



May 2010

THE WORLD ABOVE 30 MHz

SARL 85 Anniversary Sprint, Sunday 16 May
 ZS85SARL, Saturday 22 May
 ZS4 Sprint, Sunday 23 May



VHF/UHF and Microwave News

VHF Indaba - You Are Invited

The SARL will host a VHF Indaba on Saturday 26 June 2010 at the National Amateur Radio Centre at 12:00 for 13:00. The agenda includes discussions on VHF, contesting and contest rules. Attendance is free, refreshment will be served and participants will take part in a lucky draw for an ARRL Antenna Book and free software.

Clubs are requested to discuss VHF activities and Contesting at their club meetings and on the air activities and brief their delegates to put their suggestion and proposals on the Indaba table for discussion. Clubs not able to send one or more representatives are requested to send in their proposals and suggestion to [contest\[at\]sarl.org.za](mailto:contest[at]sarl.org.za). To assist with arrangements please confirm attendance by email by 21 June. The address is [contest\[at\]sarl.org.za](mailto:contest[at]sarl.org.za).

After the Indaba you are invited to join an informal dinner at a nearby restaurant at your own expense.

VHF/UHF and Microwave Activities

Mauritius, 3B8, - EME. Operators Rene, PE1L, Eltje, PA3CEE, and Johan, PE9DX, will be trying to make moon bounce QSOs from Mauritius between 15 and 25 May. They state on their web page 3B8 is the third most wanted DXCC entity on 144 MHz. The group has received a special moon bounce permit/call sign for this operation - 3B8EME. QSL via PA3CEE. For more details, visit the Web page at <http://www.emelogger.com/mauritius/default.asp>

Mozambique, C9. Hal Lund, ZS6WB, reports "With AO-51 unavailable this week our chances of contacting John, C91HLT, almost daily during his travels as we have been are going to be reduced considerably. SO-50 is available but the combination of the low orbit and inconvenient times will probably not work out very well for us as John will probably be on the road travelling during many of the passes.

My suggestion would be to come up on the afternoon passes if you are in the shack in the hope that John may be there, but do not be surprised if nothing is heard other than local stations. It may be next Monday before we start hearing John again regularly when AO-51 returns to V/U mode.

Since crossing into Mozambique John has been active from KG64, KG76 and KG77 and will probably remain in C9 until around the end of the month."



C91HLT was up on 7085 this morning (13 May) and passed some info regarding his planned SO-50 operations during the next few days. He is presently located at Gorongosa (KH71ea).

The passes on Thursday and Saturday (13 and 15 May) are low elevation and no operation is planned on either of those days.

There are good high elevation passes for him on Friday (14 - 11:52 UTC) and Sunday (16 - 11:10 UTC) and both should give good coverage into Southern Africa.

On Monday, he expects to be active again on AO-51 when it returns to the V/U mode.

The latest OPDX Bulletin #959 contains a news item about K8YSE and satellite DXing on FO-29. It also gives a link to the K8YSE website, which shows some interesting satellite grid maps. Of particular interest is a map showing the Rover operation of ND9M/MM as the ship passed around South Africa in April of 2008.

The GemWIN mapping software is free and can be downloaded at www.qsl.net/sm3gsj/

70 MHz Beacon upgraded to PSK31

On 7 May 2010, the 70.031 MHz G4JNT/P personal beacon on Bell Hill, Dorset, grid IO80UU, was replaced with a cleaner improved unit sending PSK31. The new one has much improved spurious outputs and is based around an Analogue Devices AD9852 Direct Digital Synthesiser chip clocked at 200 MHz. It transmits the beacon telemetry using PSK31 on a frequency of 70.031 MHz (in the personal beacon portion of the band).

It is intended primarily for relaying telemetry from the GB3SC microwave cluster, which operates from 2.3 to 47 GHz, but also serves as a propagation beacon and has been received via Sporadic E at considerable distances. Further details of the new 70 MHz telemetry beacon are at <http://www.scrbg.org/New70MHzTelemetryBeacon.pdf>

New 4 m Propagation Beacon in USA

A new high power 4 m beacon has gone on the air in the USA, thanks to Brian Justin, WA1ZMS.

It operates at 70.005 MHz with experimental call sign WE9XFT. As there is no US 4 m amateur allocation, it is officially for propagation tests for US domestic and transatlantic commercial use. The WE9XFT beacon transmits 3 kW ERP towards Europe from Bedford, Virginia. It is operational 24 hours a day and is licensed until 1st September.

The RSGB Propagation Studies Committee is co-ordinating reception reports from the UK. Actual beacon reception reports are requested, along with reports where 50 MHz was open to the USA but no signal was received on 70 MHz. Reports should be emailed to john@g4bao.com. Please see the online GB2RS for detailed information of the requested format of reports.

Svalbard

Tom, JW4LN will try to be the first station active on the new Norwegian 70 MHz (4 metres) band, operating holiday style, conditions permitting! There will be other program there together with the XYL, JW2SR, - this is NOT primarily a DXpedition.

Equipment planned to be brought on the plane from Norway - Dell Lap-Top PC and JT software for meteor scatter work; 70 MHz: Icom IC-706 Mk II transceiver and ME4T transverter 25 W out and 5 element Yagi. 50 MHz: Icom 706 Mk II transceiver 100 W out and 2 x 5/8 wave antenna; HF: The Icom IC-706 Mk II transceiver 100 W out, wire antennas and tuner.

Check the frequencies 70 277 kHz and 50 230 kHz JT6M, 2nd from JW on meteor scatter; QTH Longyearbyen; QTH Locator JQ78tf; IOTA EU-26.



HF bands may be worked occasionally using SSB, CW and digital modes, with preference for 5 MHz (60 metres) USB; antenna permitting from our housing.

QSL to JW4LN via LA4LN, direct preferably: P.O. Box 15 Kjelsaas, N-0411 Oslo, Norway. 73 from Tom V. Segalstad, LA4LN & JW4LN

ZS-SAT Mailing list

Home: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/zs-sat>

ZSVHF Mailing list

Home: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/zsvhf>

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.