

DR2X

JO40QL



July Contest 2023

Dear amateur radio friends

And again a VHF competition at the Vogelsberg is over. Although it is actually summer, the weather was rather autumnal last weekend.

It was dry for the set-up, which started at 09:30 local time. And it should stay that way until we were almost completed with all the outdoor work. On the other hand, the whole time on Saturday was very windy. But nothing that would have endangered the antennas. Shortly after the big tent was set up, it slowly started to rain. Fortunately, the amount of rain was rather small. But it didn't feel like summer.

On Sunday, it was still very cloudy before noon. But the weather improved in the course of the day. And so we had a dry dismantling with pleasant temperatures. What would have been the other possible weather extreme? 40 degrees in the shade and heavy thunderstorms? Then rather a bit of autumn.

The propagation in 2 m was rather normal. Thanks to the UK National VHF Fieldday, a bit more stations than usual could be worked from the island. But as Always a difficult direction for us as we are on the south east flank of the big volcano.

The QRM was limited. And so in the end we were satisfied with the final result and expected a very good place in Germany.

Besides 2 m, there was a short excursion into the world of the 10 GHz microwave band on Sunday. Additional frequencies were not activated.

Many thanks to our visitors: **Oskar DK1WI**, **Georg DL2KP** and **Frank DG5FEB**.



Before & after the Contest



Everything must be in order ...



... even if it doesn't always look that way

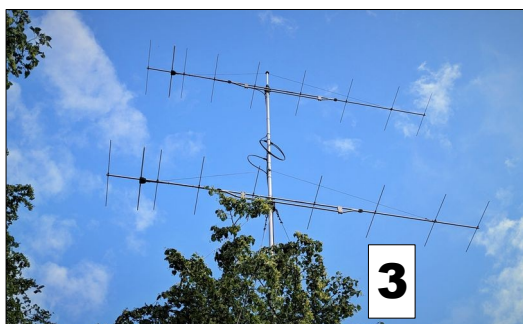
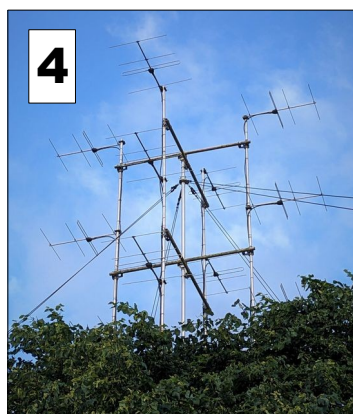
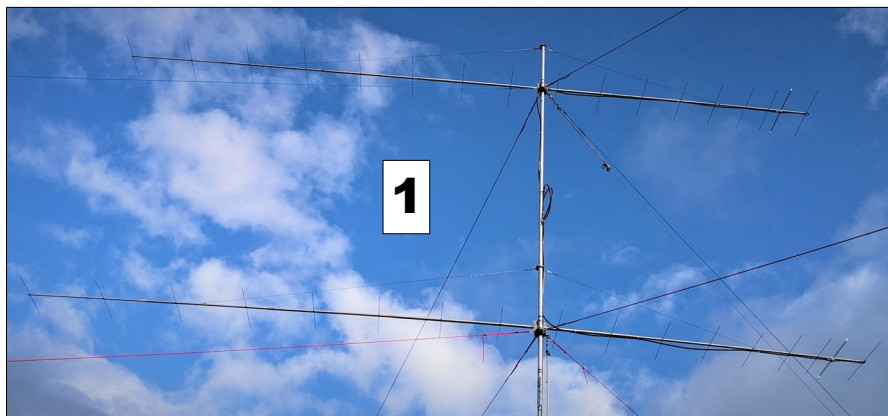


The M2 antennas have been equipped with modified mounting plates for easier installation



I wonder what Eugen just saw at that moment?

The Antennas and Equipment for VHF



2M ANTENNAS

- (1) 2 x 17 ele M2
- (2) 2 x 9 ele WIMO
- (3) 2 x 9 ele WIMO - Direction East
- (4) 3 x 4 x 4 WIMO „Star Antenne“ *
- (5) 1 x 8 ele DK7ZB - Direction South *



* Note:

As there is still massive interference of the southern star antenna (4 x 4) due to the local WLAN hot spot (internet for the surrounding villages), a separate antenna (1 x 8) was set up as already done during the May contest

EQUIPMENT FOR 2M

- Elecraft K3s Transceiver
- Kuhne transverter TR144H+40 with 14 MHz IF
- BEKO power amplifier 750 Watt out
- Additional crystal filter for the 14 MHz IF (built by DA0FF)
- Heil Headset
- Schurr CW paddel
- Logging programm WinTest

During the Contest



Jörg did a lot of CW during the night shift. And of course the ODX



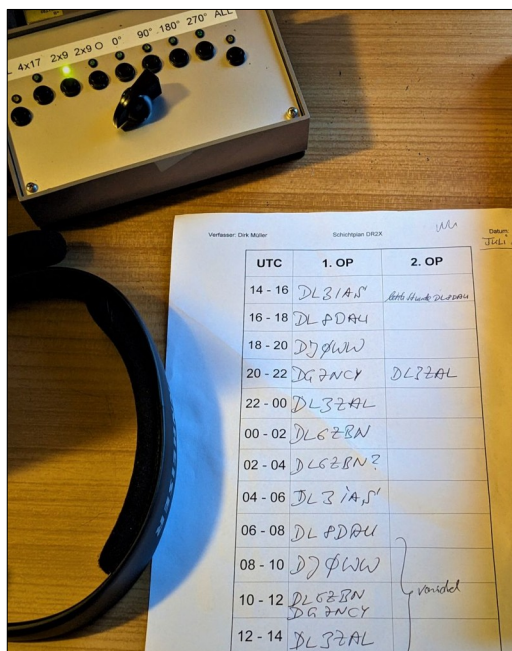
Many QSOs are only possible with a sufficient amount of calories



Sunday morning -
weather like in autumn!



Eberhard and Eugen definitely had fun



Who was at the microphone
or the CW paddle when?



But by midday, summer was back again

Adventures on 10 GHz microwave (Part 1)

My 10 GHz QRO transceiver stayed at home. But as during May contest, I took my new QRPp transverter with me. Since only „Line of Sight“ QSOs are possible with 250µW, there was only one potential QSO possibility this time: The microwave amateurs on the „Herchenehainer Höhe“ JO40PL - Walter DH6FAE and Frank DG5FEB.

On Saturday the weather was too bad (Storm and rain). Then on Sunday around 09:00 local time a WhatsApp message came from Frank DG5FEB that their 10 GHz will be startet soon. From the DR2X contest site there is no direct line of sight to JO40PL. Therefore Eberhard and I drove further south for a suitable QTH. We were QRV between Ulmbach and Sarrod (Locator JO40QI). The signals were extremely loud at distance of around 16 km. And so in the end there were 4 QSOs in the logbooks.



EQUIPMENT FOR 10 GHz

- 10 GHz Transverter „Portable Simple“ (Design by DC0DA)
- TX output only 0,00000025 kW QRPp
- 10 GHz LO by Dieter DF9NP
- External reference from a 10 MHz OCXO
- 16 dBd horn antenna (10 mW ERP)
- FT817 as transceiver for the 2m IF
- 12 V / 6 Ah LiFePO4 battery by EREMIT
- HAMA Photo Tridod
- Simpe paper logbook



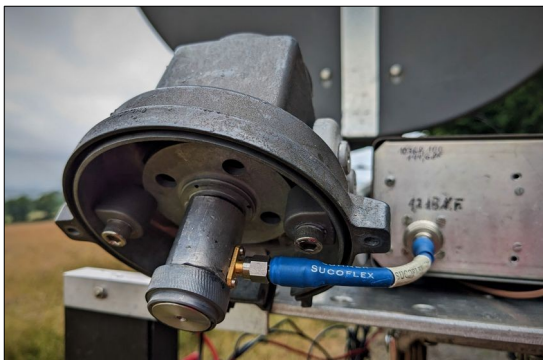
Of course Eberhard was proud of his first QSOs on 10 GHz

Adventures on 10 GHz microwave (Part 2)

Since we still had enough free time and had already logged all possible 10 GHz QSOs, I decided to visit our two remote stations together with Eberhard. So we drove the almost straight way to JO40PL. The weather on site at 700 m a.s.l. was not quite so nice, as it was raining very lightly. The surprise was successful, because I had not told Frank beforehand that we were going to visit.

I already knew Frank's station from previous visits. So it was interesting for me to see Walter's station the first time.

Later Frank told me that he and Walter made 9 QSOs with about 2000 points. ODX was Rudi OE5VRL (JO78DK) at a distance of 427 km.



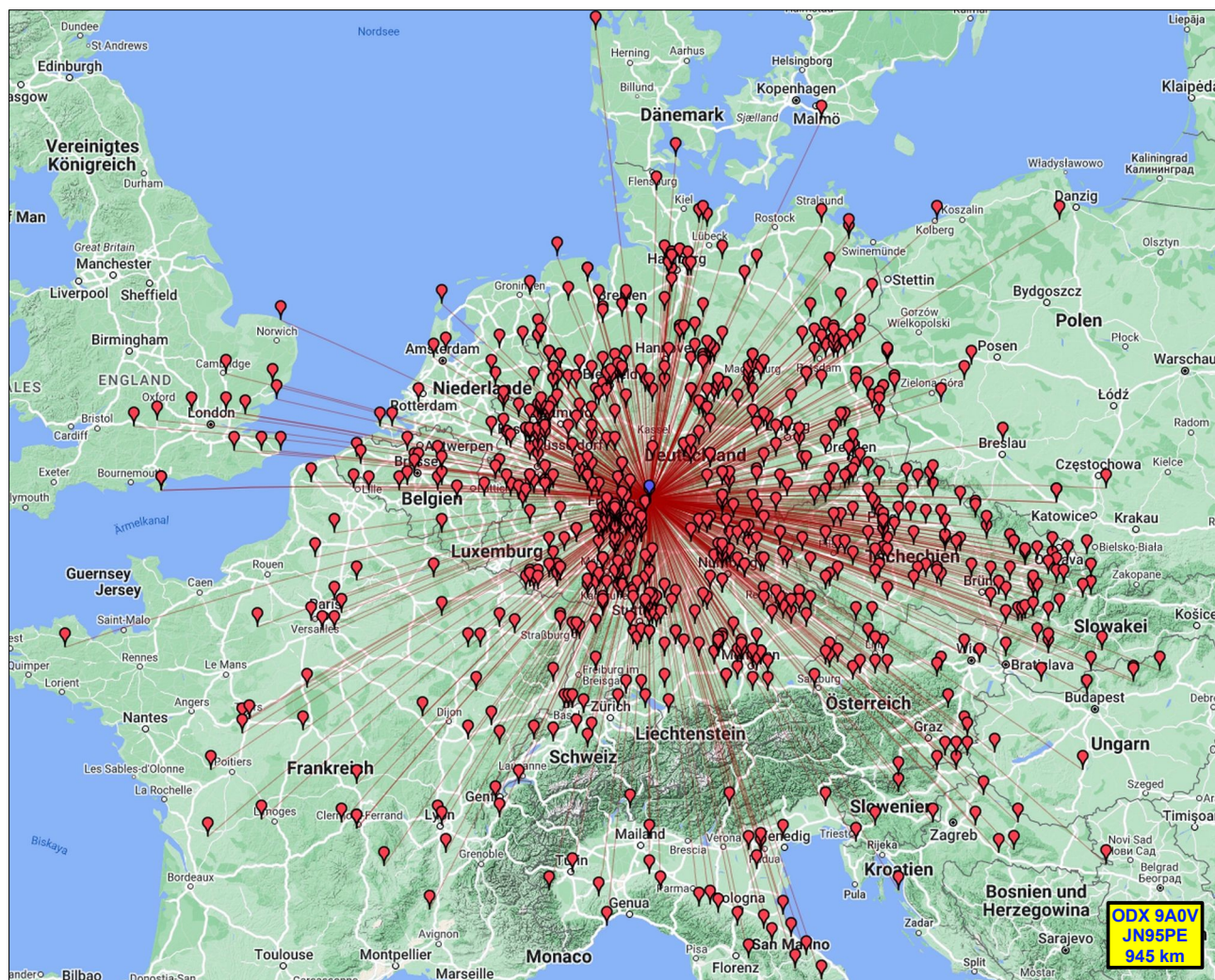
The big antenna (90 cm dish) of Walter's Station



Walter DH6FAE (left) and
Frank DG5FEB (right)



The Results on VHF



1	9A		Croatia	8
2	DL		Deutschland	510
3	F		France	47
4	G		England	14
5	HA		Hungary	6
6	HB9		Switzerland	13
7	I		Italy	26
8	OE		Austria	22
9	OK		Czech Rep.	87
10	OM		Slovakia	18
11	ON		Belgium	16
12	OZ		Denmark	2
13	PA		Netherlands	13
14	S5		Slovenia	7
15	SM		Sweden	1
16	SP		Poland	12

BAND	QSO	DUP	LOC	POINTS	AVG PTS	AVG DIS
144	801	1	99	257509	321.5	321.8
TOTAL	801	1	99	257509	321.5	321.8
ENDERGEBNIS: 257 509						





Small Picture: **Matthias DL8DAU** Standing f.l.t.r: **Eberhard DG7NCY**, **Glyn DJoWW**, **Jörg DL6ZBN**, **Dirk DK7CM**, **Eugen DL3ZAL** Sitting: **Nino DL3IAS**