50MHz UKSMG

SIX NEWS

Issue 110 Feb 2012

Journal of the UK Six Metre Group

Dedicated to promoting 50MHz activity around the world

Ecoflex®

New Ecoflex Low Loss Cables and Connectors at Nevada!

SSB-Electronic Germany have developed a range of Ultra-low loss coaxial cables for the professional and Amateur Market With three different types of cables **Ecoflex, Aircell** and **Aircom plus**, there is one for every application.

Nevada are delighted to have been appointed UK distributors!

Ecoflex Low loss Cables

A range of flexible and also very low-loss 50 Ohm coaxial cable for the frequency range up to 6 GHz. Using a low loss PE-LLC dielectric with a gas content of more than 70% gives the very lowest losses.

Ecoflex 15

Specification
- Diameter: 14.6mm
- Loss per 100m: 2.81dB @ 100MHz, 1.96 dB @ 50 MHz

Price: £6.25 per metre, **£562.00** per 100m drum

Ecoflex 15 Connectors

- **PL259** connector (part: 7350).....**£8.95**
- **N type** connector (part: 7395).....**£9.95**

Ecoflex 10

Specification
- Diameter: 10.2mm
- Loss per 100m: 4.0dB @ 100MHz, 2.8 dB @ 50 MHz

Price: £2.89 per metre, **£260.00** per 100m drum

Ecoflex 10 Connectors

- **PL259** connector (part: 7378).....**£5.95**
- **N type** connector (part: 7367) **£6.50**
- **BNC type** connector (part: 7379).....**£6.50**

Aircom Plus

Uses semi Air dielectric with a massive inner conductor made from oxygen-free copper covered with a film of PE to prevent corrosion.

Aircom Plus

Specification
- Diameter: 10.3mm
- Loss per 100m: 3.8dB @ 100MHz, 2.6 dB @ 50MHz

Price: £3.65 per metre, **£328.50** per 100m drum

Aircom Plus Connectors

- **PL259** connector (part: 7378).....**£5.95**
- **N type** connector (part: 7367).....**£6.50**
- **BNC type** connector (part: 7379).....**£6.50**

Aircell

Aircell range is a highly flexible coaxial cable for use up to 6 GHz. The low losses in relation to the diameter and the small bend radius of the cable make it perfect for the Radio Amateur.

Aircell 7

Specification
- Diameter: 7.3mm
- Loss per 100m: 6.28dB @ 100MHz, 4.52dB @ 50MHz

Price: £1.99 per metre, **£179.00** per 100m drum

Aircell 7 Connectors

- **PL259** connector (part: 7390).....**£2.65**
- **N type** connector (part: 7392).....**£5.25**
- **BNC type** connector (part: 7371).....**£5.25**

Aircell 5

Specification
- Diameter: 5.0mm
- Loss per 100m: 9.4dB @ 100MHz, 6.61dB @ 50MHz

Price: £1.39 per metre, **£125.00** per 100m drum

Aircell 5 Connectors

- **PL259** connector (part: 7760).....**£2.25**
- **N type** connector (part: 7700).....**£3.95**
- **BNC type** connector (part: 7720).....**£3.25**

Other Coax Cables

Westflex 103 .....**£1.50** pm / **£135** 100m Drum
RG213U .....**£1.29** pm / **£116** 100m Drum
RG213TM.....**£1.10** pm / **£99** 100m Drum
Mini RG8 XX.....**0.65** pm / **£58.50** 100m Drum
RG58 C/U.....**0.45** pm / **£39.95** 100m Drum
WF-165.....75 Ohm Low Loss .....**£1.59** pm only
450 Ohm Twin feeder .....**0.99** pm / **£89** 100m
300 Ohm Twin Feeder .....**0.85** pm / **£76.50** 100m

Antenna Wire

Flexweave Style Wire.....**£49.95** 100m Drum
Flexweave Coated Style Wire.... ..... **£88** 100m Drum
Stranded 14..7/22 Hard drawn Copper..**£0.45** 100m Drum

FOR FULL SPECIFICATIONS OF THESE AND OTHER LOW LOSS CABLES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE

nevada®

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT -

www.nevadaradio.co.uk

OR CALL THE ***NEVADA SALES HOTLINE:*** **0239231 3090**

Unit 1• Fitzherbert Spur • Farlington • Portsmouth • PO6 1TT

Contents

FRONT COVER
This issue continues the article in SN107 with a round-up of all the latest amplifiers on the market suitable for Six Metre operation.

Six News is published by the UK Six Metre Group four times a year.
For the latest news visit our website at http://www.uksmg.org

UKSMG Committee

Chairman	Trevor Day	G3ZYY	*chairman@uksmg.org*
Vice Chairman	Chris Deacon	G4IFX	
Treasurer	Mike Wills	G3OIL	*treasurer@uksmg.org*
Secretary	Chris Deacon	G4IFX	*secretary@uksmg.org*
Editor	Peter Bacon	G3ZSS	*editor@uksmg.org*
Awards Manager	Dave Toombs	G8FXM	*awards@uksmg.org*
Webmaster	Dave Toombs	G8FXM	*webmaster@uksmg.org*
Contests Manager	Trevor Day	G3ZYY	*contest@uksmg.org*
Sponsorship Manager	Ian Hogan	G6TGO	*sponsorship@uksmg.org*
Archivist	Clive Davies	G4FVP	*g4fvp@uksmg.org*
Member #1	Robin Burrows-Ellis	M1DUD	*m1dud@uksmg.org*
Member #2	Matt Madsen	OZ6OM	*oz6om@uksmg.org*
Member #3	Chris Patterson	W3CMP	*w3cmp@uksmg.org*

Please send all membership subscriptions to:
Chris Deacon, G4IFX
Spring Valley, Churt Road
Churt, Farnham
Surrey GU10 2QU
secretary@uksmg.org

Please send all award applications to:
Dave Toombs G8FXM
1 Chalgrove
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 2QJ
awards@uksmg.org

Please send all items for Six News to:
Peter Bacon, G3ZSS
High View, 18 Monks Well,
Farnham,
Surrey GU10 1RH
editor@uksmg.org

Please send all DX information to:
Chris Patterson, W3CMP
590 Valley Road
Lancaster
PA 17601, USA
DXnews@uksmg.org

Please note that all address changes should be sent to the Secretary and not the Editor

Deadline for the next issue is 1 April 2012

Editorial

Peter Bacon, G3ZSS

Welcome to this issue of Six News. As a reminder, I am also making versions of Six News that can be downloaded from the UKSMG website and read on either Tablets or Smartphones. There are versions on the website suitable for reading on Android, Apple iOS and Kindle devices. We will also continue to make available a "true" copy of this magazine in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. If you have any feedback on the digital formats then please send them to editor@uksmg.org.

There seems to be an amazing number of amplifiers on the market for use on Six. Some of these are mono-band while others cover the HF bands as well as Six. Some are solid-state, while others depend on tubes in particular using a variety of Russian tubes. In this issue, Chris continues his article from Six News 107 with a round-up of all the solid-state amplifiers he can find. While the majority are self-contained, Chris has also identified a couple which are kit projects.

At the top end of the amplifier market, there are a number of "big" amplifiers and apologies but due to space restrictions Part 2 of the review by Kerry, G8VR and Fred, G4BWP of the Czech made OM Power 3006 will not now be published until the next issue. However I do know that they have had good success off the moon with this amplifier.

The new IARU Region 1 band plan is now in effect. A brief summary of the band plan can be seen on page 48. However you are encouraged to download the full version (wall chart) from the UKSMG website at http://uksmg.org/downloads91.html.

There were a number of DXpeditions last year to various parts of the world. I am grateful to Michael, DG1CMZ for his write up of the Six Metre activity from T32C, Kiritimati or what used to be called Christmas Island. The T32C operation nearly failed when the container with all their gear failed to show up. But a resourceful team showed what could be done on all bands when hand carrying all their gear and antennas. T32C broke all records for a Dxpedition and hopefully you managed to work them somewhere on the bands.

Another bumper "What's on Six" column from Chris, W3CMP. I would like to add my thanks to all the operators that send in their contributions to Chris. It never ceases to amaze me with the amount of DX being reported. I also enjoyed reading about Terry Posey, K4RX, as we worked together in Saudi Arabia in the mid-80s.

I wonder what exciting propagation we will see on Six Metres this year. Will the stations in Northern Europe including the UK see any TEP this coming Spring? What new countries will appear on the bands? Remember that the UKSMG has access to a number of LFA antennas that can be sent out to suitable DX stations to encourage them to get on Six. See the UKSMG website for a sponsorship request form. Likewise, we welcome Ian, G6TGO as the new Sponsorship Manager.

Happy DXing on the Magic band.

73 Peter

Chairman's Corner

Trevor Day, G3ZYY

Greetings All; I hope you have all had a good Christmas period and are looking forward to the New Year. I am just recovering from the excesses of the season and about to get back onto my diet L Hopefully Six will have a few surprises in store for us; the opening few days of 2012 have produced some decent Es which, although not unusual at this time of year, have followed a barren spell in the UK at least. I have given up trying to make predictions on the likely performance of the current Cycle but remain hopeful that we will all be graced with at least some F2 propagation before the decline sets in.

The main item that affects us all, Regardless of Region, this year is the changes to the Region 1 Six Metre band-plan which came into force on January 1st. It is clear that these changes do not have universal approval within R1 or elsewhere however we need to ensure that the transition is as smooth and painless as possible for all concerned. It's also worth dwelling on the fact that whilst some are passionate in their opposition to the changes, the originators of the change are equally as passionate in defence of their view of the way ahead. We all share a common bond as Six Metre operators and I am convinced that we will all pull together to make this work. I would also like to make it clear once again that UKSMG are re-acting to the changes rather than as instigators. It is clear from the mail I have received that some are still of the opinion that UKSMG have been the driving force behind the band-plan change!

I have said before that I do not believe there will be any instant changes in the way the great majority of operators go about their business. Individual beacons are likely to remain on their current frequencies for some time yet and it will take significant time and effort to get a synchronised beacon chain up and running. More importantly, for the DX chasers at least, I don't expect any major changes to the operating practices and procedures by Dx-peditions and general DX operating, at least not for some years yet. Regions 2 and 3 are not changing their band-plans any time soon and, in my view, for general Dxing it makes good sense to stay where we are for the time being enabling all three Regions to work together. Whilst the prime mover for these changes was to release prime 'low end' frequency space for general use, we must not forget that within Region 1 there remain countries that will not (yet) have access to the lower part of the band, Germany being a prime example. Remaining above 50.080 will ensure our friends in DL and others are not disadvantaged in the short term. Hopefully Germany will be able to negotiate release of the bottom 80kHz sooner rather than later. For similar reasons, I would urge those arranging Six Metre contests to consider applying frequency limitations in the rules for contest operation. At a minimum, these should include no operation below 50.080. Particularly within the DX window (50.100 to 50.130) any contest operation should have strict caveats enforced to prevent undue interference to non contest operators. The 2012 UKSMG Es contest will reflect this and the revised rules will be published on the website in early March following further consultation.

That's all for this time, on behalf of all of the committee I would like to wish you all a very happy and successful New Year especially on Six! See you in the pile-ups.

Secretary's Page

Chris Deacon, G4IFX

Hi all, apologies for the radio silence last time but the demands of my paid employment have suddenly got a lot more – well – demanding, so I am very short of time for UKSMG tasks at the moment. So many apologies for my slow response of late. Rest assured I am dealing with the backlog as quickly as I can, but if there's anything urgent that needs doing please don't hesitate to email me at secretary@uksmg.org.

There was no column in the last issue so I have two quarters-worth of new members to welcome this time. Welcome to: **G3WZK, MØPIK, GØLEI, KD2Q, K7BV, G8SKG, W3FEY, G3GNR, G8ONK, OZ6J, OZ2ELA, OZ1LLA, OZ4VW, GWØHCB, MMØGOR, GD6ICR, G8NWC, GØDWV, GW4KUS, G4HKQ, J69MV, DL5ABG, N8JX, W5BL, 9M2OK, G4NTN, G6AUS** and **G6VRI** and welcome back to rejoining members **GM4XQJ, G8DVR, GI8FLQ, GMØSYU, M1AAS, M5AKA, G4AYT, M1GRY, MØSPN, M3JFM, OZ1DPR** and **OZ3AEV**.

Total membership currently stands at 682, continuing the fairly static trend that we've seen recently. Fortunately, once again it doesn't look as though we are going to lose many more lapsed members this quarter so I'm encouraged to think that we'll see a net increase as the spring F2 and summer Es start to kick in later in 2012.

The solar cycle is definitely continuing to pick up and we may see the maximum in 2013. If the smoothed monthly sunspot number goes above about 100 then we'll see regular East-West DX at the latitude of the UK – in fact there was what appeared to be an F2 opening between GM and the US during the autumn, so who knows what may happen in February, March and April this year.

That's all I've got time for now, good luck with the DX to all of you in the coming year.

73 de Chris G4IFX

UKSMG Antenna Sponsorship in Partnership with InnovAntennas

The UKSMG has a sponsorship deal with InnovAntennas to try and encourage more activity from some of the rarer countries. As we all know, many stations nowadays have a multiband HF transceiver which also gives potential access to 6m. What is usually lacking is a 6m antenna.

InnovAntennas has arranged to supply the UKSMG with 4 of their 3 element LFA antennas every year which will be shipped "free of charge" to the intended recipient. The intention being to ship a new antenna every quarter.

Do you know of any station from one of the rarer countries that would benefit from receiving an antenna and would use it to get on 6m? If so then please send your suggestions to the UKSMG Sponsorship Manager. Email to sponsorship@uksmg.org

What's on Six

The world of six metres with band reports, DX News, propagation and topical information for every operator, compiled by

Chris Patterson, W3CMP
590 Valley Rd
Lancaster, PA 17601, USA

e-mail DXNews@uksmg.org

Opening Remarks

Hello again everyone. Although the New Year will have passed by the time you read this, I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year, and the best of DX in 2012. Right now I am not sure what 2012 will bring in the way of propagation - of course, it may not matter if the Mayans really did get it right.

With the exception of a few transcontinental openings and a couple of tantalizingly close openings to the Pacific, six metres has generally been flat here in the Mid-Atlantic area. Other parts of the U.S., as can be seen from the reports of W3XO/5, K1TOL, K5RK, and E51EME and others have fared quite a lot better.

On the Dxpedition front, at the request of one of my daughters, I am tentatively planning on returning to Haiti in June for another mission trip. I do plan on operating on six metres as much as commitments allow. Call will again be HH4/W3CMP. I'll have more information as plans firm up. Jimmy Treybig, W6JKV, is also planning to travel to St. Barts in June. That should be another winner.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a report on some very neat, solid state amplifiers that include 50MHz coverage. A number are manufactured in Europe, and one, the Elecraft KPA500, is available either as a finished unit or kit. It seems that solid state amplifiers are becoming the norm and the power available from them rivals what could only be achieved in the past with tubes.

We are very lucky to have many reports from members and contributors throughout the world, DXpedition wrap ups by Howard J69HS and Pete VE3IKV, and a history of Terry K4RX, one of north Florida's six metre stalwarts. As usual, there is a lot going on. Enjoy!

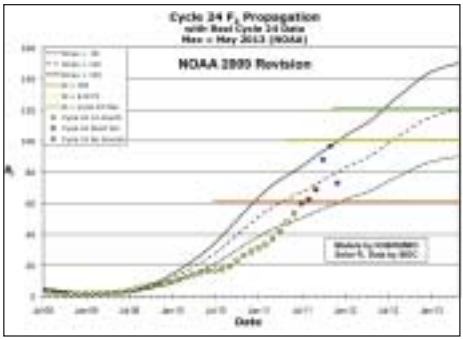
Solar News

January 2012 Report to Six News
KH6/K6MIO, 01/02/12

Solar Cycle 24

The numbers continue to climb, which is good news. As Figure 1 shows, the three recent "short smooth" values (red dots, less than 12 months) appear to be have climbed above the (guestimated) Ri(max) = 90 curve. In the last three months the "no smooth" points (blue dots) have a couple of values that are approaching the Ri(max) = 120 trajectory (with the usual large monthly variations).

While all of this is encouraging, the enthusiasm has to be tempered by our lack of understanding about when solar max will really be. The revised NOAA predictions are for the maximum to be Ri(max) = 90, in May 2013. The three Ri(max) trajectory curves at 90, 120, and 150 all assume the May 2013 maximum date. If this date is reasonably correct, we should expect that the Ri would continue to increase until then. However, all this could be an overestimate, if the next solar maximum



Solar activity with actual data.

occurs considerably before mid 2013.

As I noted in my last report, there is another indicator about when solar maximum is reached, the reversal of the Sun's mean polar magnetic field. A few months ago Leif Svalgaard pointed out that Stanford University's Wilcox Solar Observatory (WSO) polar field measurements suggested that the Sun's northern hemisphere might reach solar maximum much sooner than that.

Figure 2 shows my smoothing of the WSO data. There are a number of ways to handle the smoothing. In this case, it is a simple 12-month running mean, similar to that used for the monthly Ri data. The data in the last six months are smoothed with progressively shorter periods of time (circles).

The feature that Svalgaard was referring to was the fact that since 2007, the Sun's north polar mean field has had a strong trend toward zero that could suggest a reversal sometime in 2012, perhaps in the first half of the year. Of course, one also sees that there is a wiggly feature in the (poorly smoothed) last six months that reflects the variability of the signal on short time scales. It will take at least another few months to see if the reversal will really happen that soon.

Values of solar polar magnetic fields.

On the other hand, the plot also shows that the southern solar hemisphere seems to be on track for a longer time from its reversal and solar maximum. As noted in earlier reports, there is good reason to believe that the south will reach its maximum rather later than the north, by perhaps as much as one or even two years. (The southern Ri maximum lagged the north by about a year in Cycle 23.)

How all this may effect the total (north plus south) Ri(max) values is still unclear. One imponderable at this point is whether the fact that the southern hemisphere R is currently smaller than the north (by half or more) is the result of the "southern cycle" simply being longer than the north, or, is it because the southern cycle is just weaker than the north to begin with. That is it say, "Is the south slow, or is it low."

There is considerable evidence that it is indeed "slow" including its behaviour at the end of Cycle 23, and the current picture in Figure 2. Whether or not the south is also "low" is not clear (it was not low in Cycle 23). If it is slow to come to maximum, but with a strength comparable to the north, we may see a prolonged, relatively weak (but not necessarily useless) double-peaked solar maximum.

73, Jim KH6/K6MIO

DXpedition News

St. Barthelemy TO/FJ

Jimmy, W6JKV plans to travel to St Barts, FK 87 in June 2012:

"Yes, I am going to St. Barts on 20th June, 2012 (operational on 21st or 22nd) and will leave around 2nd July. We have a great location on a cliff with ocean to the USA and Europe and will have the 40 foot boom M2 6M8GJ antenna. I hope to work everyone….hi. Jimmy"

Haiti HH4/W3CMP

Your columnist is planning to return to the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission in St. Louis du Nord, Haiti from 18-29 June, 2012. Grid square is FK39.

7P8EME

We have been advised by the DXpedition team that some of the QSL cards have been stolen in the mail. If you still need a QSL card for 7P8EME then please look up the details on QRZ.com for ZS6OB.

Montserrat VP2MDD (Graham MØAEP reports)

Hi Chris:

In my new semi-retired role I've just enjoyed reading another excellent edition of Six

News, but this time on the actual day of delivery. A first for me and thanks to you and all the team who make it happen!

In the vein of "do it now before I forget" as 66 approaches, I thought I would let you know that I will be active on Six from our west coast Montserrat home from Wednesday 22nd February until Monday 26th March 2012. My call sign on Montserrat is VP2MDD. Could be interesting with equinoxial TEP around March?

My station comprises a TS-480 with 100 watts (ssb/cw) to a five element Eagle yagi on a 17 foot boom at about 30 feet agl, together with a six metre Cushcraft Ringo vertical. I imagine the mahogany tree adjacent the mast may require a haircut first. It's been 18 months since I was last there.

I will be concentrating on six metres but will also be active on 10 metres as well. Antenna to be confirmed. Could be interesting with equinoxial TEP around March? QSL route for VP2MDD is via my home call MØAEP, either via the RSGB Bureau or direct to MØAEP, details on QRZ.com for both calls.

In the meantime I'm getting ready for a four week visit over Christmas & New Year to my son who works in Beijing. There is not much prospect of any radio action from there I'm afraid, although he says he is working on it on my behalf. I'll believe it, if and when!!

73, Graham (UKSMG #1374)

Guinea-Bissau J52EME

The Verona DX team is planning to operate from Guinea Bissau 24 March to 6 April 2012. The team members will be I3LDP, I3VJW, IK3ESB, IK3IUL, IK3RBE, IK3VVD, IK3VZJ, IZ3BUR, IZ3STA. Six metre operation will be limited.

Tonga A35YZ

Between March 7 and 24, 2012 a nine member team will operate from Tonga. Equipment for six metres will be an FT-857 and five element yagi.

J68HS/WB4WXE (Howard has sent this report on his DXpediton to St Lucia as well as other activity on the island.)

I talked to Tot J69MV tonight; he raised the antenna another 15 feet on his roof top. He promised to email some photos of antenna and new shack photos. His six metre rig was on and PY was booming in. He is now up to 17 DXCC confirmed on six metres with best DX EA8, VP8, OA, LU etc. So far he has not worked Europe or North America except KP4.

This year I had planned to arrive by 25th June and catch any good E openings at the end of June and those of early July. When I went in mid-June of 2010 the conditions were dismal but better in July. That also occurred in 2009. However, Murphy struck and delayed our arrival until 29th June. Antennas were up the next day.

We again returned to the mountain site at the Hibiscus villa and Jones assisted with an iron post as the anchor site for the main antennas near the cliff edge. During the days before my arrival and the band had been very good. At least I was there with antennas up for one good opening into Europe, 30th June.

The first 50MHz contact this year was EA3NG at 19.02z on the 30th with rapid additions of F5BZB, I8NHW, EA1COW, K1MAA, KP4EIT, EA6TT, EA3GP, IK5ACO, EA5XV, IK5HHA, IT9CJC, IK5MEJ, KD2JA, 9A6R, EA3BKI, IZ1CQZ, FM5WD, IT9OPS, G5WQ, GØDQS, I4EAT, CT1FJC, I1MRH, IK1TAZ, G4RRA. I called G8VR with no luck; then I worked IK4DRY, I5KG, CZ5EKV, IØJX, S57RR, ISØSWW, IW5DHN, and F6FHP. I also copied DK1MAX.

At 20.52z the band moved to YV5ZV, followed by YV5ARV and YV5NEA, the last contact of the day. This year I brought the THP HL-550fx amplifier so when six meters was quiet I moved to the HF bands with the emphasis on the WARC bands. The remainder of the 30th I was on 17 metres with a two element yagi. I made about 200 more QSOs on that band.

The 1st July was another great day for six metres in the direction of the USA. First in the log was K4QI at 15.41z followed by continuous QSOs until 21.10z. This was the best day into the USA with contacts in all U.S. areas including K6QXY and W6BBS in California and N7RT in Arizona. The most distant contact was K7KV in CN87 at 19.04z with 5x9 signals.

J68HS provided at least one station his #100 for six metre DXCC, W5XX. While the majority of the opening on 1st July was USA

some XE, HI, YV, PV, PJ, C6 and KP4 stations also went into the log. Total 50Mhz QSOs for that day came in at 146. After six metres got quiet I went back to 17m again for another 70+ contacts.

Friday was also a good time to meet up with Tot J69MV and family at Anse la Reye for the weekly seafood festival. It was also a good time to hand deliver a six metre brick amplifier and VHF wattmeter into welcoming hands. Tot is using both at his hilltop QTH on the north end of St. Lucia.

The 2nd July opening on six metres offered only YV, P4, HK and 8P6DV; the 3rd July was mostly a 12 metre day with around 75 contacts worldwide on 24MHz, but the 4th July was more 17 metres, then 12 metres. I finally worked NP4A on six metres at 18.51z, and W8IF at 19.40z. The band went quiet so I went back to 24MHz and 18Mhz for another 350+ QSOs.

The 5th July started with some 50Mhz activity around 17.40z with YV5NWG, then K2ZD, K1SIX, VE3KH, VE1YX, PV8ABC, W1OW, W1XX, K5BTP, WP4U, and ZF1RC. The band opened to North America, South America and the Caribbean all at the same time. This was another good day on six metres. The opening continued until 23.55z and another 90 QSOs went into the six metre log. The most distant QSO was N7KA in New Mexico.

July 6th was slow on six metres. I made another 150 contacts on 17 metres. My only six metre QSO was PV8ABC at 23.26z. The late day conditions continued into the 7th with another QSO with PV8AZ at 00.00z. Operation on 7th July continued with over 100 contacts on 40 metres. Six metres came to life at 20.14z, with PV8DR followed by YV6BFE, YV5ESN, HP3TA, HK3O, HP2AT, YV5JBI, PJ2BVU, and finally 9Y4D.

July 8th produced another 150 QSOs on 40 and 20 metres. Six metres opened at 18.47z to HK3R and later to 9Y4D at 20.32z.

The 9th July was more 17, 10, and 15 metre operation but only about 50 contacts were made. None were on six metres.

The next day, 10th July, did provide some 50MHz life but to limited areas. Starting at 18.00z with KP4EIT, I added several more KP4/WP4/NP3 contacts along with HI8LAM, YV4DYJ, HI8VRS, PV8DR, PV8DX, 9Y4VU, 9Z4AF, and HK3O last in at 22.15z.

VP2EAT – Anguilla HF/Six Metre Trip, November 2011

This venture started off as a combo HF Contest and six metre trip to VP2E Anguilla, with the six metre activity planned to take place post-contest. The CW contest was originally going to be run as Single-Operator All-Band. However, after assembling all the gear necessary to operate all HF contest bands plus 50MHz, it quickly became apparent that I wasn't going to be able to lug all the gear down to PJ7 Sint Maarten, and then take it over to VP2E on the James Bond-style high speed ferry by myself. Compromises were in order, and it was decided a week before the trip that the contest would be run as a Single-Operator Single-Band 10 metre CW undertaking, with six metres along for when 10 metres was expected to be quiet. Expectations were modest on six, especially since it wasn't Es season and TEP was on the wane due to it being the end of November. I knew that quite a few of the South Americans still needed VP2E for six metre DXCC, so I thought I'd try it out. If TEP was still possible, then at least I would have an antenna for six.

I got settled into the hotel late on 24th November. My room was in a great top floor location beside salt water, with a wooden balcony perfectly suited for putting up a small six metre antenna. I ran the coax from the Diamond HF50CX 3/8 wave antenna (71 inches long) to my Yaesu FT-650 rig and added a few ¼ wave radials from the antenna mount sloping downwards to the balcony floor. At 01.30z (21.30 local), I called a cw CQ on 50.110MHz. I was not expecting much TEP that late. Lo and behold, Javier LU5FF called me back and we exchanged 559 reports. After our QSO, ZP5SNA called and we also exchanged 559 reports, followed by LU4FW, CE2/VE7SV, and PY2OC. At that point, 01.55z, I decided to switch to SSB for the benefit of the guys that couldn't work CW, and then proceeded to work a pileup of PYs, LUs, and ZPs until 02.05z. Many of the stations thanked me for being their first VP2E on six metres. The TEP finally started to die off, and the last stations to make it into the log were PY2SRB, PY1RO, and PY2HN at 02.20z, all on CW. I then tuned around and in popped the FY7THF and PR8ZIX beacons with solid 599

signals on single-hop evening Es. I called a few times on CW & phone on 50.110, but no further QSOs were made.

The evening TEP exhibited very fast QSB typical of that mode, to the point where it was actually more difficult to copy than an aurora signal. The QSB was so rapid that parts of the CW characters were being dropped! The furthest DX worked was LU5FF, approximately 3,675 miles or 5,910 km. Not bad for a 71 inch whip. LU5FF has posted a YouTube video of the VP2EAT- LU5FF CW QSO, which was a new 6m DXCC for him.

The CQ WW DX CW Contest on the 26th/27th November was a blast, and it looks like I have scored #3 world-wide for 10 metres single-op, low power. Not bad for doing it the old-fashioned way: with a pen & paper and a keyer!

We had a major tropical electrical storm on 27th November that flooded the island and forced me to QRT and disconnect the antennas. There was no six metre propagation for the next few days up to when I had to leave, so it's great that I managed to hook up the six metre antenna that very first evening on the island.

I was visited during the week by Keith VP2EKG and Teddy VP2ETE, two of the Anguillan hams that are fairly active. After Keith saw what I had worked with my modest little six metre setup, he put up the K5AND DXpedition yagi that Dick K5AND had left with him previously. It's safe to say that we will now hear a lot more six metre activity from VP2E in the future.

73, Pete, VP2EAT / VE3IKV

Member Band and Other Activity Reports

Europe

G6TGO (Ian reports from IO83UJ)

Hello Chris:

Nice to hear from you. As you are no doubt aware I have slotted back into my Sponsorship Manager role which I did back in 2009-10. However this only will be until the 2012 AGM where if I have satisfied the Committee I may get voted in officially, Hi.

I hope that is the case.

Ian's Report:

From early October, I was watching the MUF rising above 30MHz on a daily basis and by late October U.S. utility stations were heard as high as 48MHz from the Pennsylvania and Maryland areas in particular between 09.30-18.00UTC daily. This prompted me to intensely monitor 50.125MHz and U.S. beacons but sadly the MUF fell short; but not by much and nothing to report.

By mid-November the MUF had fallen to around 35MHz, which suggested the best had been and gone. However, I had learned a lot from this, and I feel it was not completely a waste of time.

Only one sporadic E opening took place for me and that was on 2nd November. At 10.59 UTC, I heard weak Portuguese beacons first. Their signals became 559 by 11.04 UTC these were CS5BCP IM59, CS5BLA IM57, and CS5BAL IM67. I worked EA3EVL IN80 at 11.02 UTC on SSB. I then heard EA4Q IN80 become audible. He was worked on SSB 55 both ways at 11.20 UTC. Then a surprise pop up by Bruno IS0GQX JM49 on the key which was 599 both ways. I later heard Bruno on SSB working a few EU stations on SSB. Activity was very low due to it was a working day (my day off) and most EU operators may have taken down their aerials for winter maintenance. I have had no other openings since then up to today 21st December 2011.

I've attached a screenshot of the F2 opening 15 November to UK from the U.S:

15th November Opening from Europe to North America.

Within the UK the RSGB has a Contest on six metres every last Tuesday of the month. I always try to make that event and I do not do that badly, given my aerial height above is six metres above ground and the fact the aerial is a short home brew four element, which has to be way down in performance to a commercial yagi.

The UKAC six metre contest is normally a good turnout.

The last main event for me in 2011 was the removal of two 90 foot trees by the neighbour at the bottom of the garden which faces west. Because I could not get out the four element yagi at any other location and taking on board the neighbours' objections to the visual impact I removed part of the lower branches in 2006. So I could place the yagi carefully under the canopy of both trees, I painted the boom and the mast green and it was completely camouflaged to the neighbours' viewing angle. Now that the trees are gone the neighbours who did not realise it was there have now seen my mast and aerials and they are not that pleased, lol. These trees when in full leaf had blocked paths to South America and the United States. That is not the case anymore so I am now hoping I will hear more DX from both areas during 2012.

For those people with the doubt that six metre aerials just do not work in trees, etc., it surprisingly did better than I first thought. With that aerial I worked Lefty K1TOL, K2MUB, and WA2FGK through the trees and branches in the opening back in August 2011, which does go some way in proving that don't be put off by placing a six meter yagi l within a tree as long you have a rotatable swing! This comment may give those with restricted yagi space encouragement to give it a try.

So with that, I wish you Chris and all Six News readers all the best for 2012 and hope to maybe work some of you and good DX.

On 3rd January Ian reported:

Happy New Year and here is some late news.

Wow what a nice start to 2012, and a early 50th Birthday present for me! I heard a German voice on 50.150MHz at 16.56 UTC I said QRZ? DG7MHR JN57 came back, and after that I worked on the key DK1MAX JN58.

Then I worked IZ5ILX JN54,IZ0THT JN6, IK1EGC JN35, IW4BET JN54, IZ4ISC JN64, IK4WTU JN64 who was using a home brew transmitter and four element yagi. Contacts continued with Danilo IK1ZZNJN45,a personal friend of mine, F1GCX JN25, IK5YJY JN53, I1POR JN45, IK5GQK JN53. All of these contacts were on SSB. Switching back to CW I worked IWØFFK JN62, IZ5ILX again, 9A2EU JN75. The final two, S54KM JN76 andYU6MM KN04 were incomplete. They both heard me as the band faded at that time. What a shame, I was enjoying myself!

The only station I called with no reply out of everybody I heard was Istvan HA8CE KN06 1,779Km. Sadly he went QRT before I could call him. He was a nice 5/5 on 50.130MHz SSB. I heard no one heard within the new CW allocation. I0JX was the only beacon copied.

Pathing was as follows.

Germany16.56z -17.07z; then from 17.07z it was Italy which faded at 17.29z. The band then opened to France at 17.36z. Italy came back in at 17.39z to 17.56z. When the Italians faded HA appeared at 17.58z followed by S58 at 18.04z; then YU which was the last signal heard before the band faded out. The band again opened around 18.23z.This was not quite rotational propagation but maybe this points yet again to the propagation behavour noted in early May .

73 de Ian.

CT1FJC (Mark reports from IM57OC)

Hope you had a nice Christmas, and all the very best for the "NEW YEAR". Not sure when the start date should be, but expect you can leave out anything that should have been in the last edition.

I have attached my six metre log file for the last three months. I hope it's of use.

I've worked a lot of South America TEP, mainly along the same path each night, and the same stations. A few new contacts raised the square score nicely, however.

I was very pleased to work Jack OA4TT for a new DXCC; first on CW 559, and then a little later on SSB 57. I'm sure this was via F2. We have exchanged QSL cards direct, and Jack's QSL card is superb, featuring the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.

OA4TT QSL card. The beautiful young lady in the photo is Jack's niece "Lucerito".

A new one for me on 23rd September was W7GJ via EME on my moonset, with just a single five element DK7ZB.

Very best 73 Mark CT1FJC IM57QSOs worked by CT1FJC on 6 m.

QSOs worked by CT1FJC on 6 m.

Type of propagation: All Mode: All mode
From 15/09/2011 to 31/12/2011 Distance over: 5 Km.

Date	*Time*	*Callsign*	*Locator*	*TX*	*RX*	*Mode*	*Prop*	*QRB*
20/09/2011	22:30	PY1RO	GG87	559	449	CW	F2	7528+-
21/09/2011	20:01	5N7M	JJ39SB	55	55	SSB	TEP	3524
21/09/2011	20:46	CE4WJK	FF45OU	57	55	SSB	TEP	10187
21/09/2011	20:46	CE3SX	FF46RN	55	53	SSB	F2	10115
23/09/2011	14:42	W7GJ	DN27UB	18	28	JT65	EME	8087
23/09/2011	16:41	5N7M	JJ39SB	59	59	SSB	TEP	3524
24/09/2011	21:50	PY2WBC	GG67GT	55	53	SSB	TEP	7735
25/09/2011	22:25	PY4AQA	GG88DS	55	57	SSB	TEP	7445
25/09/2011	22:39	PY7XAF	HI22	56	56	SSB	TEP	5654+-
30/09/2011	21:58	PY2ESG	GG66	55	55	SSB	TEP	7830+-
30/09/2011	22:33	ZP5SNA	GG14	559	559	CW	TEP	8587+-
30/09/2011	22:44	PY4OG	GG78QQ	56	55	SSB	TEP	7500
01/10/2011	17:51	C5YK	IK13PK	59	59	SSB	TEP	2746
02/10/2011	16:18	CX2CC	GF15WC	56	56	SSB	TEP	9378
02/10/2011	16:19	CX9AU	GG53	55	55	SSB	TEP	8220+-
02/10/2011	22:03	PY2EX	GG66	55	55	SSB	TEP	7830+-
04/10/2011	21:52	PY4OG	GG78QQ	59	57	SSB	TEP	7500
07/10/2011	19:38	LU7FA	FF96CW	59	59	SSB	TEP	9538
10/10/2011	20:07	LU7FA	FF96CW	-4	-4	JT65	TEP	9538
10/10/2011	20:13	LU7FA	FF96CW	47	26	JT6M	TEP	9538
10/10/2011	20:25	LU5FF	FF99QE	56	55	SSB	TEP	9275
11/10/2011	21:58	PR7AR	HI23	55	55	SSB	TEP	5555+-
11/10/2011	22:19	CE4WJK	FF45OU	57	57	SSB	TEP	10187
13/10/2011	22:38	PY2HT	GG68CU	57	57	SSB	TEP	7656
14/10/2011	17:36	C5YK	IK13PK	59	59	SSB	TEP	2746
15/10/2011	22:46	PU1KGG	GG87IE	55	55	SSB	TEP	7577
16/10/2011	17:21	9J2BO	KH44CP	59	54	SSB	TEP	7000
16/10/2011	19:14	ZS6TQ	KG55	57	55	SSB	TEP	8014+-
16/10/2011	22:19	LU5FC	FF97	539	559	CW	TEP	9439+-
16/10/2011	22:23	LU4FW	FF97	55	55	SSB	TEP	9439+-
16/10/2011	22:51	LU8EEM	FF95	57	57	SSB	TEP	9611+-
16/10/2011	23:19	LU1ECZ	FF95LV	55	55	SSB	TEP	9583
17/10/2011	13:54	ZS6CCY	KG45XX	57	55	SSB	TEP	7913
18/10/2011	22:13	PP5KR	GG42RR	559	559	CW	TEP	8379
20/10/2011	22:15	LU4HP	FE49	59	59	SSB	TEP	10696+-
20/10/2011	22:19	LU5FF	FF99QE	59	59	SSB	TEP	9275
20/10/2011	22:20	LU8EEM	FF95	59	59	SSB	TEP	9611+-
20/10/2011	22:27	LU1FA	FF97	59	59	SSB	TEP	9439+-
21/10/2011	22:30	LU7FA	FF96CW	OOO	RO-2	SSB	TEP	9538
22/10/2011	19:28	ZS6Y	KG33WU	-13	-15	ISCA	TEP	8007
22/10/2011	19:37	ZS6Y	KG33WU	26	26	JT6M	TEP	8007
22/10/2011	21:37	PY5ARP	GG54	59	59	SSB	TEP	8126+-
22/10/2011	21:38	PY2CDS	GG66	57	57	SSB	TEP	7830+-
22/10/2011	21:42	ZV2K	GG76EI	55	55	SSB	TEP	7776
22/10/2011	21:48	PY2YU	GG55	55	55	SSB	TEP	8032+-
22/10/2011	21:50	PY2NA	GG55	55	55	SSB	TEP	8032+-
22/10/2011	21:51	PY2EYE	GG55	55	55	SSB	TEP	8032+-
22/10/2011	21:54	PY2OC	GG68	56	59	SSB	TEP	7641+-
22/10/2011	22:01	PYAQA	GG88	57	59	SSB	TEP	7431+-

Date	*Time*	*Callsign*	*Locator*	*TX*	*RX*	*Mode*	*Prop*	*QRB*
22/10/2011	22:33	PY2BL	GG67LE	59	59	SSB	TEP	7772
22/10/2011	22:45	PR2P	GG66	59	59	SSB	TEP	7830+-
22/10/2011	23:04	LU7FA	FF96CW	37	26	SSB	TEP	9538
23/10/2011	22:36	LU5FF	FF99RF	37	28	JT6M	TEP	9266
28/10/2011	11:27	TU2T		599	599	CW	TEP	3422+-
31/10/2011	15:02	TU2T	IJ76	57	59	SSB	TEP	3422+-
31/10/2011	22:11	PP1CZ	GG99	599	589	CW	TEP	7234+-
31/10/2011	22:20	PY2SRB	GG48BC	55	55	SSB	TEP	7960
31/10/2011	22:34	PU2PJA	GG57SD	58	59	SSB	TEP	7853
05/11/2011	14:36	G4ENZ	IO81VV	59	59	CW	ES	1723
05/11/2011	15:09	F4EJW	IN78VJ	59	59	SSB	ES	1309
05/11/2011	15:11	GW7SMV	IO81LN	59	59	SSB	ES	1670
05/11/2011	15:13	F6EOQ	IN78RJ	59	59	SSB	ES	1302
05/11/2011	15:13	G4ENZ	IO81VV	59	59	SSB	ES	1723
05/11/2011	16:32	OA4TT	FH16TW	539	559	CW	F2	8981
05/11/2011	17:06	OA4TT	FH16TW	57	57	SSB	F2	8981
07/11/2011	17:17	ZS6CCY	KG45XX	57	57	SSB	TEP	7913
09/11/2011	23:48	FY1FL	GJ35	53	53	SSB	TEP	5684+-
11/11/2011	23:42	PY6KW	HH?7	57	55	SSB	TEP	6349+-
14/11/2011	22:32	ZP6CW	GG14LM	549	579	CW	TEP	8592
15/11/2011	19:42	Z24EA	KH52	549	599	CW	TEP	7363+-
17/11/2011	19:22	9J2RI	KH27XR	59	59	SSB	TEP	6580
17/11/2011	21:48	ZD8ZZ	II22	549	599	CW	F2	4997+-
19/11/2011	23:24	PU1PYZ	GG87	54	54	SSB	TEP	7528+-
25/11/2011	15:19	EL2WS		599	599	CW	TEP	3425+-
26/11/2011	17:42	9LØW	IJ38	569	599	CW	TEP	3205+-
25/12/2011	11:15	GØCHE	IO9?PS	26	26	JT6M	MS	1649
26/12/2011	11:20	F8ZW	JN38SP	26	26	JT6M	MS	1841

G8VR (Kerry reports from IO91WP)

Hi Chris

Happy Christmas and holidays to you. I have not been active much since last we corresponded so scant news this time. I did have the radio on in November, when I heard a ZS for the first time in 10 years, and also a number of West African stations. The one I needed (EL) eluded me, but I believe was worked by Peter, G8BCG. Here's to 2012!

73. Kerry, G8VR

MMØAMW (Dave reports from IO75EJ)

Hi Chris,

I trust you are enjoying the festive season and all that that entails. I've gone through my six metre log for 2011 and picked out the highlights of what for me was a fairly disappointing year it has to be said.

Winter and spring were virtually non-events on six metres for me with only a few rather insipid aurora openings to alleviate the gloom. The summer E season got underway around the usual time of mid to late May. My first cross-Atlantic occurred on 28th May with contacts with VE2TKH and VE2DLC. This was I suspect an AU-E opening mixed with Es. Later on that night I heard the VYØSNO beacon and then got a major surprise when VA5MG/B in DO74 came through. Despite many CW calls to that part of the world, no humans were heard.

During the summer I had several openings to North America but they were mainly confined to the East coast. Only on a couple of occasions did the propagation venture further west but even that was fairly poor this year. My furthest west in 2011 was to N5DG in EM20 on 25th June and N5CQ EM10 and AB5EB EL09 on 8th July. I usually get a few contacts in W0 and W7 land or at least maybe hear them but there was nothing came in from that region at all. There were several openings to the Caribbean and northern parts of South America and I managed to log all the new PJ entities. One opening of note was on the 17th June when I heard the TI2NA beacon. This was the first time I had ever heard any signal from

Central America on summer E skip. I'm afraid that just about wraps up my summer season as there was very little DX heard from elsewhere; nothing at all from the Far East and very little from Africa.

Later in the year there were several openings from southern UK to central and south Africa on TEP but at 55 degrees north there was never a sniff of it with me. One bright spot of the year was on the 15th November when this anemic solar cycle finally summoned up enough ionisation to give me a short lived but very welcome and enjoyable F2 opening, the first (and maybe the last) F2 of SC24. I came home from work and saw VE and W stations reporting reception of the JW, TF, and OY beacons. I immediately got the antenna round to North America and completed with VE2XK, VE3MMQ, N8JX and N9IW. I had a partial contact with W0WOI and also heard VE3KU. Signals were marginal in the main with some decent peaks at times. I wasn't expecting any F2 this year; I thought it would be late 2012 before anything happened on that front.

That's about it Chris, not very exciting but if there's any of it you can use then be my guest.

Best wishes for 2012 and fingers crossed the solar numbers keep climbing.

73, David, MMØAMW

DL8YHR (Frank reports from JO41GV)

Hi Chris..

I'm very sorry to say but from my side nothing at all. Band was dead here all December...just a few times some video from 5Z and TJ but that's it. SFI is getting up again so maybe next days it should be better.

Always nice to hear from you ...wish you all the Best and very 73. Merry Christmas

73, Frank, DL8YHR.de

Africa

EA8BLL (Arnold reports from IL38BP)

Hi Chris:

This is very complete and I believe lots of very useful information so I have included it all. The past months have produced so much here that I felt I had to use it. Listening for beacons is of course most useful but in this case I was trying things that I did not expect to work.

All the very best to all in 2012.!

5th October to 31st December 2011

9 October Heard PR8ZIX/B from GI64 at 17.50z; FY7THF/B from GJ35 at 18.10z; PV8AMI CQ at 19.16z.

10 October All South America propagation. Worked LU2DPW GF66 at 22.07z; LU6QI GF66 at 22.15z; LU1FZ FF94 at 22.25z; CX5BW GF25 at 22.52z. Heard PT9AAA/B 569 from GG22.

11 October Nigeria at 16.00z plus South America. Worked 5N7M S9+ from JJ39 16.00z; CX9AU GF15 at 21.34z; LU5FF 5/8, CE4WJK 5/3, and ZP5SNA 5/5 SSB.

12 October Worked PY2HN GG76 at 22.16z; ST2AR 559 KK54 at 19.39z; 9J2BO 599 KH45 at 19.40z; PP7JR 559 HI20 at 22.00z; PY2SE GI21 at 22.46z. Heard PV8ABC 579, FM8DY 569. ST & 9J all time new here if you can believe it!

15 October Worked CX3AN GF27; LU4FPZ FF47; LU5FC FF88; PP5KR GG46; PP5EJ FG68. Heard PY7RP, 5N7M ,LU5FF, PP1CZ, LW3EEL, LU5PF, LW3EX, and LU7FTF/B all in 20.55z to 22.00z.

16 October Heard ZD7VC/B 579, which is very rare here these days, and PP5KR 549 from the seemingly universal GI21

17 October Heard PY1JS/B 549 from GG88 and PP1CZ 589 from GG99uq

18 October The only noteworthy fact was the re-arrival of all TEP beacons except ZD8VHF. Previously all were missing here for weeks.

19 October Heard ZS6TW/B 569 at 19.25z for about 10 minutes.

20 October Heard weak TR0A after about 20.00z.

5 November Worked CE2/VE7SV 569339 FF47 at 22.40z. Heard PY1WS from GI21; FY7THF/B and CE3AA/B 419 from FF46; LU4RS 569 from PF68, PP2EX/B from GG57 from 22.30z-23.10z.

6 November Worked TU2T 599 IJ75 at 20.38z; PP5KN 58 GG57 at 20.50z; 5N6/YL2SW 599 JJ39 at 21.00z; PY7ZY 599 GI21 at 21.52z; PY2/PJ7AG 599 GI21 at 22.13z; LU1FAN 599 FF58 at 2 2.45z; LU7YS 599 FF49 at 22.50z; CE2/VE7SV 59+ FF47 at 22.59z. Heard NP2A 549 from FK68, PY5EW from GI21 at 20.42z, LU5FF FF99, LU5EGY fromFF58 at 20.54z; CE3AA/B FF47, PY5SW GI21 at 21.47z, PY2OC GG66, PY7ZY GI21 at 21.52z,CE6B/B FF47, LU7FT/B FF88 at

22.18z, PR8ZI/B GI44, ZP5AA/B GG14 at 22.25z. The 6th November here was notable not only for the wide sample of South American stations coming in, especially the Argentineans, but also for the remarkable signals crossing the Andes to and from Chile via short path. The S9+ plus signals from CE2/VE7SV are particularly remarkable. Our signals had to cross not only the mountain range but also, for the 9,000 + km path between Chile and EA8, part of the giant volcano Aconcagua.

7 November Worked TU2T IJ75 at 20.36z; PY2RN GI21 at 21.45z; CX9AU GF15 at 21.58z; PP5KR G42 at 22.03z; LU5FZ FF98 at 22.15z. Heard ZS6NK 56 from KG44, ZS6TWB/B 569 from KG46 at 20.06z, and CE3AA 319 from FF46

8 November Heard PY1WS/B 549 from GG87 at 21.45z, LU5EGY 569 from GF35 at 21.50z.

11 November Heard ZS6TWB/B from KG46 at 19.56z, plus PR5ZF, PY2XB, PP1CZ, PR7AR at 22.20z

14 November Worked Z24EA 599 at 20.02z; ZS6EZ 599 KG21at 20.05z. Heard ZS6JON/B 569 from KG43 at 20.33z, ZS6BTE from KG21 at 20.36z, CX5BW from GI27 at 20.50z, LU5FF FF99 at 20.51z, PY1WS/B from GI21 at 20.55z.

15 November Heard Z24EA at 19.45z, ZS6TWB/B at 20.00z, 4X4SI 529 at 20.02z, J33ARC/B 429 FK93 at 21.25z, CE3AA/B FF46 at 22.11z,

16 November Worked LU5PF FF88 at 22.24z; CE2/VE7SV at 22.32z. Heard ZS6NK KG44 at 21.20z, ZS5J KG21 at 21.22z, ZS6TWB/B KG46 at 19.33z, 4X4DK KM72 at 19.40z, ZS6LA KG21at 19.42z, LU7FTF/B FF88 at 20.10z, PY1WS GG87 at 22.11z, CE3AA/B FF46 at 22.18z.

17 November Worked 9J2RI 579- 599 at 20.11z; CE4WJK 59 FF45 at 22.41z; LU6ARR FF88 at 22.43z. From 19.30z until 23.00z, PY2XB, CT1's, and the beacons ZS6TWB, ZS6JON, CE3AA, CX1CCC, FY7THF, LU5FF, LU7FTF and LW2ETU were heard for most of the time

18 November Worked ST2AR 56 KK54 at 20.24z; again 599 at 20.25z; PP5XX GG57 at 22.30z; LW3EX FF88 at 22.31z; ZP6CW GG09 at 22.45z; PY2EYE GI21 at 22.48z.

18November CE3AA/B and LU7FTF/B were in evidence here after 22.20z.

20th November, those beacons and CE6/B were heard after about 22.20z. CE3AA was found to be an invaluable indicator of propagation to EA8. In fact, a more than hopeful check on it at 23.46z produced the completely unexpected suggestion that six metres might actually be open to the Chilean coast then.

21 November Worked LU5PF FF88 at 22.32z; PY7AHA HI12 at 22.49z; CE2/VE7SV FF47 at 22.52z; PY7AHA HI12 at 22.56z. Heard CE3AA/B and CX1CCC/B after 22.00z

22 November Heard only CE3AA/B, ZD8VHF and LU5EGY 559 from 20.50z

27 November Worked PT9IQ GI21 at 22.45z; 9L0W 559 IJ75 at 22.52z; CE3SX FF47 at 23.00z. Heard PT9IR 59 and CE3AA/B 529 around 23.00z.

28 November Heard only CE3AA/P at 22.55z.

29 November Worked D44BS 59 HK33 at 21.54z. Heard PY4HGM 589, D4C beacon, PY2SM, FY7THF/B, PP1CZ, PR8ZIX, and 9L0W. Fadeout started at 22.25z

30 November and 1 December
Basically iono-dead here.

2 December Worked PY2VA GG66 at 22.25z; LU5FF FF99 at 22.35z; PY2LED GG66 at 22.47z; PY2WMA at 22.55z. Heard PY2VB, PY1RO, LU2MER, 9L0W.

4 December Worked 9Y4VU FK91 at 20.42z; CX5BW GI27 at 22.53z; FS/DL2RUM FK88 at 23.10z.

5 December Heard PP5BI at 23.50z

6 December Heard PY1RO 579 at 22.25z.

7 December Heard PP1CZ/B 439 at 21.45z.

8 December Heard PP1CZ/B 439 at 22.25z, ZD8VHF/B 419 at 22.35z.

10 December Heard PP1CZ/B 539 at 22.00z.

13 December Heard TRØA/B 519 at 22.00z.

14 December Heard ZS6TWB/B 519 at 20.00z , PY1RO 579 at 22.40z, PP5KR 539 at 22.45z

15 December Heard TRØA 519 at 20.15z

16 December Worked PY1RO at 23.34z; PV8AZ at 23.45z. Heard CE2/VE7 at 00.00z, ZP5SA and PY2WD at 00.04z.

17 December Heard ZD8VHF/B at 22.03z.

19 December Heard ZD8VHF/B 539 at 21.00z.

20 December Worked EA8BMG at 22.00z. Heard PY7RP 579 at 22.14z.

21 December Heard ZD8VHF/B 559 at 21.14z.

22 December Heard PP1CZ/B 579 at 21.50z.

24 December Heard TRØA 519 at 19.58z, ZD8VHF/B 579 at 22.20z, 9Q1D 419 at 21.20z.

26 December Heard ZD8VHF 589 at 22.35z.

27 December Worked PY2LED GI22 at 22.20z. The contact with PY2LED was the only one here over the Christmas period. No winter opening has been detected yet from here.

North America

K1TOL (Lefty reports from FN44VG on 3rd December Opening to ZL)

Chris:

I was seeing K1SIX spotting the ZL videos and he was keeping us up to date. I walked to the kitchen to get coffee and was parked on 50.110MHz. I heard a "CQ ZL2DX" clear as a bell 45 feet away in my speaker. At first I thought it was a stateside person calling "CQ ZL DX". Dah! I heard the CQ four-five times and ignored it. Then I walked back to radio shack and was still hearing the "ZL2DX" CQs. Since I did not hear any locals call him back, I assumed it was a stateside guy on 50.110. After a few more CQs, like seven or eight from the ZL2, I decided to drop my call once in case it was a stateside person and I was "mistaking" his constant CQs. He came right back and gave his grid as RE78....I almost hit the floor. I never ever in a million years dreamed of actually hearing a ZL yesterday! Our QSO was at 21.45z. I then called CQs on 50.105MHz and worked ZL3NW at 21.53z. After my QSO with Rod I saw that W1IPL and K1SIX were working ZL's on .110, so I went there. At 22.01z I worked ZL2OK on SSB. I also heard ZL2TPY but did not call him and heard ZL1AIX but he never came back to me. I was frantically calling CQs and scanning but that was it. Still need a VK. Too bad FK8CP was not home—on vacation I heard...DARN.

Since 3rd December:

Nada to report.

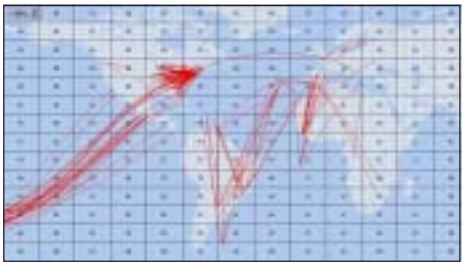
Dull, dull.....no Es here, no F2, no aurora. Boring!

Lefty

K2ZD (Mario reports from FN21NR)

Hi Chris, I had a brief opening to ZL this afternoon, 3rd December. At 21.55z I had a SSB QSO with ZL2OK in RE89EX with 5x5 signals reports both ways. Distance was 14,205 Km or 8826.7 miles. I believe there was an Es link up-the Midwest was also into the East Coast. ZL2TPY also reported me also at 55 but QRM covered him up here. K1TOL, K1SIX & I think W1IPL also worked ZL stations.

73, Mario K2ZD



ON4KST DX map screenshot of 3rd December W-ZL opening. Es links to Northeastern U.S. and Florida shows clearly on map.

K5RK (Larry reports from EL29IH on 29th December opening)

Hi, Chris

I was doing other work in the shack and left the rig on 50.110MHz after a day of propagation, mainly to the Caribbean and Central America. I had the antenna pointing in the general direction of VK/ZL, hoping for the best. Out of nowhere comes a CQ from VK5PO at 00.18z. I think he was just as surprised as me when he heard my reply. N5DG snagged him right after my contact and then things started hopping. I worked VK3OER (CW and SSB), VK5PJ, ZL1GO, VK5ACY, VK5ZK and VK5NK in a mix of CW and SSB over the next 45 minutes or so. Several other W5's were pumping out contacts as well: N5DG, W3XO/5, W5OZI and N5TSP all seemed to be doing well. I'm a relative newbie to the band. Prior to this opening I had never worked a VK on 6. Rig is an IC-7800 with Alpha 8406 and stacked seven element yagis.

73 de Larry K5RK

K6QXY (Bob reports from CM88QL)

Hi Chris:

October and November were very good out here on the west coast. December has been very slow. I've heard ZL video almost every day. I'll start in October, 2011. These are just the stations worked:

3 October FK8CP 03.08z

12 October FK8CP 01.55z; ZL1RS 23.08z

15 October FK8CP 03.12z

16 October T32C 00.35z

18 October T32C 00.04z, FO4BM 01.07z

20 October FK8CP 01.55z

22 October FK8CP 02.44z

23 October FK8CP 03.36z

24 October FK8CP 02.58z CW & SSB, ZL1RS 23.20z

25 October FK8CP 03.51z; ZL1RS 04.08z (late); XE2HWB/B (Es to TEP link); OA4TT 17.08z;LU8YD 17.18z; TX7M 19.27z; TX7M 20.02z SSB

26 October ZL1RS 23.18z; E51CG 01.26z SSB; VK4MA 04.15z CW (first VK of season);

27 October FK8CP 02.51z; ZL1RS 22.24z

29 October ZL1RS 00.25z

1 November ZL1RS 23.15z

8 November ZL1RS 23.43z

12 November VY2ZM heard (first transcontinental F2)

14 November XE2HWB/B, CE3AA/B (Es to TEP link); CE2/VE7SV, LU9EHF, OA4TT, CX9AU 2.04z-03.04Z; ZL3NW 23.54z

15 November VE1YX, VE3EN, VY2DX, VE1SKY, W1IPL, VY2ZM, ~ 18.00z (transcontinental F2)

16 November VE2XK, VE1YX, W1JJ, 17.00z

4 December ZL3NW 00.25z

5 December ZL1RS, ZL3NW, 01.00z

14 December W7's WASH, MONT, WYO, W0's COLO ~ 19.40z via Es

18 December ZL video (start of Winter ESSSP path to ZL/VK)

27 December KH6HME/Bs heard 144.170MHz, 432.078MHz and 1296.250MHz all in for about one day (Trans Pacific tropo, very rare in winter)

29 December ZL video in early ~ 192.9Zz; ZL3NW 23.10z 519; partial with ZL2DX 23.30z

30 December E51EME 01.23z (partial-Bob got my call but not signal report. This is when I had Es link to W5, W8 etc.)

Will see what happens today.

Happy New Year, Bob, K6QXY

On 3rd January Bob adds:

2 January ZL video in very early at 08.51z then gone; back in very strong at about 22.00z. at 23.2z1 ZL3NW 519 but up to 579 at times; 23.53z E51EME 519.

3 January ZL2DX at 00.23z 559 at times; ~ 00.48z 46.240MHz VK video only in for about 10minutes but first time I have heard it. Not sure if this is "pure" F2 or ESSSP my guess is ESSSP as the flux numbers are very low.

Bob K6QXY

K9ZM (Greg reports from EN50JB)

Hi Chris,

Glad you emailed. Hard to converse in a chat room. Really nothing for me to add. I only worked K5N and some other 5's. Being a relative newbie to six metres, I am left wondering just what the heck happened. And how do these guys always seem to know when an opening will take place, and end.

I spent 29th December on and off listening for K5N. I heard him on FSK441, but I haven't got the transmit side configuration worked out. So they were having some antenna difficulties which they worked on, and then switched over to working SSB/CW in the afternoon on about 50.128MHz or so. I was catching bits and pieces of them. They came back to me once and disappeared before getting a report, and sporadic E's on the map were letting the guys in Georgia work them. You could just see a drift to the northwest as time went on. I had to go to supper and when I came back The E's had shifted and was letting the 8's work Texas, and even better, several of the guys in Texas & Ohio got through to E51EME. Maybe others did also. That angle or path was just to my southeast a few hundred miles. So I was hoping that it would drift a bit more. But it seemed to go dead. Guys were saying it's over for tonight. That is such a mystery to me.

Oh, and a highlight of the evening was Bob E51EME was on 50.107MHz and he posted in the chat room that he was going to stand by

and wait a while until KN5O quit chatting with his neighbour on 50.107MHz SSB. So a guy parked in the DX window, from Louisiana, has no clue how strong he is in the South Pacific.

During this time of the opening, I am not hearing a peep out of K5N. Once it was all over with supposedly, guys are talking about the next chance. Then I start hearing K5N and eventually he gets really strong and loud. Not too many other 5's in there, but some. This is only 20-30 minutes after the guys declared it over for the South Pacific. I am hoping that the E's drifting to the northwest will let us get the angle to get a signal to water and maybe to the guys in the South Pacific. But that doesn't happen. There is a lot more going on than I am aware of.

So I don't know if the E clouds let those guys get to water and then work the South Pacific, or if the angle or the elevation was such that they got through or if an F2 layer appeared for them. But these guys have been mentioning it for the past several days and knew this was coming from what they were observing. Maybe the time of day and the sun angle was important. I guess I will just keep listening and see if I can learn something.

I certainly should be capable. I have a 6M7 at about 60'. 1.5 Year old LMR400 type flexible coax, FT-2000D with the NS filter modification, and an Alpha 8406 amplifier. Sometimes I wonder if I should replace about 100' of feed line with LMR600 and maybe get a preamp.

73, Greg, K9ZM

On 30th December Greg added:

Hi Chris,

Also, Bob E51EME is in the chat room now talking a little about yesterday. Says not too many worked over 45 minutes. Stations worked included W3, 4, 5, 8 and K6QXY was heard. WK3N got through. Mark K2AXX says he just didn't hear enough signal to warrant calling. That was more than I heard. Just bursts here.

73, Greg, K9ZM

N3DB (Dave reports from FM18SU)

One opening, like everyone else on the East Coast, to JW/bs, OY/b, TF/b & etc. No humans here that day. Got in on most of the E-W domestic F2 a while back, and an "almost" with NL7Z one of those days. He heard an "N3" calling him at least. Otherwise dead save a few nights of "at the fringe" SA chatter on 50.110MHz but nothing workable. There was nothing here the day the W1s worked ZL (which means 2 more ZL openings to W1 must happen before we get a single one). Still finding and fixing Irene damage, and playing games with my homeowner's insurance company. When the time comes (soon) for me to tear out the subfloor & walls in my POS shack the floodgates of six metre DX will open

Hope you had an enjoyable Christmas.

73 Dave N3DB

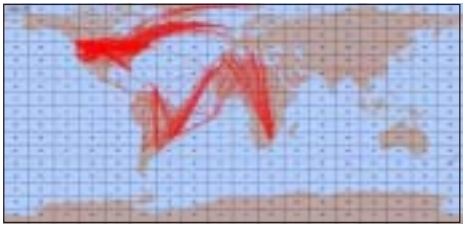
NZ3M (Dave reports from FN10PD)

Hi Chris,

For me, the month of November had a bit of a highlight on six metres here in PA. Since the hourly SFI was hanging above 150 for a while, many of us six metre ops were monitoring for propagated 40MHz signals. Most of the 40MHz stuff is used by police and the SNOTEL sites that relay data on snow depths. The most persistent operator in monitoring these frequencies was Mike VE9AA. On 12th November he was reporting west coast traffic on 40MHz so I decided to tune the rig to six metres and listen towards the "other" coast.

Some time went by. Mike unexpectedly spotted KB7ME in Washington State at 18.48z, but could not make the QSO. I tuned to 50.099MHz, where KB7ME was reported but didn't copy anything. I then started tuning around the band, since others had likely noticed the spot and might be calling. Within a few minutes I was copying Steve VE7SL in CN88 calling CQ. He was weak, and it took a few tries, but we made the QSO. This was supposedly the first trans-continental NA F2 contact for Cycle 24. I do however, owe credit to Mike VE9AA. He was monitoring the band like a starved lion ready to pounce.

The F2 in the afternoon continued for the next four days. The openings were short lived, all between 17.00z and 19.00z. Stations I worked were VE7DAY in CO70, N7XS, KC7W and W7FI in CN87, KE7V in CN88, K6FG in DM04, K7RWT in CN85 and WA1PMA in DN18. At the height of this, on 15th November, many of us in the east and northeast copied strong beacons from northern Europe, including OY, TF, JX, GI and others.



ON4KST DX map screenshot of simultaneous North American transcontinental and North American-European F2 on 15 November 2011.

Sadly, I don't think anyone made a contact. This was unfortunate because these beacons were in for hours.

These openings were not the big strong F2 openings you typically hear about; most stations were weak. Additionally, the SFI was supposedly "too low" for F2. I think we have confirmed that there just might be "weak" F2 propagation at lower SFI levels. And time of day obviously has something to do with it since the daily window of opportunity was quite narrow. I'm looking forward to some more F2 next fall or maybe even next spring if the sun continues to produce.

On 1st January, at about 23.45z, I heard ZL3NW CQing on 50.100MHz for about 15 minutes. His signal never really got above 519 and was in the noise most of the time. He was definitely strong enough to work, but he just didn't hear my 400 watts. Al K3TKJ and Bill W4TJ heard Rod also without success. Maybe next time!

73Dave NZ3M

NL7Z (Kevin reports from BP51HO)

With the flux staying so low, F2 to the east coast has been dismal. There has been at least one (weak) F2 event from KL7 to the east coast on 50MHz in November. I suspect we have had more but can't confirm this. I did work VY2ZM and only heard VE1JX.

I think with our present conditions, Es /Au will be the main means of transcontinental QSOs on six metres.

I have the rig on most of the time but I am at work Monday-Friday when we have any chance of F2. I'm sure there are several KL7's looking as well.

Let's all hope for some F2 for Christmas.

73, Kevin, NL7Z

NØJK (Jon reports form EM17JR)

Hi Chris:

Probably the best 50MHz opening here was on 15th November. I set up portable that day west of Lawrence, Kansas. I heard both OX beacons, the TF1SIX/b and the OY6BEC/b but unfortunately no live ops. This was the first time I heard the OX beacons via F2 since cycle 23, and an all-time first on the TF and OY beacons. This was around 18.00 UTC. There were Es that day and Larry NØLL and I worked N6EQ in DM14. I heard several California station via Es working the east coast on F2.

The Winter Es season so far has been disappointing with only a few weak, brief openings. On the 27th November I heard the W3DOG/b at 17.15 UTC. On 3rd December I worked KB3RHR EN90 at 23.15 UTC on Es. That has been about it.

I was hoping for a good Winter Es season to help with Es links to South America and the Pacific, but so far not much.

There were some Es during the 10 metre contest Friday evening to CO, LA, MS, MT, OR and WY. It was nice to work Doug VE5UF, who is an active six metre op. The Es on 10 were much less than in 2010.

I wonder if the increased solar activity has something to do with the decreased Es, or is it just a slow season? Maybe it will pick up after Christmas.

Best Holiday wishes to you and your family.

Jon, NØJK

W1JJ (Mick reports from FN41GP)

Hi Chris

Sorry that I don't have anything to report. I did hear beacons from TF and OY in November on F2 but did not keep any notes on calls and times. You probably have reports on that opening as it was wide spread on the east coast. Also some transcon but that was widely reported. I will in the future try and keep better notes on what I hear or work and pass it along to you. Merry Christmas.

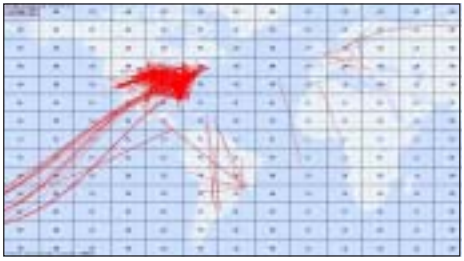
W3XO/5 (Bill reports form EM00KD)

Chris:

I thought you might want to hear about the tremendous ZL/VK opening we had here in Texas to start the New Year.

On Saturday, 31 December, the band was open all day to the south. I managed to miss 6Y1 by not getting on in time. But DX Sherlock noted that Joe, W5HNK, gave him an S-9 just a few minutes before. I heard him but barely - not well enough to work. But, for the next four hours, the band was open to the south. I worked a number of XEs plus TI2ALF, TI7/N5BEK, HP3TA and TG9AJR. The YS1YS beacon (50.023MHz) was in strong for several hours. I thought that all of this Es to the south was a good omen. Then when I saw XE2HWB in DL44 spotted by a nearby station I was even more optimistic. Sure enough, at 00.48z on 1st January 2012, I heard and worked VK3ZAZ. For the next hour, it was the most extreme VK/ZL opening I have ever encountered, even at the height of the last Cycle. I worked: VK5AK, VK5ACY, VK5CF, VK5NY, VK3OVR, VK2KRR, VK5RJ, ZL1IW, VK3XQ, VK3AKK, ZL4AAA, VK3DUT, VK7DX (the only VK7 I have ever worked), VK3AMK, VK2ZQ, ZL1AIX and ZL1GO. The last QSO was at 01.32z. VK5NY was an honest S-9 for quite some time. I was also hearing XE1HWB and, in fact, informed VK5NY that HWB was calling him. They worked right away. It seems that this is a classic case of an Es link-up to some kind of Trans equatorial F2, the type of thing that Jim Kennedy,K6MIO/KH6 has discussed at several symposia. Let's hope this is a harbinger of even greater things to come.

73 ES Happy New Year,
Bill Tynan, W3XO/5



ON4KST DX map screenshot of 1st January, 2012 US-VK/ZL opening.

W7GJ (Lance reports from DN27UB)

Hi Chris:

Have been quite busy lately with the six metre amplifier project. I'm primarily trying to get amps in the hands of people who need them in rare DXCC, but this month I have only managed to ship amps to Taiwan, Norway, Sweden, Germany, USA and Canada. I am hoping to ship a couple to Wake Island and India next month.

Information about the amp conversion can be found at: http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/HarrisAmps.htm

I will send you the EME news next week. Best wishes for a joyous Christmas!

VY 73, Lance

VE2XK (Michel reports from FN07PJ)

Bonjour Chris:

On 15th November 2011 I had my real first F2 opening on six metres toward Europe. At this time the radio flux was on the declining way of the 182 peak of 7th November. In other words we had a SFI of 149 on 15th November. TF1SIX/B, OY6BEC/B and GB3LER/B were more hours to hearing on my side with a very strong signal until 599. I didn't check JW7SIX/B but it was probably audible too I guess, but I was too much excited CQing to Europe. Many stations from USA and Canada were able to copy those beacons for a very long time. In this time there was absolutely no station from Iceland and Faroe islands on band. I wish somebody was on band because I need both island myself for new DXCC and grid. This F2 opening to Europe was the only opportunity many had to work Iceland and Faroe since 15th November. The first station I was able to work on F2 from Europe this day was David MMØAMW. A little later on the same day I also worked five stations from California on F2.

On 16th November with a little more declining SFI of 142 I had conditions again to California and had four more F2 QSOs in log. F2 was gone for me after 16th November. On 26th, 27th-30th November and 1st, 3rd-4th and 11th December I had a little sporadic E conditions. On the 11th December I surprisingly had an extremely narrow E footprint which gave me the opportunity to work WDØBQM and AGØN in DN81. This was new grid #40 for 2011 and this pretty rare grid count for me as #621 total.

Merry happy Christmas for you and your family. Chris and I wish you happy holiday.

73 Michel VE2XK

```
25 spots found
VE2XK       50096.6 N6ML          + FN07:F2:CM97 Tks cw qso       1912z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50145.0 W6FM          :F2: FN07>CM95 Tks qso          1908z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50108.7 K6ANP         + FN07:F2:CM88 tks cw qso       1902z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50130.2 WB6VYH        FN07:F2:CM90 Tks qso            1900z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50104.1 W6QUV         FN07:F2:CM98 599 +++ tks qso    1849z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50056.6 TF1SIX/B      FN07:F2:HP94 579 NO HUMAN       1837z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50035.0 OY6BEC/B      IP62:FN07 579 no station        1816z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50056.6 TF1SIX/B      FN07:F2: HP94 569 599 NO human  1815z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50056.6 TF1SIX/B      FN07:F2: HP94 599 NO HUMAN      1802z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50056.6 TF1SIX/B      FN07:F2: HP94 579               1757z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50064.1 GB3LER/B      FN07:F2:IP90 519 built          1752z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50130.0 MM0AMW        + CQing NA hear 539 on F2       1746z  2011-Nov-15
VE2XK       50110.6 MM0AMW        + FN07:F2:IO75 First F2 ever Tks 1737z  2011-Nov-1
VE2XK       50035.1 OY6BEC/B      IP62:F2:FN07 539                1722z  2011-Nov-15
```

DX Spots for VE2XK.

VE7DAY (John reports from CO70IA)

Hello Chris:

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you and yours. I do not have a picture of my station but here are copies of emails I sent to TCA magazine recently. You may glean six metre information from them if you wish. The bottom lists transcontinental contacts.

Hello Dana.

Sorry we couldn't work tonight, I did hear a ping from you though...I think it was you.

On 30th November about 01:15z W7FI posted on ON4KST he was hearing VE4 beacons. Several minutes later, there they were. VE4VHF/b EN19 and a bit later VE4ARM/b EN09

I started calling CQ and worked:

Nov 30	01:39	VE4XC	EN19	599
	01:54	K7TNT	DN74	569
	02:14	AGØN	DN81	54
	02:17	WDØBQM	DN81	
	03:09	WØMTK	DM59	
	03:11	K7ULS	DN41	58

There were still signals in but I didn't work any more. I turned the antenna toward the south Pacific and listening there hoping for a link. Keeps us interested in six.

As well as our neighbors to the South, some of "our guys" worked the south Pacific on October:

02.01z VA7FC worked FK8CP in RG37
02.01z VE7SL worked FK8CP in RG37
02.01z VE7CC worked VK4MA in QG64
02.06z VE7SV worked VK4MA in QG64
02.13z VE7SL worked VK4MA in QG64

Steve worked VK4WTN and VK4BG as well. I only heard bits of SSB from FK8CP when Perry was working him and VK4MA's call when he was calling CQ. I'm not 100% sure it was him and not a domestic but it had that "sound". I may have missed a few who worked the South Pacific. I could sense the excitement and felt it somewhat also, even though I didn't work anyone. It should get better.

My first F2 contact was:

Nov 1 23.13z ZL1RS RF64 57

I heard him for about 15 minutes in total. No VK contacts for me yet.

I had a nice little opening on six metres today. Just arrived in the shack with my cup of coffee and saw snotel on 40.670MHz was S8 to 9. Turned on the six metre rig and ON4KST chat where VY2ZM said he'd call on 50.099MHz.

I tuned the frequency and there he was:

Nov 21 19.56z VY2ZM FN86 559
20.05z VE1YX FN74 559
20.08z N1BUG FN55 559

Also heard VE1XK and VE3EN but didn't work either. K1ZM spotted me as well.

Just got into the shack and saw you mention that Steve was on .098. I quickly dialled it up and there was VE1YX giving his call many times. I called him once and he answered.

Nov 17 18.24z VE1YX FN74 559

I also heard W1JR in FN42 calling CQ but he was very light and couldn't hear me. I didn't hear you but really was concentrating on Bob's signal. I like this F2 stuff.

15th November, here are the VE7DAY transcontinental contacts:

N3LL EL86, W3NE FM19, KD4ESV EL87, W4ABC EL87, KI4DJG FM04, K4SAN FM05, AA4SC EM94, N3XX EM73, K1VE EL98, K4MF EL98, K4UTE EM90, W4BP EL96, AC4TO EM70,N4UB FM09, K4YMQ EM63, N3LL EL86, KJ4E EL98, N3DB FM18, K1HTV FM18, N4AVV FM03, K4QI FM06, N4SM FM16 and W7DHH DM48. A few local contacts with VA7FC and VE7LGF were interspersed. I had a lot of fun listening around.

Contacts on 13th November included:

W1IPL FN54, N1BUG FN55, VE3EN FN25 (Kevin's first F2 contact), W3EP FN21, K2ZD FN21, K2MUB FN21, K1AC FN43, W1TS FN31, NZ3M FN10, VE3EK FN03, VE3KU FN03, K2AXX FN12, N3DB FM18, VE1ZJ FN96, K1CP FN54, VE9AA FN66, VE1YX FN74, VE2DLC FN85, K1TOL FN44, W1IPL FN54, N1BCL FN34, KA1R FN42, N3LL EL86, W3NF FM19, KD4ESV EL87, W4ABC EL87, KI4DJG FM04, K4SAN FM05, AA4SC EM94, N3XX EM73, K1VE EL98, K4MF EL98, K4UTE EM90, W4BP EL96, AC4TO EM70, N4UB, K4YMQ EM63, KJ4E EL98, N4AVV FM03, K4QI FM06, N4SM FM16, W7DHH DM48, VY2ZM FN86, and N1BUG FN55. I also heard VE1XK and VE3EN but didn't work either. K1ZM spotted me as well.

I'm sorry for the disjointed list. I use a K3, IC756 PRO III, IC706MK2G, and IC-7000 at various times. Power is 100 watts. My antenna is an M2 seven element yagi at 53 ft.

73 John, VE7DAY

VE9AA (Mike reports from FN66NA)

Hey Chris

Not sure when I last sent you a report, so I'll just touch on the highlights since the Summer Es season ended.

26 September 21.30z HK3FRC/B 519 + 9y4's heard.

10 October 18.21z CT1HZE My first F2 of the cycle. Backscatter from North Africa. I missed 5N7M earlier; I was outside working on HF antennas.

23 October 23.18z VE3EN + NZ3M via AU.

28 October 01.35z VE1PZ 59A.

12 November 18.46z KB7ME heard weakly, but no complete QSO. This was first sign of transcontinental propagation in North America. I think maybe a W3 completed with VE7SL shortly thereafter for the first F2 transcontinental contact of the cycle. Maybe it was NZ3M or AK3E.

13 November 17.36z VE6TA 559x2 my first F2 transcontinental contact of cycle. This was followed by 8 x W7's.

18 November 18.45z VE7SL, KE7V & K7CW via F2.

28 November 15.49z AB4GE EM80 via Es.

20 December 15.43z WZ8D & WA4FC/b via Es.

My six metre beam is swinging in the breeze (rotor shot) and my six metre amp is in W1 getting repairs done to it. I am running100 watts and using a 40 metre ground plane! I can't wait 'til spring. It's only the first day of winter as I type. HI

73 Mike VE9AA FN66

TI7/N5BEK (Phil reports from EK70CK)

Although I am currently listening to white noise we have had very good six metre DX conditions since September from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. I had hoped for F2 conditions but I think most have been TEP. I have now worked all the South American countries the last two being CP and ZP. South America continues to be heard almost every evening. When not fighting SA signals off the back I worked:

KH7 multi times, FK8, E51, A35, ZL1RS several times and once on SSB when he was running 1/2 watt., and ZL1, ZL2 and ZL3 at various times.

One of the most interesting openings put me in my first VK pile up on six metres. The opening lasted about 45 minutes and a large number of VK3 and VK4's were worked both on CW and SSB. It was lots of fun.

All in all it has been a great fall here for DX. I hope the sun heats up again and we can get a little further west maybe DU or P29. That would be great.

South America

LU5FF (Javi reports from FF99RF)

Hi Chris,

Thank you very much for writing again. There is not much to comment, but here is a summary of December.

December did not bring good openings; even those to EA8, CU, and CT3 were shorter, appearing only after 22.30 UTC. At the beginning of the month I had a few contacts with EA7, to the Pacific. The last time I heard Fred KH7Y was on 1st December. I could only work one new one VP8NO, thus reaching 70 countries in six months of activity. I am now waiting for the big DXpedition to Malpelo Island, HK0NA, in January

Without much ado, I wish for you an excellent 2012 and many openings in the Magic Band

Javi LU5FF

On the 27th December Javi added:

Today I communicate with Bob E51EME, CW, SSB and JT65A. This was DXCC number 71 on six metres. Image and video here: http://lu5ff.blogspot.com/2011/12/sumamos-un-nuevo-pais-en-los-50-mhz.html

OA4TT (Jack reports from FH16TW)

Hi Chris,

Following are my logbook entries for the times I was at my shack in Canete. I was quite happy to pick up six new DXCC entities this period and am looking forward to seeing what the higher solar numbers will bring. One highlight this period was hearing VK8MS long path to the east. I also had a little bit of propagation to Europe and Africa. The path to Willem DU7/PAØHIP may be a fairly consistent path. I heard or saw his signals on the spectran for several days.

10 Oct 19.25z CX2TQ, CX5BW, CX7BBR

11 Oct 01.30z onward TG9ANF, TI3DAC, HI8PLE/7, TI5XP, LU9DO, PV8ABC, FM8DY, 9Y4VU CX9AU, FM5AA, J39BS, 9Z4DZ, CX3E and others in same entities; 04.20z worked Willem DU7/PAØHIP-weak QSB- had peaks 549. This was my first DU from OA.

12 Oct 02.48z PY5AM, CX2TQ, CX9AU

13 Oct 01.34z YW3Y, KH6RH, KH6U, CX4AAJ, LU9DO, KH6HI, LU2DPW, KH6SX,XE1FAS, KH7Y

23 Oct 03.00z ZP5SWA, LU2HO, LU2DPW, KH7Y, TI2ALF

24 Oct 16.20z In other DX station pileups I heard CN8KD 599, and IT9FGA weak.

25 Oct 00.15z PY2VM, ZP5CGL, XE3N, 8R1EA, 8R1WD, YN2N, AC4TO, N3LL, N4QV, NP4A, W4AS, YS1JBL. From 16.40z-21.20z I had 42 QSOs into W1, W3, W4,W5, and W8, and a rare opening into California. I worked KR7O, N6JV, K6QD, W6QUV, and N6RMJ.

26 Oct 02.30z KØGU, N4QWZ, LU2DPW

27 Oct 0.107z V31AE, HK3DES, KP4YI, KH7Y. At 13.50z I heard VK8MS long path, very weak with QSB. Beam was pointing 050 degrees.

1 Nov 23.00z CP6UA, OA4YX. It's rare to work another OA.

2 Nov 15.40z IKØFTA peaked 559 via F2; heard other Europeans calling but too weak to work.

3 Nov 00.55z PJ2/K8LEE, PJ4J, PV8FDI, D44TD; 23.49z EA8DD, PV2ADI, PY2VOX, EA8AQV

4 Nov 00.07z EA8AQV, PV8DX, NP3XF, YV5ZV, 9Y4D, WP3UX, PY3NZ, LU9F;

23.28z TR8CA 339 report for a new DXCC

5 Nov 00.30z XE1FAA;15.11z CT1HZE, EA7KW, EA7DUD, EA5EF, CT1FJC, EA7BPO, CT1IUA, CT1FFU, EA5/G3XGS, CT1EKY, CT1BOH, CT1EAT; 23.30z EA8DD, 8R1WD

6 Nov 00.09z PP1CZ, D44TD, CE2/VE7SV, LU1EEG, LU7FHS, LU8DIO; 15.15z KH7Y, LU9HH

8 Nov 23.30z KH6SX, 6V7Q 55 for new DXCC, EA8BFK

9 Nov 01.45z EA8AQV, TI5XP, KP2B for new DXCC, YV5JBI

10 Nov 01.30z NP3XF, TG9AGR, HP3TA, LU4DPH, CE2/VE7SV, V31AE, 9Z4DZ

14 Nov 00.35z 8P6ER, PY3FF, 8P6ER, K6QXY, XE1FAA

15 Nov 01.24z J69MV for new DXCC

16 Nov 02.18z KH7Y22 Nov 01.30z WP3UX, J69MV, KP4YI, OFF AIR (vacation to USA)

27 Dec 22.00z E51EME for new DXCC

28 Dec 00.46z J69MV; 02.52z WP3UX, HP3TA

I will be in Peru until 7th March 2012, and then back again 2nd April.

73 Jack OA4TT

YS1AG (Andy reports from EK53JQ)

Greetings Chris!

The six metre band is a cruel Goddess: whimsical, unpredictable, choleric, quick to burst in rage, and fond on punishing her humble

worshipers. Her bad temper appeared during these past Autumn-Winter months: TEP came but was narrow minded. Old man sun behaved as a miser, sending us small aliquots of radiation.

Every day the geomagnetic belt had to struggle hour after hour to reach decent levels of ionization; thus both hemispheres began hearing each other only after sunset. Daylight TEP was poor and evening was excellent. Once we were in the dark, we could attest hundreds of QSOs over the Atlantic: Europe-Africa, Europe-Eastern South America, Caribbean-South America, and later the Hawaii-South America path. There were even a few days where Asia- South America path opened. But the real prizes were reserved for those willing to stay awake very late. Close to equinox I began hearing the normal share of LUs, PYs CEs etc., but absolutely nothing from Aussies and Kiwis and never a whisper from the African guys south of Equator. The highlight of this TEP season has been the tremendous stamina of Remi FK8CP, indefatigable, trying night after night. Many guys in the US worked him for a new country.

Then unusual modes appeared. I could work Willem DU7/PAØHIP through ductal propagation. Willem is so close to the geomagnetic belt that he can have QSOs with stations north and south of him. OA4TT shares the same situation; I suspect 9Y4D and TR8CA have also the same privilege. During the TEP season they can get signals from either hemisphere at their whim. Being so close to the geomagnetic equator, they can, using the appropriate angle of elevation, inject their signals inside the belt, using it as a duct.

That was exactly what happened between Willem and me. The basic requirement was a geomagnetic belt with good ionization between us, and by serendipity we tried right at the best moment, past my local midnight. Earlier he had a QSO with OA4TT. Both were injecting signals inside the duct and picking up the outgoing one at their respective ends. I was suspicious that mode was present since earlier that day, I was copying Jack OA4TT while he worked 8R1, which is almost due east of me. I was hearing 8R1 strong, S9. When Jack called him, he was also very strong, but with a curious Doppler shift on his voice. I realized Jack´s signal was traveling inside the belt, exiting at a spot east of me. If I turned my beam to Jack, his signal disappeared. Being aware of that possibility, when I started trying with Willem I told him to try direct path instead of long path. (Thank heaven for ON4KST.) Again nil. I then changed my beam heading. Instead of direct, I pointed to VK4, and lo, there he was, very weak, but perfectly readable. Afterwards I realized I had been able to pick up his signals exiting the duct somewhere on the Pacific, between me and VK4. This was a fantastic QSO, attained by using the teachings of (not Don Juan) but Jim Kennedy K6MIO/KH6, and Roger Harrison VK2ZRH. The OM Himself, Alain ON4KST appeared in the chat to congratulate us.

When I thought TEP was already dead and buried, suddenly the Kiwis started appearing. There were days that ZL1RS, ZL2TPY and ZL3NW were up to S7-8, and we could even rag chew on SSB. There were several more QSOs deserving mention. A rachitic F2 enabled me to have good copy of Fred KH7Y; by rights we should not hear each other since we are on the same side of geomagnetic belt. I also completed a difficult QSO with E51CG. Victor has only 10 watts. With marginal propagation his signal is weak and copy real hard. For similar reasons, i.e., low power and only a halo antenna, I couldn't hear A35.

Fortunately I was able to work several new ones, including my two neighbours, TG and YN, after trying for 30 years, and finally, the last missing South American, PZ1EE. Two days before Christmas, VP8NO appeared out of the blues with a big signal. Mike even passed for me a recording of the YS beacon, which he was hearing very strong. Mike then vanished on thin air. My buddy, TI7/N5BEK didn't hear even a whisper from the Falklands. Later that same day, Bob ZL1RS disguised as E51EME peaked S7-8. We had QSOs both in CW and SSB. Thank God this time he is aware I am around; once, blaming my old bug, he confused my call with KB1AG.

Finally, the most exciting happening of the season occurred on Saturday 17th December, when I could recruit help and went to the local volcano to install there the beacon donated by the Six Meter Beacon Project. It is now happily sending from almost 2Km ASL. Spots and reports are more than encouraging. Even with a defunct TEP, PY4AQA and VP8NO have had

good copy. E51EME has also had clear copy in South Cook Islands. Around here, some guys in TG9, HR1 and Phil, TI7/N5BEK have direct copy, by line of sight. The only thing I fear is someone will have copy and not hear my puny 100 watts, from my QTH almost 1Km under the beacon.

Chris, let me wish for you a fabulous Christmas along with yours, and plenty of DX during the 2012

Andy

Andy YS1AG near site of YS1YS/B.

El Boqueron volcano, site of YS1YS/B.

VP8NO Falkland Islands

Peter G3ZSS notes the Daily DX reported on 15 December that: VP8NO-FALKLAND ISLANDS - Mike reports a "surprise" opening late yesterday (22.30Z) on six metres (50.110 and 50.125MHz) into the Canary Islands EA8 and Portugal CT.

Oceania

DU1EV (Eddie reports from PK04MP)

Hi Chris,

Sorry for the late reply. I hope this information is still useful. Attached is my log for six metres for September through December 2011. The most interesting contacts I had were those to Africa and the Middle East.

73, Eddie

QSOs worked by DU1EV on Six Metres: 08/09/2011 06:23z-07.53z JI1WCP, JA1NPQ, JH1KYB, JL1ICP, JH1RZY, JG3GNU, JA1CFZ, JH7FNM, JA1SKE, JH3GHE, JH1BAM, JG1TLY, JI2EXA, JR3UPT, JR7XGL, JH3FUK, JJ1NYH, JA3LXJ, JE3TJS, JP3BEE, JA1PGP, KH7Y, 7L1JYJ, JL1DZW, JE4JFP, JJØMPI, JA8CSL/1, JL2BKM, JR3EXE, JE2LDW/QRP, JH7XRZ, JA1VQO, JR1DIU, JN1CUA, JJ3FRB, JA8TSG, JP1FJE, 7N4CPT, JQ2REP, JA1NIR, JP1FPY, JA2FXV, JA2EPW, JO3VUU, JA9DGI, JR2XOM, JH1TCP, JAIQYU, JJ2TRN, JG1FPD, JR2XOM, JA1QYU, JJ2TRN, JG1FPD, JF1KUR, JR?QFA, JA1ADU, JR1IWW, JA?LJS, 49 JM1LRQ, JA1AAA, JS1JLI, JR1LLD, JH1HBA .

24/09/2011 11.56z JA6JPS

30/09/2011 13.11z VK8MS, 13.20Z YB?AKM

07/10/2011 13.04z DU7/PAØHIP

14/10/2011 13.04z A92IO

15/10/2011 12.29z VK8AW ex VK4ABW

17/10/2011 12.22z ST2AR, 13.14z JA1BJI

03/11/2011 06.42z-07.35z JA1COP, JA1CTZ, JH7XRZ, JA6SZV/1, JS1OHI, JH?BQX, JH1QPJ, JG1REU, JE2LDW, JA7JAA, JR2EQZ, JR1LLD, JH2KIL, JH1PWA , JF1KGX, JH8FAJ/1, JF2DNC, JR2IFT, JM1FST, JH1APY, JH2GZY, JA1BHG, JN1CUA, JA2MMC, JS1KQN, 7K3BEF, JA1DBG 04/11/2011 12.01z JR1GDY

07/11/2011 12.47z JF2AIJ/QRP, JA1AAA, 7L3NGK.

DU7/PAØHIP (Willem reports from PK10XH)

Hello Chris

Here is my report over the last couple of months.

Most days in October and November we had Spread F openings in the evening hours, sometimes even past midnight. Openings were mostly to JA, BY,VR2, YB (from grids OI23, 33, 34, 52, 71) plus VK4, northern part of VK6, and VK8. Also on many occasions there were

big openings to the Middle East in the 12-14 UTC time slot. Dubai TV was audible on all of the days. Really good openings happened on 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, and 24th of October when signals were really tremendous. A45XR (LL93), A45RR (LL92), A61Q (LL75), A61Q/M (LL74), A71EM (LL55), A92IO (LL56) and A92GR (LL56) were heard on these days with signals sometimes peaking well over S9. The 11th October was a special day for me: I worked 3 new entities. It started at 04.14 UTC, when Jack OA4TT and I made a sked on the ON4KST Region Three page to have a try on CW.

I nearly fell off my chair when I heard Jack replying my CQ. He was not very strong, but peaking a nice 529 at times, and very fluttery. This was my best DX so far from DU at 17,782 KM..

My next surprise came at 09.06 UTC when I had a QSO with 9N1AA (NL27). He had a good signal (59 SSB) with 100 watts into a dipole. Last but not least, at 12.33 UTC., the Middle East time slot, ST2AR (KK65) showed up with amazingly strong signals up to 40 dB over S9 on both CW and SSB.

He was QRV for some weeks, but apparently gave up because the lack of activity this end. The main problem here, and with the Middle East stations is that they were there nearly every day in the first weeks, but gradually gave up after working the same stations over and over again, pity. This Middle East propagation was there for at least 2 months centred around the equinox, 21st September.

On 12th October 4X4DK and I also had a QSO with this kind of propagation. He was very weak, probably being on the edge of this propagation area.

On 13th October I made a surprise QSO with FR1GZ (LG79) for another new one. It was a difficult "delivery" though, because the signals were very, very weak and SSB is not the best mode for my ears, hi.

On 19th October Andy, YS1AG (EK53) and I had a QSO for another new one. His signals peaked 529, which is amazing because he was using only 100 watts. Signals were very steady, no flutter at all. It all happened at 06.46 UTC, night time in YS and direction was straight short path.

The 29th October and 7th and 8th November gave openings to FK8CP (RG37). Rémi peaked 559 and 55 at times.

On 3rd November JT5DX (OO20) showed up with F2 and a 599 signal. This was another new one!

During the months of September and October there were several openings to KH6, but strangely enough I only worked stations from the BK29 grid. KH7Y was by far the strongest.

On 12th November I worked with XV2RZ (OK40, rare!) with F2 backscatter.

In the meantime the southern hemisphere Es season started, but according to many, it's a bummer this year. Last year I worked many VK's and some ZL's with enhancement of the Es by the F2 blobs on each side of the magnetic equator, but until now very few openings happened.

Only 24th December was a good day. I worked ZL1, 2, and 3 with good signals from the grids RF70, 73 and RE66. On a couple of other days I worked some VK3 and 5, and one VK7.

Today, 31st December there was a short opening to VK3ZAZ , VK5PO and VK5ZK, but as I said by far not as good as last year.

Santa Claus, disguised as ZL1RS, brought me a very nice present on Christmas day though. At 04.45 UTC we made a sked on ON4KST R3. Bob being E51EME at the time in BG08 returned my CQ immediately for another new one. His signal peaked 529, and average was 419.

Of course I worked many JA and the occasional BY, VR2, and BV during the period.

In fact when there is an opening to JA on F2, which occurs very often around the equinox, you can work hundreds of them from every direction of your beam, hi.

My score now in DCC 66, Fields 52, grids 261.

Well that's all Chris. Happy and healthy 2012.

Until the next time,

73 Willem DU7/PAØHIP

VK3ZAZ (Steve aka VK3OT reports from QF02WH)9

Why VK3ZAZ?

Whereas most shed their restricted call-signs in favour of two letter old timers calls I have regressed. It is my original call from 1968 which I commenced ops in VK3 so because it was available I got it back.

Highlights of 2011

The year started well with QSOs to the USA and Hawaii. Confirmed are N5JEH, W0OGH in DM43, K7TNT, N7CW AA7A and a long haul 15000KM QSO with K9HMB in EN52. The next couple of days saw KH6 worked several times with KH7Y, KH6SX, etc., in the log. I also worked E51CG South Cooks, DU7/PA0HIP Philippines, VK0KEV Macquarie Island, VK, ZL, and a number of Chinese including BA4SI, BD9BU, and BD9BA. Apart from JA's as the band went quiet for the winter until Spring more JA's came as did the re-emergence of KH6 with KH7Y, KH6SX, etc. This was followed by my 1st Mexicans in over a decade with XE2AO, XE1RBV and a report from XE2HWB. I was also heard in TI5 and worked into KH6 again late in November. The latest QSO was with BOB E51EME operating from South Cook with a real 5x7 signal on 21st December. The QSO with K9HMB gets me the tee shirt from SIXITALY for the furthest DX worked in 2011.

Other E**vents**

The 46.172MHz high power TV outlet went QRT on 6th December, 2011 and will be followed by 46.240MHz in June 2012. The last 46.260MHz transmitter will be gone forever in December 2012. Other news is the trial that permits VK full calls to apply for a 1KW permit on all primary bands which at this stage does not include 50MHZ but may permit 52MHz high power operation. See the WIA website for more news. I will be in KH6 from 1st January for two weeks signing KG6SIX/KH6 and may get to KH7 if I can hire a plane with floats.

73 Steve VK3ZAZ

P.S. On 1st January 2012 I worked the following:

00.50z W5OZI 50.107MHz

00.52z W3XO/5

01.11z N5TSP

All contacts were in EM00 and 15,000Km stuff.

ZL1RS/E51EME (Bob reports from RF64VS and BG08CT)

Hi Chris,

Here is report as ZL1RS for October, November and until 4th December.

October/November equinox DX season produced several openings to North America, Central America and Asia. The openings finally extended into the top of South America during the first week of December. Some days produced huge signals from the stations in Central America with openings lasting a few hours. There were some Es extensions into the mid and southern USA states and Canada on 20th October, 1st November and 3rd December with W7's in Montana, VE7DAY, and some W4 stations worked respectively. There have been several weak F2 openings to the usual suspects on the USA west coast during that time period as well, and I believe ZL3's worked into the east coast of USA . Unfortunately there was not even a sniff of an east coast USA signal into ZL1 during that opening. Very selective.

The southern hemisphere Es season has started slowly with a few patchy openings into the Pacific (lack of stations more than anything??) and as far as VK6 (6000KM) on a couple of occasions.

As E51EME, from 21st December onwards.

We are in Rarotonga, South Cook Islands until 25th January 2012 to look after E51CG's house and cat while he and his wife are in the USA for six weeks. After replacing the old five element yagi with a seven element yagi at 58ft and adding my amplifier to the station, until 31st December, 2011, the following entities were worked with QSOs to 10,300KM: VK, ZL, JA, YS, TI, HP, 5W, BY, E5, XE, 3D2(r), DU, OA, LU, A3 and W. FK8 has been on the air but has not been heard here. The six metre QSO total for the 10 days is 281.

I look forward to adding many more six metre QSOs to the log on Es and F2, and hope to include some EME during the optimum moon time in early to mid-January 2012.

My plans for 2012 include two weeks on Norfolk Island (VK9N) from late March to mid-April operating six metres only via any propagation mode available, and several weeks on Niue (ZK2) in September and October. From ZK2 I will initially be on 144MHZ EME and then on six metres via Es/F2.

73 Bob ZL1RS/E51EME

ZL2DX (Chris reports from RE78RR)

Hi Chris

Now I wish I had kept notes. I am in an interesting situation in the southern north island. I am very close to a channel one

transmitter which is 50Km to my west, yet have been granted a 50MHz permit albeit power limited. The noise from the TV transmitter is very bad and limits the directions that I can beam. The beam usually points east or north only to give me the best rejection from the CH1 transmitter. I run an Icom IC746Pro and a five element homebrew yagi at 15 metres. The wind has made a mockery out of attempts to put up a larger antenna for 50 MHz -See www.qsl.net/zl2dx .

ZL2DX Six and Two Metre Arrays.

ZL2DX Six Metre Yagis after wwindstorm.

From my log:

2/1/12 K7JA, K0GU

31/12/11 FK1TA

30/12/11 K5RK, A35A, E51EME, wall to wall VKs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

29/12/11 XE2HWB. I heard various other USA stations but couldn't get heard with my low power.

25/12/11 3D2AG/P (Rotuma), E51EME

6/12/11 KH6SX

4/12/11 K7JA

3/12/11 K1TOL responded out of the blue to my CQ followed by W1IPL, XE2AO, XE1FFA, XE2AU

30/11/11 KH7Y, KH6SX, KH7U, NH7RO, KH6HI

27/11/11 30 JA stations

The better DX was worked by Bob ZL1RS, currently E51EME and I think on one day he commented he worked 13 countries, mostly in the Americas. Most of Bob's DX should be posted on the cluster so you should be able to get a good idea of how much better things are at his QTH, which is 700Km north of me. Bob runs full power to a stacked pair of 6 element LFA yagis. There's a picture on his web site plus a lot more six metre info: http://www.qsl.net/zl1rs/ . I hope this helps a little.

73 Chris ZL2DX

P.S. I just had a quick exchange with E51EME to start the day's DX here at 6.30am.

ZL3NW (Rod reports from RE66HO)

With little terrestrial 6m propagation from my QTH during October it was great to have a six metre eme contact with Willem PA3HP on the 16th October and a follow up contact with Ian G5WQ on the 17th. Indeed some of the best signals I have seen from Ian at -16db on JT65A. While Bob ZL1RS with his enthusiasm and location had some early DX contacts it was not until the 2nd November that I had a short opening with just one contact with JG1TSG. It was great to have a contact with Kazu JA1RJU and Michio JN1JFC on the 4th November. On the 7th the band was again open to JA with

good propagation in the ZL2 and ZL1 areas. Mark ZL2WHO had contacts with 52 JA stations, one being mobile. In ZL3 I had contacts with 11 JA stations, and it was a real highlight to have a contact with Li BA4SI as propagation moved. Li's activity has been very welcome and has provided many Pacific area stations with a new country. It was a pleasant surprise to have an eme contact with Paul MIØAYR on the 11th November on our first attempt.

Bob ZL3TY also completed an eme contact with Paul on the 12th. Paul's new nine element 50 ft boom antenna is clearly working well. On the 14th November the band was open for two hours between ZL3 and JA. Signals were weaker in other areas of ZL. I had 33 JA contacts and one with Yoon HL5BLI. He was a true 599. Also on the 14th but the next day for me at 23.55z I had a great contact with Bob K6QXY. His signal was a good 579 and he gave me a 559. Such were conditions for a short time.

The 16th of November was the first day I had the usual summer Sporadic E to VK. I had a contact with Dave VK7DD, and Norm VK3DUT was also heard. Numerous openings between VK and also JA to ZL3 occurred after this date. On the 21st November at 06.42 UTC I managed to work Willem DU7/PA0HIP and received a 439 report. My first contact to Hawaii for many years occurred on the 26th November at 05:56 UTC with KH6RH. My first Caribbean area contacts in many years occurred on the 28th November with contacts with TI5XP and YS1AG, on the 29th with XE1FAA, and on the 30th November with TI7/N5BEK.

It was a real highlight on the 3rd December at 21:54 UTC when I contacted K1TOL at a distance in excess of 15,000 KM. K9RX also heard me. Later I had contacts with XE1FAA and XE1FAS. Just into the next day at 00.02 UTC I had contacts with K7JA and N6RW followed by contacts with XE1AO and XE1KK. On the 5th the band opened up to K6QXY briefly for a short contact. Some hours later the band opened to Hawaii with very strong SSB signals. I had contacts with KH6RH and KH7JJ who was running 75 watts into a halo antenna in a city apartment. On the next local day but still the 5th at 22.05 UTC I had a contact with XE2HWB and later with Jack N6XQ who is also very active as OA4TT at his other QTH. On the 6th at 00.44 UTC I caught up with Andy YS1AG again and some hours later at 06.07 UTC, Art KH6SX.

The 21st brought the first of many contacts with Bob E51EME (ZL1RS) and his activity has been very welcome by many. The 24th provided some interesting contacts and propagation. First there was an opening to JA with many stations contacted. In the middle of this opening I and several others had contacts with Willem DU7/PA0HIP. Two things were interesting here, firstly the band was open to both JA and DU at the same time and secondly the strength of Willem's signal. We exchanged 579 on CW and shortly afterwards we contacted on SSB. Willem reported my signal peaked at 59. The opening continued with many more JA stations worked and finished with a contact with Li BA4SI, whose signal was 559.

December 26th provided contacts with Antoine 3D2AG/P Rotuma Island both on CW and SSB at 01.44 UTC. I had worked him almost exactly 11 years earlier. His equipment is all solar powered, and he is using an IC706 to a five element yagi. At 23:21 UTC I had a SSB contact with XE1AO and later at 00.04 UTC on the 27th with XE2HWB using cw. The 27th also provided me with my first VK6 contacts. I worked VK6OX, VK6JJ and VK6KP. The VK6RSX beacon was received from 05.53 UTC to beyond 10.04 UTC, and the VK6RPH beacon for a short time at 06.07 UTC. Later at 08.28 UTC I had my first VK8 contact for the season with Marc VK8MS.

The closing of the year provided some good contacts. On the 29th and 30th December I had contacts with W8IF, W8NXI, K6QXY, K5UC, K5RX, N5DG, XE1EE, XE1FAS and A35A.

Local ZL3 active six metre stations who took part in some of the above action were: Duncan ZL3JT, Ross ZL3ADT, Neil ZL3ADC, John ZL3AAU, Murray ZL3MH, Roger ZL3THQ, Mike ZL3MF and Graham ZL3GS.

Happy New Year and have a great 2012

73, de Rod ZL3NW.

New Six Metre Contest

Ian G6TGO reports that the RSGB has created a six metre CW only contest for 2012

Full information can be found at:

www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/contest_rules.pl?year=2012&contest=cw50MHz&seq

The rules state the contest runs from 09.00 to 12.00 UTC on 24 June. The exchange is RST, serial number (starting at 001) and a six character (e.g. IO92JL) locator, which could make for some interesting DX contacts.

Beacon News

Dave N3DB recently reported to the Six Meter Beacon Project members:

"Gents,

Just a quick update. Sent YS1YS/b; it's being spotted. The E5, CE beacons, Z21SIX/b and some others I forget offhand are being spotted daily. We have done well. V73NS is going to be back at Roi Namur, the adjacent Island of Kwajalein in the Marshall Atoll, this month and wants a replacement for V73SIX/b which took a typhoon flood two years ago right before Neil left for YA. I am sending it in the am along with a replacement for KH6HME/b which Fred is taking over. 8R1WD finally has the TS-570S & already has one of his two last needed SA entities in the log.

If no one else can, I was considering approaching Trey or Jon NØJK about the HC8GR/b - it either isn't QRV regularly or needs to be upgraded to a 100 watt Mitrek, which is what it used before it took a lightning hit and we replaced it with a Maxar. That thing should be a nightly spot for SA. I wanted to ask the Board if they agree on this one before proceeding.

I am trying to get some time back on ON4KST. In the interim, if anyone can convince another Pacific Rim DX station, say in KH8 or the like, to host a beacon, now is the time. Wild propagation is already occurring daily, even with solar numbers that are unhelpful to us geomagnetically challenged folks.

73 Dave N3DB"

YS1YS/B El Salvador EK53IR

On 17th December, Andy YS1AG and others installed the YS1YS/B on the edge of the Boquerón volcano. The grid locator for the beacon is EK53IR. Andy mentions that the highlight of the day was getting rid of the African bees that had set up housekeeping in the building where the beacon was to be located. Smoking them functioned very well, and we escaped unscathed

Smoking out African bees inside YS1YS/B building.

YS1YS/B tower with double Zepp beacon antenna.

EME NEWS (Report from W7GJ)

It seems like Murphy certainly had his way with the South Pacific DXpeditions last fall. Containers of equipment for both the 3D2R and T32C DXpeditions failed to reach the teams. As a result of cargo ship breakdowns 3D2R never was able to even attempt EME as they had planned. However, the very resourceful T32C crew made sure that equipment was brought over by the second shift team. They were able to bring over the JA1RJU 6M8GJ yagi, and set it up on the beach overlooking the ocean on their moonrise. As a result, I completed with T32C, as did a number of others. Unfortunately, their solid state amp failed before the best days of the month for EME in October.

Other stations worked on EME in October were UT7QF, W3XO/5, JR6EXN, PC7M, K2ZD, ZL1RS, ES5PC, NR5M, OZ1DJJ, GØLFF, W9GA, KH7T, S59A, andVE3KH.

In November, TU2T found that their QTH favoured only six metre antenna placement for working Europe on TEP, and their moonset was blocked by a building. They could never even try 6m EME even though they were there during optimum days of the month for EME. Also in November, another disappointment came as the T2T team was restricted to carry-on luggage only for their flight from Fiji. Although they were there during the best days of the month for EME, and looked out over the ocean on their moonrise, they were unable to even try because they were unable to bring their antenna over with them to Tuvalu.

The only EME contact I made in November was N3LL.

In December, ZK2V built a wire yagi to try EME on his moonrise, but neither of us heard anything; probably because his ground gain lobe was quite high and we quit before the moon was high enough.

Toward the end of December, I did copy the K5N DXpedition to the line between DM90 and EL99, but they were having receive problems, so we did not complete. They did, however, find their receive problem and expect to have it resolved when they return to EL88 next June. Their portable station for activating rare grid squares is a pair of 6M5X yagis and 1500w output. They were also copied by a number of single yagi stations as their moon was setting, so be on the lookout for them during you moonset next June.

As far as other upcoming events are concerned, look for ZL1RS to activate VK9N on six metre F2 and EME in April, 2012. In September 2012, I am currently planning to join Bob for another combined two and six metre EME DXpedition from ZK2. In the weeks following that operation, Bob is planning to stay on ZK2 to try for any possible F2 from there.

I recently shipped a Harris Platinum I Channel 2 amplifier to BV2DQ, so expect him to be QRV with a KW very soon. FO4BM has also ordered a 6M7JHV and has an amplifier built for him, so he expects to be QRV during his moonrise and moonset this spring.

In the next issue, hopefully there will be reports and photos of the successful six metre EME operation from Malpelo Island.

GL and DX.

VY 73, Lance Collister, W7GJ

T32C antenna at moonrise.

History and Profile of Terry Posey K4RX

I grew up in extremely rural Crawfordville, FL, Wakulla County, as a fifth generation pioneer Floridian. At my early age, there were only two licensed hams within 30 miles of my home. I became interested in ham radio in 1970 after visiting a local gas station where the proprietor was Lanky, WA4GFU. Lanky had a Swan 350 transceiver mounted underneath his cash register countertop and he spent his days ragchewing on 75 metre phone. I taught myself CW with a Radio Shack photograph record and a hand key with buzzer. I was first licensed at age 14 in April 972 as WN4ZQC.

K4RX operating as WN4ZQC in 1973.

A year later I travelled by Greyhound bus to the FCC office in Jacksonville and came home as an upgraded WB4ZQC. I graduated from high school in 1976 and moved to Boise,

Idaho, to attend Boise State University. While living in Idaho, I worked as broadcast chief engineer for the high-power regional KIDO-AM, and put the Boise State University's first broadcast station KBSU-FM on the air for the first time. In addition to attending classes and tending to my broadcast engineering duties, I partnered with renowned two metre EMEer W7UBI (SK) to build the first 432MHz EME station in Idaho. We constructed a 24 foot diameter parabolic dish antenna with rotatable polarization feed, a 1KW output amplifier using a pair of 4CX250R's, and a then state-of-the-art 0.9 dB NF NE645 preamp provided by W5LUA. N4KT/7 worked all continents on 70cm CW EME, and provided the first Idaho QSOs for many UHFers. In 1978, after completing two years in the Physics program at BSU, I transferred to the University of Florida. While pursuing an electrical engineering degree I worked for the University's PBS TV station WUFT-CH5 as a transmitter engineer and also as an on-air switching engineer.

After graduating from UF in 1981, I moved to Houston, Texas, and took employment with ARAMCO Services Company as a communications engineer. I did domestic data communications engineering and provided broadcast engineering support for the company's FM radio and TV stations in Saudi Arabia. It was by way of numerous support services trips to Saudi ARAMCO that I was introduced to the Dhahran Amateur Radio Club HZ1AB, and several important ham operators living in the Kingdom including UKSMG Six News Editor Peter Bacon, G3ZSS and David Sparvell G4FTC. It was great experience to have met so many enthusiastic expatriate hams and to be part of the 1980's HZ1AB era.

K4RX operating at HZ1AB in 1981.

Expatriates David G4FTC on left side, Peter G3ZSS and XYL in middle, and unknown friends on the right side of picture. Photograph taken in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

Finally, in 1985 I transferred to the Saudi Arabian American Oil Company (Saudi ARAMCO) and relocated to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. My wife and I lived in Dhahran from 1985 until 1995, with a brief USA assignment during 1993. I worked on many broadcast, data communications, microwave, and two-way radio projects during my employment with ARAMCO.

During that time there was the Desert Storm war that followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait mixed in also. I was a very active operator and officer of the club station HZ1AB from 1981 until 1995.

We enjoyed our years in Saudi Arabia and we have fond memories of world travels that expatriate living afforded us. Naturally, some of those travels included ham radio with memorable visits to HS0AC in Bangkok, and a fun-filled WAE-CW 1994 contest from C4C in Cyprus.

We repatriated to Crawfordville, Florida, my childhood hometown, in 1995. There I obtained an FCC FM broadcast channel allocation and built the county's first radio station WAKU-FM 94.1. I operated the commercial station until it was sold in 1998 to a religious broadcaster.

I am presently employed as a consulting communications engineer. I work extensively with engineering, operations, and maintenance

of large microwave and radio communications networks. In 2000, my wife and I built a house on 83 acres of native Florida forest located about 30 miles south of Tallahassee (EM70ue). The first order of ham business at the new QTH was to put up the M-Squared 6M11JKV that I had had in storage for too many years. I have been continuously active on six metres since early 2000. Although the challenge and thrill of working elusive DX on 50MHz is my passion, along the way I have also met a wonderful collection of six metre enthusiasts from all around the globe. In particular, it was a great honour for me to go along with Dave N3DB, Chris W3CMP, and Ken AC4TO, to be part of the 2009 8R1DB/8R1TO six metre Beacon Project DXpedition.

My current six metre station is:

Elecraft K3, PR-6 preamp, JRC JST-245 backup rig

W7GJ Homebrew 8877 amplifier 1.5 KW

M-Squared 6M11JKV on a 72-ft crank-up tower, RC2800 rotator

7/8-inch Heliax

Ken AC4TO (left) and Terry K4RX in Georgetown, Guyana as 8R1TO.

Terry K4RX today.

Parting Remarks

That's all for now. I'll see you again in the Spring. I want to thank CQ Six - 50MHz DX News, (http://www.qsl.net/oz6om/QSPDX/cqsix.html),(http://www.qsl.net/ DX-world.net, Mmon VHF, Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, SixItalia Weekly, CT1FJC, DL8YKR, DU1EV, DU7/PAØHIP, EA8BLL, G6TGO, G8VR, K1TOL, K2ZD, K4RX, K5RK, K6QXY, KH6/K6MIO, K9ZM, LU5FF, MM0AMW, N3DB, NZ3M, NL7Z, NØJK, OA4TT,ON4KST,TI7/N5BEK, VE2XK, VE3IKV, VE7DAY,VE9AA, VK3ZAZ, W1JJ. W3XO/5, W6JKV, W7GJ, W9FF, YS1AG, W1JJ, ZL1RS ZL2DX and ZL3NW for their reports, pictures, and assistance. Without the help of these kind people and others around the world this column would not make it. Please excuse any omission.

With the presidential election in the U.S. heating up, I thought I'd include a quote from Ronald Reagan: " One way to make sure crime doesn't pay would be to let the government run it."

Finally, if you have anything you think would be of interest to submit, please do so. I'd also appreciate any comments or suggestions. You can send them to me at DXNEWS@UKSMG.org, or W3CMP@comcast.net.

Disclaimer/Copyright

More Solid State Amplifiers for Six Meters

Chris Patterson, W3CMP

My report a year ago (SN-106) about solid state amplifiers which covered 50MHz focused on units made in the United States and Japan. There are also a number of solid state amplifiers produced in Europe that include 50-52MHz (and in some cases 70-72MHz coverage). Several of these units have recently been introduced to the amateur community by their makers, which include the Italian companies RMA, SPE and IØJXX, and Beko of Germany. Since last years report Elecraft, the California based manufacturer of the popular K series of transceivers, also began production of the KPA500, a companion amplifier to the K3.

For those who prefer to build their own solid state amplifiers, there is now an option that should fill the bill. The emergence of construction information for the Freescale MRFE6VP61K25H has made construction of a reasonably sized solid state 50MHz kilowatt amplifier practical.

RM Construzioni Elettroniche, http://www.rmitaly.com, manufactures a number of solid state amplifiers, two of which include 50MHz coverage. The VLA-150 is a brick sized 50-52MHz amplifier rated at 100 watts output on FM and CW, utilising two SD1406 transistors rated at 150 watts for FM service and includes a MAR-06 MMIC pre-amplifier. Its size is 190mm W x 190mm L x 65mm H, and it requires 12-14 volts dc at 14 amps.

RM Italy VL-150 Amplifier.

The BLA 1000 is a table top amplifier that covers 160 through six metres. It uses a pair of MRF157 MOSFETs to produce a rated 1.0 KW output with 100 watts of drive. This unit has an internal ac (180-264 V), and a number of protection circuits including excessive RF input level, output SWR, temperature, and drain voltage and current. The amplifier's dimensions are 495mm W x 230mm H x 462mm D and it weighs a hefty 66 lbs.

RM Italy BLA 1000 HF/50MHz Amplifier

A second Italian company SPE, http://www.radio-ham.eu, manufactures a pair of HF50MHz amplifiers, the Expert 1K-FA and 2K-FA.

The Expert 1K-FA is advertised as the smallest one KW solid state amplifier with a built in power supply and antenna tuner. Its dimensions are 280mm W x 140mm H x 320mm D, and it weighs 42 lbs. Output on HF is rated at 900 watts; on six metres, it is advertised as 700 watts. The unit includes a number of protective circuits, including temperature, SWR, over voltage, over current and over drive. For contesters it is SO2R capable. A thorough review of the amplifier can be found at http://www.ad5x/images/Presentations/%2001.

The most recent addition to SPE's lineup is the Expert 2K-FA, which was introduced in the U.S. at the 2011 Dayton Hamvention. This unit has double the output of the 1K in a package that weighs 55 lbs. and is 380mm x 180mm x 420mm (WxHxD) in size. It can

SPE Expert 1K-FA HF/50MHz Amplifier.

SPE Expert 2K-FA HF/50MHz Amplifier

SPE 2K-FA rear panel showing six antenna outputs, two drive inputs and SO2R input.

deliver over 2000 watts output on six metres which makes it the highest power commercially available solid state amateur amplifier. Like the 1K, it band switches automatically, and has a built in autotuner. It is compatible with most amateur transceivers, including Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, Ten-Tec, Flex and Elecraft. This unit has similar protective circuits and is PC controllable via a USB port. It is available in the UK through Vine Antennas Ltd. and in the U.S. at Expert Amps, U.S.A.

Another source of solid state amplifier components, IØJXX, makes RF pallets and enclosed boards, i.e., "boxes" for 50 MHz. The pallets appear to be complete RF boards, sans heat sinks, relays, control circuitry, etc.; the boxes are somewhat more complete but lack the relays, the control circuitry, pallet supplies, etc. Both pallets and boxes are available in various power outputs ranging from 500-2000 watts.

IØJXX 50MHz 1000 Watt Box Amplifier.

At the present time there are no complete 50 MHz amplifiers on the IØJXX website, http://www.IØJXX.it although a couple of years ago there was an intriguing self-contained LDMOS amplifier, the "Compact Vario." The Vario employed dual amplifier boards and covered 50, 70 and 144 MHz at a rated 500 watts output. With a weight of 7 kilograms and a size of 270mm x 100mm x 390mm, the unit had potential to be a real performer on DXpeditions. Unfortunately, inquiries about the amplifier had not brought any real answer why it is no longer available.

IØJXX Compact Vario internal view. Two separate RF amplifier boards and two sets of T/R relays are visible.

From Germany, Beko http://www.beko-elektronik.de/, makes the HLV-950 MOSFET amplifier which covers both six and four metres. This unit is rated at over 900 watts output in WSJT service with greater than 70% efficiency.

The amplifier weighs an impressive 25 lbs. and the internal ac supply will operate on 180-260 volts. It includes a number of protection circuits and is sized at a table top 300 mm W x 168mm H x 470mm D.

Beko HLV-950 50MHz amplifier.

Here in the U.S., Elecraft's KPA500, the much anticipated HF-50 MHz amplifier for the K3 transceiver, became available just after the 2011 new year. This amplifier, which is available in factory assembled or modular no solder form, is rated at 500 watts output from 160 through six metres with 30-40 watts drive. Its features include instant RF-based band switching with any radio, diode switched T/R, selectable per band amplifier drive levels, alphanumeric status display, integral 110-120 or 200-240 V ac power supply and upgradable software. With a weight of 26 lbs. and size of 10" W x 4" H x 10" D, the KPA500 warrants serious consideration for DXpeditions.

Elecraft KPA500 HF/50MHz Amplifier

A local ham WA3HLP, purchased a KPA500 kit this past summer, and has provided pictures of the amplifier under construction.

Elecraft KPA500 under construction.

KPA500 almost completed; case ready to go on.

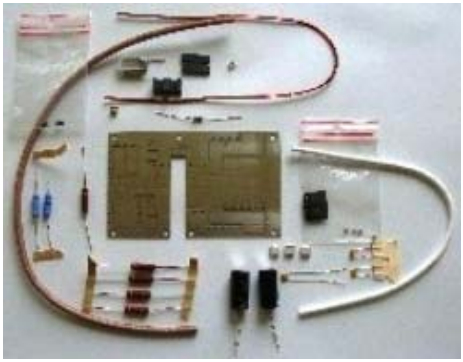
For the home constructors amongst us, in Dubus 4/2011, Michel F5FLN has described a high power 50MHz SSPA prototype that he built using the Freescale MRFE6VP61K25H LMDOS transistor (see the photograph on page 38).

The MRFE6VP61K25H transistor is rated at over one kilowatt output from 1.8MHz to 600MHz. This amplifer is a follow up to the 144MHz unit that was described in Dubus 4/2010.

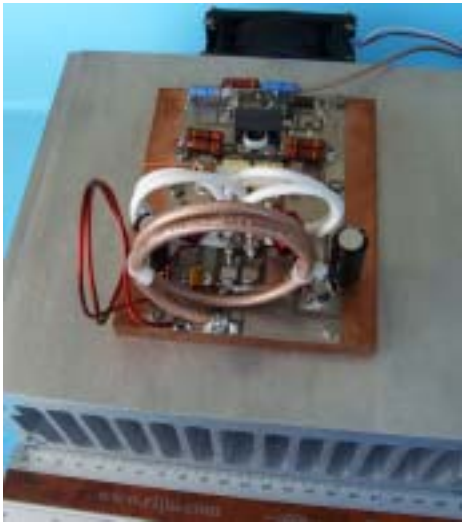
Details of the 144MHz unit can be seen at www.qsl.net/f1jrd/. Parts kits are available from www.rfham.com (see photograph on page 38).

Jim W6PQL has built amplifiers for 144MHz and 222MHz using the device. He has extensively documented the amplifier construction on his website at www.W6PQL.com. The techniques used by Jim should be easily adaptable for anyone else who wants to build a 1KW+ 50MHz SSPA. Jim also supplies some of the components that are a bit tougher to find.

The number of solid state amplifiers and devices with 50MHz coverage has increased greatly in the past several years. It will undoubtedly continue to increase, giving us choices to fill needs and wants that in the past we could only dream about.



SSPA parts kit available from RFham.com.



F5FLN Freescale LDMOS 1.0KW+ SSPA.

Monster LFA Antennas

Justin, GØKSC has kindly sent along the two photos below of some monster antenna installations. Neil, VK2IZI has built a long boom 8 element LFA under a 12 element Optibeam for HF (left). Lew, W7EW stacked 6 of the 7 element WOS LFA2 antennas on his tower (right). The stack has almost 25 dBi forward gain, while exhibiting 44 dB F/B ratio.

6m Operation from Kiritimati (Christmas Island) as T32C

Michael Zürch, DG1CMZ

Any radio amateur who switched on their shortwave radio in October 2011 undoubtedly would have heard huge pile-ups on almost every band when there was propagation to the Pacific from their particular location. Those pile-ups were generated by a large group of radio amateurs who carried out a major effort from Eastern Kiribati T32. During 22 days of operation this group of 38 hams broke ten world records and made more than 213.000 QSOs. The main story of this DXpedition can be read elsewhere [1].

Although the main focus of this expedition was the HF bands, we had the opportunity to operate on six metres from this very remote location. The total of 110 QSOs made on six is less than 0.1% of the total QSOs made during the DXpedition, however, every single QSO was most thrilling, which makes it interesting to have a closer look at this specific topic of 6m operation from the middle of nowhere.

Kiritimati, as the Gilbertese islanders call Christmas Island, is situated 232 km (144 mi) north of the Equator. Distances to main centres of human life are huge, Tokyo being 7300 km (4500 mi), Sydney 6200 km (3900 mi), South America 8600 km (5400 mi) and California 5300 km (3300 mi) away. It is the first inhabited place in the world to greet the New Year and gained notoriety with the atomic bomb tests that were conducted close to the island during the 50's and 60's of the last century. An airstrip from that time, which is still in good shape, allows a weekly flight from Fiji to Honolulu via Christmas Island.

Our plan regarding 6m

The main plan of the DXpedition was to ship all gear in advance to Kiritimati with a container and fly in the team via Honolulu by end of September. All the kit was collected and packaged into the container at Nevada Radio in Portsmouth UK, courtesy of Mike (G3SED). For six metres we intended to use one of sixteen FT-5000's, kindly lent by our Global Sponsor Yaesu, along with a Quadra VL-1000 linear. We intended to have two antennas, one 7ele Yagi on a large pole fixed on the horizon for terrestrial contacts and beaconing and an 8ele 6M8GJ from M² Antennas with elevation control for EME. All, of course, connected with low loss coax cable. All this gear, except the 6M8GJ, was put into the container, which left Southampton for the Pacific in late February. Unfortunately due to a number of unplanned problems and unfulfilled commitments by the shipping agents the container didn't complete its journey to T32 – even after 7 months. Our team leader Neville (G3NUG) wrote an informative article giving full details in RadCom [1].

To compound our problems at the same time that we learned that the container would not make it to T32, we received the bad news that Kazu (JA1RJU) our most experienced 6m EME operator would be unable to join the team - he has a reputation for seeking out every possible 6m QSO on previous FSDXA DXpeditions. Faced with these two problems the planning team concluded that there wouldn't be any 6m operation and this was announced on the website [2].

The backup solution

In the three weeks after learning of the container problem the team did a tremendous job organizing replacement equipment to be hand carried to the island – the DXpedition would still go ahead. Yaesu UK lent ten lightweight FT-450D radios, which cover HF and six metres, with power supplies.

With a new credible plan for HF operation there was still time to reconsider 6m operation. Without Kazu the team lacked anybody with

knowledge of current EME operating techniques. But that shouldn't be a problem for true radio amateurs.

Don (G3XTT) and Mike (G3WPH) visited Chris (G3WOS) an experienced 6m EME operator to discuss what might be possible. The conclusion was that with an 8 element Yagi, the FT450D and 700 watts we would be able to work the better equipped EME station to the East of T32 at moonrise on T32 during the second half of the DXpedition. Low loss coax and a low noise preamp were desirable and adding antenna elevation control would extend the possible operating time at each sunrise.

Even though Kazu would not be able to join us he kindly donated a 6M8GJ Yagi which was shipped to KH6 to be hand carried to T32 by team members joining the DXpedition for the second half. Mike (G3WPH) fabricated a simple elevation control system.

During the first half of the operation, with the aid of the hotel carpenter a 6m x 10cm x 8cm roofing truss was made into a rotatable mast with the assistance of guy bearings fabricated from 15cm diameter drain pipe. Shortly after the second team arrived on Christmas Island on October 13, the Yagi was assembled and affixed to the post. The most difficult task was to dig a hole into the compact coral ground, where we could plant the lower bearing.

However, after some good teamwork this was done. Large bricks found on site were attached to the front and back of the Yagi with a steering rope as counterweight. In turn we could elevate the antenna for moonbounce by regulating the length of the steering rope. At this time we expected no terrestrial propagation, so we focused on moonbounce.

The 6m setup

The hundred watts of the FT-450D would not be sufficient for 6m moonbounce, so we needed an amplifier. Sixteen VL-1000 linear amplifiers, which could easily produce a kilowatt on six, were waiting in the container 3000 km to the west in Tarawa. What we did have was a variety of amplifiers ranging from homebrew to different commercial amps by Acom and Tokyo Hy-Power. None of these were capable of six metres. Only one amplifier, an Expert 1K, was usable on six. Exclusive use for 6m would not be feasible, so we agreed to share the 15m CW & 160m station with six metres. That required some schedule juggling in the beginning, to arrange two bands coverage plus 6m EME during moonrise. After a few days the 160m setup, including the Beverage feeds and switching, was moved to the 12m station situated in the same room to accommodate the 6m EME activity. This was a bit of a chore, but worth it as you will read later on.

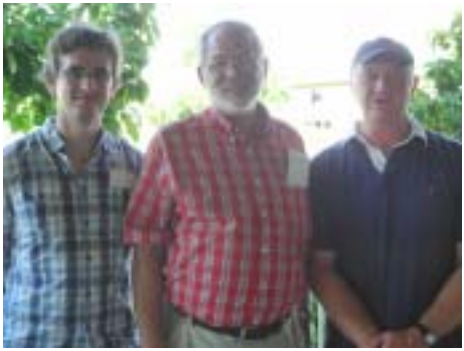
Our backup FT-450D was used as a breakable beacon at times when we were not directly QRV on six. The FT-450D has great features included, and so the beacon was set up without the need of any additional gear! The internal keyer was easily programmed with the CQ message with twenty seconds break, where the receiver is exposed to the speaker. In the case of terrestrial propagation answering stations were heard loudly across the room, where usually three HF operators were working. The beacon was running with 100W most of the time for almost two weeks, and, as mentioned later, did actually enable plenty of terrestrial QSOs.

For 6m EME operation, the 6m Yagi was connected to the Expert amplifier and the EME software started on the logging laptop. The transceiver was interfaced with a MicroHam, which enabled EME operation using WSJT-software and also the usual modes. The laptop was one of the few within our campus that was granted internet access, so we could get feedback from the usual six meter and EME chat [3].

Another thing missing was low loss coaxial cable. Instead we had to use two pieces of Aircell 7 with PL connectors and PL extenders. The total length of a coax was more than anticipated, causing much more losses than usually acceptable for EME.

EME-Operation

Our team was encouraged very much by the 6m EME community to keep going for it, in spite of all the trouble with the container. Mainly Lance (W7GJ), one of the main protagonists of 6m EME, sent us many heads up messages. However, Kazu, with his valuable knowledge on all things regarding EME, was missing and nobody in the team ever did EME before! So we gathered as a small group of EME greenhorns eager to give it a try. The 6m &



The 6m team of T32C: L-R Michael (DG1CMZ), Bob (MDØCCE) and Mike (G3WPH).

EME team consisted of Bob (MDØCCE), Mike (G3WPH) and myself.

Our take-off was marvellous for moon-rise. The antenna was approximately 60ft from the open sea and had nothing but the beach in between. The moon-set direction was somewhat inferior with buildings and dense palm tree vegetation on that path. In that direction the sea was more than 4 miles across the island.

Clear shot towards the States.

When we first switched on the FT-450D we found a lot of QRM on the band. Strong broadband noise and buzzes all over! Perhaps from the hotel or our own equipment? In which case we would be able to do something about it. Our chief engineer Tony (GØOPB) spent some time carrying around a portable radio in order to find the noise source, but failed to find it within the compound. We later found that the QRM comes from the nearby airfield, where a high power transmitter is running on 49.7 MHz. This might be some kind of rain radar. It was impossible to change the situation, but at least we were lucky that the 6M8GJ has such a good directivity, and that the moon and our terrestrial destinations had a good QTF, to avoid beaming at the QRM source. For SSB and CW around the usual 50.110 MHz the QRM was low enough to be able to make QSOs. But WSJT software showed white lines every 200Hz on the screen almost all over the band! Lowest QRM was found around 50.232 MHz, so we decided to listen there for EME signals. On the other hand, this frequency is used in Europe and NA for meteor scatter operation. So we usually operated split and transmitted on 50.205 MHz while listening on 50.232 MHz. We frequently announced the accurate frequencies of the spurs which we had locally, and asked people to avoid these.

We hit the airwaves on six metres for the first time at moonrise on October 15. Our plan to announce the spur frequencies and ask the deserving to arrange themselves between the spurs worked well, and when the moon climbed above the Pacific horizon we could see the first signals on the screen. To our surprise, we copied various stations, also many from Europe, despite QRM and high coax losses. This speaks well for the tiny FT-450D!

Our first complete QSO was logged with Lance (W7GJ) on October 16, directly followed by ES6RQ, ON4GG and ON4IQ within the same moon pass. We could use the moon up to an elevation of about 35 degrees, but the ground gain effect really helped us at elevations below 15 degrees. We usually started to elevate the antenna after the moon passed this 15 degree mark. Of course, the first EME QSOs made from Christmas Island were also the first ever QSOs off the moon for all of us present! So we had a small celebration in the well equipped hotel bar to celebrate our first QSO.

We were operational for every moonrise until the end of our operation on six. Unfortunately, moonset generally occurred at times when the 15m station was in use, so 6m EME was not always possible at those times. We were on for two moon sets, where we heard several European stations down to one degree moon elevation, which surprised us, since the moon was not visible below 8 degrees due to local obstacles. However, we could not complete any QSOs that way.

Our result on EME is depicted in table 1. We heard sixteen different stations off the moon and completed QSOs with seven stations. I am not aware what kit each of them used, but most probably had four stacked antennas. S59A reported using a single 9ele Yagi. Usually we were able to decode traces down to -31dB, as long they were well separated from the spurs.

Fig 1. Screenshot of WSJT software showing the "RO" and "73" received on Christmas Island from Peter (G8BCG).

From the UK we were able to work Peter (G8BCG) off the moon (see Fig. 1). Further we copied G4IGO and G4FUF. With G4FUF we almost completed, since he received our "OOO" message, which was the trickiest task of each EME QSO. The "RO" and "RRR" messages were then in most cases exchanged quickly. But not in Keith's (G4FUF) case, when he got our "OOO" and responded with "RO", we would never receive his confirm, and so the contact was not complete. The reason was that a solar flare happened right at the moment when Keith switched to "RO". The solar flare was also noticed on HF, where we heard the other operators in the room suddenly losing their pile-ups within seconds and start CQing! It must have been the same flare that blacked out the moon as well. We never copied Keith again.

As a general observation for EME we were hearing very well. We even copied stations having single Yagis. We didn't expect to copy anything when we saw the QRM on the screen. However, the main problem why we didn't work more stations was that our signal was not strong enough. While we had good print of stations on WSJT, it took ages for other stations to decode us, and eventually many failed. The primary reason for this was our lack of RF power. The Expert 1K can basically produce about 800W on six, but not for the one minute full duty transmissions that are used for JT65A mode. Therefore, it was necessary to reduce the power to below 500W. We also tried to improve cooling by using external fans, but we did not reach over 600W. Ambient temperature at our location, being around 30°C, didn't help either. The long and lossy coax we had to use with additional interconnectors also wasted a few dB's on our transmission path. Overall I expect the difference in transmission path compared to the originally planned setup to be around five to six dB's, which would have been a whole different world for EME.America.

Terrestrial QSOs

In the introduction I pointed out that Christmas Island lies in the middle of nowhere,

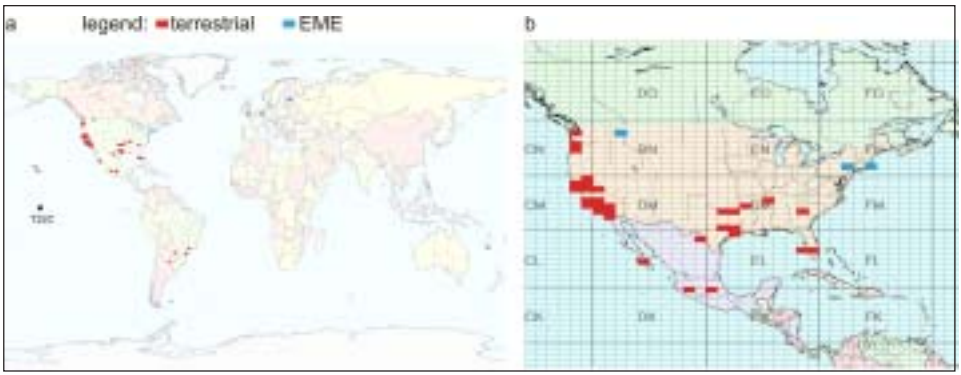


Fig 2. a) World map of worked grid squares, b) Worked grid squares in North America.

several thousand miles from every centre of six meter activity. So expectations were low to have any terrestrial QSOs apart from KH6. But the magic band once again proved us wrong, when K6QXY was suddenly screaming loudly off the speaker of the breakable beacon on October 18 at 00:20 UTC, early local afternoon. What followed was an amazing opening covering the US from California to Florida and from California to Washington State. More than two dozen stations in the Los Angeles area were worked (see Fig. 2b). Also KH6's and some Mexicans came in. As is common on six, signals and destinations were changing very quickly and the 8400km (5200 mi) haul to Florida was open just for minutes. The opening lasted until 03:40 UTC, when FK8CP was worked. It remains unclear what type of propagation it was, according to the SFI some F2-Es combination seems likely.

A funny anecdote is that Lance, who we worked two days before via the moon, also weakly heard our signals during that opening in Montana. So we almost worked the same station with two very different propagation paths!

This opening encouraged us to go on with beaconing and trying to catch openings. We were beaconing every day, and it was mainly my task to change antenna directions every few minutes. This was done by carrying around the counterweight bricks with leashes attached and throwing them over the guy lines. This was a pretty exhausting task in the blazing midday sun! However, the 6M8GJ has a narrow horizontal opening angle, which didn't allow beaconing to South and North America at the same time. So the beacon direction was changed frequently and then announced on the chat. After local midnight on the US West Coast, we then usually swung the beam to alternate between VK/ZL and JA. Unfortunately we didn't make any QSOs except FK8CP in this direction, although we received beacon reports from JA and VK. All were stating very weak copy for some seconds only, nothing we could use to actually make QSOs.

Towards South America we experienced two openings, where we worked Javi (LU5FF) as first station. He put a nice video of that QSO on YouTube [4]. Later we worked ZP5SNA. During another opening Peter (PP5XX) and Fred (PY2XB) got into the log. The QSO with Fred marks our ODX with 12100km (7500 mi). These openings to South America were very weak. Signals were almost not readable, and many callers that were reported to us were not heard. We were operating with 800W output into the 8ele Yagi all the time for these QSOs. Also well-equipped stations from SA, for instance Jack (OA4TT), constantly listened for us for several days, but were never heard.

The propagation on these paths still remains unclear. We didn't have the feeling that it was actually TEP going on. FK8CP and Stations from ZL worked right over our head into the US, and KH6 stations worked SA at times when our band was completely dead. Also these typically long duration TEP openings with strong signals were not present. We think this comes from Christmas Island being just 1° north of the Equator.

Using terrestrial propagation we were able to work 39 different grids and 7 different DXCCs (see Fig. 2a). All terrestrial openings occurred between 00 and 04 UTC, which was the local afternoon. To our knowledge we conducted five first ever terrestrial contacts, and possibly the first ever 6m QSO to South America from Eastern Kiribati. More details can be found in tables 2 and 3.

The sudden end

The 6m station for EME consisting of a FT-450D, a MicroHam interface, an Expert 1K amp with extra cooling and a laptop.

Despite daily observation and beaconing we could not get the band back into an opening like on October 18. We also carried on with EME, where best conditions were expected towards the end of our operation. The end for EME came very suddenly, when the Expert 1K

switched itself off during operation and would never come back to life. We checked the amplifier according to the manual, but could not find the problem. Since the DXpedition was to close in three days time, we did not put further efforts into repairing the amp, as we also lacked a lot of essential gear for such repairs that were in the container. Thus, we were QRT off the moon.

After we sadly informed the deserving about the loss of our only 6m amp, we kept beaconing with 100W for few more days, but didn't work any stations. In the end, we closed our 6m log after 110 QSOs, seven of which were made off the moon, including four European stations and one G.

Considering the difficulties we had to overcome to be active on 6m at all, we are glad with the achievement. We are proud of every single EME QSO, considering the simplicity of the setup and that none of us had ever done EME before. The EME operation also got a lot of interest on the side and many of the HF operators dropped by the shack during their free time to have it all explained to them and, of course, the hurrah was huge, when we announced that we worked a G on six!

Despite logging less than one-tenth of a percent of our QSOs on six, we consider these few QSOs very valuable to the overall DXpedition result, and we would like to thank all those hams who listened so patiently for us und tried to contact us over several days. The nice feedback received from those who made it into the log was also very well received. Further we, would like to thank our sponsors, who are all listed on our website [2], and especially Yaesu UK for lending us such a nice tiny radio on short notice. This did very well on six.

When will be the next chance to work T32? Anytime! On Christmas Island we met Tov (T32TV), who resides in the main village of London located on the western shore of the island. He has a superb QTH directly by the sea and is frequently QRV on HF. We presented Tov with a brand-new FT-450D on behalf of Yaesu UK, so there is a 6m radio, with proofed beacon keyer, now permanently on the island. So maybe some 6m enthusiast may think about donating him a 6m beam via KH6CG [5] and get him motivated for the band before the next maximum comes?

References:

[1] Cheadle, N., G3NUG: The T32C DXpedition to Kiritimati. RadCom, pp. 32-36, Vol. 88, No. 1, January 2012

[2] T32C Website and online log: http://www.t32c.com

[3] ON4KST-Chat rooms: http://www.on4kst.org

[4] Recording of the QSO LU5FF - T32C: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpTN5tztNgk

[5] See QRZ.com pages for T32TV and KH6CG: http://www.qrz.com

Table 1: Stations worked and heard off the moon.

Callsign	*Best decode (dB)*	*QSO complete*
W7GJ	-18	x
ES6RQ	-22	x
N7NW	-23	
ON4IQ	-24	x
ON4GG	-24	x
K6MYC	-23	
G8BCG	-21	x
S59A	-22	
OH6MIK	-25	
G4FUF	-23	
OH2BC	-19	
SM7FJE	-28	
W1JJ	-20	x
W7CE	-23	
K2ZD	-22	x
G4IGO	-26	

Table 2: 6m QSO Statistics

Total QSOs	110	
EME Heard	16	
EME Worked	7	
Squares Wkd	45	(6 EME)
DXCC Wkd	10	(4 EME)
Claimed Firsts	8	

Table 3: Claimed 6m Firsts

First	*Station*	*Date*	*Path*
T32-FK	FK8CP	18/Oct/2011	terrestrial
T32-ES	ES6RQ	16/Oct/2011	EME
T32-G	G8BCG	20/Oct/2011	EME
T32-LU	LU5FF	20/Oct/2011	terrestrial
T32-ON	ON4GG	16/Oct/2011	EME
T32-PY	PP5XX	21/Oct/2011	terrestrial
T32-XE	XE2D	18/Oct/2011	terrestrial
T32-ZP	ZP5SNA	20/Oct/2011	terrestrial

UKSMG Sponsorship Announcement

Ian, G6TGO, Sponsorship Manager

In the recent past, all Sponsorship requests were applied for informally by the applicant by sending an Email to the Sponsorship Manager, usually together with very little detail about the type of Sponsorship required, and also lacking in Dxpedition group or station details.

When I have looked at this format and also the Terms and Conditions of Sponsorship, I found that they may need updating, therefore after discussion, we have implemented a more robust Sponsorship Application process by providing an online application form accessed from the UKSMG Website, via clicking 'Sponsorship' as seen in the Menu box found in the top left hand side of the Home page.

The Terms and Conditions of Sponsorship which is part of the Sponsorship Application process has been highlighted in a larger font for definition, but the wording remains unchanged, and this now needs to be acknowledged as being read though, by clicking the Agree/Decline button which has been added, sadly this is due to the number of applicants not reading the Terms and Conditions when making an Email application in the past.

Due to requesting more details of the Sponsorship required and other details, we are able to make sure that every application can be discussed by the Committee in detail and in a fair way before approving Sponsorship and also for Auditing reasons.

When each application is made the Applicant will receive an Auto receipt for the Application which you are urged to save for your records.

Now the Online Sponsorship application form is operational, direct email applications will no longer be accepted. If you require to contact the Sponsorship Manager at any time for informal confidential advice or other reasons, as always please send an Email via the usual way. Any Email is treated in strict confidence.

Please feel free to apply as you would as normal for the 2012/13 season but make sure you have as much detail as possible when completing the form.

Regards and good Dx for 2012.
Ian G6TGO,
email: Sponsorship@uksmg.org

More photos from T32C showing the HF Antenna Farm on the beach (left) as well as the 6m beam.

UKSMG 2011 Contest – Final Results

G3ZYY, Contest Manager

It's taken longer than intended but here are the final results of the UKSMG 2011 Summer Es Contest.

As I said last year, it is quite unusual to see how things panned out with propagation playing a major part allowing the UK entrants to edge into the lead in most categories. Total distance worked is by far the major factor in determining final points which is why there are some seemingly high final scores when compared to the numbers of multipliers.

Many thanks to all who took part and congratulations to the leaders in each category. There is still time to make adjustments to the rules for next year if needed so please email me with any suggestions contest@uksmg.org

6 Hour Fixed

Call	*QSO*	*DXCC*	*QTH*	*Mbrs*	*Score*
G8BCG	77	14	32	21	94269
G4MKR	47	14	38	16	90832
G3SVD	56	17	34	20	83256
I7CSB	32	7	20	14	69951
2EØBMO	25	10	18	13	48549
G8ZRE	28	10	17	17	40870
HA5PT	18	6	14	9	37268
G6UBM	13	4	9	8	16752

6 Hour Portable

Call	*QSO*	*DXCC*	*QTH*	*Mbrs*	*Score*
GØVJG	150	25	66	41	210136

Single Operator Fixed

Call	*QSO*	*DXCC*	*QTH*	*Mbrs*	*Score*
5B4AIF	135	23	64	29	402129
DL2OM	120	26	81	9	188111
GW3JXN	85	14	34	28	77300
IT9BLB	15	5	13	9	47919
PE1EWR	24	5	17	0	25490
IZ5ILK	7	2	6	2	16627
HA7LW	4	2	4	3	10792
EA5DFE	2	1	2	2	5468

Multi Operator

Call	*QSO*	*DXCC*	*QTH*	*Mbrs*	*Score*
G5WQ	304	31	108	72	430298
G8QR	176	26	81	33	245489
MØIDU	176	28	72	46	199494
S57C	119	19	54	0	176876
G5FS	184	21	58	61	173053
G7RIS	205	25	66	69	115033
UW5Y	46	11	25	0	92163
UZ4E	49	15	27	0	77519
UT5U	6	5	6	0	12828

QRP

Call	*QSO*	*DXCC*	*QTH*	*Mbrs*	*Score*
M1DUD	30	15	25	11	56741
M3CVP	23	13	21	6	44281
4X1IF	10	6	9	1	22020
DH6JL	7	4	7	1	7602

Single Operator Portable/Mobile

Call	*QSO*	*DXCC*	*QTH*	*Mbrs*	*Score*
ISØ/DK7ZB	110	18	55	28	257053
UT5UUV	94	17	52	0	181292
N8OFS/M	1	1	1	0	1016

IARU Region 1 - 50 MHz Bandplan		
MHz	**Usage**	**Mode / Max.Bandwidth**
50.000		Synchronised
	Beacons	Beacons
50.030		
50.030		
50.050	Future International Calling	
		CW
50.090	Intercontinental Calling	500 Hz (note a)
50.100		
50.110	Intercontinental Calling	(note a)
		CW & SSB - Intercontinental
50.130		2700 Hz
50.130		
50.150	International Activity Centre	CW & SSB - International
		2700 Hz
50.200		
50.200		
		CW & SSB - General Usage
50.285	Crossband Calling	2700 Hz
50.300		
50.300		
50.305	PSK Centre of activity	
50.310	EME	
50.320		
50.320		
	MS	MGM, Narrowband & CW
		2700 Hz
50.380		
50.400		
50.400		
50.401	WSPR	WSPR +/- 500 Hz
	Beacon	MGM
	Exclusive	CW
		1000 Hz

Notes on the bandplan
a - The intercontinental calling frequencies should not be used for calling within the European part of Region 1 at any time.

Voluntary Operating Code of Practice for Six Metre Operators

The UKSMG fully supports the DX Code of Conduct, details of which may be found here: http://dx-code.org/

Please read these recommendations carefully and try to adopt their use in your everyday operating.

SIX METRES AS A DX BAND: Six metres is a DX band and it, along with other six metre operators, should be treated with respect and tolerance.

LOCAL BAND PLAN: Always respect your local band plan. Details vary around the world, and do not forget that IARU Region 1 will have a new bandplan in 2012. **LOCAL QSOs**: Do not cause nuisance and disturbance to other operators with local QSOs within the 50.100MHz to 50.130MHz DX Window.

LEARN TO LISTEN: Most six-metre DXers spend about 5% of their time transmitting while 95% of time is spent listening and observing changing band conditions and propagation modes. This will be far more effective than just calling CQ DX at random.

50.100 - 50.130 DX WINDOW: The DX Window is widely accepted and should in principle be used for INTER-CONTINENTAL DX QSOs only. The definition of what constitutes a 'DX' station lies with an individual operator especially when a station within your own region constitutes a new country.

INTER-CONTINENTAL CALLING FREQUENCY: The international DX calling channel is 50.110MHz. This should be used for long range DX contacts and such contacts should normally be inter-continental in nature. If a local station returns to your CQ, move quickly to an unused frequency above 50.130MHz.

50.110 CQING: LISTENING is the first rule of working rare DX on six metres. So think twice before calling CQ on 110. But the occasional CQ is good as it can discover an unrecognised opening.

QSO TECHNIQUES: Follow the style and take the lead of the DX operator in providing information. Otherwise keep it simple as there are other stations waiting in line.

DX PILE-UP OPERATING: You should listen to the DX stations carefully and not continue to call if they request a particular country or prefix if that is not you. You should NOT call if you cannot hear the DX station!

SPLIT FREQUENCY OPERATION: When a DX station creates a large pile-up, split-frequency operating is recommended. To minimise interference with other DX stations operating simplex, it is recommended that a maximum split of 10kHz is used.

DUPLICATE QSOs: It is always tempting to call a rare DX station every time you hear it. This should be avoided as it means that you taking away the opportunity for the DX station to work a new station and give them their first QSO with the DX country.

CW OPERATION: CW is probably the major mode of operation on six metres due to the usually weak nature of many real DX openings

FM QSOs: All FM transmissions should be made above 50.500 MHz for the obvious reason that FM is wide-band and could wipe out weak DX signals.

MICROPHONE GAIN: Proper gain adjustments will reduce distortion and will also reduce interference with operators on nearby frequencies.

This is a summary of the recommended Operating Code of Practice as issued by the UKSMG in conjunction with JAROC, HARDXA, SixItaly, DRAA, LABRE-SP and SSA. The full version of the Code can be found on the UKSMG website at http://www.uksmg.org/code.htm.

UK Six Metre Group

The UK Six Metre Group (UKSMG) was formed in 1982 with the primary aim of encouraging an interest in the 50MHz band by all amateurs. It maintains a beacon fund to finance and provide beacons in various parts of the world. Over the last few years the group has also supplied many pieces of equipment to encourage and help six metre enthusiasts activate new counties.

The ambition of the UK Six Metre Group, through the medium of its quarterly newsletter, 'SIX NEWS', is to provide the best information available on all aspects of the band, including such things as DX news and reports, beacon news, propagation , six metre equipment reviews, QSL addresses, DXpedition news, and technical articles.

Why not join the UKSMG and give us a try? We have already attracted over 700 members in over 50 countries around the world. The subscription rates are as follows: UK - £12.00, Europe - £13.00, rest of world £16.00 (air mail).

Internet-only subscription ('Six News' by download, no printed copy): £10.00 for all countries.

Send to: **Secretary of UKSMG: Chris Deacon, G4IFX, Spring Valley, Churt Road, Churt, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2QU.**

Cheques in local currency should be made out to 'UK Six Metre Group'. Or send to one of our Country Managers below. (Cheques made out in equivalent local currency in the name of the Country Manager). Alternatively you can pay by credit card.

France	Georges Vialet - F8OP, 541 route de Tournus, "Le Cottage", 71290 Cuisery.
Italy	Michele Coppola - I7CSB, c/o AR Elettronica, Via P Nenni, 114 San Severo (71016) EG.
Poland	Bart Bzymek- SQ1K, PO Box 18, 78-540 Kalisz Pomorski. Tel: +48 663 808 343.
Spain	J R Hierro Peris - EA7KW, Oceano Indico, 11 Mairena del Aljarafe, Sevilla 41927.
USA	Pete Varounis - NL7XM, PO Box 3026, Easton, PA 18043-3026.

Name:_____First: _____ Callsign:_____

Address:_____

_____

Postcode (Zip code): _____ County (State): _____

Country: _____ Date: _____

Telephone (Optional): _____

Credit card number: _____ Expiry date: _____

Your name as it appears on the card: _____