



# TIARA NEWS



Published by the Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 119, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-91.  
February 1993 -- Vol. 11, No. 2

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**  
**FRIDAY, March 26th, 1993**  
**1930 at ST. ALBAN'S**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR MARCH**  
**TIARA NEWS: March 7th**  
**NO DELAYS, PLEASE!**

## From the President

Dan Domondon, 7J1ABD

**F**irst of all, I am as surprised as many of you are to be addressing you in this column. For those of you who may not know, I was fortunate to have been a part of TIARA when it was formed in 1972. In those days (as I remember it) the club had two main goals. The first was to make it a forum for foreign and Japanese amateurs to be able to get together to exchange ideas, philosophies, etc. about the many aspects of our hobby. The second was to try to find a way for "us" foreign hams to enjoy our hobby in Japan with as much freedom as we enjoyed in our respective homelands.

The past presidents (and of course officers) of TIARA over the years through their leadership and commitment have made TIARA an organization from which the foreign ham community and the hams of Japan have benefited in numerous ways either directly or indirectly.

I, of course, have been a beneficiary of TIARA and its activities through the years. Perhaps I have been too often on the receiving side instead of the giving side! Based on this thought I accepted the position as your President in the hope that I will be able to help contribute in whatever way possible to the continuation of the basic goals for which this club was originally established.

There is much to do. All foreign hams in Japan do not enjoy equal operating privileges. Frankly, I do not know how much can be done to improve the situation, but I am open to your

ideas. At the same time, let this be a reminder to those of us who enjoy operating conditions here that are nearly on par with our respective homelands, that these privileges should not be taken for granted!

Based on the club membership survey results taken at the January meeting (refer to the report elsewhere in this issue) the members have a wide variety of interests. At this time I do not think the club can be all things to all its members, but based on the resources available (equipment, talent, dedication, etc.) I am hopeful that together with your support, progress toward fulfilling the needs and expectations of the TIARA members can be accomplished in 1993.

73 de Dan 7J1ABD/WA6URY

## Secretary's Notes

Tony Ortiz, 7J1ALB

*ed.- Jim, 7J1AJH was covering for Tony, who was unable to attend the meeting.*

**R**on Finne, 7J1ABC began the meeting by welcoming the visitors. They included: **Hide Mukai JA1EUT**, who some members know from the TIARA HF Net, **Monika Kohle**, from Vienna, Austria, who is interested in learning more about ham radio, and **Greg Pickrell, 7J1AOI**, a recent arrival from California who had just received his 7J call.

Ron then introduced the TIARA officers for 1993 as announced in the January newsletter. On behalf of the outgoing officers, Ron thanked the club members for their support. He particularly thanked those who did all the jobs necessary to keep the club running smoothly.

Incoming president **Dan Domondon, 7J1ABD**, led the club in thanking the outgoing officers for all of their work. Their extra efforts in making TIARA's 20th anniversary year a success was especially appreciated. Dan has been licensed since 1961, and has been a member of TIARA since its founding in 1972. His XYL is also

a ham, **JF1XAN**.

Dan distributed membership survey forms that were returned later in the meeting. These comments will help the officers gauge the interests of the membership.

An Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled in February to review the club's suggestions.

**BBS:** The BBS will move to the Mitaka QTH of **Jim Tittsler, 7J1AJH**. (*Secretary's note: The move took place Saturday evening, January 30th.*)

**Dues:** TIARA dues should be paid by March 1st. You must renew by then to avoid being dropped from the membership roster and newsletter mailing list.

**Newsletter:** **Arturo Camillacci, JJ1YZU** will be assisting the club as an editor of the TIARA News. **Kerry Hofferth, 7J1AIK** is also serving as an editor. Kerry credited the work **Dave Hyte, 7J1AIW**, **Martin Bruczkowski, 7J1ALJ**, **Joe Benson, 7J1AFU**, and others for establishing the current format. **Jay Oka, JA1TRC** and **Kuninori Nogi, JR4CLN** have been getting the newsletter printed and mailed. As their schedules get busier, they could use some relief. If you can help, please contact them or the editors.

Arturo can accept newsletter submissions via the 7J1AAA BBS, landline modem, or on disk. Kerry can also handle the occasional faxed article. The editors encourage all submissions. Anything from articles about DX, to technical articles, to notes about what is happening within the club membership are welcomed.

The editors only ask that you meet the published deadlines so that they can put the newsletter together. **Kei Andoh, JR1NNV** proposed making it an obligation of membership to contribute something to the newsletter each year.

**Satellites:** **Thomas Scherer, 7J1AIJ** showed some amazing photographs taken from KITSAT, as well as a picture of the Korean team that built this latest amateur satellite.

**Gateway:** Thomas also took a moment to announce that **George Oakes, 7J1ALF** will be providing an additional satellite gateway in Japan. This will speed the automatic forwarding of international packet radio messages.

**Tour:** **Roland Cowan, 7J1AKI** is arranging a tour of the Creative Design antenna factory. The tour will be hosted by JJ1HKQ. It will be held on a Saturday toward the end of a month, perhaps in March. If you are interested in attending, let Roland know.  
73 de Jim

## HAM RADIO IN POLAND

BY PIOTR SZKUTNICKI, SP5NHI

This article was originally written for Japanese CQ Ham Radio Magazine. Then I thought of it as my contribution to TIARA News Bulletin. Since the original article was strongly Japanese reader oriented, I had to introduce some changes in its contents. Eventually I made more changes than I originally intended; therefore consider this article a brand new one! hi. Excuse my English; it might seem a bit rough from time to time(...). But before you start complaining, let me hear your Polish! hi. First, some history...

Ham radio in Poland has a long tradition. Polish hams were within the pioneers of amateur radio communication in Europe. First licenses for using the radio stations for non-commercial purposes were issued in the year 1929, but the beginning of organized ham radio dates back to February 1930, when The Polish Radio Amateur Union (PZK) was first established, being at that time one of the first organizations of this kind in Europe.

However, with the outbreak of The Second World War came the German - Russian occupation. As a part of occupant's policy of annihilating Poland's identity, all organizations and associations were dissolved, PZK being, naturally, one of many to share the same fate. Nevertheless, technical experience of numerous radio amateurs proved to be of a great value during six years of occupation, when those people, risking imprisonment and execution, built radio-stations and served as their operators in underground army, contacting the allied forces.

When the war ended, PZK was reestablished and a ham radio movement quickly came back to life, but the situation was much different from that before the war. The communist system imposed serious restrictions on individual freedom. Ham radio, as an unlimited means of communication with the entire world, was strictly controlled by the police and military authorities. Club membership was compulsory, which made controlling the ham community easier. Still, licenses were being issued and the number of amateur radio stations in Poland continually grew, reaching approximately 8,000 in 1981.

During all those years Polish ham radio came to be recognized worldwide.

Among well known ham radio events is the SPDX Contest - held yearly, CW and SSB in turns. Polish hams hold posts in the highest bodies of IARU (International Amateur Radio League) and ITU (Inter-national Telecommunication Union) and are among the proud holders of the most prestigious Amateur Radio Awards and diplomas.

Talking about spectacular sport results it is worth remembering that until recently well over 90% of the equipment used by Polish hams was home-made. Unfortunately, history again was not gentle for Poland. The communist government, facing the loss of power due to quickly growing social unrest, imposed martial law on the entire area of the country on December 13, 1981. On this very day all basic individual rights were suspended. All privately owned communication equipment was ordered turned over to the police and, of course, all ham licenses were immediately invalidated.

Martial law was finally eased in the year 1983, but it did not automatically mean restoring licenses to their owners. To have his licence back, one had to go through the whole procedure as if applying for it for the first time. Many hams were disappointed and simply gave up, lacking either patience or will. Paradoxically, the situation had one good effect; only those really dedicated to ham radio put an effort to restore their licenses. Therefore the call signs, being merely a group of letters in CallBook listings and indicating those who in fact were QRT for years, ceased to exist. The number of renewed licenses reached around 6,000.

The late 80s were good years for Polish hams. Not only was the number of licenses issued growing, reaching close to 10,000 in 1992 (although for some strange reason there are only 7,300 entries in Polish chapter of the 1992 CallBook), but finally the authorities seemed to understand that ham radio is not merely good fun for a bunch of people who want to spend their time in an interesting way, but it can also substitute an important part of emergency communication network in case of natural disasters.

Unlike Japan, Poland has no earthquakes and typhoons, but floods, fires and heavy snowfalls are not rare. Also the Polish telephone network is still much less developed and reliable than in U.S., Japan or Western European countries. Understanding this fact, authorities finally permitted portable and mobile operation, as well as installation of VHF repeaters. At present, alternative modes of operation are

very quickly gaining popularity in Poland.

What is the procedure of obtaining the ham licence in Poland? It does not differ much from the one in other countries. One has to pass an examination, consisting of the usual subjects, i.e. domestic and international radio traffic regulations, technical issues, ham radio procedures, etc. It is up to the applicant whether he tries to pass the Morse code test or not. that is true

When the examination is successfully passed, one receives a certificate, which entitles him to apply for a ham license. The procedure is fairly simple and after couple of weeks the license (and a callsign) is granted. Unlike the U.S., there are only two license categories in Poland, called the first and the second category licenses. The written exam is essentially the same for both categories. Those who pass the Morse code test (12 wpm, sending and receiving) are given the first category license - allowing them to operate on all ham bands, CW, phone and RTTY. An additional application is required, however, to obtain permission to operate SSTV and Packet.

Those who passed no-code examination can only obtain the second category licence - good for VHF and UHF. Within both 1st and 2nd categories there are input power limitations. The term "power" refers to the DC power applied to the final RF stage of the transmitter. When the licence is granted for the first time, the input power of the transmitter is limited to 50 Watts. After a certain period of time (usually 5 years, but sometimes shorter) and after contacting at least 75 countries (this has to be confirmed with QSL cards) the license can be upgraded to 250 Watts. For special achievements in ham radio, the license can be upgraded again to 750 Watts input power. Neither the license category nor power limit affect the call sign, which always remains the same as when initially granted.

One more difference between U.S. and Polish licensing system is the age limit. One has to be at least 15 years old to obtain a ham license, any category.

Similarly to Japan and U.S., the number in the call sign indicates the area where the station is installed. The usual prefix for Poland is SP, followed by number from 1 to 9, depending on the district number. Then comes two or three letter suffix. A three letter suffix beginning with P, K or Z indicates a club station. All alterations of the above scheme, like SN, SQ, SR or 3Z prefix or two digit (or 0) number in the call sign indicates a special station (temp-

30/12/82  
1982

1983

1983

1983  
30/12/82

1983

rary, exhibition,etc.). Special attention should be paid to SO prefixes - they belong to foreigners granted operating privileges in Poland (similar to 7J in Japan).

Unlike before, the membership to PZK is no longer mandatory! Many hams, however, are members of the organization (the number was close to 6,000 in 1992). For a yearly fee the members are entitled to use the QSL bureau free of charge and receive a free monthly bulletin. PZK also has a representative in the Lower House of Polish Parliament - let me know if you have heard about any other country where ham radio is represented in Parliament, not just talking on the radio!

Ham radio in Poland is not merely a hobby reduced to spending free time in front of the transceiver. Much more than that, I would rather call it a social phenomenon and a way of life. There are many local nets, consisting of people who have become close friends through amateur radio. Not rare are social get-togethers and outings, when the hams show up with their wives (or husbands) and kids, enjoying picnic and eyeball QSOs. In some radio clubs, spending the New Year's Eve and other holidays together became tradition. Polish people generally have a well earned reputation of being very friendly and hospitable. Polish hams are no different; if you happen to plan your visit to Poland, try to make a QSO with some SP stations before you depart. You will have guaranteed guidance and hospitality during your visit!

If you would like to operate from Poland, let the P.A.R. (the State Radio-communications Agency) know one month in advance; you will be granted a visitor's licence, consisting of an SO prefix - making you, by the way, very desirable for the WPX hunters on the bands - and your own suffix! Formalities are simple; all you need is a copy of your original licence, written application for obtaining the licence and written permission from the person, whose station you plan to use while in Poland. You will also be charged a small fee in the form of 10 IRC coupons.

Well, whatever your plans regarding Poland might be, let me know well in advance; I would be happy to help you in obtaining the licence and any other matters. Since I am also a licenced foreign tourist guide, baby-sitting for lost gaijins is not new to me, hi! See you in Poland one day!

## February Meeting Agenda

Please do not forget the next meeting is "show and tell". The item I am planning to bring was purchased because the advertisement created so much curiosity in me that I decided to buy it to try and figure out how it works!

Also, since one of my loves is antennas, I have been collecting brochures from manufacturers in the US and Europe over the past year or so. This is because I hope to be able to set up a very competitive contest station one of these days (hopefully not too far off in the future) and so I have been looking into the various possibilities. I think the advertising method and the claims that each manufacturer makes about their product makes for interesting reading. I will make some copies available to those of you who are interested (since the level of interest is rank 4, I am lead to believe that quite a number of you will be interested).

Last but not least, please seriously consider contributing articles to the newsletter! If one member per month can provide an article, it will be a big step toward greater overall participation by all the members. I must shamefully tell you that this is my first article in 20 years! So I have much catching up to do!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

73 de Dan, 7J1ABD

## January Meeting Attendance

Toshi Yamada JA1FTC	Kei Ando JR1NNV
Kerry Hofferth 7J1AIK	Thomas Scherer 7J1AIJ
Jim Tittlser 7J1AJH	George Burrill 7J1AKH
J. Waschl JJ1ZOA/1	Motoi Kawatsu JK2PNY/1
Kuninori Nogi JR4CLN	Mike Murai JJ1JYO
Y. Kawabe JF1TEU	Kotaro Kubota JH1ACC
Koji Tahara JM1CAX	Jukka Savolainen OH3OE
Roland Cowan 7J1AKI	Arturo Camillacci JJ1YZU
Jay Oka JA1TRC	Greg Pickrell 7J1AOI
Hide Mukai JA1EUT	Piotr Szkutnicki SP5NHI
Monika Kohle	Fumi Otsuka JF1NIW
Aki Arai JH0FYK	Dan Domondon 7J1ABD

## MFJ 1278 v3.6 Problem

For those of you who have upgraded your MFJ-1278 with the latest 12/92 V3.6 firmware, and found you could no longer copy WEFAX or SSTV signals, here is the fix. There is an undocumented command called "MULTIFAS" that defaults to ON, and needs to be set to OFF. You won't read about it in your manual or upgrade documentation, but the MFJ tech-line alerted me to it. (ed. - Thanks Sandy, for sending this in.)

## SURVEY RESULTS

A membership survey was taken during the January meeting. Sixteen completed surveys were received. According to the attendance record 25 people came to the meeting. In order to try and arrive at a conclusion, I totaled up the points and the result is as follows:

Rank	Topic	Points
1	Harumi	20
2	HF	20
3	Field Day	22
4	Antennas	26
5	Operating	27
6	Advanced Topics	27
7	Instruction/Testing	28
8	DX Activities	28
9	TIARA Socials	28
10	Propagation	29
11	DXpeditions	30
12	TIARA Net	30
13	BBS	31
14	Experimenting	31
15	New products	31
16	Packet Radio	32
17	Basic Topics	33
18	VHF/UHF	34
19	Building	35
20	Phone	36
21	Doing Newsletter	36
22	CW	37
23	Satellite	38
24	Mountaineering	38
25	Theory	38
26	Raffles/Auction	39
27	Contesting	39
28	Computer Programs	39
29	Non-Ham Socials	40
30	XYL/YL Activities	41
31	Socials with Japanese clubs	42
32	Fox Hunting	45
33	Awards	50
34	Osaka YL Convention	54

The survey topics were ranked using a scale of 1-5, 1 being most interest and 5 indicating the least interest. Since the survey was not obtained from all of the members, the importance of each subject indicated might not truly reflect the interests of the members as a group. However, I think it is probably "reasonably correct".

In addition there were the following comments that I think are noteworthy:

a.) What should we do about the TIARA repeater? If we can not find a way to put it to good use, we should consider giving the frequency to someone else.

b.) The BBS should be upgraded to 9600 baud.

c.) Plans for Field Day should include adequate countermeasures for backup support etc. to prevent the burden falling on too few people.

d.) A technical presentation by one or

more of the members who work for radio equipment manufacturers should be invited to give a talk/presentation.

e.) There was one offer for a permanent home for the BBS.

f.) Six members offered to accept the responsibility for one meeting per year (very encouraging).

g.) Suggested subjects for meetings that were made: Korean Hams, Computers (hardware and software), Contests, SHF and Satellites

So, now what do we do with this data? I will try to arrange an Executive Committee meeting (before the regular February meeting) and follow it up with additional discussion during the February meeting. Hopefully during the next meeting some priorities and an action plan can be set into motion!

I have always been in favor of some kind of TIARA award to be issued to the stations that work a certain number of TIARA members. I am willing to handle all the paperwork related to it. The question is what should the criteria for the award be based on? Should we have one for TIARA members, one for non-TIARA member stations in Japan and one for stations outside Japan? I think this must be decided by consensus (not by me alone). The level of interest seems to be low (as indicated by the survey - rank 33) so this must also be considered. Please let me have your feedback.

73 de Dan, 7J1ABD/WA6URY

## 7J1AAA BBS MOVES!

It is hard to believe, but after much ballyhoo, the BBS has finally found a new home. The BBS is colocated with Jim, 7J1AJH in beautiful downtown Mitaka. This location is a little far from the hustle and bustle of central Tokyo, but with so many stations in west Tokyo, maybe more folks will be able to connect. The signal should be stronger since Jim will be able to run the amplifier as long as the clicking of the amp's relay switch does not drive him mad. A tip of the hat (sorry, that is a purely western phrase) to Jay, JA1TRC for being the home of the BBS for so long. The relay racket did exact a toll on Jay's XYL who must have given Jay the ultimate ultimatum, either the BBS goes or Jay goes. 最後

Jim obtained a 386 computer for the BBS at a very low price which is now dedicated to the BBS. He is lending a video card and monitor to complete the computer setup. The computer has four ports instead of two. This means the capability of the BBS can be expanded. How? Glad you asked.

It has been suggested that a 9600 baud port be added. There are a few frequencies that are dedicated to 9600 baud packet. Data exchange is VERY fast, and programs and GIF files can be sent and received very quickly. Packet radio is moving quickly in this direction and it may not be long before the present



standard 1200 baud is obsolete. It is recommended that the club purchase a 9600 baud TNC to keep us abreast of packet developments.

Of course, a new TNC plugged into a new port will need a new radio to transmit and receive the 9600 baud signals. Since we do not expect every 7J1AAA BBS user will have the yen (meaning both "inclination" and "money") to move to 9600 baud, the current 1200 baud port on 431.12 will remain. This means we will need a second 70cm rig (maybe put the 9600 baud on 2 meters?). Expect this issue to be raised at a meeting in the near future.

It is estimated that there are about 15-20 TIARA members who are active in varying degrees on the 7J1AAA BBS. For those who are on the BBS, and packet in general, this mode has been an excellent medium for sending and receiving club information. Newsletter articles have been sent to the editors via packet. Filler articles not relating to TIARA specifically, but related to amateur radio, have been taken from packet bulletins. In this sense, all members of the club, even those who are not active on packet, have benefited from this mode of communication! We hope you will all support efforts to expand and improve the BBS capabilities. We also hope more members will get active on packet radio.

## Tidbits

**Ron, 7J1ABC** traveled out to **George's, 7J1AKH** QTH one recent Saturday to help George put a new antenna on top of his tower. Unfortunately, the antenna and gravity did not give full cooperation. But George later managed to get the antenna up and he is now QRV!

**CONGRATULATIONS to Jim, 7J1AJH!** On 2 January 1993 Jim exchanged vows with the former Ms. **Angela Peng** in Vancouver, Canada. Angela's family comes from a village in Myanmar (XZ land), near the border with Thailand. Jim is already hinting this may be a good DXpedition destination.

**Chris, 7J1AKN** had some painful oral surgery late last month. The operation was a success and Chris is recovering. Once back on his feet, he is going to figure a way to get some antennas up OUTSIDE his on-base house which he and his wife **Lisa, 7J1ALM** recently moved into. Perhaps another job for TIARA's crack structural engineering team.

**Hide-san, JA1EUT** waza-waza traveled all the way from his home in Murayama to attend the January TIARA meeting. For many of us regular Wednesday night net hounds, it was a pleasure to meet Hide-san face-to-face for the first time.

**Ron, 7J1ABC** nailed AH1A one evening when the propagation was just right. Not a soul was active except AH1A and Ron. It must be because of the amazing antennas Ron puts together.

**Roland, 7J1AKI, Tony, 7J1ALB, and Doug, 7J1ALE** - continue their QSO party on the RS satellites. These guys live so close together they could shout at each other from their houses. Fortunately, they are true hams who would rather communicate through an orbital repeater. They'd like to QSO with other TIARA members on the satellites. Open your windows and give these guys a shout!

TIARA NEWS is published monthly by TIARA, The Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association. Membership applications and dues information is available from any of the club officers listed below.

### CLUB OFFICERS

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Contest Director:	K. Arai/JH0FYK 0422-22-9466
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Technical Advisor:	Vacant - Apply Within

### PACKET BBS:

**TIARA**  
 @7J1AAA.10.JNET1.JPN.AS

431.12 MHz, 7J1AAA  
 Wed. 2100 JST/1200 UTC,  
 21325 KHz

### Club Callsign:

JF1YXJ

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