

The 144 MHz EME-NewsLetter

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Yet another DXCC: Madeira (CT3)



WSJT has made the mechanical effort to activate rare sports on 2 m via EME much lesser. This year's activities from VK9C, VK9X, PJ6, FS etc etc show this undoubtedly. Madeira was next in the row: Spiros, SV8CS, was a member of the Madeira CQWW SSB Contestteam of CT9L this past October. Since Spiros is also very active on EME from his home QTH in KM17 it is little surprising he tried to set up an EME capable station at the contest site. The equipment consisted of a Yaesu FT100, a 16 elements yagi lend by IOJXX and a 350 W linear amplifier provided by Johan, ON4IQ.

To his surprise Spiros could complete with quite a number of stations using WSJT (JT65B): DL9MS, PA0JMV, DF7KF, SP2OFW, I2RV, F6HVK, SP6GWB, OH7PI, G4CBW, ON4IQ,

ON4GG, ES6RQ, W5UN, KB8RQ, PA3CMC, RA3AQ, RU1AA, EA6VQ, IK1UWL, IK2DDR, RN6BN, S52LM, DK3WG, ON3AE, EI4DQ, DH3YAK, S54T, PE1L, DK3EE, DK3BU – 30 contacts altogether. Heard but though his strong signal not complete was 9H1TX. Moreover SV5BYR was not complete. QSL 100% via SV8CS.



Due to different operating segments and particularly because of QRM from the HF contest station Spiros could not be QRV during the contest weekend. He extends special thanks to Johan, ON4IQ, Sandro, IOJXX, and to Stefano, IK2QEI, for the trip to Madeira as well as the German HF group (DJ6QT, DL1YD, DL1YFF, DL1QW, DJ8OG, DK5QN, DK3DM, DF8AE, DL8OBQ).

Activity Updates

Follow up: EME For Africa

Hal, ZS6WB, sent another status report on EME Activites in Southern African DXCCs. Some of the planned operations are not yet cast in stone so please keep in mind that there will probably be some minor changes in the schedule: "ZS6JDE left Pretoria October 18th evening on his scheduled trip to Malawi and Zambia but barely two hours after departure disaster struck when Hannes suddenly found an unlit trailer bearing down on him at high speed on his side of a divided highway which had come loose from a truck going in the other direction and had jumped the median.

Fortunately Hannes was able to avoid a collision by running his Toyota Venture into the bush and neither he or his two passengers were hurt but the trailer he was towing rolled and was damaged beyond repair.

The 2m EME antenna (2M7) and tent which were on the top of the trailer were also destroyed but the other equipment in the Venture were undamaged. The police arrived about an hour later and while making out a report on the accident a VW Passat passing by slowed down to see what was going on and was hit at high speed from the rear by a Dodge Colt double-cab with enough force that both drivers were taken to hospital. Because of the accident Hannes will be making this trip by commercial aircraft and will not be able to take the EME station and as far as I know this was to be the last trip he had scheduled for this year.

After this bad news there is fortunately also some good news: Daniel, ZS6JR has had a previously unscheduled trip to Swaziland come up in November and plans to operate for about a week beginning around 21 November and lasting through the CQWW CW DX Contest weekend. If all goes well he will be using an improved 2m EME antenna system with elevation control and he should a fair amount of time available for operation.

Daniel also has trips to Lesotho and Mozambique tentatively scheduled for 2006. The first trip will be to Lesotho in February for about ten days with the Mozambique trip expected to be around July. Hannes, ZS6JDE, is also planning a ten-day trip to Malawi in February so this could be a busy month for African EME. We are planning an improved antenna system for this trip with elevation control that will hopefully allow more operating time. Hannes will also be returning to Zambia early in the year that will keep him there for about ten days and the new antenna system will also be used for this trip. Their Mission has now purchased undeveloped properties in both countries and when the infrastructure and security are in place, we will look at putting in permanent small towers that can be used to support EME antennas on future trips. We have also had donations of two yagis that could be permanently installed in these locations if security allows it. Obviously the less time it takes to set up the station on a visit the more time will be available for operating.

432 MHz Operation Planned for 2006

We have had quite a few inquiries about 432 MHz EME operation but multimode equipment for that band is scarce down here and we have had neither loan equipment or antennas available to loan out for portable operations until recently when thanks to Dan, HB9Q and Mike, K6MYC we are now in the position of being able to start construction of a portable antenna array. If we can assemble a full portable station in time we hope to have the first 432 MHz EME operation from Lesotho in February 2006 by Daniel who will operate as 7P8/ZS5JR. Hopefully this will be followed by Mozambique operation by Daniel in July.

During December and January I will be testing the portable antenna arrays from my home QTH that will be used for the 2006 operations and I will plan to operate on 144 MHz & 432 MHz EME as much as possible. All contacts and reports will be appreciated so we know what to expect with the antennas operating from portable locations. There is also a possibility of 144 MHz EME operation from Namibia in the near future and information on this will be released as it becomes available. Botswana is another country needed by many and we will do our best to add it to the active list in 2006. If all goes as planned the new antenna system should allow contacts with more of the smaller EME stations. Our goal will be to be able to work a station with a small four-Yagi array and 400 watts output.

If you have any additional suggestions for the project or would like to help please feel free to contact me: Hal Lund, ZS6WB, zs6wb@telkomsa.net”

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Latest News on the 3DA0-Activity by ZS6JR

Shortly before finishing this newsletter this latest information arrived: A combination of local thunderstorm activity and transportation problems has kept Daniel, ZS6JR, from setting up the 2m EME station, but the last of the HF antennas (low-band) were installed on Tuesday for use through the CQWW CW DX Contest by 3DA0NW (K9NW).

Daniel is planning to drive through to Mozambique on

Wednesday to check out locations for their planned 2006 C9 Dxpediton so the 2m antenna will probably only be installed on Thursday at the earliest. On Friday Daniel will be bringing K5LBU back to Johannesburg for his return trip to the U.S. and will probably be staying at home overnight and only returning to Swaziland on Saturday. As the station will be dismantled on Monday this will probably mean that VHF operation is going to be very limited on this trip with Sunday being the best hope for a lengthy period of operation. So stay tuned for 3DA0JR on 26/27 November!.

DXPeditons

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3V8SS JM55                                Running 1 16JXX
09.12 to 13.12.2005                       1KW full Elevation
                                              Also QRV:14345 VHF Net
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QRG`S 144MHZ
EME JT65B TX:144095 RX:095 to 097
EME CW RX/TX 050 1 Minute Periode
3V8SS always first
FSK441 QRG:144075                          QSL via ON4IQ
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3V8SS (JM55)

From 9 until 13 December 2005 Frank, DL8YHR, will be working from Tunisia using the callsign 3V8SS. Modes used are CW (144,050 MHz) and JT65 (144,095 TX only, RX from 144,095 – 144,097). 3V8SS is always 1st. For the periods between moonset and moonrise Frank plans for meteorscatter operation since the Geminids shower is expected to peak between 12 and 14th December.

Miscellaneous

DL8EBW's VHF-DATABASE updated

Guy, DL8EBW, informs about the new version of his VHF-Database: "A year is over again and I am happy to distribute my latest version of the VHF-DATABASE (2.20 - 10/2005) as well as the new three files of the MS/EME/WSJT-DATABASE. These DATABASE's give an overview about active stations and you are able to implement it into several HAM-programs (eg. WSJT, VQ-LOG, OHTest, TUCNAK, VIEWER, DXCluster...). Moreover you can read it by ms-tools.

The MS/EME/WSJT-DATABASE are three different smaller files for use in the WSJT-program of K1JT and can be downloaded on my website www.dl8ebw.de/DATABASE/database.html

New 144 MHz DX Record

ZL3TY and EA3AGZ report a new DX Record on 2m EME using the WSJT software. Though they only had a mutual window of about 20 minutes on 13 October they easily completed within half of the time. This QSO, at 19434 km, exceeds the current 2 m record.

Time Table

- **26/27 November 2005** 3DA0JR Activity (?)
- **9 – 13 December 2005** 3V8SS Activity