

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

Issue 3/2005
11 March 2005

Software

WSJT 4.9.6 available

Joe, K1JT, is happy to announce that WSJT Version 4.9.6 is now available for free download at the WSJT web site, <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/>, and soon also from the European mirror site, <http://www.dk5ya.de/>.

In brief the new version contains:

1. Full JT65 support for long callsigns like ZA/PA2CHR.
2. Double-clicking on the call of someone calling CQ puts you directly into TX message #1. (JT65 is intentionally becoming more random-friendly!)

3. Plain text messages are highlighted so that you will know you are sending one.
4. Decoding options have been moved from Setup | Options to a new menu.
5. Several bug fixes including the problem with no decode at high S/N

More detailed information on the new version is displayed in the update history on <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/UpdateHistory.txt>. Joe always welcomes any feedback/suggestions: k1jt@arrl.net

(source: K1JT's availability announcement on moon-net)

QSO Reports

V51/ZS5Y (JG82)

While he was working in Namibia from February 28 until March 10 Derek managed to take some EME gear with him. During the early mornings and afternoons as well as the whole moon paths at the weekend March 5/6 he was QRV with some 200 watts out and a 13-dBd-yagi. Though his equipment was less than 4 kW ERP and a lot was improvisation like aiming the antenna to the moon visually only, Derek managed to complete some 10 or so JT65 QSOs. And not only the big ones found their way to his log book, also a number of 4 yagi

Help for RN6MT!!!

While we discuss the important things of life such as how to differentiate grids worked in digital modes from grids worked in CW etc etc some EME friends have completely different problems. UR5LX reports of some very bad news at Gena, RN6MT: In the first week of march a fire broke out in Gena's house while he was not at home. The entire house and all the household was destroyed so Gena is virtually left with what he was wearing that particular day. Of course he is devastated. A kind help will be welcome and very much appreciated. Maybe those of us who can afford should consider expressing the special ham spirit within the EME community (which is at least spoken of) by giving some financial support. It is certainly not easy to lose your home and all your belongings and start your life all over again.

After hearing of Gena's bad luck, Joe, K1JT, writes "As you know, WSJT has always been (and will remain) free to the amateur radio community. In this particular week, when we have just heard of the tragic fire at the home of our friend and colleague RN6MT, I ask that you con-

sider what this free program has meant for your EME station, and consider making a donation to help Gena in this time of such great need."

Gena's address is
Genadij Sherstkij
ul.Svetlaja 89
pos.Matveev Kurgan
obl.Rostovskaja
Russia 346970

Currently the safest method of money transfer is being investigated. As many others DF2ZC will also take his part in helping to get Gena back on his feet. In order to minimize the relatively high cost for transferring money to Russia I'm offering to those who want that they could transfer the donation to one of my accounts and I make a summary donation then. Every little amount helps. At least within the European union no transfer costs would arise and the cost of the transfer to Russia could be split. Those who are interested should please contact me at DF2ZC@web.de



stations completed or were only a near miss. As Derek travels to other DXCCs in the Southern part of Africa every now and then, hopefully he is convinced to take the rig with him again. Whilst typing this report Derek is still on his 2.000 km drive back home to ZS5, so more details and perhaps JPGs in the next newsletter.

Activity Updates

5B8AD (KM64)

Alex has recently upgraded his antenna and is now QRV with two extended 13B2 (now 16 elements) and 300 watts out (from a transistor amp placed directly under the antennas), maybe even 1 kW in the meantime. With that setup he is very busy and consistent. Many QSOs with 4 yagi stations have been completed now in JT65. Because of his activity, Cyprus within few weeks has turned from a "not active" DXCC into a easily workable one. Have a look for 5B8AD at the NOUK-logger.

SM4SJY (JP700C)

Mats reports his first QSO via the moon, 144 MHz. It was made 13th Feb 2005 with I2FAK. The equipment used at Mats' was: 1 x 15 el Cue Dee yagi (no elev), home brew GS35b DJ5RE design, getting 650 watts out with no "brick driver", ICOM IC 706MK2G + home brew preamp BF981 5m from antenna. Mats is QRV every now and then

during his moonrise and set. He is particularly looking for big guns (but should be able to work also 90% of the 4-yagi stations /2ZC).

IK1UWL (JN33)

Giorgio is back again on eme, after an 8 month black-out. Giorgio is QRV CW and JT65 with good power and 4x2MXP28.



K0AWU (EN37)

Bill is QRV with a 800 watts out to a single 2SA13 yagi in the driveway to his house. As of 7:00 Z 25 Feb 2005 he has worked 37 initials with the 2SA13 yagi for a total initial count of 46.

He will have a limited time that he can operate in his fashion. As his neighbor and Bill share the driveway and he spends the winter elsewhere. That allows Bill to try this operation. The neighbor will return in late April, and then K0AWU will have to wait for winter again. Bill writes: "I have SO MANY trees, that it has not been possible to find another location for the antenna. The main tower is FULL!" Please note Bill's elevation/azimuth control: a gas can!

DXpeditions

OX3LX QRV via EME

Bo, OZ1DJJ, is going to be QRV on 2 m as OX3LX from March 18 to April 1. He will have JT65, 170 watts output and a 10 element yagi. So large stations could perhaps work him. No operating frequencies are currently known.

(source: W7GJ)

Contests

ARRL EME Results 2004

The 2004 ARRL EME contest results were recently published by ARRL – and sparked some widespread discussion on the EME related email reflectors, particularly on moon-net. Why? Simply because some stations, for example W5UN and K1JT, who stated in their logs that they worked "assisted" in form of observing the N0UK JT65 EME link on the internet and/or by posting information on that logger giving operating frequency and the fact that they were calling CQ at specified times, were not treated as check logs only.

Though this assistance was not d-



the contest rules and the specific entries were taken into the results.

It is not the place here for long comments on that but apparently this constitutes a change in the ARRL contest rules which now allow assis-

presently exists—by using loggers (as long as no vital QSO data is exchanged but only that station "X" is calling at specific times on specific frequencies). We will see if this finds a way into the written rules before the next contest.

On 144 MHz the first 10 in single operator category are:

(Place, callsign, points, QSOs, multis)

1 W5UN	1132300	169	67
2 KB8RQ	988000	152	65
3 RU1AA	884000	170	52
4 F3VS	269700	87	31
5 RA3AQ	234500	67	35
6 I3DLI	210800	68	31
7 G3ZIG	179800	58	31
8 RK3FG	163800	63	26
9 IK2DDR	127400	49	26
10 SP7DCS	120000	50	24

The winners in the multi operator section are:

1 IK3MAC	1008800	194	52
2 I2FAK	837000	155	54
3 IK1UWL	125000	50	25
4 N0AKC	20400	17	12
5 F1DDG	9100	13	7

The complete results can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/2004/eme.pdf>
(source: www.arrl.org)

ARRL EME Contest Dates 2005

Lionel, VE7BQH has once again conducted his annual survey re the best dates for the 2005 ARRL EME contest. 51 stations cast votes. Lionel writes: "The choice of weekends and operating conditions caused a wide range of opinions as expected. Every choice was a compromise. Although the Oct 15/16, Nov 12/13 had the largest single block of votes, they only represent 45 percent of the total vote:

Oct 15/16 & Nov 12/13,	23 votes
Nov 12/13 & Dec 17/18,	6 votes
Nov 19/20 & Dec 17/18,	5 votes
Oct 15/16 & Dec 10/11,	3 votes
Oct 22/23 & Nov 19/20,	3 votes
Nov 12/13 & Dec 10/11,	3 votes
Oct 15/16 & Dec 17/18,	3 votes
Oct 23/24 & Dec 17/18,	2 votes
Oct 15/16 & Nov 19/20,	1 vote
Nov 19/20 & Dec 10/11,	1 vote
Oct 22/23 & Nov 12/13,	1 vote

The survey has now been forwarded to Joel, W5ZN who is an officer with the ARRL for their consideration." (source: VE7BQH)

International Results XI

Italian ARI EME Contest

The 11th EME contest is now history; its modes remain limited to CW & SSB. This doesn't mean we are contra WSJT which is a great software thanks to Joe, K1JT but we feel that operator ability must remain the main resource in a contest. When the present situation will have evolved giving new advanced possibilities but still with the operator's intelligence as the key factor, and without assistance by Internet, we will be happy to add these new modes. Sadly, at present some operators make inappropriate use of information exchanged via the web.

On 11/12th September 2004 the propagation has been good for part of the time in 144 MHz, very bad due to polarization rotation in 432 MHz. Participation is still penalized by the small number of US stations who take part; fortunately all the rest of the EME world takes an active role in the contest; Europe is now the world center of EME activity and new stations are emerging. Italian stations present in the contest were: I1ANP, I1AXE, IK1FJI, IK1SPR, IK1UWL, I2FAK, I2RV, IK2DDR, IK2GRA, IK2FWR, IK2MMB, IK2RTI, IZ2DJP/p, IZ2FOB, I3DLI, I3EVK, IK3COJ, IK3MAC, IN3JJI, IK4WLV, IQ4DF, IZ4BEH, I5PPE, I5WBE, IW5DHN, I6BQI, I6WJB, IK7EZN, IOUGB, a total of 29 participants.

Results of the 11th EME contest:

(Place, callsign, QSOs, wkld Is, Points)

Category A

1 YO3FFF	9	3	153
2 YU7BCL	5	2	92

Category B

1 F8DO	15	6	276
2 PA3CMC	5	3	113
3 JMIGSH	4	2	82
4 DL7UDA	3	1	51

Category C

1 YO4FRJ	25	6	376
2 RK3FG	27	5	365
3 DL2OM	23	5	335

4 F0CXO	22	5	325
5 EA3DXU	17	6	296
6 F9HS	16	5	265
7 UA4AQL	13	4	240
8 9A9B	10	4	194
9 EA1ABZ	15	2	192

Category D

1 G3ZIG	41	11	641
2 S53J	29	8	468
3 YU1CF	12	4	204
4 JE1KFX	6	3	123

Category E/F

1 F3VS	73	13	1003
2 KB8RQ	62	10	840
3 W5UN	51	13	783
4 DF7KF	8	3	143

Cross Yagis/Category B

1 RA3IS	4	2	82
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Cross Yagis/Category C/D

1 SV1BTR	72	14	1014
2 RU1AA	54	13	813
3 SP7DCS	42	10	630
4 LZ1DP	29	10	500
5 WB9UWA	22	5	325
6 K6PF	13	5	235
7 SM7WSJ	8	3	143

SWL-Section

1 JF4TGO/8	3	1	51
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The prizes will be given during the next EME meeting, at the Hotel Joseph in Marina di Pietrasanta (LU) on April 30th and May 1st 2005. After the meeting, for stations not present, send via mail price and certificate. TNX to all, for participation in the contest! Next ARI EME contest is 17/18 September 2005, 00.00 - 24.00 UTC.

(I1ANP, Italian EME Manager)

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