

Hello, first of all, everybody a prosperous new Year

This year started with tremendous problems! If we are calling SK7MW at 70cm and getting no answer, than must be something wrong with our station! This happened during the NAC in December.

As the weather was not so fine in the last month, I had to wait for a good moment to climb up the tower and see what happened. There I could realize that we got two problems. First and most important one was an interruption at the flexible 3/8 inch coax cable between the main 7/8 inch TX- line and the coax relay which is responsible to bypass the rotator. Below You can see what happened!



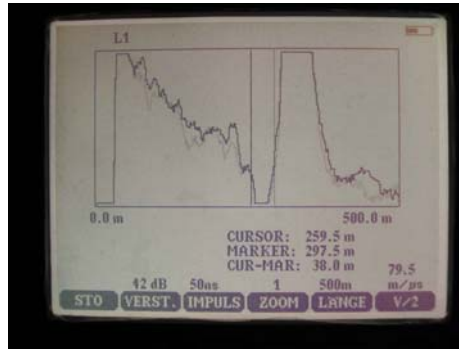
In the meantime I was able to replace it.

The second problem is a mechanical desolated power- splitter which is responsible for combining the 4 x 4 Yagigroups at the centre of the antenna. Continuous windshake destroyed the type N- connectors. This means that we will have only a 4Yagi- system for the next time until we can repair this component. The kindly help from the local fire- fighters with their 34m ladder will be necessary to remount all and protect it against water and dust.

Last Tuesday, occasionally our weekly meeting we had no electric power in our hut. The fuse in the house, where we get it from, was blown. A first check with an ohm-meter showed us a reduction of the isolation between all wires in the cable.

Next day I made first checks with a pulse- reflection analyser which I have in my job. As it is brand new equipment, especially for checking DSL- lines I had to learn how to use it!





The result was that the length of the cable is abt 297.5m (interruption, as we disconnected the cable), the fault (loss of isolation) is abt 38m away from the far-, or 259.5m from the near end.

This is not really a great help if nobody knows where the cable lies exactly in the ground, but a help if you want to know where you have to search!

Doing my job I have connections to many people which are responsible for several things, so I could ask the best one for helping us!

I remembered my good old friend Harry, DC3YO, who isn't active on HAM- Radio for many Years, but quite often I am in contact with him, because they are customer from my company. He is the technical chief and has super acknowledgement for this kind of trouble. I am sure, normally he asks his people to work outdoor if it's cold and raining but at once he promised to help us. So we could start this project last Saturday.



Harry prepares the line



Searching the exact position of the cable with a cable- finder



....and marking it



Giving HV- impulses at the line, the difference between two points can be measured!



Reducing the space between the checkpoints the mistake can be localized with accuracy less than ca 2cm!!



Left to right: DL6NAA, Farmer Gerhard(owner of the meddow!), DJ2NR, DH1NFL



Bingo! 100% success!

Right part of the picture Harry, DC3YO



After repairing the cable we are QRV again

So far my report about the disaster we got. This time no pictures with beer!

Greetings to everybody see you next time!

Rene, DL6NAA