

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Issue 10/2016 9 Oct 2016

CY9C QRV from St. Paul Island

There are some very remote places in the world which count as a separate DXCC entity – and one of them is the Saint Paul Island, a small uninhabited island located in the St. Lorenz gulf between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Activating that place only works with substantial logistic effort: Due to the harsh weather there, at most times the island can only be reached via helicopter. And once one has arrived one needs to keep the fingers crossed that the weather, particularly the dominating high winds is supportive – as are rain and fog.



The two yagis at CY9C with Logs Lighthouse at North East Point on St. Paul Island

From August 19th to 29th a multi band DXpedition was QRV from St. Paul, using the call sign CY9C. They worked from two different sites on the island, Atlantic Cove and North East point. One member of the DXpedition team was Lee, WW2DX. After his first EME activities from S9 (November 2015) and J8 (March 2016) he now wanted to activate that rare DXCC via 2 m moon bounce. Preparing for this he had changed his antenna setup (two 9 elements G0KSCs at combined ~15 dBd) from vertical to horizontally polarized so that also terrestrial contacts via meteor scatter were made possible.



Lee, WW2DX in the EME shack

After some weather related delays team and parts of equipment arrived on St. Paul on August 18th. First hf operation started the same day. After finally the rest of the gear had arrived the following day Lee started assembling the 2 m station at North East point (FN97WF). When everything was set up on August 20th a first tropospheric contact in FM showed everything was working ok.

The 2M station consisted of a Elecraft K3/100, Internal K144XV 2m Transverter, IT-Labs Atlas 1000 - 1KW SSPA Amplifier, SSB Electronics 2 m Preamp SP200R and the two Innovative Antennas 9 elements.

Right after moon rise Lee started calling CQ – and soon the FFT screen filled with the well-known pile-up picture: Half of the world had been waiting for him. At times some 30 different syncs could be counted. At the end of the first moon pass 64 QSOs were in the EME log. On the 21st, at the second moon rise from CY9 the wind had picked up substantially, something around around 40 - 45

kph gusting to even 50 - 55 kph. Right after completing the QSO with Marshall K5QE a heavy gust turned the array over and operation had to be suspended. So Marshall is a very lucky guy...



A once excellent EME array now bent and broken beyond repair.

Damage assessment the following morning showed that the array was beyond repair. So all the effort resulted in just 97 QSOs – what a disappointment. To give an impression how strong the wind that day was: Due to the storm there was no helicopter flight that day and there was also no ship service due to rough sea. The team had to put supplies in one of the houses at North East point in case they had to take shelter. On his twitter site <https://twitter.com/ww2dx> Lee has uploaded some short videos showing the power of the storm. Even some of the tents collapsed.

When the wind finally calmed a little WW2DX made the best of the remaining parts of the antennas and constructed a satellite setup so that some QSOs could be made using different satellites. Though this was definitely some disappointment when everything worked so perfectly via EME and then the storm caused a sudden stop plus destroyed antennas Lee I will be starting to rebuild the portable station soon for the next trip. He's keeping us excited...



Happy about their success: The CY9C North East Point team (AA4NC, WW2DX, N2IEN, VA3QR, W2RE)

EME 2016 in Venice

The 17th International EME Conference took place from August 19th to 21st in Treviso and Venice. As the picture below shows it was very well accepted by the EME community. For the first time those who could not attend personally have a chance to watch videos of the lectures. They are available at the conference website www.eme2016.org The same applies for the presentations: They are also for download on the conference website – at no charge.

At the conference it was decided to organize EME 2018 in the Netherlands. So see you in two years time...



The EME2016 attendees all assembling at the conference website (*Photo EME2016.org*)

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.

S9YY: Together with his son Soeren, DL3RKS Peter, DL1RPL joined a German HF DXpedition to Sao Tomé & Príncipe. He is currently QRV from there (locator JJ30IJ) and will stay until October 23rd. Working frequency is 144,134 MHz and the first QSOs are already complete. More information is available at www.dl1rpl.de.

XT2AFT: Hermann reports that everything is packed, license is granted (needs to be collected at Ouagadougou, the country's capital upon arrival), QTH (locator IK92) is reserved. He will arrive at the operation site on October 12th just before midnight and start building up the station the following day. He hopes to be QRV for his moonrise or shortly thereafter on October 13th. As he will be QRV on a number of bands the time slots for 144 MHz are October 13/14, October 19/20 and maybe also on October 24th. Working frequency (QRM permitting) is 144,144 MHz and XT2AFT is always tx first. Equipment on 2 m is a 17 ele yagi (M2) and 350 W at the dipole.

KB7Q/7: Gene KB7Q will be QRV from Nevada from Oct 15th to 17th. Locator will be DN21PW, South of Jackpot, Nevada. Gene will work on 144,138 MHz, with KB7Q/7 always running first. He promotes to use the whole +/- 1 kHz or even more for calling – to avoid a concentrated pile-up. The entire

operation is field day style again - generator power, very quiet QTH, 2 x 9 elements yagi and 800 watts out. For latest news please check Gene's blog: <http://kb7qgrid.blogspot.de/>

E44CM: Chris PA2CHR and Jos PA3FYC will be QRV from Jericho (KM71RU), Palestine from November 15th to 24th. Setup on 2 m is: FT857, 2 x 20 ele X-pol. Ant (16.0 dbd), Italab PA. They will arrive on November 14th and hope for setting everything up for a first activity on the following day. And they have some good redundancy re equipment...

Time Table

22/23 Oct 00Z-24Z ARRL EME Contest (50 MHz and up)
7 Nov November issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de>

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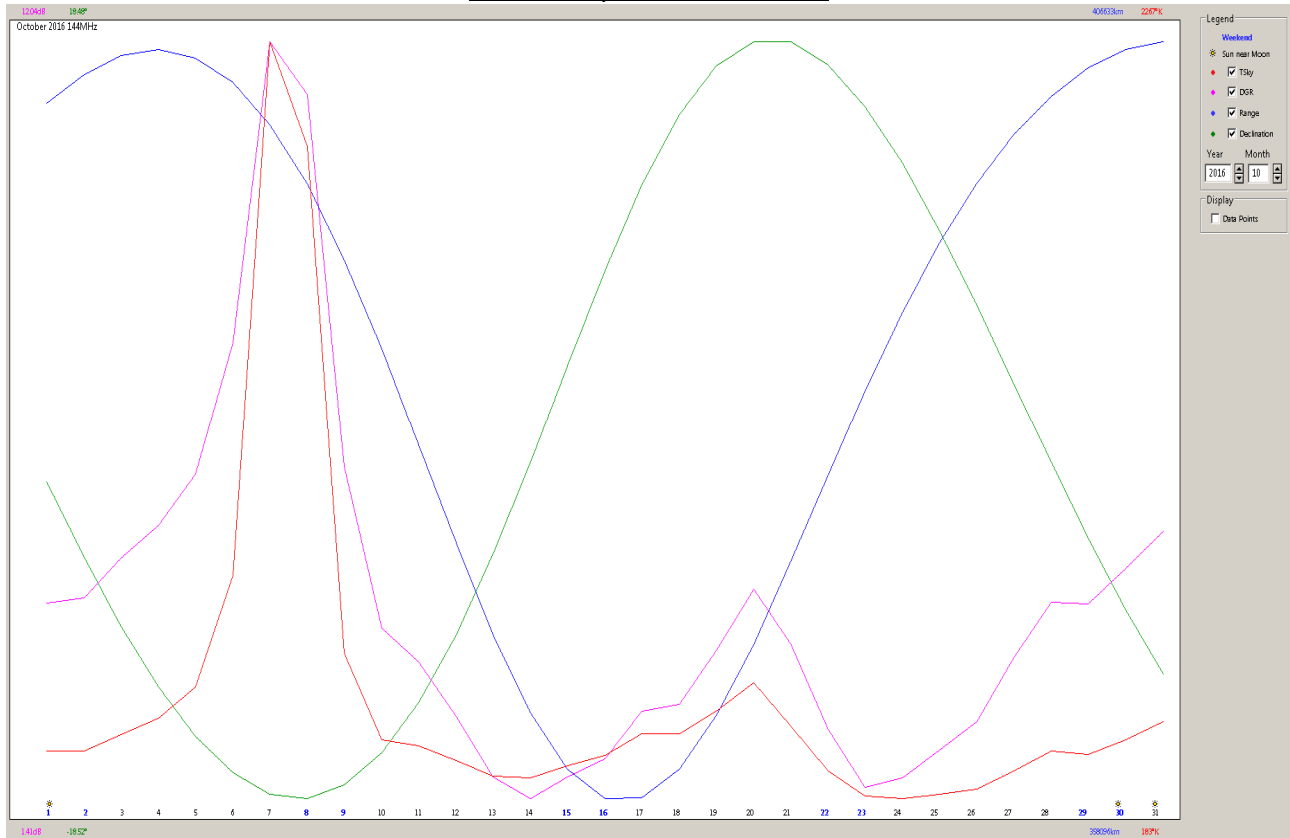
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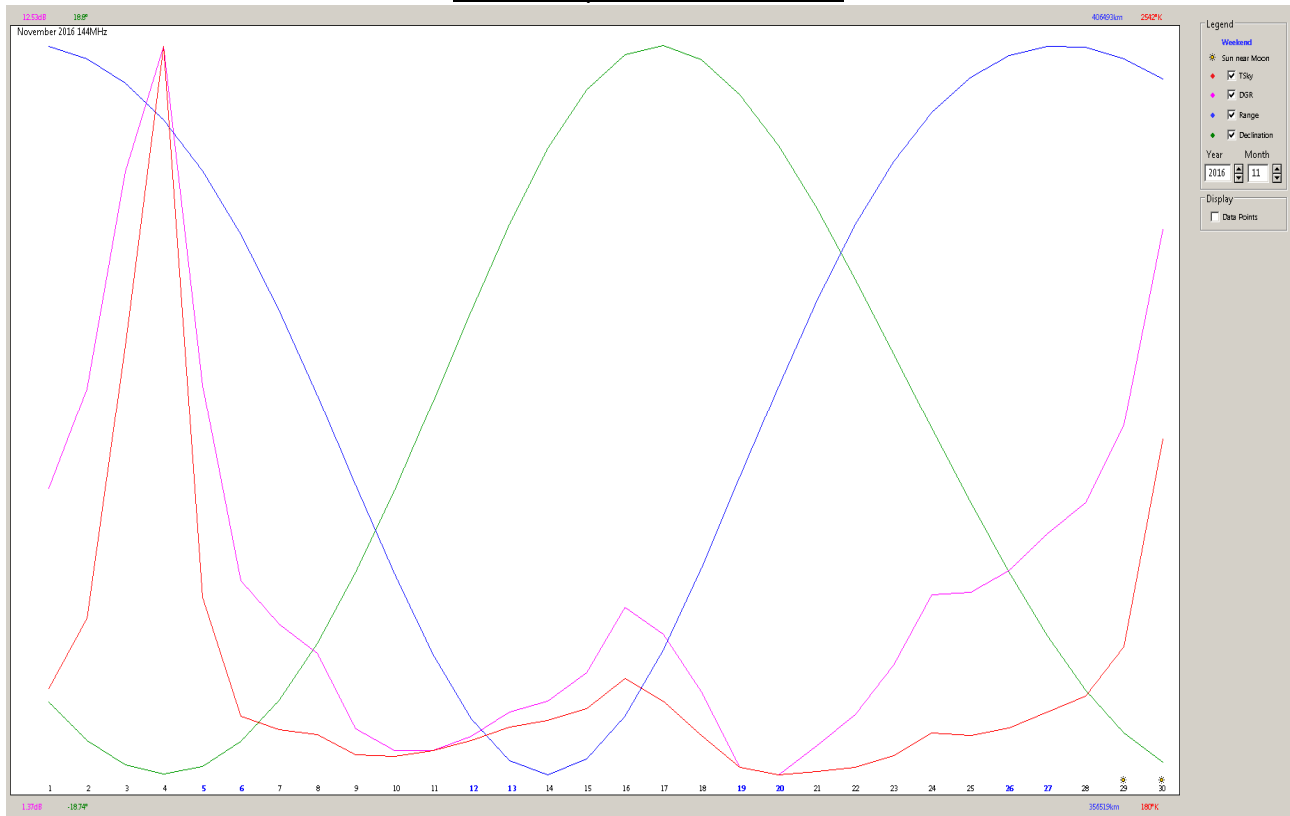
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Latest DXpedition Info:
www.mmmmonvhf.de

Moon Graph October 2016:



Moon Graph November 2016:



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