

# The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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## DG8NCO Activating Belize: V31EME



The 2 x 8/8 10JXX xpols

Uwe DG8NCO had long been dreaming of an EME DXpedition to an exotic place but too often his time constraints from QRL were between him and an activity. After intensive planning and testing at his home in JO50VE he then finally started his first EME activity abroad at the end of November 2017.

As he had never before visited Central America he decided this was the place to go to. However, finding a suitable DXCC was not that easy. After some research on the web and discussions with Jürgen DK3WG it was clear that he would travel to Belize. There had been about three minor DXpeditions before – so said Jürgen – which had been QRV also on 2 m but this was long ago. Only few stations were so lucky to have worked that DXCC then.

So Uwe contacted the BARC - Belizian Amateur Radio Club – for assistance. Luckily the vice president André V31DL was a German. André was also keeper of the BARC club station and Uwe got permission to use that QTH in EK57NF which also had an accommodation for him. So DG8NCO could concentrate on the technical issue while André took care of licensing: The special call sign V31EME was assigned.



View into the V31EME Shack (Photos DG8NCO)

Concerning the equipment low weight had highest priority – and learning from other DXpeditions. As some of the past EME DXpeditions used 2 x 8/8 ele 10JXX xpols Uwe also decided for that antenna. They weigh only 3,8 kg and have 12,2 dBd gain each, according to the VE7BQH list. So with two of them one gets about 15 dBd with just 7,6 kg only. Uwe wanted to control azimuth and elevation by



At check-in with most of the equipment

rotor so he went for a YAESU G-5500 system, a short 40 mm stainless steel tube and two 50 mm fiber glass tubes as cross booms to left and right. It all added up to 20 kg weight – and took his breath when he looked at the excess baggage charges of the airlines. Together with note book, phasing lines, Antenna and rotor cables, LNA and transceiver brought the weight to 50 kg – without clothing etc. To make things worse Uwe had also added 70 cm to his activity because Belize never ever had been QRV on EME on that band. That meant some more kgs...at the end Uwe travelled with 62 kg weight!

Choosing appropriate amps was easy: At home DG8NCO works with BEKO amps on 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm and he is very happy with them. And he did not want to go below decent power as Uwe only knows too well how hard it sometimes can be trying to work a DXpedition with „QRP“ power.

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Hence, a HLV-2000 was decided for on 2 m and a HLV-1470 for 70 cm. That meant another about 30 kg weight. Therefore Uwe chose to ship the amps by DHL instead adding them to his baggage. Well, that was the most expensive parcel he had ever shipped in his life.

After a long journey via Amsterdam and Atlanta to Belize Uwe finally arrived on November 26<sup>th</sup> and was welcomed by V31DL. The first priority was setting up the station as soon as possible to be ready for next day's moon pass. And indeed, at 2222 UTC on November 27<sup>th</sup> the first QSO was completed with S52LM. Another 26 contacts followed until moonset. Only, a strong noise source made it very hard to copy the callers' signals. Even well equipped stations only reached -25 or worse – no surprise with sometimes S7 QRM. After thoroughly investigating into the reason for the interference Uwe found that a wifi transmitter close by was the culprit. It was switched off and instantaneously the noise went down. Therefore after November 30<sup>th</sup> also weaker stations could be copied in Belize. Until 7<sup>th</sup> December Uwe worked 312 different call signs only on 144 MHz. That is a number he wouldn't have believed with the QRM of the first days.

Moreover, Belize might soon be a permanent player on EME: Robert V31AE has already decoded his first signals off the moon, with his IC-7400 and two home-made DK7ZB yagis (vertical polarized) and no LNA yet. He lives in EK58UK, close to the sea and has his moon rise across the water. V31DL (EK57NF) has kept yagis, LNA and SSPA that Uwe has left behind. He is now setting up his station.

Uwe has tasted blood now...from 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April he will be QRV as Z66EME from Kosovo, 2 m and 70 cm (together with Hermann, DL2NUD who will work the higher bands). And from August 31<sup>st</sup> onwards he will stay two weeks in Fernando de Noronha (PY0F), also together with DL2NUD.

## **Upcoming DXpeditions**

*For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at [www.mmmmonvhf.de](http://www.mmmmonvhf.de) from where most of the information here was gathered.*

### **CR2EME: X-Team Travelling to Azores**

Frank DH7FB and Bernd DF2ZC will be QRV from Azores. Activity is supposed to start on March 25<sup>th</sup> and end on March 30<sup>th</sup> at latest. The 2 m setup is FT857, LDMOS-SSPA and MGF1302 preamp, antennas are 2 x 8/8 ele xpols (DK7ZB design). Latest news are on <https://xteamdxps.blogspot.de/>

### **3B8MB QRV from Mauritius (LH80TA)**

Giulio IW3HVB who very successfully was QRV from Tahiti in 2015 will be on Mauritius in April and set up a 2 m EME station. Together with I3VFJ, IK3YBX and IZ3IBL he will be QRV as 3M8MB from April 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. Equipment is 2 x 8/8 ele IOJXX crossed and LDMOS power.

### **Kosovo DX Expedition**

Uwe DG8NCO and Hermann DL2NUD are in the final planning stage for a Kosovo EME DXpedition. They were granted the special call sign Z66EME. While Hermann will concentrate on 23 cm and up Uwe will take care of 2 m and 70 cm. The VHF rig is 2 x 8/8 ele IOJXX xpol yagi and a BEKO EME sspa. They have rented a motorhome and will drive via OE/9A/4O to Z6, a 2000 km journey. The exact locator will be determined upon arrival. You can support this activity via Paypal: uwedanzinger@web.de. Please be sure to specify your call sign.



## Cuba QRV on EME!

The Verona DX Team, which was very successful with activating J52EME and 3B9EME on moon bounce will be QRV from Cuba in April. Using the call sign T46MB they plan for activity on 6 m, 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm from Playa Ganuza (EL92RX) from April 15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. The 144 MHz setup is 2 x 9/9 ele xpol designed and built by I3DLI; preamplifier by WA2ODO; Italab amplifier; ICOM IC-7000 and IK3MAC sequencer. Operating frequency is 144,130 MHz and T46MB always 1<sup>st</sup>. More information and latest news are on [http://www.ari.verona.it/veronadxteam/t46mb\\_2018.htm](http://www.ari.verona.it/veronadxteam/t46mb_2018.htm)



## Time Table

9 Apr 2018      March issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de>

### **The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter**

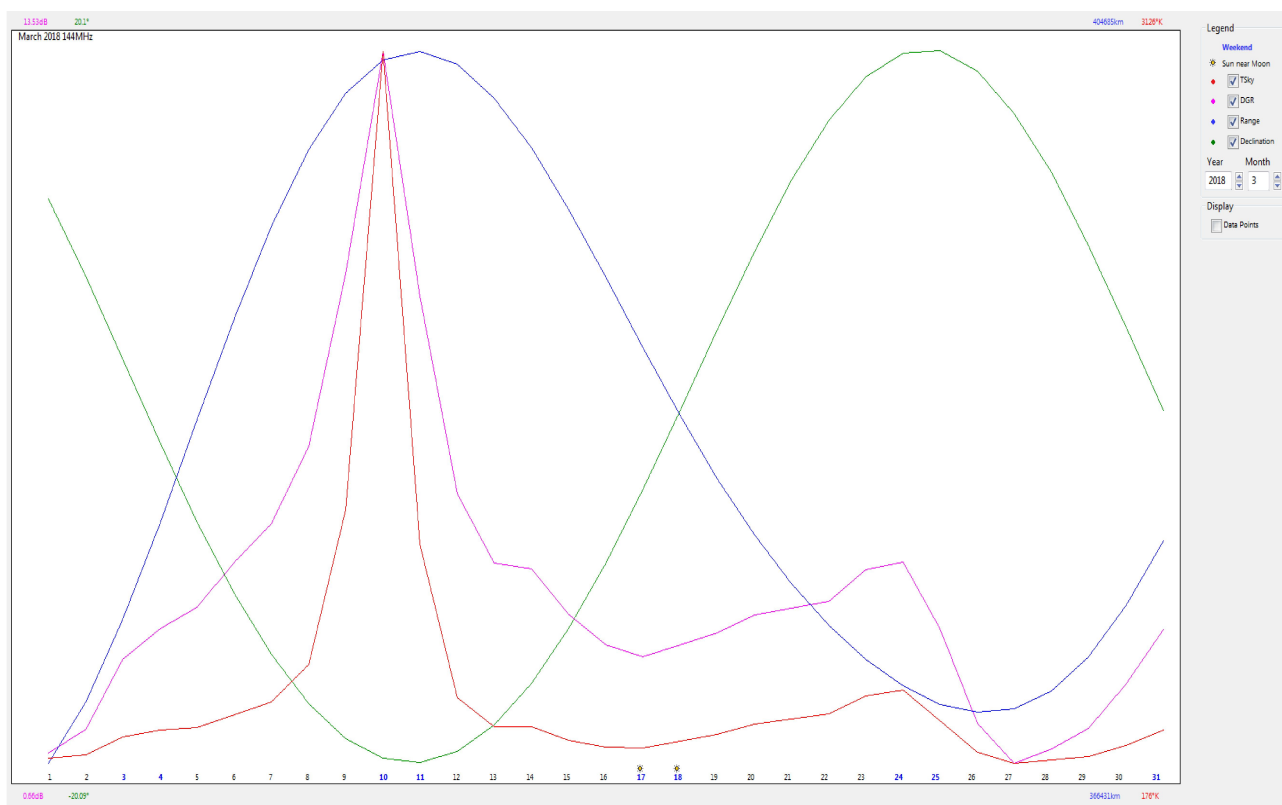
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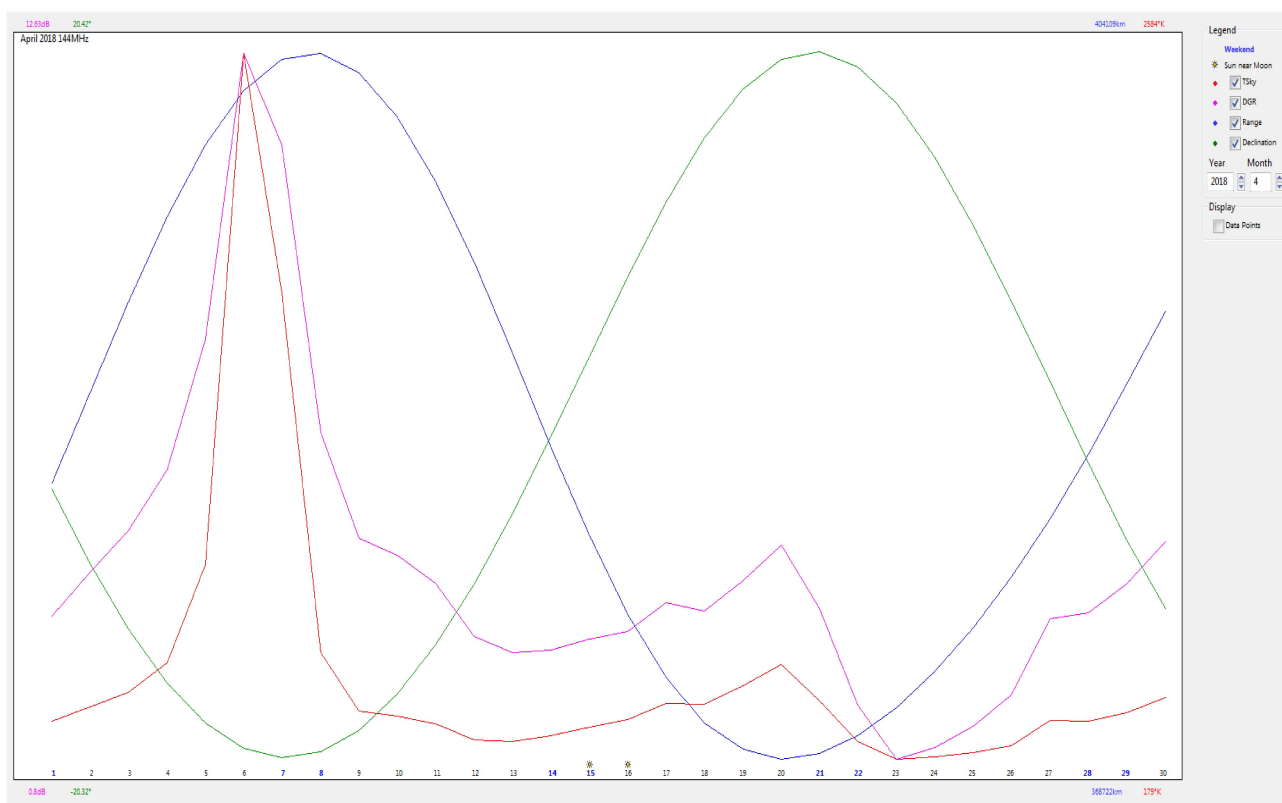
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# Moon Conditions



Moon Graph March 2018



Moon Graph April 2018

(Courtesy of David GM4JJJ ([www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm](http://www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm)))