

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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ET3AA – Ethiopia on 2m EME with fb signals

Bob ZL1RS, who is an aid worker with the International Red Cross, has already activated many rare DXCC entities via EME from his various work locations, such as Sudan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, to name but a few. For some months he has been working in Ethiopia already but so far attempted in vain to get a reciprocal amateur radio licence. Finally he was granted permission to work using the clubstation ET3AA callsign in April. As soon as he got the news he started assembling an EME antenna system. He decided to go for two 11 elements YU7EF (www.yu7ef.com), vertically polarised and horizontally stacked. The resulting gain is some 15 dBd. Bob started collecting material and changed his living room into a construction workshop. Details of the "creation process" are displayed on his website www.qsl.net/zl1rs and in a



ET3AA – it's good they have no rain in Addis Abeba in spring (Photo: ZL1RS)

smaller amount also on www.df2zc.de/et3aa. Out in the garden of his house in KJ98JX he installed a small mast, reaching just 3m in height. One advantage of Addis Abeba in that time of the year is that they rarely have any rain then. Therefore Bob could minimise tx loss by placing brick amp (running just 150 watts) and power supply straight below the antenna. By that he managed to really get 150 watts at the splitter, resulting in some 4.7 kW ERP. The basic station equipment consisted of an IC-706MK2g and a laptop with the WSJT software.

Though this is much like a QRP station it works perfectly. Bob's signal was maximum - 20 dB at DF2ZC on 13 April 2008. So it is no wonder he worked 57 QSOs only the first two days of activity. Many more contacts were added the following days. Since Bob is staying in ET land for quite some time there is a good chance for those not having worked him yet to complete for a new DXCC. Bob plans to be QRV – work schedule permitting – from 1600 to 1800 Z during the working week and of course much longer during the weekends. There will be some extra times for the ZL/VK/JA's and the America's.

QSLs can be sent straight to EARS at the following address:
ETHIOPIAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O.BOX: 60258
ADDIS ABABA
ETHIOPIA



Bob in his living room drilling holes into the boom (Photo: ZL1RS)

The club has ZERO funds for return postage, so an SAE and GS (or something to cover postage, IRC's are useless there) will be essential if you want a reply. Of course it is also possible to QSL direct via ZL1RS (address in QRZ.com) and Bob will make sure you do get a return card in July or August when he returns to ZL and has the time.

(Not only) Bob is very grateful to the ET3AA Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society (EARS) radio club! Since the club is permanently short of funds any small donation with the QSL would help a lot (and motivate the newcomers for ham radio). Even an extra dollar will go a long way in this country.

For those who don't trust sending cash in the mail a PayPal account has been arranged: Send your QSL via mail direct to ET3AA with the QSL info at QRZ.com, and make a donation via PayPal at www.paypal.com to chris.hannagan@xtra.co.nz (ZL2DX) with a "message" in the PayPal form stating "donation to ET3AA from <your callsign>". This account is a USD account. Chris (ZL2DX) will pass the information to Bob and Bob will personally pass your donation to the radio club in Addis Ababa.

SV2KBS - a yl on EME!



Like amateur radio in toto, EME is very much a male domain. If you take some xyls out, there has never been a yl been active with her own station. Now, this has changed. Jimmy SV1BTR has guided Victoria SV2KBS into setting up a 2m EME capable equipment and also explained to her the special EME QSO procedures which are commonly adapted in digital as well as CW modes.

Victoria is a very active young lady – on HF, VHF and other real sports activities; the photo to the left not in Greece but in Island. Just have a look at her bio on www.qrz.com/sv2kbs She made her first steps in the thrilling propagation mode during the DUBUS CW EME Contest 12/13 April and completed with – of course – Jimmy being her first ever QSO on 2m EME, followed by OZ1HNE. Welcome in the community, Victoria!

Upcoming DXpeditions

JW5E Svalbard

Bouke PA0ZH and René PE1L have successfully tested their equipment for the planned Svalbard activity from 4 to 9 June 2008. The callsign will be JW5E, locator JQ78TF. They will run 600 watts out to 2 x 10 xpols. Working frequency is 144,110 MHz (for JA 144,082 MHz) and JW5E always first. Bouke and René have even set up a dedicated website: www.emelogger.com/svalbard/

ZB/DH7FB and ZB/DF2ZC uncertain

From 28 May to 1 June 2008 Frank and Bernd had planned to activate Gibraltar again on EME. However, this has become rather uncertain now as the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority GRA changed regulations for reciprocal licences in June 2007: Since then there are no HF licences granted at all and the power on 2m and 6m is limited to 100 watts ERP for the time being. Linear amps are forbidden. Apparently there were recent problems caused by visitors causing serious interference with essential services (No, this was not caused by the 2007 ZB DXpedition by Frank and Bernd). 100 watts ERP make it some 3 watts output to the 2 x 9 ele M2 Frank and Bernd had arranged for. Therefore they had applied for a high power licence permitting them to run at least 400 watts output but that was refused. However, the GRA pointed out that the new regulations were decided in close consultation with the Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society GARS and they suggested to appeal to GARS. They (GRA) would then wait on GARS' decision. This appeal was made already by email and by letter straight to ZB2IF, the president of GARS, but so far there was no reaction. That is a very unpleasant situation as this would mean no further decent VHF activity, be meteorscatter or EME, would be possible from ZB in the future. So let us hope the Gibraltar hams will decide in favour of their fellow hams trying to activate their DXCC in a propagation and mode no local is QRV.

If the outcome should be negative (which sadly is quite likely) Frank and Bernd will become QRV from another spot which probably is no rare DXCC but at least a rare grid with respect to EME. Or they cancel this summer activity altogether and go for a "rare" EME DXCC in Western Europe in autumn 2008. A MPEG videos from their 2007 DXpedition can be watched on youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7p57RXvpYQ

TO3EME French Guyana

Jacques F1BCS and Jean-Marc F1HDI sadly had to cancel their planned 144 EME activity from FY French Guyana (GJ35) which was to take place from 1 May to 7 May 2008.

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Source dxpedition infos:
www.mmmonvhf.de

T61AA – EME from South Afghanistan



Ross T61AA is now QRV from Lashkar Gah in the Afghan province Helmand (MM21EO) with a 9 elements Tonna and a GS35. As he has no elevation he can only work moonrise and moonset; his moonset take-off is the better one. However, though he has just 10 kW ERP available he delivers a good signal. The only problem is that at times he has a reduced rx capability: Since T61AA is QRV from one of the most dangerous places in Afghanistan, i.e. a warzone, electronic jamming at times makes reception impossible. Ross usually calls CQ 1st in JT65B on 144,125 MHz if his work schedule permits. He can also be found on the NOUK logger at times.

T61AA's antenna (PhotoT61AA via ON7UC)

Silent Keys

SM7BAE Silent Key

On 30 March very sad news reached the EME community: Kjell SM7BAE had died shortly before his 80th birthday.

Kjell was granted his amateur radio in 1950. In 1968 he started his first EME tests on 2m CW with K6MYC und ZL1AZR. His entire equipment then was homebrew, also the amp running a then enormous output of 1300 watts at a 160 elements yagi group which was also developed and constructed by SM7BAE, long before computer aided antenna design was introduced. It is not at all surprising that SM7BAE was the first heard and worked EME station for many hams.

Even in his seventies Kjell was open-minded for new developments and technical progress. Consequently he was also very busy running WSJT and the JT65 mode. Never again we will hear his loud signal...



Kjell SM7BAE in his shack (Photo: SMOHJF)

Miscellaneous

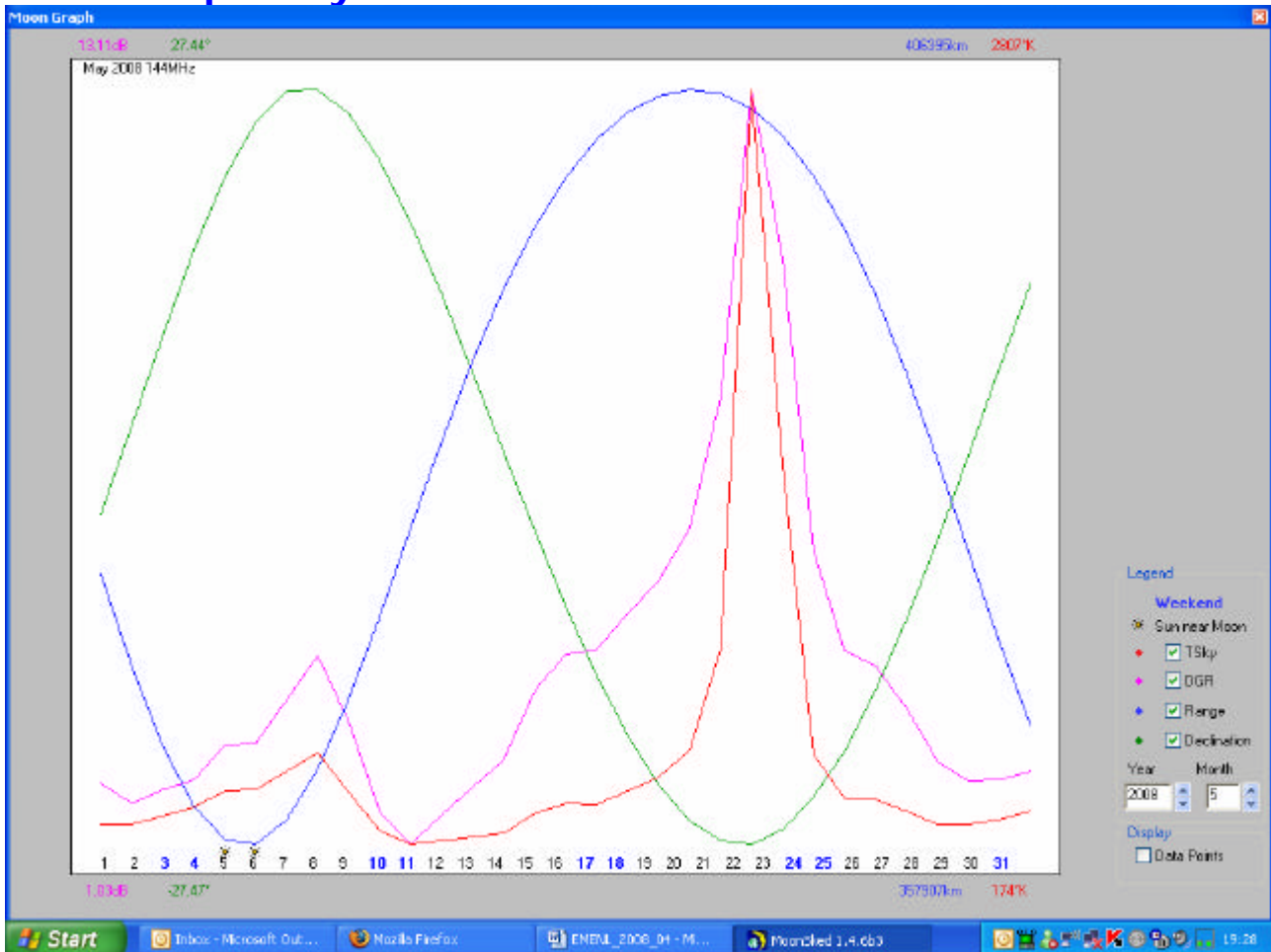
No 144 MHz EME NewsLetter in May

Since DF2ZC will be on business travel (and hopefully also dpxpedition) for most of May there might be no 144 MHz EME NewsLetter in May 2008. My apologies! The next NewsLetter will be ready for download only on June 17.

Time Table

3 May 2008	DUBUS CW EME Activity Night 0400 - 0700Z 1130 - 1430Z (Rules see www.sm2cew.com/aw_rules.html)
31 May/1 June 2008	ARI "New Modes" EME Contest
7 June 2008	DUBUS CW EME Activity Night 0830 - 1130Z 1700 - 2000Z (Rules see www.sm2cew.com/aw_rules.html)
17 June 2008	June Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at www.df2zc.de/newsletter

Moon Graph May 2008



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

Moon Graph June 2008

