

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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EME Conference 2021 cancelled – moved to 2022

Zdenek, one of the organizers of the Prague EME Conference which was planned for 2020 and shifted to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic now reports of another necessary move of the conference dates. The following facts made the Czech organizers team proposes to cancel plans for this year's August and shift the dates by one more year to 2022:



The hotels in Prague will only open gradually from June on, hence there is no certainty that the conference hotel will operate at 100% in August

Moreover travel and COVID mutations pose a permanent threat. Therefore it is not sure how the situation will be in summer. The same applies with air travel: The USA for example still has not allowed free travel to the EU. Though the vaccination rates are picking up steadily, 75% of the population will not be reached before autumn 2021.

Another problem that is starting to emerge after the lock-ups are finished is a price increase of 15-20% in restaurants and services. This applies not only to the Czech republic but to most countries. New discussions with the hotel could be necessary.

When looking at all this there remains only one decision: to move the conference to next year so that everyone has sufficient planning security. Moreover a conference with restrictions on personal meetings would not be something we all expect from an EME conference.

More details will be on the dedicated EME conference web site soon: www.eme2020.cz

EA4CYQ/P Activating IM79 Square

Early in 2019 Juan had already activated IM79 on EME, from IM79CA in the Spanish province of Badajoz. This was his first portable EME activity then. Since COVID stopped his plans for 2020 he is very happy that this year he could conduct another portable EME project. On 24 April EA4CYQ/P became QRV from IM79AD, province of Cáceres.



EA4CYQ/P worked from a very hf quiet location

This time everything was more complex than in 2019. The weather was cloudy and rainy but at least it was not windy. Moreover Juan had to use a generator - and Murphy was present breaking the changing polarity switch and shortening the inner 48V supply connector of the amplifier because of excessive tightening. Luckily EA4CYQ could fix both issues.

This time Juan installed a marine compass that turned to be useful and accurate. He could check and calibrate it when he saw the moon the first time with 20 deg of elevation. The chosen QTH was extremely clear of RF, not a single bird in the spectrum waterfall of MAP65 could be seen. Juan even mistrusted the LNA because he had to increase the gain of LINRAD. But when he decoded the first station JHOBBE very strong, taking advantage of the ground gain, he knew everything worked ok.

The conditions were very strange that day. EA4CYQ/P could decode several stations with only one yagi, some stations called him even with -17dB. But then they did not copy his reply though he was running 700 Watts in antenna. Also at LiveCQ his reports were not as strong as expected.

After 6 hours rain and wet weather Juan finally felt a little tired and had to QRT because he needed at least some sleep for the next day when he had to take down the setup and travel home. A one man EME DXpedition is a bit exhausting. At least 22 stations could add IM79 now to their log.



A good beer always helps even when it is a 0% alcohol like here: Juan in the /P shack (Photos EA4CYQ)

EA4CYQ's setup was a single GTV 2-14W H/V (details on that antenna are on www.dg7ybn.de) with switching POL, LNA, 10 m RG214 in rx line, splitter and FCDPP, LINRAD, MAP65 and WSJTX. On the tx side he ran with a 1 kW Italab power module and 10 m ECOFLEX15. Rig was a FT857 which is very well suited for DXpeditions because it is so small but yet powerful and stable in frequency. Too bad it is no longer being manufactured. Juan used a sequencer by W6PQL and a modified Signalink Digital interface. He is very grateful to all stations calling him. And though that one man activity in bad wx was quite tiresome it was much fun though.

Upcoming DXpeditions

For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at www.mmmmonvhf.de from where most of the information here was gathered unless noted otherwise.

KA6U QRV from EM50/EM51

Peter will be QRV from two more grid squares on May 22nd and 23rd:

- **EM50DD** - MR 2050 UTC May 22nd
- **EM51MB** - MR 2200 UTC May 23rd

Planned calling frequency is 144,132 MHz with KA6U tx 2nd.

Time Table

7 June June Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download

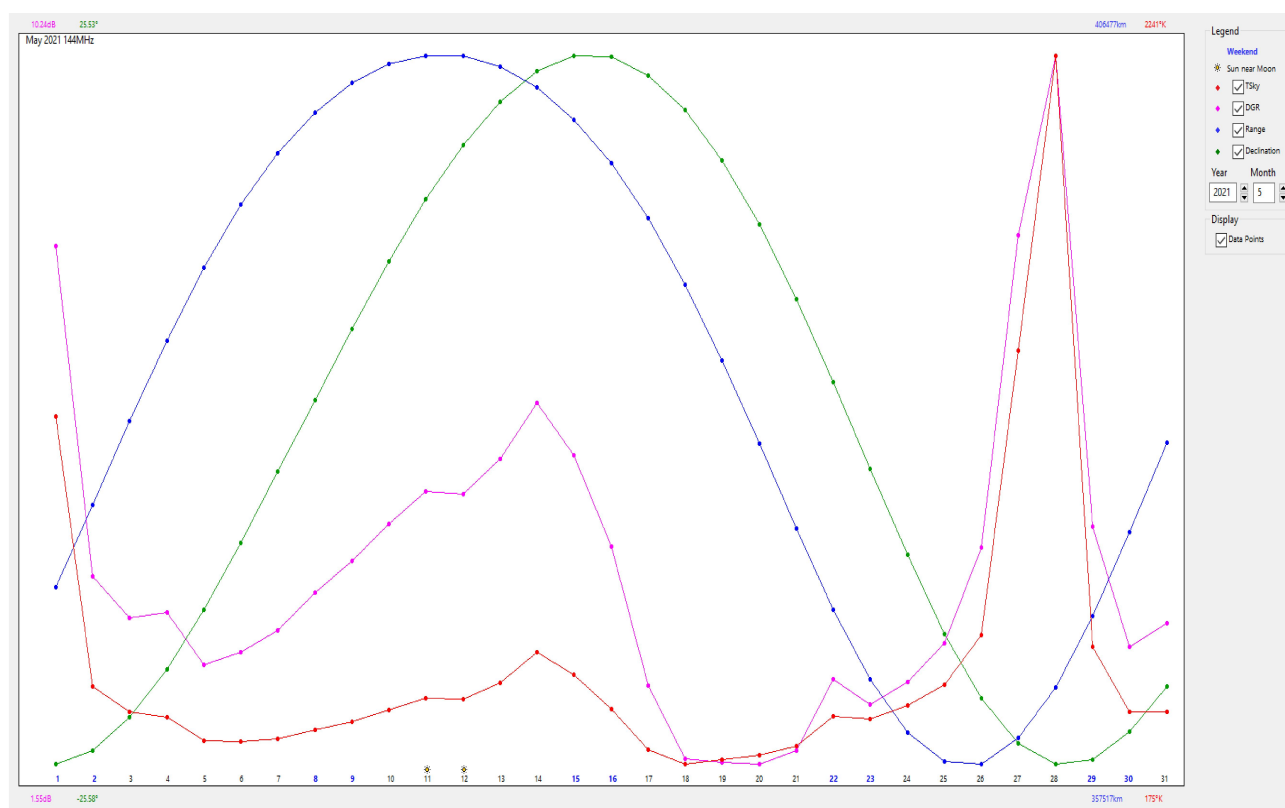
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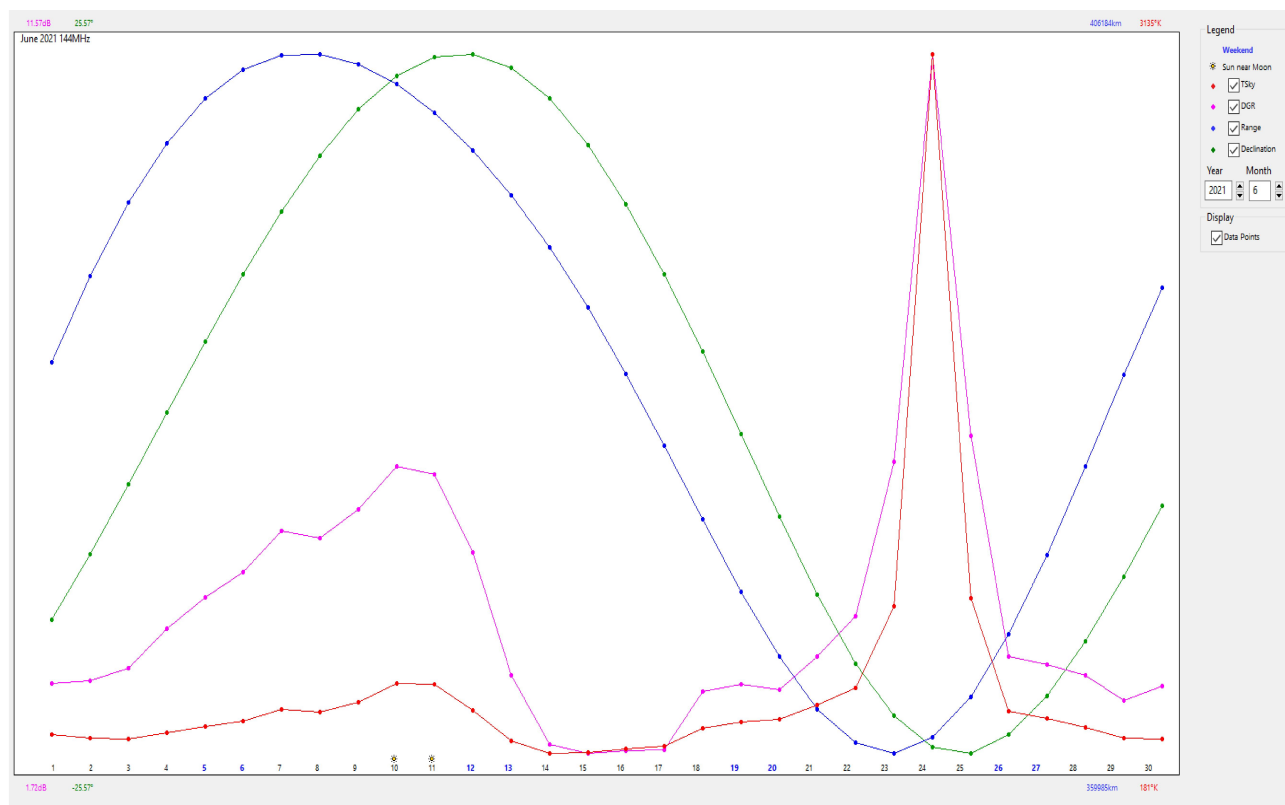
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph May 2021



Moon Graph June 2021

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