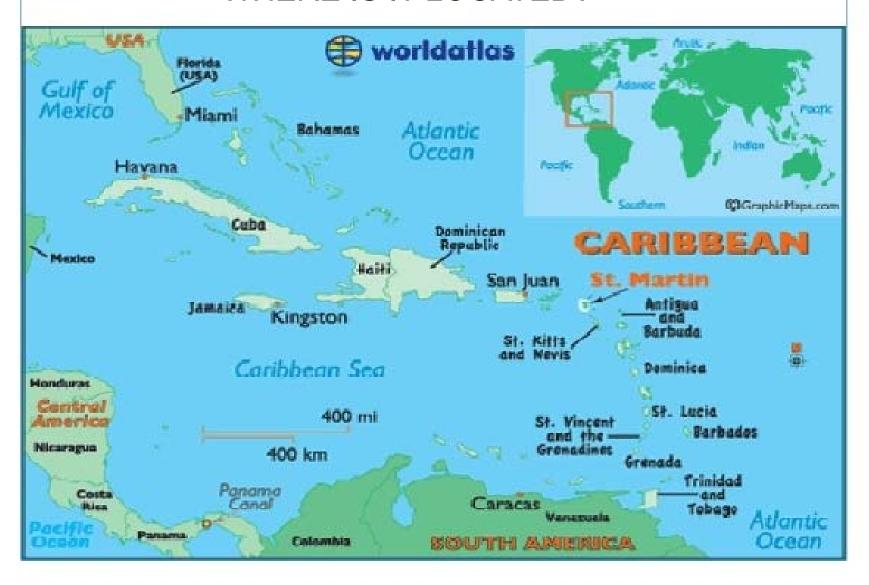
ACTIVATING SAINT MARTIN AS TO2EME & SINT MAARTEN AS PJ7/PE1L

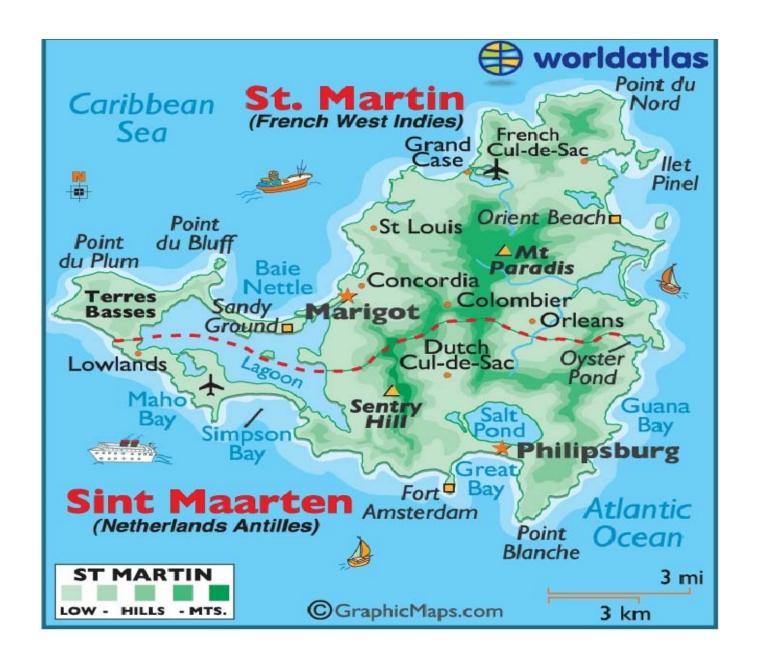
TWO DXCCs

FOR THE PRICE

OF ONE

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?





TRAVEL ITINERARY

HOUSTON-IAH

MIAMI-MIA

SINT MAARTEN-SXM

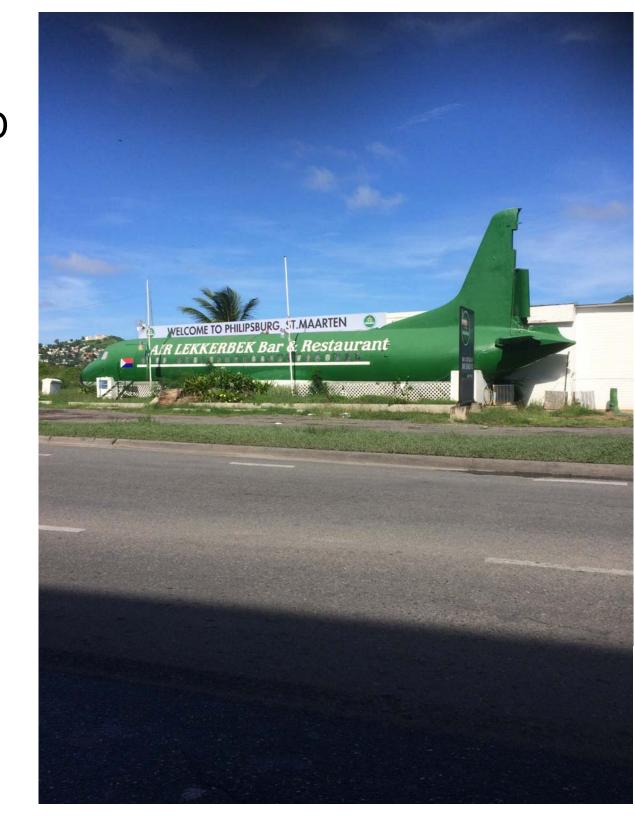
SXM = PRINCESS JULIANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THIS AIRPORT IS WORLD RENOWNED FOR SOME

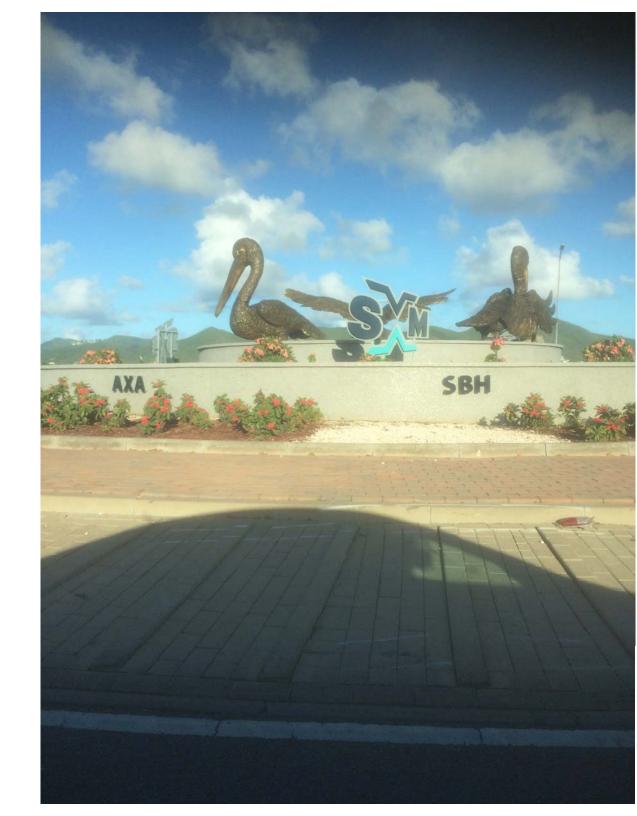
VERY HAIRY LANDINGS-NOTE THE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND AND THE SPECTATORS



MAYBE THIS ONE HAD TROUBLE WITH THAT LANDING.



JUST OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT IS THIS BEAUTIFUL MONUMENT **AND** STATUE



THE PLAYERS, JOHAN, JURGEN, ME, AND RENE'



I DECIDED THAT IT COULD NOT HURT TO HAVE SOME OF THIS ALONG.

WE FOUND THIS IN A **GROCERY ON THE** DUTCH SIDE. **SELECTION WAS** LIMITED, BUT THEY HAD AT LEAST ONE OF MOST THINGS THAT YOU MIGHT NEED. PRICES WERE VERY HIGH, **HOWEVER**



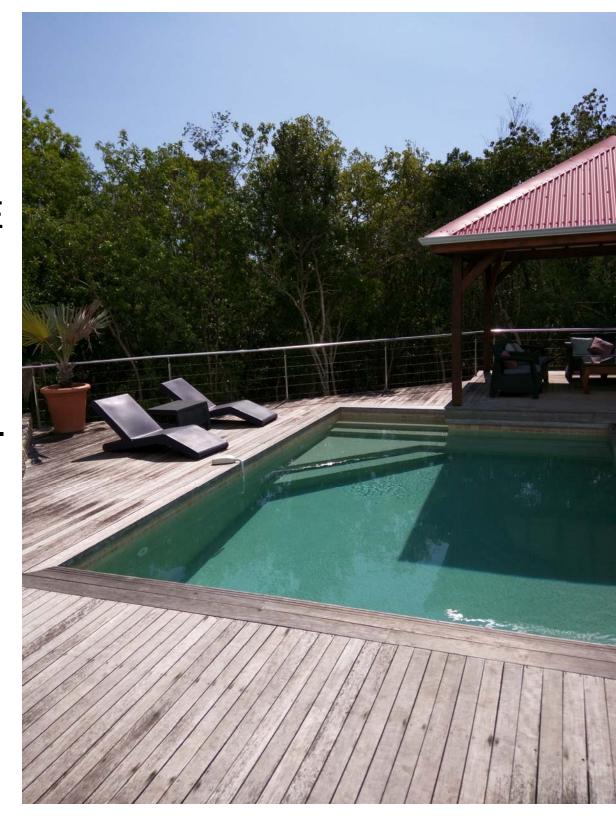
A FIRST LOOK AT OUR VILLA

IT WAS TOUGH WORK, BUT SOMEBODY HAD TO DO IT



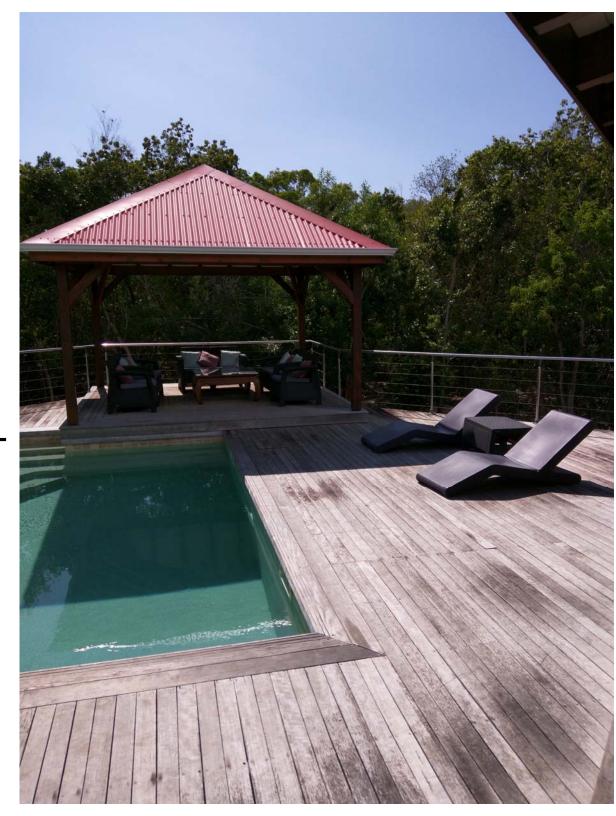
LEFT SIDE OF THE POOL. WE MOVED THE POTTED PLANT AND THE LOUNGE CHAIRS.

NOTE THE RED METAL ROOF OF THE GAZEBO. THAT GOT US INTO TROUBLE LATER.



RIGHT SIDE OF THE POOL. WE MOVED ALL THE "EXTRA" STUFF TO THE RIGHT NEAR THE LOUNGE CHAIRS.

HERE IS A CLEAR SHOT OF THE GAZEBO AND THE POOL.



BUILDING UP THE 2M ANTENNAS. AFTER THE ANTENNAS ARE AFIXED, THE TRIPOD EXTENDS TO GET THE ANTENNAS TO A WORKING HEIGHT.

LATER WE HAD TO MOVE THE ANTENNA TO ABOUT WHERE JURGEN IS STANDING

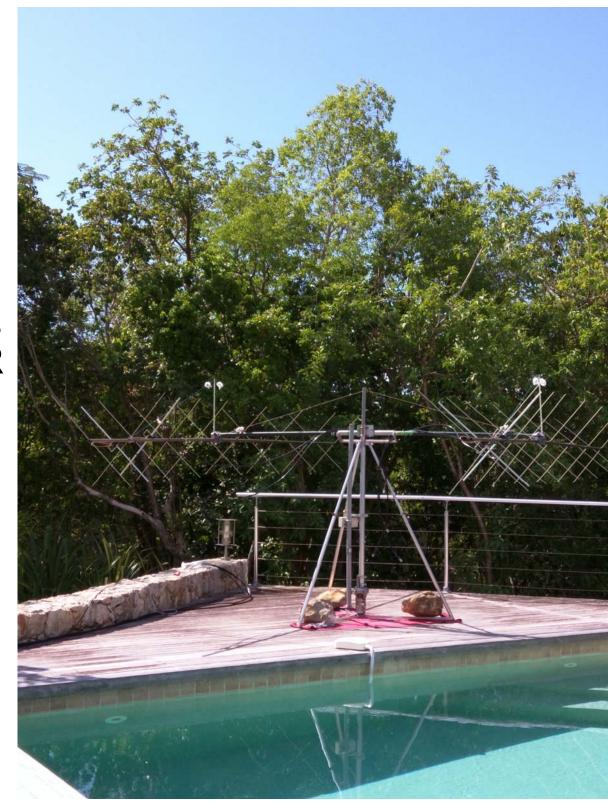
RENE' IS A
PERFECTIONIST. ALL
THE PARTS HAD TO BE
PERFECTLY IN LINE



THE 2M ANTENNA IS READY TO GO.

NOTE THAT THE
MAST WILL BE PUSHED
UP LATER SO THAT THE
ANTENNAS WILL CLEAR
THE FENCE AND THE
DECK.

NOTE ALSO THAT THE
ANTENNAS ARE
MOUNTED IN THE X
CONFIGURATION
RATHER THAN AS
H AND V POLARITY



HERE IS THE 2M **ANTENNA WITH** A SINGLE YAGI FOR 432. WE REMOVED THE 432 ANTENNA **AFTER OUR 1** DAY ON 432. NOTE THE ROTOR AT THE **BOTTOM AND** THE ROCKS.



HERE IS ANOTHER PICTURE WITH THE 432 ANTENNA MOUNTED.

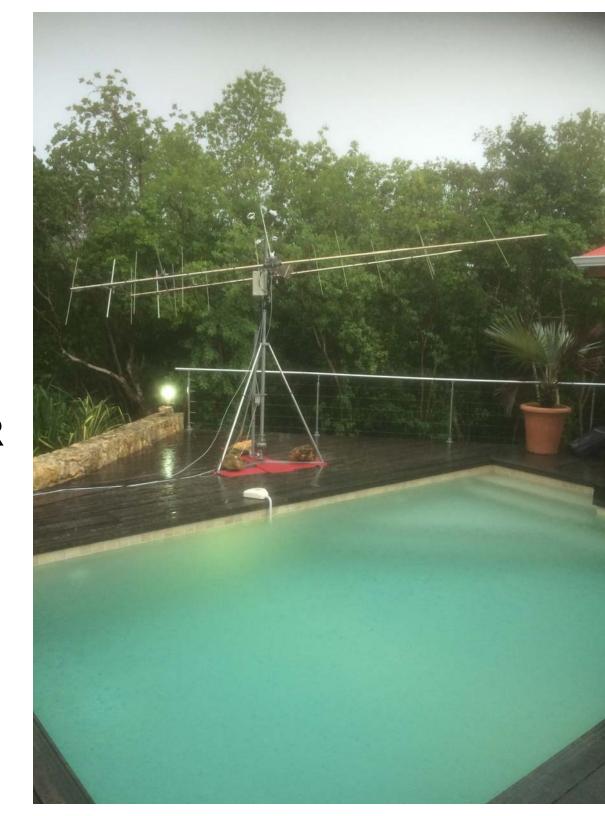
NOTE THE STRANGE
TILT OF THE ANTENNA.
THE BOOM OF THE
ANTENNA IS MOUNTED
IN A SLEEVE THAT
ALLOWS IT TO BE
TWISTED TO ANY
POLARITY.

WE WOULD OPERATE AS H-POL FOR A WHILE AND THEN CHANGE TO V-POL FOR NEW ONES.

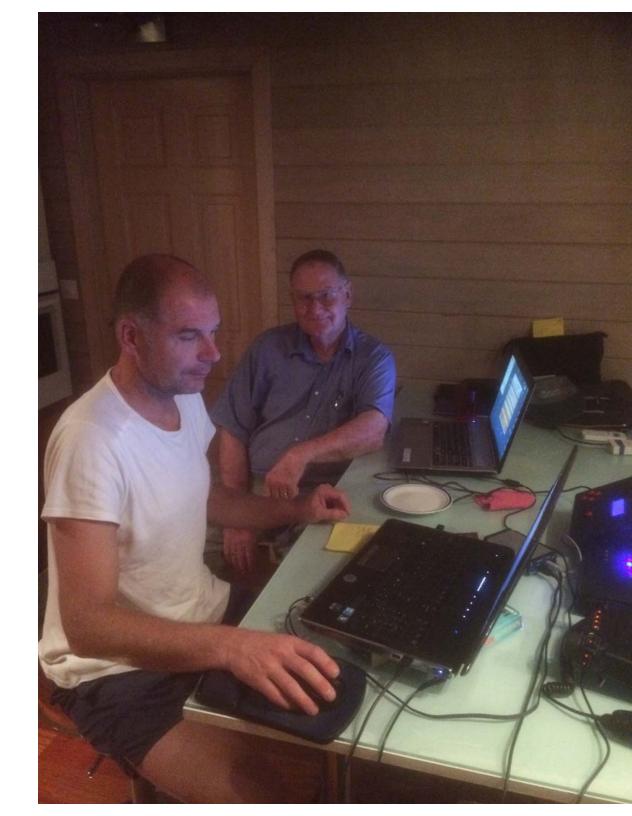


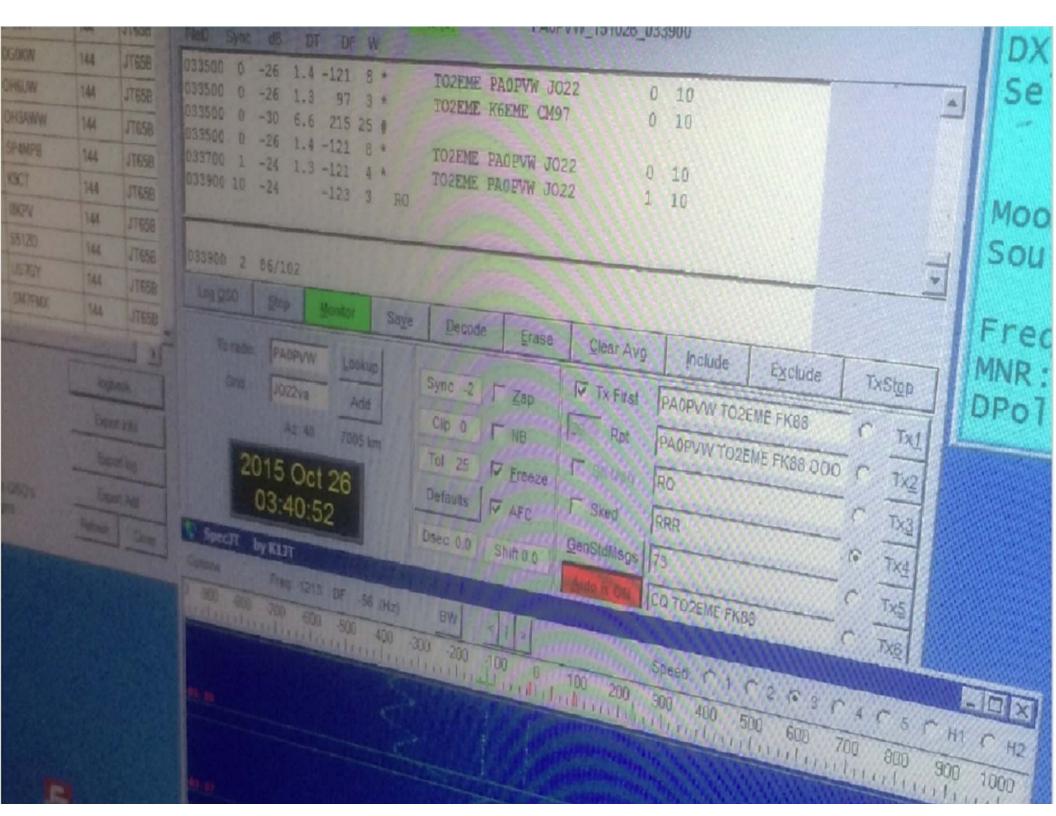
THE 2M ANTENNA IN
THE RAIN. WE GOT
LOTS OF RAIN MOSTLY
AT NIGHT.

NOTE THE RED METAL ROOF AT THE FAR RIGHT. WE HAD TO MOVE THE ANTENNAS TO THE LEFT TO CLEAR THAT ROOF AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS OF OPERATING.

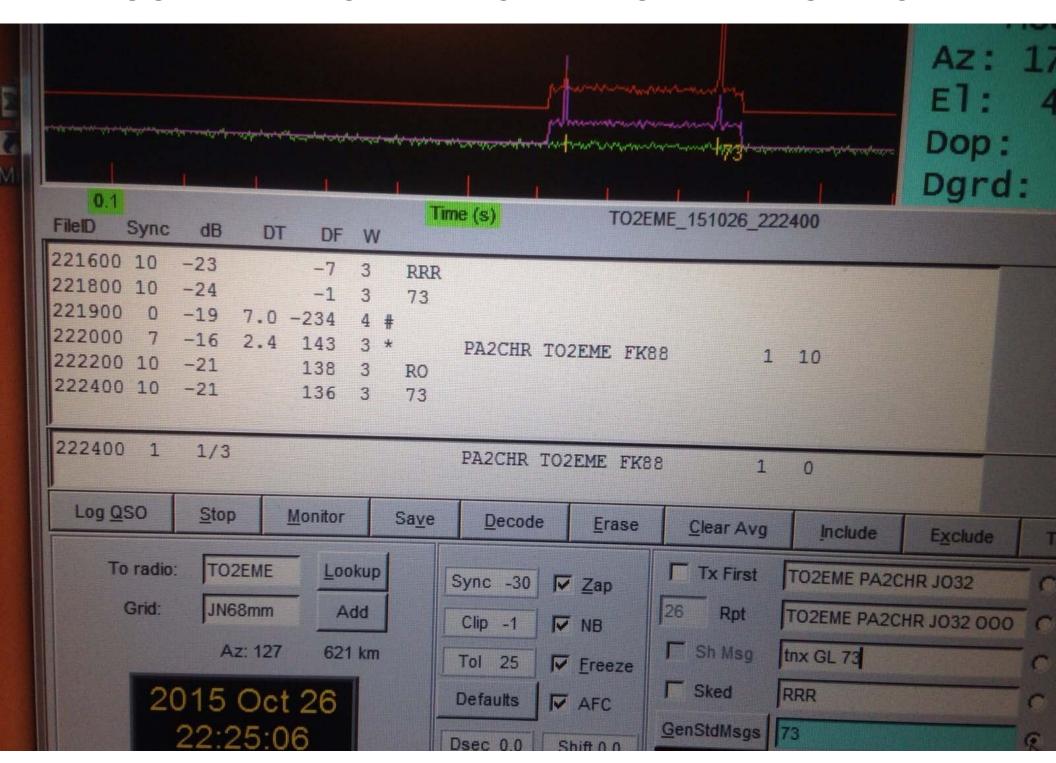


THE 2M OPERATING POSITION. THE RIG WAS AN FT-857. THE **COMPUTER IN FRONT** OF JOHAN WAS USED FOR THE WSJT AND THE COMPUTER IN FRONT OF ME WAS **USED FOR LOGGING** AND MESSAGING. ALL THE INTERFACES WERE UNIQUE TO PE1L. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY OF THEM BEFORE. HOWEVER, THEY ALL WORKED VERY WELL.





A SCREEN FROM THE OTHER SIDE-PA2CHR ON 2M



BUILDING UP THE DISH

NOTE THE ROTATOR
AT THE BOTTOM AND
THE JACKSCREW JUST
ABOVE THE RECLINER.
THE RIBS ARE AFIXED
TO THE HUB, READY
FOR THE FABRIC
COVER.

NO BALLAST ROCKS
YET, BUT THEY ARE
NECESSARY BECAUSE
OF THE WIND. ONE
NIGHT, THE DISH BLEW
OVER DAMAGING TWO
OF THE RIBS.



THE RIBS--TWO OF THEM GOT BENT IN A WINDSTORM DISH BUILT BY PA7JB



THE MICROWAVE DISH

MADE FROM AL RIBS
AND REFLECTIVE
COATED FABRIC SEWN
TOGETHER BY
JURGEN'S YL-KITTY.

THERE WERE TWO
DIFFERENT FEEDS,
ONE FOR 1296 AND
ONE FOR 2304. THIS
ONE IS THE 2304 FEED.

FEEDLINE IS ECONOFLEX 15 SIMILAR TO LMR-600 BUT ALL COPPER



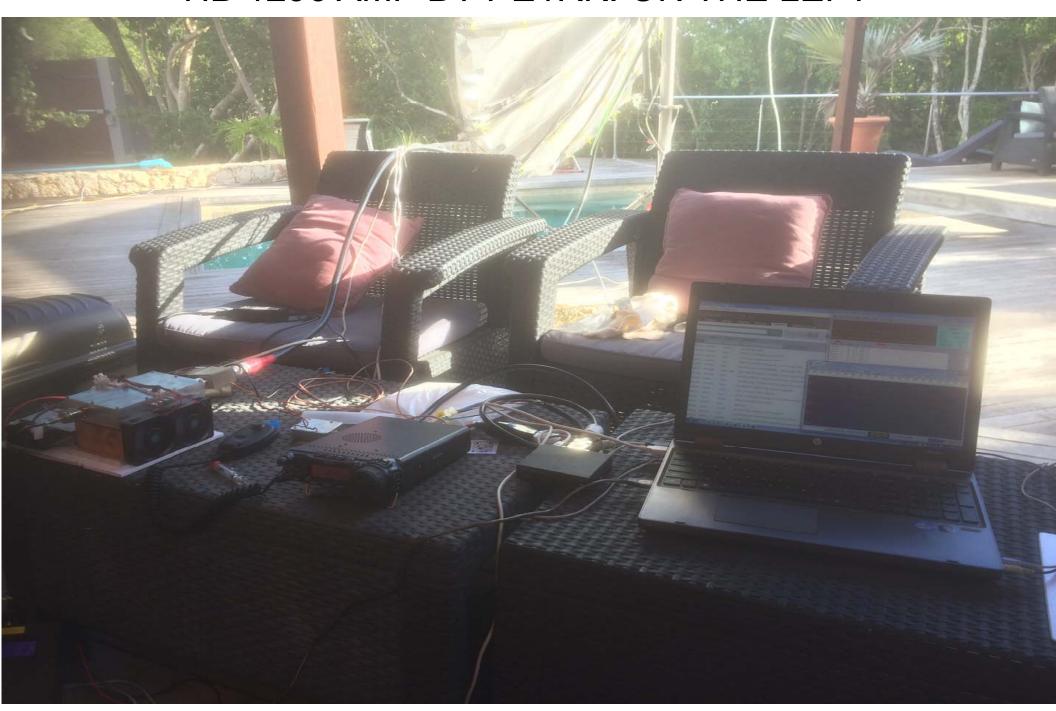
HERE IS THE DISH WITH THE 1296 FEED IN PLACE.

NOTE HOW MUCH LARGER IT IS THAN THE 2304 FEED.

WE ALSO HAVE THE BALLAST ROCKS IN PLACE NOW. THEY WERE NOT QUITE ENOUGH.



THE MICROWAVE OPERATING POSITION HB 1296 AMP BY PE1RKI ON THE LEFT



JOHAN RUNNING THE MICROWAVE STATION AT NIGHT.

YOU CAN SEE THE
KUHNE TRANSVERTER
TO THE LEFT
AND THE ROTOR
CONTROLLER
DOWN ON THE FLOOR.

YOU CAN ALSO SEE THE YAESU FT-857 RIG JUST BELOW THE GLOWING LAPTOP SCREEN.



MOVING ON TO

SINT MAARTEN

AND THE PENTHOUSE SUITE

WE WERE RENTING THE TOP FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING.

THE ANTENNAS WENT ON THE ROOF.

THE 2M GEAR WAS ON
THE 6TH FLOOR
AND THE MICROWAVE
GEAR WAS LOCATED
IN THE ACCESS HALL
TO THE ROOF. THIS
MADE THE OPERATING
UNCOMFORTABLE
FOR JURGEN AND
JOHAN



THE VIEW FROM THE ROOF-MORE TOUGH DUTY

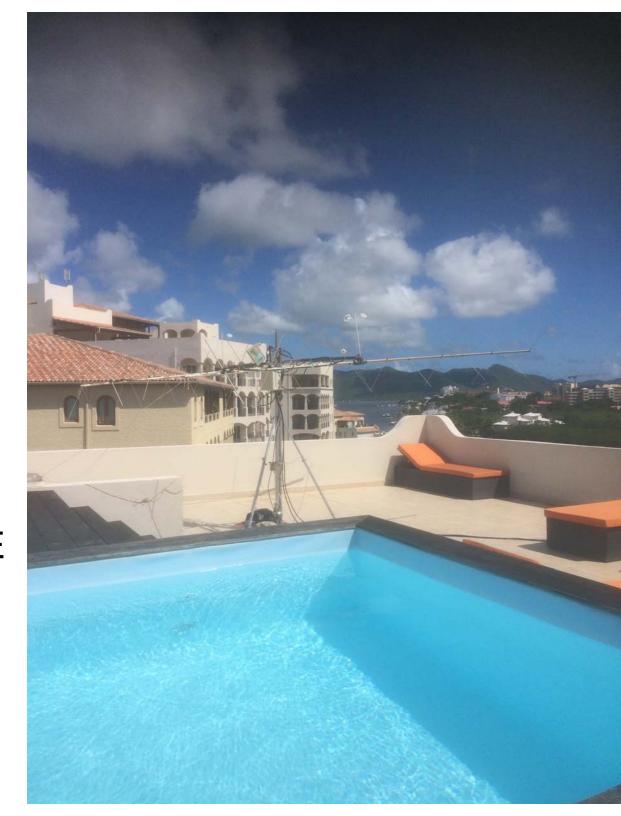


THE ROOFTOP OF THE APPARTMENT BUILDING.

ANOTHER POOL!!

THE 2M ANTENNA IS INSTALLED BUT NOT ELEVATED TO WORKING HEIGHT.

THE DISH IS TO THE LEFT OF THIS PICTURE WHERE THE STAIRS COME UP TO THE ROOF.



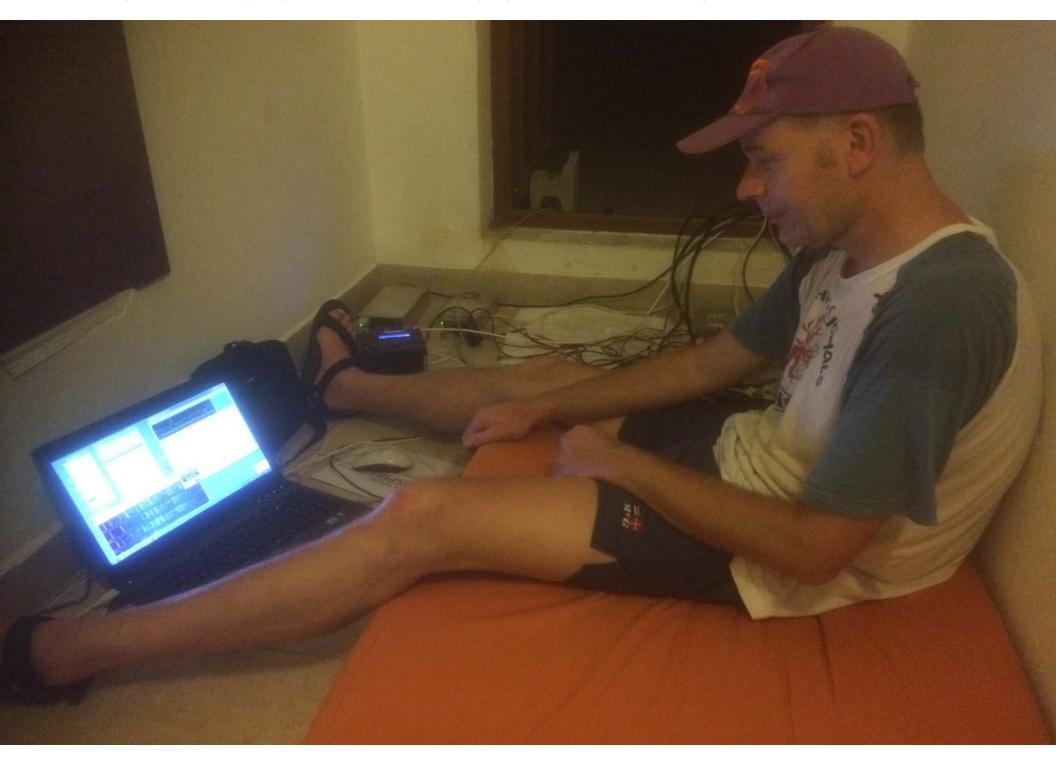
THE DISH ON THE ROOF WITH THE 2304 FEED IN PLACE.

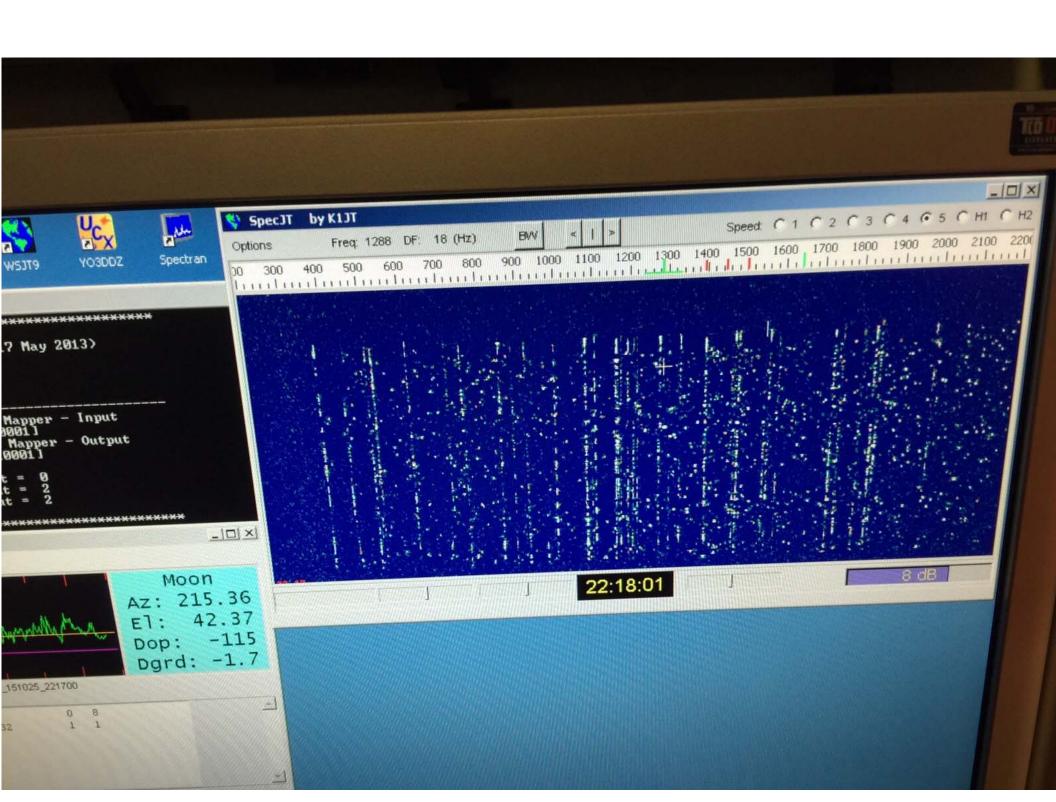
THE DOOR GOES TO
THE STARIWELL.
JURGEN AND JOHAN
HAD TO OPERATE THE
MICROWAVE STATION
FROM THERE.

THE RESULTS WERE AMAZING FOR ONLY A 1.8 METER DISH.



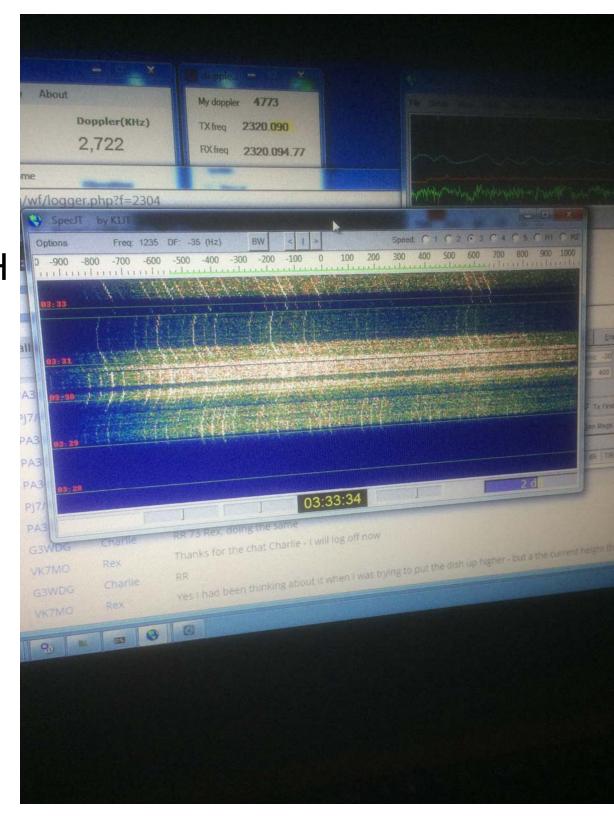
SITTING ON THE FLOOR IN THE STAIRWELL



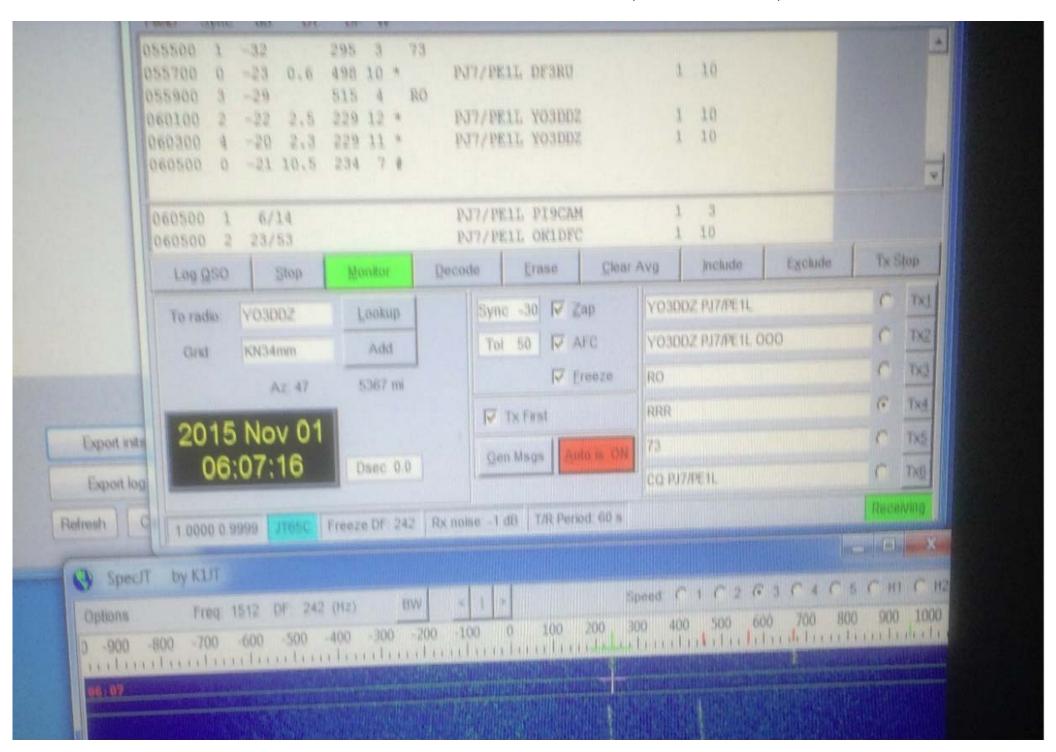


THIS SHOWS SOME OF THE WIFI CRAP THAT JURGEN AND JOHAN HAD TO CONTEND WITH ON 2304.

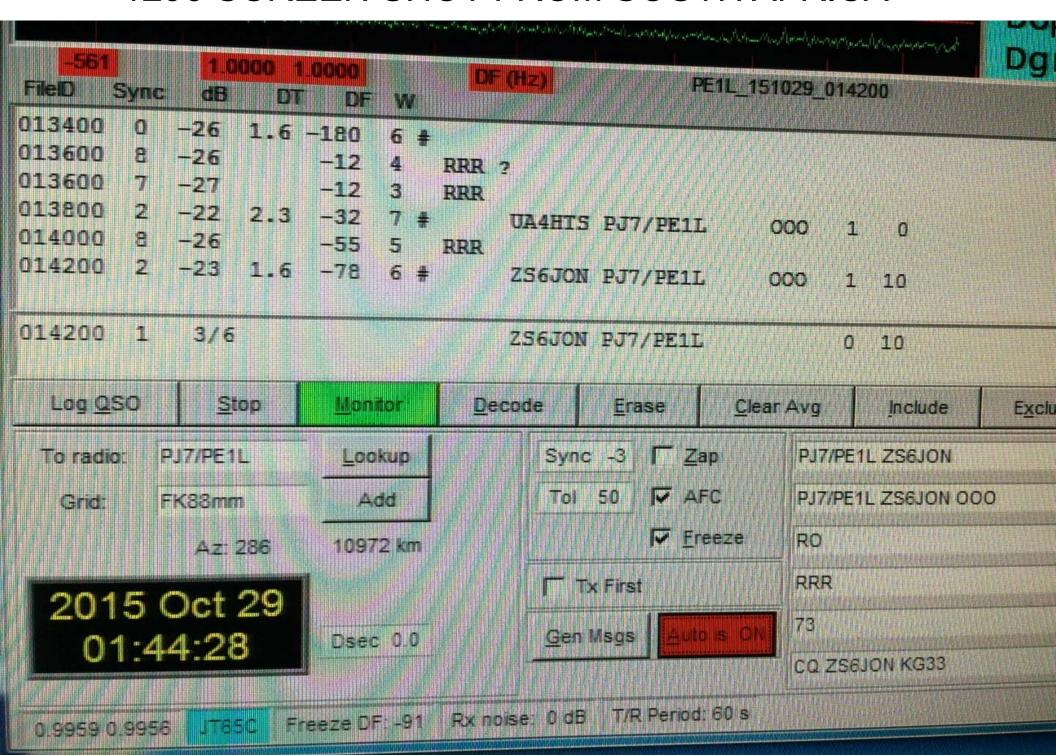
IT WAS PRETTY AWFUL BUT THEY MADE CONTACTS THROUGH ALL THAT JUNK.



1296 SCREEN SHOT-PI9CAM, DF3RU, YO3DDZ



1296 SCREEN SHOT FROM SOUTH AFRICA



AND THE RESULTS WERE

| TOTAL QSOs ALL BANI | TO2EME OS 464 | PJ7/PE1L 314 | GND TOT 778 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| TOTAL QSOS ON 2M | 346 | 215 | 561 |
| TOTAL QSOs ON 432 | 25 | 27 | 52 |
| TOTAL QSOs ON 1296 | 73 | 58 | 131 |
| TOTAL QSOs ON 2304 | 20 | 14 | 34 |

THIS IS THE NUMBER 1 EME DXPEDITION OF ALL TIME. TO2EME WAS VOTED THE TOP EME EXPEDITION OF 2015. BY COMPARISON, ARILSS AND I MADE 329 QSOs FROM THE FALKLANDS IN TEN DAYS



THE BEAUTIFUL QSL CARDS-I HOPE YOU GOT ONE



QUESTIONS?

THANKS es 73 de

RENE'-PE1L JOHAN-PA3FPQ JURGEN-PE1LWT MARSHALL-K5QE