

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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CYOS Sable Island First EME Activity

You only know that a DXpedition is QRV when you copy their signals the first time. Too much can go wrong. This particularly applies for remote places such as Sable island where weather always plays a major and negative part. However, with CYOS it was already a challenge to get a permission at all to be allowed to become QRV from the island. The initial application to Parks Canada was dated December 19, 2016. After a number of productive meetings with Parks Canada staff COVID-19 then brought all preparations to a halt and everything was postponed two years. Then, in October 2022, a Parks Canada project delayed the DXpedition until March 2023. Finally the DXpedition was approved and scheduled from March 20th to March 29th, 2023.



The EME aerial on Sable Island (FN93XW): Two 9 ele yagis for 2 m plus the 15 ele for 70 cm.

Lee WW2DX was a member of the CY0S team and it came as no surprise he brought EME gear for 2 m since Parks Canada - Sable Island approved the 2 m EME operation from the island on January 31st. Parks Canada had conducted a frequency study and determined that the high-power levels on 2 m EME shouldn't create a problem. After a number of very successful EME operations from much wanted DXCCs such as FJ, CY9 and V26 to name but a few, expectations were high Lee would also make many 2 m EME hams happy with a new DXCC which maybe would not be activated on moon bounce again for decades if at all. As a matter of fact, he delivered.

The team arrived on Sable island on March 20th and were welcomed with wind speeds up to 70 kph at temperatures close to freezing point plus snow. The strong wind blew the sand around so that all installations were hampered by that kind of sand storm. The two 9 ele yagis by YU1CF for 144 MHz were assembled and the entire 2 m set-up was ready at moonrise on March 21st at 0620 am local time. Lee was running a WSJT-X version for which K1JT had added a special feature "Q65 Pileup" which is really fast and sensitive. For most sensitive decoding on the DXpedition station's end (up to an extra 3 dB) it was required that the callers use either the NA VHF, WW DIGI or ARRL DIGI modes in the "Special Operating Modes" section under the FILE/SETTINGS/ADVANCED tab in WSJT-X versions 2.5.4 or later.



Lee WW2DX at the EME working position.

Even though the first day of operations new moon and the sun noise made reception not quite easy some first QSOs were made. Whether the pile-up mode plus the NA contest report exchange had an influence we don't know but it should be very likely. The IC-9700, 1 kW sspa, LNA and the two 9 ele yagis played very well. The following days when moon and sun were separated more and more the number of QSOs rose accordingly. Then not only the big guns could make a contact but also the

average EME setups. The weather on Sable was always a risk because wind speeds could suddenly pick up to a level that elevating was too risky and Lee did not want to lose the antennas. And in the end due to wx (very strong winds) Lee indeed had to QRT earlier than planned, on March 23rd, at 1628Z. A good number of EME QSOs was in the log then, for mainly 2 m but also for 70 cm.

DXCC SV5 Dodecanes Postponed

Only few days before departure the X-Team DH7FB and DF2ZC had to cancel their Rhodes DXpedition due to health reasons. They have postponed the activity until March, 2024.

ARRL EME Contest 2022 Results

The results of the 2022 ARRL International EME Contest are available online now:

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2022/EME-2022-FinalFullResults.pdf> Congratulations go to Conrad, PA5Y, for achieving 254 valid QSOs on 144 MHz Single Operator with 48 DXCCs, 32 US-States and 4 Canada provinces, resulting in 2133600 Points. Conrad works with 4 x 24-ele-XPOL antennas by Goran YU1CF (<https://antennas-amplifiers.com/>).

The ARRL Contest weekends this year (on 2 m) will be on 28/29 October and 25/26 November.

Miscellaneous

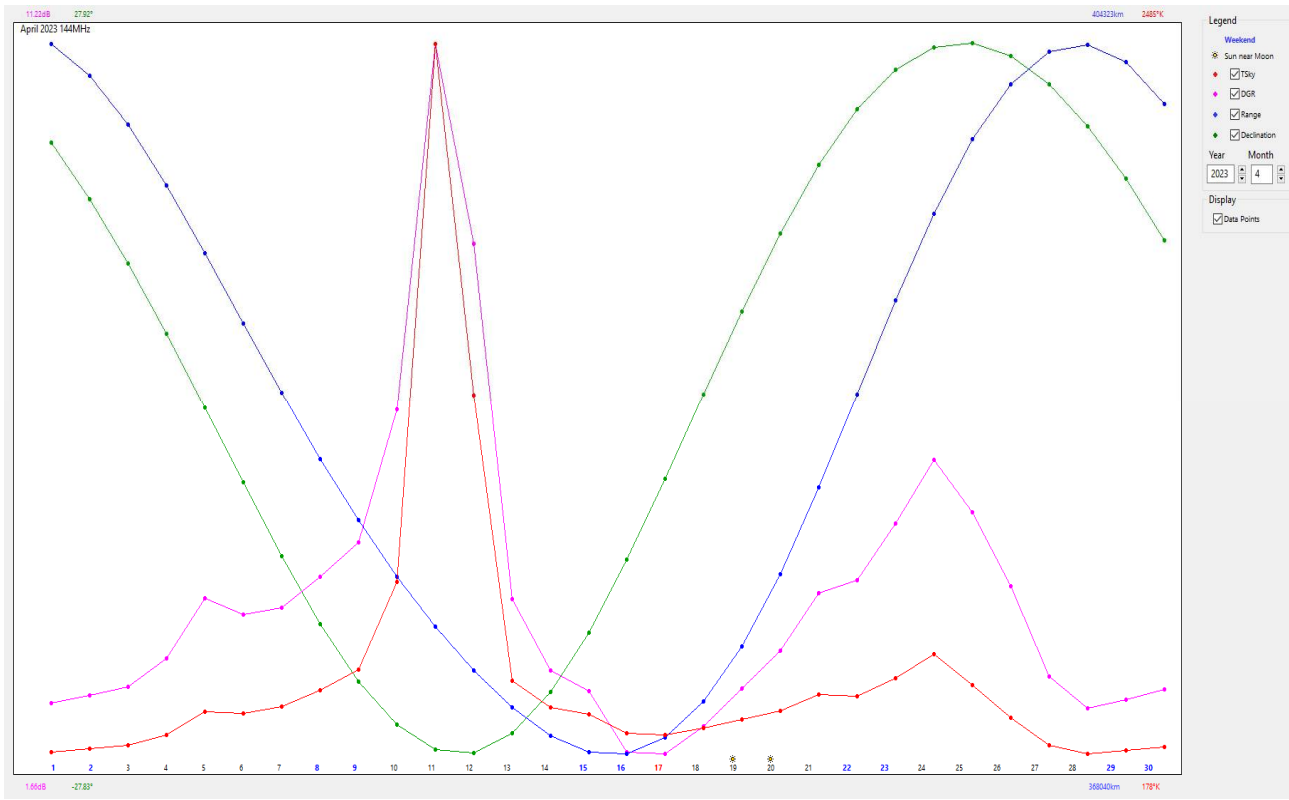
Simon's World Map

Though many EME predicting software programs have a feature "View from Moon" or similar included, G4ELI'S world map is a nice thing though to check who actually can see the moon. For an at-a-glance view of where the moon is currently visible plus many other useful things, this program is worth a look: <https://www.g4eli.com/world-map>

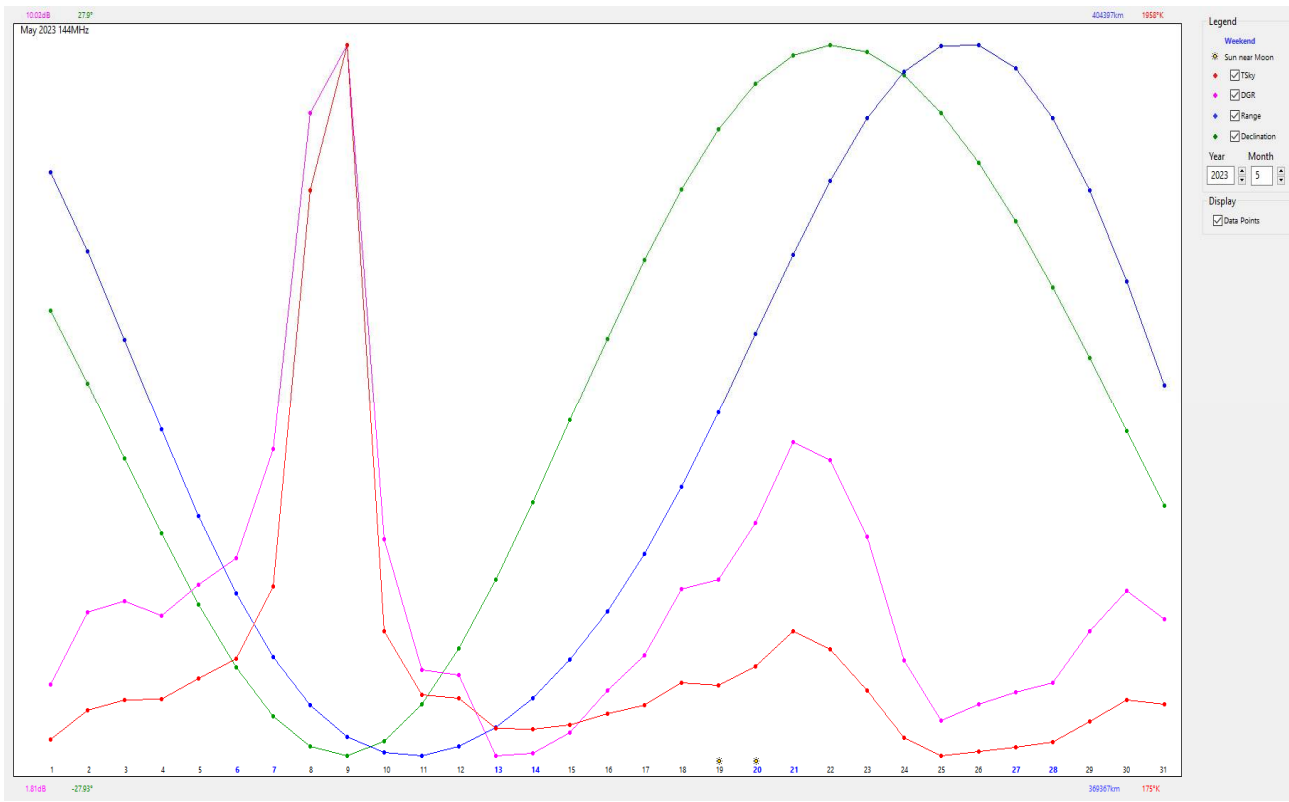
Time Table

5 June The June Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download.

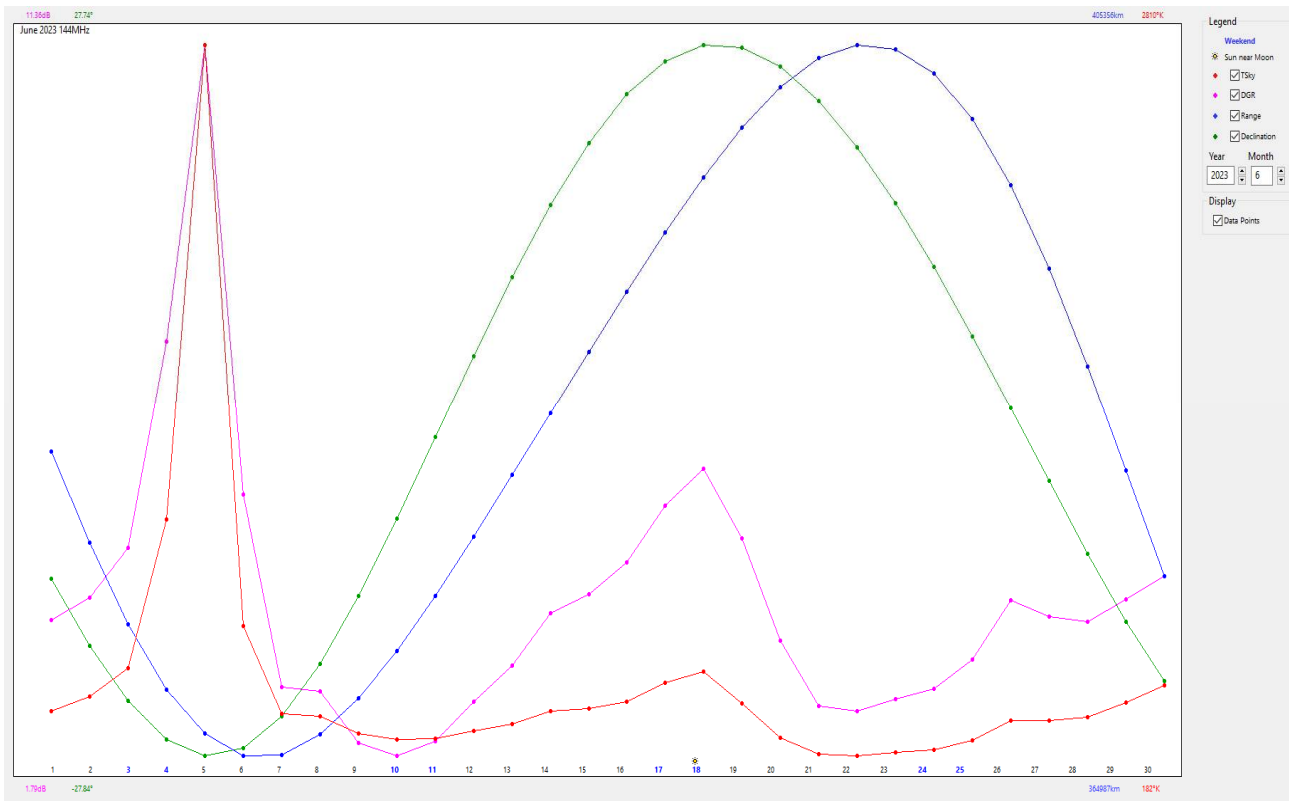
Moon Conditions



Moon Graph April 2023



Moon Graph May 2023



Moon Graph June 2023

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

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