

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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C8T QRV From the Beach

From May 2nd to 15th an international team was active on from 160 m to 6 m from Mozambique, locator KG64OQ. The call sign was C8T. Marc ON4AMX was also with this team – and he engaged in bringing C8T on the air also on 2 m EME – as a single operator.



Marc ON4AMX in his shack on the beach.

His equipment consisted of Elecraft KX3, transverter and SSPA, LNA and 2 x 10 ele yagis. Marc had set up his antennas at the terrace of the building first but then decided to move them and also the “shack” to the beach of the lagoon: There he had a better shot at the moon. Luckily he found a deserted boat which he could convert into a shack, more or less “rough and ready” to have at least

a shelter against the burning sun and a mosquito net to keep the biting monsters outside. Electricity was provided via a 100 m long cable laid from the house to the beach.

Emil DL8JJ, one of the HF Ops, got very much attracted to the “strange” things Marc was doing, using the moon as a reflector. In his free time-slots he often came down to the beach for a visit and watched ON4AMX making EME contacts. With the progress of the DXpeditions Emil spent more and more hours with Marc and also supported him to make his very basic shack a little more comfortable. With time they formed some kind of two man team, also fighting the technical challenges together: The KX3 got to hot so they arranged for a blower to better cool the opened transceiver. Also, at one point the amp went off for no apparent reason. They both investigated about the cause - and found it after nearly two hours. Emil became more and more interested in moon bouncing. Consequently it was no surprise that one day he made his first QSO and was hooked on EME since then.



DL8JJ and ON4AMX in front of the C8T EME set-up (Photos DL8JJ)

At the end of the activity Marc's log showed 309 QSOs of which 293 were initials, 44 DXCCs, 19 WAZ zones, 21 WAS states, 190 grid squares and 40 fields: an excellent result for a mainly single operator DXpedition, moreover during a period of sub-optimal moon conds: C8T was mainly an HF DXpedition so when planning for it zero focus was put on optimum EME conditions. And with DL8JJ there is a new EME enthusiast now. Most importantly, Emil goes on DXpedition every now and then...maybe he'll pop up on 2 m EME some time in the future from an exotic location? QSLs for C8T EME QSOS can be obtained by sending the amount for postage via paypal to Yentel.michiels@gmail.com; donations can be sent the same way.

KB7Q Once Again QRV From DN44

On June 17th Gene KB7Q once again travelled to Wyoming for a one-day activity, to give this state to the hams needing it for the WAS and also to give DN44 to those who had missed out on his activation from July 2016 from the same spot in DN44LW, the Yellowstone National Park. Gene's

equipment was his usual portable setup: 2 x 9 ele yagis, 800 watts, K3S with transverter, excellent pre-amp and a Honda generator.

However, when he arrived at the site the area could not be less welcoming: thunder and lightning, rain and big puddles all over the place. Thankfully the rain at least stopped for an hour so Gene could set things up and did not have to worry about getting water in the coax connectors. However, the GPS compass suddenly stopped working – luckily only after Gene had calibrated his azimuth ring. And straight after completing the setup the big rains came.

In spite of +10 db rain static at times, and some close in lightning KB7Q worked both G4YTL and DK5EW for their 50th State. It took a while to locate DL1VPL and his single yagi station, but Thomas and Gene also completed for his State #48. The whole trip was well worth just those three contacts, says Gene. Altogether KB7Q worked a total of 48 stations, many needing Wyoming, before he started “thinking about dry socks, hot coffee, and home”.



Wet, misty and cold – not the very best conditions for successfull DXpeditioning.

Gene comments that this was probably his most challenging EME field trip, with heavy rain, 4° C temperatures, extremely rapid Faraday, and a balky generator that would only let him have 700 watts from the amp. He never actually saw either the moon or the sun. But as the Bard said, “All’s well that ends well.”



Moonbouncing from the driver's seat – KB7Q's mobile shack (Photos KB7Q)

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.

Albania DXpedition

The OE6V contest team and S59A plan to be QRV from Albania from September 29th to October 7th. Except for the call sign used – ZA5V – and the locator JN92RD not much more is known at this time.

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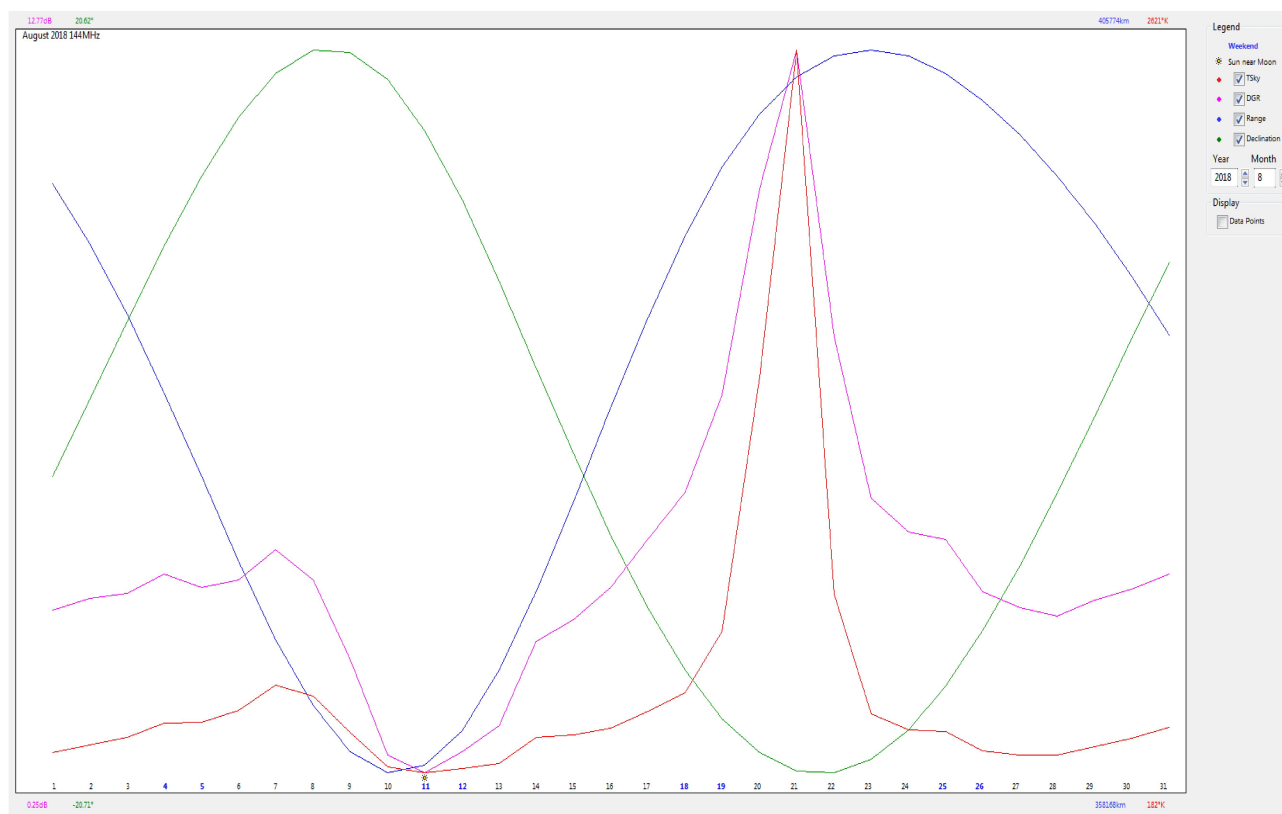
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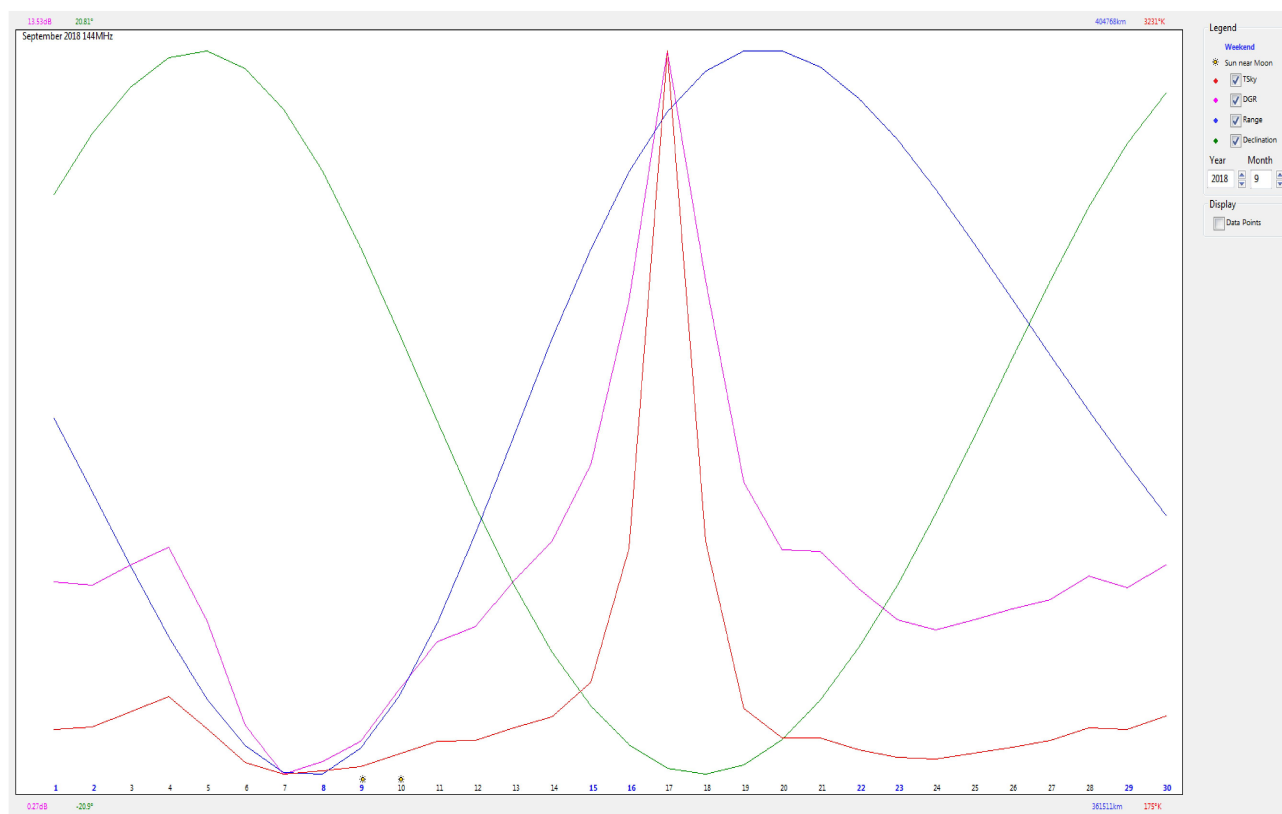
Time Table

15-19 Aug 2018	EME 2018 Conference, Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands
3 Sep 2018	September issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at http://www.df2zc.de

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph August 2018



Moon Graph September 2018

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