The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

©DF2ZC

…since 2003

www.df2zc.de

Issue 04/2020 5 Apr 2020

C21MB: JH3AZC and JP3EXR Activating Nauru

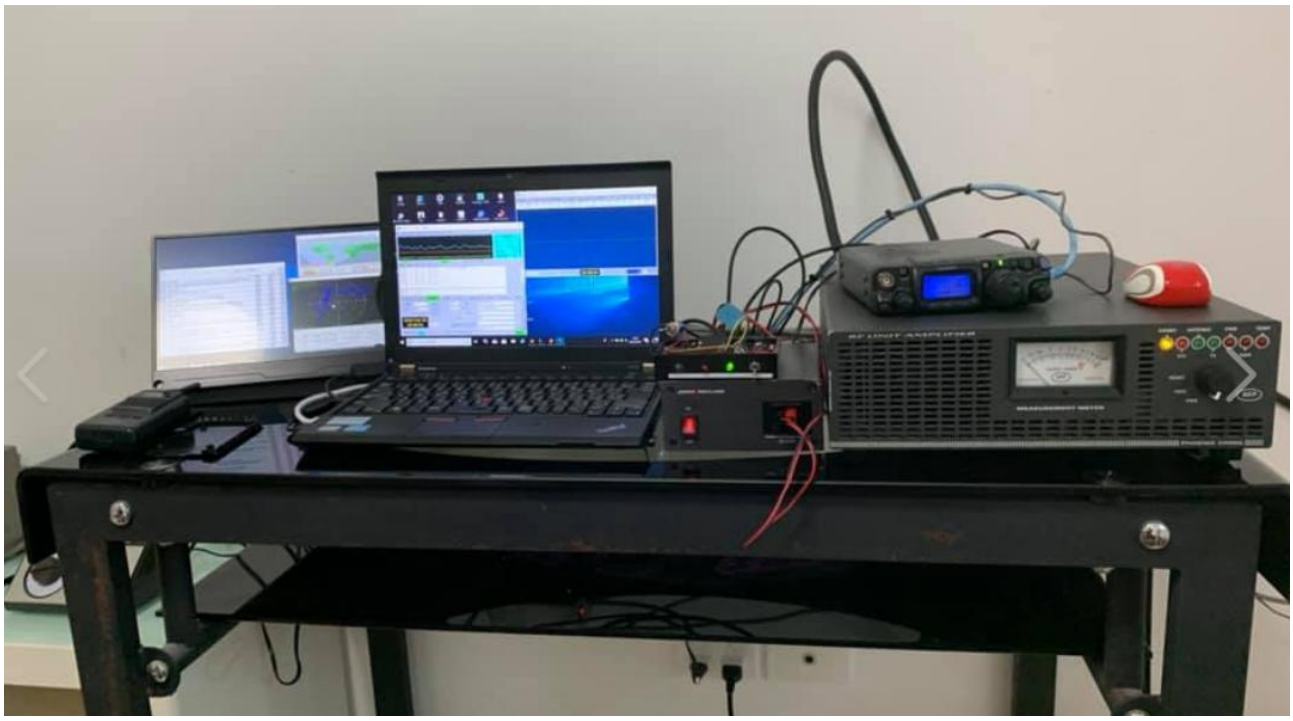
On top of the containers left you can see the C21MB's two yagis

For many years now Kay and Taka organise a EME DXpedition during their annual holidays, mostly but not always to some exotic islands in Oceania. After KH0 Mariana Islands last year they decided to travel to C21, republic of Nauru, in February 2020. Their plan was to start operations on February 4th at moonrise and terminate on February 8th at moonset. The hotel was quickly booked as were the flights. The only concern of Kay and Taka was the antenna location: from studying Google maps they found a good place with clear take off at moonrise but some blockage at moonset which would

cut the rather short European window even shorter. Hence they had to wait until they arrived in Nauru to find an antenna place which was good for moon rise and set. Due to some flight trouble they also had to adjust the QRV plans: Their connecting flight from Brisbane, Australia to Nauru was delayed by some hours due to a generator problem in the plane. At arrival at their hotel http://budapesthotelnauru.com/ in Nauru on February 4th late at night Kay and Taka were already four hours behind schedule. Moreover the ICT office on the island was of course closed then so they could not collect their licence certificate. To make things worse it was raining and pitch dark so deciding on a good place for the antenna and also building up the antenna was not possible. On the 5th things looked better and the setup could be completed. As usual Taka and Kay were QRV with Yaesu FT817ND, ITB Phoenix-1000A sspa, a lna from Kawagoe and 2 x 9 ele LFA yagis.

Lance, W7GJ, was the first station to answer C21MB's CQ on 144,110 MHz, being followed by another 40 stations until moonset. The following day K5QE made the first QSO after moonrise in Nauru and yet another 35 stations followed, celebrating a new DXCC in their log.

Since the activity started one day behind plans it was at least good to hear that also the flight back home was shifted by the airline company from the 9th to the 10th so they had gained one more day for EME activity. On the second day of the DXpedition the sequencer made trouble: Unexpectedly it broke and was beyond repair so the quick and only solution was to enable the PTT by manual keying. Consequently during the entire stay Taka and Kay had to key amp and LNA manually by pushing the PTT! That is a really great achievement!



The shack at C21MB. Please note the sequencer is already open and bypassed for PTT. ***(Photos JH3AZC)***

Until the final day of activity a total of 171 QSOs was made with lucky S57A being the last log entry on February 10th. Then the station was broken down and everything was being prepared for travelling back home to Japan where Taka and Kay arrived safe and sound on February 12th.

EME Conference 2020 Prague

It is little more than four months now until the 19th EME Conference opens its gates in Prague, Czech republic: it is scheduled from August 20th to 23rd and will take place in the Top Hotel Praha.

The registration is open on www.eme2020.cz since January 1st. For latest news please have a look on that website.

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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

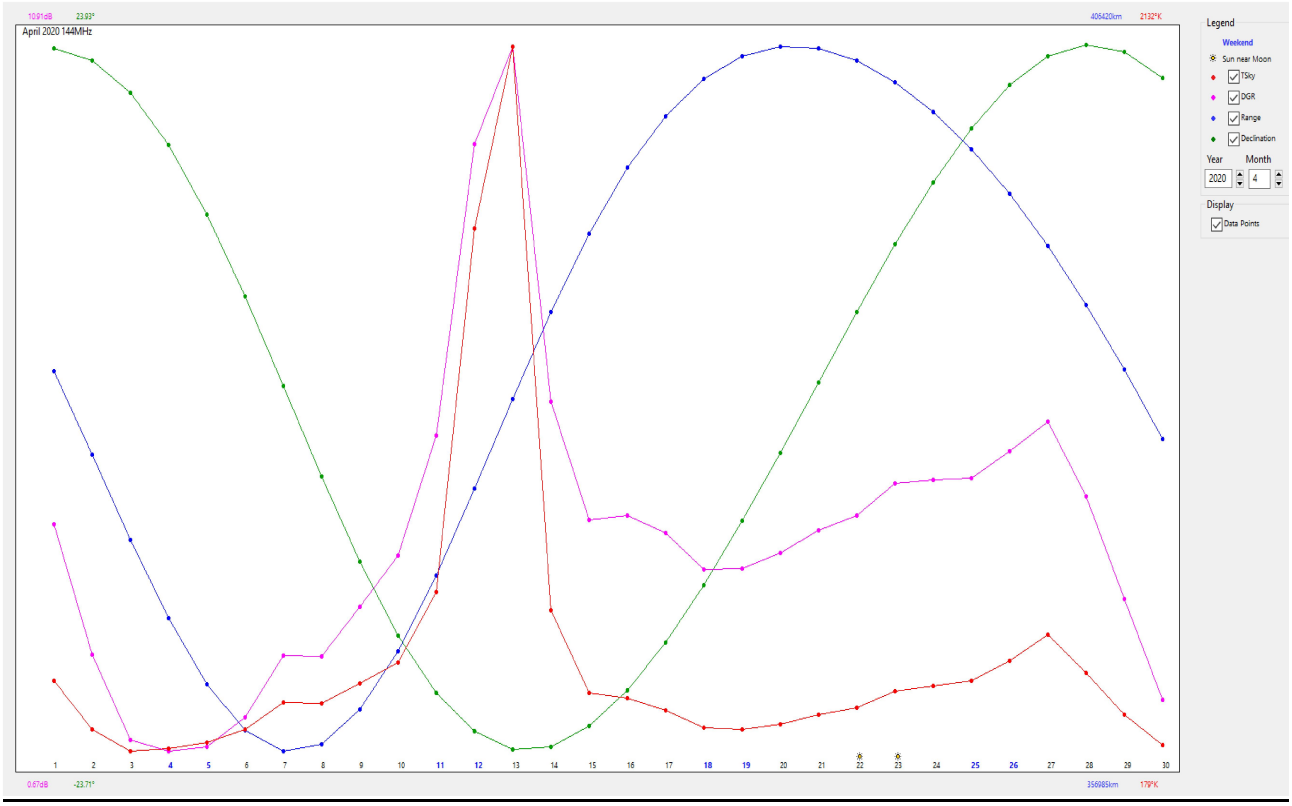
Permission to quote or reprint material from the newsletter is granted under the condition that it is only for non-commercial, personal use.

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

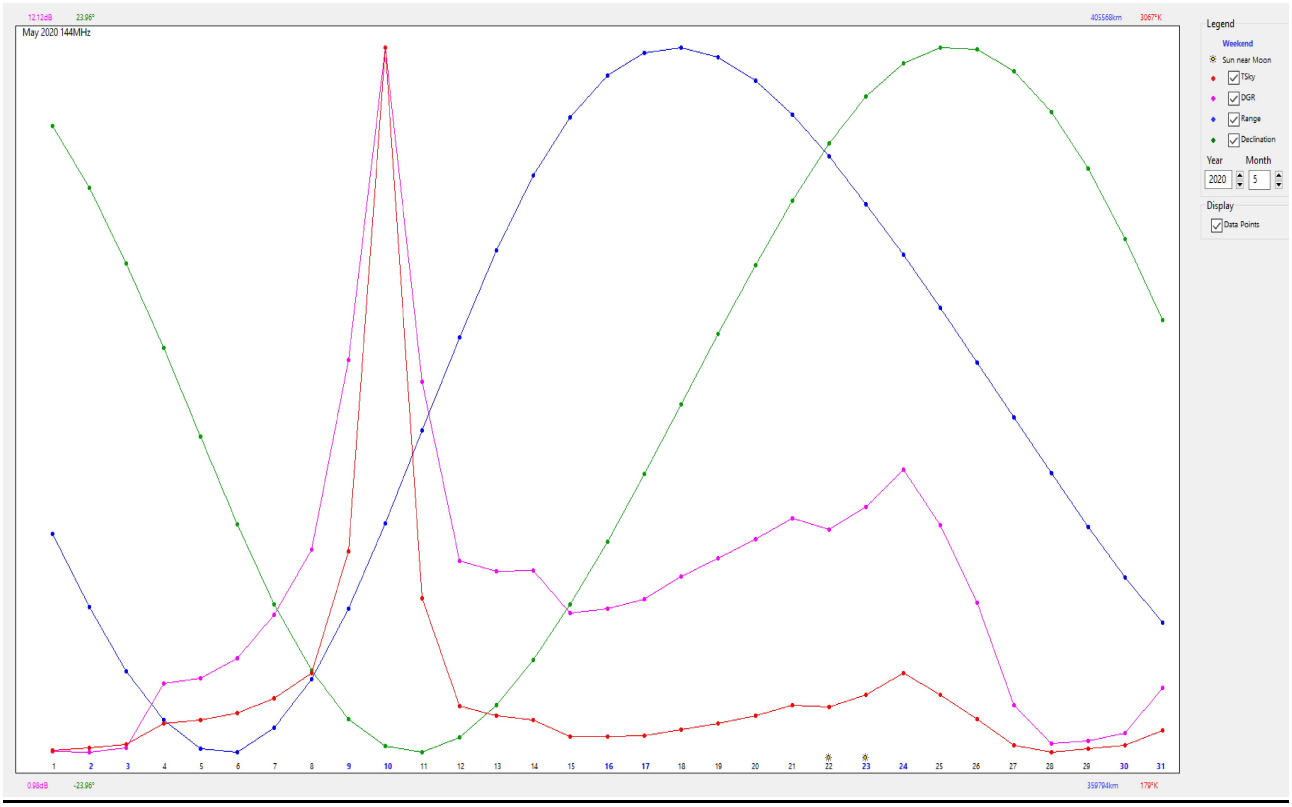
Time Table

4 May May Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph April 2020



Moon Graph May 2020

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