

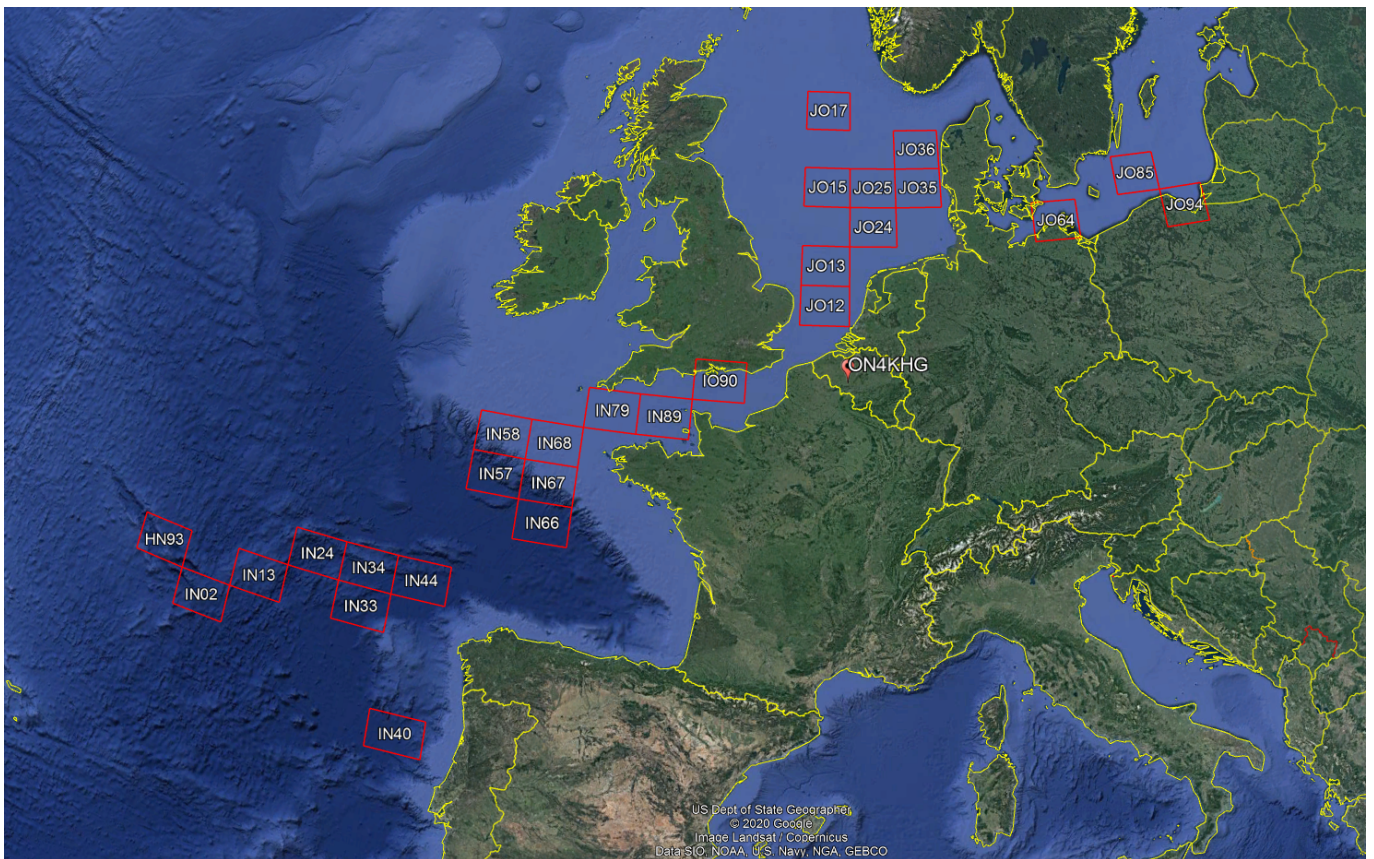
UT1FG/MM (Yuri) – 144 MHz

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.

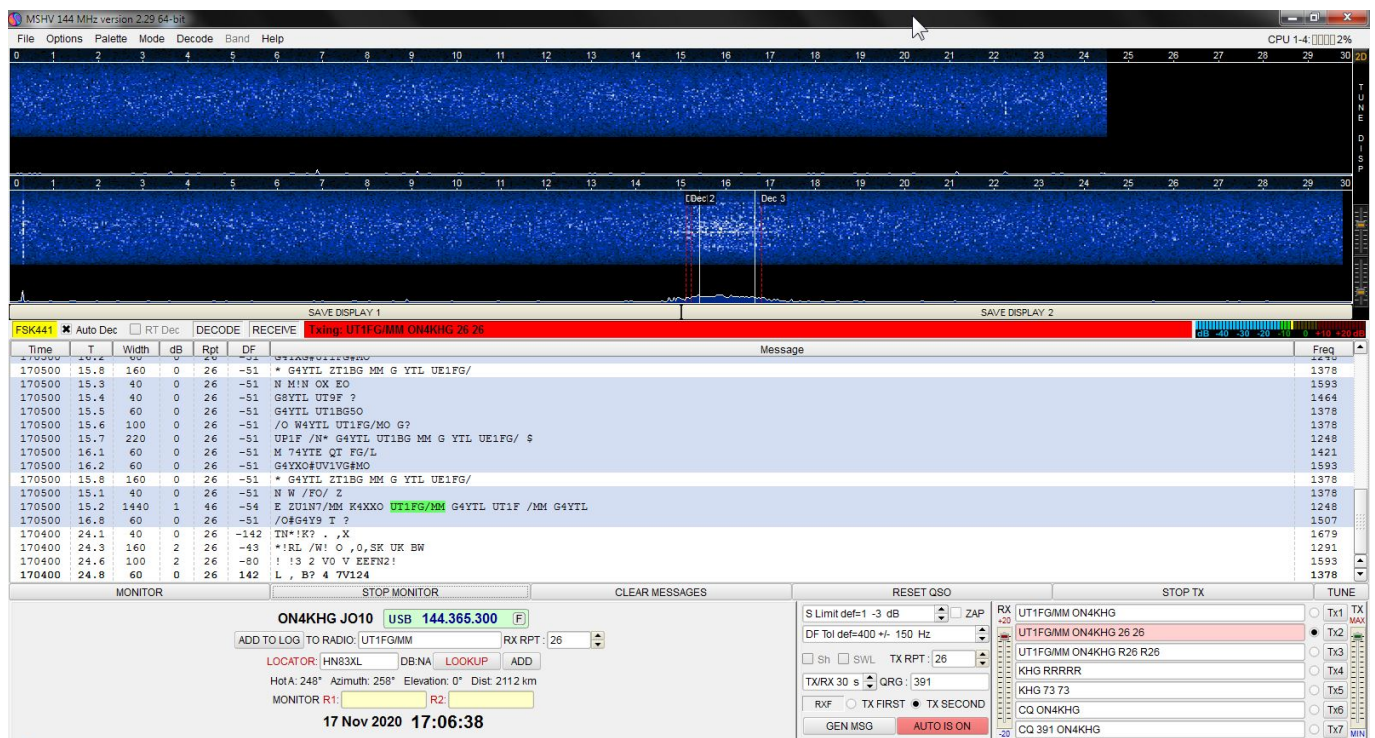


It is amazing to see how such a setup can produce FB MS reflections at 2000 km+, and how the tropo coverage extends far away too. In this regard, the uncluttered and flat surroundings, the sea, is quite helpful...

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**

Carrier

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:

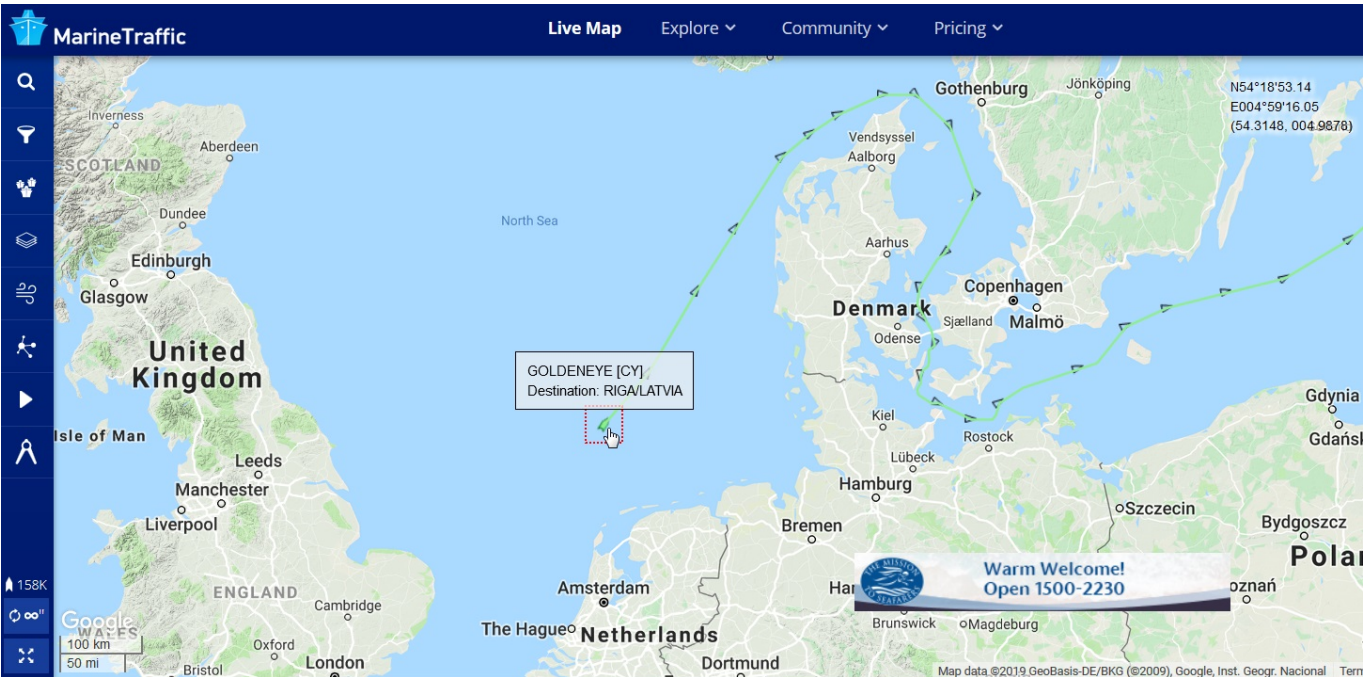
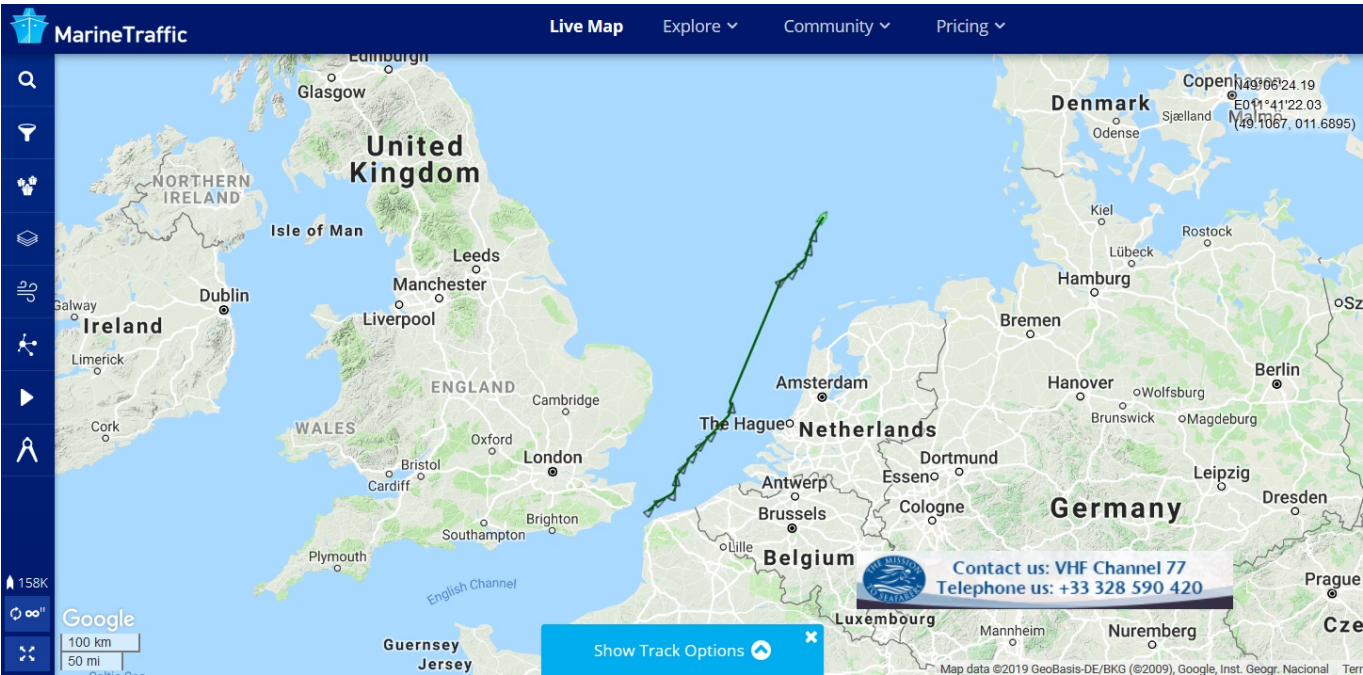


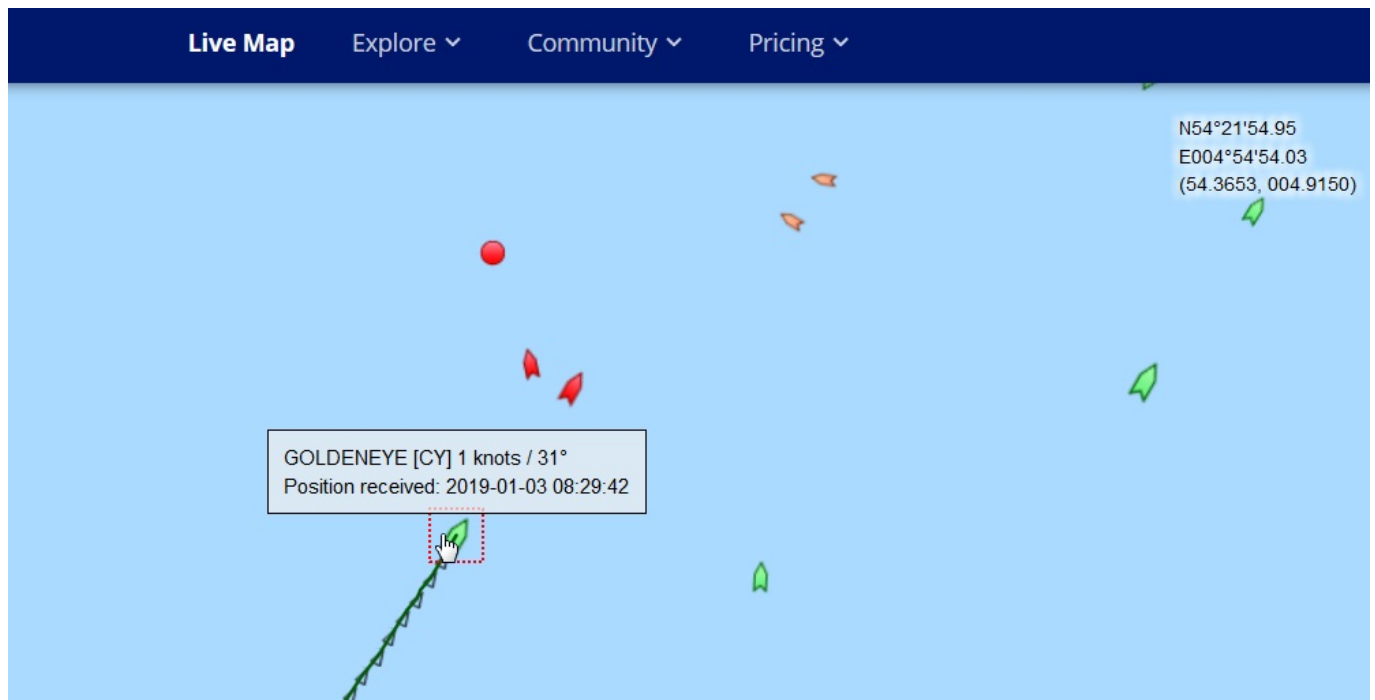
© JACQUES GAUTHIER
MarineTraffic.com



[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.





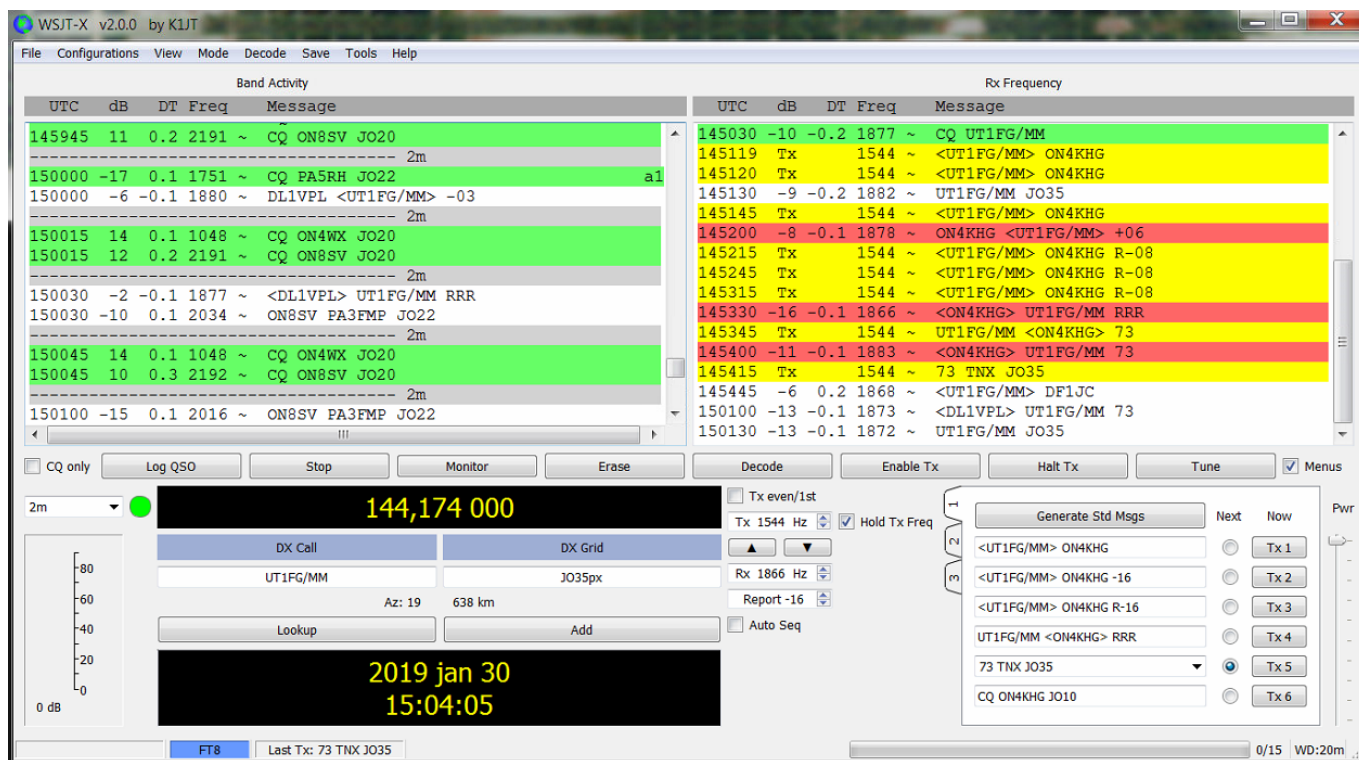
On the top right of the picture above, one can see the latitude and longitude of the ship, expressed both in DD and DMS. Feeding an online QRA locator calculator (e.g.

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 plaît 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>

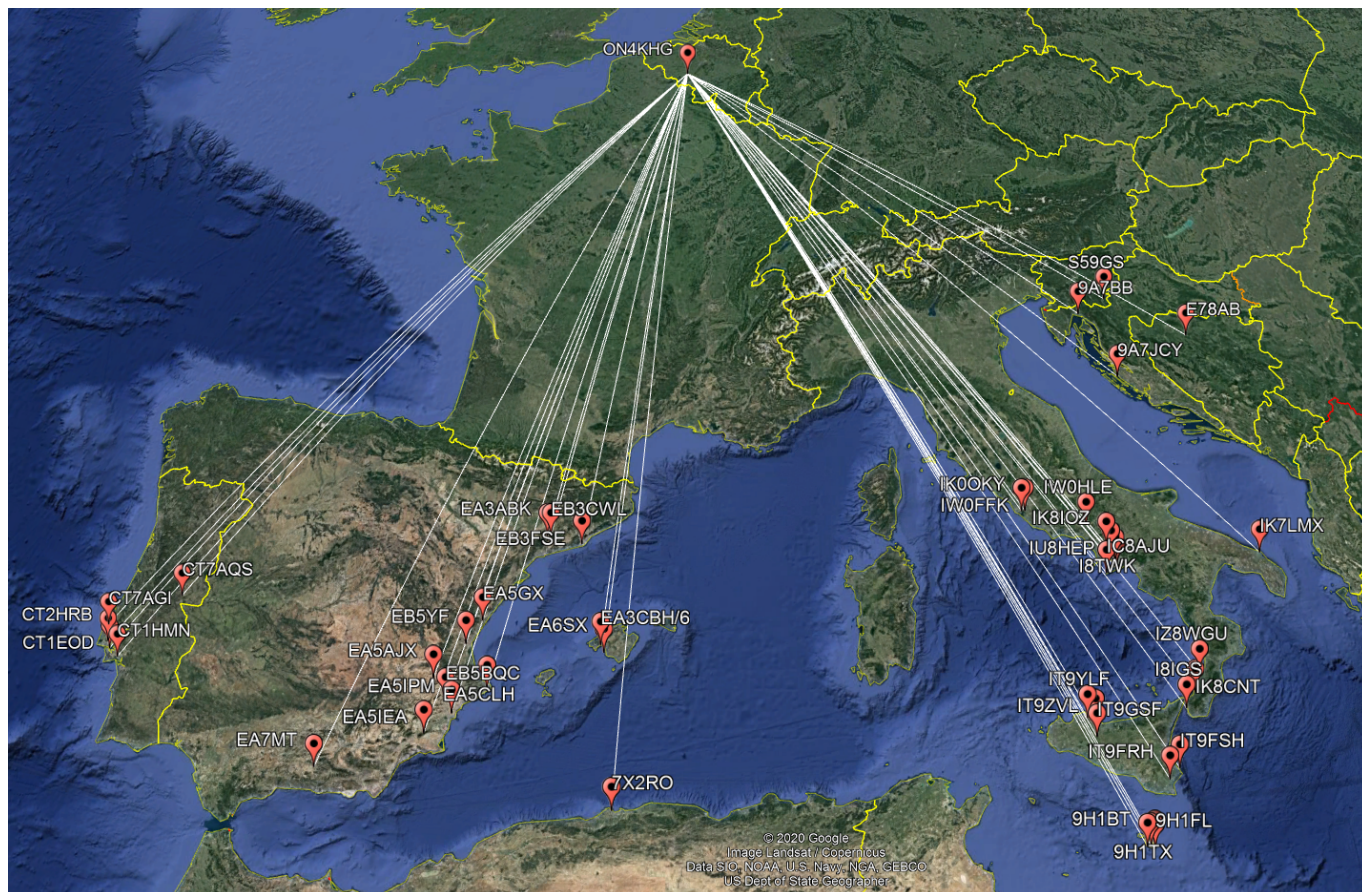
F2CT / IN93GJ / 900 km :

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

144 MHz Es opening May 29th, 2020 / ouverture Es 29 mai 2020

Le 29 mai 2020, une ouverture Es particulièrement exceptionnelle est survenue sur 144 MHz, d'abord de par sa durée et ensuite, de par l'étendue géographique couverte. Vu depuis ma station (J010X0), ça a commencé le matin avec 3 QSO's vers 9h. Fin d'après-midi, c'était ouvert de E7 (Bosnie-Herzégovine) jusqu'à EA7 en passant par S5, 9A, I0, I7, I8, IT9, EA6, 7X, EA3 et EA5. Et pour une fois, davantage de QSO ont été réalisés en SSB plutôt qu'en FT8. Finalement, exceptionnellement tard le soir (plus de minuit !), une troisième ouverture a eu lieu vers CT. La carte et le log des QSO sont disponibles ci-dessous. Durant l'ouverture nocturne vers le Portugal, la géométrie du trajet Es était parfaite pour que mon signal entre dans le conduit ("duct") maritime entre CT et D4 (Cap Vert), si bien que j'ai été "entendu" (-15 dBJT) chez D4VHF, à 4548 km (combinaison Es-Tropo maritime), comme le montrent les cartes plus bas.

On May 29th 2020, a particularly exceptional Es opening occurred on 144 MHz, firstly because of its duration and secondly because of the geographical extent it covered. Seen from my station (J010X0), it started in the morning with 3 QSO's around 9 am. Late afternoon, it was open from E7 (Bosnia Herzegovina) to EA7 via S5, 9A, I0, I7, I8, IT9, EA6, 7X, EA3 and EA5. And for once, more QSOs were conducted in SSB rather than in FT8. Finally, exceptionally late in the evening (more than midnight !), a third opening took place towards CT. The map and log of the QSO's are available below. During the night opening towards Portugal, the geometry of the Es path was perfect for my signal to enter the maritime duct between CT and D4 (Cape Verde), so that I was "heard" (-15 dBJT) at D4VHF over a distance of 4548 km (Es-maritime Tropo combination), as shown on the maps below.



44 QSO's dans le log, mais de nombreuses autres stations entendues/vues :

44 QSO's in the log, but many other stations heard/seen :

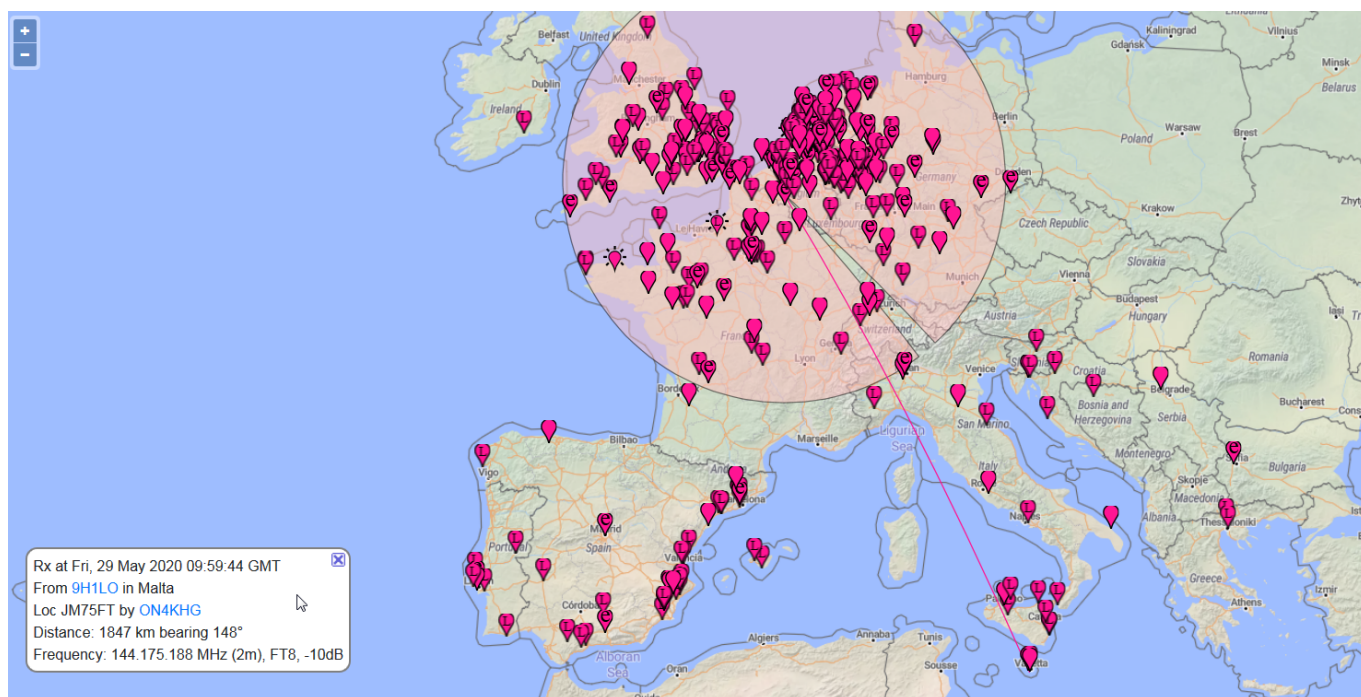
UTC	Callsign	QRG	Mode	Sent	Rcvd	Locator
09:24	9H1TX	144,300	SSB	59	59	JM75FU
09:32	9H1BT	144,290	SSB	59	59	JM75EU
09:34	9H1FL	144,310	SSB	59	59	JM75GT
15:04	IT9ZVL	144,300	SSB	59	59	JM68SA
15:09	IW0FFK	144,310	SSB	59	59	JN61FS
15:10	IT9YLF	144,285	SSB	59	59	JM68QC
15:12	9H1LO	144,300	SSB	59	59	JM75GV
15:17	IT9FSH	144,174	FT8	+05	+05	JM77PC
15:19	I8IGS	144,174	FT8	+09	+08	JM78TC
15:25	IC8AJU	144,315	SSB	59	59	JN70CN
15:26	IT9FRH	144,302	SSB	59	59	JM76MW

15:31	IK8IOZ	144,290	SSB	59	59	JN71DB
15:33	IU8HEP	144,305	SSB	59	59	JN70EV
15:34	IW0HLE	144,281	SSB	59	59	JN61WK
15:35	IK00KY	144,265	SSB	59	59	JN61ES
15:45	9A7BB	144,174	FT8	-16	-11	JN75FI
15:46	9A7JCY	144,174	FT8	+07	-13	JN740C
15:48	E78AB	144,174	FT8	+02	+09	JN840S
15:51	S59GS	144,300	SSB	59	59	JN7500
15:58	IK7LMX	144,000	SSB	59	59	JN80XP
15:58	7X2R0	144,320	SSB	59	59	JM16MS
16:04	IZ8WGU	144,302	SSB	59	59	JM88AQ
16:19	EA7MT	144,260	SSB	59	59	IM87ED
16:20	EA3CBH/6	144,315	SSB	59	59	JM19HN
16:38	EA6SX	144,260	SSB	59	59	JM19IK
16:51	EB3FSE	144,174	FT8	+05	-03	JN11AH
16:54	EB5BQC	144,174	FT8	-05	-01	IM980L
16:59	EA5IPM	144,322	SSB	59	57	IM98QG
17:01	EB5YF	144,236	SSB	55	57	IM99SL
17:04	EA5AJX	144,302	SSB	59	59	IM98KU
17:05	EA5IEA	144,275	SSB	59	59	IM97JV
17:11	EA5CLH	144,285	SSB	59	59	JM08BR
17:15	EB3CWL	144,300	SSB	59	59	JN01PK
17:17	EA3ABK	144,250	SSB	52	59	JN010K
17:18	EA5GX	144,335	SSB	59	59	IM99WV
18:18	IT9GSF	144,174	FT8	-18	-09	JM67SS
18:30	I8TWK	144,174	FT8	+12	+04	JN70FS
18:36	IZ8IBB	144,290	SSB	59	59	JN70FP
18:48	IK8CNT	144,174	FT8	-10	-09	JM78WI
23:06	CT1HMN	144,174	FT8	-06	-10	IM58NN

23:09	CT7AQS	144,174	FT8	-18	-02	IM69FT
23:10	CT1E0D	144,174	FT8	-10	-13	IM58KQ
23:13	CT2HRB	144,174	FT8	-04	+09	IM58JT
23:31	CT7AGI	144,174	FT8	+06	+00	IM59IC

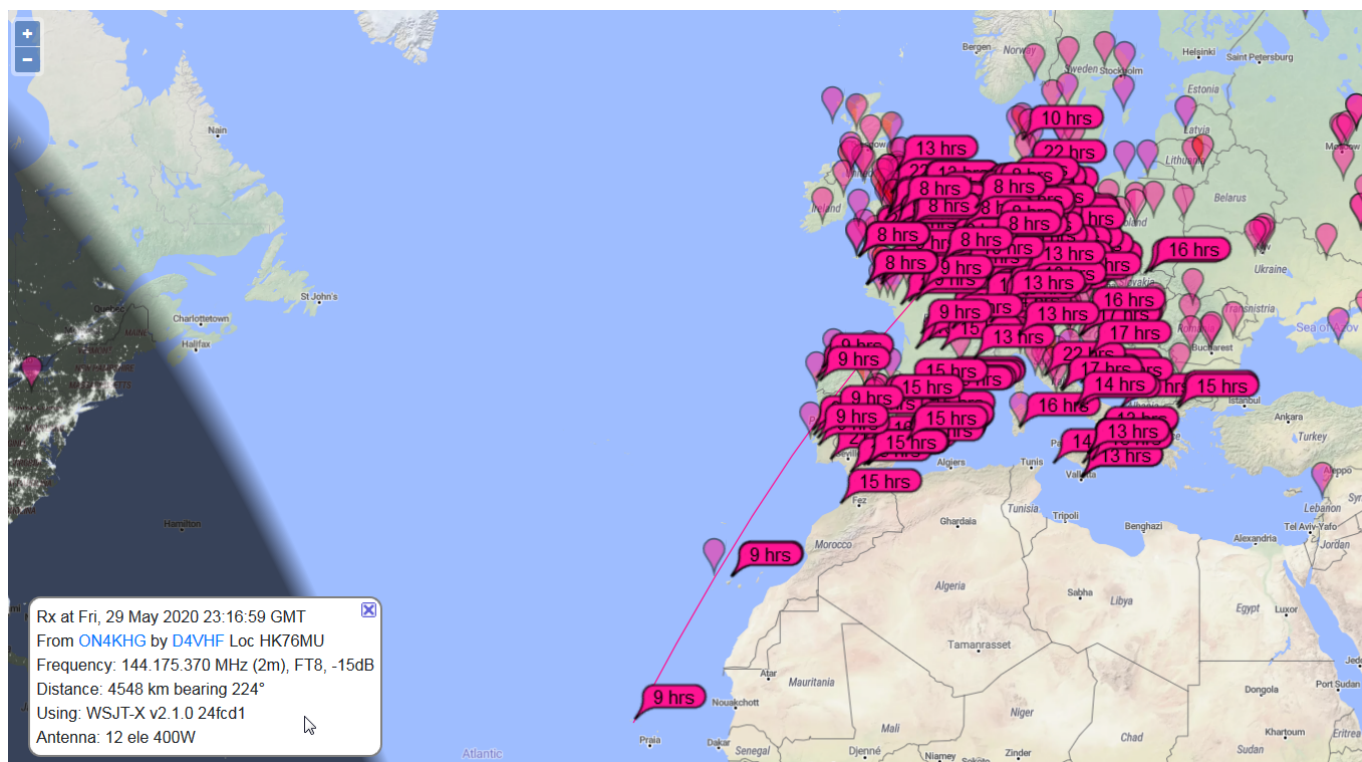
Voici la carte des stations que j'ai vues en FT8 durant les deux ouvertures diurnes (les stations proches vues en tropo sont également visibles). En plus des DXCC contactés durant l'événement, j'ai aussi vu des stations YU, LZ, SV et EA4 :

Here is the map of the stations I saw in FT8 during the two daytime openings (the nearby stations seen in tropo are also visible). In addition to the DXCC's I worked during the event, I also saw YU, LZ, SV and EA4 stations :



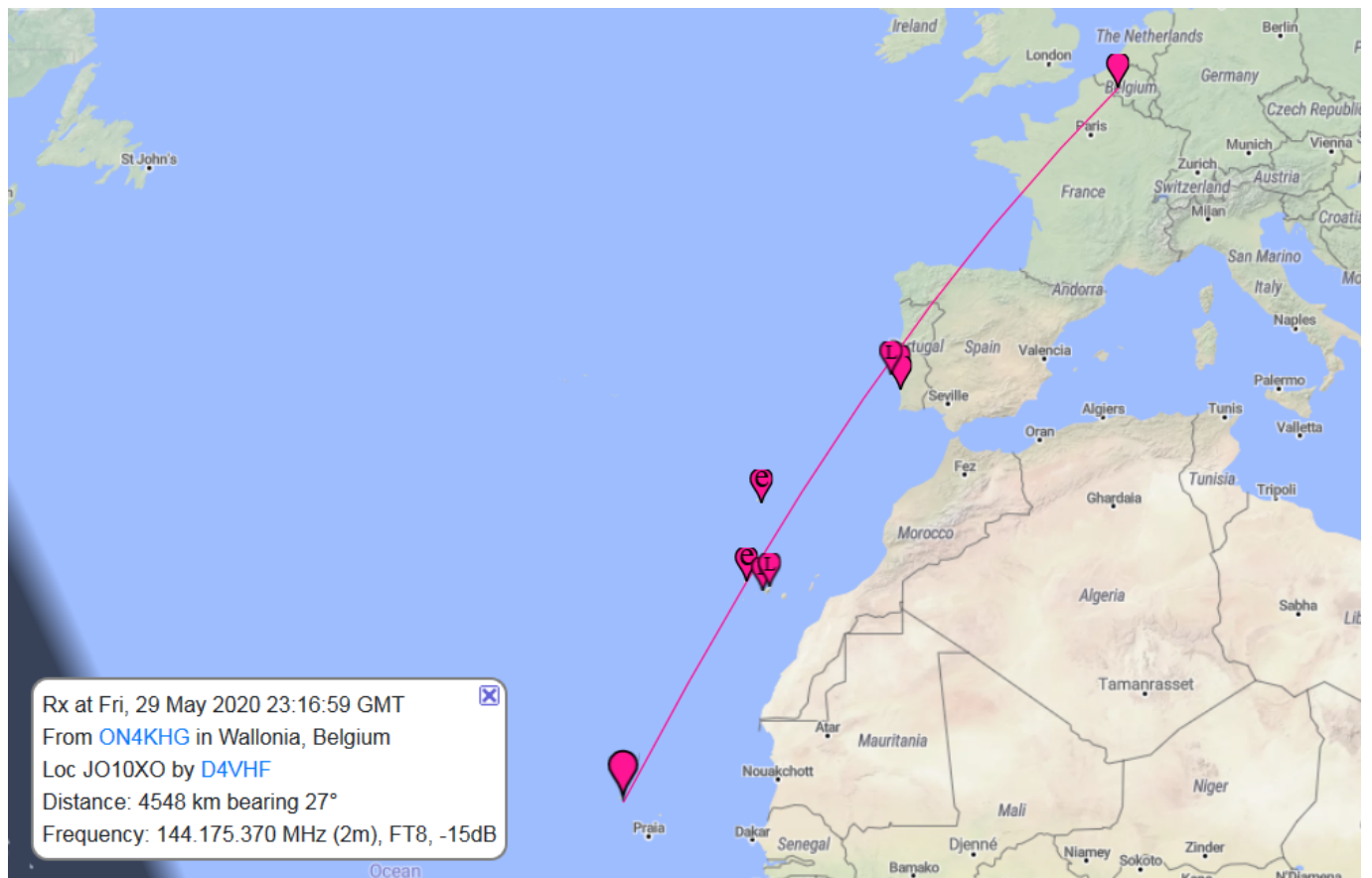
Et sur l'ensemble de l'événement (ouvertures diurnes et nocturnes), voici l'ensemble des stations qui m'ont entendu/vu, en tropo, en Es, mais aussi tropo+Es (EA8 et D4VHF donc) :

And over the whole event (day and night openings), here are all the stations that heard/saw me, in tropo, in Es, but also tropo+Es (EA8 and D4VHF therefore) :



Et finalement, ci-dessous les stations vues depuis D4VHF. Je suis donc la seule station d'Europe occidentale à avoir été entendue par D4VHF au Cap Vert durant cet événement. On voit bien que lorsque je faisais QS0 Es avec des stations CT, ces mêmes stations étaient entendues/vues en tropo (maritime) par D4VHF, qui entendait/voyait également des stations EA8 et CT3 (Madère). Sur la carte, la ligne en pourpre indique l'alignement parfait entre ma station et CT via Es et, de là, jusqu'à D4VHF en tropo maritime. D4VHF m'a reçu -15 dBJT. Sachant que j'ai 4,5 dB de puissance en plus que D4VHF, un QS0 aurait pu être possible à -20 dBJT chez moi.

And finally, below are the stations seen from D4VHF. I'm the only station in Western Europe having been heard by D4VHF in Cape Verde during this event. You can see that when I was doing Es QS0 with CT stations, these same stations were heard/seen in tropo (maritime) by D4VHF, who also heard/saw EA8 and CT3 (Madeira). On the map, the purple line indicates the perfect alignment between my station and CT via Es and from there to D4VHF via maritime tropo. D4VHF received me -15 dBJT. Knowing that I have 4.5 dB more power than D4VHF, a QS0 could have been possible at -20 dBJT at home.



IARU Region 1 VHF Contest 2020

Compte rendu du contest IARU R1 VHF des 5 et 6 septembre 2020. Je n'ai été actif que très partiellement, à savoir durant seulement 3 heures 30 sur les 24 que compte le contest. Je me suis attaché exclusivement à chercher les DX's (mode "S&P"). La propagation était très "standard", voire bonne vers le sud-ouest.

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

Activity report of the IARU R1 VHF contest of September 5th and 6th, 2020. I have

been very partly active, during only 3 hours 30 amongst the 24 the contests lasts.
I exclusively focused on hunting DX's (mode "S&P"). The propagation was "standard"
to good towards South-West.

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

QSO's : 40

Points : 22266

DXCC : 12 (G, GM, HB9, OE, OK, DL, ON, PA, F, EA, SP, SM)

WWL : 28

Average km/QSO : 557

Top 10 DX QSO's :

EB1RL	IN83FD	1005 km
OK6M	J0800B	941 km
EA2T	IN93IA	932 km
OL1B	J080IB	905 km
F6KEH/P	JN02XR	888 km
OK1KCR	JN79VS	846 km
7S7V	J065SN	843 km
SN7L	J070UR	827 km
OK2KGB	JN79QJ	826 km
F4CWN	JN03KN	816 km



Subregional VHF Contest July/Juillet 2020

Compte rendu du contest subregional VHF des 4 et 5 juillet 2020. Je n'ai été actif que partiellement, à savoir durant 11 heures sur les 24 que compte le contest. Je me

suis attaché exclusivement à chercher les DX's (mode "S&P"). La propagation était très moyenne et les signaux relativement faibles. Assez peu de stations F actives.

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

Activity report of the subregional VHF contest of July 4th and 5th, 2020. I have been partly active, during 11 hours amongst the 24 the contests lasts. I exclusively focused on hunting DX's (mode "S&P"). The propagation was just fair with relatively weak signals. Few active F stations.

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

QSO's : 100

Points : 48143

DXCC : 15 (G, GD, GI, HB9, OE, OK, DL, ON, PA, F, I, OZ, EI, EA, SP)

WWL : 51

Average km/QSO : 481

Top 10 DX QSO's :

EA2T	IN83FD	1005 km
EA2XR	IN83KI	967 km
IZ3VTH	JN54PF	897 km
F6KPH/P	JN03AB	889 km
OL7M	J080FG	885 km
F1AQS/P	JN02KX	879 km
F5ICN	JN03BF	869 km
IK4HLQ	JN54MM	859 km
OK1KCR	JN79VS	846 km
EI2FG	I061AX	841 km

