



# The 144 MHz EME-NewsLetter

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## (Delayed) Season Greetings from the Editor

Another year with varied experiences regarding 2m EME has passed. Many new DXCCs popped up, often quite unexpectedly, for example V5, ST, ZK1, VK9C and VK9X, J3, PJ7, FS, CT3, 3V to mention but a few. Often this has become possible only through the benefits of the WSJT software which enabled also small set-ups to work many dozens of QSOs in a few days of activity only: a 13 dBd yagi and some 300 watts are sufficient to work many 4-yagi-stations nowadays.

Also the eternal dispute between the protagonists of “CW only” and the users of WSJT has continued and – as I’m afraid – will do so in the future. Actually, it looks more like CW users vs WSJT than the other way around. Personally I think it’s a waste of resources because every side has their points and neither will convince the other. Only, sadly sometimes the arguments have dropped below the belt when some CW enthusiasts call only CW EME QSOs “real EME” and talk down all the efforts by others not regarding CW as their prime choice for many individual reasons, mainly the small set-ups used.

The culmination point was that I was seriously(!) asked to rename the “144 MHz EME NewsLetter” to “144 MHz Digital EME NewsLetter” because there was so little CW information in it.. Well, the information in this newsletter reflects the current situation in EME traffic and also is the output of the input I receive. So I kindly ask the CW only fellows to hand in their information. I’d be more than happy to put it into one of the next issues, particularly as I would even personally regret CW EME disappearing.

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter enters its third year of existence in 2006. It was meant as an information channel for hams interested in 2 m EME and will continue like this. Please keep informing me about your activities – be that QSO summaries or planned DXpeditions or anything else related to EME.

I have planned for some minor changes in 2006, mainly new columns. One is “Who is behind...” and introduces EME stations and their operators. Ben, DL7FF, will mark the start in the January issue of this newsletter. One last thing, I will try to have the newsletter arrive on schedule more often next year: that is the second Monday in every month.

I wish you all a happy new year 2006, with lots of good echoes off the moon

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Bernd J. Mischlewski, DF2ZC

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## Monthly CW EME DUBUS Activity Night



Many of us may have gathered the information already on moon-net: A monthly **CW EME DUBUS Activity Night** has been introduced. The “intellectual copyright” belongs to Hakan, SM7WSJ, and Chris, SP7DCS.

The focus of these activity nights is to set – as the name lets presume it – to arrange for a monthly CW random activity in a contest-style way. There are two time slots to give all EME hams in the Far East, Europe and America the possibility to participate.

The first activity night took place on December 10th, 2005 and has been very successful with respect to stations participating. The next CW Activity Night is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 1100 – 1430Z and 2000 to 2330Z. Moon data for this day are Decl +13° and Dgr 3,0dB. Frequency range is 144,040 to 144,060 MHz, CW only!

The results of the Activity Nights are published on the Web: <http://web.telia.com/~u37031777/>, QSO-lists may be mailed to Hakan, SM7WSJ, at [sm7wsj@telia.com](mailto:sm7wsj@telia.com) who will publish them on this website.

## EME-Net: A new EME-E-Mail-Reflector

For about two months now there is a new e-mail reflector live focussing on but not only on CW EME. Although, the reflector has been created by people that have the most joy by using CW when bouncing signals on the moon. It is open for everyone to subscribe to, but it should be good if subscribers also have the same interest in CW EME. Different from moon-net it is a non-moderated reflector and subscribers are invited to discuss everything as long as the subject is around amateur radio, and especially moon-bounce on all frequencies.

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## DXPeditions

### 3V8SS (DL8YHR)

Frank who is always good for activating rare DXCCs via EME was QRV from Tunisia from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2005. Frank reports: ‘On the first day I couldn’t get the key for the station room, sorry for that. So I started setting up the equipment on the second day around 0800Z. Ready on time for moonrise all was running o.k. and I was QRV on EME. All in all I worked 48 EME stations in 2 moonsets and 2 moonrises. In the mean-time I completed 160 meteor scatter contacts using FSK441. There was one point of high adrenalin level before the operation start: At the customs I

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was really lucky that the officers didn't check my bag carefully: the antenna was in a box for beach-tents so they just looked at it and I could pass...



I am particularly grateful to those EME stations that **did** use split as I had asked for before operation start. I am sure I could have worked many more stations but often everybody came back calling directly on my tx frequency. This was very common in the US window, sometimes 10 to 15 stations calling at a time and all on .105 – a big mess. So next time please try to call the expedition up on their frequency to give a chance to use freeze and decode anything. Special thanks go to DL3YEL and DL1BDF for helping to organise this expedition and to ON4IQ for QSL handling. Some more pictures will soon

be uploaded to my website [www.dl8yhr.de](http://www.dl8yhr.de). For 2006 I have some early stage plans to activate 5A in March, so keep tuned.” (Don't forget the beach-tent, Frank! /DF2ZC)

### 3A/PA2CHR



Chris took a few days off during a business trip to Southern France and decided to have a look at Monaco to see what possibilities would be there for operating on 2 m. Therefore, quite unexpectedly he popped up via meteor scatter on the evening of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005, having parked his car in the harbour with antenna and generator next to all the luxury boats of "the world's most famous people". Altogether Chris completed some 40 MS-QSOs during the evenings (1800Z to 2200Z) on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> as well as one EME contact with RN6BN.

Chris writes that the local QRM is a big problem in Monaco, his good pre-amp was overloaded even with a band-pass filter in front of it! Without the preamp reception was much better. The antenna was a homemade 10 elements BVO and a small PA produced 100 Watt at the antenna.



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This was not a Dxpediton since time was very limited, but some people were able to work a nice new DXCC and Chris hopes to go back next year, maybe with some more EME slots?

### 3Y0X (Peter One)



The long anticipated dxpedition to 3Y0 (Peter One, Locator EC41QD) will start early in February 2006. On top of the planned HF operations also 2 m EME will be included. An array of four 9-element-yagis (M2) has been arranged for, tx power is not yet certain, maybe even in the kW range. At least a TE-System solid state amplifier with 350 watts out is confirmed. The amplifier will be mounted remotely at the base of the antenna to minimize feedline loss. The radio is an IC910. Nevertheless, even with this power out the array should be o.k. for completing many JT65 contacts.



Operations on the island will be carefully scheduled, taking into account moon time, HF operating requirements and other base duties. The team will be operating using JT65 and CW modes. Schedules will be refined over the next weeks, but the moon visibility means that, under current plans, the EME stations will only be QRV about a week after the HF ones, as they have no moon for the first week or so. Lance, W7GJ, is the EME pilot station and will be focal point for coordinating schedules etc. once the team is on the ice. Feedback from the EME community during 3YØX operations should be focused through him, who will coordinate as required with the island team.

Details and latest news can be read at <http://8.3.8.118/peterone/main.htm> where the two pictures have been copied from.

To the left: Jim, WØUR, and Jim, KBØBCB, regarding the 2m EME antenna after it was pushed up.

### 3DA0 and others

Daniel, ZS6JR, could not become QRV during his recent stay in Swaziland because his workload has not allowed him to put up the VHF antenna. The good news is that there are already two

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DXpeditions on his agenda for next year, 7P in February and C9 in July. Each is expected to be about 10 days in length and 144 MHz EME operation (possibly also 432 MHz) is planned for both trips. From his home QTH in KG33XV Daniel has participated in the second leg of the ARRL EME Contest with a single 2M5WL and 300 watts. He was often copied with good signals strengths.

## QSO Reports

### SV1BTR (KM18)...

...handed in a report on his activity in the ARRL EME Contest: “ I had a great time in the ARRL contest despite the low CW activity in the 2nd pass and worked 97 stations on 2 m and 49 on 70cm, all in CW random unassisted. With my modest (*Are you serious, Jimmy?* /DF2ZC) 21.5dbd array of 16 x 6 elements xpol for 2 m (which is equivalent to 4 x 5.5 wl yagis) the smallest station worked was DL5MAE who was running only 25 watts into his 8 x 2M5WLs.



In ARI Contest as well I worked several single yagi stations with low power on random CW, the smallest being OO7EH with 12 elements and 250 W. I therefore urge digital EME newcomers as well as experienced WSJT users to try CW as they can be sure they can work several medium sized stations. However, it takes perigee, patience and persistence from both ends. Despite series of QRZs that may arise inbetween, it is worth trying!

On December 10, in the first DUBUS 2 m CW activity night I also had great fun. I noticed lots of activity by small and medium stations as well as by big guns. During 5 hours I worked 32 stations on random. I have serious QRN problems at moonset below 30 degrees elevation but it had been raining the whole day then, so the noise was wiped out. Next day, Sunday, I worked KL7UW who is running 4 x 3wl xpol and 170 W in CW. I was looking for 3V8SS in his advertised CW frequency during the weekend, but he did not show up here.

I believe that ARRL should make an effort – through our help and support if necessary – to display the mode used and number of QSOs with either mode for both the Unassisted and Assisted Classes for 2005 ARRL EME Contest Results on their website when they will be posted as well as in the QST when times comes. By displaying those elements it will be useful for all participating stations, as well as interested stations on EME in the future to evaluate:

1. Popularity of modes during contest time
2. Appropriately choose contest strategy for maximization of QSO numbers in either mode, or a combination of both

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3. Reflect numbers of newcomer EME stations in a worldwide EME competition versus mode used
  4. Reflect effort behind score of each participating station and enable future contest station upgrades, accordingly

I believe it is to the benefit of the EME community to have this information displayed in the 2005 ARRL EME Contest results as well as thereafter, for all subsequent forthcoming EME contests.

Extract of such information can easily be obtained from the submitted logbooks. Furthermore, any help so as to acquire and present this information, (as this proposal comes in short notice only 4 months before Contest results are being published in QST and uploaded to ARRL Webpage) can be offered by EME stations that could assist in this direction.

In fact, 6 well respected EME stations among the community could extract and provide this information per band/class/entry type if they are given access from ARRL Contest branch, as soon as ARRL evaluates all logs and claimed scores. This proposal takes place in the light of assisting ARRL contest dedicated manpower, so as to be able to effectively service the EME community with this useful information, at no extra budget, cost or overtime.'

Finally I would like to make a correction to a posting of CT3/SV8CS that appeared in the previous EME Newsletter, for being the first SV 2M EME DXpedition. As many EME stations worked back then remember, this has taken place before, two times in 1995 in the DXCC of SV9, by SV1BTR.”

## Miscellaneous

### HB9Q EME Initial List

Dan, HB9Q, writes: “Unfortunately we lost a lot of data (all entered between June and November 2005) due to a host change. Please visit the <http://www.hb9q.ch> EME Initial List and make sure your standings are up to date! Many thanks!”

## Time Table

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|-----------------------|---|
| • 7 January 2006      | <b>DUBUS CW Activity Night</b>                    |
| • 11/12 February 2006 | <b>REF/DUBUS EME-Contest (Digital modes only)</b> |
| • 1/2 April 2006      | <b>ARI EME-Contest (Digital modes only)</b>       |
| • 8/9 April 2006      | <b>REF/DUBUS EME-Contest (CW only)</b>            |
| • 9/10 September 2006 | <b>ARI EME-Contest (CW only)</b>                  |