

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Issue 10/2015 12 Oct 2015

Moon Bounce from the Vatican City State



From left: PA2CHR, IK0FTA, IK0FVC and PA3CMC with the 12-ele-xpol

One of the most wanted European DXCC entities except for SV/A Mount Athos is HV: the Vatican City state. During the past decade there had been a number of tries (also by the editor) to get a permission to operate from that spot on 2 m EME but they all were unsuccessful. Even a letter to the then German pope only resulted in a friendly reply but yet refusal of permission.

However, Chris PA2CHR and Lins PA3CMC had better luck: Together with Sergio IK0FTA and Francesco IK0FVC (and team leader of HVOA) they successfully became QRV as HVOA from August 28th to September 1st. Apparently they somehow convinced Francesco of the necessity that HV

needed to be activated via moon again since the last dxpedition was 16 years ago (then by Wolfgang DL5MAE). Even 70 cm was now in focus, for the very first time at all.

Antenna used on 2 m was just a single 12/12 ele xpol (DK7ZB design), together with a powerful sspa, lna and a FT-857. Nevertheless, it was not certain whether they would be successful at all: During an earlier trip to Rome in May 2015 Chris had checked the local QRM situation from the roof of the building where the HVOA station is located. With very frustrating results: From up there one has a clear view at entire Rome which results in some 20 to 50 dB noise, depending on antenna direction: unbelievable. Because of that a very sharp band pass filter was an important add-on to the equipment.

Upon arrival the Dutch team decided not to build the antenna on the roof but in the garden behind the building. So the building acted as some kind of shield against the noise. This had to be paid by a minimum elevation needed at moon rise. Anyway, until the first moon rise Chris and Lins did not know whether they would make a single moon bounce QSO.



At moon rise the moon became visible only >10 deg elevation behind the neighbouring building which cost about one hour of operating time.

Chris built the entire equipment into his car which then served as shack for the three days, parking in the garden. Good they could manage to get access to 230 V mains supply. And luckily Chris' and Lins' accommodation was within walking distance so no car was needed for commuting.

At 18.00 UTC on August 28th the moon finally became visible above the building and HVOA started CQing. A few minutes later the pile-up was there, the game was on: Chris and Lins felt the entire world calling for them – at least the part with common moon. 96 QSOs were in the log at the end of that moon pass, followed by another 95 the next day.



Moon bounce in front of the St Peter's basilica: One advantage of that car setup was the short antenna cable with little loss on the tx side. (Photos PA3CMC)

The third day was dedicated to 70 cm where they also worked 19 stations with the highlight DL9KR in CW. For the final day of the activity Lins and Chris then put the 2 m yagi back to the tower, adding another 57 QSOs to a total of 248 initial contacts on 144 MHz. No doubt many radio hams now are very grateful to the two dxpeditioners. Maybe it takes another 16 years until the next 2 m EME is worked from the Vatican?

Upcoming 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.

FG4KH QRV Again From Guadeloupe

Philippe F1DUZ is back in the Caribbean from Oct 17th to Nov 3rd. Running as FG4KH from FK96HF he will also be QRV on 2m EME again, also during the ARRL EME contest Oct 31st – Nov 1st. Latest news are on his dedicated website <http://fgdxpeditionf1duz.monsite-orange.fr/>

TO2EME (Saint Martin) And PJ7/PE1L (Sint Maarten)

René PE1L, Johan PA3FPQ, Jurgen PE1LWT and Marshall K5QE will be QRV from Saint Martin and Sint Maarten combined from October 22nd to October 27th 2015 as TO2EME and from 29 Oct to 1 November as PJ7/PE1L. Please see August newsletter for details.

Portable EME From Connecticut: W1E

The team of NC1I, W1QA, KA1QFE and N1DPM will set up in FN32QA in Connecticut on Wednesday November 18th and be on from 19th until their moonset on 22nd to activate that state on EME. Primary operating frequency will be 144.144 MHz and callsign will be W1E. Please see September newsletter for details.

Time Table

31 Oct 2015	0000Z →	ARRL EME Contest
01 Nov 2015	→ 2400Z	

02 Nov 2015	November Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at http://www.df2zc.de
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The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

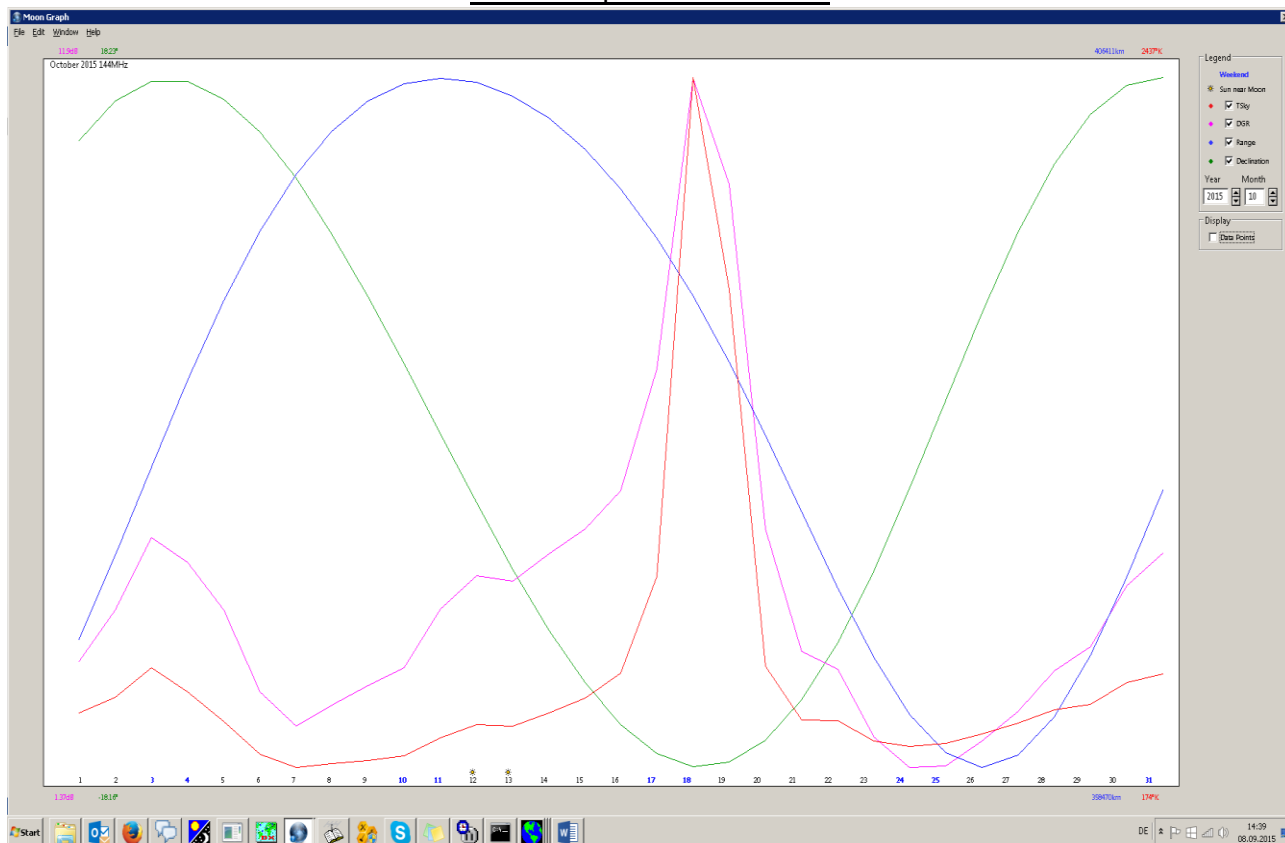
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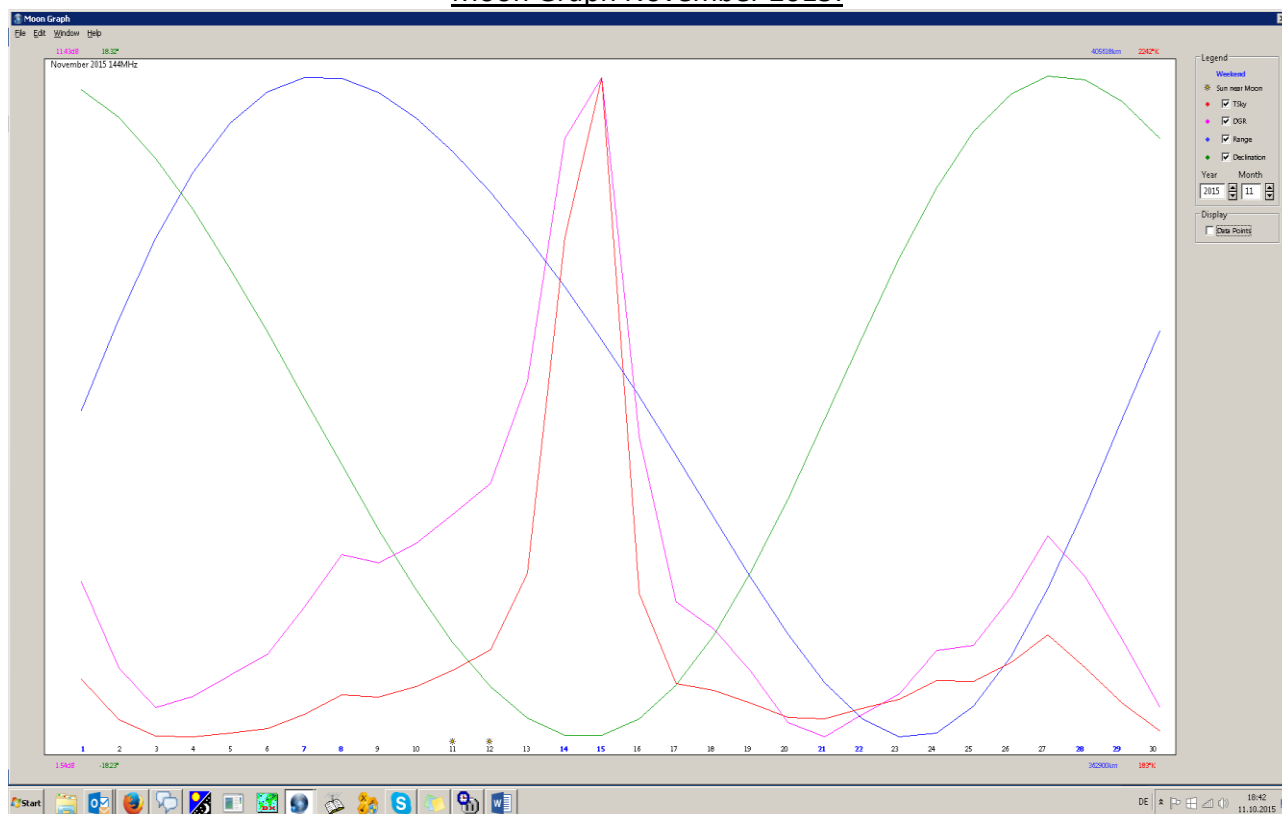
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Latest DXpedition Info:
www.mmmmonvhf.de

Moon Graph October 2015:



Moon Graph November 2015:



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