

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS JULY 2011 SUPPLEMENT VOL 39 #7

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CONDITIONS: Because of the tragic events this month and bad timing, we missed Michael and Monika's report on their landmark Eighth Dxpeditio! It seemed appropriate to add a newsletter (NL) supplement for this important missed material. I have also included F5SE/p contest report that also arrived too later for the last NL. Additional contest reports and related material may appear in Aug NL. **Reminder the 70 cm CW activity time period (ATP) is on 3 July from 800 to 1000 and 1500 to 1700. July also has two microwave activity weekends (AWs), on 2/3 July for 9 cm and on 30/31 July for 6 cm.**

LY/DL1YMK: Michael and Monika (M&M)'s [DL1YMK\(x\)aoil.com](mailto:DL1YMK(x)aoil.com) 2011 dxpeditio report -- Lithuania is part of the EU, but one of the poorest countries with high unemployment rate. On plain countryside many houses are abandoned or in very poor condition. The towns, which we visited were busy and full of tourists, especially along the coastline of the Baltic Sea with its nice sandy beaches. Many regions exhibit a totally untouched nature with grasslands, forest, lakes and swampland, giving home to a huge number of birds and other animals.



LY/DL1YMK dish with barn/shack in the background

When the M&M team set out on our 8th dxpeditio in an uninterrupted sequence, we both were convinced it would be a relatively relaxed enterprise, with living and operating in a nice refurbished apartment, just the opposite of the basic accommodations in Kaliningrad last year. Well, with dxpeditios in 9 out of 10 cases, you will have to face unexpected circumstances – this time was no exception. We arrived at the site in the late afternoon on Thursday, 24 May. We took possession of an old picturesque cottage, situated just behind some dunes, right on the sandy beaches of the Baltic Sea. This location was only some 200 m away from the YL border. This remote location was a condition sine-qua-non for our commercial radio license issued by the Lithuanian RRT. After an initial denial for high-power moonbounce experiments (because this could not be handled under their ham radio regulations), the RRT was extremely cooperative and creative in issuing us a special commercial license to put the dxpeditio on a firm legal basis. But, we were 'condemned' to a location far away from other telecom activities in LY. Inspection of the site revealed huge problems in finding a location for the dish with an acceptable Moon window. This story seems to repeat every year despite preparatory efforts on Google Earth to find if and where there are potential obstacles. The idea of operating from a room in the cottage therefore evaporated faster than Ether in the Sun. The only acceptable shack (and I only mean acceptable in terms of Moon window) was let's say a "well-ventilated" old wooden barn where all the rubbish of the last 100 years had accumulated. Another weak point was the mains supply, which nominally is 230 V in LY. After 4 km of 1-phase thin 2-wire cable and another 30 m extension cable from the cottage to the 'air-conditioned barn-shack', the voltage was down to a miserable 180 V with keying of the transmitter. The high-power license,

viewed in this light, appeared a bit like technical overkill, especially on 13 cm. This one and only feasible location for the dish unfortunately meant a shorter window to the US-West, but WA6PY made it into the log in fast QSOs, as well as the Texas gang. KL6M was alternatively reached to the east on the long path. There were no obstructions to the east for the first time, so working VK3UM was unexpectedly easy this year and resulted in good reports even on 70 cm... It is so hard to realize that we have worked Joe, K1RQG, with his huge signal on 70 and 23 cm for the last time. But glad we could give him the joy to have worked a new DXCC.



Michael operating from his "well-ventilated" shack

We will miss you dearly, old friend! The first three nights, we had temperatures of only about 4°C, and operating for hours on CW with near frozen fingers was not that easy, I can assure you! Only a blanket around the legs made these night sessions somehow survivable. From time to time Monika made a fire in an old wood oven in the kitchen to warm up my stiff fingers. During the 2nd week, the weather was much warmer and we spent nice hours on the sandy beaches of the Baltic Sea, searching for amber – very successfully! This made living under such basic circumstances a bit more acceptable. We also had time to work a few CW-skeds in order to give LY to smaller stations.



Warming hands during break in cold night of EME operation.

In only 7 days of operation a total of 150 QSOs, on 70 cm – 24 QSO's, 22 initials in 15 DXCC; on 23 cm – 92 QSOs, 67 initials in 27 DXCC's; and on 13 cm – 34 QSOs, 30 initials in 19 DXCC were completed. On the first day, 28 May, on 23 cm we worked SM4IVE (559/539), OK2DL (559/539), UA3PTW (539/549), HB9BBD (579/579), OK1KIR (559/549), JA4BLC (539/449), OZ4MM (569/559), SP6JLW (559/O), PA3CSG (559/559), OH2DG (559/549), G4CCH (559/549), DJ9YW (449/449), SM3AKW (539/449), SM4DHN (559/559), PA0BAT (539/539), SM2CEW (539/539), IK3COJ (O/O), G4RGK (O/O), IZ1DPN (559/559), ES5PC (549/549), S59DCD (549/549), PY2BS (559/559) - only station from SA, K1RQG (569/559) and ES6RQ (559/559). We stopped at 0945 as we didn't want to risk the dish in high winds before having activated all 3 bands. In the late evening the wind calmed down and we changed the feed and the station in the barn to 13 cm. We started on 29 May at 0400 local time without breakfast (this saved 30 min of sleep, hi). It was very easy to find the Moon as we had reasonable echoes, despite limited power. We worked OK1CA (559/559), ES5PC (559/559), OK1KIR (O/O), SP6OPN (569/569), SM4IVE (539/539), OH2DG (559/559), OZ4MM (559/559), CT1DMK (559/559), PA0BAT (539/539), G4CCH (559/569), SM4DHN (559/559), F2TU (569/559), PY2BS (559/539), SM2CEW (539/559), LZ1DX (539/559), SM3AKW (559/559) and K2UYH. On Monday, 30 May on 70 cm we worked OZ4MM, OK1DFC, DL9KR, UA3PTW, I1NDP, PA3CSG, DK3WG, G4RGK, K2UYH, F2TU, G4YTL and WA6PY. The conditions were somewhat strange, as we received better reports and weak our own echoes, after we turned the feed to vertical pol. We started with horizontal pol, and only the dish guys were able to copy us. Even DL9KR gave us an (O) – report initially. After turning the feed on our side to vert. pol. we received (559) from Jan. Obviously ole Faraday played some tricks on us. On Tuesday, 31 May, we had to tie down the dish because of heavy gusty winds with hot dry air from the south. (From 5 deg C, the nights before in our unheated barn, we suddenly had 28 deg in plain sunshine). The dish survived with minor damages, only a few wires were broken, as the dish was rocked considerably by the wind.



LY/DL1YMK team: Michael and Monika

F5SE/p: Franck [kozton\(x\)free.fr](http://kozton(x)free.fr) 23 cm EME contest report also just missed the NL -- I managed to make 59 QSOs with 49 different prefixes in only 18 hours of activity out of 30 possible. Murphy forced me twice to go QRT earlier than scheduled on both Saturday and Sunday early evening, due to dangerous thunderstorms whirling around over the hill top. Both times, thunderstorms started around local sunset and continued until late after dark. I probably missed many more possible QSOs. These were the first thunderstorms of this year in our area. During the following weeks, thunderstorms were the rule, after 12 weeks without a single drop of rain... I will only quote the new stations that I worked during the contest: OK1CA (559/579) for initial #83, LY/DL1YMK (539/559) #84, 9A5AA (539/559) #85, GW3XYW (539/449) #86, OE5JFL (539/559) #87, OK2ULQ (539/559) #88, SP6GWN (529/549) #89, LA8LF (569/559) #90, G3LQR (539/559) #91, HB9BCD (559/569) #92, SM6FHZ (539/559) #93, DJ8FR (529/559) #94, DJ3FI (529/459) #95 and W5LUA (579/569) #96. During this contest, I was still running QRP (about 130 W at horn feed-point) with a receiving set-up not yet well optimized. I hope to be QRV for the next ARRL contests with a new septum feed (still under construction) and much more power.



Changing feed of the dish

Because of a bad weather forecast at VK3UM for the next weekend, we made an additional activity period in his Moon window on Wednesday morning, 1 May on 70 and 23 cm. We changed the feeds and the station quickly between bands. On 70 cm unfortunately we had no chance whatsoever; the rising Sun was just too noisy, but on 23 cm we were successful and worked not only VK3UM, but also OZ6OL, ON7UN, ON4BCB and LZ1DX after we had given notice of the additional activity slot via the Moon reflector. On 3 June, we added on 13 cm JA4BLC (on the Japanese band with a new converter directly into an SDR), DL4MEA, DF9QX, G4CCH (DUP), OK1KIR on JT65, PA3DZL on JT65, G4BAO on JT65, G4DDK on JT65, VE6TA, OK1KIR (DUP), WD5AGO, G3LQR and W5LUA. Sorry for those we missed, when we lost the Moon in the tree. A highlight once again was participation over the weekend of 4/5 May in the 23 cm leg of the DUBUS EME Contest. It gave additional initials to those who could not operate during the beginning of the dxpedition. QSO'd on 4 June were ES5PC, SP6JLW, HB9BBD, OK2DL, JA6AHB, OH2DG, OK1CA, UA3PTW, OK1KIR, OZ6OL, LZ2US, OK1DFC, LZ1DX, SV1BTR, P19CAM, SP7DCS, SM6FHZ, F5SE/P, F2TU, G4CCH, DF3RU, OE5JFL, IK3COJ, S59DCD, ON4BCB, RA3AUB, IW2FZR, ON7UN, OZ4MM, 9A5AA, I5MPK, F5VHX, DL0SHF, HB9Q, PA7JB, WW2R, WA6PY, SD3F, VE6TA and N4PZ, and on 5 June VK3UM, JA6AHB, DL6SH, LA8LF, JA4BLC, JA8ERE, PA3DZL, ON7UN, G4RGK, PA3FXB, G4DDK, LX1DB (CW and SSB), F2TU SSB, DF3RU SSB, K1RQG, G3LQR, W5LUA, SV3AAF, G4DZU, K2UYH, N2UO and WB2BYP for a contest total of 92x67 [This is the highest 23 cm score reported to date!]. Neither the destination, nor the



F5SE/p dish with Franck and K2UYH in front of dish

FINAL TNX to M&M for another great dxpedition. Three of my recent 70 cm DXCC were due to their efforts. Hope to CU all off the Moon soon. 73, AI – K2UYH