CXers, but I did qualify that setup also, for the three-or-fewer class.



Interestingly, on 80, Mark W7ESN came back with what I can only describe as a triple-tone CW signal, from his CE-100V number two (who has even one, but Mark has two...) Sounded sorta like the multi-toned signals you often hear on the digital frequencies – Oliver? Clovia? Hellzapoppin? Something else? Except it was also CW. But it was quite different from any chirp, or squeal, etc. So

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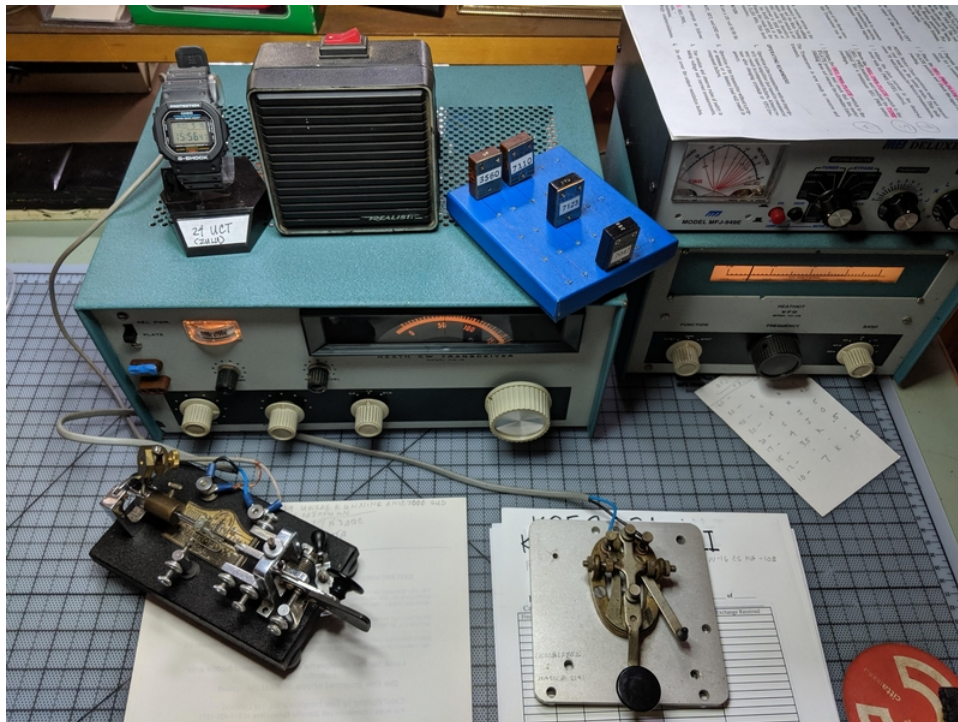
Mark gets the “Strange Signal” award, at least from me. Mark also gets the “oddball rig” award for two unusual receivers, a Hagenuk R4000 and a Watkins Johnson WJ8718, and an apparently very rare transmitter (I’ve never even heard of it), a Hunter CM20A, not from the Hunter amp company.

The following week, for the phone portion of CX, I had checked with Ron regarding the rules for the three or less category, and confirmed it was three or less in each of the three categories. So....I had three transceivers lined up – a recently acquired Yaesu FT101E, a fine hybrid radio that works and looks great, the 350 Swan which has great punch, and a Kenwood TS440S, which is my higher-band and monitor rig. I was all set. Unfortunately, no CXers or anyone else for that matter showed up in my operating window ending about 2400Z. I was on again later in the evening around 0500Z, 80 and 40 meters. But no CXers.....

Better luck next year! See ya all in January/February. And don’t forget the Novice Rig Roundup, many CX radios qualify for that!

73, Howie WB2AWQ Reno NV

KA2L – Burt (East Hampton, NY)



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Burt entered the CX with a very classic Heathkit setup. He writes:

The caps on the HW-16 had been up graded and I bought several crystals for 40 meters. I do have an HG-10B VFO but I wanted to see what it was like using the crystals. The 15th and 16th was out of the question for me but most of the 17th looked good. My 1944 Vibroplex bug was loaded up with enough weights to send around 18 wpm. I was ready.

The HW-16 and HG-10B are 40 years old or more. I bought them over twenty ago from a local ham and former NBC engineer.

One of my 40 meter crystals is 7.047. I plugged it in and the band sounded busy. Off to the left and right lots of signals heard. I called CQ for ten minutes and nobody came back. I plugged in a new crystal, 7.123. NOTHING...no one came back. Turned on my IC-7000 without antenna and heard my crystals were not on frequency - 7.121. I plugged in the HG-10B and everything went dead, no audio. I wiggled the plugs and discovered a poor connection. After fixing the plug I was busy with my first CX contact. Two QSOs mentioned a slight chirp: W7FOX and K2QJ (he sent me "569C"). After a break of several hours I returned at the end of the event and worked several more. I guess I found the W7FOX QSO most interesting: Heathkit to Heathkit.

K3MSB – Mark (York PA)



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I think this was the first time in quite a few years that I did not run an ARC-5 transmitter or receiver in the CX. I had been working on my Navy receivers and my B&W 5100 for several months and decided to use them in the CX. The RBB-6 covers 80M while the RBC-5 did duty on 40M and 20M. The 5100 still has some kinks to work out on 10M and 15M, but I figured that wasn't going to be an impact for this CX.

The RBB receiver covers 0.5 to 4.0 Mc in four bands while the RBC receiver covers 4.0 to 27 Mc in four bands. The RBB/RBC series of receivers were produced between 1940 and 1950, with the RBB-6 and RBC-5 being associated with contracts in September 1950. Both receivers have an RF Preselector unit and an IF/AF unit. The design of the RF Preselector unit is similar for both units but the tube line-up and component values are different. The IF/AF units are identical except for the audio filter. These units are very rugged and have ample room inside for required work. The manuals are (of course) outstanding.

While a single power supply can power two receivers in an emergency, I'm thankful I have an individual power supply for each receiver. The original power, audio, and antenna connectors are still available (but I did have to gulp when I ordered them.....). The original 117 VAC power receptacle and plug are also still available for the power supplies, but that gulp was just a bit too big to swallow, so I improvised.

Between the Broad, Medium, and Sharp IF selectivity setting and the BROAD/SHARP audio selectivity setting, I find the RBB and RBC to be very nice receivers to use for CW work. Audio Quality for BCB / SWL listening is also nice.



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I started off on 20M on Sunday afternoon around 1700Z only to find the band fairly active but devoid of any CX activity. Later in the evening Howie WB2AWQ said he heard me but I did not answer his reply. I then switched over to 40M and worked Bill K4JYS running a Viking 2 and Hallicrafters SX-71. Next up was Earl K4BSK on his TS-440S followed by Fox W7FOX on his HW-101.

I took a break and returned around 2030Z and gave 20M another try. I worked a single non-CX station and heard little activity. I returned to 40M and picked up Brian VE3VAW running a Drake TR4-CW and Gene N4UJ running his KWM-2.

Just before 0000Z Monday I switched over to the RBB-5 receiver and got on 80M. I worked Gary K3OS on his DX-60 / Drake 2B combo followed by Earl K4BSK on his TS-440S. That was followed by Don W2JEK running a Ranger 1 and Drake-2B. By about 0200Z 80M was pretty dead.

I switched back to 40M using the RBC-5 and quickly picked up Dick WA5CAV running a homebrew transmitter using a pair of 807's and an SX-122. Next up was Bob K0FHG running his Drake TR-4. I took a brief break and returned to 40M around 0330Z. Up to this time I had worked only one west coast station on 20M earlier in the day, but now I was delighted to work Mark VA7MM (in BC) and Mark W7ESN (in WA) within 6 minutes! VA7MM was running a DX-60B and a Drake 2C while W7ESN was running a CE-100V and Racal RA 6790/GM receiver. The salt-mines calleth so I went QRT at 0400Z Monday.

Tuesday evening I was again on 80M but was using a friend's TS-830S. I quickly qualified the venerable Kenwood by working several stations, but only one CX contact, that being Gary K3OS now running a Drake T-4X and R-4B. I then returned to 40M with my B&W 5100 and RBC-5 and quickly had 3 QSOs with Mark VA7MM. QSO #1 was with his homebrew transceiver using a pair of 6146's, QSO #2 was with his Viking 2 and NC-303, and QSO #3 was with his NC-100X transmitter and homebrew 5894 based receiver. The final CX QSO of the event was at 0332Z with John K7FD in OR running a Drake B-Line.

So my operation was on and off as it was a bit tiring banging away on the J-38 with the activity level and band conditions. I ended up with 32 QSOs for the CW event.

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K3OS – Gary (Hickory, NC)

CW operation started precisely at 9AM Sunday on the east coast with a number of stations on the air. But, when the phone contest started, where were the phone guys? I called CQ on both AM and SSB both Sunday and Tuesday, but no one was heard, nor did I hear any activity. What happened ?

[Editor's Comment: Unfortunately Gary, there just isn't too much phone activity of any type in the CX. Ron and I don't want this to be a CW only event, and we'd welcome some ideas to promote phone operation.]

This year I managed to qualify three stations: Drake 2-B / Heath DX-60 + HG10, Drake T-4X/R-4B and an Atlas 350XL.



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It was really a push to get the recently acquired Heath and Drake stuff refurbished in time for the contest, but that was a good goal. How to key these three rigs proved to be a challenge. Eventually I settled on my trusty CMOS Super Keyer for the Atlas, a hand key for the Drake twins, and a one tube homebrew keyer for the Heath/2-B station. That particular keyer was my first project I built from scratch as a kit in the mid 60's and it hasn't seen the light of day since that time. A new rectifier and filter cap was needed and a couple of microswitches added for AC and tune. It still has exposed AC and HV, but what the heck. No OSHA guy around. I had followed the original wiring which, unknown to me at that time, was set for a six volt tube. I used a 12AU7, but didn't know to re-wire the filaments for 6VDC. That was changed and the keyer worked correctly for the first time! New springs were also added to the J-38 paddle pair and the old keyer was reborn. To send without iambic or dot/dash memory took some work, but I managed to squeeze (pun intended) out quite a few contacts. Don't you think I deserve some bonus points for this??? Also thanks to everyone for putting up with my hand keying as it's been a few decades since I tried that.

Steve, N3TE, had a BC457A on the air. I nominate him for having the most AC on the plates! It's really a thrill to work all you guys these wonderful old rigs. There were plenty of chirps and drift, too, myself included. More work to be done on the HG-10 VFO. Would someone please send me a note before the next contest with the following reminder: Make sure you are listening on the correct side of zero beat! Yikes, I'm so sorry. Funny thing is that I worked a few stations that way.

73 Gary K3OS

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N6KN – Rocco (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA).

A trip to Europe with the YL wiped out the CW portion of the CX and I was jet lagged for the Sunday phone event. 40M Was very poor to the San Diego area, so Ron, K2RP met me on 3895. This was pretty good, propagation wise - we could copy our 50-W SSB signals. Ron and I were joined by Lew, KW2KW, who helped us both qualify our usual ton-o'radios. Finally gave up around noon and took the rest of Sunday off. Tuesday, Ron and I were joined by Paul, K2LMQ, who was audible from Arizona, even in the middle of the day. I liked Paul's HW-100 signal, in particular. Ron and I struggled through trying to remember how to operate all the rigs at each end. John, K6KOI, showed up later to help out with his modern radios at his end. All told, I made 74 SSB contacts.

Rigs Qualified:

KWM2A, 32S-3, 75S3-B, BW6100, 75A-4 (two), SB410, SB301, NCX-3, FTDX 570, HT32B, SX 115, SR400A, SR150, Swan HF 700S (new rig for me), HT-46, SX-146, NCX-5, Swan 500CX, T-4XC, R-4C, 51J-4, SX-100, NC-155, R388, Drake SSR-1, and a TR-4. Total years 1,978.

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Rocco's Main BA Station

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Rocco's "Wall-O'Radios"

W7FOX - "The Fox" (Somewhere in Maine.....)

The last few years, the wife and I have been spending the summer in Maine to get away from the Arizona desert heat. This year I boxed up an HW-101, power supply, and transmatch and shipped it to the lake. The postage, wow! Anyway, it safely arrived and soon I had a dipole fed with twin lead and a shack ready to go. I grew up near Boston and remember how easy it was to make contacts with all that concentration of population nearby. I wasn't disappointed, and started making QSOs. Classic

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Exchange seemed pointless since I had only one rig, but I decided to give it a try and had a great time. My thanks for all the QSOs I had, and all the great rigs heard out there. See you all next time.

W0JPG – Val (Watertown, SD)

Greetings,

This Is Val,W0LPG, my first experience with operating the CX event. I hope to operate many more.

[Editor's Comment: Welcome Val – and we all hope you'll join us for many more events!]

Unfortunately, the Solar Flux was a lousy 66 and not much activity on the bands. The QTH here is in Watertown, South Dakota. I'm not a native but grew up in nearby Minnesota where I was first licensed as W0PBK in 1953. I spent a bit over 4 years in Dayton, Ohio as W8EYB (back in the days when you had to be licensed with a call that matched your FCC call area). I moved back to Minnesota and found that the FCC had reissued my old call so they gave me W0LPG.

The rig pictured below is a Collins "Home Brew " that is a design somewhat similar to a 32V2 except the final tube is an Eimac air-cooled tetrode, 4X150 modulated by the same PP 807s and audio iron as the 32V series Collins radios. This TX was originally designed & built by Gene, W0FQV (SK), while working at Collins in Cedar Rapids, IA in the 1950s. It runs a cool 150 watts input, 200 mA at 750 volts. Gear driven, band-switched, broadband R.F. stages from a series tuned Colpitts VFO, WOW, 1950s technology !!



“Collins Home-Brew”

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My Home Brew 813 AM rig began in Minneapolis, MN as parts : The rack, 866 power supply, Taylor T55 modulators, but no control, RF deck, or meters came with it. In 1960 after getting a new bride, I built the rig shown in the B&W photo below. RX back then was a used Hallicrafters S20R. my Home Brew VFO, & P-P 6L6 audio driver.



813 AM rig 1961



813 rig rebuild finished Sept, 2019

Rebuild 2019: After raising 4 boys, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Canoe trips, Cars, and grand-kids, I'm now alone and have had time to put all the parts collected over 50 years together into the upgraded rig shown in the colored picture above. 160, 80, 40 meter 813 rig modulated by PP 811As. The excitation is "passive" grid (50 watts from an IC-725 in CW mode). Of course, that way, I have digital frequency control and it also switches back to receive on AM.

Rig "C" is an IC-746, now 20 years old design ! Use it on 6 meters when Es is active.

Antennas: Trees we planted 35 years ago are able to suspend a bent 230 ft., center fed 300 ohm balanced line dipole . Matching the line to the rigs with an E F Johnson 80 meter swinging link tapped tank coil tuned with a BIG broadcast "bread-slicer". Alternate tuner for 30 meters up through 6 meters is a current balun, rotary inductor, and a 20- 500 pF vacuum variable, with the antenna side or rig side switched to ground to form an "L" network.

73, Val W0LPG

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VA7MM – Mark (Coquitlam, BC)

Hi Mark and Ron,

For this CX only my late 1960's vintage Heathkit DX-60B transmitter and Drake 2C receiver were used. CW contacts only this time, output is about 50 watts and the antenna is a dipole. No bonus points.



Thanks for the QSO Mark[K3MSB], good signal out here on the west coast.

[Editor's Comment: Absolutely Mark! I really enjoy those transcontinental QSOs!]

Looking forward to the next event.

73

Mark VA7MM

JA3KNB – Matsu (Osaka, Japan)

Dear Ron-San

How are you doing Ron- San! I will send the report of Fall 2019 CX.

The contest started on September 15th, 2019 at 22:00 Japan time. This time, the CW section used 36 machines and operated for 3 hours and 10 minutes until 01:10 on September 16. And it will be about 3 hours from 08:30 to 11:25 on September 16th. Total 6 hours 10 minutes of operation, 184 contacts. There was no machine trouble. I sent CQ-CX at other times, but only noise and no response.

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The Phone section (SSB) used 28 machines and operated for about 3 hours from 22:08 on September 22 to 01:10 on September 23. On September 25, 14Mhz, 4 communications with HW-32. It was a painful communication in the noise. Total 3 hours 8 minutes of operation, 109 contacts.

The Phone section (AM) used 21 machines and operated for about 1 hour and 47 minutes from 22:00 to 23:47 on September 24, Japan time.
75 communications with a total operation of about 1 hour 47 minutes. Total 1 hours 47 minutes of operation, 75 contacts.

Today, communication between JAs has become difficult. I miss that I was able to communicate with an American station several years ago.



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Equipment used on CW:

- 1.Collins 75S-3C 32S-3
- 2.Collins 75S-1 32S-1
- 3.Collins KWM-2
- 4.HeathkitHW-8 NO1
- 5.HeathkitHW-8 NO2
- 6.Drake Cline NO1
- 7.Hammarlund HQ100-A / Heathkit AT-1
- 8.Hammarlund HQ100-A / Heathkit DX-40
- 9.TRIO 9R-59 TX88A
10. FRDX400 FLDX400
- 11.FT200
- 12.Drake TR-4 NO1
- 13.Drake Cline NO2
- 14.TS-130
- 15.TS-120V
- 16.FT101S
- 17.Heathkit SB-102 NO1
- 18.Heathkit SB-102 NO2
- 19.Hallicrafters SX-111 HT-37
- 20.Hallicrafters SX-99 / HT-37
- 21.Hallicrafters S-19R / HT-37
- 22.Heathkit SB-104A(1)
- 23.Heathkit SB-104A(2)
- 24.FT101ES
- 25.FT101
- 26.TS510D
- 27.TS510X
- 28.Drake TR-4 NO2

Equipment used on SSB:

- 1.Collins KWM-2
- 2.Collins 75S-3C 32S-3
- 3.Collins 75S-1 32S-1
- 4.Drake Cline NO1
- 5.FRDX400 FLDX400
- 6.FT200
- 7.Drake TR-4 NO1
- 8.Drake TR-4 NO2
- 9.Drake Cline NO2
- 10.TS-130S
- 11.TS-120V
- 12.FT101S8
- 13.Heathkit SB-102 NO1
- 14.Hallicrafters SX-111 HT-37
- 15.Heathkit SB-104A(1)
- 16.Heathkit SB-104A(2)
- 17.FT101ES
- 18.FT101
- 19.Heathkit SB-102 NO2
- 20.TS510D
- 21.TS510X
- 22.Heathkit HW32A

Equipment used on AM:

- 1.Drake Cline NO1
- 2.Drake T-4XC Collins 75S-1
- 3.Drake T-4XC Collins 75S-3C
- 4.Hammarlund HQ100-A / Heathkit DX-40
- 5.TRIO 9R-59 TX88A
- 6.FRDX400 FLDX400
- 7.FT200
- 8.Drake TR-4 NO1
- 9.Drake Cline NO2
- 10.FT101S
- 11.Hallicrafters SX-111 HT-37
- 12.Hallicrafters SX-99/HT-37
- 13.Hallicrafters S-19R/HT-37
- 14.FT101ES
- 15.FT101

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I look forward to next year's CX contest.

73 See you soon!

Matsu JA3KNB

JO3TAP Tomo (Osaka Japan)

Dear Ron San

How are you doing Ron San! I will send the report of Fall 2019 CX.

SCORES FOR THREE OR FEWER RECEIVER-TRANSMITTER PAIRS

CX Machinery List CW:

FT991AM?FT101B and Drake C-line

CX Machinery List SSB & AM:

FT991AM/FT101B, Drake C-line

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Log Submissions

