

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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HB0 – Liechtenstein on the Moon

From 6 to 8 October 2007 Eric DF9UX, Erwin DK5EW and Stephan DK5TE wanted to activate HB0 Liechtenstein on EME. Shortly before the dxpedition start DF9UX fell ill so this dxpedition became a two person activity. At 5 am local time on Saturday 6 October Erwin and Stephan left for Liechtenstein. 4 hours later they arrived at the QTH in Malbun and another two hours later and seven chairs of the chair lift used for the equipment everything was on site.



The 4 x 10 elements in HB0 at 2015 m ASL – yes, there is snow on the roof. (DK5EW)

A big help was Pierre HB9QQ's permission to use his tower at that QTH for their activities so already at 3 pm they could do their first tx tries with on the communicated working frequency. (Rig was an IC-7400, ME-1500 by HA1YA and a preamp with MGF1302 together with spares IC-746

and 600 Watt BEKO). All of a sudden there was the first caller: Hans DL8GP had apparently monitored the frequency and so made the first contact. The pile-up began and the group completed another 10 QSOs within the remaining 90 minutes moon time. However, even when the moon was not visible it didn't get boring for Erwin and Stephan. A friendly inversion layer enabled tropo QSOs to the Atlantic coast with S9 reports at distances up to 1137 km.

Sunday morning activity started at 0330 local to use the VK/JA window; Guy VK2KU was the first in the log. Another 50 QSOs were completed. Sadly QRM from European stations resulted in some JA QSOs being NC. And getting up Monday morning wasn't quite that easy for the two dxpeditioners as a substantial lack of sleep was obvious. However, it paid off: ON7EH, UA9SL, UT2XQ, HA6NQ, PE1BTX und RX1AS were worked making the total EME count 65 contacts from HB0. After breakfast DK5EW and DK5TE dismantled the station and took everything down to the ground station of the chair lift – and in the afternoon that day they were back home. Having conducted a dxpedition and having experienced how it is like at the other end of the pile-up has strong side effects: Erwin and Stefan now permanently think of where to go next, EME and meteorscatter of course... Erwin has uploaded a bunch of pictures to his website www.dk5ew.de.



Erwin DK5TE already somewhat tired but yet concentrated doing moon bouncing. (DK5EW)

Upcoming DXpeditions

3XT1 (IJ39) Guinea

Everything re Ned AA7A and Mike KC7V's dxpedition to Guinea is still according to plan. The group will arrive late on 18 November at the site and start assembling equipment then. Since the main goal is participation in the CQWW DX CW contest, 144 MHz EME will not be very high on the priority the first days. Unlike last year where some operation was possible prior to the contest this time EME will probably only be conducted after the contest, that is from 25 or 26 to 30 November.

The 2m EME station consists of kW-level power; a pair of 28 element cross-polarized yagi with full AZ/EL and a mast-mounted, low noise preamp. The current VHF hardware will consist of a Donw East Microwave high-power transverter using one of the CQWW DX CW Contest station's Elecraft K2's as the IF. The station is planned to support both WSJT and CW operating modes with plans to operate both modes during this year's visit. Accurate computer time will be obtained using a surplus GPS receiver and GPS Time software.

The callsign for the EME operation is [3XT1](#) (Guinea does not issue amateur radio callsigns in exact compliance with ITU conventions.). The WSJT software can still operate when we use this callsign, but there are some steps that should be taken to assure that the full capability of the WSJT software is obtained. How to configure the software accordingly is explained on the EME the dedicated dxpedition website http://members.cox.net/aa7a/3XT1_EME.htm

ZB2/DH7FB and ZB2/DF2ZC (IM76)

After some disappointment during and after this year's combined EME and meteor scatter activity from Gibraltar, Frank and Bernd decided to start a project "ZB2 reloaded". This time they will be QRV from 29 May to 1 June 2008 with a tube amplifier, either a 3CX800 or a 2 x GU74b by LZ2US. So there is a new chance to work that rare DXCC.

Activity Updates

VR2KW (OL72II)

Wong is now QRV with a pair of vertically stacked 9-elements-yagis and some 200 watts out. Though the local noise situation in Hong Kong not at all can be called good he now managed to complete his first QSOs (mostly 4 yagi stations) using JT65 mode and appears to be hooked on EME now after this first success. He was on the N0UK EME logger quite often the past few days.

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Time Table

24/25 November 2007

ARRL EME Contest

28 November 2007

November Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter
ready for download at www.df2zc.de/newsletter

Josep EA3DXU SK

5 October 2007 was a very bad day: Around 0430Z our friend Josep EA3DXU lost his fight against cancer and left forever. Knowing Josep since 1996 and meeting him personally four times since then, this news came to me as a very bad surprise. Though I knew of his illness I wasn't aware of his rapidly deteriorating health. Less than two weeks before he passed away we had exchanged emails on 24 September when he passed on the contacts of NF2V, the station he worked for completion his WAS on 144 MHz. And only in April this year Frank DH7FB and I had dinner with Josep while we stopped by near Barcelona on our way to ZB2.



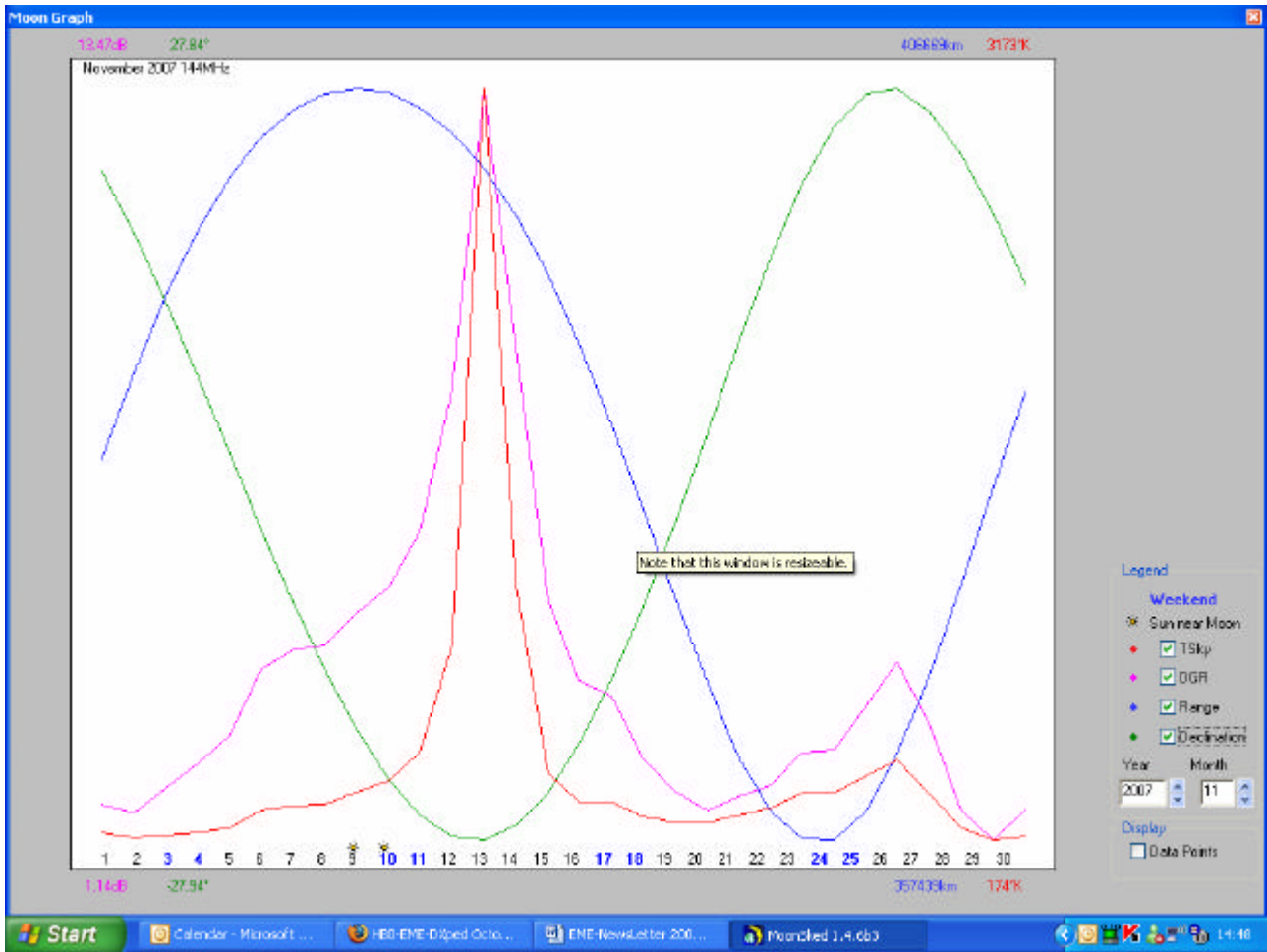
From left: DH7FB, EA3DXU and DF2ZC on 18 April 2007



From left: DF2ZC and EA3DXU in EA3DXU's shack on 14 April 2004.

It is still hard to believe this wonderful person and devoted DXer left forever. We will miss him so very much. Our thoughts are with his family and his brother Pau EA3BB.

Moon Graph November 2007



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