

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Peter KA6U QRV from EL89 on January 4th

There has not been any serious EME activity from EL89 for the past two decades, hence it was suggested to Peter KA6U to go to this square when he asked some ham friends for their “square wishes”. EL89 also has the advantage that it is within a short drive from Peter’s new home in EL87.



KA6U in EL89, setting up the antennas on a parking lot at the ocean with the sun setting behind him. Later Peter had to move the fully assembled array (~70 kg weight) closer to the water, right next to the palm tree in the background. In a second run he then had to carry the 100 kg of cement blocks that support the antennas down there.

When KA6U had finished setting up the station and switched on his rx he was “welcomed” by some S9 noise. Identifying the noise source was easy: It was a power line running down the peninsula that was not terminated. There used to be a light on the end of it, but the locals kept shooting the light out so they just left the wire on the pole not connected. “Argghh...why did I not bring my SDR to check for noise before I set up the station?” Peter wrote. What could be done now? In a first step he moved the completely assembled array with rotator, standpipe etc some 50 meters further out on the peninsula to get a better decoupling.

This helped but sadly just a little. When KA6U started CQing at moonrise he was always very well copied via moon but it took nearly two hours until the moon was in a direction where the noise became somewhat lesser. Only then he started decoding signals: the first QSO (with RX1AS) could be completed at 0523Z. The next QSO was completed five minutes later, the following one seven minutes later. At least a start was made. With the moon moving further up in the sky and further South the local noise floor became lower and lower but never went away. After seven hours QRV time (of which he could only copy signals for five hours) at least 32 QSOs were in log. This was an excellent result given the very bad situation. Around 1100Z Peter broke down the station and returned home – after being up for 26 consecutive hours. When he left the place it was just 4°C there, definitely no fun dismantling the station in the chilly morning. Peter was not happy having missed so many stations: Hence, he decided to travel to EL89 for another moon pass on January 17th - definitely from a different location...

Better Noise Situation from EM80

About two weeks before on December 20th Peter was QRV from EM80 grid square. The area was very rf quiet. Maybe the additional effort he had done with extensive RFI filtering and chokes on all cables also helped: On December 13th in EL94 he had had some problems with RFI so after returning home he addressed this - with good success as it looks: A fair number of single yagi stations now have EM80 in their logs.



KA6U on December 20th in EM80SE

The location was in a clearing in the National Forest where they load trucks. The forest is 10 m tall pine trees with the undergrowth tropical ferns which resulted in some minimum elevation needed to have a clear shot at the moon. Between 1732 and 2200Z when he had to stop due to thunderstorms and heavy rain 46 QSOs were completed.



View on KA6U's updated station with the Tajfun 1000 SSPA running some 950 watts on JT65 with conditioning air blowing in the front. Everything fits on the driver's seat in the car.



Peter's location in EL94 with the old 7 Mile bridge in background. Even a highway patrol officer stopped by and asked what Peter was doing. It turned out his father was a ham starting in the 1930's. Several of his team also stopped by to visit and KA6U became known as the "Antenna Guy". (all photos ©KA6U)

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.

KA6U Activating Yet More Squares in South-East USA

Peter, KA6U, will be QRV from more grid squares in Florida and neighbouring states in January. At the moment he is planning for a trip at the end of the month, to EM92, EM91 and EM90:

- EM92 - QRV on January 30 from 0015UTC - 1000UTC
- EM91 - QRV on January 31 from 0100UTC - 1100UTC
- EM90 - QRV on February 1st from 0200UTC - 1200UTC

There appear to be good locations for the above grids on the Atlantic Ocean. Peter will write an update on the KA6U site at www.grz.com as soon as the weather forecast is available.

A possible next trip could take place in the middle of February:

- EM61 - QRV on February 13 from 1400UTC - 2000UTC
- EM71 - QRV on February 14 from 1430UTC - 2000UTC
- EL79 - QRV on February 15 from 1500UTC - 2100UTC

Consequently in the next issues we will sure read about more of Peter's success stories particularly as he has big plans to activate many rare grid squares this year.

TX7MB (CI00LD) in November 2021

Gene KB7Q reports that the postponed DXpedition to the Marquesas is now scheduled for October 31st to November 7th, 2021. The equipment import licenses and TX7MB license have all been refreshed for the new dates and he now started booking the flights.

Time Table

1 February	February Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download
7-11 February	Excellent EME Conditions (Best conditions 2021)

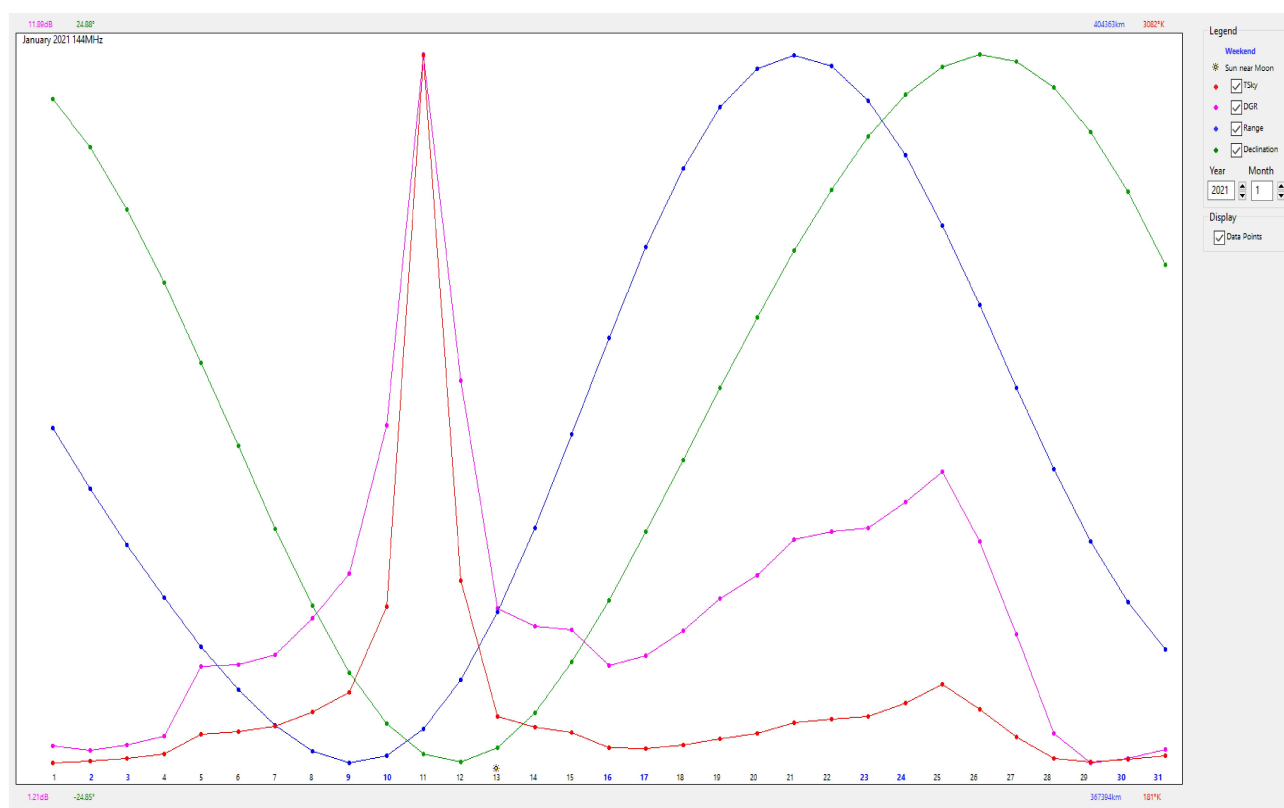
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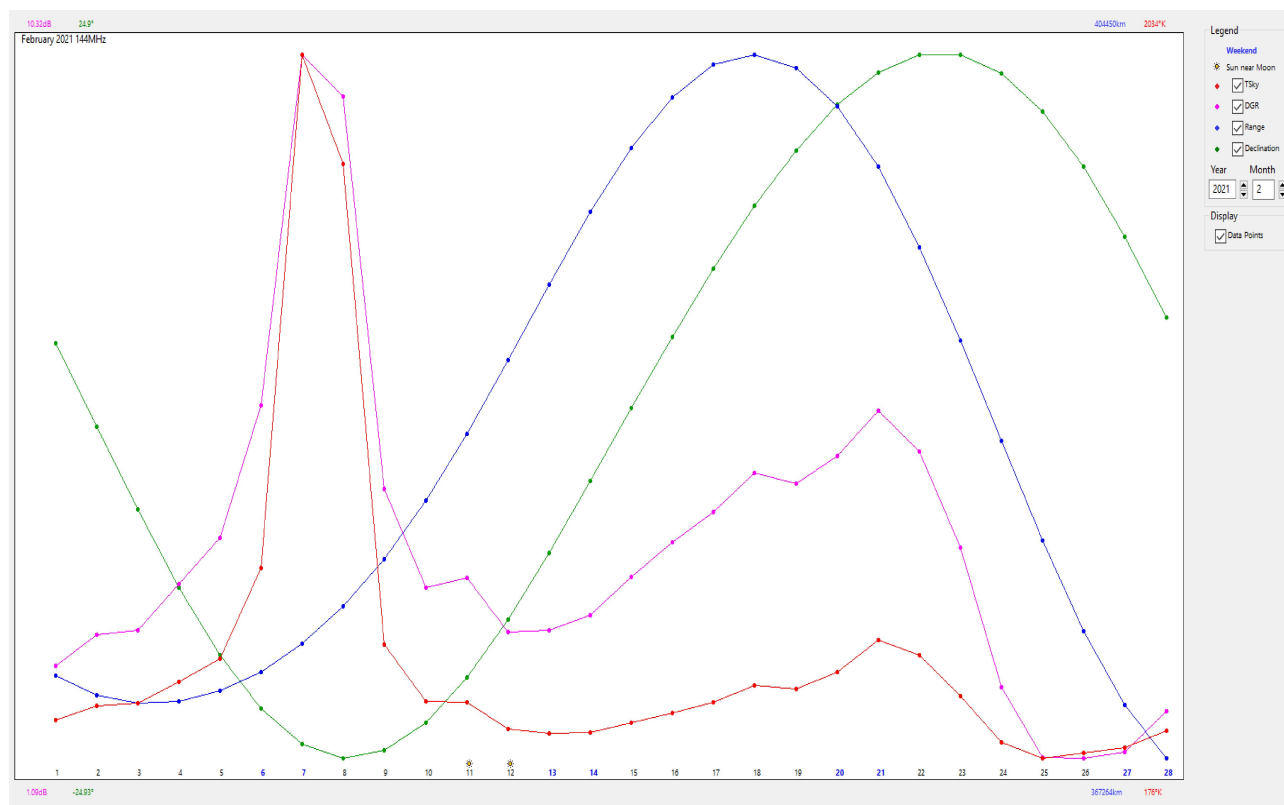
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph January 2021



Moon Graph February 2021

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