

# The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

©DF2ZC

...since 2003

[www.df2zc.de](http://www.df2zc.de)



**Issue 12/2019 11 Dec 2019**

## A21EME QRV on Eight Bands from Botswana



**View on the antenna farm of A21EME**

Right after their very successful 2017 3DA0MB activity – first time on eight bands – to Zwaziland many team members already thought of where to go next. This question was answered some months ago: From 20 October through 29 October A21EME was QRV from Botswana in KG25WK. This was once again a multiband EME DXpedition. Bands operated were 6 m, 2 m, 70 cm, 23 cm, 13 cm, 9 cm, 6 cm and 3 cm. The 144 MHz setup consisted of 2 x 12el xpols designed I3DLI, LNA and of course a sspa for the necessary “thrust”.

After long flights to South Africa on 18<sup>th</sup> October the “Europeans” arrived in Johannesburg where they met the other team members at John ZS6JON’s QTH. John had arranged for all administration work to get the licenses and find a suitable QTH. He had prepared everything for a smooth run during the DXpedition. On 20<sup>th</sup> October the A21EME team drove as a “convoy” of six cars to Botswana which is a five hours trip. After the usual customs paperwork and physical checking at the border it was yet another hour until they reached their QTH north of the city of Gaborone. Right

upon arrival they started to set up the station. And indeed the same day the first 2 m QSO was made with OE3NFC being the opener. From then on everything went more or less flawless. Only cooling the amp was problem every now and then because the temperature in the operating room well exceeded 40°C at times. Given that value the amp went too hot and needed some time to cool down. Even running at 50% maximum output only did not help – some extra cooling time was unavoidable. The operator however could always help himself with a cold beer from the fridge...



**The A21EME Team: Paul, ZS6NK – Bernie, ZS4TX – Dan, HB9CRQ and YL Sue – Lins, PA3CMC – John, ZS6JON – Andrew, ZS6AVH – Chris, PA2CHR**

A21EME operated four stations at the same time. On 2 m at times they had a total lock-out, for hours. Nothing new to them – this they remembered from earlier trips to southern Africa: A21EME was being copied well but could only copy a few very strong callers. No question, that was a bit frustrating, but what else could one do? Nothing – this is Africa they said to themselves where sometimes propagation is special. Most importantly A21EME had nearly no QRM and was able to work several 1 yagi stations. Unexpectedly they even made over 300 QSOs on QO-100!

A total of 260 QSOs were in the log book when the activity was concluded on 25<sup>th</sup> October, with DL9DBJ being the last entry at 0525 UTC. Dismantling of the station started immediately and then the team headed back to South Africa to the QTH of John, ZS6JON.

QSLs are via via PA3CMC, direct with SAE and 2 € or 2 \$, no IRCs please. Donations are welcome via paypal at [info@pa3cmc.nl](mailto:info@pa3cmc.nl). Please add call sign and QSO data in comments field. Donors will automatically get their QSL sent direct.





And here a bird's eye view of the A21EME location: left the 1,5 m dish; next to this the 70 cm and 2 m antennas (near the concrete platform) right at the pool the 6 m antenna. In the middle you see the restaurant with BBQ place and at the right side of the picture the operators 'apartments'. (Photos PA2CHR)

## **Upcoming DXpeditions**

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

### **OH2BC is Back in Madeira CU3**

From 14 to 16 December Kari OH2BC is QRV again as CR3EME from IM12NP. At MR he needs 11 deg minimum elevation. Setup is some 600 watts and 2 x 9 ele yagis.

#### **The 144 MHz EME Newsletter**

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

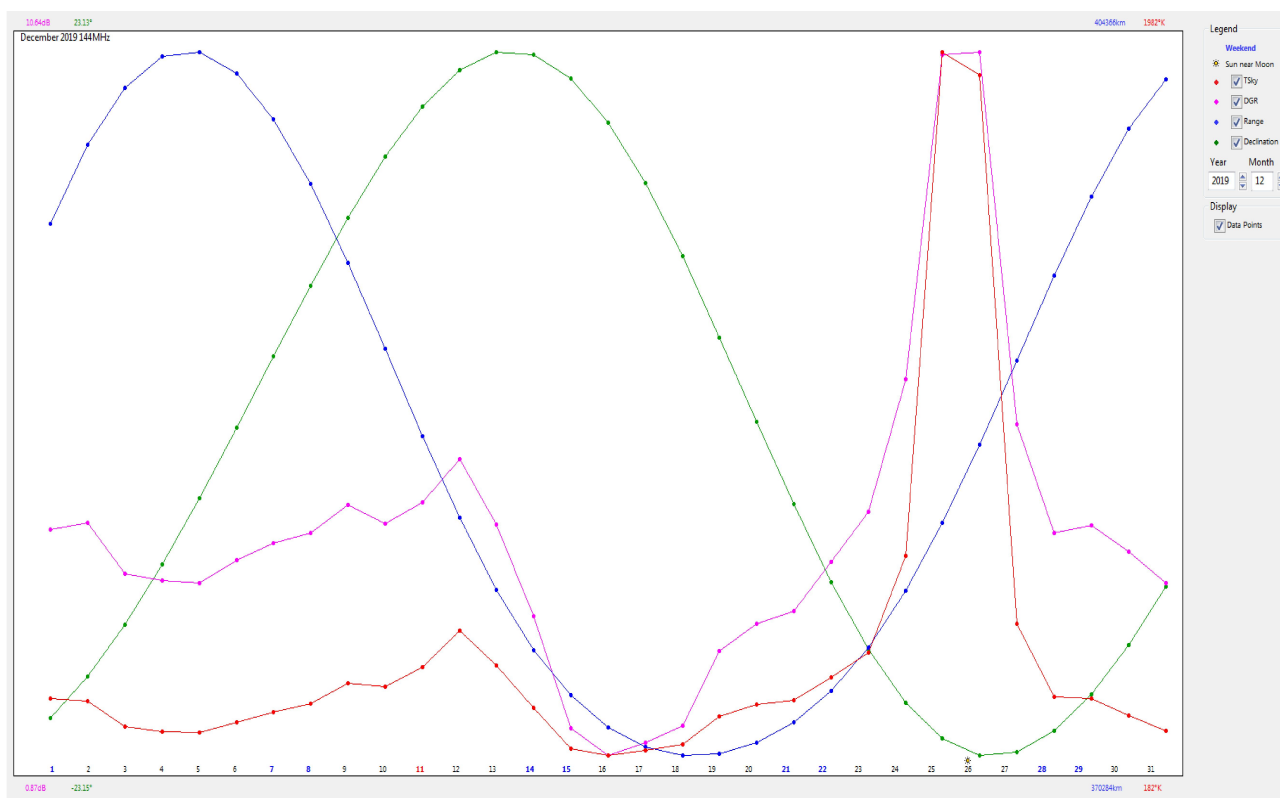
Permission to quote or reprint material from the newsletter is granted under the condition that it is only for non-commercial, personal use.

For a permission to make commercial use send a written request to [BerndDF2ZC@gmail.com](mailto:BerndDF2ZC@gmail.com)

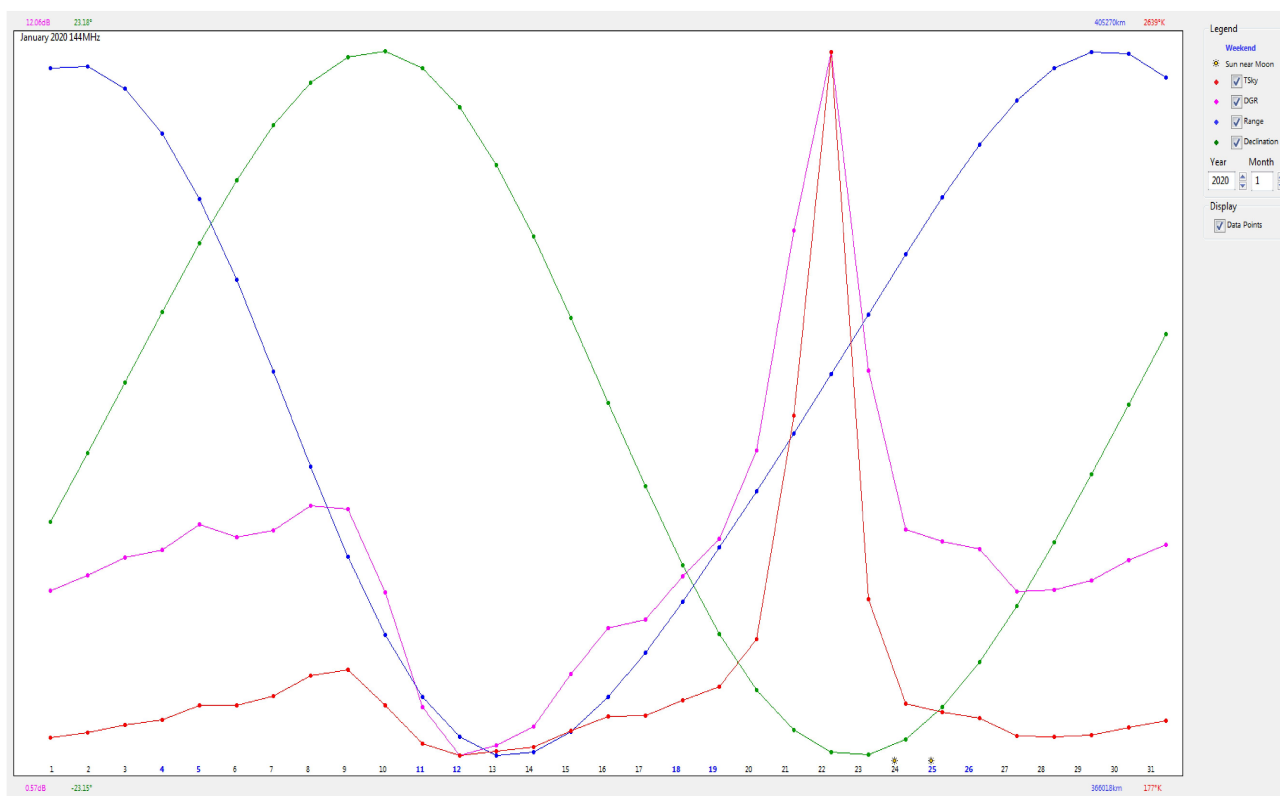
## **Time Table**

4 January      January Issue of the 144 MHz EME News-letter ready for download

# Moon Conditions



Moon Graph December 2019



Moon Graph January 2020

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