# **BIRDS GS Operation**

## **MANUAL**

Name	Version	Date
Edgar Mujuni Ramson Nyamukondiwa	1	12/01/2022

#### **GS EQUIPMENT**

- Start of Operation (at least 10 mins before)
  - 1. Turn ON Rotator Controller
  - 2. Turn ON ICOM power Supply
  - 3. Turn ON ICOM radio
  - 4. Turn ON TNC



- END of Operation
  - 1. Turn OFF TNC
  - 2. Turn OFF ICOM radio
  - 3. Turn OFF ICOM power Supply
  - 4. Turn OFF Rotator Controller

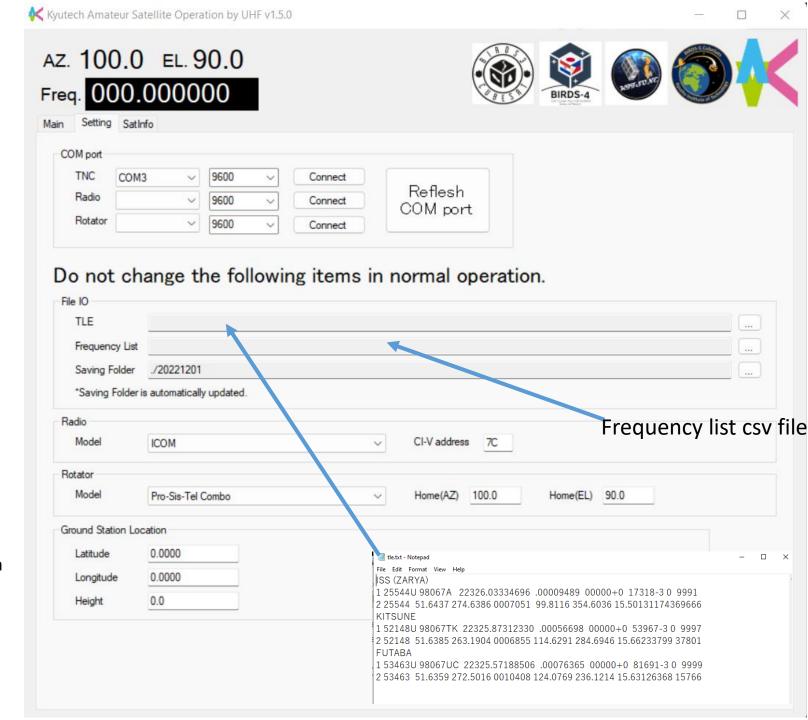


# **Required Software's**

☐GS Software ☐ Kyutech Amateur Satellite Operation by UHF v1.5.0 ☐ Command List (ZIMSAT-1, PEARLAFRICASAT-1, TAKA, KISTUNE) □CW Skimmer=> Commercial software □CW decoder □Orbitron => Download or purchase online ☐ BandiCam => Download or purchase online ☐ Hex Combiner => Download or purchase online ☐ FavBinEdit => Download or purchase online

#### **Settings**

- ☐ When you open the GS software application go to settings:
  - COM ports (TNC, Radio and Rotator) should connect automatically else press connect or refresh if ports are not reading
    - ✓ Baud rate is 9600kbps
    - ✓ Make sure all ports are connected
  - > File IO
    - ✓ TLE => for first passes load the ISS TLE for the 3 satellites. TLE file is .txt files
    - ✓ Load the satellites TLE when the information is availed
    - ✓ Make sure the frequency list csv file is also loaded.
    - ✓ Choose a folder to save your data
  - > Radio
    - ✓ No changes use ICOM and CIV address remains the same
  - > Rotator
    - ✓ Select model of your rotator
    - ✓ Input the parking positions of your antenna (the AZ and EL)
  - Ground Station location
    - ✓ This is the location of your GS
  - When operation is finished disconnect the ports, stop tracking and you close the software



# Automatically update TLE.

DownloadTLE.bat

```
\square \times
   File Edit View Window Help
                            get_TLE.py - D:\setting files
 #!/usr/bin/env python3
      # get_TLE.py : get latest TLE from celestrak
       import urllib.request
       sourceURL = "http://celestrak.org/NORAD/elements/stations.txt"
       nameList = ["ISS (ZARYA)", "KITSUNE", "FUTABA"]
      with urllib.request.urlopen(sourceURL) as f:
           str = obj.read().decode("cp932")
          lines = str.split("\n")
          for i, line in enumerate(lines):
               for name in nameList:
                  if(name in line):
                      print(lines[i].strip())
18
                      print(lines[i+1].strip())
                      print(lines[i+2].strip())
                                                                                    1:1 LF UTF-8 Autosave: off
LightEdit mode, Access full IDE >
```

- Click on sourceURL, check for ZIMSAT, PEARLAFRICASAT and TAKA satellites
- As written from the URL, write the satellite name on name list

CLICK this to update

- Click the .bat software, the TLE will be auto updated
- Name of TLE file should be same as you saved it for the GS software



20/07/2022 16:56

Windows Batch File

1 KB

# Frequency list CSV file

SatelliteName	NoradID	CW beacn	Uplink	Downlink	Remark	Folder name (len<8)
ISS (BIRDS-5)	25544	437375000	435313000	437375000	ISS repeater	ISS repeater(BIRDS-5
ISS (KITSUNE init op. using JAXA orbital element)	90000	437375000	435313000	437375000	KITSUNE	KITSUNE
KITSUNE (SatNOGS)	99415	437375000	435313000	437375000	KITSUNE	KITSUNE
KITSUNE	52148	437377000	435310000	437376000	KITSUNE	KITSUNE
ISS (BIRDS-5)	25544	437375000	435313000	437375000	BIRDS-5	BIRDS-5
FUTABA	53463	437375000	437375000	437375000	FUTABA (ID: 53463)	FUTABA
TAKA		437375000	435313000	437375000	BIRDS-5	
ZIMSAT-1		437375000	435313000	437375000	BIRDS-5	
PearlAfricaSat-1		437375000	435313000	437375000	BIRDS-5	

- Add ZIMSAT-1, PearlAfrica-1 and Taka NORAD IDs when they are availed.
- Add your folder name where you are saving the data

#### **Command List Window**

Command List

- ☐ The commands for all the satellites will be loaded through the command list window
  - Initially Kyutech GS will be the central GS to generate the commands and distribute them to all BIRDS Network GS.
  - All commands have a comment and remark to tell what the command is for, the satellite and possibly an instructions to follow. Kindly read it well.
  - To select the command list csv file got to OPEN.
  - To insert the command on MAIN window, click on the command and use *INSERT* button.
  - To delete press *Delete* only if needed.

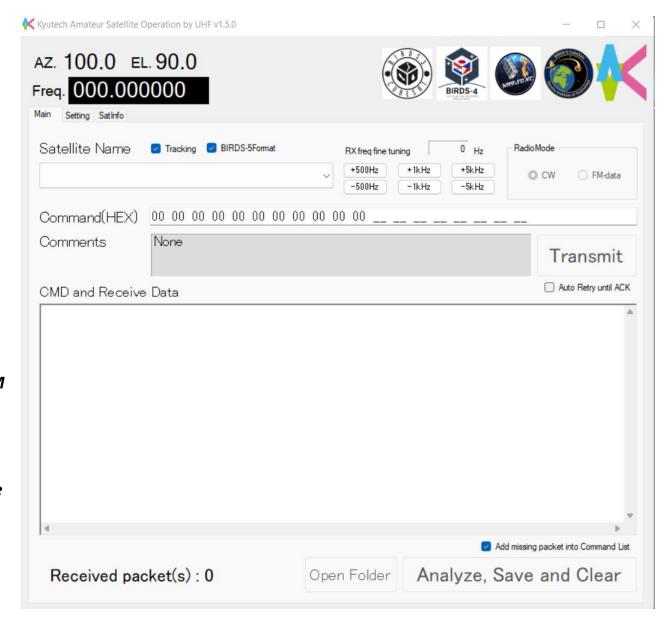
ZIMSAT-1 PearlAfricaSat-1 TAKA KITSUNE Missing command

Comments Remark

Open Delete Insert

#### **Main Window**

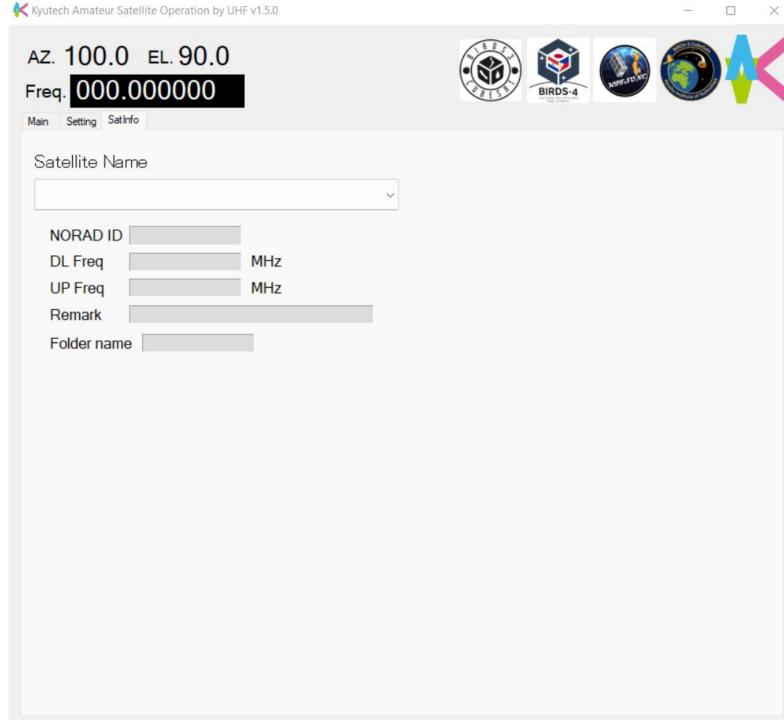
Select the <i>Satellite Name</i>
To track with GS antenna during operation click/tick on <i>Tracking</i> checkbox
To operate BIRDS5 click on <i>BIRDS-5 format</i> as shown
The inserted commands from the <i>Command List</i> should appear on the <i>Command (Hex)</i> Text box. You can also manually insert the command.
The Infor or comment of each command appears in the <b>Comments</b> text box    Note: All the command are 11 bytes long
To transmit or uplink a command click <i>Transmit</i> button.
Tick the <i>auto retry until ACK</i> (acknowledgement) for automatic transmission ☐ Untick during CW transmission
When you hear CW tick $\it CW$ radio button and for uplink and downlink tick $\it FN$ $\it Data$
Whenever you receive packets the <i>Received packet(s)</i> counter changes corresponding to the successful downlink
The command and received data will be obtained from the <i>CMD and Receive Data</i> Text Box
When you are done with the command i.e. download the data of get acknowledgement click <i>Analyse, Save and Clear</i>
Then go/insert the next command from the command list
Manually tune the <i>RX freq fine tuning</i> incase you are not seeing CW on CW skimmer software



### **Sat-Info Window**

 You can also select the satellite name from this window.

 When you select the satellite name, the information about the satellite is displayed as saved from the frequency list CSV file.



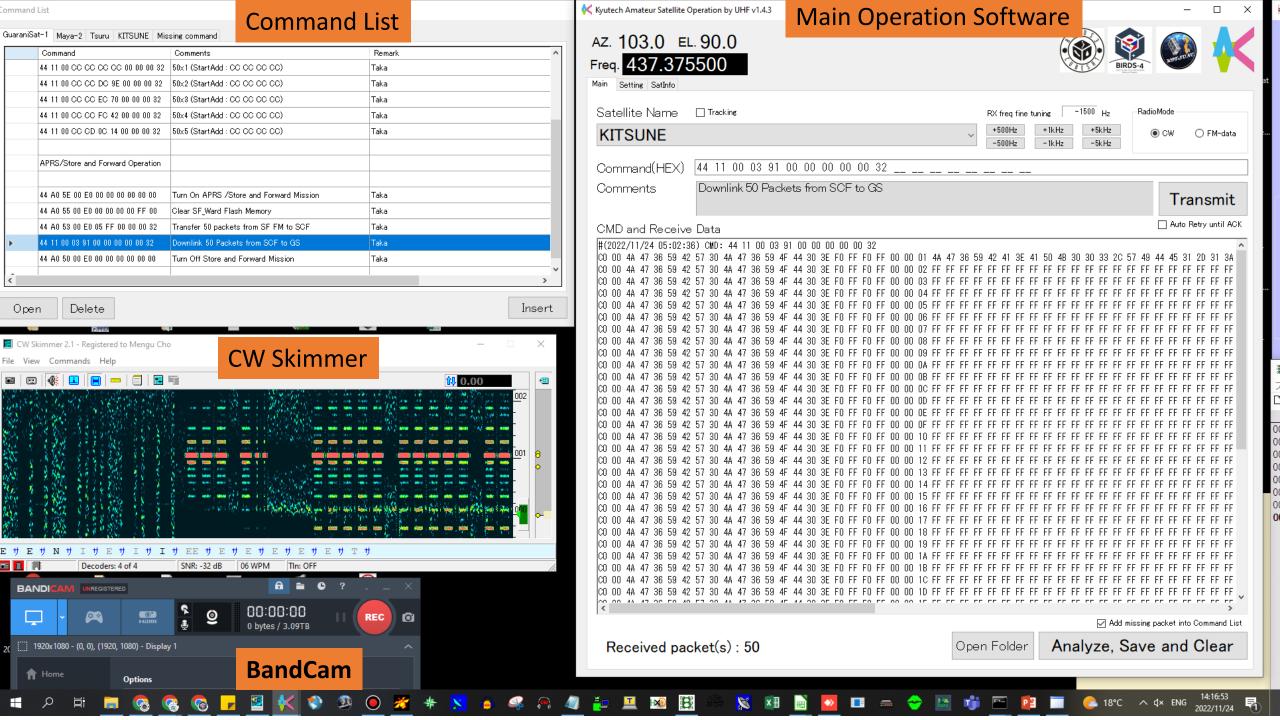
## **CW** Decoder

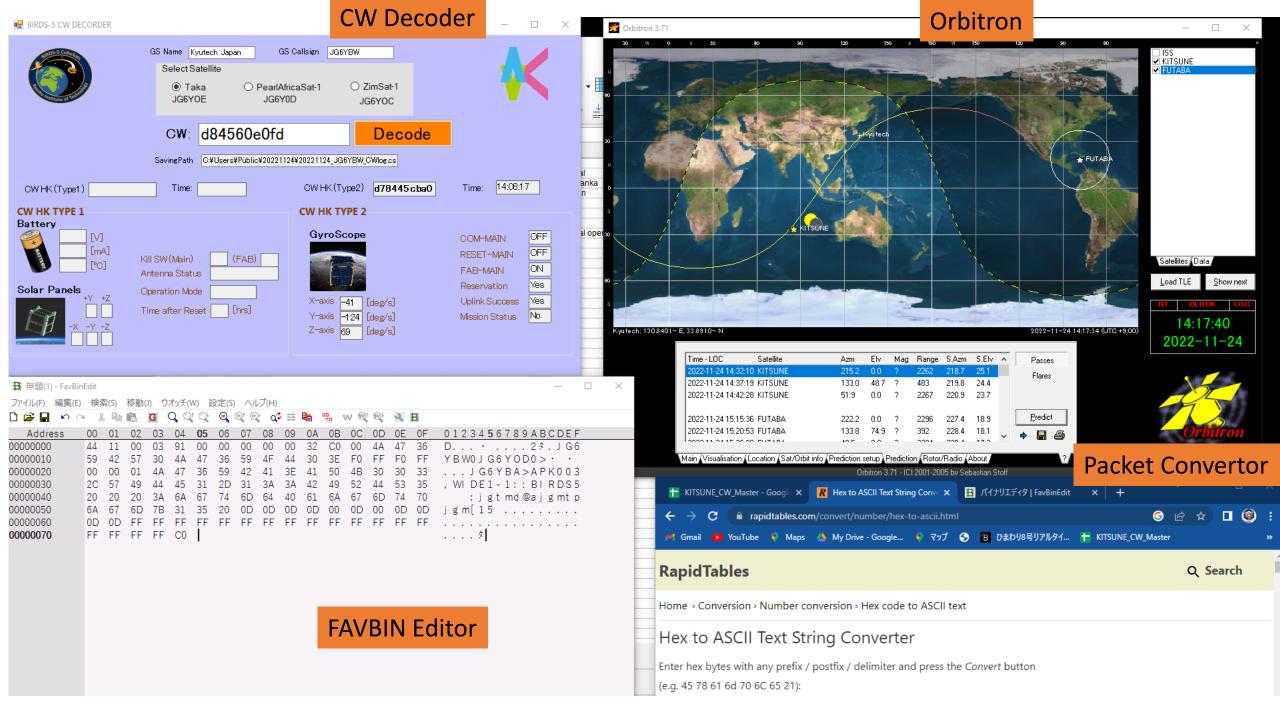
- Insert you GS name and GS Callsign
- Select Satellite you are operating
- Insert your saving path
- Only insert CW morse code 10 characters on CW
- The rest automatically fills and you can check and record the health of the satellite



# **ANNEX**

# BIRSD GS Operations Training Demostrations





Kyutech Amateur Satellite Operation by UHF v1.4.3

AZ. 103.0 EL. 90.0









Freq. **437.376000** 

Main Setting SatInfo Satellite Name ☐ Tracking RadioMode RX freq fine tuning +5kHz **KITSUNE** -1kHz -5kHz 44 11 00 03 91 00 00 00 00 00 32 Command(HEX) Comments None **Transmit** Auto Retry until ACK CMD and Receive Data CO 00 4A 47 38 59 42 57 30 4A 47 36 59 4F 44 30 3E FO AA 03 44 AO 53 00 EO 05 FF 00 00 00 32 AA CO Add missing packet into Command List

Main Window

Received packet(s): 54

Open Folder

Analyze, Save and Clear













































































Kyutech Amateur Satellite Operation by UHF v1.4.3

437.377000

AZ. 103.0 EL. 90.0

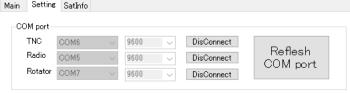
#### **Settings Window**

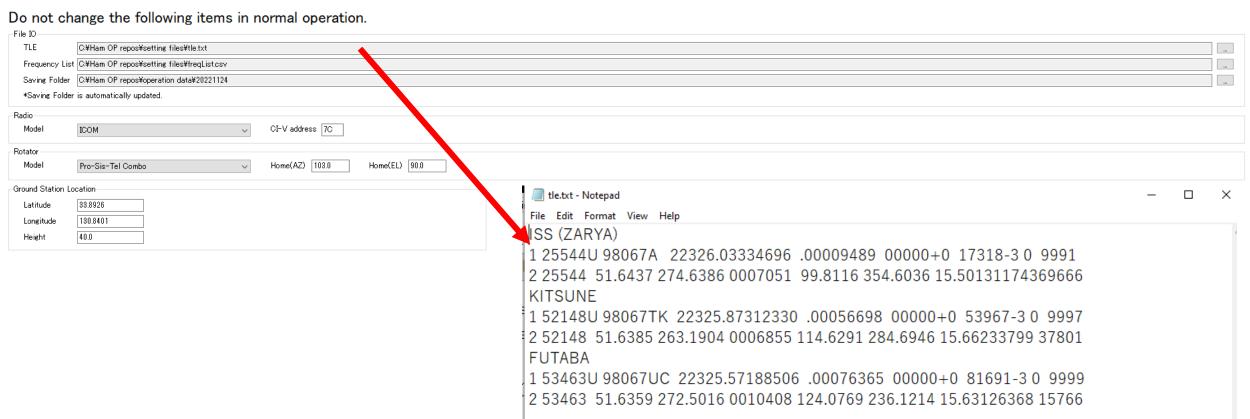




























































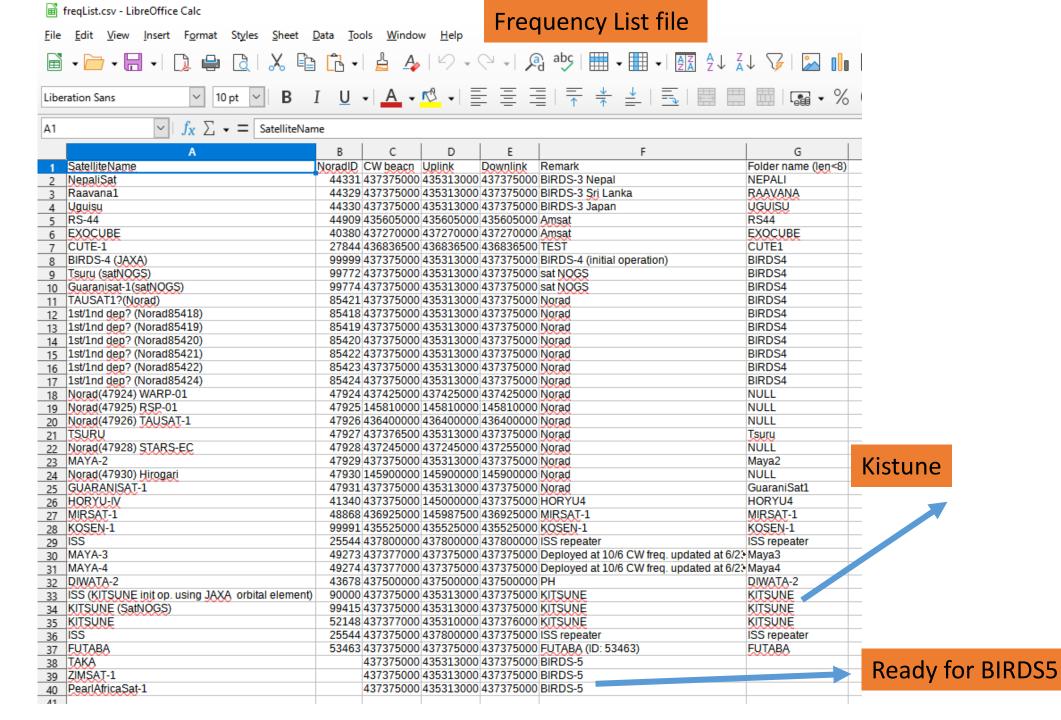












Kyutech Amateur Satellite Operation by UHF v1.4.3

AZ. 103.0 EL. 90.0

Sat Information Window









Freq. 437.377000

Main Setting SatInfo

#### Satellite Name

#### **KITSUNE**

NORAD ID 52148

UP Freq 435.31

KITSUNE

Folder name KITSUNE



















































































# International Morse Code

