

# The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Issue 4+5/2011 9 May 2011

## Two new DXCCs within 10 Days

Since October 2010 Bonaire counts as a separate DXCC; earlier it was part of the DXCC "Netherlands Antilles" and counted for that entity. Therefore René PE1L, Johan PA3FPQ and Jurgen PE1LWT had plans for a DXpedition to the new Bonaire from the very moment it became known that this island might be a new DXCC. In April 2011 the plans eventually turned into reality: From 7 April to 11 April 2011 the three hams were active from the QTH of Peter PJ4NX in FK52UD, using the special callsign PJ4X. Equipment was 4 x 9 elements DF7KF cross yagi, high power amplifier and a low noise preamp by WA2ODO.



However, there is always work to do before the fun...after arrival at Bonaire on 4 April the team first had to disassemble Peter's old antennas and mount the new antenna system. This meant not just swapping antennas but also taking tower down and building/installing a new h-frame. WX made it a tough job – it was simply too hot as the sun was nearly 90° above them. At times the dxpeditioners even could not go outside. So they finished work inside the shack instead. Outside work was restricted to early morning and late afternoon.

Also Mr Murphy was a regular visitor: At one time they nearly lost the complete array due to high wind gusts and lack of the proper material on the island.

**Left: The 4 x 9 ele xpol setup is nearly completed.**

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While installing the second two yagis the other two came down and a boom landed on Jurgen. A cross plate broke and it had to be fixed by a local welder. In rising darkness he climbed on the tower and fixed the problem. This caused some delay but in hindsight was not crucial to success. Most importantly Jurgen had no severe injury but yet had to visit the hospital for a check.



**The "A-Team" having a good time. From left PJ4NX, PE1L, PE1LWT, PA3FPQ.**

The rest of the work went straight forward. Without any further unexpected interruption PJ4X became operational on 8 April. At 1700 UTC, some four hours after moonrise, the setup was completed and the first QSOs were being made. After dinner (one of the best things at this DXpedition appears to have been the excellent food prepared by Irma, PJ4NX's xyl) the team continued and worked 56 QSOs altogether this first moon pass. At moonset they experienced huge power line noise and rx capability became rather poor then.

The following day PJ4X operated from moonrise through moonset. Only, at late afternoon the power line noise returned so they went for dinner instead. That was a good decision because after return the noise level was substantially less and PJ4X could continue working. Another 84 QSOs made it into the log, bringing the total count to 140.

The third moon pass added yet another 69 contacts, the fourth moon pass 43 QSOs, making it 252 altogether. This included also a contact with Frank MD/DH7FB. Frank and Bernd DF2ZC were activating the Isle of Man on EME during the same time.

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## TS-2000 broken!

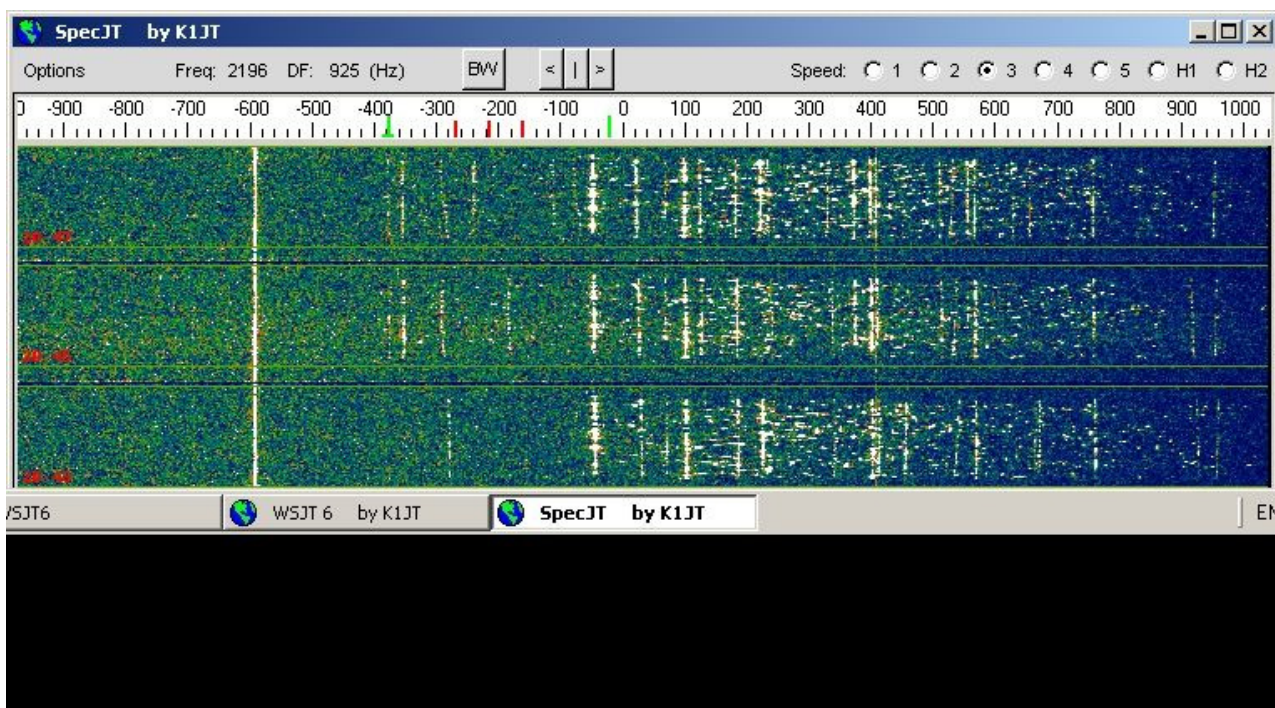
Only, the TS-2000 suddenly made some trouble: It behaved as if there was strong static noise – even with no antenna connected: A ceramic filter was the culprit but it could be repaired “rough-and-ready”.

On 12 April the European team members then travelled on to Curacao because this DXCC was also planned for activation. However, they left with some kind of concern because now they relied on just one transceiver and hoped the problem would not return. Peter however stayed at home at Bonaire and continued EME using PJ4X until the end of April, of course with less time investment as most stations interested had worked the new PJ4 entity already. At the end of the PJ4X activity on 30 April there were 333 initials in the log.

## Nothing is as it seems

With the reliable C56EME setup – 2 x 8 ele xpols, 400 watts out and a WA2ODO preamp – PE1L, PE1LWT and PA3FPQ had planned to work three moon passes as PJ2/PE1L to give away the new DXCC Curacao from FK52NC.

Too bad the rented cottage was not exactly what they had in mind when they booked it a few months ago: At least 15° minimum elevation on moonrise and moonset were needed. However, obstacles are challenges and on 13 April they started to build up the station. At noon they were ready and standby for EME. A tropo JT65 test with PJ4X showed everything worked fine, so the team was waiting for the pile-up. And after the moon had climbed some 15° from one moment to the other the screen was full of stations. 80 initials were logged, even several two and single yagi stations.



Pile-up at PJ2/PE1L

Next day they “saw” the moon only at more than 25° elevation and added 62 further QSOs, including Bernd DF2ZC who worked them 10 minutes after he and Frank returned from their GD DXpedition at 0120 on 15 April.



**Jurgen taking a bath below antenna (Pictures: PE1L)**

### **Miracle Sun Glasses**

During a trip to the westernmost point of Curacao one of the members forgot his sun glasses, so he bought a pair in a small souvenir shop there.

However when they operated the station (outside near the pool) the three lads noticed that the second operator (the one with the new sunglasses)

surprisingly saw the shorthand messages (RO and 73) much better than the main operator. So they went back the 35 miles single journey and bought the rest of the stock of the "SM glasses" (SM for short message).

During the third moon pass PJ2/PE1L added another 53 inits for a total of 195 contacts into the log. The EU pile up was still massive. The next moon it were yet another 35 stations, the following one again 18 more initials. After the final moon pass of this DXpedition the "A-Team" counted 245 initials and 41 DXCCs: Once again a perfect DXpedition!

On their websites [www.emelogger.com/curacao](http://www.emelogger.com/curacao) and [www.emelogger.com/bonaire](http://www.emelogger.com/bonaire) are also links to many photographs and youtube videos.

### **Isle of Man on 2m EME**

This year's DXpedition by Frank DH7FB and Bernd DF2ZC took place at the Isle of Man. Within three moon passes which could only be used by some 60% they completed with 200 stations. Details and pictures are on the DF2ZC website [www.df2zc.de/hamradioresults/dxp](http://www.df2zc.de/hamradioresults/dxp) Now - probably just like the "A-Team" Bernd and Frank are busy discussing where-to-gos for 2012.

## **Upcoming/current DXpeditions**

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

### **ER5WU Moldova QRV from KN45CV**

A Team with ER5WU, ER5GR, ER0/K1WE, ER0/UY5HF and ER0/US8ZAL will be qrv from KN45cv on 144 MHz meteor scatter and EME. They plan to start operation some time on 11 May until 17 May. Frequency will be communicated after arrival on site.

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## Time Table

**6 Jun 2011**

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

**26 Jun 2011**

**0100 - 0400Z**

**0900 - 1200Z**

**Dubus EME CW Activity Event**

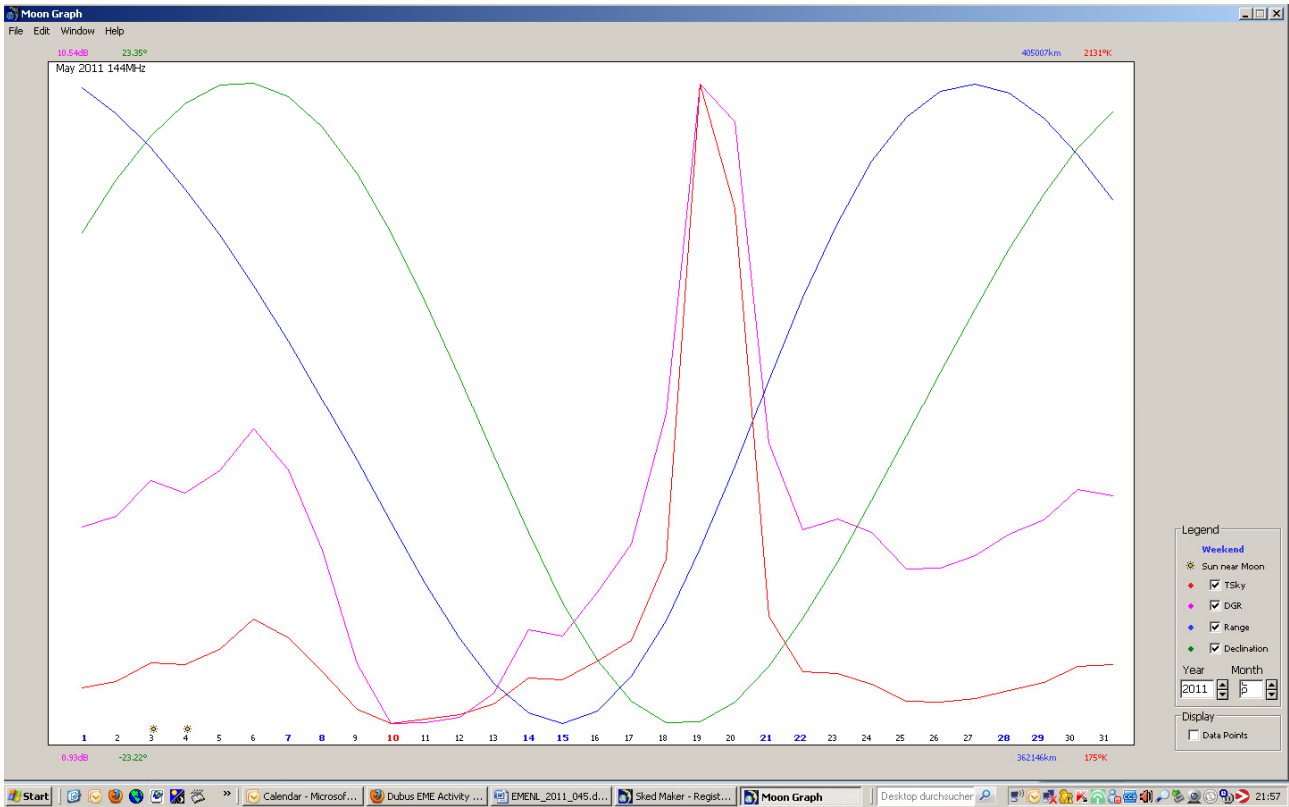
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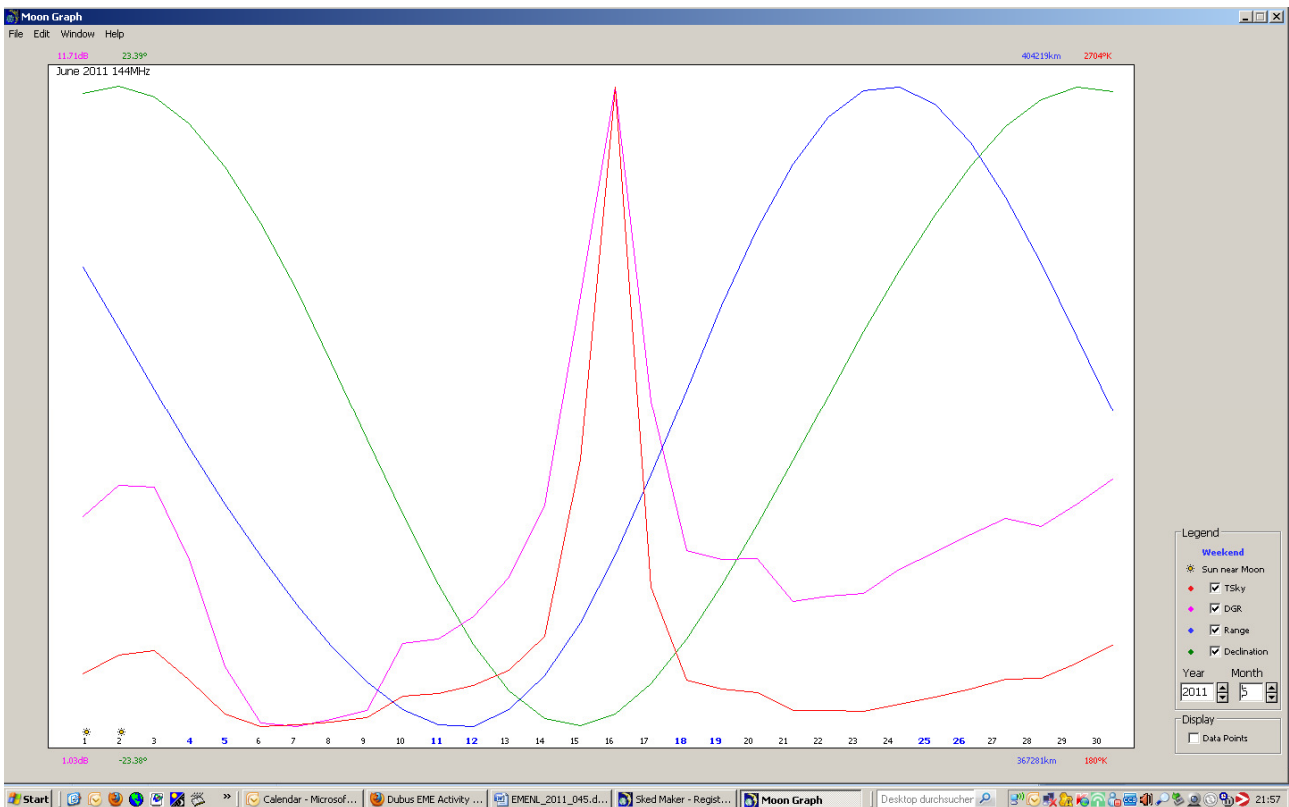
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## Moon Graph May 2011



## Moon Graph June 2011



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