



The 144 MHz EME-NewsLetter

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Guiding Principles for EME

Following intense discussions on and off the EME related email reflectors Joe, K1JT and Graham, F5VHX with assistance from Jimmy, SV1BTR and Paul, N1BUG have devoted a lot of time and energy to put a simple statement together. They believe that the guiding principles, the proposed actions, and the sentiments behind them will serve to inject much positive energy and unity into the EME community:

Some Guiding Principles and Recommended Actions for Promoting EME

We, the undersigned, make the following statement in an effort to promote increased recognition that there are many ways to enjoy the wonderful hobby of Amateur Radio. We believe that many diverse paths lead to great satisfaction and high levels of achievement in amateur Earth-Moon-Earth or "moonbounce" communication.

We believe that the EME community, an inherently cooperative common interest group, must do its utmost to ensure that the satisfaction and achievements of some will not limit or reduce the potential for enjoyment by others.

We believe that long established guidelines specifying minimum requirements for valid VHF/UHF contacts apply equally well to all propagation modes and to all coding and modulation techniques, despite the different methodologies that may be employed.

We believe that criticisms of one mode of communication by proponents or practitioners of another are detrimental to our hobby. We deplore and disassociate ourselves from any such actions that extend beyond technical and quantitative evaluations or comparisons.

We propose the following recommended actions as being positive for our hobby, and we undertake to carry them out and support them actively:

1. We will recommend to the American Radio Relay League that the ARRL International EME Contest should henceforth present its results so as to display numbers of contacts by each transmission mode, for example "CW" or "Digital", for all entries; and moreover that the contest rules pertaining to permissible types of "assistance" (if any are retained) should be revised and clarified.
2. We will further recommend that the American Radio Relay League and other organizations offering awards or recognitions of achievement for amateur EME communication should consider adding mode-specific "CW" and "Digital" subcategories for their awards.

To further the aims of our principal recommendations, some of us will solicit input from the EME Community with the goal of distilling it into more detailed recommendations consistent with those presented above. The results will be presented openly, together with advisory notes, as representing to the best of our ability the views of a unified EME community.

Some 200 EME Ops have expressed their support for the statement and their agreement to the principles until today. If you also want to join in the supporters list just send a brief email to the special account eme.sign.on@free.fr - the subject line "I support the EME document. K1ABC." would already be sufficient.

Apparently this has brought the eme community from ideology-based discussions back to the basics. Nevertheless, the announced opinion poll (see 144 EME NewsLetter 2/2006) will take place in April.

DXPeditions

3Y0X (Peter One)

3Y0X showed up via moon on February 13th. Sadly the 432 MHz and 50 MHz EME operations had to be canceled but at least many of the 2m hams were made very happy with 3Y0X's big signals: 300 watts out to a 4 x 9 ele M2 array make a superb signal via moon.



"Mr EME" at 3Y0X: Gordon, W0RUN

Before the operations started sophisticated sked/random procedures were developed with the assistance from Lance, W7GJ. But after the second day of operations and also after some QRM "experience" the 3Y0X crew decided to abandon all skeds and work random only. This decision was also fueled by the fact that the crew felt the number of contacts would be maximized by working random only. Though this may be perfectly understandable given the huge investment in money and time for this dxpedition - and consequently leading to the objective to maximize the number of QSOs - this meant some disadvantage for smaller stations since they can't beat a pile-up so easily. Though, also many single yagi stations found their way into 3Y0X's log. One of the smallest may have been Guy, DL8EBW, who used just a single 12 elements M2 and some 500 watts out but yet was copied strong enough in the pile-up.

All in all some 100 different stations were worked on 2m EME, an excellent result given the fact that the operators were working under adverse weather conditions with gale force winds and freezing temperatures and had equipment problems

caused by HF QRM (primarily the solid state amplifier 12 VDC battery charger, which became inoperative due to RFI). Moreover due to the relative inexperience re EME propagation and procedures and also the only 7 days net activity, this means an excellent result. Of course, this was no work from scratch - even with the availability of WSJT EME is not that simple yet - since the EME Ops at 3Y0X had exercised themselves in 144 EME during the preparation for the dxpedition with the actual array that was now used on Peter One. So a big thank you goes to Gordon, W0RUN, and company for bringing one of the most wanted DXCCs on the moon.

DZ1JP (Philippines)

It seems like the EME virus has spread now also to HF only dxpeditions - as long as an experienced VHF OP is with the team or one of the other OPs is willing to learn the secrets of EME propagation and QSO procedures. The impression of the 3Y0X operations is that they really had much fun working moon bounce.

And the next very rare entity is already on the list: Following on from the expedition to Spratly last year, a new expedition will take place on 144 MHz and 50 MHz later in 2006. Prior to that, a mini EME and low bands operation had been organised in Los Baños in March. The 144 MHz EME operation has been successful with many contacts made using JT65B.



The DZ1JP team with 2m / 6m antennas

The EME operation took place in Splash Mountain Resort, Los Baños (locator PK04NC), Philippines from March 10th to March 12th 2006. This operation was a forerunner of the planned re-visit to Spratly Islands. There was a well-attended seminar on EME on Sunday, and all present

were greatly impressed. The seminar was sponsored by PARA and the Makiling Amateur Radio Society.

The operation from Los Baños used the callsign DZ1JP. Involved were members of FEDXP and other Japanese groups, with the co-operation of MARS (Makiling Amateur Radio Society), DX1MK. The 144MHz part was quite successful with many contacts made: DF2ZC, DF7KF, DF9KT, DK3BU, DL8GP, DL8YHR, EA6VQ, EI4DQ, ES6RQ, F6HVK, HB9Q, JHØMHE, JH2COZ, JH5FOQ, OH6ZZ, OH7PI, PAØJMV, PA2CHR, PA3FPQ, RA3AQ, RA6DA, RK3FG, RN6BN, RU1AA, RX1AS, UA9FAD, UA9SL, S52LM, SM5CUI, SM7BAE, SP6GWB and SV8CS were complete ones, and some more sadly were heard only.

Equipment used at DZ1JP were 2 x 13ele (3WL) full elevation antennas with FT-847 + preamp, power output 400W. Nearly every QSO was made by JA0RJU which means Kazu had hardly any sleep during these three days.

So the odds look very good for the anticipated Spratly activity. Some hams may be in the position to add another yet very rare DXCC entity after the 3Y activity in February this year.

VU4 (Andamanes) Activity in April

From 18th to 20th April an international NIAR ham meeting takes place in Port Blair (Andaman Islands), together with lots of activity on the bands. The highlight will be 144 MHz EME operations by Joe, DL9MS and Berndt, DL9GRB. They plan to be QRV from 18th to 25th April with a single MXP-28 and good power. Details of the operations will be announced on the JT65 EME logger and DX cluster. Let's keep fingers crossed that equipment and operators arrive safe and sound.

QSO Reports

W0PT (EM28)...

...after two years absence is now QRV from EM28, (Kansas) on 144 MHz with 4 x M2 19XXX and 1,2 kW out CW and JT65. On 4 and 5 March Bill worked K2BLA #, ZL3TY #, K5GMX #, JM1GSH #, W7IUV #, WE9Y #, W5UWB, SV1BTR, K0AWU #, W0GHZ #, KC7V #, K4XR #, K2TXB #, N9LR #, DH3YAK #, PE1BTX #, UT6UG #, F8DO, OZ1LPR #, CT1HZE #, K7MAC # and G4IGO#: On March 11 and 12 he worked the following via JT65b: CT1HZE, K7MAC, SM5CUI, DK4TG, DL6BF, DF7KF, WQ5S, AA9MY, ZL1WN, PA1GYS, HB9Q, K7MAC, RA3AQ, RK6MC, G4CBW, S54T, DL8GP, WQ5S, DL8EBW and KE7NR. This means a total of 38 stations in March with 25 being initials.

Bill writes "It is great to be back on EME. I look forward to working many new stations and old friends as well. Please propose skeds at w0pt@earthlink.net"

DL8EBW (JO31)...

...handed in his single yagi report for past February (all in JT65B):

05.02.2006	0007-0030	N5KDA	EM41	O/-	NC	-30db	3,9DGR
05.02.2006	1020-1115	UR5LX	KO70	O/-	NC	-30db	3,9DGR

12.02.2006	0503-0543	N5KDA	EM41	O/RO	C	-30db	#100	2,5DGR
18.02.2006	0550-0630	K2AXX	FN12	O /RO	NC	-26db		3,8DGR
19.02.2006	0530-0551	3Y0X	EC41	RO/O	C(R)	-27db	#101	4,4DGR
19.02.2006	0600-0640	OE3FVU	JN78	O/-	NC	-26db		4,4DGR
19.02.2006	0642-0648	EA6VQ	JM19	RO/O	C(R)	-21db		4,4DGR
25.02.2006	0658-0800	SM7BAE	JO65	O/-	NC	-30db		3,0DGR
27.02.2006	0700-0740	DK3WG	JO72	O/-	NC	-27db		1,6DGR
27.02.2006	0744-0822	SM7BAE	JO65	RO/O	C	-26db	#102	1,6DGR

Guido is particularly happy having worked 3Y0X on random since the QSO with S79HP in January was already more than he expected from his luck. In a few weeks (wx permitting) DL8EBW will have finished antenna works and Guy will be QRV with two 2M12 instead of just one and 500 watts out. This should give his success rate another push.

Who is behind...KG6DX?

Joel became a ham in 1959 receiving a US novice call of KN1MTJ. He operated from Portland, Maine and later upgraded to general class and received K1MTJ. In the 60's his station was a globe scout (90 Watts) transmitter and a Hammarlund HQ110 receiver. For two meters Joel had a nuvister converter. His first CW/SSB two meter transmitter was a Heath kit.



Joel, KG6DX and son

Joel's main interest as a teenager in amateur radio was two meter cw and meteor scatter with his home brew 5 over 5 antenna. He got interested in EME after listening to Dave, K1WHS and Don, VE2DFO working it. So Joel upgraded to a 80 el collinear antenna mounted on the ground in his back yard and he heard SM5FRH and VE2DFO off the moon but never had a QSO.

From 1968 on school and military service pretty much kept Joel off the air until he moved to Guam in 1975. His first Guam call was KG6JFY. When the vanity system started he asked for KG6DX. With a lot of help from Lionel, VE7BQH and Chuck, WA6MGZ (now W7CS), he became QRV on EME.

KG6DX' first two meter EME contact on Guam was with WA0LSH on 4 Jan 1983 with 4 X 2.2 WL yagis and a 8877 amp. Joel had another 4 yagis he could use when the moon was close to 13 degrees declination. These antennas were mounted on two poles aligned in a straight line N-S, so with favorable declinations he could use all 8 antennas. On these declinations the moon rises in the East and sets in the West, traveling right over the top of his QTH at 90 degrees. Eventually KG6DX mounted the antennas on one mast to give complete AZ/EL. Joel left Guam from 1995 to 2002 and operated some time from Japan as 7J7ADB having two EME CW contacts using 2x2.2WL yagis and 160 watts. When he came back to Guam he put up 4 of the 2.2 WL yagis and that is what KG6DX is using now. Joel's TX is a TS2000, RX is a FT847, and PA is a 8877. Today KG6DX has 443 two meter EME QSO's with 281 initials.

Joel also enjoys HF contesting, usually operating in the CQ WW SSB/CW and CQ WPX SSB/CW contest. He also operates in some of the other contests just to pass out a multiplier. On HF he is QRV with the TS2000 and a TEN-TEC Titan amp with a TH7DX antenna

Time Table

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|-----------------------|--|
| • 1/2 April 2006 | ARI EME-Contest (Digital modes only) |
| • 8/9 April 2006 | REF/DUBUS EME-Contest (CW only) |
| • 20 May 2006 | DUBUS 2M CW EME ACTIVITY CONTEST ¹⁾ |
| • 25 – 27 August 2006 | EME 2006 Conference, Würzburg/Germany |
| • 9/10 September 2006 | ARI EME-Contest (CW only) |

1) 0015-0315Z and 0700-1000Z

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