



DL3IAS
Holiday Style Dxpedition
 (mostly via Satellite QO-100)
Baltice Sea and around
September 2021



Dear Reader

On the following pages I would like to report you about my two-week holiday trip by motorhome to the coast of the Baltic Sea in the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. On the journey to the north and back, other interesting places were visited, mainly in Lower Saxony, but also in Hesse and East Holstein.

September was chosen as travel time. One reason was the more pleasant temperatures compared to summer. But also in the hope that the holiday destinations would not be so occupied by other tourists anymore, as the last school summer holidays in Germany had just come to an end. But unfortunately, the journey proved to be difficult at the beginning of the first week. To be more precise, sometimes it was almost impossible to find a free place on a camper van pitch.

Due to the pandemic, many tourists are currently unable to reach their distant destinations by plane, bus travel is still limited, and many hotels have not yet reopened.

Travelling by motorhome offers an attractive alternative to go on holiday as "contactless" as possible. And so many more tourists were travelling by motorhome (bought or rented) than usual. However, the number of pitches did not increase to the same extent.

So unfortunately it was not possible to visit bigger cities like Schwerin, Wismar, Greifswald or Stralsund during this holiday trip.

During the journey my amateur radio colleague [Uwe DL1SUZ](#) gave me a valuable tip for a very good smartphone app that makes searching for suitable pitches very easy. Doing this only with Google on a smartphone (switching between many windows and maps) is anything but comfortable. Many thanks for this tip Uwe!

So at the end it was possible to reach many beautiful holiday destinations. The search for free pitches also eased in the second week. The exact route was decided spontaneously from day to day. Only the "rough direction" (to the Baltic Sea) was clear from the beginning.

The first major part of this report is devoted to the tourist destinations. In the second minor part I will report about my amateur radio activities.

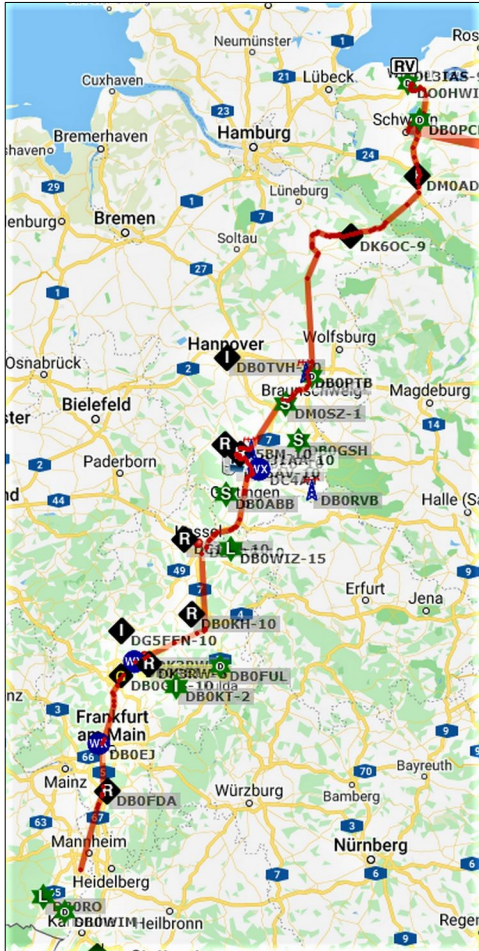
Enjoy reading

Nino DL3IAS



The author at the fieldday of the DARC local group Landau K14. Photo by [Patrick DH2PA](#)

Arrival in the north



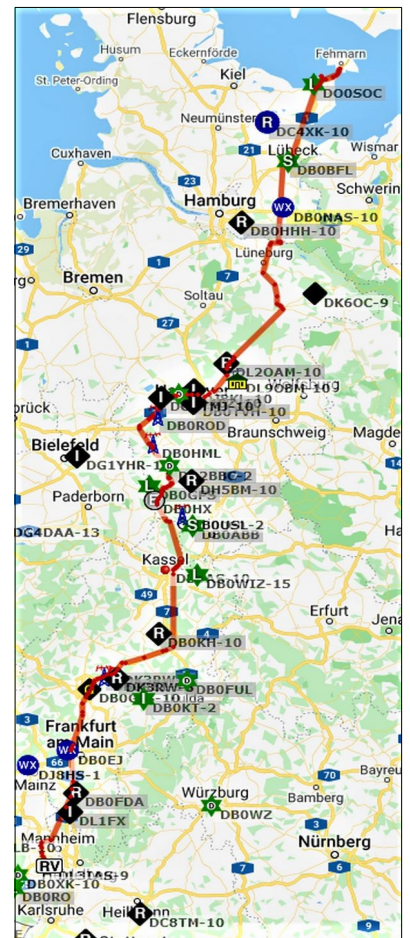
The Route

Using APRS on 2m, the route travelled could be followed live on the internet. The prerequisite was that an IGATE was within reception range, which was not always the case. This is the reason why not all destinations (e.g. Anklam) are shown on the map.

Back to the South

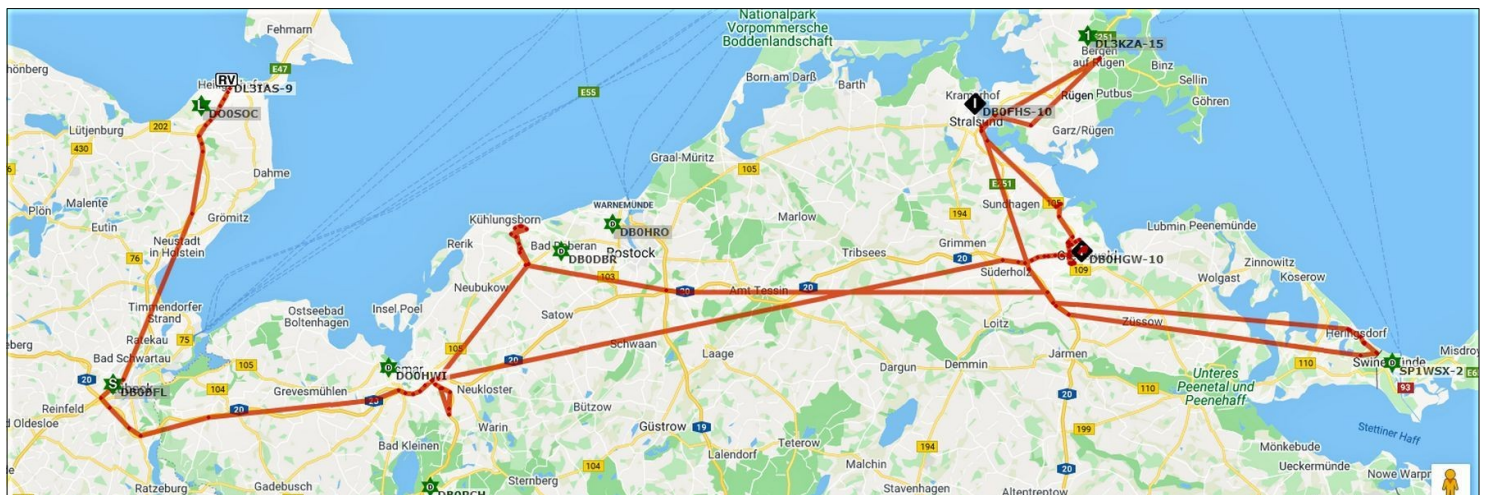


The Kenwood handheld TH-D72E was used as 5 Watt APRS beacon



The complete distance travelled:
2463 km

Along the coast of the Baltic Sea



The city of excellent beer: Einbeck

Far to the south of Lower Saxony lies the old Hanseatic town of Einbeck. Its task in the Middle Ages was to produce, and export large quantities of high-quality beer.

Even Martin Luther was enthusiastic about this brew. A lesser-known quote from him he said at the Diet of Worms in 1521 was:

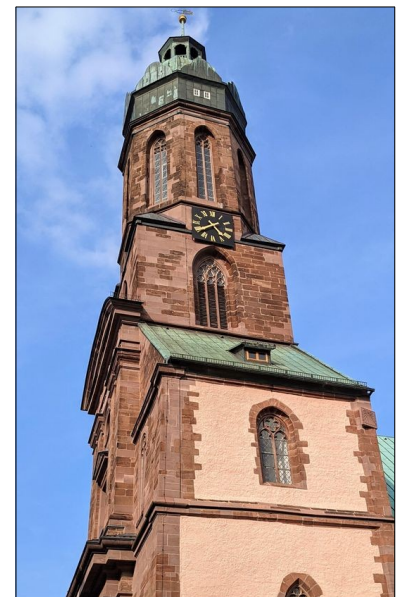
Den besten Tranck den einer fennt, wird Einpoeckisch Bier genennt.

Translation: „The best drink anyone knows is called Einbecker beer!“

Even if no one in Munich likes to admit it, the high art of brewing beer was not invented in the capital city of Bavaria. In fact, the knowledge originally came from Einbeck!



Einbeck was almost completely destroyed by a great fire in 1540. Afterwards, all half-timbered houses were rebuilt according to a uniform style and paint scheme. Absolutely beautiful!



Another old speciality from Einbeck: Blue printing of textiles



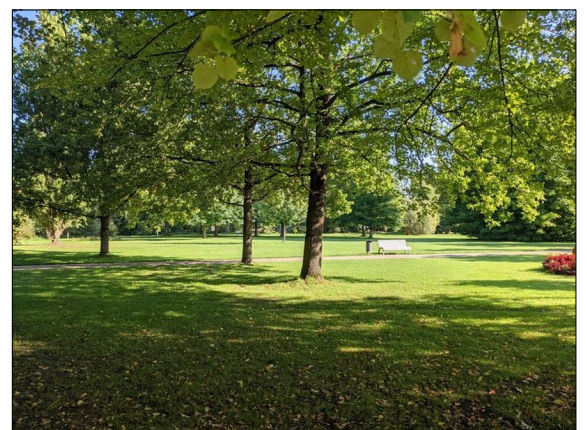
A spa town by coincidence: Bad Bevensen

Both Bad Bevensen (north of Ülzen), and Bad Krotzingen (near Freiburg), that I visited later in October, have one thing in common! In both places, oil was explored at the beginning of the 20th century. But instead of the black gold, "only" warm salt water was found.



A mascot that hasn't been around that long is Hans-Herrmann the squirrel. Rumours claim that it really exists.

To be more precise: He gets something to eat every day from the marketing department of the spa town.



Rifle clubs play an important role in the social life of many towns in Lower Saxony. Here it is very easy to see from the outside whether one or more shooting champions lives or has lived in a house.

Arrived in Meckenburg: The Island of Poel

As already mentioned, a visit to the capital Schwerin or the Hanseatic city of Wismar was not possible. So the Island of Poel was visited, more precisely Timmendorf on the western shore.

Poel is the seventh largest island in Germany and lies in the Wismar Bay, the southernmost part of the Baltic Sea.



Directly south of Timmendorf a cliff can be visited



The beach is on the other side towards the north



An unplanned visit to the Island of Rügen

Regarding the "pitch problem", the 4th day was the rock bottom of the holiday. We actually wanted to visit Wismar by bus. But since our supposed attack dog from the dreaded Havanese breed had forgotten his muzzle at home, this was unfortunately not possible?!

After a long drive on the A20 highway, we tried to visit Greiswald. But where a free parking space for the motorhome? The same problem in Stralsund.

Shortly before dark, a free place was found in Lauterbach on the Island of Rügen. Due to extremely heavy rain in the evening, the harbour could only be visited the following morning.



A seaside resort with old tradition: Sellin

Ok, if we are already on the biggest island of Germany (Rügen), why not visit at least one highlight of the island? Not the two seaside resorts of Binz or Göhren, but Sellin in between with probably one of the most beautiful pier on the Baltic Sea.

And the great so-called "Resort Architecture" (German: Bäderarchitektur), which had its peak between the 19th and the 20th centuries.



What the Sellin Pier looked like in the 1930s ...

... and nowadays



The diving gondola was just descending

TAUCH GONDEL
Sellin / Rügen
an der Seebücke

Eintauchen in die Welt der Ostsee

Die Tauchgondel Sellin bietet Besuchern die Möglichkeit, trockenen Fußes eine Tauchfahrt in die Ostsee zu unternehmen und sich verzaubern zu lassen.

Während des Abtauchens und auf Tauchstation informieren die Mitarbeiter über die Ostsee, ihre Bewohner und ihre Schutzbedürftigkeit. Sie erläutern dabei die facettenreiche Tier- und Pflanzenwelt, die je nach Sicht und Jahreszeit am Meeresboden und im freien Wasser zu beobachten sind: Muscheln, Fische, Algen und vieles mehr.

Besuchen Sie uns ...

- Ostsee pur
- Pflanzenparadies
- Blaue Tiefe

- Abtauchen
- Entdeckungstour
- Vielfalt der Tierwelt

Eintrittspreise

Erwachsene	9,00 EUR
Kinder bis 15 Jahre	6,00 EUR
Behandelt mit Ausweis	7,00 EUR
Familien mit einem Kind	21,00 EUR
Familien mit zwei Kindern	23,00 EUR
Familien mit drei Kindern	25,00 EUR

Öffnungszeiten

Apr., Mai, Sep., Okt.	10:00 - 19:00 Uhr
Juni bis Aug.	10:00 - 21:00 Uhr
Nov. bis Mär.	11:00 - 18:00 Uhr

Kontakt

Tauchgondel Sellin
Wilhelmstraße 20
D-18069 Sellin
T: +49 38303 927 77
E: sellin@tauchgondel.de
www.tauchgondel.de



The bronze sculpture "Kaysa"

Where the journey into space began

After a short shore leave, the next island was visited: Usedom. During the Second World War, the top-secret Peenemünde Army Research Center was located here at the northern end.

On the one hand, the horrors of the V2 rocket, whose production cost more lives than its use. On the other hand, the first steps towards the later conquest of space were taken here.

The former coal-fired power station of the research center serves now as a technical museum that shows both the bright and dark sides of this historic place.

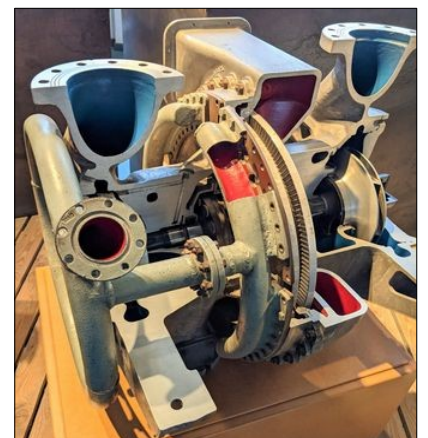


Demon or hero?
Probably a bit of both



Aufstellung der R-Behälter:

Bezeichnung	Material	Hauptabmessungen - Standard-Maße	Bemerkungen
Wasserkessel	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	Der Länge des Behälter sollen entsprechend 400 bis 450 mm ein 1/2" Nippel mit 20 bis 30 mm Längsbohrung eingelassen
Stromerzeuger	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	
Wasserpumpe	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	Ø 1000 H 1500
Stromerzeuger	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	
Wasserpumpe	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	Ø 1000 H 1500
Stromerzeuger	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	
Wasserpumpe	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	Ø 1000 H 1500
Stromerzeuger	Stahl	Ø 1000 H 1500	



Near Poland: The Three Imperial Spas

The southern part of the island of Usedom, not far from the border with Poland, is again fully dedicated to tourism: The three „Imperial Resorts“ of Bansin, Heringsdorf and Ahlbeck. In contrast to the three seaside resorts on Rügen, these lie next to each other in a line.

Heringsdorf and Ahlbeck were visited by foot. For Bansin, unfortunately, the way was too far away. The next day, before continuing our journey, we also made a short visit to Poland



Fancy a pizza on the sea?



Distance view to Bansin (not visited)



The birthplace of the first man to fly

The state of the old Hanseatic city of Anklam can make you sad. But you also have to know the history.

During Second World War, the city was first destroyed by US bombers, and after the conquest by the Red Army by the German Luftwaffe. In the GDR period, the gaps were partly filled by „Plattenbauten“ (prefabricated buildings), which were demolished after German reunification. For this reason, there are many undeveloped areas in the old town today.

Due to migration to West Germany in the 90s, many old houses are empty and decaying. The city is only slowly recovering from the wounds of the past.



To the north of Anklam flows the river Peene



**DIE MACHT
DES VERSTANDES
WIRD AUCH
IM FLUGE
DICH TRAGEN**

**DIE MACHT
DES VERSTANDES
WIRD AUCH
IM FLUGE
DICH TRAGEN**

This monument is in honour of aviation pioneer Otto Linienthal, who was born in Anklam

**OTTO
LILIENTHAL
INGENIEUR
FLUGPIONIER
1848 1896**

The largest seaside spa town in Mecklenburg

Thanks to the A20 highway, it did not take long to drive from Western Pomerania back to Mecklenburg to visit the seaside resort of Kühlungsborn.

The name of this seaside resort has only existed since 1938, when three smaller communities joined together.



In contrast to the islands of Rügen and Usedom, the pier here does not have any shopping mall.



With the steam locomotive "Molly" it is possible to travel to Heiligendamm further to the east



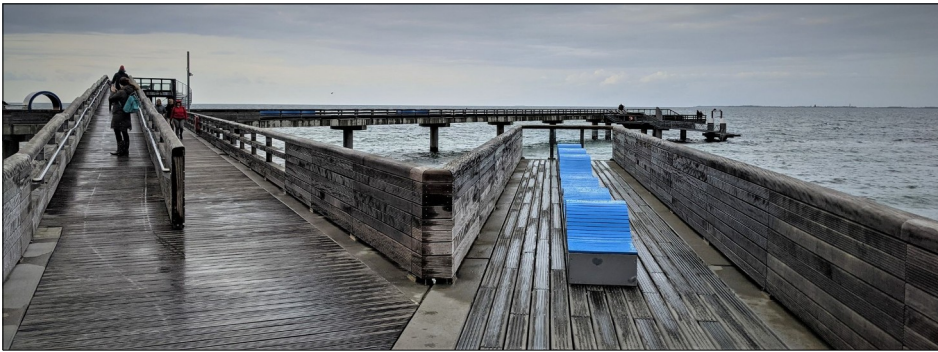
ABENTEUER MOLLI

- Dampfbahn-Nostalgie an 365 Tagen im Jahr
- historischer Wagenpark
- bewirtschafteter Salonwagen
- Lokmitfahrten & Dampfzug-Erlebniswochenenden
- Sonderfahrten mit dem 100-jährigen Zug
- Souvenir-Verkauf
- Museums-Café im Bahnhof Kühlungsborn West
- GLEIS 2 - Das Mollirestaurant im Bahnhof Kühlungsborn Ost
- modern eingerichtete Ferienwohnungen

A last day at the Baltic Sea

It was now time to say goodbye to Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. But not yet from the Baltic Sea, because we were going to East Holstein for a day.

To be more precisely: To Heiligenhafen, the last town on mainland before the A1 highway leads to the island of Fehmarn. The following morning, we went very briefly to the last island before Denmark. But then we finally headed south again.



Heiligenhafen's pier does not have a straight course like other piers



The bridge to the island of Fehmarn. If you want to take the short route to Copenhagen, you have to pass through here.



Time for a cup of tea?

The city of salt in Lower Saxony: Lüneburg

Lüneburg is also a Hanseatic city. In the Middle Ages it was a major supplier of large quantities of salt, without which it would not have been possible for the Hanseatic League to take a leading role in production and trading of herring (an important fasting food). This made Lüneburg very rich.

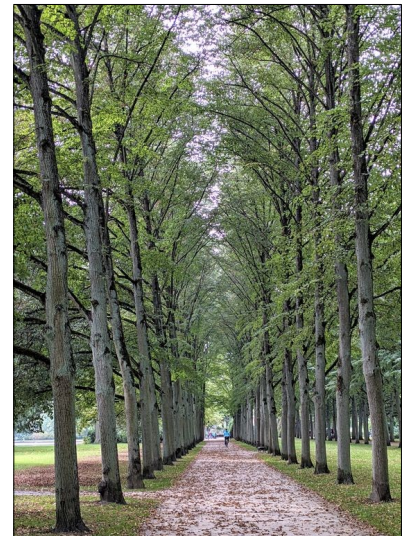


In the Salt Museum, the impressive past of the city is presented in great detail

The southern gateway to the Lüneburg Heath

The old town of Celle offers visitors interested in tourism something for the eye. The former residence of the House of Welf is built in the Renaissance and Baroque styles. There are around 400 half-timbered houses in the centre.

The next day our tour continued in a south-western direction to the Weser Uplands.



Not a good place for exterminators: Hamelin

Many people probably know the legend of the Pied Piper. Therefore, here is only the short version.

In the Middle Ages, the town had a massive problem with rodents. A colourfully dressed man promised to solve the problem for money. By means of the music of his wind instrument he attracted all the mice and rats and led them out of the city. The citizens, however, did not want to pay the Pied Piper for his service. The angry man therefore came again. This time, however, he abduct almost all children with his music.



Attention! This guy has no sense of humour when it comes to unpaid bills.



There are signs of rodents everywhere.



Even the pretzel rolls look strange here!



What is the most productive nuclear reactor in the world? It is the Grohnde nuclear power plant south of Hamelin with more than 400 billion kWh. But the planned shutdown will be end of this year.

Surrounded by a lot of water: Hann. Münden

At the confluence of the rivers Werra and Fulda lies the town of Hann. Münden (short for Hannoversch Münden), about Alexander von Humboldt was quoted that it is one of the seven most beautiful towns in the world. There are more than 700 half-timbered houses in a narrow old town area. As in Einbeck and Hamelin, the architectural style of the Weser Renaissance can also be found here.



The following saying can be found on the Weser Stone:

„Where the Werra and Fulda kiss each other they must forfeit their names. And here, through this kiss German to the sea the Weser River“



A last stop at the great volcano: Alsfeld

From an amateur radio perspective, the Vogelsberg is my second home. There, in the south-eastern part of this large extinct shield volcano, is the QTH of the **VHF contest group DR2X**, of which I have been a member since 2007. I am there several times a year.

So it was interesting for me to get to know the northwestern part of the volcano a bit better. More precisely, the town of Alsfeld, with its pretty old town.



According to Wikipedia the Alsfeld town hall is predominantly a half-timbered building and can be attributed to the late Gothic period in the transition to the Renaissance

Miscellaneous (Don't always to be taken seriously)



Attention, this is a trick question:

In which country do I have both feet on the ground? *



Der Tipp für Camper:

„Trink Alsfelder Bier gegen deinen Doscht, und iss dazu Salzekuche und Kartoffelwoscht!“

Typical Hessian cuisine in Alsfeld

Revolution in Bad Bevensen?

Or maby just a slippery surface?



You want to open a Jurrasic Park, and as first step you need some dinosaurs DNA?

Then something like this would be a good starting point...



After Bilbo conquered various dikes at the North Sea during autumn 2020, it was now time for many piers on the Baltic Sea.



The day before departure was really stressful.

An unforeseen problem had to be solved



Seen in Hamelin! No comment

* See also page 9

Considerations for /p Operation via QO-100

So, after the major touristic part of my report is finished, now the minor part follows, which is dedicated to amateur radio operation.

During my previous amateur radio activities on holiday (organised bus trips or by motorhome), I made almost CW with QRP on shortwave. Recently I did also FT8 if 230 volts for the laptop were available. But voice mode (SSB) under QRP conditions, and small antennas, is always very difficult.

Therefore, the geostationary satellite QO-100 offers a great opportunity to make voicemode radio contacts halfway around the world with manageable effort. Many thanks to [Peter DB2OS](#), who made this possible for the amateur radio community!

This holiday a 35cm camping TV satellite dish was planned to be used. Also, the dish should not be placed on a tripod on the ground. On the one hand that nobody can stumble over the antenna or the cables on a public motorhome site. On the other hand to comply with EMC requirements regarding personal protection. A suitable mounting position was found directly at the motorhome. The existing mounts for the shortwave antenna could be used for this purpose.

But the really big challenge was to achieve sufficient sensitivity of the receiving system by using only a small 35 cm dish. With a pure LNB (ideal feed horn), the beacons from Bochum were received with 11 dB above noise. Actually a good value. But as soon as the transmitting antenna is added, it becomes difficult. A helix antenna blocked the LNB, which means several dB loss of the reception signal. Conversely, a POTY Feed is also a compromise, as you do not have the ideal feed horn anymore for a good illumination of the dish.* My existing POTY Feed with a dielectric lens made of Nylon only provide a beacon signal of 6 dB. So a loss of about 5 dB. It turned out that after removing the Nylon lens, the signal from the beacons was almost the same?! Important conclusion: Dielectric lenses made of Nylon seems to be totally unusable! If you use one, and you don't have a big dish: Throw it away and replaced it by a better one!

The real key to the success of my sat activation was the use of a suitable dielectric lens. I ordered a lens made by [Roland HB9VQQ](#), which is printed from a special dielectric material (PREPERM™). Using this lense, the Bochum beacons were copied now with 10 dB over noise. Just 1 dB less than with a pure LNB. That is more than acceptable.

Directly at the TX connection of the POTY Feed, a transmission power of 5 watts on 2.4 GHz can be provided. This can generate a downlink signal 4 db less the Bochum beacons. So LEILA will never say „Hallo“ to me. Thus I hear my own signal with 6 dB above the noise:

https://c.web.de/@337150638448182491/b0H-mOY3QBSh9B_MMsmeyg

An experience of pure physics! Einstein was right: Nothing is faster than light. But even electromagnetic waves need some time to travel a distance of 70,000 km.

QSO partners with bigger dishes size will hear my signal louder. For a 70cm dish it should be less 12 dB over the noise **. Here an example at the station of [Michael DJ2VA](#) (60 cm dish):

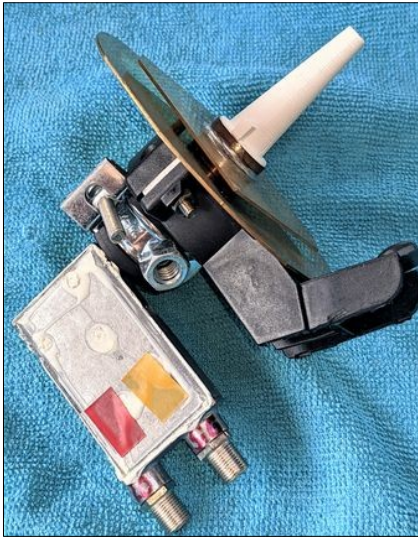
<https://c.web.de/@337150638448182491/kG6Nb9EQTcuo1aMHYMY9Zw>

My station set up was completely analogue except for the IF side (SDR transceiver by Elecraft). So no ADALM Pluto or similar „pure“ SDRs and Computers. I would also have had the option for an SDR (RTL SDR Dongle or SDR Play) and laptop with SDR Console. But this was only a backup solution, which was not used. On the next page you will see some pictures of my portabel set up for QO-100.

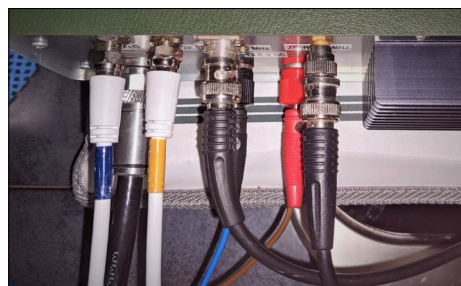
* For all considerations here, I assume that an offset dish with a high f/D ratio (0.6 to 0.8) is used

** Limitation by transponder noise

How the Set Up for Satellite looked like



35 cm Camping TV Sat Offset Dish
POTY Feed with delectrical lens by [Roland HB9VQQ](#)
LNB with separate 25 MHz LO input by DX-Patrol (without Feed Horn)
TX Feedline für 2.4 GHz: Ecoflex 10 (1.8 m long)
Up- and Downconverter by DX-Patrol
Two Stage 2.4 GHz PA by [Phillip DL2AM](#) (7 Watt out)
Simple 10 MHz OCXO (It really doesn't have to be GPS!)
For reveiving on 28 MHz IF: Elecraft KX2
Sennheiser PC-151 Headset (Microphone not used)
For transmitting on 144 MHz IF: Elecraft KX3 (internal 2m Transverter)
Elecraft MH3 Hand Microphone
Switching Power Supply or Lead Gel Battery (for Transverter/PA)
Back Up Transceiver FT817 (not used)
Pure Paper Log! (Exception: FT8 operation with WSJT-X)



The Equipment used for terrestrial QSOs

Although the focus of my activity was definitely on satellite QO-100, some smaller operations on VHF (CW, FT8, WSPR) and VHF (FM via repeater) were also done. Here some pictures of the the equipment and antennas.

The 10 m long fibreglas pole by DX Wire served as support for the short wave antenna wire



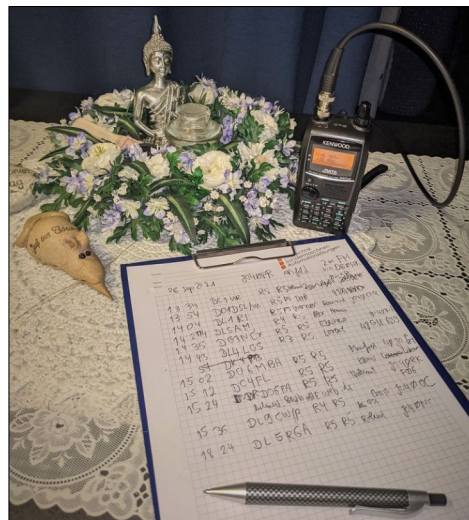
At the feed point: Either via balun for 14 MHz ($\lambda/2$), or directly connected, and with a 6 m long earth wire, for 7 MHz ($\lambda/4$). The remaining bands were tuned by the internal KX3 ATU to get in resonance

In contrast, the fibreglass pole for VHF was only 6 m high. On top the $\lambda/2$ wire vertical antenna.

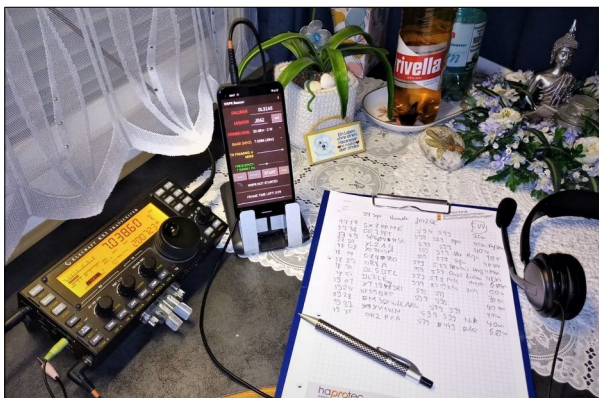


The Kenwood handheld radio was finally happy to do some FM QSOs instead of boring APRS all time

And how tidy the station table was!



For those who indulge in idleness: FT8 is perfect for you! Only one finger on the computer mouse is needed for making many (PC to PC) QSOs

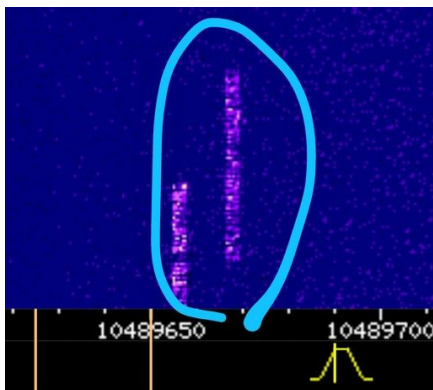


CW is already possible with just two fingers! But decoding with your own brain can be very exhausting!

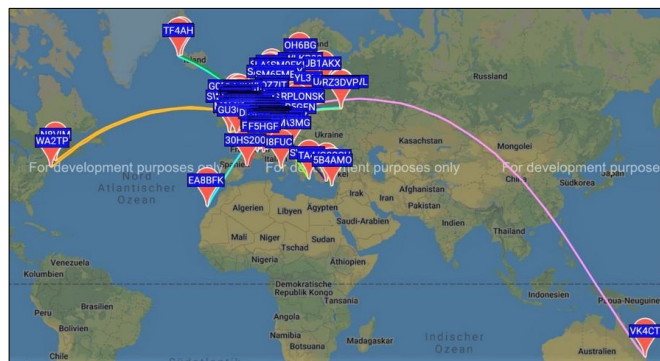
So better to turn on the WSPR beacon with just one finger tip on the smartphone app?

An Overview of the Results

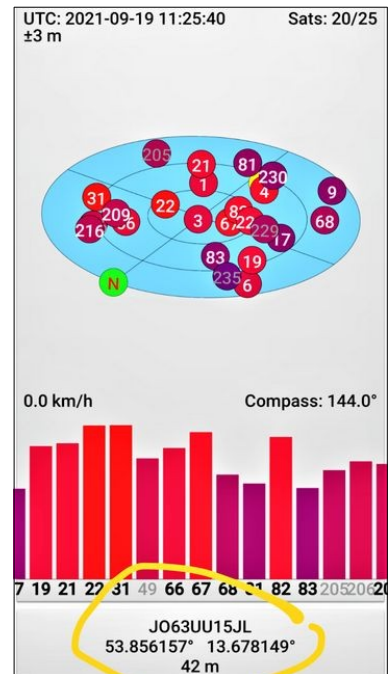
Date	Name of QTH	Locator	QSOs	Remarks	
Sunday 12. Sep.	Einbeck	JO41WT	24	1st Operation via QO-100	
Monday 13. Sep.	Bad Bevensen	JO53HB	34	2nd Operation via QO-100	
Tuesday 14. Sep.	Timmendorf	JO53QX	45	3rd Operation via QO-100, IOTA EU-098 Poel	
Wednesday 15. Sep	Lauterbach	JO64SI	0	No activity	
Thursday 16. Sep.	Sellin	JO64UI	36	4th Operation via QO-100, IOTA EU-057 Rügen	
Friday 17. Sep.	Peenemünde	JO64VD	0	No activity	
Saturday 18. Sep.	Ahlbeck	JO73CW	67	5th Operation via QO-100, IOTA EU-129 Usedom	
Sunday 19. Sep.	Anklam	JO63UU	103	6th Operation via QO-100	
Monday 20. Sep.	Kühlungsborn	JO54VD	18	7th Operation via QO-100	
Tuesday 21. Sep.	Heiligenhafen	JO54LJ	0	No activity	
Wednesday 22. Sep	Lüneburg	JO53EF	41	FT8 on Shortwave (5 Watt)	
Thursday 23. Sep.	Celle	JO52BO	25	8th Operation via QO-100	
Friday 24. Sep.	Hamelin	JO42QC	14	CW (15 Watt) and WSPR (2 Watt) on shortwave	
Saturday 25. Sep.	Han. Münden	JO41TK	0	No activity	
Sunday 26. Sep.	Alsfeld	JO40PR	13	FM (2,5 Watt) on 2m via repeater DB0HK	
QSOs via QO-100:		QSOs on HF:		QSOs on VHF:	Total QSO Number:
352		55		13	420



My downlink signal as received at the Goonhilly Web SDR



2 watts in WSPR were sufficient to be heard on 40 m in the USA and Down Under



Unfortunately, I could not activate 5P or 3Y this time.

But at least the very rare JO63 square! See my proof photo above

A well-known microwave DXer (with almost identical callsign to mine) would now say to me:
 „Your PC communicate with two other PCs (Owner: **Karl DL1IP** and **Nelson DL1GME**) at your hometown in Schifferstadt“

202115	-4	0.8	1506	~	DL3IAS DL1IP R-11
202130	Tx		1506	~	DL1IP DL3IAS RRR
202145	0	0.8	1506	~	DL3IAS DL1IP 73
202200	Tx		1506	~	DL1IP DL3IAS 73
202230	Tx		1506	~	CQ DL3IAS JO53
202245	-4	0.0	1716	~	DL3IAS HB9PLH -13
202300	Tx		1506	~	HB9PLH DL3IAS R-04
202315	-1	0.0	1716	~	DL3IAS HB9PLH RR73
202330	Tx		1506	~	HB9PLH DL3IAS 73
202400	Tx		1506	~	CQ DL3IAS JO53
202430	Tx		1506	~	CQ DL3IAS JO53
202500	Tx		1506	~	CQ DL3IAS JO53
202515	1	0.0	1267	~	DL3IAS DL1GME JN49
202530	Tx		1506	~	DL1GME DL3IAS +01
202600	Tx		1506	~	DL1GME DL3IAS +01
202615	3	0.0	1267	~	DL3IAS DL1GME R-23
202630	Tx		1506	~	DL1GME DL3IAS RRR
202645	1	0.0	1267	~	DL3IAS DL1GME R-23
202700	Tx		1506	~	DL1GME DL3IAS RRR
202715	6	0.0	1268	~	DL3IAS DL1GME 73
202730	Tx		1506	~	DL1GME DL3IAS 73

Worked DXCC via QO-100: 43
 AP, A4, CT, DL, EA, EA8, EU, E7, F, G, GM, GW, HB9, I, LX, LY, LZ, OE, OH, OK, OM, ON, OZ, PA, PY, RA, RA2, SM, SP, ST, SV, SV5, S5, VU, V5, YL, YO, ZD7, ZS, 3B, 4X, 9A 9X

Reflections on my activity (1 of 2)

Before my portable activation starts, concerns were expressed to me that the use of an offset dish with only 35 cm is maybe on the borderline of performance.

But for myself I was very confident after replacing the dielectric lens (see page 19). Why? My consideration: Most stations active on QO-100 are looking to produce a strong downlink signal together with a perfect receiver performance. And if I can already hear myself good enough, then the majority of my potential QSO partners should hear me at least as well or even better.

At the end I was able to work* virtually every signal that answered my CQ calls**. Only once it almost didn't work: The well-known SOTA activist [Nick GOHIK](#) had a problem with his power supply, and therefore it was impossible to understand what he said. But after he changed his power supply, the QSO to the Lake District was completed without any problem.

But what scared me a bit during the preparations: My POTY Feed with the old Neylon lens produced in the past on my second portable offset dish (75 cm in diameter) just only a 1 dB louder downlink signals, in contrast to the new PREPERM™ lens on the small 35 cm dish. In other words: Maybe many hobby colleagues on QO-100 using dishes with the recommended minimum dish size only hear as good (or bad?) as a 35 cm system with a single LNB?! The AMSAT DL recommendation for stationary operation is 60 cm and greater. But that only applies if the receiving system is also perfect!

You must be able to see/hear the transponder noise if using a sufficiently large dish, otherwise something is wrong! If you have enough space at home and want to be on the safe side, it is worth to consider the use of separate antennas for uplink and downlink (with an LNB).

Due to my somewhat weaker downlink signal than the average, I had tried to achieve a well-modulated transmit signal in advance. When using the Elecraft KX3 as a (IF) transmitter, the use of the original MH3 handheld microphone proved to be optimal. In addition, the TX Equilizer function of the DSP was used, and of course the compressor. Unfortunately, the Sennheiser headset produced somewhat poorer results. I was glad that the FT817 Back Up Transceiver did not have to be used at all. It has relatively good modulation for an 817, but there have been criticisms of using this device before.

I am always irritated that there are still operators on the satellite who have absolutely terrible modulations! Don't they notice that at all? Have they never listened back to their own signal as AMSAT DL strongly recommends? Keyword: No simplex! Just a quick look at the waterfall of the Goonhilly Web SDR would help to see if something is not right at all. A real pity.

But now I've blasphemed enough for today. The term "DXpedition" appears on the title page. But does a journey to northeastern Germany really deserve to be associated with this „DX“?

Yes, in connection with the question "When will you be in the JO63 field?". In fact, this question came up almost more frequently during this holiday than "Will we find a free motorhome site today?"

Why the JO63 square? Even [Remco PA3FYM](#) had asked for it. Then things must have been really bad regarding QO-100 activities from this part of Germany so far. According to information by the "QO-100 DX Club" there must have been a brief activation shortly after QO-100 get on air. But probably nothing at all after this!

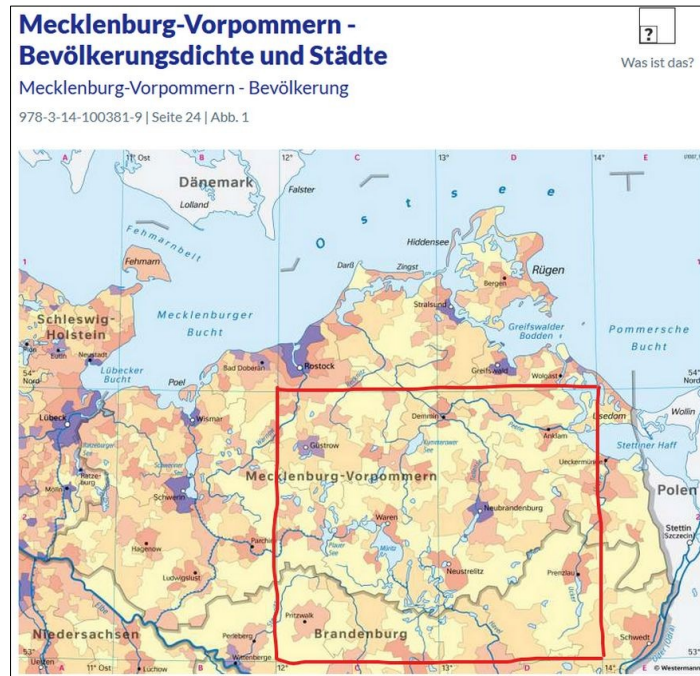
But what is the difference of JO63 to other squares in Germany?

* Chaotic situation during a pile up not counted

** Nearly almost all of my QSOs were made after calling CQ by me

Reflections on my activity (2 of 2)

It is important to know that of all federal states in Germany, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has only 1.6 million inhabitants. Since the area of this federal state is still comparatively large, the population density is the lowest of all. Only Bremen and the Saarland have fewer inhabitants, but also much smaller areas.



Map of the population density of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.*
The boundaries of the JO63 square were subsequently drawn in red.

And there is a second effect: Almost all urban areas are located at the coast line (Wismar, Rostock, Stralsund and Greifswald). And the capital city Schwerin is in the JO53 square. But JO63 is mostly located in back country. So even fewer people live here. This means that there are very few radio amateurs. And apparently no one who is QRV on QO-100 at the moment.

So the expectation increased during my journey: When will DL3IAS/p be QRV from the desperately searched JO63 square? On the 8th day of the trip (6th activity on QO-100) the time had finally come: I was in Anklam, which is in JO63UU. There was a bit of stage fright when setting up the station. Will all the equipment still be functional this time? The options in case of a failure were limited so far away from home.

But everything worked fine again as before. In the beginning, I had to do split operation for a period because of a small pile up. The pileup did not last very long, but at the end of a very long evening at the radio I had over 100 QSOs in the log.

Things would almost have been much less spectacular. As I learned during my journey, [Nina DL2GRC](#) had originally planned to activate JO63 this summer. However, at the end she was outvoted by the family council. And so, as we all know, her journey went to Liguria/Italy, and the rare JN43 square was activated by her.

Demand was also surprisingly high for JO73. I would not have expected that.

Strange: With one exception, no one asked for an activation of JO74! We actually drove from Peenemünde to Ahlbeck through this square. And there is even a camper van site. Who asked me? It was [Andy SP5XSD](#). I answered him: "JO74 was activated on the Polish side only some weeks ago, wasn't it?" His reply: "That was me!" Too bad for Andy. I hope he will get JO74 in the near future.

* Source: <https://diercke.westermann.de/content/mecklenburg-vorpommern-bevoelkerungsdichte-und-staetze-978-3-14-100381-9-24-1-1>

The End – A big Thank You

So, my report slowly comes to an end.

I want to thank everyone with whom I had a QSO during my little holiday style DXpedition. I'm especially glad that some of you called me during almost every activation. I would like to mention [Frank F4CIB](#), [Peter GOABI](#) and especially [Andy SP5XSD](#). And the list of my faithful companions is still not complete.

Oh, and also many thanks to [Bernd DL6IAN](#), who hit the advertising drum for me on the Intnet.

Stay healthy, good luck and many new squares on all bands.

Hope to see / hear you again soon via Deep Space or elsewhere on Earth.

Nino DL3IAS



P.S.: Come on, did you really think I made a single SSB QSO by myself?
I was on holiday!

And this Havanese dog (Callsign: B1LBO) is extremely good in imitating the human voice...