

# The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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**Issue 08/2020 12 Aug 2020**

## The X-Team Activating Jersey GJ in March

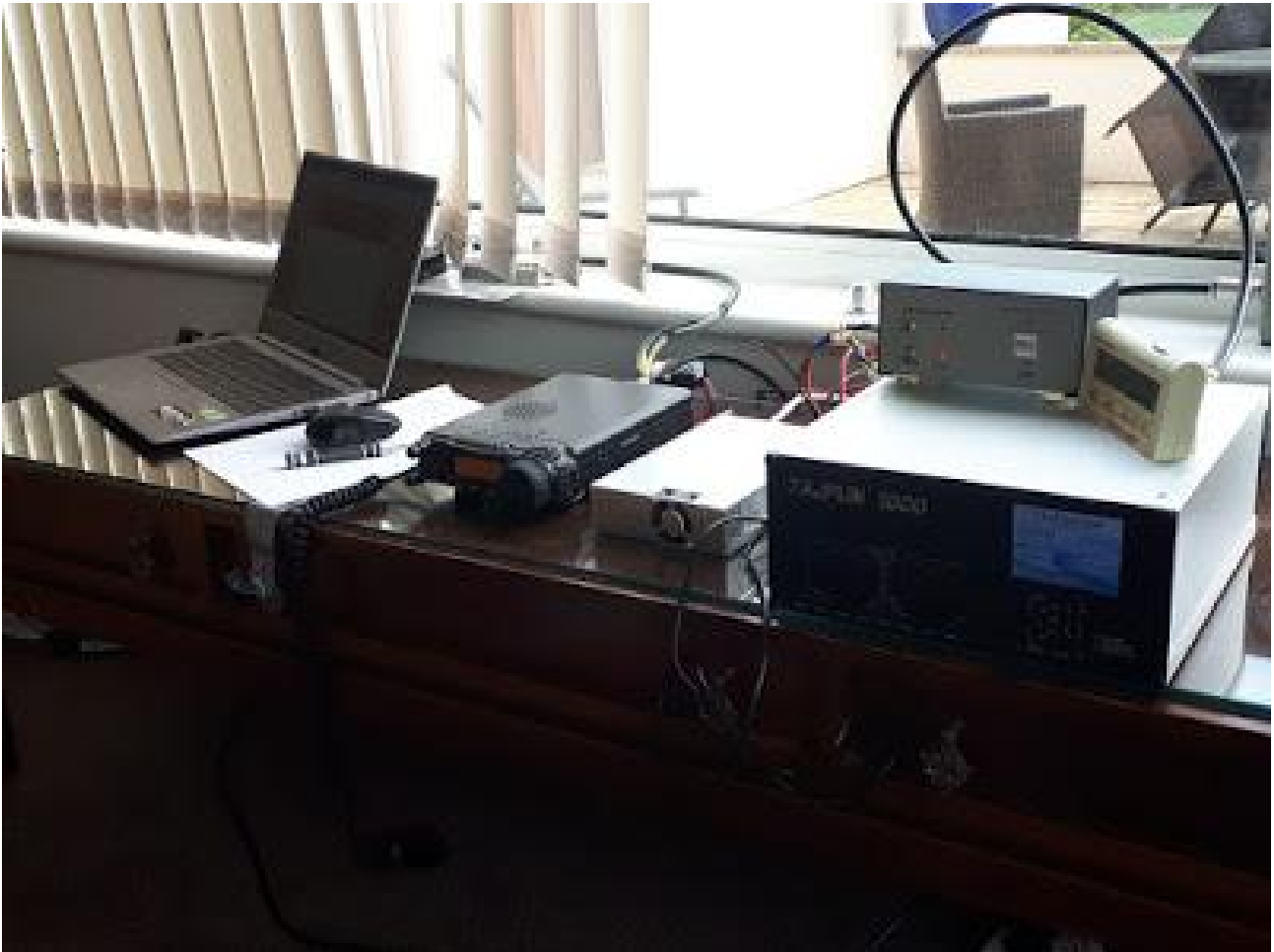
After 10 years Frank DH7FB and Bernd DF2ZC believed it was once again time to travel to Jersey DXCC GJ and run some EME from there. Luckily the holiday flat in St. Martin (IN89XF) was still available and the owners well remembered the radio amateurs doing funny things in the garden in 2010. So preparation was easy – if you had been at a place before you know what is expecting you.



The two 8/8 elements DK7ZB yagis viewed from the street. The “bad” tree is behind the tree on the left.

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After a 10 hours night drive from JO30RN and a bumpy ferry crossing in the morning of March 9<sup>th</sup> Jersey welcomed the “X-Team” with sunshine and nice weather - which sadly did not last for long. Setup inhouse was quickly completed, outside it took a little longer for a number of different reasons but was finally completed at 1300Z. After 1400Z some tropo test QSOs in FT8 with JO30, JO31 (roughly 700 km) with loud signals were made though the antennas were at just 2 m height only. This meant everything was working fine. The moonrise direction was a little downhill slope with the sea in about 2 km and France at the horizon.



**The shack in Jersey: FT857 and Tajfun sspa.**

Before the official start due to the very short common windows two skeds were run, with FK8CP (RG37FR) and ZL3NW. And with FK8CP a QSO could be completed while ZL3NW was never copied, also the following days when the common window was just 15 minutes or less only. After those skeds another 20 QSOs were completed. Then the moon was blocked by a big tree: the rx signals dropped to zero.

Back in 2010 that tree was still rather small but in the ten years it had grown into a big one and blocked many hours of precious moon time. It had no leaves yet but apparently sap was already rising which made it a substantial obstacle between the antennas and the moon. A funny experience was that also the noise picked up substantially when the antennas were pointed the to the tree. Electric noise from trees? However, that effect could be reproduced at any time. Behind the tree was just an open field with the next building some 200 m. The same was the case with a second tree in a bigger distance.

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Hence the usable moon hours became less and less day by day. Moreover, once one was clear of the tree the receiver started to pick up noise also from the buildings and lights nearby. Sadly there was no alternative antenna location possible to gain more moon hours. Another 30 QSOs could still be completed during the course of the DXpedition, plus five QSOs on 70 cm during the moon pass March 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>. But the final result was still sad. Particularly the fact that not a single JA station made it into the log is odd. No JA was being copied at all in vpol as well as in hpol. Also the weather did not make things better, cold temperatures and rain persisted the entire stay. Only the local pub within walking distance at least comforted with good beer and food. So the job is not finished: maybe in some years there will be another DXpedition to Jersey by the X-Team, from a different QTH or with longer antenna cable than the usual 30 m.



View from outside to the shack which was the living room of the flat. (Photos DF2ZC)

When travelling back home on March 14<sup>th</sup> the Corona pandemic spread more and more. Some ferries from the UK to Jersey were already cancelled. Luckily the ferry to France was still running. However, Frank and Bernd felt only really safe when the car touched French soil and they could continue the 850 km car drive through the night back home. Plans for 2021? Sure but hard to say when and where – it all depends on the further development of the pandemic...

## **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.*

### **KA6U Activating Squares in the NorthWest USA**

Peter, KA6U, will be QRV from a number of grid squares in Northern California and Oregon. His operating plans are to run on 144.122 MHz 2nd 2m EME from MR until no callers are left and then

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every first 30 minutes of each hour 2m EME and 2nd 30 minutes 6m and 2m MS. Peter will use his new 4 X 10 HV array and a powerful sspa. Latest news are on <https://www.grz.com/db/KA6U>

GRID	DATE	Start UTC	End UTC	Location (near)	Latitude	Longitude
CN91ad	8/15/2020	945	2100	Grizzly Peak, CA	41.1436	-121.9786
CN91ad	8/16/2020	1015	2100	Grizzly Peak, CA	41.1436	-121.9786
CN81xd	8/17/2020	1130	2130	West of Grizzly Peak, CA	41.1449	-122.0023
CN90ax	8/18/2020	1400	1900	Big Bend, CA	40.9683	-121.9403
CN92wf	8/19/2020	1350	1900	Fremont NF, OR	42.2371	-120.1541
DN03nx	8/20/2020	1500	2330	Malheur NF, OR	43.9995	-118.839
DN04na	8/21/2020	1600	2100	Malheur NF, OR	44.0005	-118.8392
CN93gn	8/22/2020	1730	200	La Pine, OR	43.5504	-121.4742

KA6U's tentative schedule of his grid square tour

## Time Table

10 September    September Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download

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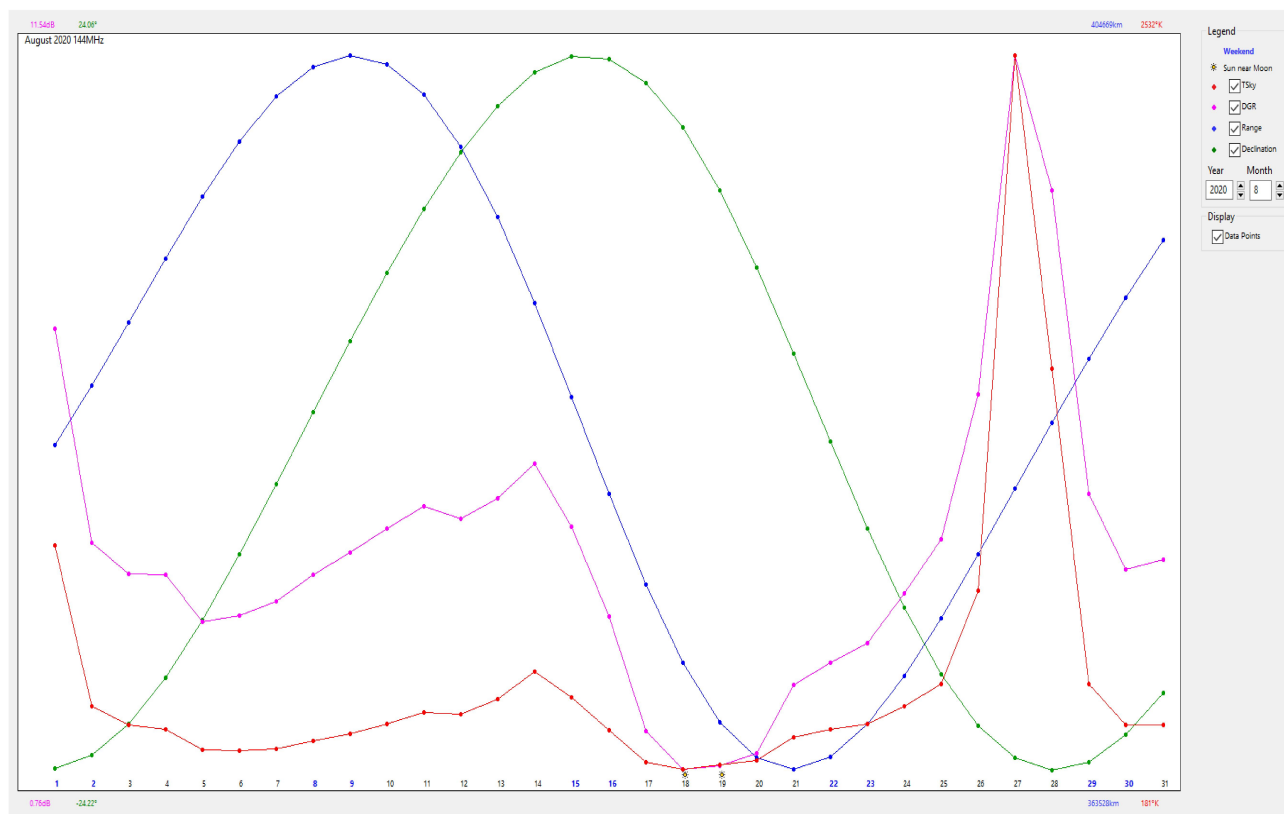
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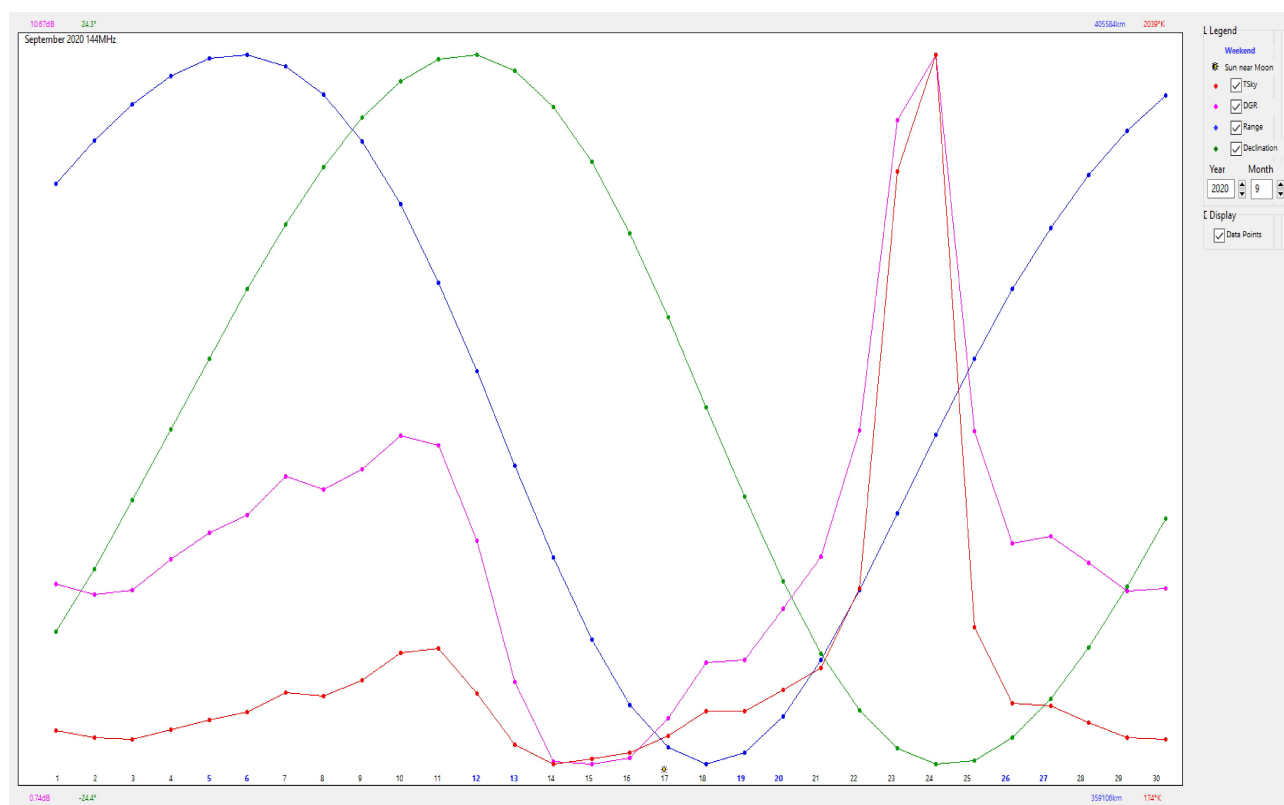
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# Moon Conditions



Moon Graph August 2020



Moon Graph September 2020

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