JS8Call Guidance for AmRRON (white paper)

01 June 2022

This document supercedes the JS8Call Guidance for AmRRON (white paper) dated 03 December 2019.

*****UPDATE NOTIFICATION*** As of 01 June 2022, the following changes will be implemented:**

1. Abbreviated STATREP will now be placed in the 'Station Status' field (no longer in the 'Station Info' field). **Make a note in your SOI.**
2. Station Info field will contain other information, such as abbreviated PIR reporting information, when directed by Net Control or other issued guidance.

Statement of Purpose: Establish standardized practices for the use of JS8Call software by AmRRON radio operators.

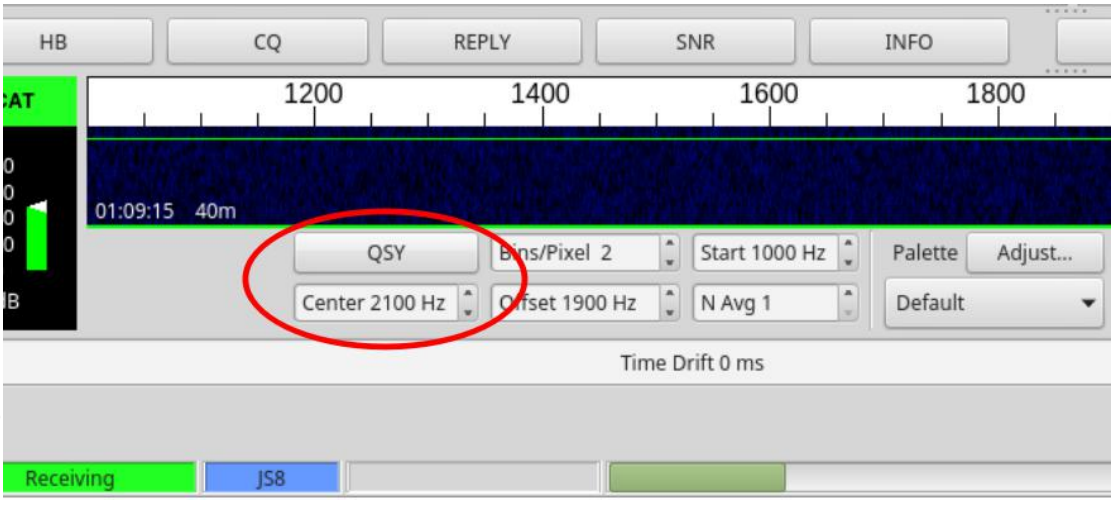
Intent: To guide the AmRRON operator with additional JS8Call settings and configurations in accordance with current AmRRON HF radio operations, after downloading and basic setup steps.

STRONGLY recommended first -- Basic setup and advanced features are outlined in the JS8Call Training Resources posting, linked below:
https://amrron.com/2019/10/23/js8call-training-resources/

Note: These settings applicable as of the publishing date of this white paper. At this writing, the current version of JS8call is Version 2.0

General Guidance:

1. Settings for waterfall location:
   AmRRON JS8 operations should only take place between 1900 and 2300 on the waterfall. This is done to avoid interfering with traffic using other modes at 1000 and 1500 on the waterfall.
   You can set your preferred waterfall location in JS8call by editing the 'Center' field (see Figure 1)



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Figure 1

See the white paper covering AmRRON waterfall designations for various modes at:
https://amrron.com/2019/05/08/digital-mode-waterfall-designation-white-paper/

2. Adding Callsign Group:
   a) Sharing information between AmRRON members over the air. You can create groups to which you can direct messages or make queries for information, to and from that group only.
   To be part of the AmRRON group, simply add @AMRRON to the 'Callsign Groups (comma separated)'

   b) Go to File > Settings > General > Station and add @AMRRON
   You must include the @ symbol.
   (See Figure 2)

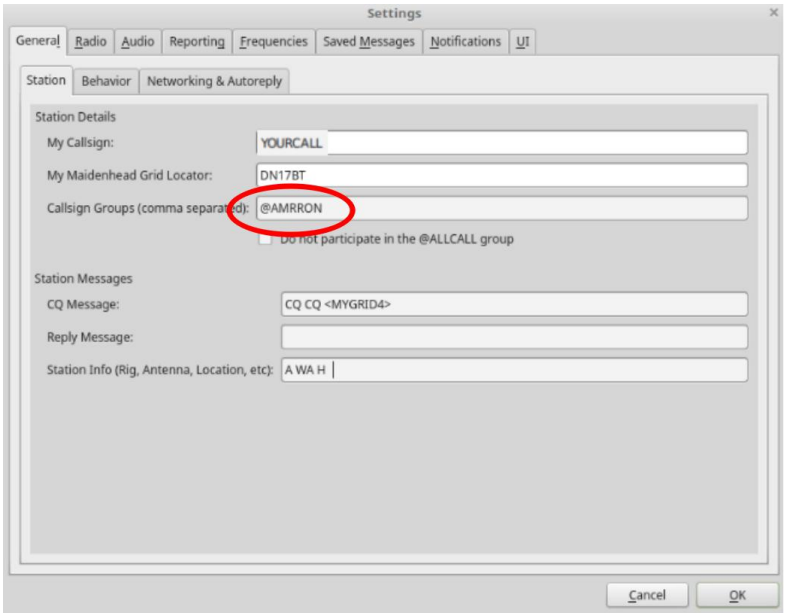


Figure 2

01 June 2022 Update: As you can see in Figure 2, the developer had not yet added a 'Station Status' field. 'Status' field is where your abbreviated STATREP will go from now on. Info field will be for other information as directed by Net Control, such as abbreviated PIR (Priority Intelligence Requirement) reporting.

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3. Adding and updating your abbreviated STATREP to Station Status field:

   a) Maintaining an abbreviated STATREP allows other stations to query your station to ascertain your status (power, water, communications, etc). It is simply a snapshot of your situation at your location. What we refer to as a 'pulse check'.

   Refer to the white paper covering AmRRON Abbreviated STATREPs at:

   https://amrron.com/2019/11/26/white-paper-abbreviated-status-report-statrep/

   You may also learn more by typing 'Abbreviated STATREP' in the search box at amrron.com

   b) Add your STATREP to the Station Info field by going to:

   Go to File > Settings > General > Station

4. Add AmRRON digital mode frequencies to JS8Call frequency page:

   a) Go to File > Settings > Frequency
   Hover over each band and 'Right' click (See Figure 3)

   b) Select 'Insert...' from the drop down menu, and add:

      a) 14.110 (20m band)
      b) 7.110 (40m band)
      c) 3.588 (80m band)

   Select 'OK' when finished

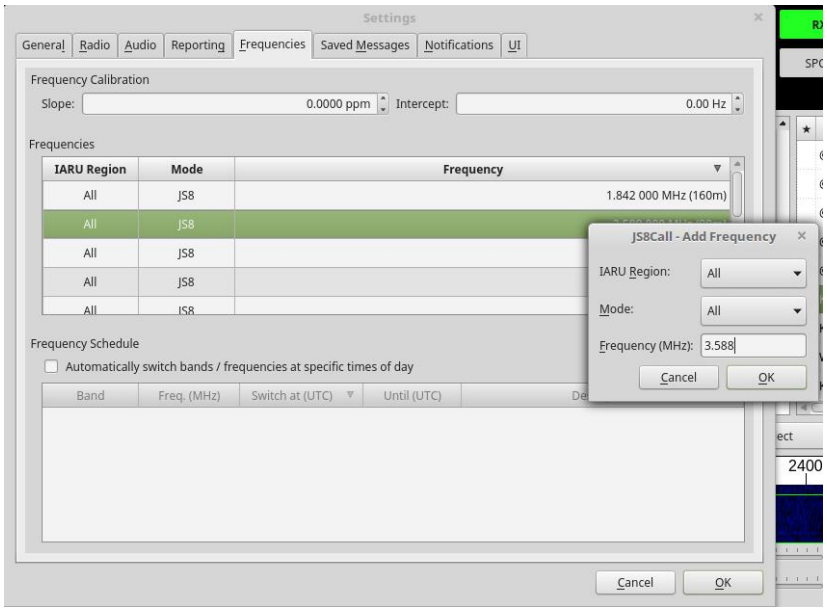


Figure 3

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NOTE: Your activity is logged in JS8Call by band, so even if you are not using rig control, it is still helpful to switch the displayed frequency on the main JS8Call window. This helps separate on-air activity by band in your logs, for later review when you are trying to determine band path quality and activity between yourself and other stations.
In your JS8Call program, see Log --> ALL.txt

5. Tips and guidance for AmRRON operators using JS8Call
   a) Be sure to turn HB+ACK and AUTO features OFF prior to scheduled nets or exchanging traffic with other stations using modes other than JS8Call
   b) We strongly recommend turning the SPOT feature off. It is the button toward the upper right-hand corner of your main JS8Call window. If SPOT is turned on your station activity is logged at the PSKReporter website for all who wish to see.
   c) Some AmRRON stations add a slant b or n after their call sign. This indicates [call]/b a Backbone station, or a [call/n] Net Control station. They do this to help recognize each other more easily on the air, as they are tasked with specific roles for passing traffic across the network. If you are not a Backbone or NCS station, do not place a /letter after your call sign.
   d) Under most circumstances, you should set any automatic Heartbeat (beacon) intervals at no more than once per hour.
   Set your waterfall transmit location (between 1900 and 2300) so you can come back to it each time you use JS8Call.

   To do this, type in the offset (in Hz) value in the window labeled‘Offset’, located in the lower left-hand portion of your JS8Call main screen. After that, you simply click on the QSY button and it will automatically place your waterfall position at the value you chose (between 1900 and 2300).