

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 one 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

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