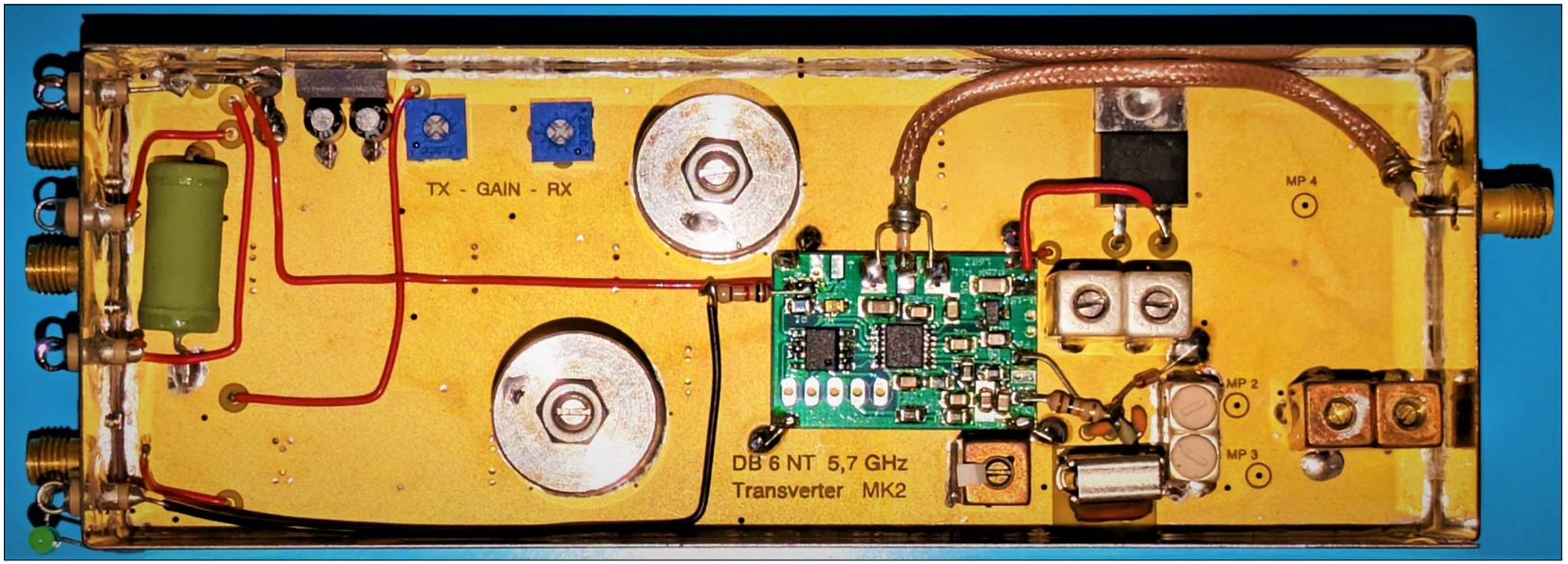
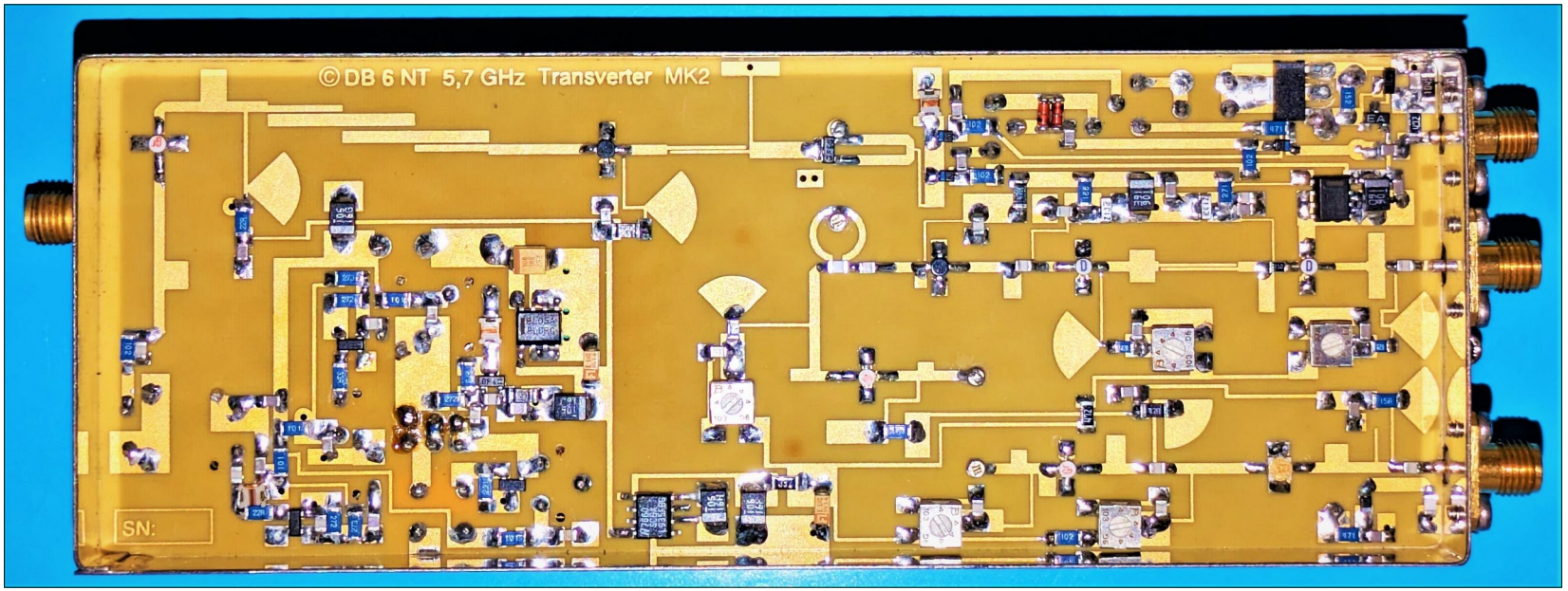
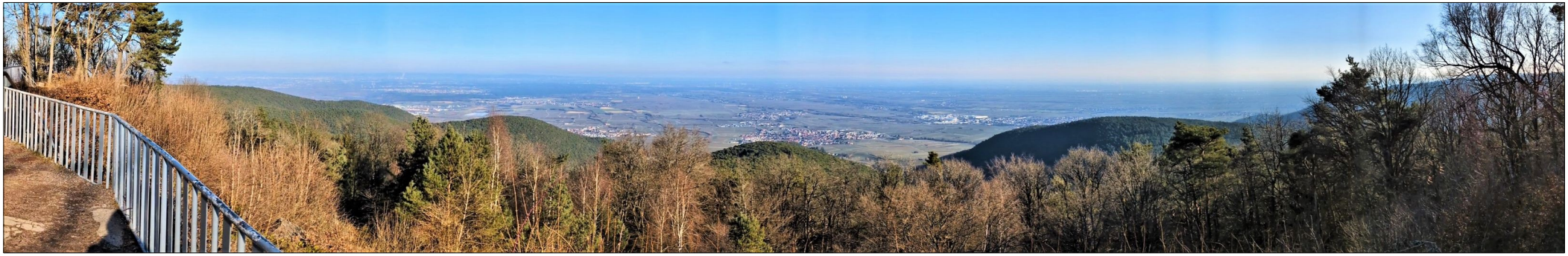
DL3IAS/p



Winter BBT 2025 @ 5,76 GHz



JN49AH96WN



The idea for this activation developed just two weeks ago. Alexander DL8AAU asked during our monthly virtual microwave table here in Germany:
"***Can anyone give Gerald DL1DSR some points in the upcoming BBT on 5.7 GHz? He has recently acquired an SG Lab transverter for this frequency.***"
From my summer 10 GHz QTH for rain scatter (JN49DJ) it is possible to see the portable QTH of Gerald (JN49JL). And because of LOS (Line of Sight) big signals will be sure even with QRPp power levels. I have not been QRV on 5,7 GHz for some years, as the former dual band transverter for 5.7 GHz / 10.3 GHz had been dismantled. But a provisional setup of my DB6NT transverter (200 mW) together with a simple dish feed as antenna is quickly realisable for me. So there was initially no reason to clime up a mountain for a better location.

But then the opportunity arose that my long-time amateur radio friend from Heidelberg Andi DF4IAE will be QRV on 6 cm for the first time. But from his home location, and not on a mountain top. And Alexander DL8AAU from Darmstadt also joined the fast growing "*I will be QRV on 6 cm*" club. But to have LOS to both of them I had to "gain height". After it was foreseeable that were will be stable and dry high-pressure weather during the contest, nothing spoke against an activation on the Kalmit (JN49AH), the highest mountain of the Palatinate Forest with 673 metres about sea level. When asked, Helmut DC1UR promised to accompany me on this microwave activity. For him, that would be his first QSOs on the 6 cm band in his very long amateur radio career on VHF and up.

After we reached the summit, the small station was quickly set up on a tripod. We were ready shortly before the start of the second part of the microwave BBT at 12:00 local time. Fortunately, the 5 GHz HAM Net links from the DB0AAI digipeater did not make any QRM. There were two challenges: Since we were not QRV on 13 cm, where all "entry" QSOs starts with QSY on 9 cm and 6 cm following, all skeds had to be arranged by smartphone (voice, SMS, WhatsApp, ON4KST). But what was really difficult for me was the very cold wind, because I had to be very careful not to catch cold on my hands.

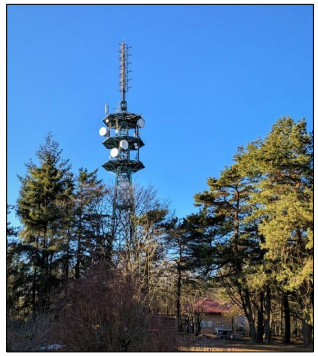
All LOS skeds possible during the contest were successfully completed (see QSO map next page). Only Alexander DL8AAU and his companion Jens DF5HC took longer, as the PLL of their transverter did not locked reliable at the beginning. In addition, the signals from Darmstadt (and vice versa) were weak due to trees in that direction. From the Kalmit, there is a clear view to the horizon only in an easterly direction from about 45 degrees to 170 degrees. After two hours of operation, I had 7 QSOs in my log. Helmut participated with 4 QSOs. So by the way it was a valid "SOTA Activation" for Helmut and me h.i.

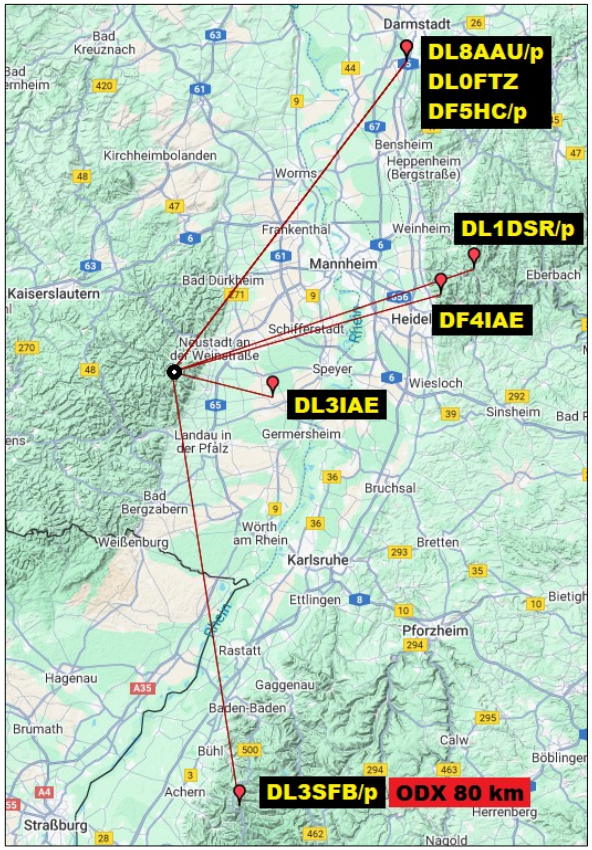
Helmut and I completed our activation with a late lunch of Alsatian Tarte Flambée at the mountain top restaurant. A good opportunity for my hands to warm up again. With the exception of the cold wind, it was a successful and enjoyable activation on a beautiful winter's day.

Many thanks for the QSOs Alexander, Andi, Daniel, Gerald, Jens and Martin.
Best 73 to all.

Nino DL3IAS

Equipment, Impressions & Results





Helmut DC1UR waiting for his first 6 cm QSO

THE EQUIPMENT

2m IF transceiver YAESU FT817
Back up: Mizuho MX-2 (not used)
5,7 GHz DB6NT transverter G2
QRPp output 200 mW
Additional PLL by OZ5N
10 MHz OCXO
Antenna "Coffe Can" feed
Two EREMIT LiFePO4 batteries:
12 Volt / 6 Ah for XV & IF TRX
12 Volt / 2 Ah for 10 MHz OCXO
Simple paper log
Google Pixel 8a Smartphone
for sked, photos & videos

Total Number of Points: 418

VIDEO **Strong wind during the QSO with Daniel DL3IAE** (Size 10,7 MB)
https://c.web.de/@337150638448182491/69S5mJScRvG2LpB5aFFwdw

VIDEO **Daniel DL3IAE talking with Andi DF4IAE** (Size 6,7 MB)
https://c.web.de/@337150638448182491/KtACDLciTs-_xQ584OZLRw

VIDEO **Big Signals from Gerald DL1DSR-p** (Size 7,1 MB)
https://c.web.de/@337150638448182491/nSiwYHn9SHOrCNQkKhM4Ug