

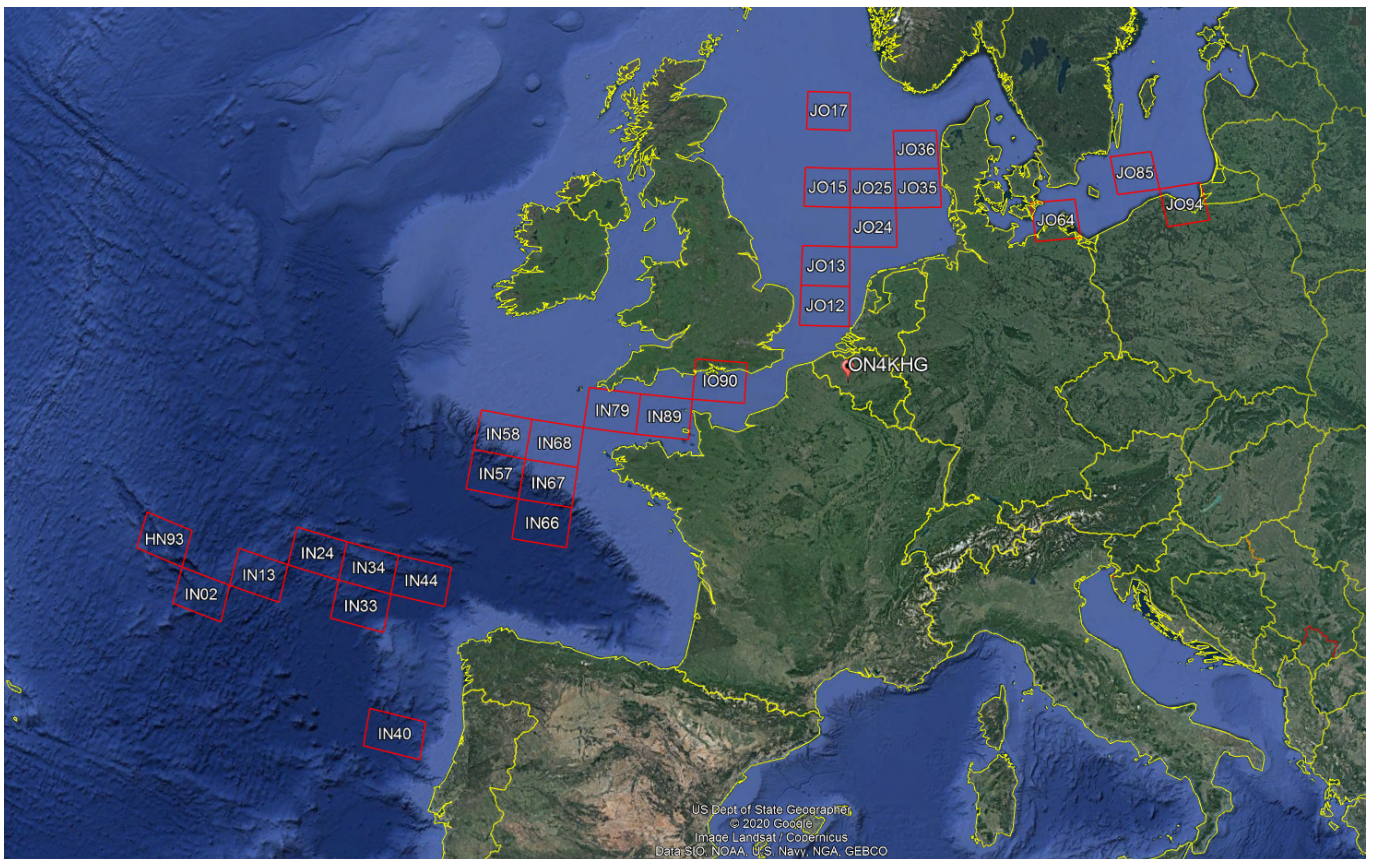
UT1FG/MM (Yuri) – 144 MHz

Update dating 23/11/2020 (see also original post of 06/01/2019 below)

These last weeks, Yuri was again on the seas !

Thanks to the kind support of a few PA and DL hams, Yuri operates now with 150W on 144 MHz. **The whole VHF DX community should be grateful for that support !** It allows every interested ham to work even more new “wet” squares !

Looking back at all the wet squares I have worked so far on 2m thanks to the operations of Yuri, it looks like this (Tropo and MS) :



However, the antenna used by Yuri is a “tiny” 5 elements that holds on a 80 cm long boom, as you can see on the pictures below (click on the pictures to enlarge). This is a dual band VHF/UHF antenna with a gain of 5 dBi on 144 MHz.

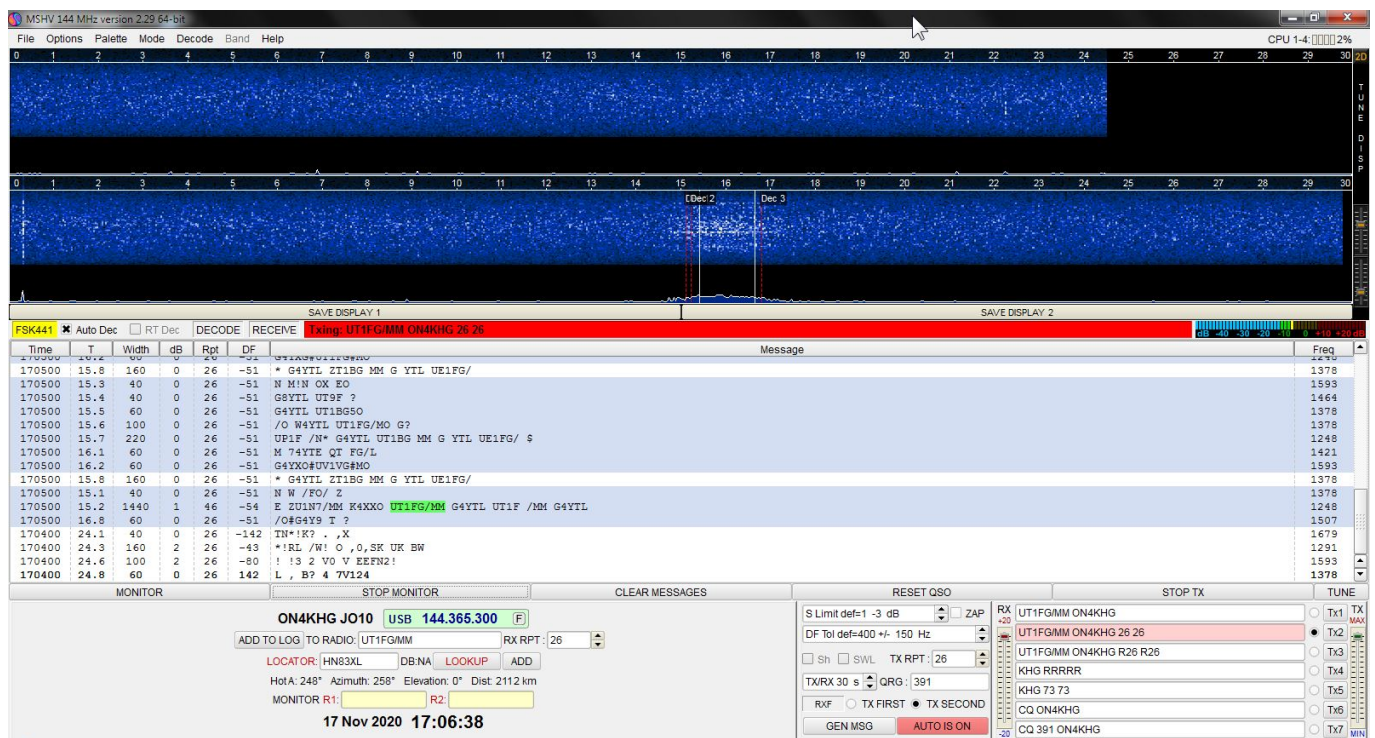


It is amazing to see how such a setup can produce FB MS reflections at 2000 km+, and how the tropo coverage extends far away too. In this regard, the uncluttered and flat surroundings, the sea, is quite helpful...

A 25 sec MS reflection (mode FSK441) from UT1FG/MM received by Bernd, DF2ZC (J030RN) at +/- 2000 km :

http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mon_2011_16_045300.wav

A 2 sec one received here at my station when Yuri was in HN83XL (2112 km far away) :



...But the sea is not always that flat !



Yuri at its operating position :



Thanks again to Yuri and the supportive team behind him. Well done !

Post of 06/01/2019

Yuri, UT1FG is often active as **UT1FG/MM** on 144 MHz. He operates from the ship "Goldeneye", a bulk carrier sailing under Cyprus flag. On the QRZ.com page of Yuri, one can see the ship.

The Goldeneye has left San Lorenzo in Argentina on 8/12/2018 with Riga (Latvia) as destination. Yuri has been active during the travel from several "wet" squares on 144 MHz. I have been lucky enough to work him when he was in IN66, J012, J025 and J036. Three of them were new #. The mode Yuri used was FT8. One likes FT8 or not is another discussion ! I wanted to know the full (6 digits) loactors where Yuri was when I worked him.

Provided the latitude / longitude position of the ship can be received by costal stations receiving AIS (Automatic Identification System) frames emitted by the boats (161.975 and 162.025 MHz), it is quite easy to derive the QRA locator. I describe here the way I proceeded.

I go the either vesselfinder.com or marinetraffic.com. One has sometimes a more recent position that the other or vice-versa. The AIS frames contain the latitude and longitude of the ship ; these are broadcasted on the above mentioned frequencies. Once received by a costal AIS station that reports the received postions of the ships to vesselfinder or marinetraffic over the internet, one can retrieve the latitude and longitude of the ship. Below is an example with marinetraffic. Look for "Goldeneye" on the top right when accessing the website and you will get this if you select the Goldeneye from Cyprus, i.e. [CY] (click on picture to enlarge) :



**GOLDENEYE**

CyprusCarrier

Create notifications for this Vessel | Fleet controls: [Add to Fleet](#) | [Suggest updated values](#)

IMO: 9637131	Gross Tonnage: 23433
MMSI: 210764000	Deadweight: 35949 t
Call Sign: 5BZD3	Length Overall x Breadth Extreme: 179.89m x 30.04m
Flag: Cyprus [CY]	Year Built: 2014
AIS Vessel Type: Cargo	Status: Active

[Voyage Info](#) | [Companies at Destination](#)

For full access [Try Voyage Data](#)

AR SLO
ATD : 2018-12-08 05:41 LT (UTC -3)

LV RIX
ETA : 2019-01-06 19:00 LT (UTC +2)



[Past Track](#) | [Route Forecast](#)

Distance Travelled:

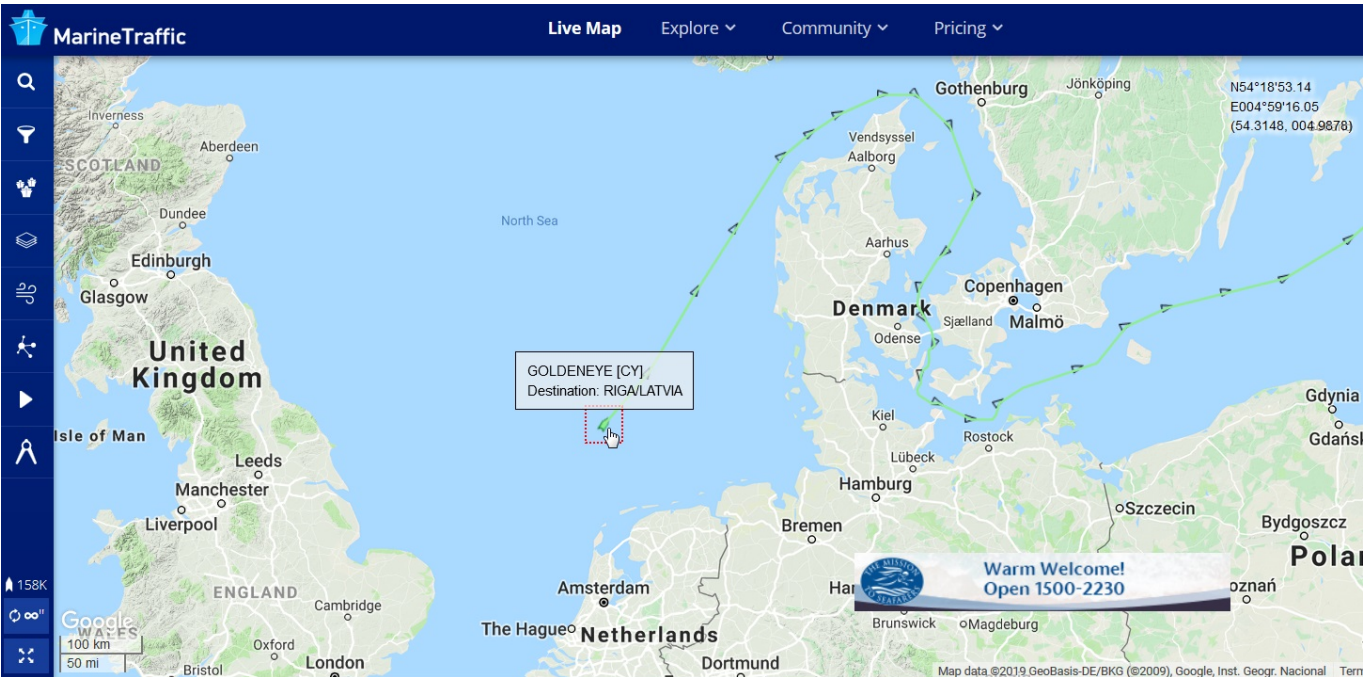
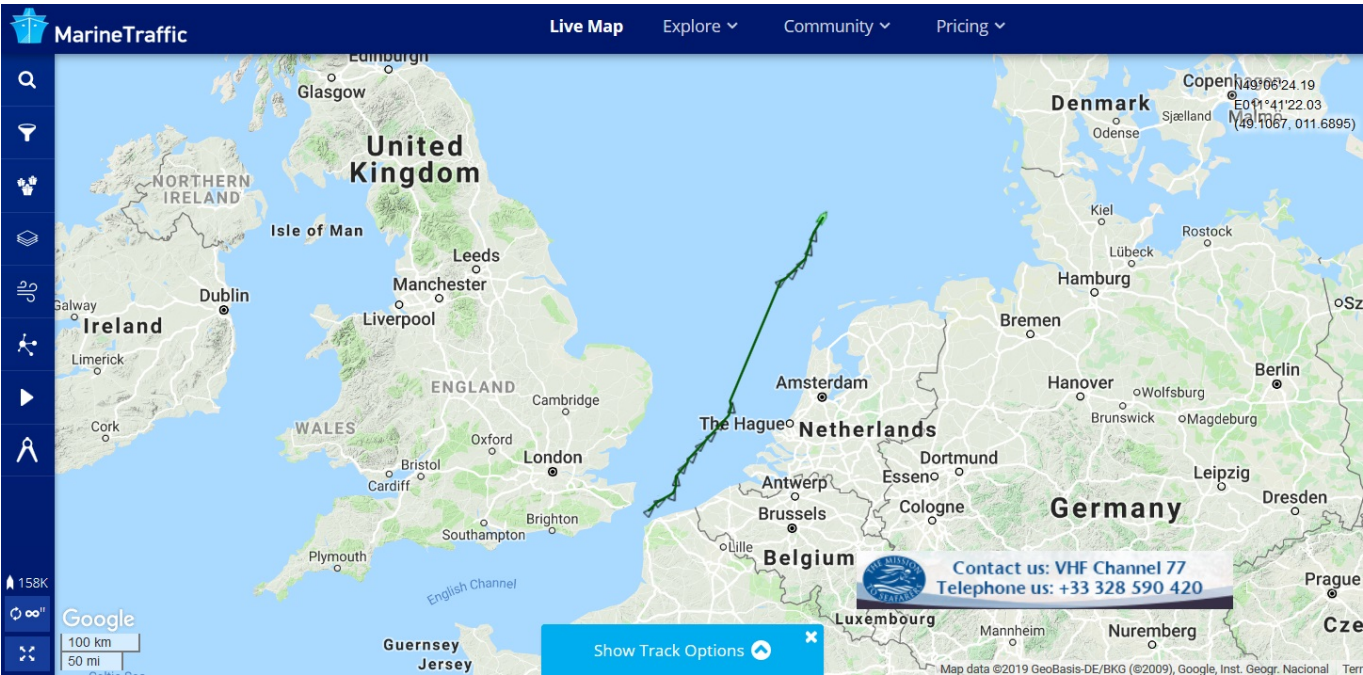


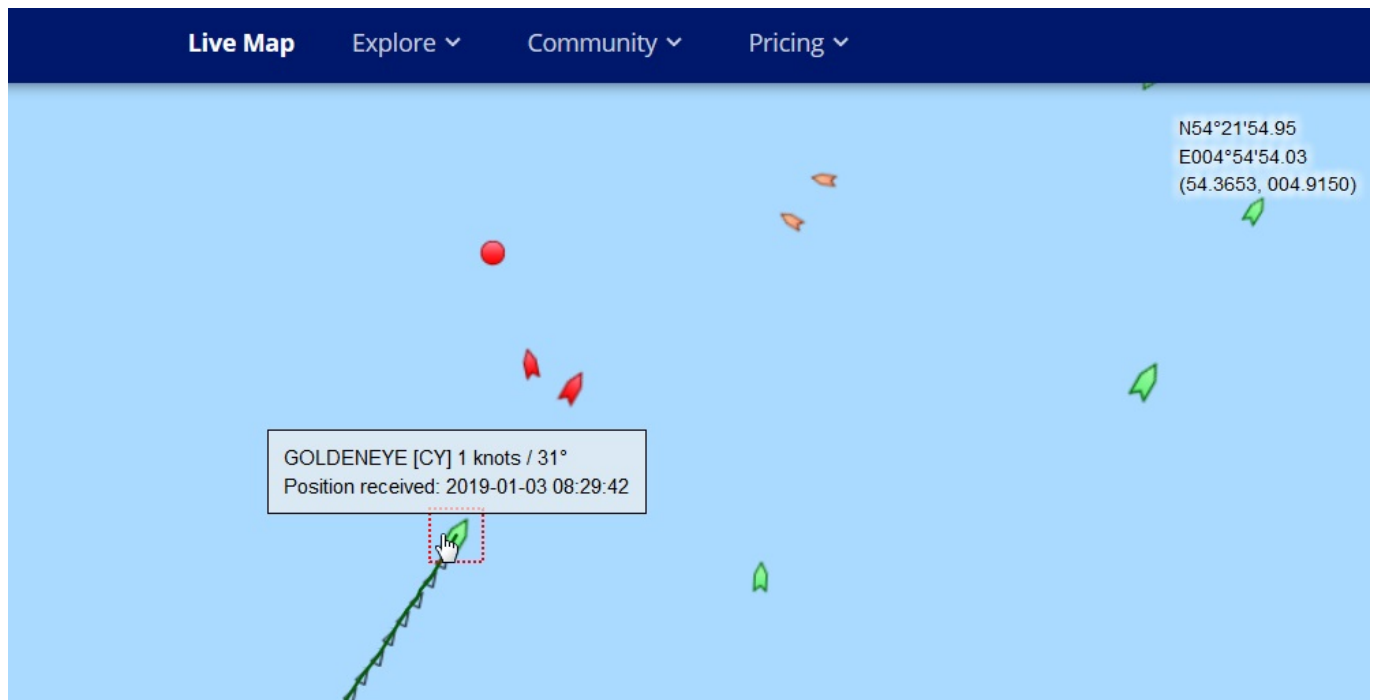
© JACQUES GAUTHIER
MarineTraffic.com



[Upload a photo](#) | [Ship Photos: 11](#)

From there, you can see the latest position of the ship, its past track and even its forecasted route.





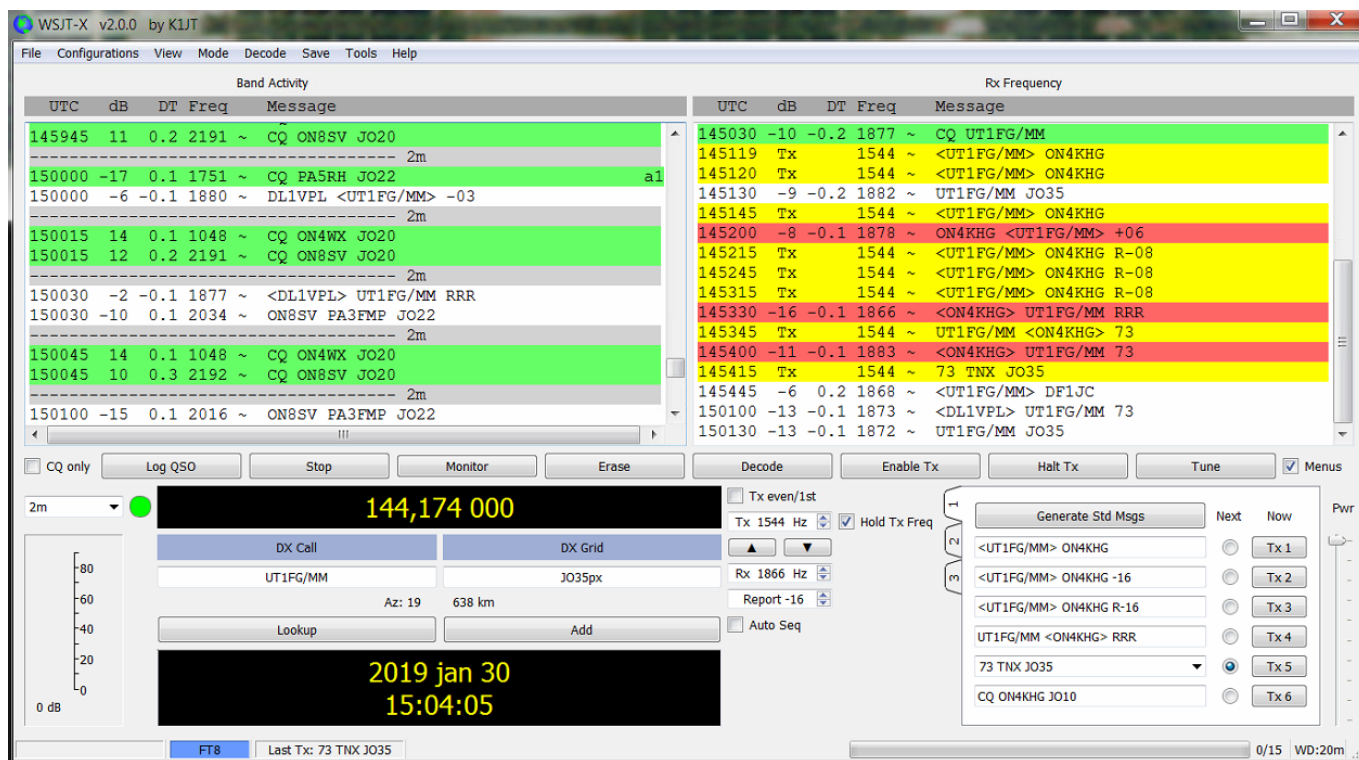
On the top right of the picture above, one can see the latitude and longitude of the ship, expressed both in DD and DMS. Feeding an online QRA locator calculator (e.g.

Degrees-minutes-seconds format:					
Latitude:	N	54	°	18	' 04 "
Longitude:	E	4	°	51	' 21 "
Convert					
Decimal format:					
Latitude:	54.30126	°	Positive: North, negative: South.		
Longitude	4.85585	°	Positive: East, negative: West.		
Convert					
QTH locator:					
Locator string:	J024kh				Convert
Get current location					

www.giangrandi.ch) with these data and one get the QRA locator of the ship. In the present case, it was in J024KH. Again, this is possible provided the ship is under the coverage of a costal AIS receiving station. Otherwise, satellite

positioning of the ships is also possible but this is a paying service !

End of January 2019, on his way from Estonia to Brazil, Yuri has activated again wet squares on 144 MHz. Yuri is transmitting with **20W** into a **5 elements antenna**. Hereby a screenshot from J035 :



Many thanks to Yuri for activating all these wet squares !

Marconi Memorial VHF CW Contest 2020

Compte rendu du contest MMC VHF des 7 et 8 novembre 2020 ; il s'agit du seul contest VHF dédié uniquement à la télégraphie (CW), et un de mes préférés ! Preuve qu'on peut être un amateur "moderne" en faisant usage des modes numériques (FT8, JT65,...), tout en restant un fervent pratiquant de télégraphie, pourtant si archaïque et démodée, mais qui me plait toujours autant ! La tolérance et l'ouverture d'esprit sont toujours plus constructives que les clivages, surtout pour ce qui n'est finalement qu'un hobby...

Pour une fois, j'avais décidé de participer sérieusement à ce contest. A l'exception donc d'une petite nuit de sommeil et de quelques breaks, j'ai été actif durant environ 18 heures. Dans certains pays, la crise covid-19 interdisait la tenue des activités radio en portable et/ou les rassemblements. De fait, moins de stations

étaient actives. Malgré ça, ce fût un contest très plaisant, même si le début s'est déroulé en mode "mineur", avec peu de DX's. Il a fallu attendre 16h27 UTC pour faire le premier QSO à plus de 800 km (F4CWN / JN03). Ensuite, les conditions se sont améliorées en soirée et durant la nuit, durant laquelle plusieurs DX furent contactés. Notamment le meilleur DX (OM3W / JN99) à 1027 km a été contacté en total random, sans prise de sked sur "KST". 9A1P en JN65 (941 km) a également été contacté. Côté score, avec mes 2x9 él. mises côte-à-côte (angle d'ouverture étroit dans le plan horizontal), je ne peux rivaliser avec les stations qui possèdent plusieurs systèmes d'antennes à ouverture horizontale large. Je suis toutefois très satisfait du résultat et du taux de réponse à mes CQ.

Station utilisée : 2x9 él. DK7ZB et 1,2kW

Activity report of the MMC VHF contest of November 7th and 8th, 2020; it is the only VHF contest dedicated solely to telegraphy (CW), and one of my favourite ones ! Proof that one can be a "modern" ham using digital modes (FT8, JT65,...), while remaining a fervent practitioner of telegraphy, which is so archaic and old-fashioned, but which still pleases me so much ! Tolerance and open-mindedness are always more constructive than cleavages, especially for what is actually just a hobby...

For once, I had decided to participate seriously in this contest. So, apart from a short night's sleep and a few breaks, I was active for about 18 hours. In some countries, the covid-19 crisis had forbidden portable radio activities and/or gatherings of people. Indeed, fewer stations were active. In spite of this, it was a very pleasant contest, even if the beginning was in "minor" mode, with few DX's. I had to wait until 16h27 UTC to work the first QSO at over 800 km (F4CWN / JN03). Then conditions improved in the evening and during the night, during which several DX's were contacted. Notably the best DX (OM3W / JN99) at 1027 km was contacted in total random, without taking a sked on "KST". 9A1P in JN65 (941 km) was also contacted. Regarding the score, with my 2x9 el. bayed side by side (narrow aperture angle in the horizontal plane), I can't compete with stations that have several antenna systems with wide horizontal apertures. However, I am very satisfied with the result and the response rate to my CQ's.

Station used : 2x9 el. DK7ZB and 1,2kW

QSO's : 228

Points : 93903

DXCC : 15 (G, GW, HB9, OE, OK, OM, DL, ON, PA, F, I, SM, OZ, GM, 9A)

WWL : 76

Average km/QSO : 412

Top 10 DX QSO's :

0M3W	JN99CH	1027 km
9A1P	JN65VG	941 km
OK1MZM	JN89IW	908 km
F2CT	IN93GJ	900 km
OK2R	JN89D0	885 km
OK7W	J080FG	885 km
IK4PMB	JN54MM	859 km
GM4YXI	I087WK	856 km
7S7V	J065SN	843 km
OK2KGB	JN79QJ	826 km



Quelques fichiers audio ci-dessous / [A few audio files below.](#)

OM3W / JN99CH / 1027 km :

<http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MMC-2020-OM3W.mp3>

OK7W / J080FG / 885 km :

<http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MMC-2020-OK7W.mp3>

OK1TEH / J070FD / 746 km :

<http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MMC-2020-OK1TEH.mp3>

OK1MZM / JN89IW / 908 km :

<http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MMC-2020-OK1MZM.mp3>

IK4PMB / JN54MM / 859 km :

<http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MMC-2020-OK1MZM.mp3>

F2CT / IN93GJ / 900 km :

<http://on4khg.be/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MMC-2020-F2CT.mp3>