

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

©DF2ZC

...since 2003

www.df2zc.de



Issue 5/2019 8 May 2019

Two DXpeditions in March...

Past March two German teams were en route activating two very much wanted DXCCs: FM Martinique and EA9 Ceuta. While Peter DL1RPL, Soeren DL3RKS and Peter DJ4TC were still in their final preparations on March 14th the “X-Team” Frank DH7FB and Bernd DF2ZC was already travelling from Germany to Southern Spain.



View to Ceuta from EF9LZ's antennas – two 8/8 ele xpols DK7ZB design

Frank with the antennas and 70 cm amp flew from Berlin to Frankfurt that day where he met with Bernd (and the rest of the equipment). Then they continued to Malaga in Southern Spain. Upon arrival at 1230 local the team collected the rented car and drove the final 150 km to their hotel in Algeciras, right opposite of Ceuta on the Spanish mainland. Here they met with Jorge, EA9LZ, who was a tremendous support to the success of this DXpedition. Together with him they went to the port to the customs department. Though Ceuta is part of Spain and part of the European Union there is a customs border because Ceuta is tax abroad. Travelling from Spain to EA9 is no problem, but re-entering Spain with loads of strange electronic stuff and metal could cause questions and delays – not a good thing if you still have to drive another 150 km to catch your plane.

Together with Jorge the reason for travel was explained to the officers and after checking the equipment they handed a carnet to the team, confirming that the equipment was indeed brought from Spain into Ceuta before.



Bernd DF2ZC at the laptop

The next morning the team left early for the harbour, parked the car in a parking lot close by (the rental companies do not permit to take cars over to Ceuta) took the suitcases and bags and walked to the gates. At 0930 local the ferry left and an hour later Frank and Bernd arrived at Ceuta. Right after they arrived at the rented cottage at Complejo Rural Miguel de Luque (which also EA9LZ had organised), a little outside of central Ceuta, they started setting up the station. The team lived in cabin 4 (the same that Zdenek OK1DFC had rented when he activated EA9 in October 2017.). Being well coordinated since they started DXpeditions together in 2006 Frank built the antennas while Bernd set-up the inhouse station. Within 90 minutes all was

ready to go. Since the moonrise direction was blocked by a hill and a big tree it took some time until they finally saw the moon which was then at 15° elevation. Only, the local noise was very strong. Often sudden noise bursts destroyed the rx signal. Therefore at the end of day one only 25 QSOs were in the log. And both OM did not imagine they would reach 100 QSOs altogether. Luckily the following day the noise situation had changed to the better so another 60 QSOs were added.



Frank DH7FB with FT857, Sequencer and Tajfun amp

bad given the noise situation. With R3PA, DL1VPL, DK5AI and PA5Y there are at least four single yagi stations worked.

Ceuta is very much characterised by the military. On March 17th in the morning some gun fire from probably a military exercise was heard. Later that day the team had again strong noise bursts, mainly when beaming to the city. It sounded a little like digital voice and once again affected the rx performance. The next day it was planned to swap the 2 m antennas for 70 cm. However, due to a SWR issue with the antennas which could not be rectified – Bernd had not yet completed his the new FA-VNA5 – it was changed back to 2 m and resulted in 37 more QSOs. Another 19 contacts were added the last day of the activity, making it 178 altogether. Not quite

When returning home on the 20th with leaving the house at 6 am the team noticed quite high winds and hoped the ferry would not be cancelled. Luckily it was not the case but it was a bumpy ride from EA9 to EA7. When collecting the car from the parking in Algeciras they realised that somebody had

dented the rear bumper bar – which added some 250 € to the rental cost. Driving the 150 km to Malaga airport and flying home was without any further incidents. The location for 2020 is already decided – it will be a “reloaded” one from a DXP they made some 10 years ago. Currently there is no permanent 2 m / 70 cm EME activity from there.

TO2MB QRV From Martinique

Different from Frank and Bernd the TO2MB Team focussed on 70 cm and 23 cm. When after 24 h travel they finally arrived on Martinique on March 17th – and luckily not a piece of the 150 kg luggage got lost which is does not happen always – they immediately transferred to their cottage in FK94LT where they were greeted by the landlord and some local Rum punch. The setup of the station started straight away as it was still pleasant wx with 20°C even at local midnight. After successful activities on the higher bands on the 19th they built the 2 m equipment, with 2 x 8/8 ele IOJXX, FT857, Tajfun sspa and of course a LNA at the splitter – almost an identical setup with the EF9LZ team. The two Peters and Soeren did not expect much demand because during the last 10 years or so there were at least two stations being permanently QRV from Martinique on 2 m EME. When they switched on, there was at least no big QRM....and surprisingly many stations calling with I3MEK entering the log as first one. That day 68 stations made it into the log, many more than expected by the team. So it looked like FM was still very much wanted. All received signals came in vertically polarized this first moon pass while TO2MB was txing hpol to establish the contacts. The moon-set direction was blocked by the own building, lower than 15° there was no QSO possible anymore. This sadly meant that it was no way to work East Asia. Only at one time JH2COZ was copied for a single period before the moon disappeared.



The QTH of TO2MB: Nice take-off to the Ocean. (Foto DL1RPL)

The following two days TO2MB stayed on 144 MHz. The conditions however had changed for the worse – strong Faraday effects with one-way propagation. Also heavy rain did not make things easier. Thereafter 2 m was broken down again and 23 cm was continued. After eight days a total of

224 QSOs was in the log – 2 m: 134, 70 cm: 46, 23 cm: 44. Now everybody is wondering – where might the group go next year after this good success...

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 unless noted otherwise.

N2EME EME Rovers QRV From FM13

Paul N2EME reports that the EME Rovers team will be QRV from May 7th to 17th from the rare grid FM13BX. On 2 m they will use the same station as from FM25 last year – 4x12 FLA and 1 kW with full elevation. Focus is on participation in the ARI EME contest as well as giving away the grid via terrestrial propagations. For details please see N4EME on QRZ.com. You can support this activity via paypal to chuckgress@hotmail.com

T46EM Update on Cuba

Since the team had to once again postpone the activity the new dates are July 28th to August 7th. Further details to follow.

Time Table

11 May 0000→ 5th A.R.I. Italian EME Trophy 2019 Spring Competition
12 May →2400

3 June June issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

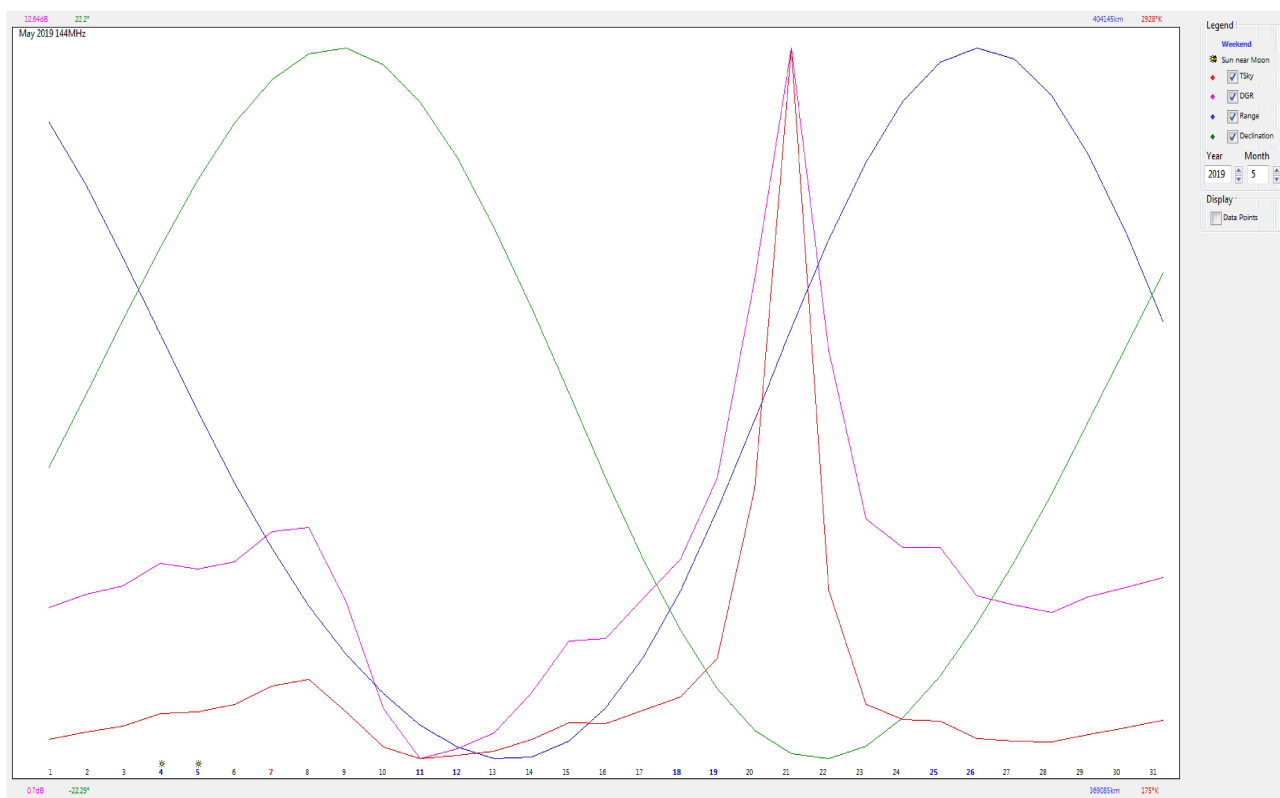
is produced monthly since 2003. Copyright is by Bernd J. Mischlewski, DF2ZC.

Permission to quote or reprint material from the newsletter is granted under the condition that it is only for non-commercial, personal use.

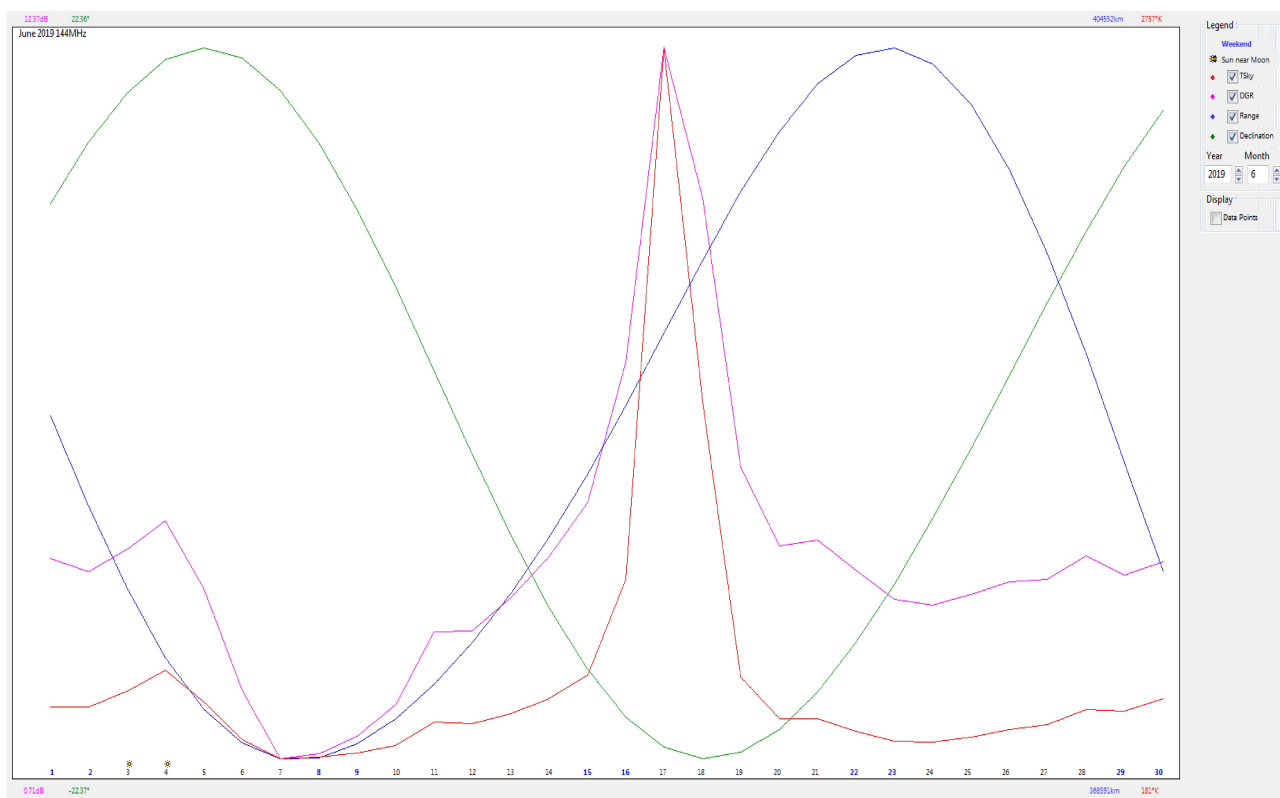
For a permission to make commercial use send a written request to BerndDF2ZC@gmail.com

DXpedition info courtesy
www.mmmonvhf.de and other sources

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph May 2019



Moon Graph June 2019

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