

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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7Q7EME (KH77AP) QRV from Malawi in May 2015



No, this is not an ocean shore, it is the beach of lake Malawi with 2 x 8 ele xpol

Since 2009 the Atletico Team René PE1L and Eltje PA3CEE travel to Africa every year, with the objective to give as many EME`rs as possible a new DXCC entity. Sometimes they are on their own, sometimes other enthusiasts join them.

This year Malawi 7Q was chosen as destination, the poorest country in Africa. And this time Hermann DL2NUD joined in, taking care of the higher bands 23 cm, 13 cm and 9 cm while Eltje and René focused on 144 MHz and 432 MHz.

Via Bremen/Berlin and Amsterdam the group started their journey on 5th May. First they flew to Kenya where they changed flights for destination Malawi. Here they arrived on 6th May, with no problems at all with customs! A miracle!

On 2 m the same equipment as with 6W/PE1L, 9G5EME, 5X1EME and C56EME was used - proven quality: Yaesu FT-857d with TCXO, Preamps by WA2ODO, 2 x 8 ele IOJXX, antenna control system DRIACS-G3 by HB9DRI, good EME power by ITALAB, excellent cables, couplers, sequencer, ALC control and filters as well as different custom made software for DXpedition purposes. On 432 MHz a 23 ele yagi was used and more power than the last years, on 23 cm and up a 1,5 m dish.

Just some 30 m from the beach of the lake Malawi they had booked a well suited house, in KH77AP. With antennas at the beach they had good take off at moonset and moonrise over water, and good chance for ground gain. The only problem were millions of aggressive mosquitos. However, since it was so hot, the process to build up the station had to be done very slowly, the African way of working. Eventually at Saturday 9th May evening (UTC time) 7Q7EME started CQing at their moonrise at 20.20 UTC on 144.134 MHz. That became a successful night. It started with Wayne VK5APN and slowly but steadily more and more stations westwards made it into the log. It resulted in 121 different inits, all continents were worked within 10 hours. Particularly at moonset the signals became amazingly loud, thanks to the ground gain.



A shack in the sand: René at the working position close to the beach.

During the night they saw some strange crawling, flying and biting creatures. Everything on legs or with wings definitely was active searching for victims. Apparently the DXpeditioners in their outdoor shack were very tasty as they all suffered from stings and bites, even through the pants.

After this successful first night also on the second day they had a lot of fun on 2 m, with the ground gain really boosting the signals. After the moon had set another 65 new inits were in the log, making it a total of 186. Day three then ended with 74 new inits, day 4 with 28 new inits, then 288 altogether.

The following days were filled with successful moon bouncing on 2 m, 70 cm, 23 cm, 13 cm and 9 cm (the latter three by Hermann DL2NUD) – and sightseeing at the days with bad moon conds. At the end of the DXpedition the summary was more than impressive: in only 9 days 50 DXCCs were worked on 2 meters, with 412 initial QSOs. 27 initials were logged on 70 cm. Hermann was also very pleased with his results on the higher bands: 1296 MHz: 38 inits, 2320 MHz: 14 inits, 3400 MHz: 9 inits.

Most importantly: a fair number of single yagi stations made it into the 2 m log book! Logs and a very interesting daily blog are available on www.emellogger.com/malawi as well as many photos.



The 7Q7EME DXpedition team, from left PE1L, PA3CEE, DL2NUD (Photos PE1L, PA3CEE)

Upcoming DXpeditions

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

VK5APN is once again in “new” grid squares

Wayne is again travelling for work, this time to the Pt Pirie area (PF86, PF96 squares) on 26th and 27th August. Depending on workload (his local QRV times are from midnight to 5 am) he plans to be QRV from PF86 on the 26th and PF96 on the 27th. Equipment is 2 x 9 ele with a small sspa, as usual. VK5APN will CQ 1st on 144,130 MHz.

Wayne encourages to make use of the “Lance Procedure” (<http://tinyurl.com/p7lpz9o>): If you copy the dx station, call with OOO. The dx station will then call you as usual with OOO, if you are chosen in the pileup. The QSO then runs the usual process. This procedure has the advantage that the caller can communicate that he does copy the dx station – and by falling back to calling without OOO that he no longer copies the dx (which is the particular advantage of the Lance Procedure). This increases the efficiency of the DXpedition as no time is wasted by sending OOO to a caller who no longer copies.

More nice DXpeditions to much wanted DXCCs are in the queue for September, stay tuned.

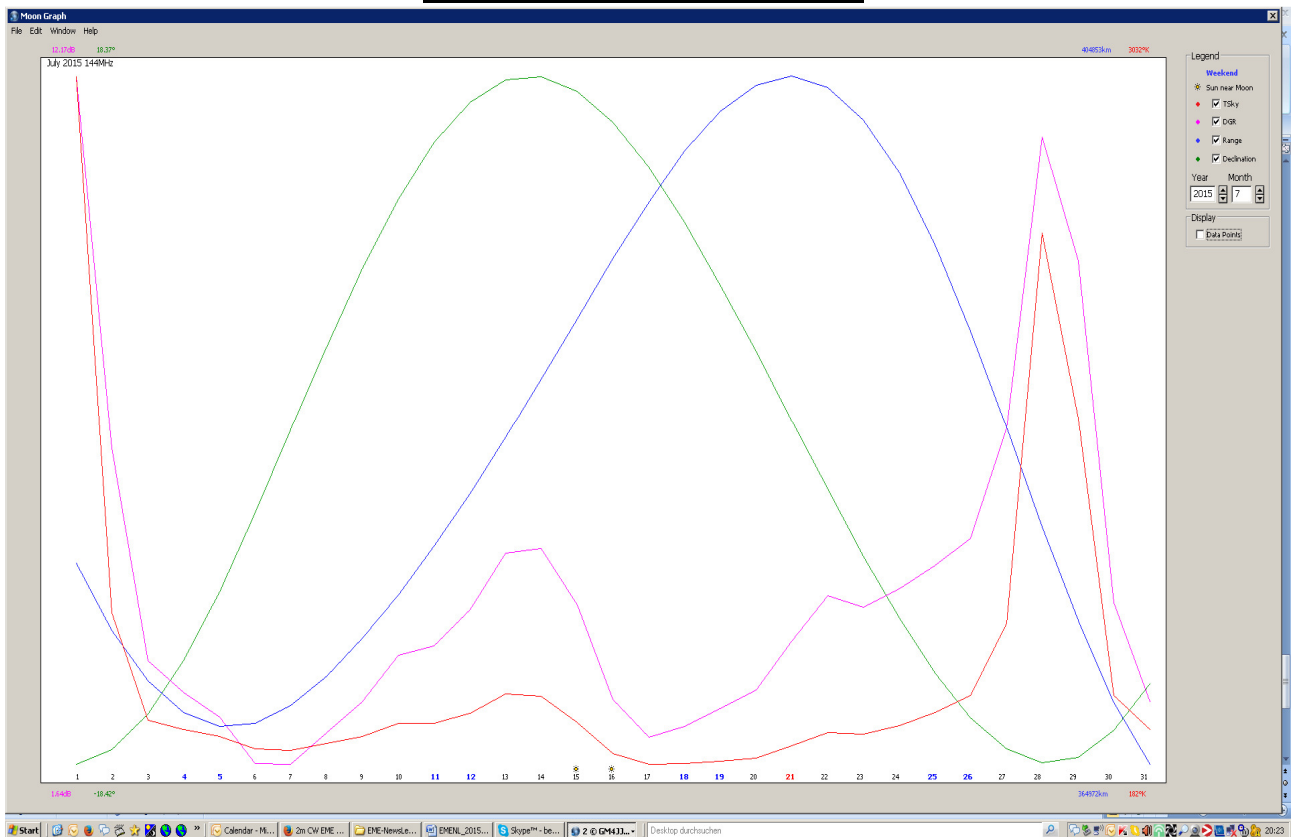
Time Table

7 Aug 2015	2330-0230	144 MHz CW EME Activity Event 1st leg
8 Aug 2015	0800-1100	144 MHz CW EME Activity Event 2nd leg
9 Aug 2015		August Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at http://www.df2zc.de

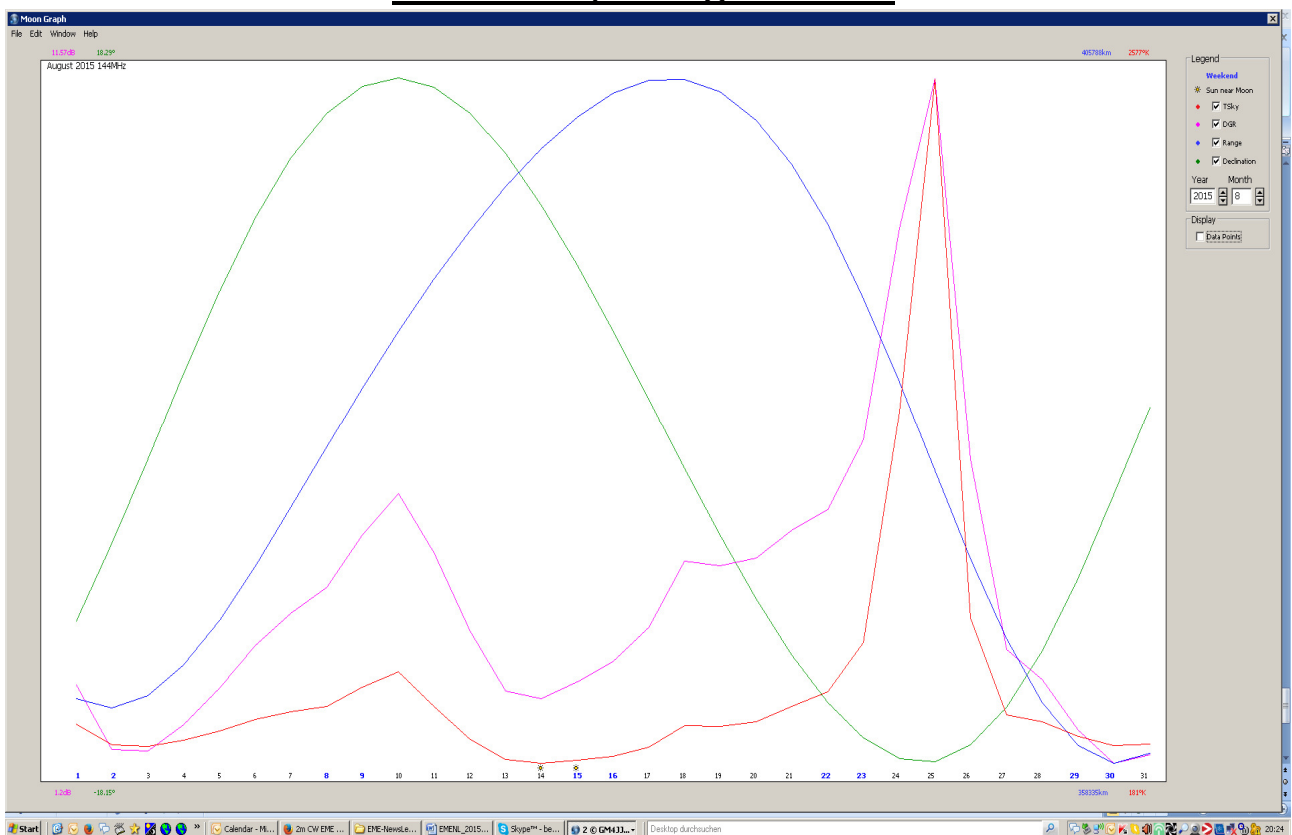


Summer
greetings from
DF2ZC and
daughter 2 from
the desert in
Dubai on 13
July (the reason
this newsletter
comes delayed)

Moon Graph July 2015



Moon Graph August 2015



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