

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Funcube Dongle – SDR for some 150 Euro only

Within the past weeks a tiny USB stick became very popular within the EME community: the funcube dongle. Introduced in December 2010 this small USB unit is nothing less than a 100% SDR receiver. It is very sensitive and can easily be used together with a special MAP65 software version – MAP65-IQ – to have some kind of panoramic receiver ranging from 64 MHz to 1,7 GHz, at 96 kHz bandwidth.



The funcube dongle (photo: funcubedongle.com)

The funcube dongle works with Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 both x86 and x64. In addition, it is compatible with Linux and MacOS as it uses standard USB drivers already integrated into the operating system.

The funcube easily fits into the computer's USB port and is compatible with many radio reception programs, particularly MAP65-IQ and SDR-Radio (by Simon HB9DRV). Within a few minutes the software is being installed on the computer and one can start to monitor the band in JT65 for CQ calling stations.

Johan PA3FPQ has drafted a short pdf-file explaining step to step the process of installing funcube and software. It is available at www.qsl.net/pa3fpg/FCD.pdf In

addition to this Bill NZ5N has made a nice video showing how to set up everything:
[www.gsl.net/nz5n/FUNcube Dongle with MAP65-IQ for EME.swf](http://www.gsl.net/nz5n/FUNcube_Dongle_with_MAP65-IQ_for_EME.swf)

Where can you get a funcube? It's simple - you can either purchase straight at www.funcubedongle.com or from www.mlands.co.uk. However there are quite a number of local dealers now in most countries having the cube in stock. Please remember to go for the PRO version as only that one gives unlimited access to the frequency range 64 MHz to 1,7 GHz.

Miscellaneous

www.emelogger.com

Every now and then the excellent chat platform NOUK (thanks go to Chris, NOUK) suffers from access problems. This was also the case in December 2011 when the access to the NOUK EME logger (www.chris.org/cgi-bin/jt65emeA) was very much restricted or at times not possible at all. An alternative platform for "emergencies" like those is at ON4KST. However, the Atletico and LiveCQ team formed by Jurgen PE1LWT, Johan PA3FPQ and René PE1L built a quick and dirty alternative which unlike the ON4KST chat does not require a formal registration. It is at www.emelogger.com Please remember: this is just a quick and dirty solution which is not perfect yet can act as a good alternative when NOUK is not available.

Update EME 2012 Conference: Booking Site open



The EME 2012 organising team has worked hard to provide the best value for delegates to the 15th International EME Conference in Cambridge next August so that they can all stay on the same site with everything needed including accommodation, restaurant, bar, lecture theatre and other facilities including free use of Gym and high speed internet access. They have reserved the accommodation at Churchill College and are taking bookings through their own eShop.

Go to eme2012.com and select "Book Here". You will find an explanation of the booking process and example bookings. Follow the instructions to register and go to the eShop to select the options you require. If you have requirements that are not

covered in the eShop, for example you wish to bring additional family members as well as your partner, you should contact the team at sales@eme2012.com and they will do their best to provide what you need.

Software

Doug VK3UM informs about the availability of revised versions of his famous VK3UM EME Software:

EME Calculator Ver 7.17

The Y Factor Noise Calculator has been revised to provide improved accuracy with the latest known data. It has been simplified and another aperture calculation method of measurement included. The interface for the data input from the atmosphere software has been refined to provide for variations of prime focus, cassegrain and offset feed types. This revision has been partly brought about by the need of another noise source other than sun, which currently has limited visibility in some parts of the Northern Hemisphere. The Help files have been updated to reflect the changes made in both software versions and are available in pdf format. Download all from www.vk3um.com

Atmosphere Calculator

Update Ver 2011.0.01.16 (for 10GHz and above) now includes Sky Noise attenuation in °K due to atmospheric losses and other minor changes to some calculation routines.

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Upcoming/current DXpeditions

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

PY1EME (GG76)



Bruce PY2BS will be QRV as PY1EME during summer vacation until the end of January 2012. He keeps focussing on 70 cm, 6 cm and 6 m but will also get QRV on 2m using PY1EME. Please check PY1EME on qrz.com

(Photo PY2BS)

J52EME Guinea Bissau (IK12DT)

The "VERONA DX TEAM" is happy to announce their upcoming 144 EME activity from J5 Guinea Bissau, scheduled for the period 23 March to 7 April 2012. A special DXpedition website is already online: <http://www.ari.verona.it/veronadxteam/en/>

The Team members on site will be I3LDP, I3EJ, IK3ESB, IK3RBE, IZ3BUR and others. EME station setup will be 2 x 8 xpol, gasfet preamp and sufficient output power. Maybe they'll even have the possibility of an internet connection. Working frequency is 144,130 MHz and J5 is always first.

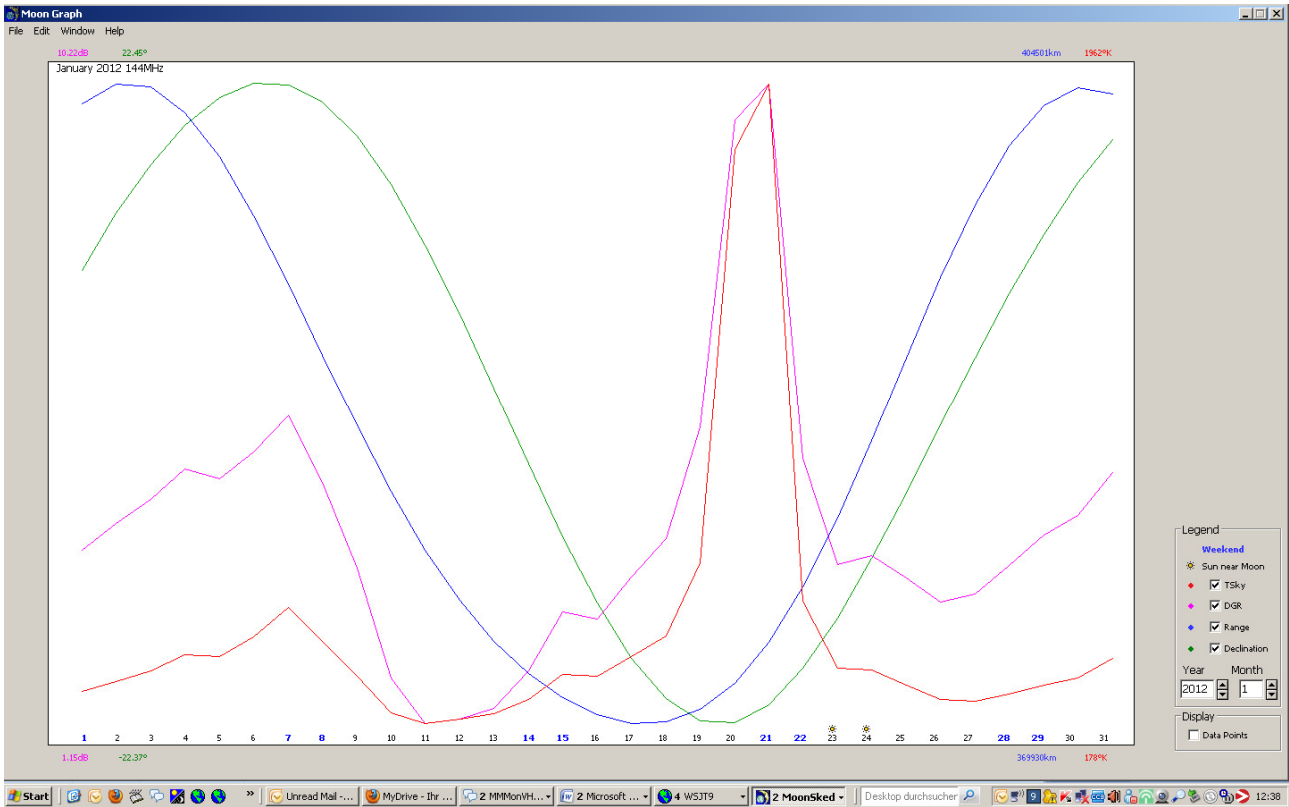
Airline tickets were purchased. The team is now arranging for visa from the consulate of Guinea Bissau.

Time Table

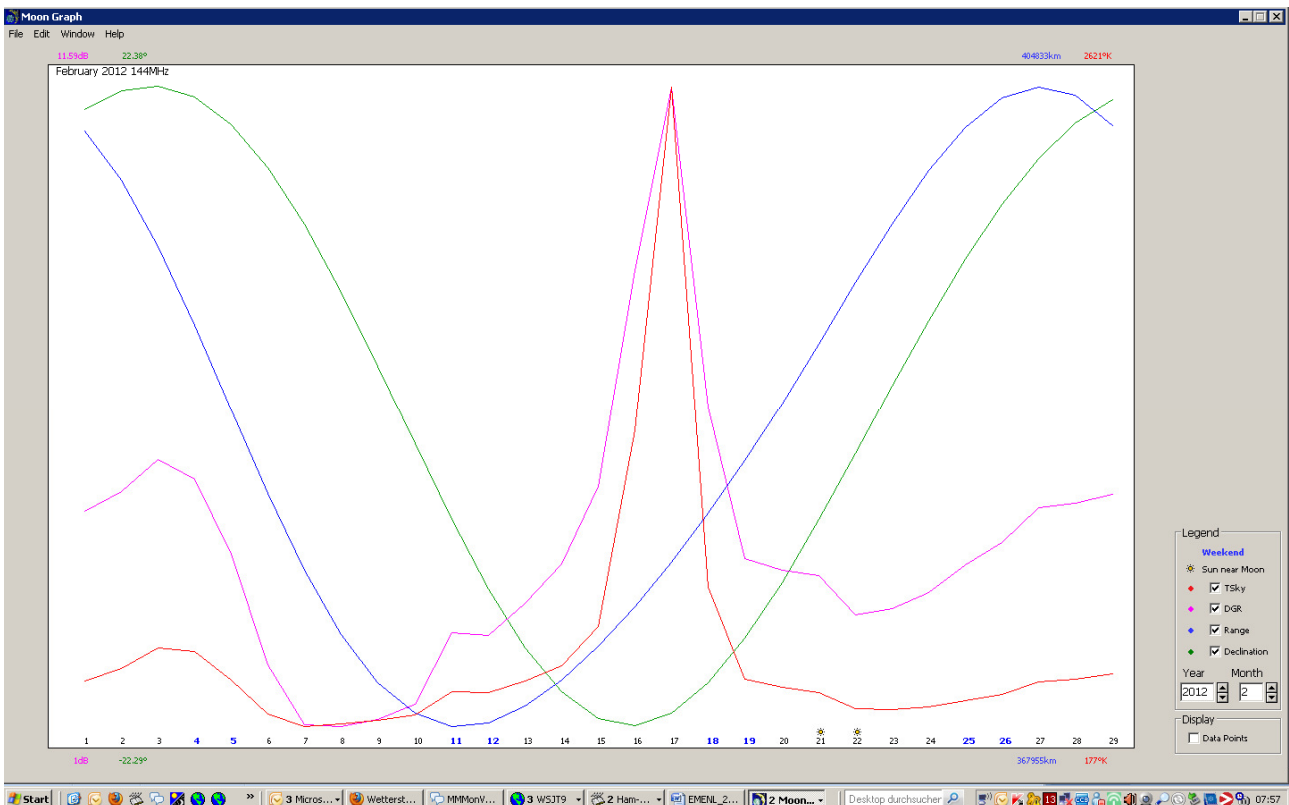
28 Jan 2012 **2m CW Activity Event**
0930-1230Z, 1800-2100Z

6 Feb 2012 **February Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter**
ready for download at www.df2zc.de/newsletter

Moon Graph January 2012



Moon Graph February 2012



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