

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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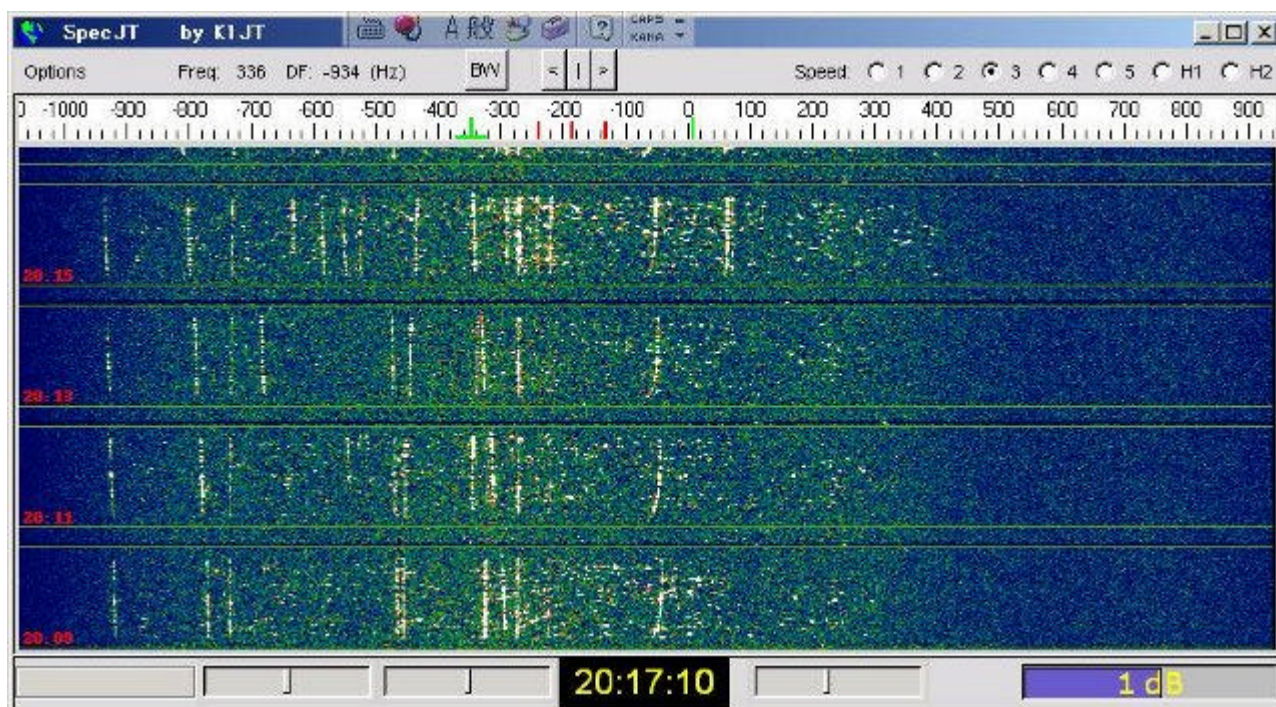
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Ogasawara on 2m EME

From 19 to 25 February 2008 JD1BLY and JD1BMP were successfully QRV on 2m EME from Ogasawara (JD1) in QL17CC, using some 500 watts out to a 4 x 11 elements yagi array: As EME activity from JD1 Ogasawara is reported only once when the 7J1YAM team in 1998, running about 200 watts to two 12 elements yagis, managed a few QSOs on 2m CW. Last spring Makoto JI5RPT and Isao JM1WBB decided to go for a Ogasawara 2008 project which includes high power 2m EME operation. After intense negotiations with the Japanese PTT a high power licence was granted, with 500 watts out on 2m. There were even two inspectors to be dispatched to Ogasawara to check the equipment and output power.



How many callers can you count? Screenshot at JD1BMP (JM1WBB)

On 13 February 2008 Makoto arrived Ogasawara and installed all antennas: for 160m, 80/40m and 4 x 11 elements yagis for 2m. Isao arrived on 19 February together with the two PTT inspectors, after 25 hours half-seasickness. The inspection was completed without any problem but yet the team could not complete a single QSO that day: They had a mistake in matching phase due to incorrect directions by the antenna manufacturer.

So the European window was lost and the team went to sleep, tired and somewhat disappointed. The best window of the whole dxpedition could not be used. However, the next morning they fixed the phase match and completed beam pattern test.



JD1BMP started calling CQ on 144,075 MHz JT65B 1st sequence from 0900Z on 20 February. With a -20dB signal VK2KU was the first one completed at 0940Z. And after two ZL QSOs the great pileup started. It sounded almost like some kind of modern music: In the hf-quiet area with a very low noise floor even -24dB signals could be heard in the head phones. After 50 EME QSOs that day Isao went to bed with great satisfaction.

The next day, 21 February, another 28 QSOs were entered into the log, again with strong music-like pile-ups. The team managed to work only 2 JAs and 6 Ws in the North-American window the following day as conds changed to the worse. 12 QSOs were completed in the EU window that day.

23 February had another “surprise”: It was rainy, one couldn't even see the moon through the clouds and therefore aiming the antenna was a “blind flight”. The echo of

K9MRI calling CQ was quite strong before JD1BMP started calling CQ but no reply was noted during the American window that day. They got a great ground gain at that European window. Higher than 8 degrees elevation there were some takers but JD1BMP couldn't complete even one QSO with rapid faraday rotation. Even in such conditions they managed many QSOs with GG at that European window. Until then 104 EME QSOs were counted.

The total QSO number reached 114 on 24 February. Though the degradation was rather bad that day it was easy to copy many stations. The final day of operations – 25 February - had no common window with America. However, at 10 degrees good own echos were copied but even though, only a few contacts could be completed. The last QSO was made with lucky Steffen DD0VF.

Within those six days of operations from Ogasawara **119** 2m EME QSOs were completed, a very good result. QSLs should be back from printers by now, please enclose SAE and 1 IRC or 2 \$ in the QSL card envelope; QSL via JM1WBB.

H44HP Solomon Islands

Bernhard DL2GAN and Hermann DL2NUD safely arrived on the Salomon Islands on 7 March 2008. Sadly the equipment did not. With lots of improvisation they managed to become QRV with some spare RIG, only without RX preamp and the proper antenna cable: On 15 March H44HP completed a number of QSOs with the 18 elements M2 and good power. Their sigs at DF2ZC

peaked at -16 dB. Also the next day H44HP was QRV and successfully worked EME. Had Hermann only had his preamp and the faster laptop, also decoding at his site would have been easier. So there were long periods of CQ only. Then, on 17 March, with the antenna at a very high elevation, the "spare" coax melted. As result also part of the PA was suffered damage. Three of the four power moduls were blown up and so H44HP has only 350 watts out left over. Now Hermann and Bernhard await the arrival of Hermann's RIG before they can be back on EME. There are still some days left until the planned departure from H44 on 4 April, so let's keep fingers crossed. At least those 35 hams already having completed with H44HP are very lucky ones, apparently.

Upcoming DXpeditions

JW5E (JQ78)

Bouke PA0ZH and René PE1L will be QRV from Svalbard from 5 to 9 June 2008. Equipment will be TS2000, 2 x GI7B, MGF1302 and 2 x XP20.

JX9JKA (IQ60)

From 27 March to 8 October 2008 Svein LA9JKA will be QRV from Jan Mayen . This is not exactly a dxpedition as Svein will be employed in Jan Mayen. However, he plans to operate from IQ60 and IQ61 in SSB and digital modes on HF, 50,144 and 432 MHz. His RIG on 2m is 2 x M33 + GS31. Svein will try to be QRV on EME (WSJT) at moon rise/set whenever the situation will allow it.

EME for Africa: Lesotho

No further news on the EME for Africa Project's plans for a short operation from Lesotho. So stay prepared in early April in case they show up on April 3-6 or April 10-13.

TO3EME French Guyana

Jacques F1BCS and Jean-Marc F1HDI are happy to pre-announce their upcoming 144 EME activity from FY French Guyana (GJ35). EME operation is expected from 1 May to 7 May 2008. TO3EME is assigned as callsign. Their RIG is not yet decided. However they plan for four short yagis and some more power than from their previous activities J79DI and 6V7A.

R9J/9

From 4 March until 7 April 2008 a scientifically-practical radioexpedition "Great Northern Way" is underway from St. Petersburg through the Northern part of Russia. The entire route extends over about 4800 km. With the group is Valerij RV9JD, who plans to become QRV via EME from some locations. He was already copied from LP85QA using the callsign R9J/9 on 19 March though no QSO was reported yet.

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Source dxpedition infos:
www.mmmmonvhf.de

Time Table

12/13 April 2008

DUBUS CW/SSB EME Contest

(Rules see www.marsport.org.uk/dubus/EMEcontest2008.pdf)

21 April 2008

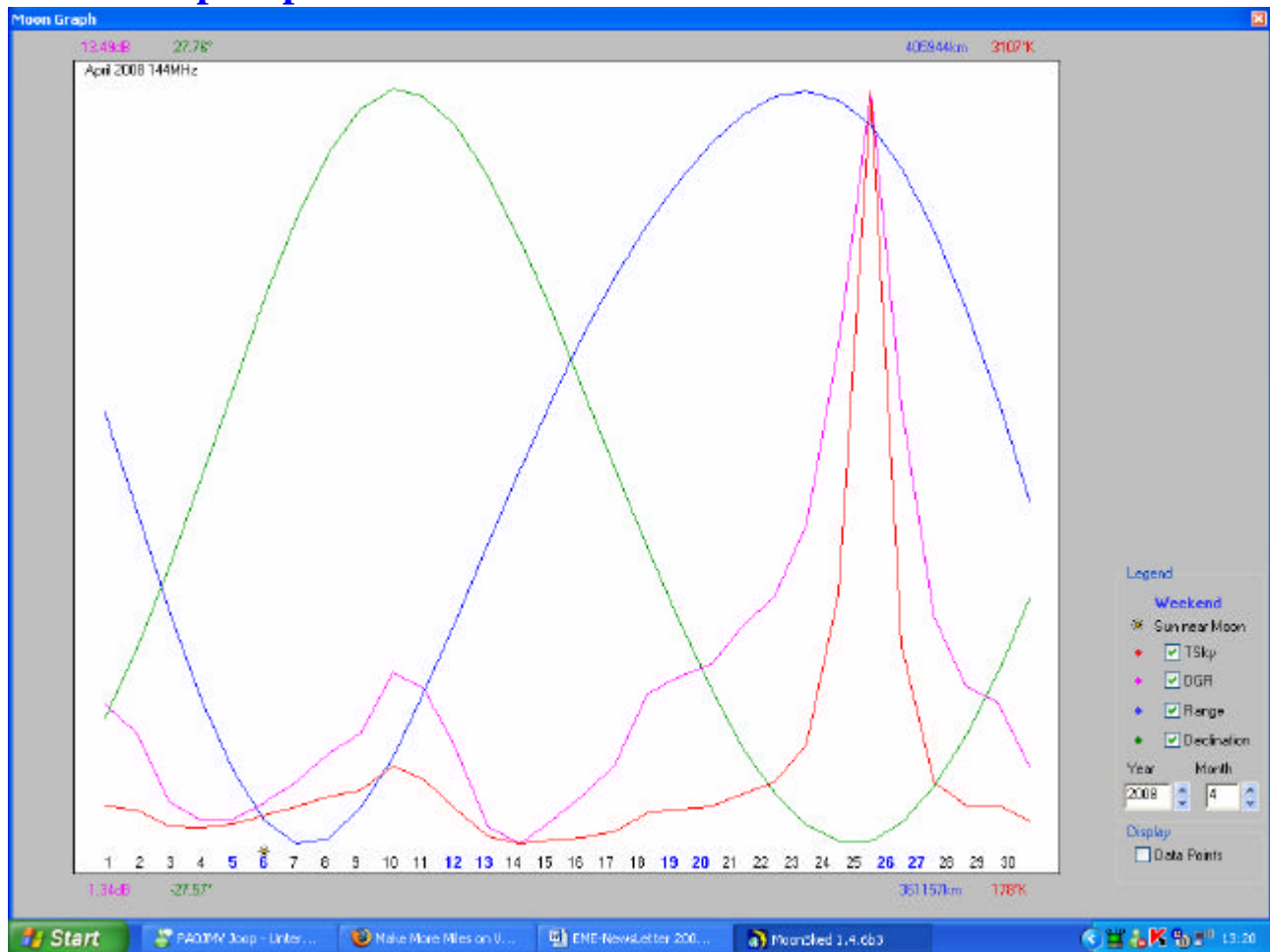
April Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

ready for download at www.df2zc.de/newsletter

31 May/1 June 2008

ARI "New Modes" EME Contest

Moon Graph April 2008



Courtesy of David GM4JJJ (www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm)