



JULY 2020

Volume 9 Issue 7

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Brian VA3DXK
Vice-President: Ted VE3TRQ
Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ
Treasurer: Paul VA3PDC
Trustee: Wes VE3ML
QSL Manager: Tom VE3DXQ
Repeater Trustee: Wes VE3ML
Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ
Lighthouse: Al VA3TET
Maple Syrup Display: Al VA3TET
Newsletter: Bob VE3IXX

ERC REPEATERS

UHF 444.700 TONE: 131.8
UHF 444.700 TONE: 123.0
VHF 147.390 + TONE: 123.0
EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 147.51
UHF- IRLP node 2404
VHF- IRLP node 2403, ECHOLINK node
VE3ERC-L VE3ERC-R

**In an emergency, tune
Into our repeaters,
UHF 444.700 or
VHF 147.390 or
HF 3.755 LSB or
Simplex 147.510
For coordination and
assignments.**

Parks on the Air

More on Page 8



Radio Amateurs
of Canada

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE
This club is Radio-ACTIVE



President's Update for July 2020

Come September we hope to resume our monthly club meetings at the Elmira Fire Station on the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning September 23rd. This will of course depend on the future status of the Covid-19 pandemic and an updated decision by all parties concerned as the date approaches, but the situation looks good and continues to improve in the Waterloo Region!

In consultation with District Fire Chief Kieran Kelly we have the go-ahead to use the facility. There will be some precautions and housekeeping protocol involved with our use of the training room. This will involve mandatory temperature checks upon entering, disinfecting of hands, and mask will be required if we cannot maintain two-meter separation throughout the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting our club must disinfect the room, wiping down tables, chair backs, light switches, doorknobs and washroom faucets/handles etc. These supplies are readily available at the station.

Pending further discussion by the club executive and depending on the comfort level of members, we have the green light for the use of the fire hall in September!

International Lighthouse weekend takes place August 21st – 23rd. Unfortunately, Point Clark Lighthouse and Parks Canada grounds remain closed due to Covid-19. All activities at the lighthouse remain cancelled throughout August. The Lighthouse is not scheduled to open until early September. Tom VE3DXQ reported that the washrooms at the adjacent beach park are open.

In discussion with our Point Clark Lighthouse contact at Huron-Kinloss Township Department I asked if they would consider our Club's request to access the Lighthouse and property for that weekend. They are considering making an exception for us but it will take some time to work out and give us an answer either way. I will continue to follow up with them.

The possibility exists whereby we could set up in the community beach park adjacent to the lighthouse and activate it from there. Further discussion is needed by the club to decide what we will do this year. I suggest we make a final decision by August 10th, hopefully receiving positive news regarding use of the lighthouse before then.

'73 Brian VA3DXK

Radio Friendship Rekindled from



to



Trevor Batstone VE7FYQ

Sent the Following note and article:

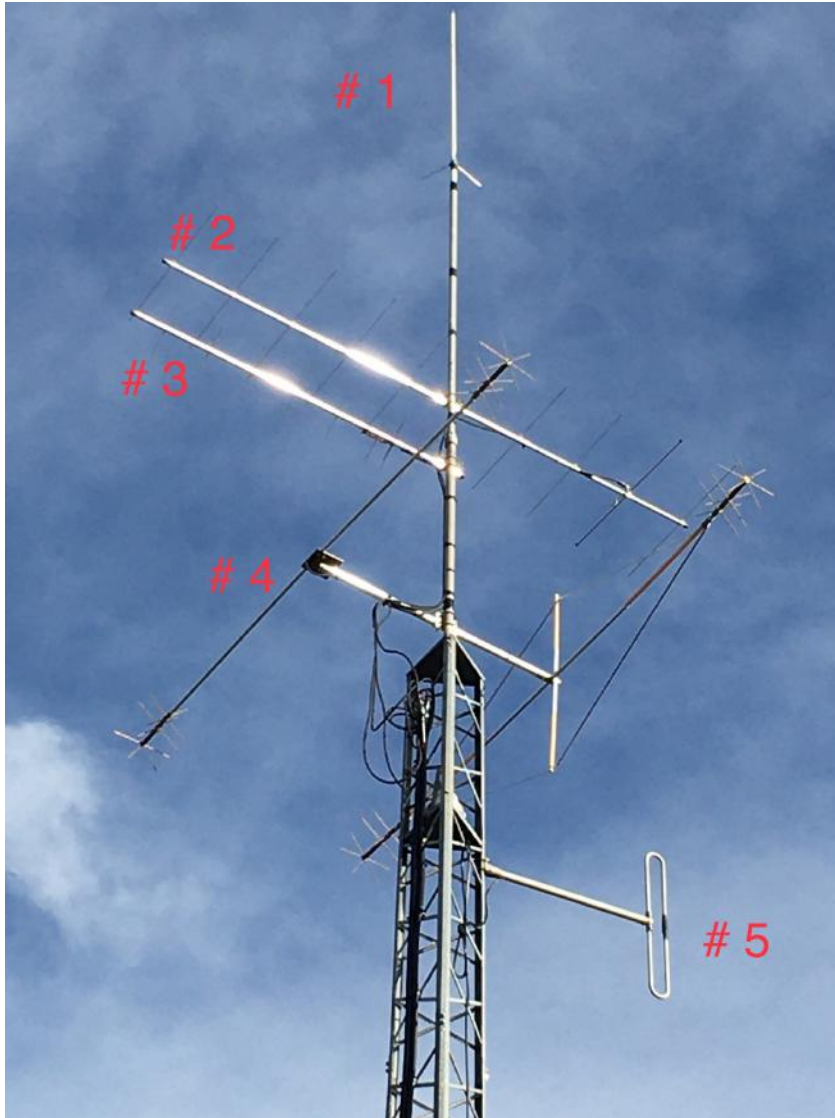
I have attached herein the script from **Amateur Radio Newsline** regarding the article about our sister club in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia. These boys from Ipswich & District Amateur Radio Club also check in to the Sunset Net that I host every Saturday evening on **IRLP Node 9009**. My Sunset Net starts every Saturday at 7:30 P.M. Pacific (10:30 P.M. Ontario time). I realize that is a bit late for you gentlemen, but I always take IRLP check-ins at the beginning of the net immediately following my opening remarks about the net. If any of you guys from the Elmira ARC (or elsewhere) feel so inclined to check in, I would love to hear from you.

A friendly connection formed in 2011 between the **Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club** and the **Ipswich and District Radio Club** in Australia, could have remained a forgotten sisterhood of clubs but that apparently was not destined to be. Though the relationship had faded over time and distance, **Maple Ridge ARC** webmaster Dave VA7DBJ found it was still being mentioned on the club's website. He pursued a reawakening of the friendship by contacting Greg VK4GJW, secretary of the Ipswich club in Australia. The two agreed to try to connect the clubs again.

In early April, the British Columbia, Canada hams reconnected with their mates in the Ipswich club Down Under with each group utilizing their own IRLP-linked repeater. It was a net of some 26 amateurs with Paul VA7XQ as net control. Two and a half hours later, the friendship was rekindled.

Dave and Greg said that lockdown from the pandemic surely helped to rejuvenate the bonds between the clubs and the connections have been going strong since then. Ipswich hams now check in to the Maple Ridge club's weekly Net on IRLP and there are ongoing contacts during the week between individual hams -- and new friendships are being formed.

Last month we featured a front page photo of Tony's (VE3DWI) antenna at his home in Kitchener. This month Tony details each antenna on the tower.



Here is a marked up picture of my new antennas. They are as follows.

1: Comet DX-50, Dual band vertical 144 and 440 MHz.

2: Cushcraft 2 mtr beam Horizontal polarization.

3: Cushcraft 70 cm circular polarization.

4: Mini HF beam 20, 15, 10 and 6 mtr.

5: Sinclair VHF folded dipole. Also works great on UHF. Used for general monitoring of VHF/UHF and Aircraft bands. I can follow all aircraft in the area and I can hear jets at cruising altitudes of 30000 to 40000 feet (which is called flight level 300 or 400) for well over 150 km.

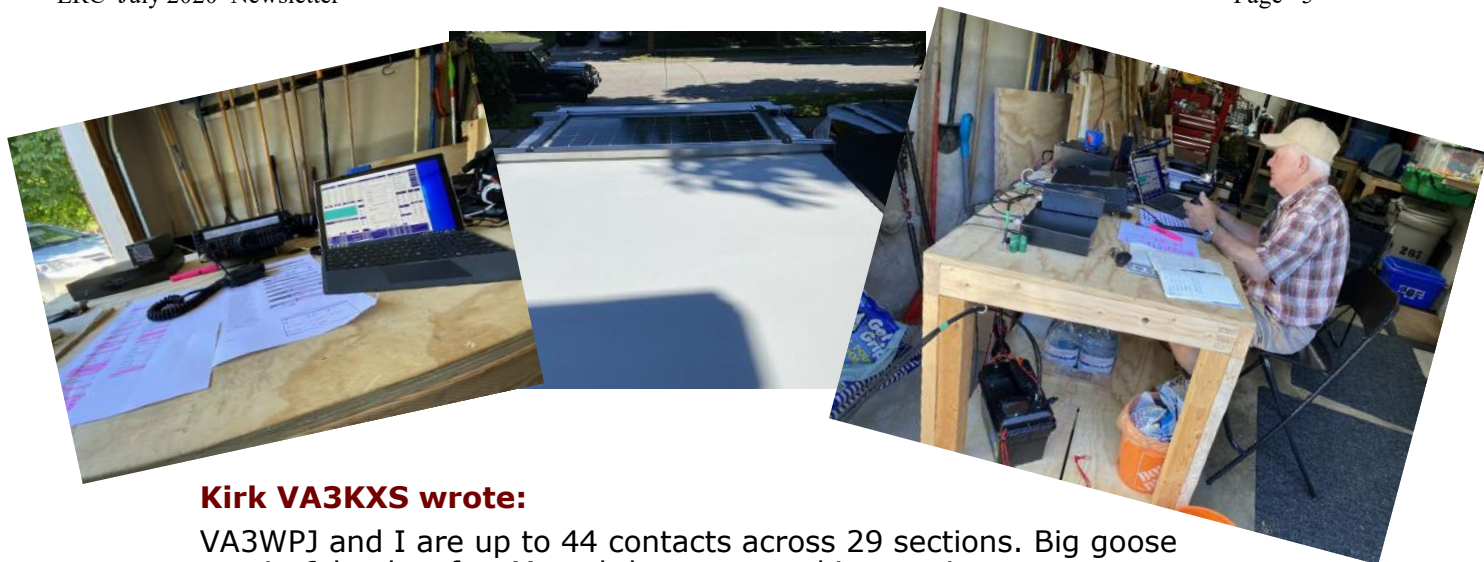
6: (not in the picture) is a home build 80 mtr 132 ft long end fed half wave (EFHW) antenna which, with my manual tuner, can be matched on all HF bands available to us.

The total mast length above the tower is about 12 feet which put the dual band vertical at a height around 65

feet above ground level. Being at one of the highest locations in Kitchener, I literally look over top of Kitchener/Waterloo when I am at the top of the tower. Each tower leg is strapped with #2 bare copper cable to individual 10' long ground rods. All rods are joint with #2 cable and connected to a rebar structure embedded into a 20X30' concrete floor.

Antennas 1, 2, and 3 are fed with 7/8" Heliac hard line. The HF beam has 1/2" Heliac hard line and the folded dipole has RG-213. All feed lines, and rotator cable, enter into the garage strapped along the ceiling joists and routed down to the window right by my shack where they become RG-213 jumpers going through the window to the radios.

73, Tony VE3DWI.



Kirk VA3KXS wrote:

VA3WPJ and I are up to 44 contacts across 29 sections. Big goose egg in 6-land so far. Moved the antenna this morning to try to cover the west coast a bit better. Solar panel is doing well when it is in the sun...

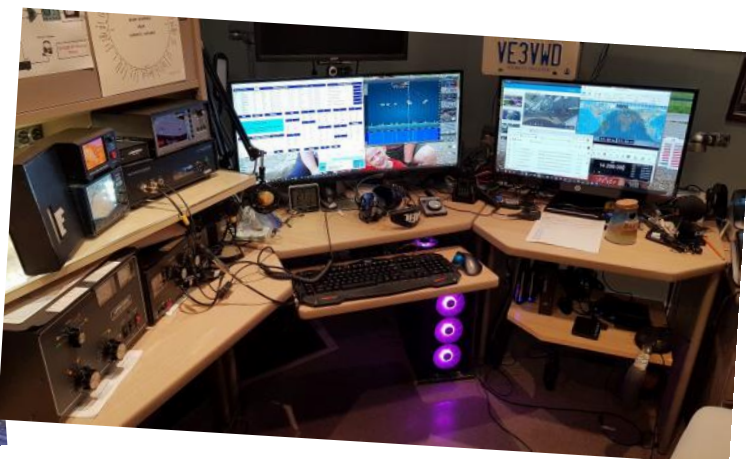
Field Day 2020



Paul VE3PDC wrote of his FD superstation: Here is a panoramic view of my station.



Rich, ve3DCC, worked 80,40 and 20 m. using his ft-891, Drake MN2000 match into an 80 m dipole.



Bill's (VA3QB/VE3VWD) set up in Fergus.



A special thanks to **Jim VE3JLC** for sending us multiple pictures of his home set-up. Jim logged a lot of cw contacts for Field Day.

Paul VE3PVB wrote:

Tell Guelph/Elmira amateurs two ~ 200 mile "historic contacts" were made on night of 27th June 2020 using an antenna of only 6.2" in electrical height and 12" in diameter

The RF wavefront starts right at the surface of the Birke-Hart Poynting Vector Antenna and the takeoff angle was 45 degrees.

The antenna sat on the kitchen table and the IC-751A pumped out ~ 110 watts. Efficiency of the antenna exceeds 90%. Frequency was 3.714 MHz for PA and slightly different for the Ontario contact.

Good signal report from PA
best wishes on rest of FD
Paul VE3PVB

N3SD	USA	VE3WVA	Canada
Gregory A Hojdila 1411 Morning Star Dr Aliquippa, PA 15001 USA Email: ghodila@gmail.com		Russell W. (Rusty) Auxier 14 Village Lagoon Rd., PO Box 383 M'Chigeeng, ON P0P 1S0 Canada	
Ham Member Lookups: 12239 Label		Ham Member Lookups: 1746 Label	
Biography Detail Logbook 16880 Log		Biography Detail Logbook Log a NEW con	
Lookups 12239 (22576)		Lookups 1746 (1936)	
QRZ Record# 461903		QRZ Record# 1478385	
QRZ Admin N3SD		QRZ Admin VE3WVA	
Last Update 2019-04-17 18:15:56		Last Update 2009-03-04 16:11:26	
Class Extra Codes: HAI		Latitude 45.831700 (45° 49' 54" N)	
Effective 2016-01-22		Longitude -82.166500 (82° 9' 59" W)	
Expires 2026-02-27		Grid Square EN85wt	
Grid Square EN90uo		Geo Source User supplied	
Geo Source Zip Code		Bearing 329.9° NNW (from VE3PVB)	
US State Pennsylvania		Distance 186.6 mi (300.4 km)	
US County Beaver			
Bearing 182.3° S (from VE3PVB)			
Distance 200.8 mi (323.1 km)			



Tom VA3VRA was a guest operator at the VE3IXX Field Day station. This was Tom's first HF contact as a newly licenced ham.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER

Do you have an article you'd like to submit? Or photos? Do you have any comments you'd like to make?

Perhaps you'd like to share a photo of your shack, a special project you are working on or a special interest!

SEND THEM TO:

**Bob bobve3ixx@gmail.com
(519-787-2279)**



WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

JUNE 10 - KIRK VA3KXS

JUNE 17 - REG VE3RVH

JUNE 24 - VIRTUAL MEETING

JULY 1 - FRANK VA3FJM

JULY 8 TOM VE3DXQ

JULY 15 - BILL VA3QB

JULY 22 - WES VE3ML

JULY 29 - PAUL VE3PVB

AUGUST 5 - AL VE3DZZ

AUGUST 12 - BRIAN VA3DXX

AUGUST 19 - BOB VE3IXX

AUUST 26 - TED VE3TRQ

SEPTEMBER 2 - AL VA3TET



Paul VA3PDC activated The Pinery Provincial Park



Paul wrote on July 22, 2020:

Just finished my first Parks On The Air activation. I've attached two pictures also. My antenna was a 71 foot end fed with a 9:1 Unun, strung between two trees at about 20 feet here at the Pinery Provincial Park. The rig was an Icom 7300 at 100 watts on 7.185 LSB. I had a total of 69 contacts in the three hours I was active. It was loads of fun and I learned much, being my first try. I look forward to doing another one some-time in the future.

Regards,
Paul VA3PDC

Kirk VA3KXS at Neys Provincial Park



Setup this morning.



My radio bag.



On Tuesday July, 28,2020 Kirk wrote:

Band seemed to be up and down all over the place today. 32 contacts in 45 minutes. Not too bad.



From
the

PAST



For the 86th birthday party for Fred Hammond (VE3HC-SK) with about 40 or so friends and family in attendance.

The **Best HAM BAND** was in attendance. The name of the group was coined during the afternoon since Larry Best (*left*) on guitar was the only non ham joining Rocco VE3YJ on guitar, Gerry VE3DYY on sax and clarinet, Paul VE3IDH on fiddle, Rich VE3DCC on trumpet and John VE3AMZ on Piano



(left) John Riddell ve3amz, Rich ve3dcc and Gerry Orobko ve3dyy at a KWARC Christmas meeting at Wing 404 Waterloo

Links

Ontars— www.ontars.com

Elmira Radio Club— www.ve3erc.ca

Trans-Provincial Net - <http://tpn7055.com/>

Radio Amateurs of Canada— www.rac.ca

KW Amateur Radio Club - www.kwarc.org

Guelph Amateur Radio Club— www.garc.ca

Digital Radio Today

By Ted VE3TRQ

A Brief Outline from An on-line Demo

JS8 and JS8Call As a Keyboard-to-Keyboard Communication Tool

JS8 is a digital mode based on FT8, and implemented by a derivative of the WSJT-X program called *JS8Call*. The name comes from the program *FSQCall* and the *FSQ* digital protocol in *FLDigi*. Both *JS8* and *FSQ* are weak signal keyboard-to-keyboard communication digital modes.

The mode and program were both the brainchild of Jordan Sherer KN4CRD. The initial release came out about two years ago, with a 2nd generation release due out any time now. There has been a steady progression of both features and UI improvements. A group of amateur operators are now helping Jordan to keep thing moving and improving.

As with WSJT-X, the software is available for multiple platforms, as well as in source form. See js8call.com for software and information.

Features

- FT8 modulation and FEC (forward error correction)
- FT8 Tx timing, 15 second periods
- Multiple 15 sec periods, as many as required for an arbitrary message
- Arbitrary text may be sent, of any length
- Text may be directed to a particular callsign, to print on their screen
- Text may be directed to a group ID, with all members of the group receiving the message
- Messages, including cell phone texting commands, may be forwarded to **APRS** nodes
- Messages may be stored on destination stations, or relayed through them, with multiple hops
- **Heartbeats** may be sent out periodically to test propagation. Stations will respond with SNR
- A station may respond (or not) with acks to messages, requests, and heartbeats

What's it Good For?

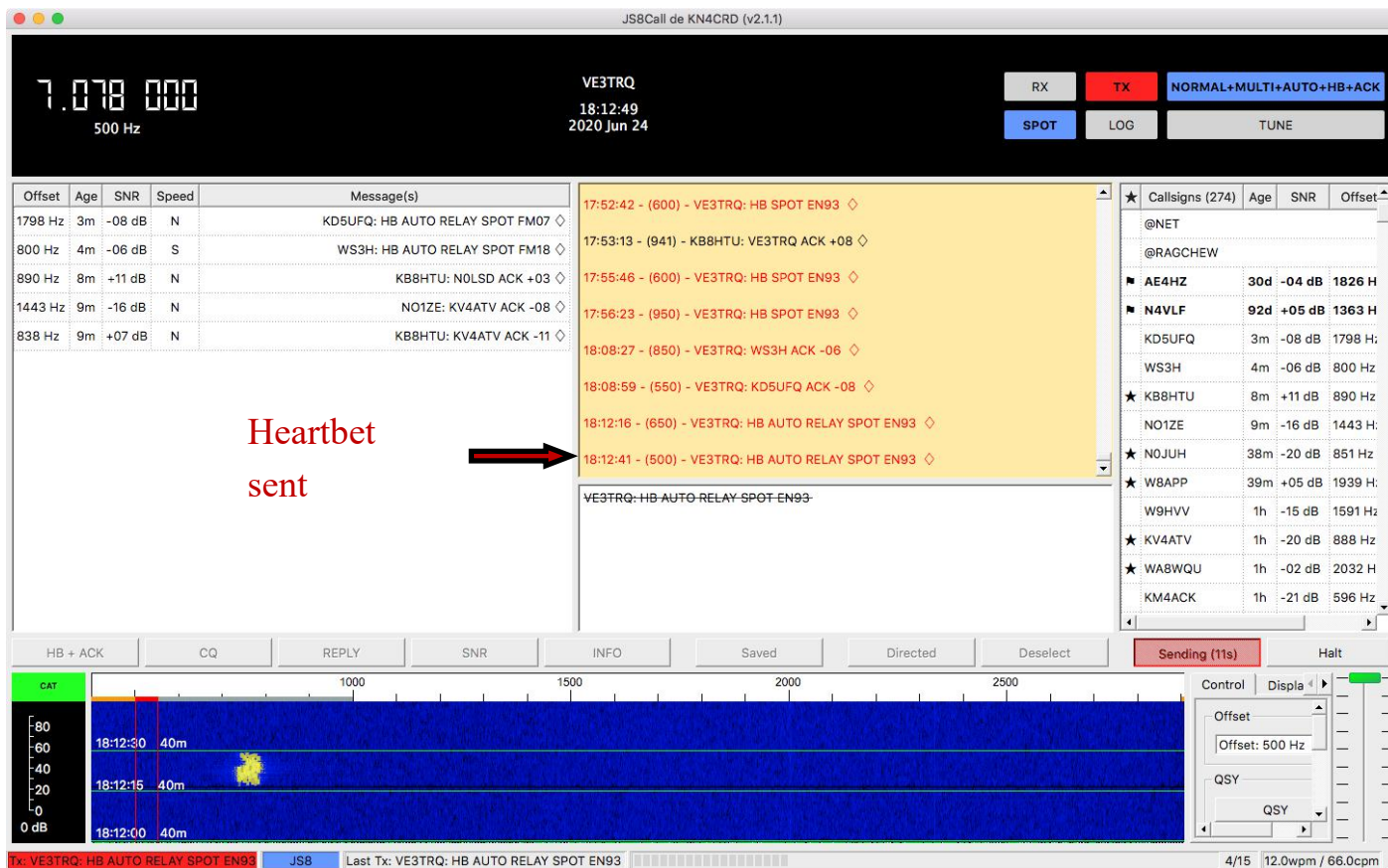
- Great for one-on-one ragchew, especially in challenging propagation conditions
- Very useful for directed nets, using heartbeats and directed group messages
- *Heartbeat* messages will build up a "*heard list*" of callsigns with their SNR
- You can select from the *heard list* to send directed messages, relays, or CQs
- There is a CQ type message that is very efficient

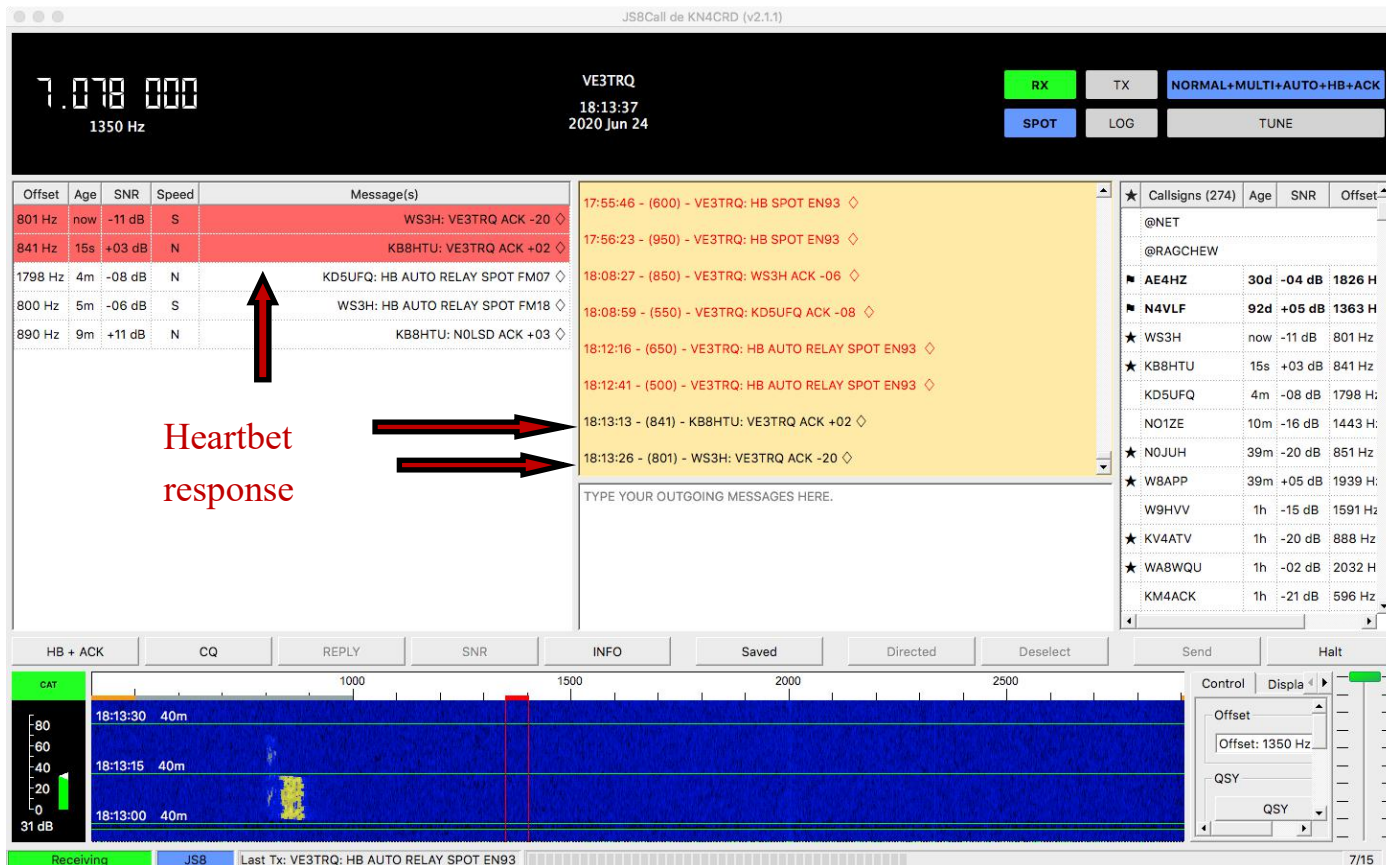
- Can send grid / location information to APRS-IS by sending to @APRSIS GRID
e.g. @APRSIS GRID FN04TV53
- Can send raw commands to APRS-IS by sending @APRSIS CMD (useful for text messages)
e.g. @APRSIS CMD :MSGTE :@5551212 TEST

How Good is JS8?

- Works to a SNR of -20 dB (and sometimes better). Reliable at -18 dB SNR
- Like FT8, 50mnHz wide 8-level MFSK signal, in a 3KHz bandwidth window
- Gets through and keeps the QSO going where many other modes won't
- 40m appears to be the current "best" location for contacts
- Frequency "watering holes" are built in, as in WSJT-X; 7.078, 14.078, etc.
- All *heartbeat* and *ack* traffic is kept between 500 – 1000 Hz (configurable)
- All message traffic is between 500 Hz and 3 KHz – lots of room for signals

HeartBeat





Set a Custom Frequency...

160m: 1.842 000 MHz
80m: 3.578 000 MHz
40m: 7.078 000 MHz
30m: 10.130 000 MHz
20m: 14.078 000 MHz
17m: 18.104 000 MHz
15m: 21.078 000 MHz
12m: 24.922 000 MHz
10m: 28.078 000 MHz
6m: 50.318 000 MHz
2m: 144.178 000 MHz

JS8Call Frequencies

Suggested "watering hole" frequencies are built in to the application. This ensures that QSOs happen in the same frequency range and will be seen.

JS8Call Saved Messages (Macros)

1E ONS , SNR <SNR>, 73 GL, TED VE3TRQ
1E ONS, 73 GL, TED
SNR <SNR>, WATERLOO, ON , THKS 73 GL, TED, 25W
TNX 73 - TED

Edit Saved Messages

Save Current Message

JS8Call Stored Message Box

Messages: WA8WQU					
ID	Date	Frequency	From	To	Message
32	Wed Jun 17 16:52:43 2020	7.078 000 MHz	WA8WQU	VE3TRQ	FORGOT ABT UR GRAVE ANTENNA. U WERE +17DB ...
31	Wed Jun 17 16:45:58 2020	7.078 000 MHz	WA8WQU	VE3TRQ	DOWN FROM WHERE? KITCHEN IN BASEMENT? :-)
30	Wed Jun 17 16:40:28 2020	7.078 000 MHz	WA8WQU	VE3TRQ	SUNSHINE IS ALMOST TOO MUCH FOR A BIKE RIDE...
29	Wed Jun 17 16:37:13 2020	7.078 000 MHz	WA8WQU	VE3TRQ	DOING WELL HERE. HOPE ALL IS WELL THERE. (LO...
28	Wed Jun 17 16:33:58 2020	7.078 000 MHz	WA8WQU	VE3TRQ	G A TED, SURF'S UP: SNR +15 FOR MILLISECOND. 7...
FORGOT ABT UR GRAVE ANTENNA. U WERE +17DB HERE, GOOD SURFING. OK. IM GONNA GET SOME TUNA MYSELF, HAPPY HEALTHY AND SAFE WEEK. TNX, 73.					
<div>Reply</div>					

Directed messages to the station are collected and may be read and responded to later.

RAC Bulletin

Registration now available for RAC Basic Course: Summer 2020

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-online-basic-amateur-radio-course-registration-summer-2020/>

Date: The course will start on **Thursday, August 20** and will finish on **Thursday, October 29**.

Time: Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6 pm to 8:30 (1800 - 2030) Eastern Time (1900 - 2130 Atlantic Time) and Sunday afternoons 1 pm to 3:30 pm (1300 - 1530) Eastern Time (1400 - 1630 Atlantic Time).

Cost: The registration fee for the course is \$50 plus GST/HST. The cost of the Basic Study Guide is **extra** and an order link will be provided upon completion of payment.

See **www.rac.ca** for more details