

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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EA4CYQ/P QRV From IM79

The grid square IM79, located South-West of the Spanish capital Madrid, is one of the most wanted Spanish squares except maybe for the nearly water square IM96. Therefore Juan Antonio, EA4CYQ, wanted to conduct a short square DXpedition to that area.



From 16th to 17th February he was QRV from IM79CA with a single 14/14 ele xpol DG7YBN design GTV 2-14W (Details are on www.dg7ybn.de). Juan worked with a FT857D (inclusive the high stability option) and some 700 W out from an ITALAB sspa. On the receiving side EA4CYQ/P used a RFHAM LNA, the FT857D/FCDPP, LINRAD, MAP65 and WSJT-X. All in all in just seven hours from 1730 UTC on February 16th to 0030 UTC on the 17th he worked 42 QSOs with stations ranging from Japan to the United States. Except for some necessary restarts of WSJT-X everything worked flawlessly. And the low noise level at the site helped a lot with decoding.

Juan is very grateful to Tomas EA4GS who is the landlord of the cottage from where the activation was being conducted.

Left: The 28 element xpol pointing to the moon above Spain.



Coffee, cookie and Moon Bouncing: The shack of EA4CYQ/P on 16th/17th February (Photos EA4CYQ)

DL9LBH's Antenna Mast Falling Over

After it was erected it lasted for little more than a year: Hans DL9LBH's Versatower BP60. Right at Christmas eve Hans had to make an experience every owner of a tower is scared of: his system collapsing. Around 245 am local time on December 24th he woke up because a sudden storm had built up and heavy gusts were making a lot of noise. More importantly Hans had also noticed a metallic bang. When he looked out of the window he saw his more or less brandnew BP60SX bent and on the ground. The weather forecast had not spoken of a heavy storm so DL9LBH had left the tower at about 14 m height, still some 4 m below maximum. Apparently that was still too much. With the 2m/70cm/23cm antennas on top the lever arm was too strong and so the mast fell over.



View at daylight...just scrap metal only...

Hans-Walter always monitors the weather services and also has some weather apps installed on his smart phone. None of these sources forecasted a heavy storm of that scale for his place. Some services warned of a rain front approaching with strong gusts in mountainous regions – but that is not where DL9LBH lives in JN59ID. In his local area Hans was not the only one being affected. Some houses lost parts of their roof and car ports were damaged.

A quick estimate of the total cost of the destroyed system came to roughly 25.000 € without any labour cost included. Now it was the question whether the building insurance would pay for it. In hindsight Hans was a very lucky person having asked them to include the tower as a subsidiary building when the contract was made. And he had asked the company to confirm this in writing.

Indeed, within a month a settlement with the insurer was reached and Hans-Walter can now start the restauration project. Only, at the moment there are no BP60 towers “on the shelf” with the German distributor. So SL9LBH needs to wait...and go back to working 2 m with his big wheel. It even works on meteor scatter – but not on EME. Hans-Walter strongly advises everyone with a tower or major antenna systems to check with their insurance company whether this all is insured at reinstate value. And...have them confirm this in writing.



As if it was anything soft but steel. You can only imagine the power of the storm....(Photos DL9LBH)

This and That

Results for Best DXpedition 2018 Votes

Every year the portal MMonVHF.de holds a survey to name the “best DXpedition”. For 2018 this survey was being conducted in January this year. In the moon bounce section TD9/PA3FCY and TD9/PA2CHR received so many votes that they reached No 1 place, followed by 9N7AP (JH3AZC, JP3EXR, JA1PFP, JA3RVS) and Z66EME (DG8NCO, DL2NUD). It comes as no surprise that PA2CHR and PA3FYS are already in the final preparation for their next DXpedition in April to VP2E – as are JH3AZC, JA1PFP, JH3QFL and JP3EXR who will activate KH0 in May. Also DG8NCO and DL2NUD have new plans for this year...

MoonTrack 2.5.9 Ready For Download

Rune SM5CUI reports about some changes and modifications of his moon bounce software MoonTrack. The logbook feature of the software has now been developed further and a number of other modifications were programmed, based on user inputs. MoonTrack is free of charge and can be downloaded at <https://sm5cui.weebly.com/downloads.html>

Upcoming DXpeditions

For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at www.mmmmonvhf.de from where most of the information here was gathered unless noted otherwise.

EF9LZ QRV From Ceuta

The X-Team Frank DH7FB and Bernd DF2ZC will be QRV from IM75HV Ceuta in March. The special callsign will be EF9LZ. Frank and Bernd will operate from March 15th to 19th, travel days are 14th and 20th. The main focus is on 2 m JT65 but also 70 cm will be activated again. Setup is the usual one: FT857, Tajfun SSPA, LNA, 2 x 8/8 ele xpols DK7ZB design (432 MHz: 250 W at the splitter, 2 x 17 ele hpol DK7ZB design). Latest news is on their dedicated blog <http://xteamdxps.blogspot.com/>

TO2MB QRV from Martinique

DJ4TC, DL3RKS and DL1RPL will be QRV from Martinique (FM) via EME, from March 15th to 24th. The special call sign is TO2MB. They will operate 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm. Setup on 2 m is FT-857, 2 x 8H/8V and Tajfun 1000. On 70 cm it is FT-857, 2x17 (H or V) and SSPA 500 W, on 23 cm FT-818, DB6NT trv, GPS locked, 1,5 m dish and SSPA 250W. Latest news is on <http://www.dl1rpl.de/eme-blog-6.html>

Time Table

Due to the EA9 DXpedition by the X-Team DH7FB and DF2ZC there will be no March issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter. The next issue will be in April, ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de> on April 1st.

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

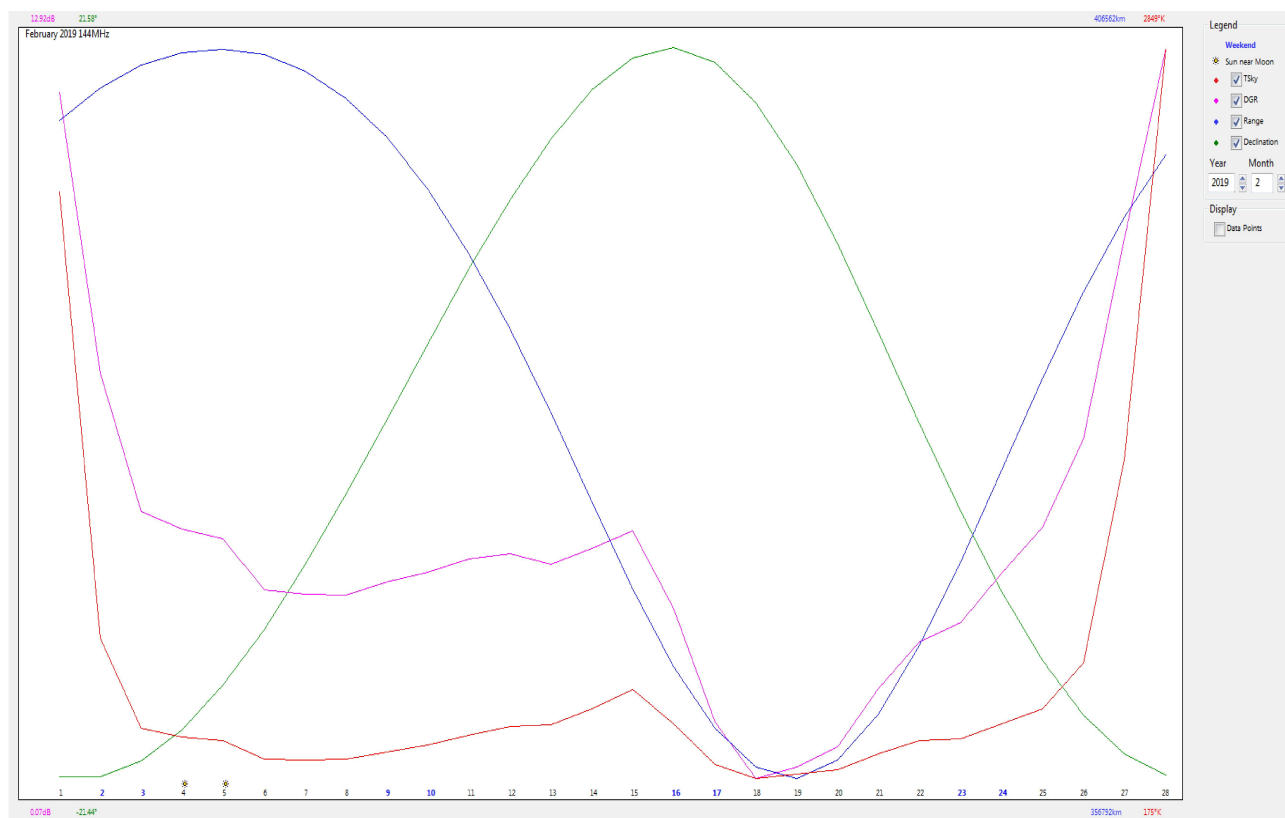
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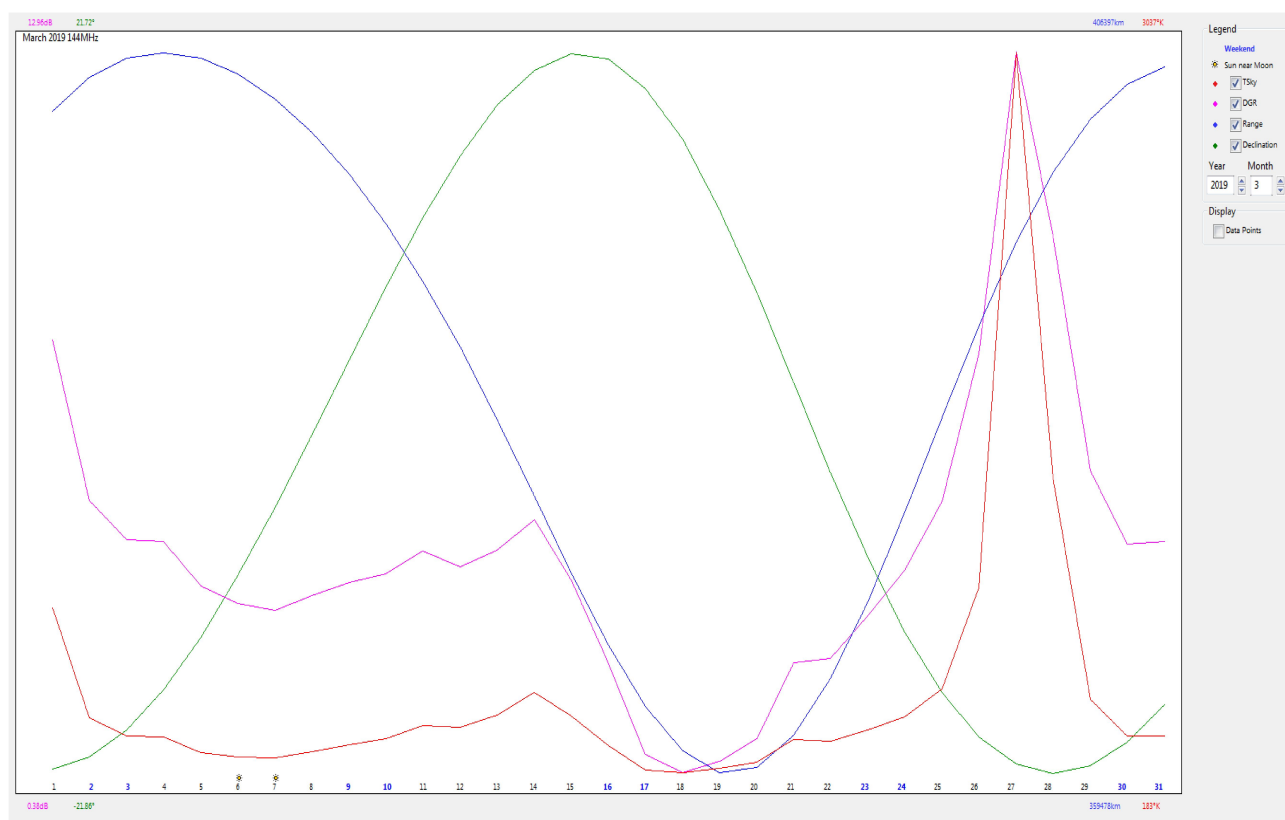
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph February 2019



Moon Graph March 2019

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