Thursday, August 27. 2015

RadioActivity August 2015

The month seems to be very busy with other things to do ...

50 MHz

26 August 2015 Some strong Aurora signals from SM, OZ and LA heard.

18 August 2015 First time successfully ran WSPR on 6m. Signals came both ways from PA, DL (506 km tropo), OZ and UT (via Es) with only 2w out.

15 August 2015 Es to SP9, OM, S5, SV. Nice listening with SDR.

13 August 2015 Nordic Activity this night. Some stations (SM4, SM5, OH3, OH6) worked in CW and in JT6M with Sporadic E and/or Meteorscatter help.

11 August 2015 Worked Expedition **EI9E (IO43)** in some late Sporadic E. Some minutes later K7BV (FM09) showed up weakly for a while. I did some listening in the Perseids activity, but I did not work anyone.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:27

Monday, August 3. 2015

Hiking in Southern Sweden 2015

Days were cold and much water poured down from the skies. Neverthless we had a good time hiking through the woods in Southern Sweden (SM7) near Vetlanda from 22 .. 31 July. No, we did not meet THE elk, but in the many hours on the hiking trails we even did not meet any other human beings ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:42

Thursday, July 30. 2015

RadioActivity July 2015

Only until 18 July; the other part of the month I spent in SM7

50 MHz
18 July 2015 OH9SIX beacon and EA8DBM heard in the morning.
17 July 2015 EA3 worked.
13 July 2015 Weak Aurora going on and no Sporadic E heard. Made my first JT65 tropo contact on 6m (I worked and heard EME only in that mode on 2m and 6m)
09 July 2015 Some OH and SM are in the log. A lot of stations from EA, CT and F were heard.
08 July 2015 Many strong signals. Worked some F and **ZA/US2YW (Albania JM99)**. Heard N1ZZZ/mm (JM27)
07 July 2015 KP4EIT was heard briefly. **UN3M** was worked with good signals.
06 July 2015 Again 9K2 and A45 heard.
05 July 2015 Some Ukraine heard and worked.
04 July 2015 Worked a few Italians and heard 9K2 and A45. Big Thunderstorm went through.
03 July 2015 Came home from my job and immediately worked **AC4TO (EM77)**, who was alone on the band.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 00:00

Friday, June 26. 2015

RadioActivity June 2015

144 MHz

25 June 2015 Another good opening and I worked many stations: **UT0EZ (KN67), UT7QF(KN77), UR3GS (KN66), UC6A (KN84), UT2QA (KN86), UR8GZ (KN66), US0GB (KN67), UY5QO (KN77), UA6LJV (KN97), UR3EE (KN88), RK6LXN (KN97), UR5VFJ (KN69), UY7QN (KN77), UR5EUP (KN78)** and heard was RK6MF (KN77)
22 June 2015 Big Sporadic-E opening : Worked **EA2AGZ (IN91), EA1HRR (IN83), F6FRR (IN94), F6BKI (IN94), F6CIS (IN94), EA2AWD (IN93), F8GGD (IN95), F5GXG (IN95), F5GHP (IN96) and EA1MX (IN73)**. Hrd EA4AQQ (IN80) and some more. Later some Aurora signals were heard.

50 MHz

26 June 2015 Lots of strong signal around in the afternoon and evening. Countries worked are YO, OH, SM, LA, UT5, EA1, ES, SV, GM. Heard were OY and EX. Around 21:30 PV8ADI was loud, but I could not get him.
25 June 2015 Many stations from Ukraine, Finland, Estland and Lithuania were worked. Also got **4L1AN(LN21)** in Georgia.
23 June 2015 Big opening to OH and Northern Skandinavia. Sounded like Aurora-E.
22 June 2015 Open to southeast. Got SV9RNG (KM25).
21 June 2015 Heard NP4A, WX4G, 8P2K, FM5WD, YV4DYJ (FK50), YV4NN (FK50), PV8ADI (599+) and a bunch of Europeans. Stations from less than 500km were strong. 4X4DK heard calling North America with a big signal from the back of the antenna. Worked **9Y4D (FK90)**. After 21Z signals rapidly disappeared.
16 June 2015 Heard C31AR, EA4, EA1, F, CS Beacons, . Worked **EA8AK (IL18)**.
15 June 2015 Very quiet day until 4L1AN (LN21) came on 50110 - I did not call as I worked that before. Big pile heard via backscatter. Later being still at the edge I worked SV9CVY (KM25 Crete).
14 June 2015 Worked LZ, F, UX, YO
13 June 2015 Only some strong IT9 heard.
12 June 2015 At first I worked **SK0TM** over 500km via tropo. Band was then open to the North with LA7SIX/b (JP99) at S9 level. EI0SIX/b (IO63) came up. In the log are some EI, EA, GI ... Other countries heard are EA4, OH
11 June 2015 Lots of stuff on the band. GB3IOJ/b (IN89) very strong and short skip. Worked CT, EA and MU0GSY.
04 June 2015 Mostly South-Eastern Europe heard and some YO, UT and LZs worked. Had an eye on 2m, but it did not open for me.
03 June 2015 Worked a very strong **EA8DBM (IL18)** and some IT9 and I6 stations. Skip became shorter and some HB9 from JN36 and JN37 were contacted.
02 June 2015 **SV5BYR (KM46)** was strong and worked. Listening for North America was no success.
01 June 2015 Coming home from work I heard 4X4SIX beacon and immediately worked **4Z4DP (KM71)**. Some other stations from YO are in the log as well.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 23:52

Monday, June 1. 2015

RadioActivity May 2015

144 MHz

6 May 2015 SK4MPI beacon via Aurora

50 MHz

30 May 2015 Hrd SV/SM4KYN (KM16) but could not get his attention. Many other stations from I, SV, 9A ... were heard.
28 May 2015 Big opening in Europe today. I worked some EA3, IS0 and F. Heard was G and EI.
21 May 2015 TJ3SN was heard CQing in a 45 seconds Meteor burst. Sporadic E wise only SV3BSF/b was weak in.
20 May 2015 Came home and worked **CT1IUA (IM67)**. Then the band opened to South America again. **PY1RO (GG87lb)** is in the log, PY2XB (GG66) and PY5EW (GG46) were heard as well as a PY2TUA beacon weakly on 50024. Stations from CT1, EA1 and F were received as well.
19 May 2015 Danish ragchew on 50110 .. Band dead.
18 May 2015 Someone calling DX on 50110 in CW. Band dead otherwise.
17 May 2015 Band was silent all day until 19:00UT when suddenly there was an opening to Brazil. PP1CZ was strong, but the only station heard. Band was open to Northern Sweden at the same time and I worked 5 stations in SM2.
16 May 2015 Many stations from Ukraine audible in the early evening. Later worked **3XY5M (IJ39dm)** as new grid. Heard were TJ3SN (JJ53), 5R8UI and A45XR in that opening. The band died down - I thought - when it suddenly opened to South America. I could work **PP1CZ (GG99uq)** at 599 level and heard were some other PY and a ZP station.
12 May 2015 A lot of stations heard via Es. Worked a **9A**
6 May 2015 Videos around 49.75 MHz were strong via Aurora, but no station heard.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:00

Thursday, April 30. 2015

RadioActivity April 2015

144 MHz

21 April 2015 Aurora for a short period of time
15 April 2015 SK4MPI Beacon weak via Aurora
14 April 2015 Again Aurora - not very strong.
11 April 2015 Some aurora signals heard this afternoon right after getting the antenna into operation again.

50 MHz

29 April 2015 South Africa worked. First real DX this year on 6m. **ZS4TX/6 (KG47)** peaked at 59+10. Some other European stations were weakly audible via Sporadic-E.
21 April 2015 LA via Aurora

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 06:33

Saturday, April 11. 2015

Antennas back into business

Today I got the replacement rotator and the antennas for 144 and 50 MHz back up onto the tower. Everything is working fine and the first DX heard were some Aurora signals on 2m. The twin 70cm antennas are not mounted. The 40m dipole is back to its old position - I do hear much less now on that band

The new rotator is a beautiful refurbished Kenpro KR2000 which is much stronger than the old one (HyGain HAM IV) I have used.

My plans are to add a second 2m meter antenna to the existing 9 element yagi and a good 70cm antenna in between the 2m antennas.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:59

Friday, March 20. 2015

Partial Solar Eclipse

Today's Partial Solar Eclipse was a disappointment for us. Clouds arived just in time. We met at the local observatory and we had lot of school children visiting us. We realized that it became much darker and it brightened up again without us seeing the sun. That is the whole story and no images. Just 50 km south weather was got enough to follow the event.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:23

Wednesday, March 18. 2015

The big Aurora of 17 March 2015 (Updated)

The afternoon and the evening of 17 March showed the strongest Aurora for the last 10 years. Radio signals were extraordinary and the evening showed a wonderful colourful spectacle in the sky. I have not seen this for many, many years. Images are now **here**.

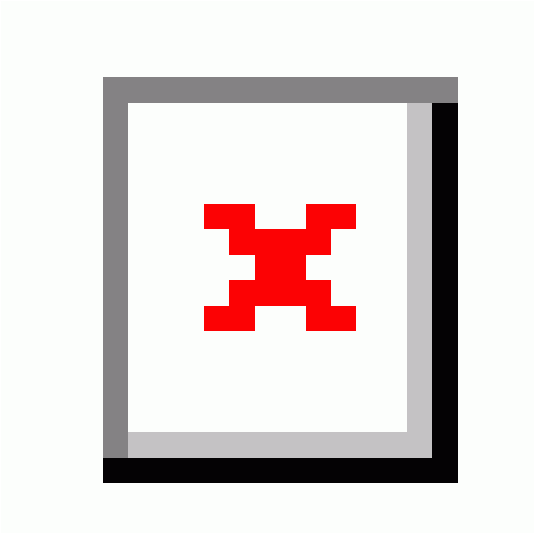
In many parts this Aurora reminds me to the biggest Aurora ever recorded on 13 March 1989. That one was really big ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:06

Monday, March 16. 2015

Jupiter in the box

In the evening of 10 March (OK, should be March, 10th) I set up my equipment for planetary imaging. I did not do this for a long time now. I made experiments with eyepiece projection and barlow lens projection. I found out that my expensive barlow lens has a fault. Now with the eyepiece projection I have a fairly good result of Jupiter images.



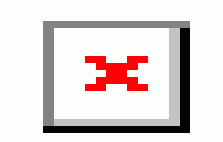
Click here or on image

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:04

Monday, March 9. 2015

Antennas down, antennas up

My antennas are down - the rotator is broken and I have to wait until the replacement is here. So I have put up some red and green glasfibre tubes and put the 40m antenna to the top. Its centre is up 16.5 m



(Click here to see a *big picture*)

Listening sounds as if I am in another world than before. Signals are very much stronger and almost every CQ call produces a small pile-up. Big fun with this here. While writÃ-ng this text I am listening to some Japanes stations coming in fine. Some of them are already known and they are much stronger now. I again heard Brian, ZL3XDJ, who was at 599 level in CW - never heard him so strong before.

I ran WSPR last night and my 2 watt signal has been copied by about 100 stations around the world within 19 hours. Best before was 60 stations within 24 hours.

But when the other antennas will go up again, this fine antenna goes to its old place 7m meters lower. What a pity ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:26

Monday, March 2. 2015

Radioactivity January/February/March 2015

Since 10 January I cannot turn the antenna, so almost nothing worked.

144 MHz

04 January 2015 Widespread Aurora. Worked **GM, LA, SM, ES, OH** and **YL3IQ** (**KO17** new GridSquare). Moon was too bright to see the Aurora, even it was strong enough.

50 MHz

17 March 2015 Very strong Aurora ! With my 40m antenna (the 6m antenna is still down) I worked one Station (DF9OX) and heard many as far south as Italy and this for many hours,

07 January 2015 After more than 12 years I first time **received F2 signals**. They were weak, but I identified **W1JJ** and **K1SIX**. In early evening the band opened with SporadicE and I got stations from **LZ, YO, YU** and **SV**. Heard was **4X1RF** in Israel with a very good signal.

04 January 2015 Large Aurora opening. Activity was low, but I could get a number of stations from **OZ, LA, SM, OH** and **ES**.

03 January 2015 A few stations worked via Meteorscatter in JT6m Mode

02 January 2015 Good aurora on 6m. Worked a number of stations from OH, SM, LA and OY9JD

Shortwave

7 March 2015 The provisional 40m antenna is up at 16 meters and working very well.

21/22 February 2015 About 60 contacts in ARRL DX CW contest on 40m band. I spent about 2 hours looking for U.S. states. I got 27 US and 2 Canada. Highlight were two longpath contacts to San Diego, California and Seattle, Washington.

January/February 2015 A number of new DXCC Areas on 40m and 15m are in the log. The 40m dipole is working as well as it could in a height of 9m. I have a small YEASU FL2100 shortwave amplifier with 450 watts now. But the 6 dB power increase did not help with the K1N Navassa Island and EP6T Iran expeditions, which I both did not work although they were very strong.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 15:50

Monday, January 19. 2015

The Comet Lovejoy

In these days we have the chance to look for comet "Lovejoy" C/2014 Q2. Last saturday I met with astro-friends at the local observatory and we took photos of the comet. Watching the comet through the telescope is rather spectacular. My Images did not come out very well as it is very bright in the sky so close to the City. On the Images the comets tail is barely discernible. If have processed my images and you will find them **HERE**.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 06:23

Wednesday, January 14. 2015

Antenna Wind Damage

Two long lasting major wind storms with gales of over 160 km/h in a row on 9 and 10 January 2015 were too much for the antenna rotator on the tower. The gear inside seems completely broken. A long rope fixes the antenna to prevent more damage especially to the coaxial cables. I have turned it to the North, so that I can work stations in an Aurora opening that may come up.

Dear Reader, if you have a good rotator (HAM IV type or better) and you do not need it anymore, let me know and we "might come into business" ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:48

Saturday, January 3. 2015

Happy new Year 2015

... dito ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 10:35

Wednesday, December 31. 2014

RadioActivity September .. December 2014

My new job is keeping me very busy now and there is not too much time for the radio. Anyway I worked some stuff:

432 MHz
27 October 2014 with only 5w in my small antenna I got: **F5EAN (JN06cp - 1113km)**; **F6APE (IN97qi - 1088km)** and **F6DZR (IN96rt - 1132km)**.
4/5 October 2014 Some stations worked in the IARU contest

144 MHz
11 November 2014 Aurora ! Only worked LA0BY.
1 November 2014 MARCONI CW contest. A few worked.
28 October 2014 ES3RF (KO29) and YL3AG (KO06) via tropo.
27 October 2014 Superb tropo. Worked a number of French stations in south-west France and a new ODX on 2m tropo: **EA2XR (IN83ki - 1564 km)**
20 October 2014 Good aurora but only worked SM0NKZ (JP99)

50 MHz
12 September 2014 Some good aurora to LA and SM. The Aurora was visible and I made some images.

7 MHz
December 2014 Few stations worked on 40m.
29/30 November 2014 Worked 140 stations in CQWW-CW contest.
18/19 October 2014 About 150 stations worked in WAG (Worked All Germany - CW only) contest.

Shortwave
A few stations worked on 7 and 21 MHz. All in CW

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:00

Friday, December 19. 2014

Days with WSPR

During the past days I ran WSPR on the 40m band. Results were amazing with stations receiving my signal all over the world. I was running 2 watts of output only into a low hanging 40m monoband dipole. Its main beam direction is straight up resulting in strong signals from all over Europe. But many reports came from the Philippines, Australia and America as well.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:36

Monday, December 15. 2014

Interstellarum

Interstellarum ist eine der besten Zeitschriften (nicht nur) fÃ¼r den ambitionierten Astronomieamateur. Allein auf "Good-Will" kann so eine Zeitschrift nicht Ã¼berleben. Vielleicht wollt ihr mithelfen, damit etwas Abwechslung in diesem ohnehin dÃ¼nnen Markt erhalten bleibt.

Klickt auf das Banner und schaut Euch um.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:40

Monday, December 1. 2014

CQ World-Wide CW Contest

There was not much time for playing around in the CQWW CW contest. But I managed to work about 140 stations in 49 DXCC areas with my little low-hanging antenna. I heard many more countries but they were merely unreachable. A better antenna would certainly yield in more countries worked. But this result (Little bit over 15000 Points) with such short time (2 hours altogether) on the air is not bad.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 10:53

Wednesday, November 5. 2014

ErlÃ¶st !

In der Nacht vom 1. auf den 2. November verstarb mein lieber Vater im Alter von 91 Jahren und zweieinhalb Jahre nach dem Schlaganfall, der seine TrÃ¤ume beendete, die er auch mit 88 noch hatte.
Du wolltest doch immer ein Bier mit meiner Mama und meinem Bruder Hubert trinken, wenn Du dort ankommst, wo Du jetzt bist. Danke fÃ¼r alles, was Du fÃ¼r uns getan hast.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:40

Monday, August 18. 2014

RadioActivity August 2014

I have been busy with many other things. So not much activity radio-wise ...

50 MHz
27 August 2014 Aurora going with strong signals but few stations only.
20 August 2014 Some late Es with UT3UW (KO51 as new GridSquare) and some Meteorscatter tests with GM4KLN and EI7BMB.
18 August 2014 Worked G1CWP via Meteorscatter. Heard TF3ML.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:40

Wednesday, August 13. 2014

RIP Gerd Manefeld

Mein alter Schulfreund **Gerd Manefeld** ist heute morgen plÃ¶tzlich verstorben. Wir kannten uns jetzt Ã¼ber 50 Jahre.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:00

Thursday, July 24. 2014

RadioActivity July 2014

50 MHz

23 July 2014 Heard BA4SI again in the morning. Early afternoon showed a short but strong opening to US. Worked **K3OO (FN20)** heard W3EP, W3JO, NR1R, W1AW/1, K1ZC, K2ZD and K1RO. Later in the evening the band opened again and I worked **EJ3Z (IO43)**. Heard were VE2TZT, KP4EIT, NP4A and NW0W (EM27!!). (I looked back in the log ... found a North America opening, where I worked 67 stations, and my antenna was a lot smaller than today.)
22 July 2014 Out of the blue I worked **K1TOL**. In the morning I heard BA4SI with good signal but strong fading.
21 July 2014 Wide spread opening to USA and Canada. Only got **VY2ZM (FN86)**
20 July 2014 Worked a few stations via Es
19 July 2014 Only worked GM and **LA4YGA (JO37)**
9 July 2014 The station's computer does not work any more. It is the only damage by the lightning stroke.
8 July 2014 This morning saw an excellent opening over central Germany. I worked 60 stations within one hour to distances down to 460km at high levels. In the log are HB9, I, F, DL, PA, ON and LX1AD - Today nearly all in phone for a change. In the evening my antenna was hit by a part of a lightning. What a big bang.
7 July 2014 Strong signals from OH, SM2 in the morning. In the evening CS3 beacon from Madeira was at 599 for hours - a few signals else only.
6 July 2014 **T6DD (MM36)** Afghanistan in the log.
3 July 2014 Opening to Japan: Heard JR4OZR and JA3KVT. Heard EX9T (MN82). Later I worked **9K2/SP4R (LL39gj)** Kuwait for **country number 150** on 6m and 9K2GS is in the log as well. In the evening the band opened to the Carribean with very strong signals. I did not make any contacts but heard were FG4NN, KP2/K3TEJ, 9Y4D, FG8OJ and many, many Europeans
2 July 2014 Worked OY and heard GA3WUX and 9Y4VU
1 July 2014 Lots of stations. Worked EA3 and heard EA8EY, D44TS (HK74) and J38DR

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:14

Wednesday, July 9. 2014

Lightning hit my antenna

Just before the football (soccer) match Brasil - Germany (1:7) last night (8 July), my antenna was hit by a partial **lightning stroke**. Everything was switched off before the thunderstorm arrived and the antennas were disconnected. When I entered the room after the thunderstorm I saw the computer had started and a strange smell was in the air. I stopped the computer and it does not start anymore. Hopefully there is no more damage than the power supply. - Add: Yes it was the power supply. Everything is fine again.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:21

Tuesday, July 1. 2014

RadioActivity June 2014

50 MHz

28 .. 30 June 2014 Busy with other things
27 June 2014 EA and F in the log.
26 June 2014 Only worked a few LZ.
25 June 2014 Strong signals from the Azores. I worked **CU3AN** (HM68) and CU1EZ was extremely strong. Also heard EA8CK and FG5FR from the Carribian.
18 .. 24 June 2014 I did not have much time. When I switched on no signals or some weak stations were heard.
17 June 2014 Big silence until the afternoon. Life came onto the band and I worked **FS/K9EL (FK88), KP2/K3TEJ (FK94), FG8OJ (FK96)** and **F5MYK/mm (JO11 new grid)**. Heard were NP3CW, VO1MP, VO1COD, KP4EIT, HI3TEJ. ALL have been worked before. Nice signals anyway.
16 June 2014 Some EI and EA on the band. Also heard were KP4EIT, WP3UX and HI3TEJ. All have been worked in the past years.
15 June 2014 I worked a few Ukraine stations, went out of the house, and heard 4X (Israel) beacon in the evening.
6 .. 14 June 2014 Almost no time for the radio. I switched on only sporadically.
5 June 2014 Open to OH in the morning. In the afternoon the band was in good shape and I called CQ in CW. Worked HA, LZ, HA, YO, OM, YU and JY plus 4X (5 Stations) over 3000kms. Heard A45XR and 9K2MU at 599 levels with large pile-up. Around 22UT read signals from W7GJ off the moon (first time with the TS590s).
4 June 2014 I have been out of the house for a long while. I heard EA, EA9, CU1EZ. Band closed early.
3 June 2014 Strong signals all around. Worked HA, DL (via Es), I, F, ES, OH, OZ (Tropo), OH, SM2, LA. I have been spotted in the cluster by RA1ZC (KP59)! In the morning were some JA on the band, but I copied only bits and pieces.
2 June 2014 DU7/PA0HIP (PK10) heard weak. Opening to South France and Sardinia. In the afternoon the band opened mainly to Italy with hundreds of stations on the band. What a mess. Worked a number of stations from F, I, HA, UR5, EA, EA6, C37AC (JN02)
1 June 2014 Short openings to F, SM and OH. All went over my head ... Worked **UN3M (LO61md)** and **UN3GX (MN83gd)** for surprise. Around 11:50UT band opened to North-West and I worked **K1TOL (FN44)** and **VE1PZ (FN85)**. Heard was VY2ZM. OY1OF was sitting in the path and SM7FJE and PA2M were heard with amazing backscatter.

144 MHz

3 June 2014 Es opening, but I was little late.

Shortwave

1 June 2014 I activated WSPR with 2w on 40m again. With the modified antenna it works very well. My 2w has been received in ZL and VK.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:37

Sunday, June 1. 2014

With 2 Watts of RF Power way down to New Zealand

I am very pleased that my 2 Watts of RF Power on the 40m Band (7 MHz) found their way down to New Zealand. I have a simple dipole antenna 8m above the ground.

...
2014-06-01 17:36UT DF9CY 7.040115 -23dB 0 JO54al 2 ZL1BOE RF72ir 17774km 38

and later: Australia
2014-06-01 19:28 DF9CY 7.040125 -15dB 0 JO54al 2 VK7BO QE38mo 16565km 83
...

This is made possible using the Digital Mode WSPR. The 2 Watts is about the same power your mobile phone uses to the next tower.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:46

Radioactivity May 2014

50 MHz
31 May 2014 Very short openings into almost all directions. Worked IT9, ER, EI, GW, GM, UR5, HA and **4Z4LA (KM72)** Israel. Late in the evening I got OY9JD and some OH and SM2.
30 May 2014 Missed the Japan opening in the morning. Heard A45XR but lost.
29 May 2014 "Spotty" openings. Best worked was **JY9FC (KM71)** in Jordan.
28 May 2014 A good opening to France and Spain today with about 11 stations in the log.
27 May 2014 A lot of strong signals from Ukraine and Bulgaria in the morning. In the evening I worked a number of EA1,2,5 and **EA8CCQ (IL28)** Canary Isl..
26 May 2014 Strong signals from Ukraine, LZ, HA again.
25 May 2014 Very good conditions to South-East and I got some HA, LZ, Ukraine. To the South-West **EA8DBM (IL18)** was strong and easy to work. Several other Canary Islands stations were copied. Worked him again later on when he was alone on the band. All over sudden **PY2XB** and **PP5XX** were heard with 59 but they went down to noise level very soon. I worked them both years ago.
24 May 2014 I worked several EA1,3,5 and SV2JAO. Was not QRV very much as weather was very nice...
23 May 2014 In the morning the band was open to the west and I got **G4RRA** (IO80) and **EI9CN** (IO53). Late in the afternoon signals were strong to south-east and I got **JY9FC** (KM81). Several 4X were copied as well.
22 May 2014 **EA9PY** (IM75) Ceuta worked. Heard were Z21GF, C5YK and ZD7VC and a lot of European stations.
19 May 2014 Many stations from Ukraine worked. Later the band was open to Spain and Portugal. ZD7VC was here even stronger than yesterday.
18 May 2014 worked **ZD7VC (IH74)** St Helena (of Napoleon fame). in South Atlantic and two **EA6** from Mallorca
17 May 2014 A few S5, 9A and SV in the log
12 May 2014 Only worked IS0BSR/p on Sardinia Isl.
10 May 2014 Some weak Sporadic E (Es). Only LZ worked.
8 May 2014 Again some Meteorscatter and Tropo contacts
7 May 2014 Sporadic E enhanced TEP (Transequatorial Propagation). I worked South Africa **ZX4TX/6 (KG55)** with good signal. Heard was **ZS6BTE**. At the same time the band was open to Southern Italy (IZ7).
5 May 2014 **Meteorscatter** tests in digital modes.

144 MHz
30 May 2014 Strong tropo signals from LA, SM and G. I had a long ragchew with **G0JJG (JO02)**.

22 May 2014 16:27UT **R6AS (KN85)** was worked and RV6AKA (KN94) heard as first real DX via Es this year.

Shortwave

31 May 2014 Modified my 40m antenna. I was able to lift up one end of the antenna. Its even less noisy now. The modified antenna works fine.

More contacts on 15m and 40m. The transceiver is working fine as well as the antenna is OK. This month I could increase my 15m country count from **49** to **85** already with the 40m dipole used...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 00:38

Thursday, May 1. 2014

Radioactivity April 2014

50 MHz

No Sporadic E heard yet.

144 MHz

30 April 2014 **SM5EPO (JP80)** and **SM4GGC (JO69)**were worked via medium strength aurora.

Shortwave

A good number of contacts on 15m and 40m with the new Kenwood TS590s Transceiver.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:50

Thursday, April 24. 2014

New Transceiver on the desk

After almost 2 years without a "real" shortwave rig I got hold of a Kenwood TS 590s, which was delivered yesterday. It is used, but very little only. The very first impression is that it is doing extremely well. First contact in CW (morse) were with Florida, New Jersey (21 MHz) and France (7 MHz).

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 17:00

Wednesday, April 9. 2014

Antennas fixed

All antennas were down and I removed the vertical rotator, which obviously is stuck and has to be repaired. I did not take out the horizontal rotator (HAM IV Type), as I do not have a spare one. Yes, it is still working somehow.
Now it is time to come for this seasons' first Sporadic E openings.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 18:39

Monday, March 10. 2014

Springtime - Antennatime

My antennas will be down over the next days. The vertical rotator is stuck since the big storm (gales to over 160km/h) on 28 October 2013 and the horizontal rotator seems a bit "ill" as well.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:18

Work on the website

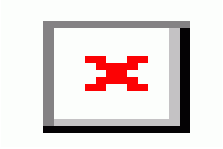
Throughout the last days I have viewed through many pages on this site. A lot of mistakes are corrected now. I do not think I found all ...

Since some months now, me and my son Michael added some RC Flying to "waste" some time with. We have built and flown with quadrocopters. We crashed them often and have rebuilt them. We have learned a lot on flight controllers programmed in C++ and Arduino. Things that work on earth do not necessarily work in the air... Amateur Radio experience helps a lot. So, I have added - a still empty - page in the hope the one or the other project may be interesting for you dear readers. Ge here: **http://www.df9cy.de/rcflight/rcflight.htm**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:16

Saturday, March 8. 2014

The sun today



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During this years' first BBQ at the local observatory, I took some shots of our sun. A number of tiny sunspots are visible (I count more than 20 ...) showing the sun's activity, which is high in this solar cycle; but low compared to previous cycles. Go **HERE** for more images.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:00

Friday, February 28. 2014

A Bright Aurora on the Beach

Last night I realized a little late that a bright aurora display was going on. At a quarter to midnight I quickly drove down to our local beach a took a series of images. Go **here** to have a look at them.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 18:17

Tuesday, December 17. 2013

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2014

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2014 to all of you who come along here. I am busy with many things and I do not have much time for my hobbies like keeping this blog and my page updated daily.
Hope that you come here again soon....
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:54

Thursday, October 31. 2013

Imaging a weak Aurora

On the evening of 30 October 2013 I realized that there was some Aurora (Polar Light) going on. I went out on the flat roof of my house, which is ideal for imaging such events down to the horizon. There I took a few photos, but there was not much time as the intensity was decreasing rapidly. **HERE** are a few more images for you. Next mornig I saw on the web, that I was able to catch the maximum intensity. From the amateur radio activity I could see as well that the main event has been very far in the north of Europe over central to northern Sweden.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:06

Wednesday, August 14. 2013

RadioActivity August 2013

Not much activity, because I am very busy with other things.

Also preparing a few new Technical articles for this site ....

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 17:44

Saturday, July 13. 2013

RadioActivity July 2013

50 MHz

12 July 2013 Not many signals heard, but I managed to work **EA8DBM (IL18oh)**.
11 July 2013 Again Aurora and I could work several stations. But better was the St Helena Island beacon **ZD7VC (IH74db)** with a good signal for a longer period of time. I have a **YouTube video** of this event: **ZD7VC at DF9CY**

144 MHz

12 July 2013 **ON6NL (JO21)** was worked.
11 July 2013 On 2m I got some Aurora stations as well, but later the band opened via tropo and among the best were: **F5XU (JN15), F8DBF (IN78), F9OE (IN78), M0BKL (IO80), F6HMQ (JN18), G7RAU (IO90)** with all between 800 and 1300 km. I knew from the cluster of a EA1 being QRV. I could hear him talking, but too weak for a QSO.
8 July 2013 Many signals heard, best was **EI3KD (IO51)**. Did not work anyone.

432 MHz

11 July 2013 My power is low enough, that I cannot work good DX, but coming from 2m I could copy well **F6GNR (IN97)** and **F6HMQ (JN18)**. **G7RAU (IO90)** was worked and it was a new grid for both of us..
8 July 2013 Good tropo opening over the North Sea. Worked into Netherlands, England and caught **LA/DK2BJ/p** (JO37) for a new grid.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:08

Sunday, June 30. 2013

RadioActivity June 2013

50 MHz

30 June 2013 Sporadic E to the North of Sweden and into Spain.
28 June 2013 An aurora opening produced strong signals and I contacted a few stations.
27 June 2013 The band was wide open to Italy and Greece, where I could catch a number of contacts. Later it turned to Spain and Portugal, but no humans could be heard. Almost all beacons were audible.
26 June 2013 VP2ETE was heard and the only worked was EA5/ON4CAU in his holiday resort.
24 June 2013 No Sporadic-E today, but some Aurora was going on. Before I left the house I only worked LA8AJA.
22 June 2013 QRV for only a short time when I worked EA9UG (JM75iv / Ceuta&Mellila)
21 June 2013 Official summer since this morning and rain ... Worked **UN3M** (LO61md) and heard UN3GX (MN83gd). SM2, SM3 and many OH were heard. The band was open for a long time at night and UN3M was audible still at local midnight.
20 June 2013 Worked Carribean **HI3TEJ** (FK92TL), **PJ4NX** (FK42UD). Heard were KP4EIT (FK68) with a big signal, FG4NN (FK96kk), VP2ETE (FK88).
19 June 2013 **OH6NG/9** (KP27) was a new gridsquare
18 June 2013 Heard were A45XR (LL93gl) and the JX7SIX beacon. After being out of the house I was home late and only worked **PA0RDY** on tropo over 420km
17 June 2013 Open into many directions. TJ3SN was in for awhile, but to weak to try to call. Received VP2V/W9DR (FK78) very weak in the evening.
16 June 2013 Many contest stations audible. Only worked **EI7M** (IO51)
15 June 2013 Digital contact in JT9-1 with OZ1PIF
14 June 2013 Worked some stations from EA and CT.
09 June 2013 Only worked CT, but heard PY1RO, PP1CZ, PY2VA, LU5FF with big signals. Worked them before, so I did not call.
07 June 2013 Worked some stations. New: **EI/ON4TA/p** (IO44wc). In the evening Northern Europe came in.
03 June 2013 Only worked friend Yussi, OH5LK. Heard EA8SIX/b (IL18)

144 MHz

20 June 2013 Worked Es : 15:29UT 9H1CG (JM75FV Malta) and heard: I2SRM/8 (JN71jc). It has been a big opening, but not for us here.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:06

Wednesday, May 29. 2013

RadioActivity May 2013

50 MHz

29 May 2013 Open to Ukraine with big signals. DL2MWB worked tropo over 720km (!)
28 May 2013 Wide spread opening; only a few worked.
27 May 2013 Wide spread opening; only a few stations worked. Copied was **9J75FOC** in South Africa with a good signal.
24 May 2013 Again SM, LA, OH
23 May 2013 Some Italian stations in the log
12 May 2013 Stations from Spain worked
01 May 2013 The first good Es opening on 6m direction SM, OH, LA; Strong Aurora coming up later.

144 MHz

01 May 2012 A few stations work on 2m via Aurora

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 17:44

Thursday, April 18. 2013

Some Info ....

Due to personal reasons, this site will still be maintained very irregulary for some time.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:46

Wednesday, March 13. 2013

Comet PanSTARRS

Yesterday evening it was the first evening to observe the comet C/2011 L4 PanSTARRS and the only 22 hours old young moon right beside it. I took my kids and we went into the cold air at -5Â°C. We were lucky and found the moon already very early and a little bit later we discovered the comet as well. We took strings of images, but we were disappointed as the comet was that small and faint. Go and see images **HERE**.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:29

Monday, February 25. 2013

Setting up the Digital Modes

After the while off, I spent some time through the last days to set up the Digital Modes like WSPR, WSJT on my Windows 8 computer. As far as I can see, everything is running fine again now.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:10

Tuesday, January 1. 2013

Happy New Year !

Hello Visitor ! Nice to see you here ...
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 00:01

Friday, December 7. 2012

QRV again

The TS690s is sold. I rearranged a lot of things and get all the stuff running again after this years' break. Still things are going slow, but the station is working with the Flex-1500 as central rig. The IC820 for VHF/UHF needs some work and that is done soon hopefully.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:14

Friday, June 22. 2012

6 Juni 2012 Venustransit

Oh, I almost forgot: You will find my Venustransit images on my site now. We had luck and could almost see it undisturbed. **(Images of the Venustransit)**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:34

Tuesday, March 20. 2012

RadioActivity March 2012

50 MHz

09 March 2012 Fine Aurora and wotked a bunch of stations.
07 March 2012 Only listening on 6m.

144 MHz

07 March 2012 I worked some stations on 2m this time.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 19:38

Tuesday, February 28. 2012

RadioActivity February 2012

50 MHz

27 February 2012 Strong Aurora going on. I worked a number of stations from SM and OH.
15 February 2012 Some Aurora and some stations.

(No activity in December and January)
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:49

Friday, January 13. 2012

Welcome in the Year 2012

... and it will hopefully be a fine year for everyone. I am quite busy with many things ... so little activity here in the moment.
Feel free to sweep around on these pages here.
Greetings
Christoph
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:03

Thursday, December 22. 2011

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you for coming along here - maybe you came here more often ...

Have a Merry Christmas, enjoy your holidays, have a big party or whatelse.

See You in 2012

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:21

Monday, December 12. 2011

Lunar Eclipse at Moonrise

At moonrise on 10 December 2011 our "trabant" was totally eclipsed and against all expectations it was very clear down to the horizon. While joining at a meeting of our local astronomy club we had the chance of observing the end of the eclipse. **Here** is an image of the partially eclipsed moon.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:02

Sunday, November 20. 2011

Lunar and Jupiter images

In my Astrophoto section you find a few new images of the Moon and Jupiter. I cannot explain why, but they are somewhat unsharp. I have checked the collimation of the scope before taking the images and found it OK. Have a look nevertheless ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 18:03

Thursday, November 17. 2011

RadioActivity November 2011

432 MHz

16 November 2011 Heard GB3ANG (IO86) beacon and OY3BEC (IP62) beacon - no humans ...
10 November 2011 Worked **OH5LK** (KP30) over a 1224km path, **OH1ND** (KP00) and **SM6CCO** (JO78) new#. Heard was R1AX (KO59) at almost 1450km.

144 MHz

16 November 2011 Copied GB3ANG (IO86) beacon quite strong, but there was no activity at all.
11 November 2011 YL3AG (KO06) in log ...
10 November 2011 Big tropo opening. Worked **OH2K** (KP20) and **OH1ND** (KP00). Hrd RA1AWK, OH5LK and more.
5/6 November 2011 Marconi Memorial Contest ... I worked 32 station which I picked out of the noise. Best DX was 802km into OM. Very nice as that is my worst direction.
1 November 2011 I heard some Aurora and listened in the NAC. Conditions were a bit up to SM4 and SM5 which I could hear. I did not work anyone, as I was busy with other things.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:21

Friday, October 7. 2011

RadioActivity October 2011

432 MHz

1/2 October 2011 I worked some 20 stations in the UHF contest this weekend. An ODX of 550km with my 10w and the small antenna is not bad ... but I heard stations from southern Switzerland and Northern Italy!

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:29

Friday, September 30. 2011

The Galaxy Again

The night of 29 September was very clear and I took the chance for some astrophotos. So I came to the best M31 Andromeda galaxy I ever imaged. Have a look for more, go **here**.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:00

Thursday, September 29. 2011

RadioActivity September 2011

432 MHz

28 September 2011 A lot of beacons were audible. A very strong SK6DP was worked.

144 MHz

28 September 2011 Very strong tropo opening - "Altweibersommer" / "Indian Summer". Worked France, England and a row of SP (Poland) stations.
26 September 2011 Strong aurora signals heard and worked a number of stations.

50 MHz

28 September 2011 Beacon signals indicated a strong tropo opening - no humans heard.
26 September 2011 Some contacts were made during a short but very strong Aurora.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:41

Monday, August 22. 2011

RadioActivity August 2011

50 MHz

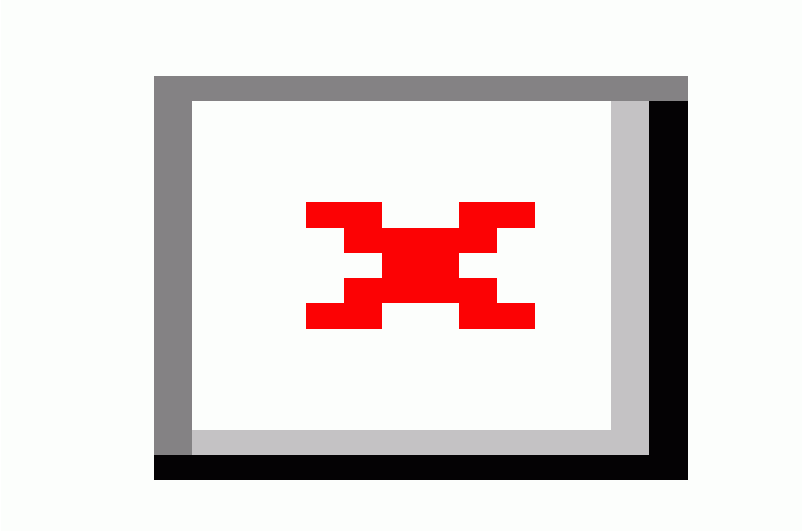
.. 22 August 2011 I caught a few small Es openings and worked some stations. Nothing special.

6 August 2011 Just after midnight I realized, that a strong aurora was going on. I worked a few stations. After breakfast I worked OH5LID in KP37 via MS. Later I caught OH5LID in KP55 which is a new grid for me. And I worked about 30 stations from UR, OH, YO and SP.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 10:56

Saturday, August 6. 2011

A visual Aurora imaged



In the early hours today (6 August) I was able to take a few images of the aurora display. We had a very calm and clear night, but it was very humid. You will find the images **here**.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:56

Sunday, July 31. 2011

RadioActivity July 2011

144 MHz

30 July 2011 Oh yes another Es opening. The reflection point was quite far so the only station heard and worked was:
15:59 LZ1KJ KN31cj 1880 km
13 July 2011 The reflection point of the opening in the evening was too close. I was not able to hear anything.
06 July 2011 My first SporadicE on 2m this year. Signals were strong but there were not many:
17:25 UA3WM 59 59 KO72QI 1687km (worked with 5watts)
17:32 RL3QDD 59 59 KO91OC 1982km (worked with 5watts)
18:18 UA3PTW 599 599 KO93BS 1820km #
18:25 UA3RN 599 599 LO03VK 2063km
I had problems with my amplifier which went into a [fault] state. So the first QSOs were made with the drive power of 5w.

50 MHz

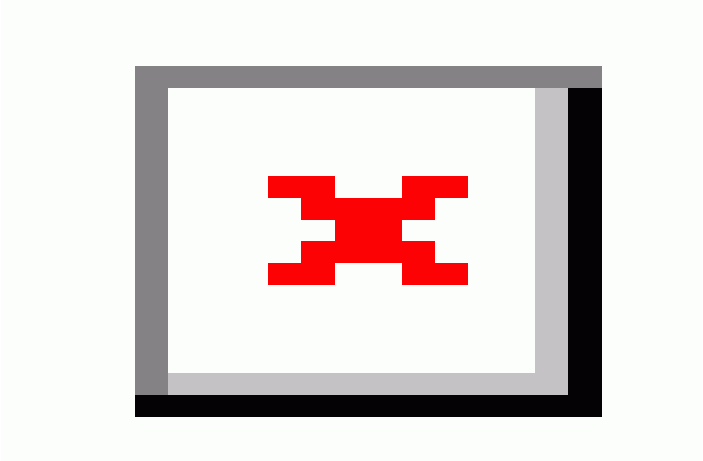
31 July 2011 ST0R South Sudan expedition heard quite well, but I was not able to work them.
.. 29 July 2011 I made a number of QSOs but there was nothing special. The openings I experienced were all within Europe. AND it has been very calm on the band; very unusual for this time of the year.
18 July 2011 Is the season already declining ? It seems like this. I have been listening around thoughout the last days and i did not hear many stations. More south from here opening happen more often. It stayed very calm here on the band and only a few stations were worked.
13 July 2011 I had an ear for some real DX. The D4C beacon was strong for a long time and I waited for Caribeans - nothing. SV2ASP/a was in but very weak.
06 July 2011 Several Scottish stations were worked. Band was open in many directions.
03 July 2011 Not much time for radio. In the evening I copied NP4A and PJ6D with very good signals. Later the D4C beacon was loud again and 5C12M (CN) was a getaway.
02 July 2011 A45XR and A92GE in again with very good signals. **SV5/G0TSM** (KM36) is new. D4C/b is in early for hours now (09.50). CU3URA/b coming up (09.50). But after 11.00 the band died down.
01 July 2011 Worked **A45XR** (LL93) with fb signals. And **A92GR** was worked too. Big opening all over Europe and I got a few more stations. All evening the D4C beacon was in and I have been listening for some "exotic" DX. WP4U was heard strong.

7 MHz WSPR

.. 29 July 2011 Running here since 20 July again. Activity is low, but propagation good.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:45

Friday, July 29. 2011

A Night under clear sky

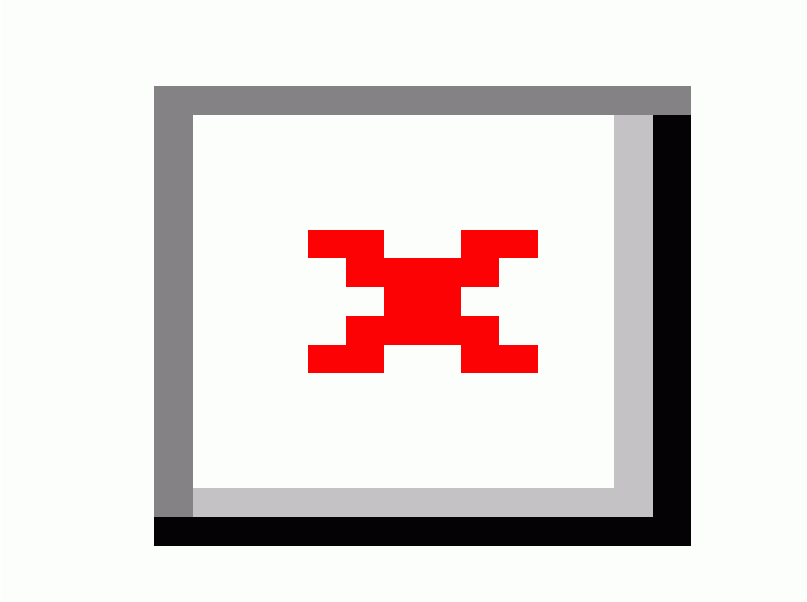


Oh yes, after a long while I set up my small telescope and the camera to take a few images. I spent some time outside in the night (26 July) until clouds swept in. You can see the results **here**.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:30

Tuesday, July 12. 2011

Noctilucent Clouds over Iffens



I spent a weekend with my friends in Iffens. About midnight of 9 July 2011 a fine display of noctilucent clouds was visible. To see the images go **here**.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:35

Wednesday, June 29. 2011

RadioActivity June 2011

50 MHz

29 June 2011 Some weak signals ...
28 June 2011 I worked a few OH, ES and Ukraine stations. Copied was 4L1AN, but no real DX. CN8KD had a strong signal.
27 June 2011 Opening to the Carribean - I worked **FG4NN** (FK96) and heard some more: FM5WD, V25DR, PJ6D expedition, PJ76 and J88ARC (FK94) beacon. Signals were not strong here.
26 June 2011 JH6CDI had a very good signal. He copied my callsign, but the contact was spoiled by someone. Very bad !! Some OH stations were worked. PJ6D was in for a while, but very weak only.
25 June 2011 Copied good DX: BA4SI and DU/PA0HIP, but my signal was not strong enough to make a contact. A few EU QSOs made.
19 June 2011 Lots of traffic, but only one SM2 worked.
18 June 2011 Back after a while away ... The day started with **EA8BWL** (IL18) lonely CQing. At 13.38 I caught **VO1SO** (GN37) - 1st NA station this year. All the VO beacons were in here. VY2ZM was heard very strong. **TF/DL3GCS** (HP93) was a new grid. A45XR was heard weakly, while others nearby worked him. When returning to the station after a break at 19.50 I found the band open to North America and I worked more than 25 stations in CW and SSB. New grids were FN86, FM15, FM27, FN66. Signals were not as strong as I have experienced in earlier openings. Fading was very strong.
3 June 2011 Best DX was **4Z4TL** (KM72). A92IO was heard strong again.
2 June 2011 Only one tropo contact made - some Es heard.
1 June 2011 Silence so far ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 17:48

Tuesday, May 31. 2011

RadioActivity May 2011

144 MHz EME

27 May 2011 I have been listening for a while on the moon and copied some stations.
8 May 2011 I worked **K6MYC** on his 74th birthday and later added **I3MEK** (JN55) as #101. These were the first stations I worked with the Flex-1500 and the transverter. With the SDR-IQ and MAP-65 as 2nd receiver, I was able to receive 20 more stations. I even found stations I did not see on the logger.

144 MHz

26 May 2011 I was late for the big opening today. I had an ear on 2m, but no Es signals were copied.
3 May 2011 NAC (Nordic Activity Contest: Conditions were not bad and I worked up to 850km. All in CW

50 MHz

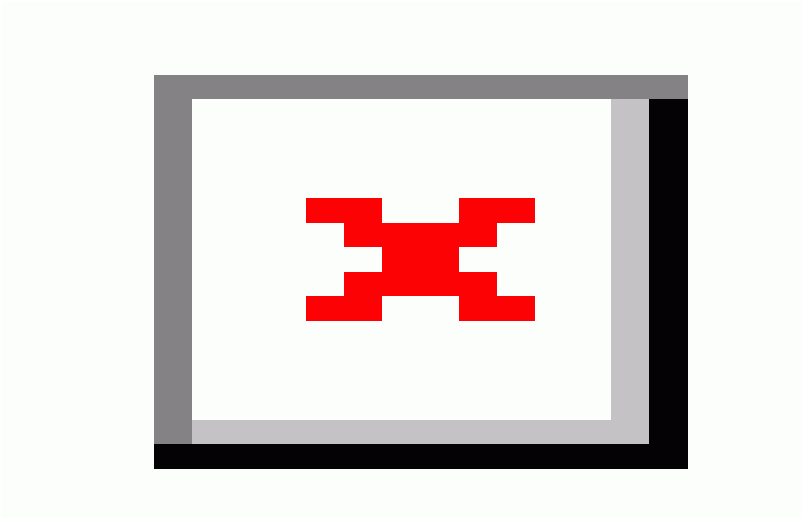
31 May 2011 Open in many directions. Worked were **JY4NE** (KM71) and **5B4AIF** (KM64). Heard were 9Y4VU and KP4EIT with good signals.
30 May 2011 Just listening some Es signals - nothing worked.
29 May 2011 This was a rather silent day on 6m; but suddenly in the evening there was a lonely CQ-caller and I worked him: **A92IO** (LL56).
27 May 2011 It was silent in the morning until Aurora came up - I had to be away for the next two hours. When I returned the Au was gone but big Aurora-E opened. I worked a number of stations with best of all was **TF3ML** (HP94).
26 May 2011 I came home rather late and had limited time. 6m was wide open, but nothing really new was heard. I had my fun with listening and worked only a few stations (OK1 and SP7) , where the skip was just a little over 600km.
25 May 2011 A day with little activity. A few Italian stations were heard.
24 May 2011 Strong opening to the south-east. I heard a weak **4X** in between. To the other side it opened to the west. I could work **KP4EIT** (FK68 / 7860km) - my ODX this year so far.
23 May 2011 I tuned around on the band, but nothing special heard.
22 May 2011 Some stations from **UR, I, EA6** and **EA3** were worked. Alltogether I got more than 70 stations in the log this weekend.
21 May 2011 6m opening all over Europe. Starting with North-East I worked **ES, YL, LY** and **SP2** (only 555km). Later propagation swapped around and I caught a lot of stations from the **UK** and **Ireland**. Again strong backscatter present. The 2m opening did not reach here.
20 May 2011 I worked a few **EA3** and **I1** and **DK1MAX** via strong backscatter. Many stations were heard via backscatter.
19 May 2011 **HA5JI** was worked with a very fluttery signal. Sounded more like IonoScatter with Meteor bursts. Nothing else.
12 May 2011 First real loud Sporadic E worked. ODX was **EA8BWL** (IL18). A high-speed CW contact was made with **7X2ARA** (JM16). EA6, IS0 and I8 was worked too. The **D4C/b** beacon was in and out up to S2.
1 May 2011 The Sporadic E (Es) openings do not reach up here in the North often. But The first contact was made today with **EB4IC** (IM78) which was a new grid.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:04

Tuesday, May 17. 2011

One more Antenna for 6m DX

Since a while I am running the ZX6-6 on the 6m band, which is a very rugged antenna with good performance. As there is nothing what could not be made better I calculated an extension to that antenna, which improves its antenna gain by 0,8 dB. The first sample has been built and it is already doing a great job.



Read more in my article on the ZX6-7CY Antenna

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:31

Monday, May 9. 2011

2m Antenna repaired

On Friday the 6 May I wanted to do some EME operating on 2m. I found the preamplifier and the coaxial relais on my tower dead. I had to take it down and make the repair. On Saturday it was working again and I had some time for EME on Sunday.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:31

Monday, May 2. 2011

AstroImaging with the new NIKON D7000 camera

Weather was unbelievable. After 2 years I took my stuff outside and mounted the new D7000 camera onto the GP mount. Just for test I imaged the Ring Nebula M57, North America Nebula NGC7000, the Global Cluster M13 and other. I exposed the images no longer than one minute and switched off the noise suppression. So not many words here; go to the images which are **HERE !**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:37

Saturday, April 30. 2011

RadioActivity March/April 2011

50 MHz

until 30 April 2011 Some Meteorscatter QSOs made. Only weak SporadicE signals until now.
10 April 2011 The first Sporadic-E signals of this spring have been heard. Signals from EA were very weak. This first opening did not reach us here in the north.
06 April 2011 Strong aurora opening on 6m too. I made some QSOs.

144 MHz

06 April 2011 Strong aurora opening - only listening.
05 April 2011 I made a bunch of contacts in the NAC contest. The first time I used my Flex-1500/transverter combination, which really did a very good job.

40m

Again I ran a few CW QSOs with the Flex on 40m.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:00

Sunday, April 10. 2011

Some new AstroImages

I recently purchased a new camera: a NIKON D7000. It outperforms my old NIKON D70(s) by far. Now I have been able to try the first astrofotos with it. They are made without the camera internal noise reduction.
Have a look here: 1st NIKON D7000 AstroImages
Have fun ...
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:07

Tuesday, February 15. 2011

FolkZeit

FolkZeit which means "time for Folk (music)" is the name of my band which takes some time beside all other activities (work, family radio and so on ... you know). If you want to experience more have a look here: **FolkZeit Website** and/or **FolkZeit at Myspace**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:34

RadioActivity February 2011

144 MHz EME

12/13 February 2011 I played a bit with my SDR system and copied a lot of stations including some never-heard-before. I had to battle with high noise probably from some new indoor powerline gear in the neighbourhood. I must find out what it is otherwise no operation on 2m and 6m is possible.

40m

I made some QSOs in CW with the tiny Flex-1500 SDR which is really working fine.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:10

Monday, January 17. 2011

RadioActivity January 2011

144 MHz EME

16 January 2011 **I2FAK** went (again) into the log. I spent some time receiving with 2 receivers (Flex-1500 and SDR-IQ). With the MAP-65IQ software I am able now to decode a whole portion of the band at a time. 12 stations were monitored randomly and 5 of them were never copied before.

15 January 2011 Again on EME I worked **EB5GP** #99 and **EB5EEO** #100 (!). I have been listening to the CW event, and copied a few stations.

14 January 2011 I worked EME **DF2ZC, RK3FG, DM1CG #97** and **F5GHP #98**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 10:19

Sunday, January 16. 2011

100 Initials

Finally I got it. On 15 January I worked EB5EEO as station number **100** on the 2m band. 2m operation here in Kiel began in 1990 when I worked W5UN in CW as my first station. In 1997 we (DL3LE now and I) put up a 4*17 Element antenna and I worked about 20 stations all in CW. By 2004 I became QRV again with a marginal station with 150 watts and a 9 element antenna via EME on 2m. Now with the digital mode JT65B things became easier and it was possible to work stations with smaller setups. The majority of stations was worked in that mode. Nevertheless a few CW stations were added. Some are worked in either mode (CW or JT65B). Thanks to all for looking to my weak signal.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:57

Thursday, January 6. 2011

Welcome 2011

2011 has begun and snow is all around. **Happy New Year** to everyone !

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:12

Monday, December 27. 2010

RadioActivity December 2010

144 MHz EME

26 December 2010 One station worked via EME: **DK5SO** #96
19 December 2010 All antennas have a big skin of ice. They are heavily detuned. No chance ...
12 December 2010 I copied S52LM and K1JT with good signals with my new 2m setup consisting of the Flex-1500 SDR transceiver and a transverter (28/144 MHz - SSB LT2SMKII). Transmitting wise I just get about 100w of output. Somewhere I lose some power. I also need a sequencer to be built.
02 December 2010 worked via EME: **OH2LHE** #95

WSPR 40m

WSPR is still going strong ! Its running wonderful.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:00

Sunday, December 19. 2010

Merry X-MAS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2011 to everyone coming along here.

A big thanks to all the visitors especially to those who dropped a comment and helped to improve this website.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:26

Wednesday, November 24. 2010

WSPR on 40m going strong

Still running WSPR a lot. It is almost unbelievable where my little station with that low hanging 40m dipole and only 2 watts of output power do reach.

HERE are some plots of a 24 hour activity period. Have a look.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:39

Thursday, November 11. 2010

The Flex-1500 Thing (II)

It has been running a lot, that little box. Mostly I ran it on 40m WSPR with about 2 watts of output power. With my refurbished 40m antenna it hears and is heard all over the world. Isn't it phenomenal ?
Recently the long awaited software update (2.0.16) appeared and now the Flex-1500 has grown to a "real" radio. CW is working fine now and I made a few contacts. Using the software *Ham Radio Deluxe* and *DigitalMaster 780* I was able to make a lot of QSOs in a row using the *PSK31* mode last weekend. Now the time has come to move to the VHF band with it and I am looking for an appropriate transverter for the 2m band. A good candidate is the on from DownEastMicrowave. I am already trying to get one.
Furthermore I have a GPS Disciplined Oscillator (GPSDO) (Trimble Thunderbolt) which hopefully stabilizes the Flex-1500 and later the transverter somewhat. I will tell later.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:44

Tuesday, November 9. 2010

New Software for the Flex-1500 Transceiver

when being at work yesterday I found the *Flex PowerSDR Beta 2.0.16* being released. So when I was back home I immediately installed on my 3 computers (P4 2 GHz WinXP 32 prof; DualCore 2.6 GHz WinXP home 32; Dell D820 Notebook w. DualCore Win7 32bit). Just to make it short:

The software installed flawlessly in each case; no bluescreens, funny messages or whatelse. Running the software on the XP machines seems to be very robust. I did a lot of funny things - I could not get it crashed. The situation is a bit different on the Dell D820 laptop with Windows 7.
The crackling noise I have reported earlier to the Flex guys is not completely gone; there may be one or two within a minute or so.
Running WSPR the TX signal is clean on the Dell now. 1)
Tried PSK-31 with HRD and Digitalmaster 780 on the XP DualCore - fine !
CW is very good on the XP machines; much better than before on the Dell laptop, but not really good.
SSB has about 0.3 sec delay on the Dell laptop. I have an annoying AF tone transmitted, I am sure its my problem with this microphone I am using (Sennheiser PC-151 headset).
AF sound in this headset is excellent.
The receiver works as fine as before with no or much less crackling noise. It is already moonbounce proven on 6m and 2m (with a converter)

1) I have some 50Hz hum on the signal. It is weak but easily audible with another receiver. With my RFSpace SDR-IQ these 50 Hz show as multiples on either side of the carrier. I have changed to a low noise power supply, but this did not change. Any reason for that hum ?? This is an issue to be cleared. I sent a screenshot to FlexRadio.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:59

Friday, November 5. 2010

RadioActivity November 2010

WSPR 40m

40m is the band where my antenna works. After installing the new cable (double shielded H2007) in combination with the common mode choke at the 1:1 balun at the feed point, the dipole works very well even at this low height between 9m and 5m. Noise floor is at least 12dB less than before (now ca -120dB). No birdies from computers anymore. If there is no signal there is a straight line on the waterfall display of the Flex-1500. AND my signal is heard now worldwide. Received signals are also about 10 dB stronger indicating that there has been a bad attenuation in the old cable, which looked very rotten after I had cut it through at different places. WSPR is fun now, but I also have been listening to a lot of other signals (CW, SSB, PSK ...) with my radios on 40m.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:37

Sunday, October 31. 2010

RadioActivity October 2010

Antenna refurbishing. The antenna was down for a few days. I have exchanged a few cables. The 40m antenna has a new H2007 cable. The old one seems to have been very rotten. All signals are stronger now. See WSPR ... And the 432 MHz preamplifier is operational again, which was dead for a while after a nearby lightning strike.

1296 MHz EME DL0SHF
31 October 2010: I operated the last part of the last day of the ARRL EME contest from DL0SHF. This was fun although I worked only 7 stations.

432 MHz
12 October 2010: **GM6VXB** (IO97#) gave me a new grid. In the NAC I worked a few stations. Best was LA2Z.
11 October 2010: Another new DXCC and grid **OY4TN** (IP62#) at a distance of ca 1250 km !!
10 October 2010: After erecting the antenna I immediately worked **YL3AG** (KO06), **YL2AO** (KO16#) and **LY2WR** (KO25#) as new DXCC with 10w and my 2*9ele. In the evening I could reach a number of G stations.

144 MHz
12 October 2010: Tropo is down a bit, but I could work **EI8IP** (IO63).
11 October 2010: Big tropo opening. I work into F, G, GW and EI3GE called me by surprise. Later on Aurora came up and I worked a few stations.
05 October 2010: worked a bunch of stations in the NAC.

7 MHz
16/17 October 2010: Made 310 QSOs on 40m in the Worked All Germany (WAG) contest. I am very pleased with the results, as I made this in just a bit over 3 hours. Last year I made ca 220 QSOs in over 6 hours.

WSPR
After the antenna refurbishing with a new cable for the shortwave antenna, everything seem to be much stronger. I can also see this in the reports I get on WSPR. All birdies from the computer seem to be gone too ! It is real fun to see how WSPR is running with the FLEX-1500 at 2w level.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:00

Thursday, September 16. 2010

RadioActivity September 2010

I did not have so much time in September so I worked a bit less in QSOs.

144 MHz EME
.. 16 September 2010: I made a few EME contacts (F6FHP, PA5KM#, RK3FG and F8DO#) with the SSPA at 300w level. Its a little harder, as I have ca 1,3 dB less power available. But nevertheless 2 new stations.

WSPR
WSPR has been running with the Flex-1500. The receiver is working very good and I set the transmitter to an output of 2w.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 10:11

Friday, September 3. 2010

New items on this site

03 September 2010

An updated version of my 432MHz Antenna Comparison Chart File (ACCF) is here : **DF9CY 432 ACCF** .

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:41

Wednesday, September 1. 2010

The Flex Thing

Running with my Desktop (almost-homebrew) computer under WindowsXP, the Flex-1500 works excellent. I had it running in WSPR mode for a while without any glitch. Sensitivity is good, blocking and other parameters do seem to be fine too.

The Flex-1500 works very fine. I made QSOs on 40m and 6m including some meteor-scatter and EME listening. TXing in CW with my Dell D820 notebook is a bit faulty. I think I have to wait until the USB drivers are fixed. I had a short view inside the radio and I find it well built.

In June I did it. I ordered a **Flex-1500** QRP transceiver. The new toy has arrived and it only took me a few minutes to get it running. The first contact I made with was on the 40m band in the evening of 29 July 2010. **SM7DGA**/qrp - Jan working with low power too was the lucky guy. Listening on 6m was already fun.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:17

Tuesday, August 31. 2010

RadioActivity August 2010

50 MHz
until 26 August 2010: Only a few and not very strong Es openings were encountered. Via MS I worked **GM6VXB** (IO97) which was new.
12 August 2010: Again some Es to YO, OM, YO, SV with strong signals.
11 August 2010: Just for a late season surprise I could work **D4C** (HK76). Some EA1 and **EA8AAW** were worked too.
10 August 2010: Worked EI7IX via MS with the little FlexRadio
08 August 2010: Got only one station from OH.
07 August 2010: Again the Es "point" was above us. I could reach a few QSOs.
06 August 2010: A few stations worked. Not much activity.
05 August 2010: I worked more than 30 stations in OH, DL, YU, GW, HA, OE ...
04 August 2010: A little Es to YU and LZ in the morning. In the afternoon the Aurora returned and I worked a bunch of stations. Nothing special.
03 August 2010: I made a few aurora QSOs with LA8AJA, LA7DFA SM0EJR and others.

144 MHz
14 August 2010: Got **RZ1AWO/1** (KP81) too with 20w only after my Dressler D200 PA went up in smoke minutes before.
12 August 2010: Worked **RZ1AWO/1** (KP80) via FSK441.
11 August 2010: **IK8BIZ** (JN70) and **IT9VDQ** (JM68) worked via FSK441 Meteorscatter.

7 MHz
I made some contacts with the Flex-1500, which works very fine.

WSPR
After a long pause WSPR ran for two nights on 40m and 30m with the Flex-1500 SDR at 5w and 2w levels with great success. Compared to last year the activity on 40m seems to be very low, while having been increased on 30m.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:00

Thursday, August 26. 2010

Radios "kaputt" ?

August
The D200 PA went up in smoke when switching it on. I sold it then for good money and purchaed a used Mirage B1030G 300w+ transitor PA which is hopefully a good replacement.

May
Not only this below - now the IC820 VHF rig developped a fault. But after cleaning all flat wire contacts it is working again.

May
After the TS690 my D200s 2m PA had a big bang without being switched on !! PCB tracks seem to grow ... and sometimes they contact each other. I do not know the reason, but the was a short circuit between two tracks of the mains leads on the board. I had to clean all that, because it looked like a major explosion to have happened there and replace the tracks by wires. Voila the amplifier is running again.

April
My Kenwood TS690s developped an error in the IF chain. It looked like a defective IC (TC9174F) which is hard to get nowadays. The integrated circuit is a serial/parallel controller which switches the 455 kHz filter bank. But it turned out to be the Murata 455kHz filter (CFW455F - 12kHz BW). I removed it and the radio is working well - no 12 kHz filter available. As soon as I have the replacement the box will be repaired. I have never seen before such a filter going mad.

Update: The fault returned - it does not seem to be the filter. I desoldered the two double switching diodes. Now the rig is working again, but no AM and FM possible. I try to get the TC9174F IC now for replacement.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:23

Wednesday, August 4. 2010

Aurora !

After years I had the chance of imaging an Aurora (Polar Light) display. See them HERE

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:24

Saturday, July 31. 2010

RadioActivity July 2010

50 MHz
31 July 2010: I have not been QRV very often. No Es signals were heard. It looks like the season is over - almost ...
26 July 2010: All afternoon the band was empty. It was almost dark - around 20 UT - I got **LA/DL7VSN** (KQ50). A fine new one. JW/OZ1IKY was not heard.
25 July 2010: Worked LZ via Es and G4BRK via Meteorscatter.
24 July 2010: No Es heard. I made a few tropo contacts.
22 July 2010: A big opening, but the reflection point just above me. Videos from east were very strong and had some aurora sound. Later in the evening I copied Shetlands and Iceland beacons.
19 July 2010: There has been YO4RYU/MM in some water-grids (IM38, IM28). He was at 55 level, but what a huge pile-up. I did not work him.
18 July 2010: Open to Japan from SM and OZ. But I briefly copied one JA2 station only just readable above the noise. Many EU stations were heard calling CQDX via backscatter or meteorscatter. In the evening the band was open to EA and EA8.
16 July 2010: Not many stations audible. Weakly open to the south-east.
14 July 2010: There was not much time for the radio in the last days. But when switching on, I found an almost dead band. An early end of the Es season ??
09 July 2010: Not QRV in the last days. Today The band was open into almost every direction. I CQed a bit and partners returned not only from the direction the antenna pointed to. Weakly heard was KP4EIT.
06 July 2010: I did not have much time for the radio. No US station was heard in that time. Only worked was EI/DL5DSM. Due to work I missed the openings to W and JA. Yesterday I was not QRV at all.
04 July 2010: A very weak JL8GFB was audible - the opening did not reach us. **C56E** (IK13ql) was worked with good signals. Another new country and grid for me.
03 July 2010: I have been listening around a lot. Well copied was C56E. Worked has been (again) **W4SO**, who popped out of the noise suddenly.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 11:34

Saturday, July 10. 2010

Remote Operation

I am able to control the Kenwood transceiver (TS690s) remotely over the internet now. Using stuff like *IP-Sound, UltraVNC* and *Ham Radio Deluxe* is making this possible. Only the rotator cannot be controlled so far, but this will come too ...

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Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:36

Wednesday, June 30. 2010

RadioActivity June 2010

50 MHz

30 June 2010: JW5QIA was not heard, when he was worked just 15km away. But **FS/W6JKV** (FK88) was worked with S9 level.
28 June 2010: Heard KP4EIT strong. Some EU stations were in too.
24 June 2010: When returning from QRL I heard a few NA stations, but did not call anyone - those heard were all worked already, and the big opening was before I came home. KP4EIT was very strong calling CQ; HI3TEJ came in fine too. In the evening I could work **K4QI** and heard a few other NA stations before the band closed for me.
22 June 2010: QRV after 20z. A lot of activity - worked a few SM2 and OH8. Most interesting were the opening direction North with the three JW beacons audible strong. I listened to the NW and copied a very weak station with auroral sound. I recorded this and I can read VE1.. but the rest is too weak. I went to bed at 2130z - obviously too early; it seems it has opened to JA a little later.
21 June 2010: I worked a number of Italian and Spanish stations in the evening besides a lot of work in the house. A goodie was **ZB3EO**.
20 June 2010: JE1BMJ was heard for a long period with 559. I could not raise him for a QSO. I was out for the "Kieler Woche" event and went I returned, I learned that I had missed the big US WestCoast opening. Nevertheless I worked **OX3KX** (GP47) - a good one.
19 June 2010: Wow - worked 0644UT **XV9DT** (OL21va) with a really good signal. Shortly after I got **EX8MLE** (MN72hw). Around 1146UT **W4BP** (EL96we) went into the log. The 2m Es opening in the afternoon did not reach here. Some contesting began and 6m seemed to be open to everywhere.
17 June 2010: A little bit of Es in the evening to EA. I could receive **W7GJ** via the moon with big signals: -15dB (JT65A) with the moon about 15 degrees above the horizon. What a signal. As there was almost no Es propagation, noise was very low.
16 June 2010: Only a dead band in the time I have been listening.
14 June 2010: I worked **TF8GX, VO1TA (GN37)** and **W4SO** (EL96). Other U.S. were heard, but not very strong. The opening was around local midnight.
13 June 2010: A good number of F and EA was worked. Later I got **ZA/HA5X** and **4O3A**.
12 June 2010: Band was wide open almost in every direction. I worked besides some EA5 over the pond to **NP2B** (FK77) and **EA8CBN** (IL08).
11 June 2010: worked TF, CU, GJ and LA. Late in the afternoon all signals disappeared.
10 June 2010: **FY1FL** (GJ35) was worked - he came out of the blue.
9 June 2010: Missed the JA opening due to QRL. Worked YL and LY. Hrd KP4EIT at 53 level.
8 June 2010: A few QSOs made, nothing special.
7 June 2010: Today a number of stations went into the log. Highlights were: **GM0KZG/MM** (IP70) and **JT0YAB** (NN48). The JT was not heard at all, when stations just 20km south of me worked him. A lot of stations were on the band. Most stations were from OH, SM2/3 and LA. Nothing new was heard. I tried to listen for a lot of DX, but it did not come through here, but more north. I went to bed around 2030UT - perhaps missing the big opening in the night to West Coast US.
6 June 2010: Video signals were strong and I listened for DX. Nothing but EU stations were heard. Around 1230UT skip was short and I could get some EI and GW stations. At 1614UT I worked **A71CV** (LL55sf). The station in Mongolia (JT0YAB) was not heard at all, but 9Y4D came in fine (no QSO). Around 2015UT EA8 was open and I worked **EA8ACW/P** (IL28).
5 June 2010: Two new countries: worked **A92GR** (LL56hf) and **A71CT** (LL55ri). Some more stations in Europe were worked.
4 June 2010: Heard a lot of signals, but no QSO made.
2 June 2010: Worked a few LY, OH, RA. New was then **LY2X/P** in KO15. And **E4X** (KM71) is in the log.

144 MHz

7 June 2010: Again a big opening. The cluster did not show any sign of the opening so far when I heard UA3WM at first. Signals were very strong. The band opened, when I had just returned from work. Heard, not worked was UU2JJ.
Es Log:
15:04 UA3WM KO72
15:06 RX3QFM KO91
15:09 RA3WDK KO81
15:10 RA3EL KO82
15:11 UT8AL KO61
15:13 UA3YBW KO53
15:21 UA3YCV KO62
15:23 UA3YKK KO38
15:23 UA3ECB KO82
15:24 UA3YGP KO73
15:35 UA3EXC KO82
15:37 RU3XK KO73
15:51 RA1AY KP50
The big opening in the morning was not for me, as I was at my QRL.

2 June 2010: Big SporadicE event on 2m. All grids worked were new on 2m. I copied a few more stations (RA3WDK, UA3DHC, RA3PG and LY2WR) which I could not work.
Es Log:
08:08 UA3BB KO85UK
08:10 UA3DCM KO85XP
08:18 UA3RN LO03VK
08:41 RU4FA LO13FN
08:44 UA4FKD LO13HL
08:51 UA3PTW KO93BS
08:53 UA3XEH KO73FU
10:37 UA3WM KO72QI
10:39 RV3YM KO63QQ

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:00

Wednesday, May 26. 2010

RadioActivity May 2010

50 MHz
27 May 2010: The band seemed to be open already to North-East at 5UT. Video signals were strong.
26 May 2010: A lot of stations were heard. A92IO and A92GR were in for a long period of time. I tried to call them a few times, but I left the frequencies, because situation became chaotic. Beside working a few stations (4X1FQ was DX), I spent my time with listening.
until 25 May 2010: I was only QRV for short periods due to family and other commitments. Strong Es signals were present and I worked a few around. Nothing new so far. I have been listening most of the time.
19 May 2010: A number of strong signals present. I worked a few EA3 and EA5.
17 May 2010: **ST2AR** (KK63er) is in the log. (New DXCC and grid). He came out of the noise, I worked him and he disappeared again. Also worked SV9, SV2 and I8. A92IO seemed to be audible everywhere, but not with me.
until 16 May 2010: only worked a few stations via Es so far. Most opening did not reach us here in the north or I was not at home

13 May 2010: Worked MS GS3PYE/P in IO67 - in 3 minutes
5 May 2010: copied some stations via MS/JT6M on 50230, but no Es here
2 May 2010: **EA1, EA3** strong signals but no QSO. There was some Aurora too and I made two QSOs with SM4 and OH3. The TS690s developped a fault again.

144 MHz
25 May 2010: A CT station was heard briefly on 144.296 MHz.
20 May 2010: After the IC820 developped a fault yesterday, which was easily repaired, I worked the **3B8EME** (LG89qt) DXpedition on Mauritius (#91). I had some little problem with my PA and so I had 150w output only.

432 MHz
1./2. May 2010: I made a few contacts in the VHF/UHF contest.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:10

Thursday, April 29. 2010

RadioActivity April 2010

50 MHz
22 April 2010: **EA6NB** is this year's first Sporadic-E station in my log !

144 MHz EME
26 April 2010: Worked **DK2PH** as number 90 on 2m
23 .. 24 April 2010: Worked **SM5CFS, OK1UGA, T70A** and **PE1L**. And I had a partial with **ZL3TY** - would have been too nice ...

I have my converter (144-28 MHz) with the SDR-IQ running with Linrad and MAP65-IQ. This shows me the complete JT65 activity on 2m now. Great stuff.

144 MHz
06 April 2010: Aurora after long time !!! Big signals were audible on 2m and 6m.

432 MHz EME
16 .. 18 April 2010: Echoes of Apollo Event. See entry on this site.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 11:04

Sunday, April 25. 2010

Echoes of Apollo

What a success !

I first setup my portable station in our garden on the evening of 16 April. In parallel I watched the live video stream from Arecibo in the internet. I early knew, that their PA was broken and so I did not receive any EME signals. But when they turned to CW, I immediately could copy them. Weak but Q4 .. Q5. So I decided to take the equipment to the AFT (Aschberg FrÃ¼hjahrs Treffen), a local Astronomy Meeting, on the evening of 17 April. Just before the event started, I gave a short lecture about what this meant. I had about 20 listeners. The signals from Arecibo came strong enough in SSB that everyone around could understand what they were telling. I estimate, there were more than 50 visitors coming and listening to the noise and the voices of the operators at KP4AO.

The station I used was my IC820H, about 2m of RG58 cable, a GaAs-Fet amplifier with a noise figure of about 0,6dB and a short 10 element antenna on a tripod. The moon was well visible all the time. While others were listening I took the chance and observed the moon through a 12" Dobsonian telescope.

More images of the event on the AFT

Look at the **Short Video of my setup**
Somewhat more detailed **write-up of the event**.

Echoes of Apollo is an event to remember the landings on the moon in the late 60s and early 70s. This event brings a large number of amateur radio stations AND science stations to be active.

Look here : **Echoes of Apollo**
and here : **WorldMoonbounceDay**

Times in April:
Apr 16 1645 - 1930 UTC
Apr 17 1740 - 2020 UTC
Apr 18 1840 - 2125 UTC

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:15

Wednesday, March 31. 2010

Site re-arrangement

OK, this is now the new entry place of my homepage !
I hope you like it

Comments are very welcome.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:40

Monday, March 29. 2010

RadioActivity March 2010

Everything is running again ! The shack is like new now. Its fun to be in there.

50 MHz EME
20. March 2010 : I have setup my "new" used notebook with WSJT and I was able to copy W7GJ with a good signal during the moonset hours. Signals reached -17dB in 2.5 kHz bandwidth.

144 MHz EME CW
27./28. March 2010 : I had hoped to work at least one of the guys in CW, but that did not go this time. I tried to get at least SV1BTR and called him many times over a period of 2 hours or so, but ... So I decided to switch off the PA and connect a 144/28 MHz converter and my SDR-IQ to the antenna. Using Linrad that was fun. I "saw" sometimes 10 or more (weak) CW stations in the CW section, but with all those birdies (hundreds) I had my difficulties. So I stayed again with SV1BTR and IK3MAC and in most cases I could see the QSO partners producing a trace on the screen. Not bad for a 2.5wl antenna. Tonight neighbour's TV is switched on producing spurs every 50 Hz all over the CW portion of the 2m band. Too bad.

144 MHz EME JT65
19. .. 28. March 2010 : 2m is running again EME wise. I copied a number of stations (ca 25) and was able to QSO with **JM1WBB, JH1MHE, I2FAK, EA6VQ, KB8RQ, UA3PTW, OH7HXH, I2RV and RX1AS**. Also copied was the expedition **8Q7QQ** (MJ64) which is using a single antenna and 400w.

144/432 MHz
7/8 March 2010 I did some listening in the VHF/UHF contest just for checking if the rig was "healthy". The rotator did not run at first and it needed some attention.

40m
Further experimenting with the SDR-IQ rx and Linrad software with digging out weak DX stations.
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:20

Tuesday, March 16. 2010

On Tour

Last weekend while staying a weekend with my father I took chance and I visited long time radio friend Johannes Wilke, **DK2PH**. After having had an eye on his antennas for 144 MHz EME, 50 MHz and shortwave and his radio station, we (me and my little son Michael) sat there together with Hans' wife ragchewing and having some fine cake with tea and coffee for a long time. So thanks for that pleasant afternoon.

Hans DK2PH and me

Hans DK2PH busy at his VHF station

EME Antenna (4 x 16el I0JXX)

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 11:12

Sunday, February 28. 2010

RadioActivity January - February 2010

The shack room is looking like new; I am still waiting for the table and some other furniture to be delivered. Bad weather prevented me from from transportation of that stuff.
Until then I am not really QRV.

The only thing I do is listening with the SDR-IQ - that is fun. As there are no tables and chairs in the room I sat down in Japanese style on the floor. I purchased a used Dell Latitude D820 notebook which has almost no unwanted radiation. The noise floor on the bands is looking very smooth and I made a lot of experiments using the SpectraVue software as well as Winrad and Linrad. The latter digs out a lot of stations on 40m. But it took me some time to get it running properly. I can't really await getting my station reassembled and testing the SDR-IQ on EME on 2m. I also tried WSPR with very good success on the SDR-IQ and the new notebook, which is running on Windows 7 - 32 bit. This combination is very much more sensitive than the Softrock 6.1 RXTX with my desktop PC.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:00

Thursday, December 31. 2009

Merry XMAS and a Happy New Year 2010

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2010 to you ! See you then !

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 19:47

RadioActivity December 2009

Most things are out of the shack room for the refurbishment; so almost no activity.

WSPR

31 December 2009: WSPR is operational on most days. After my shack is almost empty for the refurbishment, I have it running receive-only with the new purchased SDR-IQ. This little box does a fine job. I find it as sensitive as my TT RX320D receiver and a lot better than my Softrock. But I will switch off WSPR soon, do the refurbishment and set up the whole station again. See you then.

3 December 2009: WSPR (now version 2.0) still running most nights on 40m

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 19:42

Sunday, December 20. 2009

New Toy: SDR-IQ

This is it ... I purchased a direct sampling receiver from RFSpace (U.S.). You could have seen me playing with this receiver throughout the past days. I still did not find out all things I can do with it. So there is XMAS time now and some days off work. Good time for experimenting.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 00:01

Thursday, December 3. 2009

Some Shack Refurbishment

After almost 13 years time has come to make some renewal in my shack room. This means removing everything, new paint, a new carpet, some new furniture and installing all stuff again. During that time I will have a FM 439 MHz rig running put into a bag keeping dust away. The shack is small measuring only about 7 squaremeters but I already filled 8 big boxes and you do not see a big progress ... So I hope to have everything running again in January '10.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:00

Tuesday, November 24. 2009

RadioActivity November 2009

144 MHz MMC
7/8 November 2009: 46 QSOs on 144 MHz with ODX 772 km in MMC.

10 GHz EME
7 November 2009: See the story in another entry.

WSPR
24 November 2009: WSPR (now version 2.0) ran almost every night on 40m with the softrock. Activity is increasing and this is interesting to see how propagation behaves really.
6 November 2009: I ran the WSPR on my Softrock RXTX for several nights with 0,5w of output power. This was very successful with my signal heard woldwide again. The 40m activity day on 4 November produced a stunning activity.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 07:42

Sunday, November 8. 2009

144 MHz Marconi Memorial Contest

This weekend there was not only EME going on. Throughout the weekend, I made 46 QSOs in the contest, with a total time at the rig of about 2 hours. Best DX was OE2 at about 772 km distance. VHF contests are no good from my place. Direction south is somewhat shaded and there is no direct sight of the horizon.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:00

Saturday, November 7. 2009

10 GHz Moonbounce

I went to DK7LJ/DL0SHF on Saturday (7 November) morning to try some 10 GHz moonbounce. 13cm was not possible TX wise. A lot of stations could be heard although. While Per DK7LJ tried to find the fault inside the 13cm rig, I actvited the 10 GHz equipment. When I first heard the echoes I thought, aha not bad, but not strong. After adding the QRO amp giving about +11 dB,echoes were more than fine . I found IQ4DF and worked him immediately. Things were complicated (for me) as the morse keyer was not working and I had to use the CwType software. Little later WA7CJO came back with a big signal on a CQ. Then I heard someone calling, but could not figure out the callsign. Until then we had been RXing and TXing horizontal. When we switched to vertical receiving things went better. Suddenly IQ4DF was a big signal and I could work W5LUA, F2TU, WA6PY, ON5TA and ES5PC in a row. Signals became weaker as the moon dropped below 20 degrees of elevation and I stopped with the moon being at about 15 degrees. Sorry for I could not go there on Sunday too, but I had to look after the kiddies here .. The 10 GHz dish is not working correctly, we estimate a performance similar to a 2 .. 2,5m diameter type in the moment. Nevertheless I was pleased to work so many old friends in that short time, and weak signals and especially weak EME signal still have a one-of-a-kind fascination to me.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:00

Saturday, October 31. 2009

RadioActivity October 2009

SDR
31 October 2009: The SDR stuff is fascinating me. My next project will certainly be deal with this ...

WAG40m
18 October 2009: WAG Contest on 17/18 October (see other blog entry).

WSPR
31 October 2009: I operated WSPR on 40m and 30m (with my 40m antenna) using the Softrock, RX320D or the TS690s. I find it sometimes unbelievable, how well my little antenna behaves.
15 October 2009: WSPR 40m portable operation (RX only) from Iffens in JO43dm
01 October 2009: WSPR is still doing strong on 40m. I let it run with 50mW today and I received a number of reports all over Europe !

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:00

Sunday, October 25. 2009

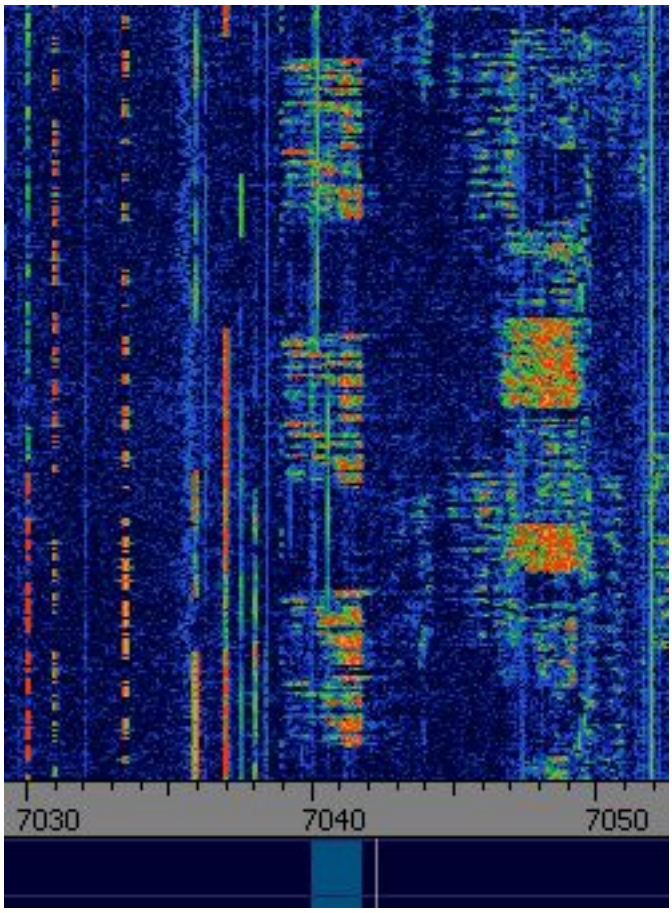
Nice chat

I went for a visit to OM JÃ¼rgen DJ8FR today. We had a very fine time with a lot of items to talk about. I haven't been there for more than 15 years ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:30

SDR continued

Still running WSPR with my Softrock RXTX on 40m trying out different combiations. It is going strong and is a lot of fun. Using the Virtual Audio Cable I am able to run WSPR and simultanously receiving with WINRAD other stuff on 40m.



Winrad showing a SSB station on the WSPR frequency during the CQWW SSB contest on 25 October 2009.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:14

Sunday, October 18. 2009

Worked All Germany Contest

At first I wanted to make a few contacts only, but I could find some time (about 3 hours) over the 24 hour period and made 217 QSOs in CW on 40m with 35 DXCC areas (Claimed 17890 points). Not bad for my small antenna. It was fun too. The log is submitted to the contest crew at DARC.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 23:00

Friday, October 16. 2009

WSPR portable

I spent a few day with friends at the **North Sea coast** living in an old farm house in **JO43dm**.

Portable setup in my friend's farmhouse. On the right you see the TenTec RX320D above the Yaesu FRT-7700 RX tuner.

Years ago I have put up a full size dipole inside that house right through the top of the roof about 14m above ground. The location is very "silent" radiowise. This time I took my **RX320D** receiver with me and ran it with WSPR on 30m first for a few hours on 11 October and then on 40m for the rest of the night. The power supply of my notebook is rather noisy; this reduces capabilities of that location. And too bad, that the activity has been so low. I could copy even the weaker stations I do not get here in my home QTH, but there were only few of them. So I stopped WSPR next day and preferred to play Irish tunes on my violin ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 09:38

Wednesday, September 30. 2009

RadioActivity September 2009

70cm
27 September 2009: Strong signals from south-western England and northern France. Nothing new, no QSO. But I found my new pre-amp to be dead . I do not know why, as my sequencer seems to work correctly. I will add another koaxial relais and put in my backup amp.

40m Softrock
30 September 2009: I made my first 40m Softrock QSOs today in PSK31 mode. It works ! This was done with 500mW of output power.

WSPR
28 September 2009: WSPR ran on 40m, 30m and 17m for some nights receive-only. Very interesting at all !
22 September 2009: More Softrocking ... My signal was copied in New Zealand on 40m. Does it go any further ??
19 September 2009: Yesterday I modified the Softrock and I/Q is correct now for PowerSDR. Tonight I got it running with 1w and - unbelievable - it is heard in Australia ! That is thrilling.
18 September 2009: The rotator is still broken. It shall be replaced tomorrow. So I will not have fun with the tropo conditions on 2m and 70cm in these days. So I have experimented a little bit more with WSPR and had it running with my TT RX320D in receive mode only. It is very astonishing, of what this little box is capable to receive. I have modified my Softrock RXTX for operation with PowerSDR software, which is not able to swap the I/Q in- and outputs. I will try to get it running with transmitting in the next days.
5 September 2009: WSPR is running now on the Softrock 6.2 with Winrad and Virtual Cable. VK6BN received with it last evening !
1 September 2009: The receiver is ON ...
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:00

Tuesday, September 22. 2009

Software Radio

It took me a while to get all the stuff for the Softrock transceiver running. No there was nothing wrong - it took me a while to understand, how all that software plays the game. Now I got it working fine. Screenshots of my setup for the Software Radio are HERE. Furthermore I have updated my Softrock page and the WSPR page.

The logger at WSPRnet.org and my spot of being heard in New Zealand.

2009-09-21	15:26	DF9CY	7.040185	-11	0	JO54al	1	G6PHT	IO92of	760	255
2009-09-21	15:26	DF9CY	7.040129	-12	0	JO54al	1	EI8JK	IO51dn	1355	264
2009-09-21	15:26	DF9CY	7.040164	-28	0	JO54al	1	ZL2RX	RE68pr	18097	47
2009-09-21	15:18	DF9CY	7.040129	-9	-1	JO54al	1	G8JNJ	IO80nr	965	250
2009-09-21	15:18	DF9CY	7.040127	-4	-1	JO54al	1	G4ENZ	IO81vv	864	256

Of course it was a weak signal, but it came through.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 10:20

Saturday, September 19. 2009

Rotator replaced now

Today Thomas DJ5LY came here and we replaced the broken old rotator by a refurbished Hy-Gain Ham IV more rugged type. It is working perfectly now and hopefully does this in the future.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 22:59

Wednesday, September 9. 2009

Softrocking

Since quite a while I am running a **Softrock 6.1 RXTX** on 40m in receive mode only. It works on 80m too, but I do not have an antenna. Now I want to get this little thing I have built more than two years ago transmitting too. I have the receiver it working fine with several programs (Winrad, KGKSDR, Rocky etc). With a so called *Virtual Audio Cable* (VAC) which simulates a soundcard, I can cascade two programs like *Winrad* and *WSPR*. This already works fine and is sensitive enough.
Using a IQ testsoftware from M0KGK I could already run it with about 31 dBm (1,3w) output on 40m.

This is my little Software Defined Radio, the Softrock 6.1. Output power is about 1,3 watts. I already received a 5 watts station from Australia with on 40m it and my low dipole for 40m.

I still have a kit for the SR6.1 RXTX 40m/30m version. But I do not think that I will finish it. If you are interested in the kit, ask me please. The German *Funkamateur* Magazine will publish a Kit with a tunable SDR RXTX. This sounds to be a very interesting for me and may be a next project for me.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 06:54

Saturday, September 5. 2009

Rotator is broken

Yesterday evening after a very strong wind storm I realized that my very, very old CDE rotator is finally broken. It has to be replaced. I am looking for a replacement. BUT this incident prevents me from being QRV in the VHF IARU contest today

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Posted by Christoph Petermann at 14:50

Thursday, September 3. 2009

QSL cards arrived

No, I am NOT a big collector of QSL cards, but some are a MUST. Now the cards from **EA8AVI** for my 3588km QSO on 2m is here and from last year's expedition to Sable Isl. **CY0X** on 6m dropped in too. Great stuff.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:00

Monday, August 31. 2009

RadioActivity August 2009

50 MHz
28 August 2009: I have been a few days "out of town". Today we saw a late Es opening to SV and EA. A few stations could be worked.
19 August 2009: I did some EME listening and tropo beacon "DX" receiving with SDR software. Today we have some small Es to CT. Only beacons - no humans ...
13 August 2009: Some strange signals this morning. Lots of Es from the east - no stations. Worked **OZ1DOQ(JO74mx-new#)** in his Bornholm 4/6m expedition.
12 August 2009: I did some listening in the Perseids and a few meteorscatter contacts. Nothing new.
11 August 2009: Perseids, some MS contacts made. Nothing special. In the afternoon there was some Es to **LZ**, **UX** and **I3**
9 August 2009: Strong video signals from UA-TV; some station audible. It is late in the Es season where people get tired.
8 August 2009: I was not QRV through the last days; I have heard I missed nothing. Today some stations heard and worked from south-east.
5 August 2009: Nothing yesterday. Today there are very strong signals from southern Germany, Switzerland and Northern Italy. I worked a good number of stations. I thought 2m might open, but it did not. Some double-hop video signals from the east were received, but no stations heard.
3 August 2009: Massive opening to south-east again. I did not have much time and have been listening a bit. 6m sounded like 40m with very strong signals present. Many closer stations could be heard via backscatter.
2 August 2009: Band continues to be open to south-east. Nothing special heard. Sporadically I looked over 6m and heard some **EA, CT** and worked a few **I8**. Around 18.20UT I saw in the cluster people working *caribean* stations. I turned west and immediately could work **WP2B (FK77)** through the noise of neighbours plasma TV. At least a new grid.
1 August 2009: The new preamplifier also seems to improve very audible. I supposed it would have an effect on EME signals only. Band opened in the afternoon very fine and I worked **YO, LZ, Z3, SV, 5B4** and **4X**. **5N0OCH** could only be heard very weak here.

432 MHz
11 August 2009: Checked sunnoise on 70cm and I get up to 7 dB at sunset. Normally I see abaout 4dB. There seems to be a good amount of ground gain. Worked number of stations in the NAC.
10 August 2009: That SK1UHF beacon is still there even after a weather change.
9 August 2009: **SK1UHF** and **SK7MHH** beacons over 500 .. 600km path are very strong. Noone is QRV.
1 August 2009: New preamplifier installed. Hearing very much better now ! I worked **YL3AG (KO06 - #102)** with my 15 Watts over 777km path in the evening.

WSPR
28 .. 31 August 2009: WSPR is running again with the RX320D. Today I put some ferrites to my HP TFT monitor. This made the bands (30m and 40m) alomost noise free. I thought that monitor was OK ...
22 August 2009: My RX320D came into new life with WSPR - only receiving. That little box works really well on 30m.
16 August 2009: I ran WSPR on the last three nights (30m, 40m, 20m) into the 40m wire dipole untuned. My 2 watt signal was heard into Australia on 40m several times.

7 MHz
17 August 2009: Oh, after long time a made a QSO here ...

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 21:00

Sunday, August 16. 2009

WhiSPeRing again.

WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) is a piece of software written by K1JT starting in 2007. I have been doing this successfully that year and a little bit in 2008. I use my TS690s with power output fully turned down, which gives me about 2 watt then. I only have one antenna this is my 40m full size wire dipole. With only 2 watts of output from the transmitter I "risk" to do 2 minute transmissions without matching the antenna. 20m is not very successful, but 30m works OK for me. 40m is good with a very good antenna match here. I suffer somewhat from the overall noise present on the short wave bands, but still I can receive stations from all over the world. If you want to know more about WSPR have a look here: WSPRNET.ORG. This should give you an idea of what is is. After a long pause, I ran this WSPR again. The 30m band has been most successful. Reason for this is of course the highest activity is here. 40m worked too, but with only 20% of the activity compared to 30m, you will get lessd response of course. Activity on 20m is weak - so was the response. You will hear my signal again.

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 08:26

Friday, August 7. 2009

EMC trouble

Every time you want to work *THE DX*, you will find some high level noise on the band. Recently **WP2B** was strong enough on **6m** to overcome this noise - I was lucky. Yesterday (4 August) I got fed up with this and I went out to my neighbour and try to find the source(s) of the trouble. Just to make it short: He was very cooperative and we found an USV for the computers which seems to have some oscillation in the power supply. Second source was a *Philips* LCD TV set putting out a broad noise. We only needed a few minutes to find this.
On 7 August the cores arrived, my neighbour istalled them himself - well done - Ã©t voila, all noise is almost gone. Very little broadband noise is still audible, when the TV set is switched on. In this view I am happy again ...
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 19:00

Saturday, August 1. 2009

Antenna Work

Today I took down the tower and checked everything. All was OK and I installed receive preamplifiers for **432 MHz** and **50 MHz** very close to the feedpoint of the antenna. While the **50 MHz** amplifier is a commersial type, the 70cm amp is completely homemade with an old *MGF1203* inside and 0,66 dB noise figure including all relais. For 70cm I expected a lot of improvement, and indeed I have it. Beacons not audible with pre-amp OFF are well in the receiver with the machine switched on. I did not expect an audible improvement on 50 MHz, but it is well audible. This amplifier has a noise figure of 0,95 dB I measured with a HP8970B recently. I am a bit astonished...
New images of the antenna system are **HERE**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 13:34

Friday, July 31. 2009

RadioActivity July 2009

50 MHz
31 July 2009: Only a few and weak signal via Es heard on 6m throughout the last evenings. I will take down the antenna tower in the next days for some upgrade and controls.
28 July 2009: Open to **OH8/9** in the afternoon when I returned home from work. Later strong signals from **YO**, **SV**. Finally worked **4X4DK** with big signal. Es opening was strong with close stations from **SP6/9** were audiable. I had an ear on 2m, but heard nothing.
27 July 2009: **J79PAK** (FK95) was in here for quite a while, but too weak to break the pile-ups. No other DX heard.
26 July 2009: Strong **CN8KD** and lots of **EAs** and **EA8s** on the band. Worked some of them.
25 July 2009: **SA7AGE (JO87)** over 508km tropo was a new grid in the early morning. Some weak stations from **YO** were worked in the morning. In the afternoon I got some **EAs** and multihop **EA8**. Stopped when again lightnings flashed through the sky.
22 July 2009: Nothing on 6m this evening. Huge thunderstorm went through. Had some near lightning hits but no damage. I preferred to to make a bike tour instead of sitting at the radio after the storm.
20 July 2009: I was only on shortly keeping an eye to the north paths, as beacons from **JW** (Swalbard) were audible. Nothing else.

144 MHz
04 July 2009: Sporadic-E !! Worked **EA8AVI** (IL28fc Gran Canaria) over a 3588km path. What a thrill !!
Posted by Christoph Petermann at 06:25

Saturday, July 25. 2009

Noctilucent Clouds

Wonderful Noctilucent Clouds (NLCs) last night. Have a look **HERE !**

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 12:13

Monday, July 20. 2009

Hello and Welcome ...

Hi friend, nice and warm welcome !
Here is my blog which I intend to use preferably for my radio activities. Interesting things come here, which will not go into the radio logbook. Some information may be about *astrophotography* and about other things ...
Would be nice if you find the way back here.
Christoph

Posted by Christoph Petermann at 20:00