

# The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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## VK9NA Norfolk Island on EME

After a very successful activity from Norfolk Island VK9N (locator RG30XX) in 2010 the team of Alan VK3XPD, Kevin VK4UH and Michael VK3KH together with Andrew VK1DA planned for a return to Norfolk Island in January 2011. Though this DXpedition was very much focussed on the Summer VHF/UHF field day weekend in Australia and also on microwave activities, this year they also tried EME on 144 MHz in JT65 mode.



VK3XPD (left) and VK3KH lifting the 2m EME antenna. ([www.vk9na.com](http://www.vk9na.com))

A 12 metre long Yagi (courtesy of Rex VK7MO) became part of the equipment and so the team looked forward to doing the first EME QSOs from the island. And indeed with the necessary luck they managed to very successfully work EME on 2m. VK9NA finished with 123 initials contacted from 11 to 20 January 2011 in 28 countries, 95 grid squares.

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This is a fine achievement, given the weather they had to endure (tropical cyclons passed only little away from the island) and the two relocations of the EME antenna caused by bad take-off and noise situation. Hopefully this is a good motivation for the team to bring an EME antenna also when they go on another DXpedition some time. No doubt that this was a thrilling experience for everyone.



**In its full shape: the VK9NA EME antenna pointing to the sea ([www.vk9na.com](http://www.vk9na.com))**

### **DXpedition with Obstacles**

The good news first: Currently Hermann DL2NUD is QRV from New Caledonia (FK) and he will stay there until about 16 February. However, in hindsight the fact that he could start transmitting at all is not quite a miracle but for long time seemed unlikely. It all started when his onboard flight from Tokyo to New Caledonia on 14 January was cancelled because of tropical cyclone Vania. The next flight was only two days later.

However, somehow Hermann could make it earlier and arrived in FK land on 16 January but could not yet collect the equipment from the airport. The same time another tropical cyclone built up and became a threat to the success of the DXpedition. And Hermann's patience was very much challenged the following days: The customs refused to hand out his equipment (which was sent there earlier by a dispatch company) because of some argument re transport cost. Hermann went there again and again with no success – and the moon window to Europe got smaller and smaller. Finally with the assistance of local hams on the 20th he was successful and collected all parts and immediately travelled North to the RG28/29 grids where he set up his station in RG28PM. Then there came monsoon with heavy rain and no chance to be QRV.

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On 22 January FK/DL2NUD's sigs finally were on the moon and many operators jumped off their seats for a new DXCC and/or country first. From then on Hermann was QRV nearly on a daily basis until 27 January when he moved QTH to RG37FS at FK8DD's place. Since the window to Europe was practically nonexistent at that time the Northamericans benefited from that situation though noise at FK8DD site deteriorated reception by many dBs.

With respect to the elapsed time and also because of the high transportation cost (50 kg equipment) Hermann decided to skip the planned operation from YJ land (Vanuatu) and activate yet a second grid in FK land instead.

Then Hermann changed to yet another QTH on 8 February and became QRV from RG37DU at FK1TK's place. From there he still is and will be QRV until he leaves back home. And he does produce good signal strength with his 18 elements and HLV-1500 (of course at reduced output). So after an ill-fated start it all came to a good end.

### **K1DS Mobile Operations**



Rick K1DS is happy to report that he has made QSO #2 and #3 on 2m CW using his TS2000x + TE 350W amp with built-in preamp and 5 wl yagi on moonrise with SV1BTR (529/559) and OZ1HNE (529/529). Both QSOs were speaker quality, and easily completed on schedule. He made the contacts from his set-up from his rover van! Rick also uploaded some videos to youtube. When weather warms up again in spring he hopes to be active again on 2m and higher bands.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvQibbGUpzw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-eGy3Mpf8k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7n2krB1vUw>

## [Miscellaneous](#)

### **DXpedition of the Year**

Also in 2010 the team of MMonVHF had their competition "DXpedition of the Year" running. During the voting period from 1 to 20 January 2011 more than 100 voters from 32 different countries clicked more than 300 times for 52 different DXpeditions (terrestrial and EME), which were published on the review page of the mmonvhf.de portal during the year (2010). In the EME section it was possible to choose from 18

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different DXpeditions, 220 votes were counted altogether. First and holder of the 2010 DXpedition of the Year title is the team of René PE1L, Eltje PA3CEE and Johan PE9DX who completed a record of 340 QSOs from Mauritius in May 2010. Second are Bob ZL1RS and Lance W7GJ who were QRV as 3D2RS and 3D2LR from Fiji on 2m and 6m with even unbelievable >50 EME QSOs on 6 m. Third is Rolf DK2ZF who activated two DXCCs in fall 2010, CE0Y and CE. Congrats to all winners! The Dutch team is currently travelling to Gambia where they will activate that DXCC on 2m EME as C56EME from 11th to 21st February 2011.

## Silent Key

### **F3VS SK**



With great dismay the EME community learned of Claude F3VS becoming a silent key on 1 January 2011 after being ill for long time. Though some friends were aware of his health problems this still came as a deep hit and marks a bad start of the year 2011.

As some say when the band seemed empty, the activity low, Claude was always there to make some "noise" or answer CQs. For many stations he was one of the first or only CW EME QSOs as his excellent equipment and antenna (24 x 6wl / 8 x 6wl) allowed to work also very small stations on CW. His frequency 144,030 MHz sure will remain unused forever!



*(Picture courtesy <http://www.f5len.org/index.php?entry=entry061117-163135>)*

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## Upcoming/current DXpeditions

For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at [www.mmmmonvhf.de](http://www.mmmmonvhf.de) from where most of the information here was gathered.

### **FK New Caledonia (RG37)**

As mentioned above Hermann DL2NUD and Stefan DL9GRE still are QRV from New Caledonia using FK/DL2NUD. The call CQ on 144,144 MHz when they have moon (and while they are not on 70 cm or 23 cm) until they travel back home on 16 February.

### **HS0ZIL (DL2LAH) back in Thailand**

Karsten is back in OK16BQ from where he will be QRV every now and then until 15 March. At the moment he still works with only 2x10 ele DK7ZB Yagis but soon he will have four of them.

### **C56EME The Gambia (IK13QL)**

René PE1L, Eltje PA3CEE and Johan PE9DX are currently travelling to the Gambia and plan to start operations on Saturday 11 February on 144,124 MHz. The locator will be IK13QL. For latest info please see <http://www.emelogger.com/gambia/>

### **BY8 (NL97, OL14)**

Michael BD5RV and friends have plans to activate two grids in the BY8 area: NL97 and OL14 within the period from 15 March to 31 May. More details to follow later

## Time Table

**12 Feb 2011**  
**1200 - 1500Z**  
**2000 - 2300Z**

**Dubus EME CW Activity Event**

**7 Mar 2011**

**March Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter**  
ready for download at [www.df2zc.de/newsletter](http://www.df2zc.de/newsletter)

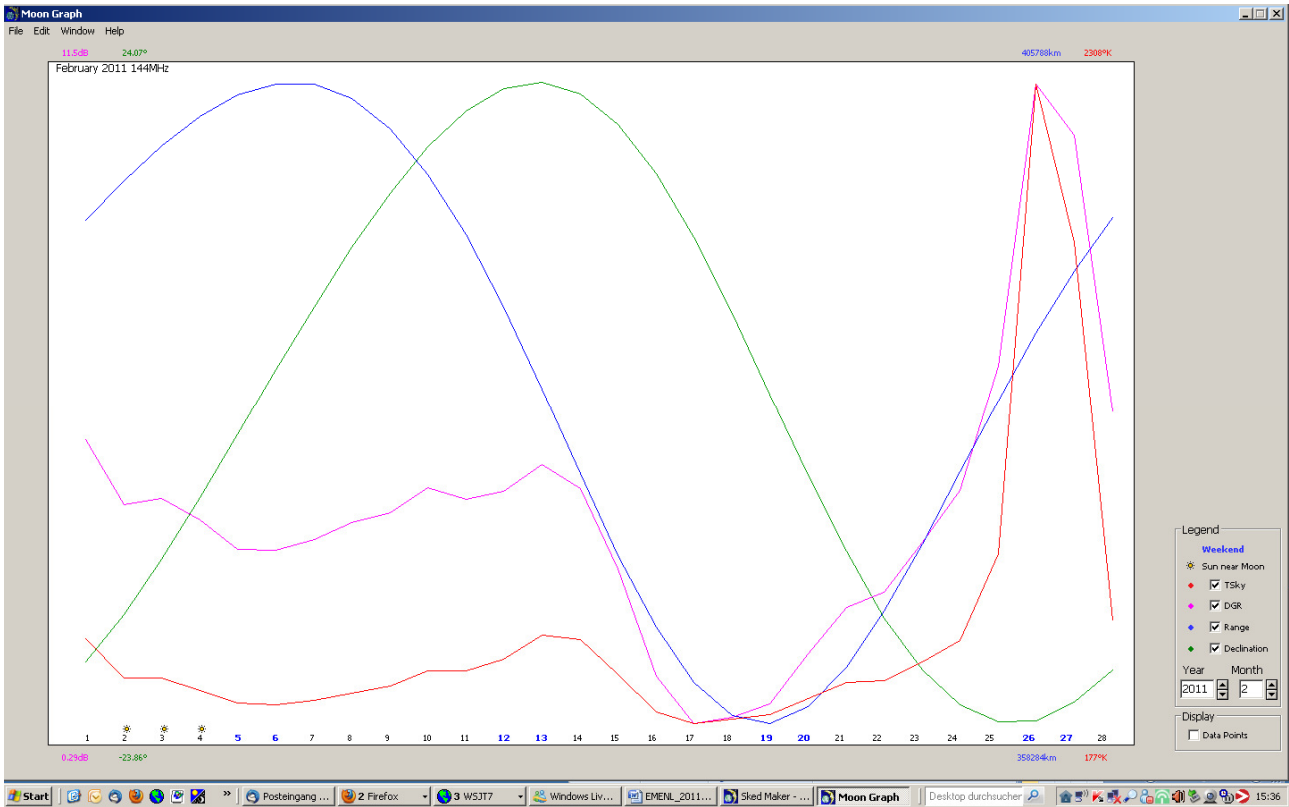
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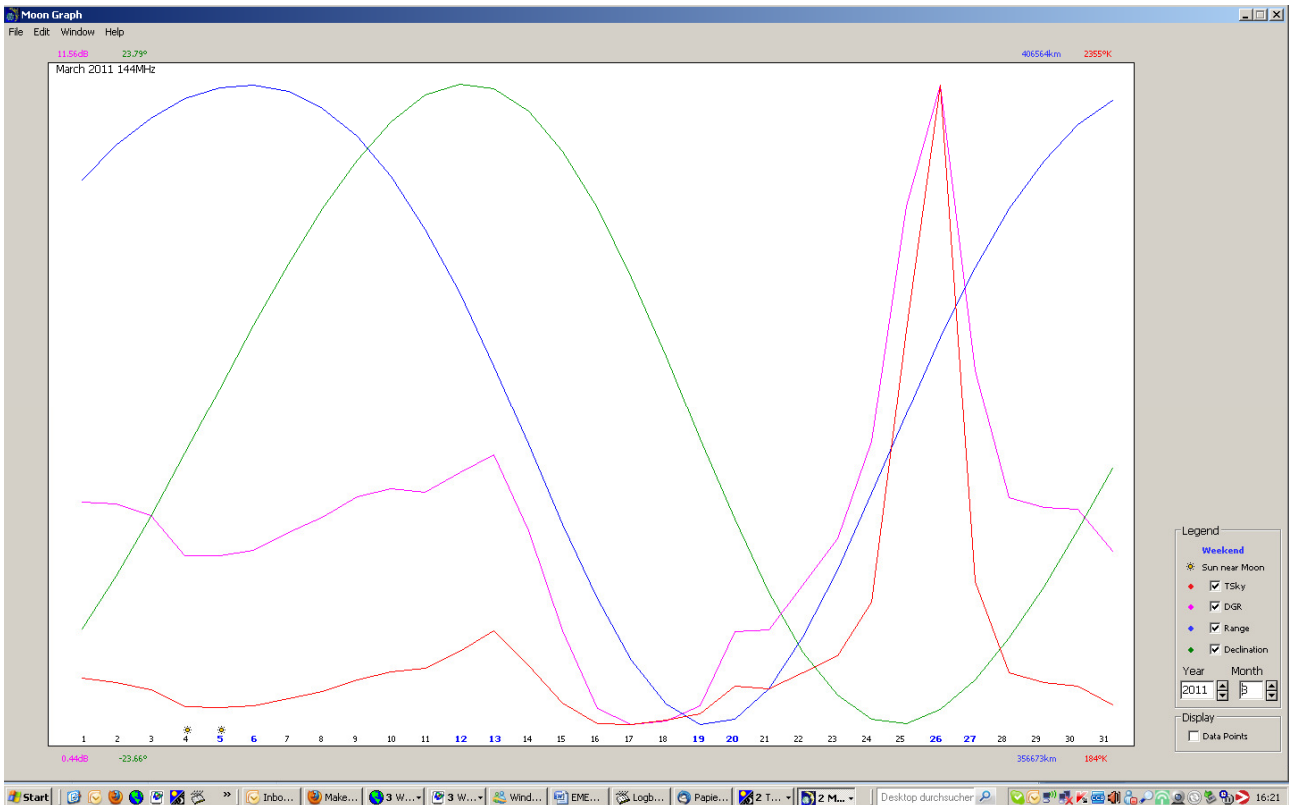
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## Moon Graph February 2011



## Moon Graph March 2011



(Courtesy of David GM4JJJ ([www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm](http://www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm)))