

My Ham Radio Journey

Kevin KC1TJD Technician August 2023

PART

Rules

- Move Quickly
- Please interrupt
- Meant to be interactive & conversational
- Software & hardware knowledge assumed

Partial Equipment List



- Icom IC-7300 100w HF Transceiver
- Icom AH-4 Remote Antenna Tuner
- Kenwood TM-D700 2m / 70 cm Transceiver
- Baofeng UV5-R 5w 2m / 70 cm HT
- NanoVNA
- Ferrites and Torroids
- Morserino

Antennas



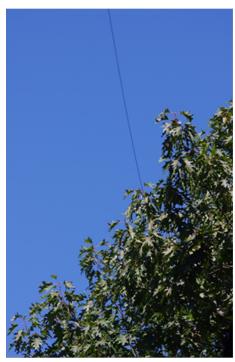
VHF / UHF:

- 2m 3 element / 70cm 5 element Yagi
- Old television rotor
- 35 feet above ground
- In attic

HF:

- 200 ft 18 AWG black wire
- 30 to 35 feet above ground
- 70 foot counterpoise (35 feet on ground)

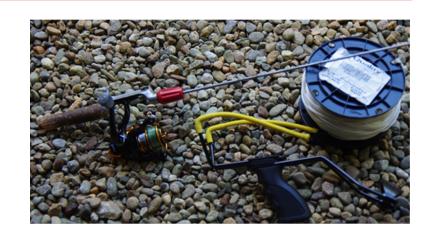




Antenna Staging Equipment



- Slingshot
- Fishing pole
- 1/8" Pull line
- Air Launcher (under construction)







Digital Mode Software



- WSJT-X Improved Plus Widescreen version 2.8
- GridTracker
- Hamclock



e Configurations View Filters Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Band Activity

UTC dB DT Freq Message

194145 -6 0.3 1330 ~ PU3EMK N4NJJ DM26 CA-AZ-NV

194145 -7 -0.0 711 ~ OA4DOS KB6JSM CM97

194145 -17 0.1 2193 ~ WV0T W4VIC 73 194145 -22 -0.8 2385 ~ W9CSO VE3GLN FN25

194200 -4 0.0 1925 ~ KE2GFF K0TW DM42 194200 6 0.0 691 ~ KQ4GKG N7LPK 73

----- 2025-08-29 - 19:42:00 UTC - 10m - FT8 -

194145 -5 0.1 987 ~ N8TEE K30B 73

UTC dB DT Freg Message

[2334 mi]

193515 -19 -0.8 2386 ~ VA7LNT VE3GLN FN25 193545 -17 -0.8 2386 ~ VA7LNT VE3GLN FN25 a7

193730 -15 0.0 1887 ~ KA8GCQ I7DGX JN71

193800 -19 0.3 360 ~ HC2GRC HB9FUR JN47

194000 -22 0.3 1973 ~ KC1TJD HB9FUR -24

193630 Tx 2387 ~ CQ KC1TJD FN42 193615 -20 -0.8 2386 ~ VA7LNT VE3GLN FN25 a7

> Tx 1887 ~ I7DGX KC1TJD FN42 Tx 1887 ~ I7DGX KC1TJD FN42

1887 ~ T7DGY KC1TJD ENU

WSJT



WSJT-X Improved PLUS Widescreen version 2.8:

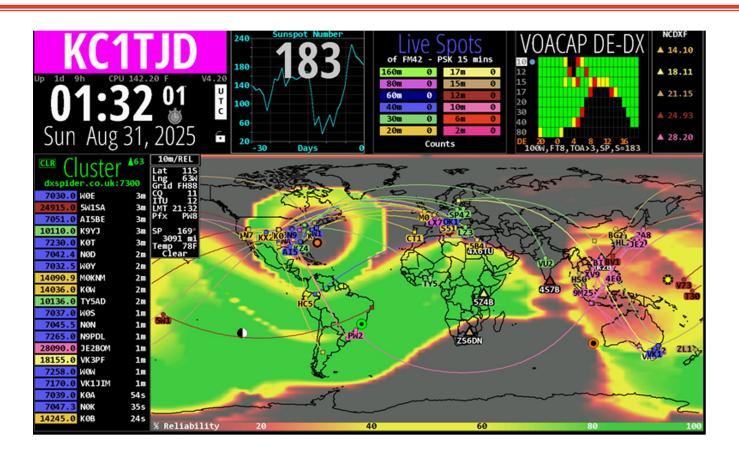
- WSJT-X developer fork
- Good documentation
- Running with Split VFO / Rig control
- SWR & power shown in the user interface
- Full functionality Update to Hamlib GIT version
- Still don't understand the wait functions
- Has a .deb

WSJT-Z:

- Complete fork
- Could not get automatic function working
- Poor documentation

Hamclock

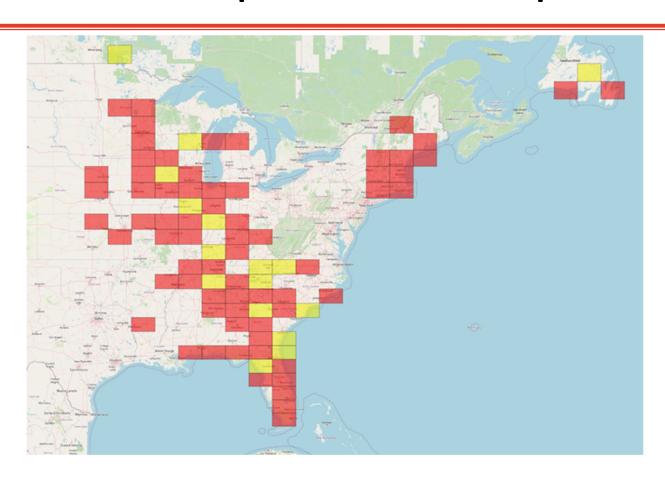




10m FT8 QSO Map as of 05-Sep-2025



6m FT8 QSO map as of 05-Sep-2025



QSO Statistics as of 05-Sep-2025 PART



Band	Mode	Worked	LoTW Confirmed	Start Date
10m	FT8	493	348	06-Jul-2025
10m	FT4	3	1	31-Aug-2025
6m	FT8	85	68	06-Jul-2025

Notable 10m QSOs



Worked:

- Argentina
- Salt Lake
- Indonesia
- Australia
- European Russia
- South Africa
- Malawi
- Alaska
- Melilla

Heard:

- Japan
- Taiwan
- South Sudan
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Tasmania

Shortest QSO



- Approximately 2 miles as the crow flies
- Wall to wall
- Andy's yagi pointed southwest





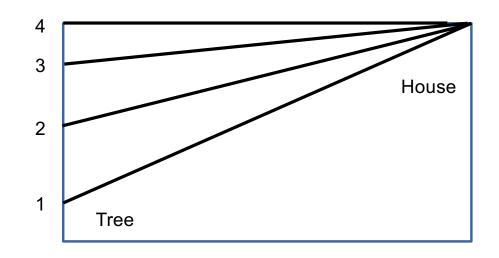
To: KC1TJD This confirms our 2-way FT8 QS0 Date: August 11, 2025 Time: 20:09 UTC

Band: 10M UR Sigs: +32

HF Antenna Positions



- 4 Positions
- 10m FT8 SWR changed with height
 - Position 1 − 1.13
 - Position 2 − 1.43
 - Position 3 − 1.61
 - Position 4 − 1.35



Phone



- NVARC runs a 10m net Mondays after 2m net
- On 10m Twice
 - Antenna Position 1
 - Antenna Position 4

RF in the Shack



Antenna Position 1:

- 900 Mhz water alarm constantly triggered
- Attic stair dome exacerbated situation / HF feed line

Antenna Position 2:

Water alarm stopped triggering

Antenna Position 4:

• USB cable – No need for commercial torroid kit



Future Plans



- Feed cables in the wall
- Andy's Ham Radio Linux
- Confirm Icom AH-4 is working properly
- RF Noise (computer noise)
- Kenwood TM-D700 Chirp / RS232 interface
- General License or CW
- Replace 200 foot random wire antenna with 500 foot or counterpoise experiments