

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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After 9 Years Oman QRV again on 2m EME!

From September 21st to 26th two members of the OL7M contest (OK1MU and OK2ZAW) group were QRV from Muscat, Oman. After some nine years there was a chance again for those who still miss that DXCC. However, this was not a classic EME DXpedition. And it had to face some issues related to local noise. After all, it was successful though.

The OK friends had travelled stayed there mainly for the CQ WW RTTY contest and EME was just some add-on. Pavel OK1MU had prepared LNA, relay switch and sequencer. The setup was 2 x 13 ele vpol, SSPA, LNA 0,6dB and Icom IC-9100. After turning the rig on after completion of setting-up on September 20th they noticed a clean band but no tones. This meant no surprise since the moon was very close to the sun then. The following day A43MB started with CQ and was copied by many stations though they measured just 200 watts at the antennas. Only, no signals were received in Oman: too much noise.



Antenna setup with local ham support

Rotating the antenna showed big differences: Generally there was strong wide band noise about 15 dB and more except for some small noise-free windows. The reason for that were the big air conditions only about 3 m from the antennas. Sadly, because of the contest and hot wx switching them off was no option. Consequently A43MB could only use two small windows with lower noise this entire weekend. And mostly only better equipped stations made it into the log.

At least on Monday when the contest was over they could turn off the air conditions and the all over noise came down by 12 dB or more. What a difference! Immediately many stations could be copied. Only, now the degradation increased and their QRP output made it hard for the QSO partners to copy the A43MB signal. Another surprise was the intensity of the Faraday rotation. At A43MB they used V-pol antennas. From one period to the next one sometimes the changes were huge: For example three stations were copied calling in a minute and they clearly disappeared the following sequence while other signals popped up instead.



View to the A43MB shack with OK1MU at the keyboard.

Congratulations go to Franco I2FAK who worked his DXCC 200 with A43MB. All in all the team made 32 QSOs via moon of which the smallest station worked still ran 4 x 9 ele yagis. The team is particularly sorry for Remi FK8CP that they could not complete. He had been calling them each day of the activity but never succeeded with a QSO. At one point he was well copied in Muscat but though A43MB spent many sequences trying to work him they could not establish a contact. Hopefully next time. The odds are not so bad...some local hams who dropped by became very interested in 2 m EME so OK1ZAW will prepare some hardware for them and maybe A4 will be more active and less rare. OK1MU and OK2ZAW are very grateful to ROARS and local Hams, particularly Sangeeth A45WH for making this activity possible.

Moon Bounce Form the South Sea: T8EM

For a number of years now Kay JH3AZC devotes the major portion of his vacation entitlement to amateur radio, together with ham friends activating very much wanted DXCC entities on HF. This year he and Taka JP3EXR chose the Republic of Palau, T8, from where they became QRV in the locator PJ77HQ.

Upon arrival on the island on October 11th they started assembling the station. The shack was located in the North of Palau in Choll village, in a typhoon shelter which was already being used by Lance W7GJ when he operated on 6 m EME from that DXCC in 2016. Details are available at www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Palau%20and%20Yap%202016.htm By changing the radio location to there the city noise could be very much reduced.



Kay and Taka are looking very happy about the good results of their short DXpedition.

Equipment on 2 m EME was FT-817, ITB Phoenix-1000A, LNA by KAWAGOE MUSEN and homemade 2 x 9 elements LFA (gain abt 17dBi). The operation started on 12 October and a number of 84 QSOS were completed only during the first moon pass! The following day brought yet another 65 QSOS though they had some trouble with the weather at moon rise. Day three added another 34 QSOS and day 4 only 12 contacts because again a heavy storm made it impossible to be QRV the entire moon pass. On the final day 16 more QSOS were completed, with DF9KT being the lucky one making the final contact. Kay and Taka are very happy with the result of more than 200 stations worked during these five days particularly with bad wx at times. Apparently the home made LFAs work very well because many stations including myself commented that they had never copied Kay so strong

when he was on DXpedition. A short video of that DXpedition to Palu is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd6d0M65sRI>



View of the antenna at T8EM with JH3AZC and JP3EXR.

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.

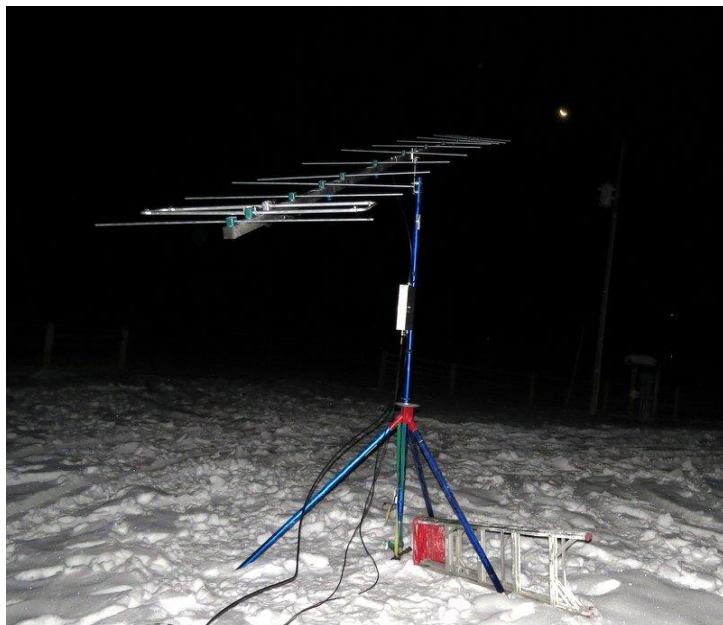
3Y0Z Bouvet (JD15QO) QRV in January

Bouvet is right at the door: From January 15th to 30th 3Y0Z will be QRV with 2x2MXP22 yagis together with maximum legal power on that band. Michael PA5M who was also a member of the 3YØX Peter I DXpedition which successfully worked EME back in 2007 will be in charge of EME operations during this Bouvet Island DXpedition. He will share the EME duties with Just, LA9DL and Craig, K9CT. More details are on <http://www.bouvetdx.org/eme-bouvet-island-2-meters/>

EME from Guatemala: TG3MB

Chris PA2CHR and Jos PA3FPQ are travelling to Central America in February. They plan to be QRV as TG3MB from EK44 from February 23rd to March 4th. Setup is FT-857, 2 x 10/10 ele X-pol. (16 dBd) and SSPA. More info to follow as we get nearer to the date.

PJ2T Curacao DXpedition



Gene KB7Q will be on Curacao (FK52KG) care-taking the PJ2T contest club's house for February/March, so an opportunity for some 2 m EME presents itself. His MR horizon is not great, but once the moon clears a house everything should work fine. The MS horizon is out over the ocean so a superb ground gain may be expected. Rig is a single 12 elements LFA Yagi, 800 watts, K3S with internal transverter and excellent pre-amp. Actually this is exactly the rig Gene used on November 11th when he activated the DN55 grid in Absarokee, Montana. Having the antenna mounted horizontally (see left) meant he could take advantage of ground gain for a change (usually Gene

runs with 2 x 9 ele yagis vertically polarised and stacked horizontally). And it worked out perfectly: Some sigs peaked at even -10 dB and 54 stations were worked in just six hours. Hence, from Curacao it should be no different or even better. Gene expects to get on in March also, details for that to follow later.

Time Table

3 Jan 2018

January issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de>

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

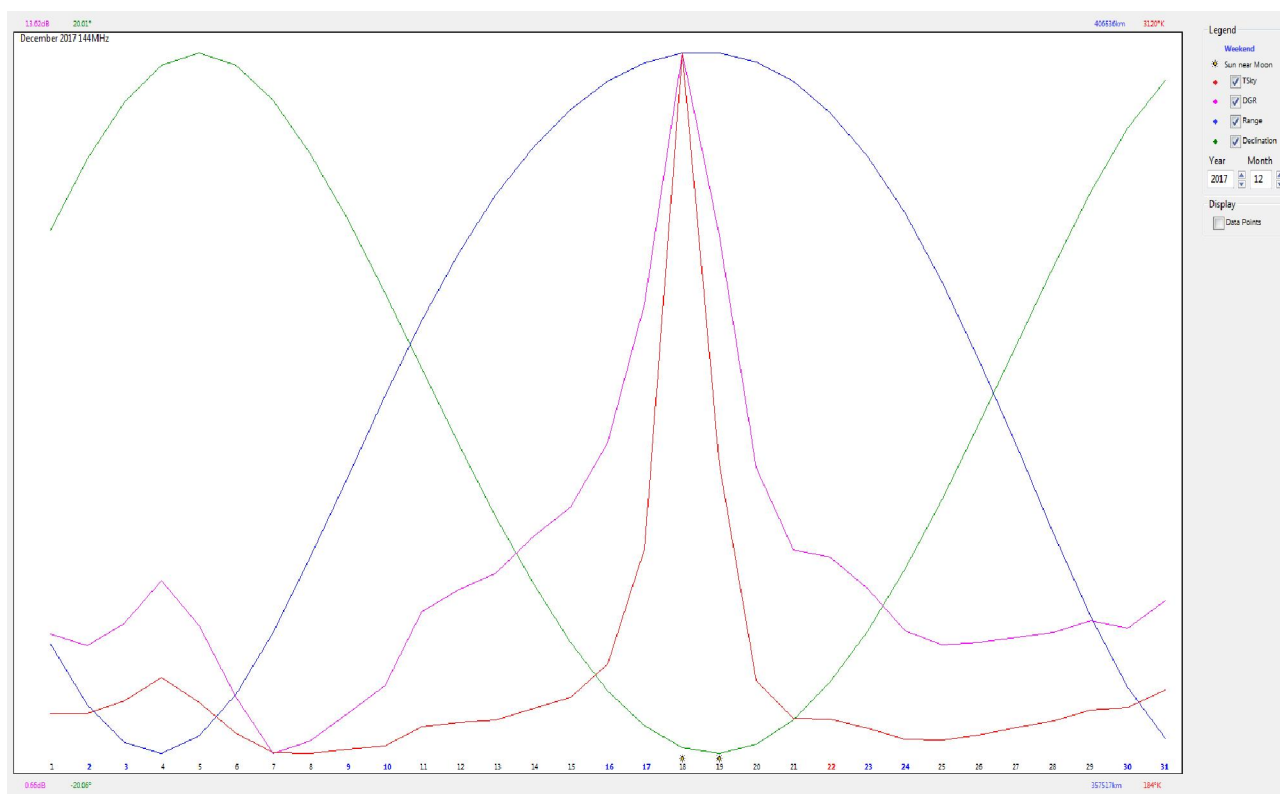
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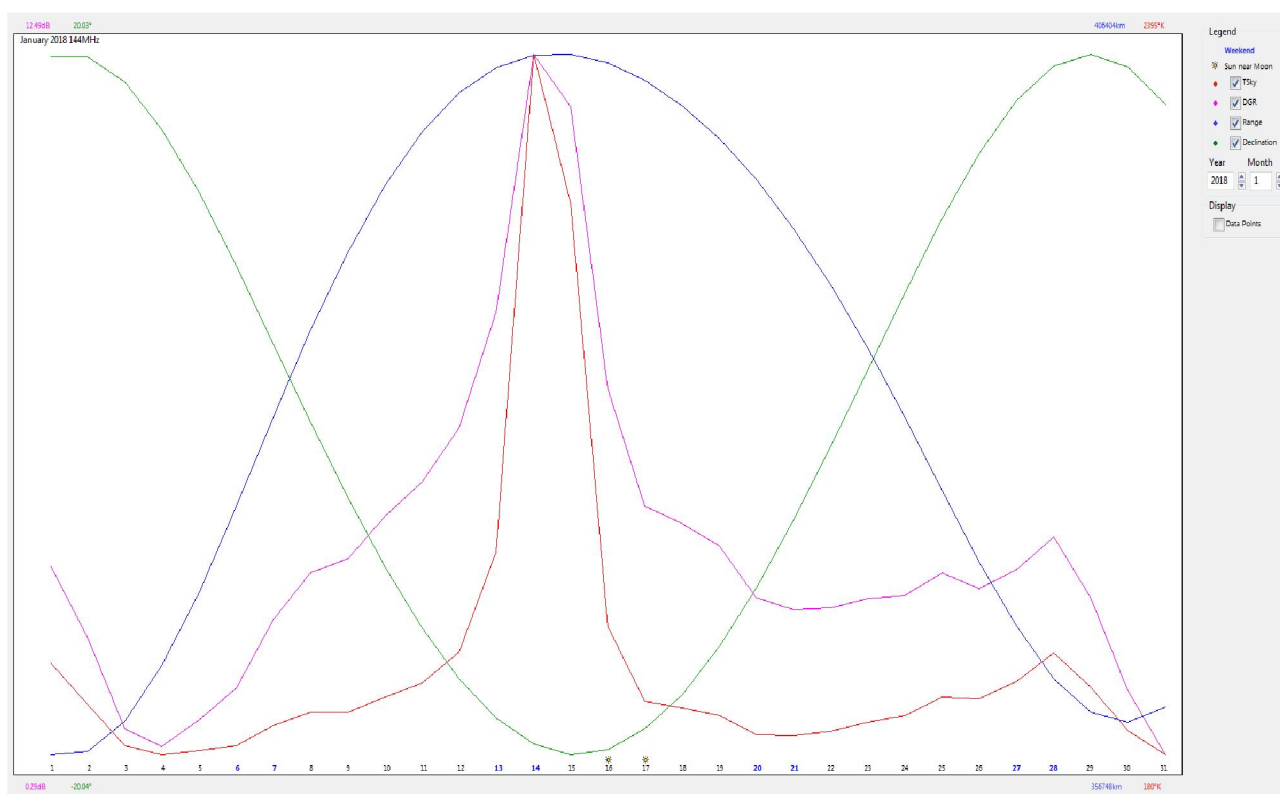
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DXpedition infos courtesy www.mmmmonvhf.de and other sources

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph December 2017



Moon Graph January 2018

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