

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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KA6U starts his 2022 Roving Trip



KA6U at Broken Bow Lake (EM24PD) in Oklahoma, with 2m and 23cm. (Photo KA6U)

On June 2nd Peter started his USA roving tour 2022 during which he plans to visit 45 states and activate many squares on 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 222MHz. That day in the early morning he left Texas where he had visited Marshall, K5QE in EM31 and tested his equipment. He drove to EM24PD in Oklahoma. After some storms had passed he set up his 2m and 23cm stations on a peninsula in Broken Bow Lake. It turned out he had as expected a number of issues with generators, network in truck, rotator alignment. No surprise for the first activation in several months and with lots of new equipment, installation, etc. By the end of the day the issues were mostly resolved except for the ICOM IC9700.

Apparently the IC9700 does not work reliably in his portable station. The USB interface is very sensitive to RFI. This caused the waterfall update to randomly fail. In an attempt to rectify this Peter replaced the rig control with a CI-V cable because the 9700 rig control is even more sensitive than the audio. At least 20 times on June 3rd the IC9700 audio failed which prevented decodes. The transceiver seems ok for use in a home shack but not for portable operations, at least in a high power environment with multiple stations. So Peter removed it and went back to the ICOM IC705.

Over the two days in Oklahoma on the lake, KA6U had many visitors interested in the station. At least 30 people stopped by. The park staff were happy to have Peter there and said he could come back anytime.

From Broken Bow Lake Peter then continued his journey to EM34. Early UTC on June 4th he arrived at Nashville. No, not in Tennessee but in Arkansas though country music sure is very popular there as well. He was confronted with some problems at the selected QTH which was not suitable. So he had to search for a backup location. Luckily he found a good QTH and quickly set up 2m knowing half of the world was waiting and being concerned whether there were issues. So the start was a little later than expected but then all was fine.

KA6U had completely rewired the inside of the truck, removing the IC9700 and many cables/connectors etc. The current setup supports only single band operation at a time, running two bands is currently too difficult. The 2m, 70cm and 222 stations worked perfectly, not a single glitch. Later in the trip KA6U may try two band operation again.

Conditions were very difficult on 2m with strong QSB and different H/V paths in different directions. After the QSY to 70cm things were not much different there, starting with mostly lockout conditions in US for first 90 minutes. The next moon pass on June 5th was a 23cm and 70cm only one. Again Peter had many visitors also in EM34, several were new to ham radio. Sometimes people again thought he was "talking to aliens on the Moon".

Peter will probably resume operations around June 22nd when the moon declination improves again. He will post an update on his dedicated blog ka6u.blogspot.com. He has even expanded his plans and wants to 45 states now, only excluding CA, OR and WA in the continental US. During this trip, if you miss him for a state you need, please send an email to KA6U petervanh143@gmail.com. Because of the time available for this trip and very fast station setup/teardown, he may be able to try again if he missed you.

When Peter started planning this trip he estimated some \$3000 for diesel fuel. Given the current developments the estimate is now \$8000. One may even see \$10 per gallon prices by September. (to compare to Europe: this would equal \$2,65 per litre). If anyone would like to contribute toward the fuel cost you can use his paypal account petervanh143@gmail.com.

AG6EE roving the West of the USA

Whilst Peter KA6U was active from the South-East of the USA, Petr AG6EE was travelling the West of the States. Though mainly focussing on the 6 m band he also brought two yagis for 2 m. Every



AG6EE always works from his car, here in DN01 on June 3rd

now and then he made QSY to that band running 1 kW to 2 x 9/9 ele xpols. Even high winds and bad weather could not stop him. At one point in Northern Nevada strong gusts made his 2m set-up collapse and bent all vertical elements (see picture below). After he had re-erected the antennas Petr then worked hpol only – until he bent the elements back and remounted them.



His next plan with 2 m activity is July 2nd to 4th from DM47. However, this is all subject to change as the main dangers are the high gas prices and the risk of heat waves. Last year the same time that area was at 110° F (43° C).

Left: Just a handful of bent elements after high winds. This can happen without prior warnings when you are in the dessert. Also plain sky lightnings can occur. (Photos AG6EE)

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 45 States Journey

For latest news on Peter's plans please have a look at his blog ka6u.blogspot.com

AG6EE Rover Activities

Petr's next plan is to be QRV from DM47 July 2-4 (6m terrestrial and limited 2m EME). However, this is subject to change and strongly depends on gas prices and weather. Last year it was 110°F (43°C) there which would make it impossible to be QRV. Please check on AG6EE's qrz.com site for updates.

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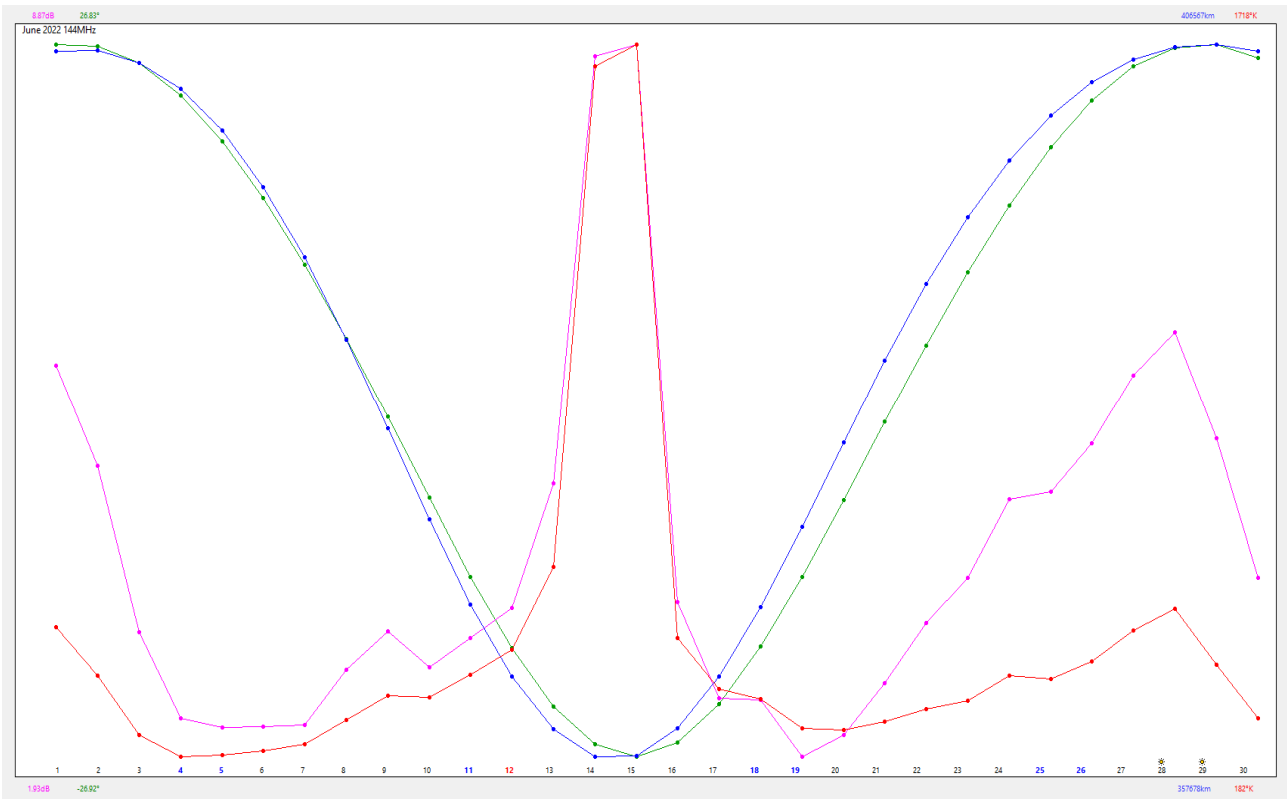
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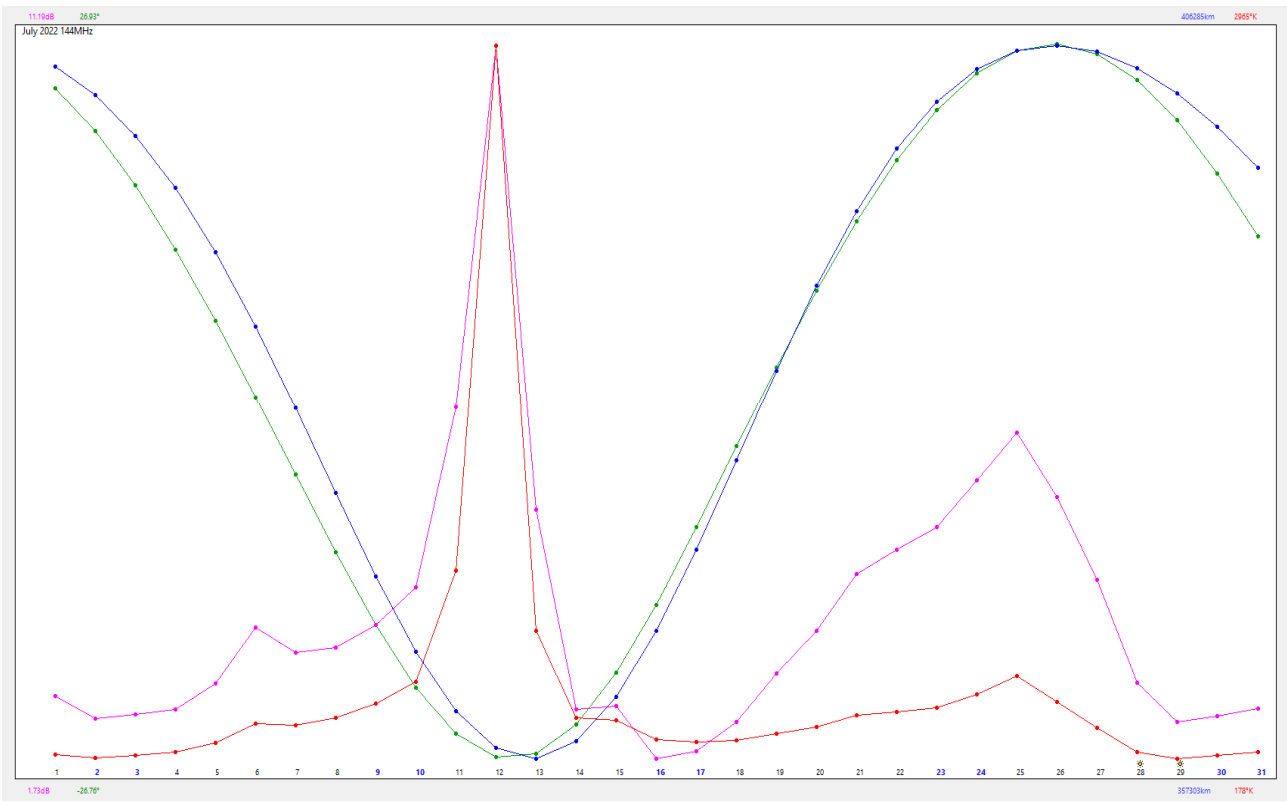
Time Table

4 July The July Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download.

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph June 2022



Moon Graph July 2022

(Courtesy of David GM4JJJ (sk 2019) www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm)