

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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EME from the South Seas

The Fiji Islands is a place you would usually associate with recreation, sun-bathing, swimming etc and not primarily with hard work. Until 27 September. On that day a combined 2m 6m EME activity by Bob 3D2RS/ZL1RS and Lance 3D2LR/W7GJ started which was some kind of single operator event for either band. Which definitely is hard work.



Bob 3D2RS in his shack with IC-706MK2g, home made 8877 PA, ATF21186 GaAsFET preamp, Compaq laptop and headphones for the CW callers (yes, there was one CW caller) (ZL1RS)

As last year's activity on the South Cook Islands the DXpedition took place to take advantage of optimum EME conditions. It ran from 27 September to 9 October 2010, which included also the first weekend of the ARRL EME Contest.

To come to the point, once again this was a very successful DXpedition. Bob reports he put more contacts in the log than he has managed to make in his previous operations. This was despite the limitation in the Pacific of working with such a short window to Europe where most of the 2m EME stations are located. It was especially pleasing to work many new call signs and see a significant increase in activity from North America. His files show 211 QSOs of which 198 unique call signs from 41 DXCCs.

The best direction was moonrise out over the water, where the own echoes of Lance and Bob were copied on both bands. The extra ground gain on moonrise allowed to work very small horizon-only stations in EU, who were also accruing extra ground gain at the same time. In addition, the elevation capability permitted to be QRV also during moonset in North America, in order to catch horizon-only stations there.



The 2 x 8 element yagis ZL1RS design and Lance's 6M8GJ yagi in the background. (ZL1RS)

All contacts were made without any internet. Bob and Lance are grateful to MMM on VHF for posting updates which Bob was able to send periodically via SMS on his cell phone.

Also 6m was very successful: Lance worked a total of 52 different stations in 17 DXCCs (20 EU, 29 NA, 2 OC, 1 AS), on 6m EME with 17 additional stations copied but not worked in an additional 6 DXCCs (9 EU, 5 NA, 2 OC, 1 AS). Antenna was a M2 6M8GJ yagi, and radio was an Elecraft K3 with PR6 external preamp, operating JT65A mode with laptop computer. Feedline was 50' of LMR-600UF 50 ohm coaxial cable with N connectors, for a total loss of under 0.5 dB. Elevation up to 65 degrees was by W7GJ manual elevation mount. More details are on the W7GJ webpage www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj.

As everyone who conducted a DXpedition of his own sure has experienced: This permanent concentrated QSO-making and sleep deprivation is hard work but – as long as the conds

cooperate and there is a pile-up present – yet feels also as some kind of recreation. So when and where might Lance and Bob take their next special recreation? And yes, Lance indeed writes “We are looking forward to contacting even more stations from our next rare DXCC next year!” That sounds very very promising...

Update CE/DK2ZF and CE/DK7ZB

To the delight of the EME community the development at DK2ZF and DK7ZB was not as bad as it looked at first sight. As the customs in CE believed there could be explosives in their suitcases, they had performed a mechanical “rattling test” with them which did of course not



result in them blowing off but in many parts of the equipment simply getting mechanically destroyed. It was nearly a miracle that the BeKo amps survived this treatment but other vital parts of the equipment did not. Somehow Rolf and Martin managed to fix major components and managed to get operational from the Easter Island on 3 October with I2RV being their first 2m QSO from CE0Y. From then until the end of the activity they completed some 160 QSOs, including 3D2RS from Fiji. Then they continued their journey to Chile mainland and started 2m operations from

FF47GG on 27 October. Even without preamp they logged 97 QSOs until 31 October – and they still are QRV for some days. Only some kind of line noise which usually starts around 1030Z and reaches S9 levels makes any operation impossible then. The small picture shows Rolf and Martin with antenna (*courtesy MMonVHF & DK2ZF*).

Upcoming/current DXpeditions

For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at www.mmonvhf.de from where most of the information here was gathered.

XX9 Macau activated by BD5RV

From 24 November to 30 November Michael BD5RV plans an EME activity from Macau (locator OL62SD). The equipment will be IC910H, 2 x 13 ele (3WL) and a BeKo HLV-750 running at some 600 watts out. Michael will set up a temporary station at the Parque Natural da Taipa Grande, Taipa. If you wish to view the exact position, download and import the corresponding google earth kmz file: http://www.bd5rv.info/michael/XX9ARM/XX9ARM_EME.kmz

Out of (Northern) Africa

Frank DL8YHR and Norbert DL8LAQ are preparing for a DXpedition to Northern Africa, planned for 26 to 29 November. The DXCC may not yet be disclosed but unless you live in Europe within Sporadic E reach you might not have worked it yet. It is not easy to go to that country but Frank and Norbert do their very best to make it happen; there is good support by local hams. They will use a single yagi, the rest of the equipment is still being discussed.

KH0/KT3Q Mariana Islands Postponed

The announced activity by Bodo DL3OCH to the Mariana islands had to be postponed because of work priorities. However, the DXpedition is still on Bodo’s agenda, let’s keep fingers crossed.

Guadeloupe at New Year’s Eve?!

Phil F1DUZ and Jean Noel F6APE are travelling to the French Antilles at the end of this year. They plan to set up a portable 2m EME station consisting of FT 897D, SP2000 LNA , HL-500V amplifier by Tokyo Hy-Power and 2 x 10 elements yagi. Further details about call signs, frequencies etc to follow.

Miscellaneous

Lins PA3CMC is back on

Happily Lins PA3CMC reports being QRV again on 2m EME. From his home QTH Lins had suffered from strong noise caused by electric streetlights with solar cells. Only the big guns could still be copied - this rendered impossible any serious EME work from there. So he looked for alternatives – and was lucky to find a site in a good distance.



PA3CMC "old" set up at new and noise free QTH in JO21WI (PA3CMC)

Lins finished the work right on time to participate in the Easter Island chase and bagged the very much wanted DXCC as well as 3D2RS. No wonder he is very happy again now...

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Time Table

20 Nov 2010
1530 - 1830Z

Dubus EME CW Activity Event

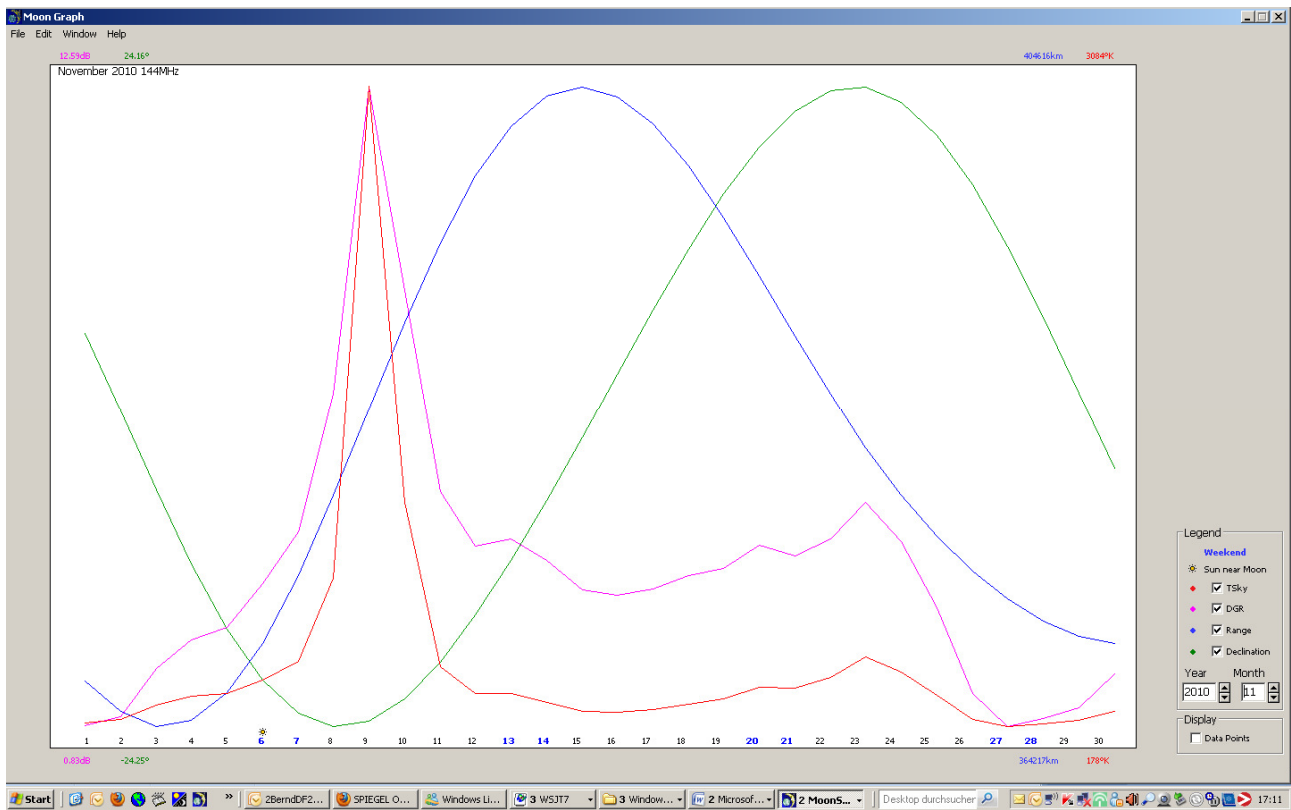
21 Nov 2010
0200 - 0500Z

Dubus EME CW Activity Event

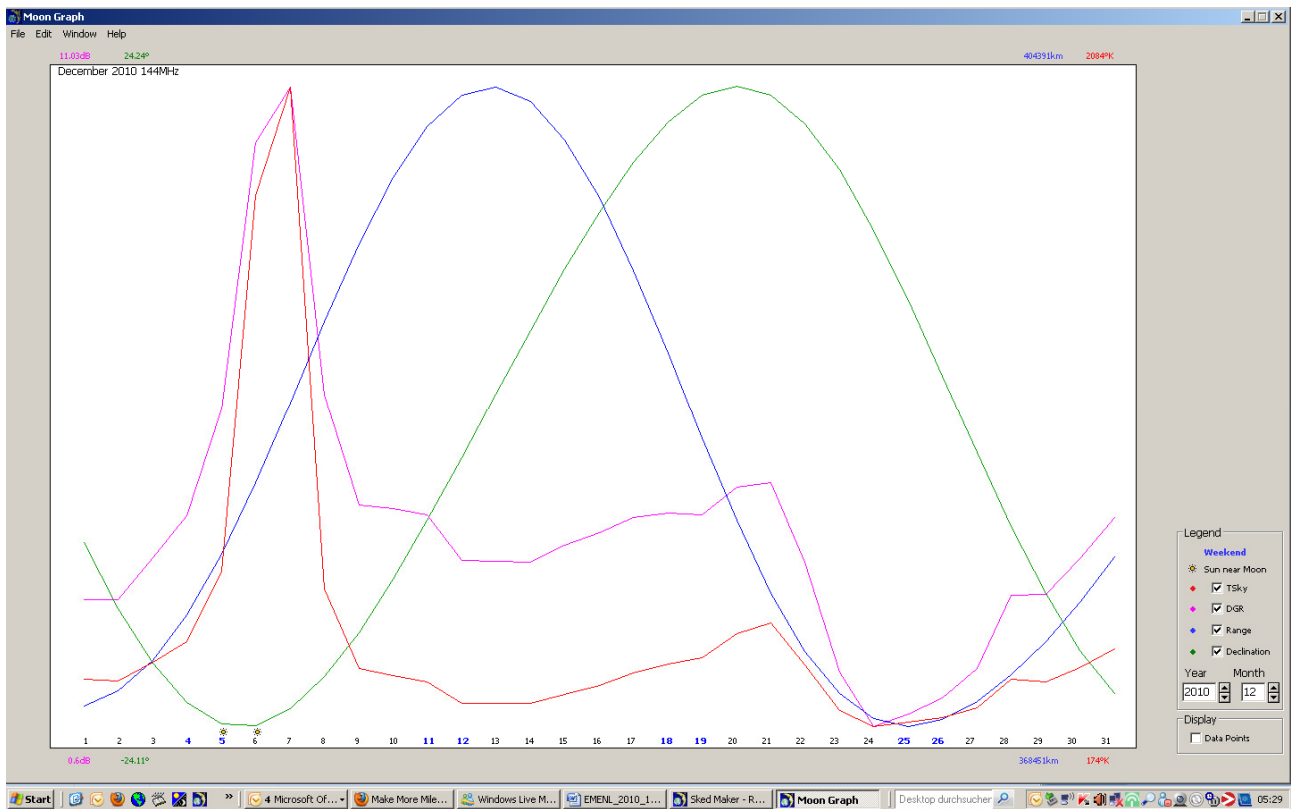
6 Dec 2010

December Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter
ready for download at www.df2zc.de/newsletter

Moon Graph November 2010



Moon Graph December 2010



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