

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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ISO/OK5EME QRV from Sardinia

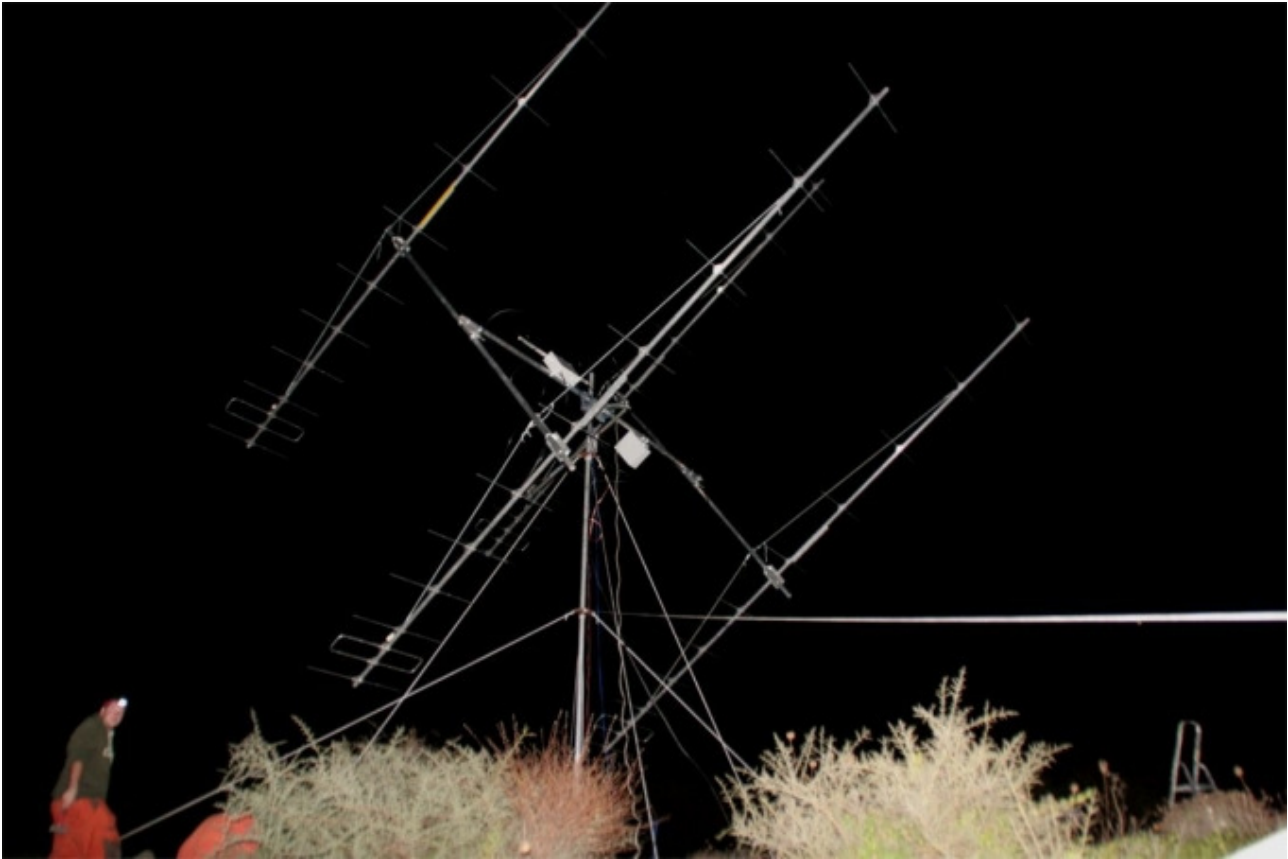
During the first leg of the ARRL EME contest on 22/23 October 2011 a Czech team (OK1DFC, OK3RM, OK1NR, DL6SH) activated Sardinia on 144, 432, 1296 and 2320 MHz EME. In JN41SA the equipment on 144 MHz was 4 x 11 ele yagi (G0KSC), GS35B linear amp and IC9100 with ATF54143 VLNA.



The QSL card of ISO/OK5EME.

After 1450 km long trip by car which included also 8 hours ferry between Livorno and Olbia during night, the first half of the DXpedition team arrived on site in JN41SA on 20 October 2011. Immediately they started preparing the "camp". The following day the second half of the team arrived. Assembly of the 144 and 432 MHz setups started right away because the main goal was participating in the ARRL EME contest. In the evening that Friday, everything was ready. All units and antennas were in place. In

the morning of 22 October, as soon as the moon was clear of the hills, IS0/OK5EME started to CQ on 144 MHz – and immediately had a pile-up. Very often there were 10 or more stations calling these first hours. Zdenek OK3RM operated 144 while Slawek DL6SH worked as a coordinator with the very bad internet connection.



The four yagis pointing to the moon. (Photos www.ok1dfc.com)

EME traffic was very easy going during the first contest day except for some “internal QRM”: The transmissions on 144 MHz caused some noise in the 432 MHz rx so the team had to coordinate 2 m and 70 cm to transmit always the same sequence, i.e. the first minute. Even some CW stations called and were easily worked thanks to WSJT9 offering also CW with easy switch-over in 1 minute sequences.

After a short sleeping break the team started the second leg of the ARRL contest on Sunday. Again 144 MHz was very busy, and again they lost some time after moonrise because only at elevations $>10^\circ$ there was a clear shot at the moon.

The days after that weekend moon and sun became closer and close which meant a steady noise increase. However, still QSOs were possible though activity became less and less. Most stations needing IS0 DXCC should have been already in the log. Therefore at new moon the team decided to spend at least one tourist day, travelling around La Maddalena Island. On 27th they worked again a couple of stations on 2 m but activity was very low then Eventually they started to break down antennas and disassemble all equipment, preparing for the journey back home on Saturday.

The ISO DXpedition is history now, with very successful results. On all bands together the team completed nearly 400 QSOs. And now the Czech friends are thinking about where to go next time.

7P8EME: 274 EME QSOs from Lesotho

The recent EME DXpedition to Lesotho from 16 to 26 September 2011 ended up with 274 two way contacts via moon. The team with members Pine ZS60B, Dick ZS6BUN, Wynand ZS6ARF, Pieter ZS6PA and Hermann DL2NUD was QRV on 144 MHz from Ramabanta Trading Post Lesotho (KG30VI). Equipment used were IC-9100H with 4 x XP20 and a ME 1500 amp. Further activities took place also on 6 m and 70 cm EME.



The four XP20 cross yagis were mounted on a mobile trailer.

However, when starting the QSLing process big problems appeared: As a substantial number of QSL letters got lost on in the mail Pine asks everyone NOT to send money with the QSL card but – if possible – transfer the amount for return postage or donations via paypal, using the email address : pienaarja@gmail.com



The 2 m/70 cm shack at 7P8EME (Photos ZS6OB)

Upcoming/current DXpeditions

For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at www.mmmonvhf.de from where most of the information here was gathered.

8P9MS, 8P9HP Barbados (GK03GD)

This "holiday style" DXpedition conducted by Joe DL9MS and Hermann DL2NUD (Frank DL8YHR sadly had to drop out because of QRL reasons) is scheduled to start 2 m EME operations at moonrise on 9 November 2011. Equipment is a BeKo EME linear am with a 14/14 elements xpol DF7KF yagi. After arrival in Barbados they had some trouble with mains supply but this looks like being rectified now. Please keep an eye on the NOUK logger or mmmonvhf for updates on frequency.

RI1JFL Franca Iosifa Island

Victor RI1FJL (ex-R1FJM, UA3ME) is still very busy in CW giving the much wanted DXCC to the ham community. Skeds via UA3MBJ.

Time Table

19/20 Nov 2011
0000 - 2400Z

ARRL EME Contest (2nd leg)

5 Dec 2011

December Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter
ready for download at www.df2zc.de/newsletter

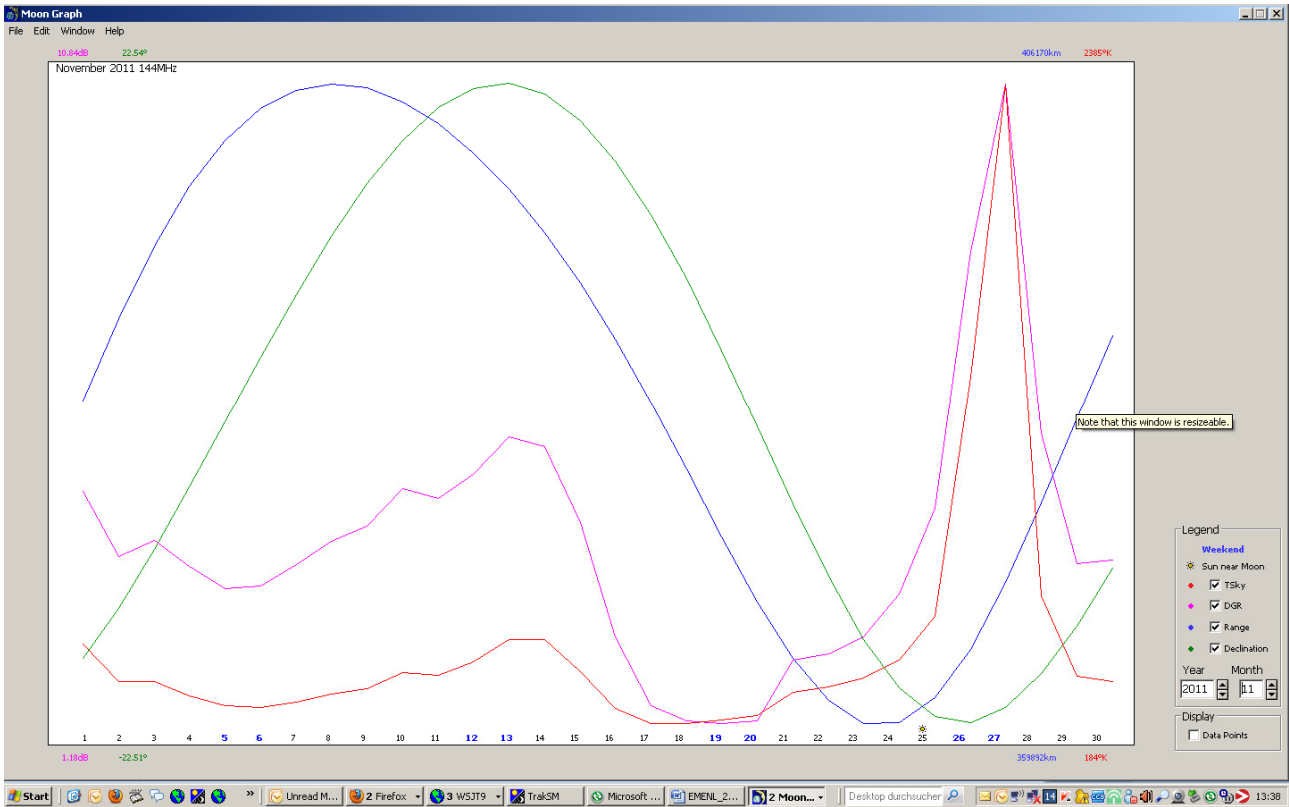
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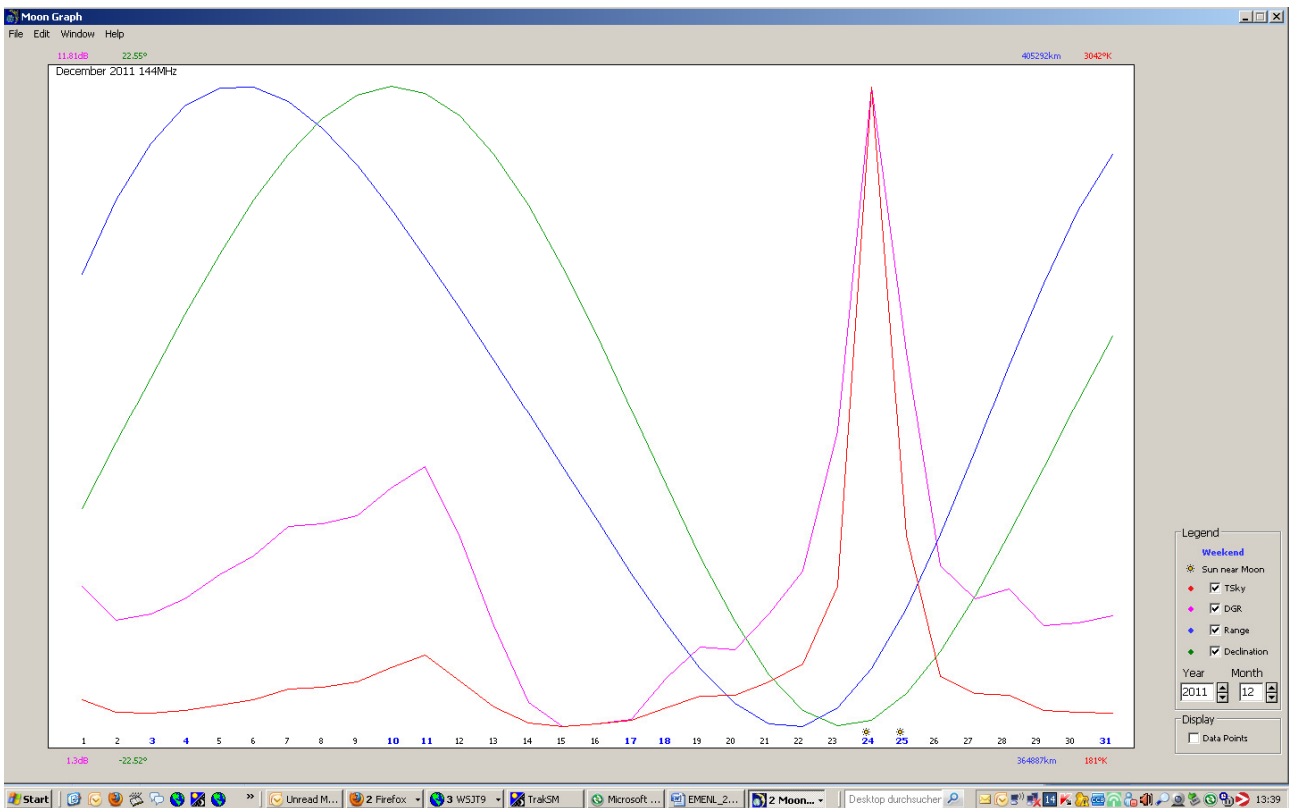
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Moon Graph November 2011



Moon Graph December 2011



(Courtesy of David GM4JJJ (www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm))