

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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KA6U Back Activating Grids on 144 MHz



The photo is somewhat misleading: it looks all sunny but yet temps are below zero.

In 1977 Manfred Mann's Earthband cover song "Davy's on the road again" was very successful in the music charts. Now one could say KA6U is on the road again, equally successful but on 2 m EME. Actually Peter never was off the road, he only had no space for another band's equipment in his current car when he travelled the USA for giving needed States on 70 cm, 23 cm and 222 MHz. On January 16th KA6U resumed 2 m operation. He had planned for EM42 and EM52 and later that month for EM62 and EM72. Rig was as always IC705, sspa with 800 W, LNA and two 10/10-ele yagis stacked horizontally.

However when he started from his first location in EM42 on January 16th he was being very well copied but did not copy any station no matter what polarisation he used. The reason was extreme line noise at his QTH so Peter had no choice but to abort. As the wx was very much like winter with freezing temperatures there was no point tearing down, moving to another place and setting up again. Hence, EM42 was being postponed to January 18th. This was particularly frustrating because Peter had put much effort in becoming QRV at all: It was just 9°F (-13° C) there and the wind chill made it feel like -18°C or less. It took an hour to set up the station because both generators had water frozen in the fuel lines. Peter had to remove the fuel lines and thaw in the heating vents in the car.

With no power line noise or other kinds of QRM it was all back to normal the next day in EM52: Within few hours 35 stations made it into the log. Also the weather was much more supportive then with -8°C during set-up and -4°C later on in bright sunshine without any wind. It almost made him feel like summer.

The next day KA6U travelled back to EM42 but to a different place with also no QRM. This time he was able to set up the station in only 20 minutes. The weather was yet again better with temps around 8°C. 32 stations made it into the log.

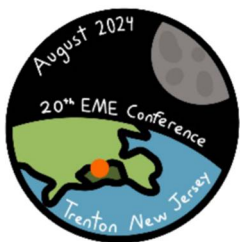
KA6U's next plans were to travel to EM62 on Jan 30th and EM72 on 31st. However, after successful operation from EM62 on January 30th with another ~30 QSOs Peter had to report he decided to drive back home to Florida. As he felt ill he'd better not be out in the middle of the night in freezing temperatures. That was a good decision as health always comes first. He'll resume his 2 m activities not before middle of April at the earliest. At the EME2024 Conference – see below – KA6U will give a presentation on his numerous portable activities on 144, 220, 432, 902 and 1296 MHz since 2020 all over the USA.

ZB2BU Voted for Best EME DX-DXpedition 2023

The results of the Make More Miles on VHF (www.mmmonvhf.de) survey are out. What constitutes a "best" DXpedition is of course always an individual assessment and cannot be objectively determined: Is it a DXCC or a grid square, which is very sought after? Or rather a very efficiently carried out activity with extremely high QSO numbers? A DXCC that can only be achieved with a lot of travel and personal sacrifice? Or an activity where an OM sacrifices his free time in addition to his main activity, for example on a shortwave DXpedition, in order to bring the country to the people via the moon? Hence, every DXpedition is highly commendable when radio amateurs engage altruistically just to provide other radio amateurs with wanted countries.

The registered users of that platform have voted for the ZB2BU EME Activity from April 2023 to be to best EME DXpedition last year. Since it is not easy at all to get permission to operate QRO from Gibraltar many stations are grateful to ON7EQ and ON500 to make that country available. ZB2BU was followed by 4W8X with EME-OP DG5CST and the CY0S-DXpedition with WW2DX. The latter two OMs were part of a larger shortwave team that activated Timor-Leste and Sable Island, respectively.

EME Conference 2024



2024 EME Conference

August 9th to 11th, 2024

The 20th EME Conference will take place in Trenton, New Jersey, from August 9th to 11th, 2024. In addition to attractive lectures in terms of content, for example by the WSJT developer and Nobel Prize laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, the conference offers the opportunity for personal exchange with radio friends who have previously only been known via Mond. The additional offer "EME101" is particularly aimed at beginners, in

which the basics of amateur radio through reflection on the moon are explained and experienced OM give practical recommendations for getting started. The current conference program and information on registration can be found at <https://eme2024trenton.org/>

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.

SZ5RDS (KM46CK) by the X-Team

Last year a health issue led to cancellation of the planned Rhodes activity by DH7FB and DF2ZC which form the "X-Team" when they go on DXpedition. This April they will try again. Everything is booked and organised.

From April 14th to 20th by kind assistance of Mike, SV5BYR they will be QRV from the premises of the Radio Amateur Association of Dodecanese in Rhodes City. Equipment is the standard FT857, LDMOS-SSPA Tajfun, 2 x 8/8-ele-XPOLS DK7ZB design. Modes will be Q65A-60 and JT65B. For further details please check the dedicated blog <https://xteamdxps.blogspot.com/>

Time Table

8 Apr 24 The April issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download.

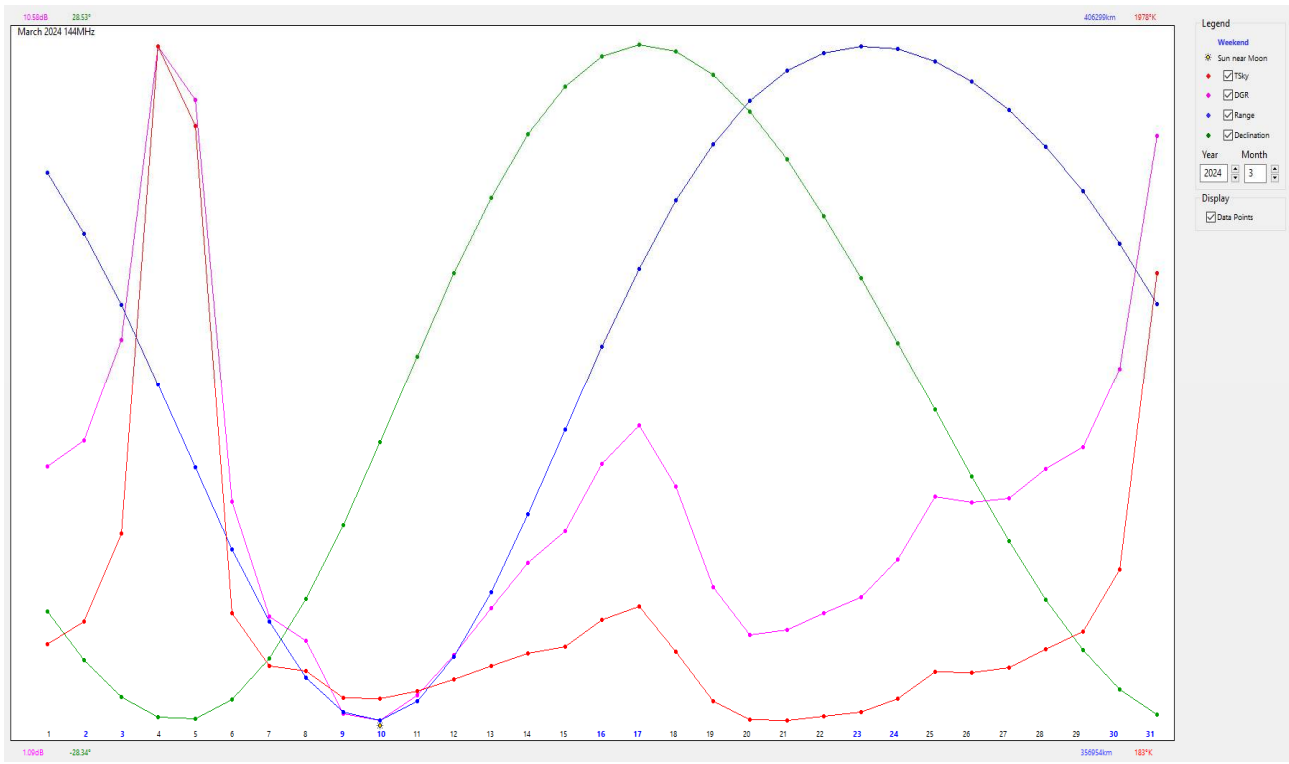
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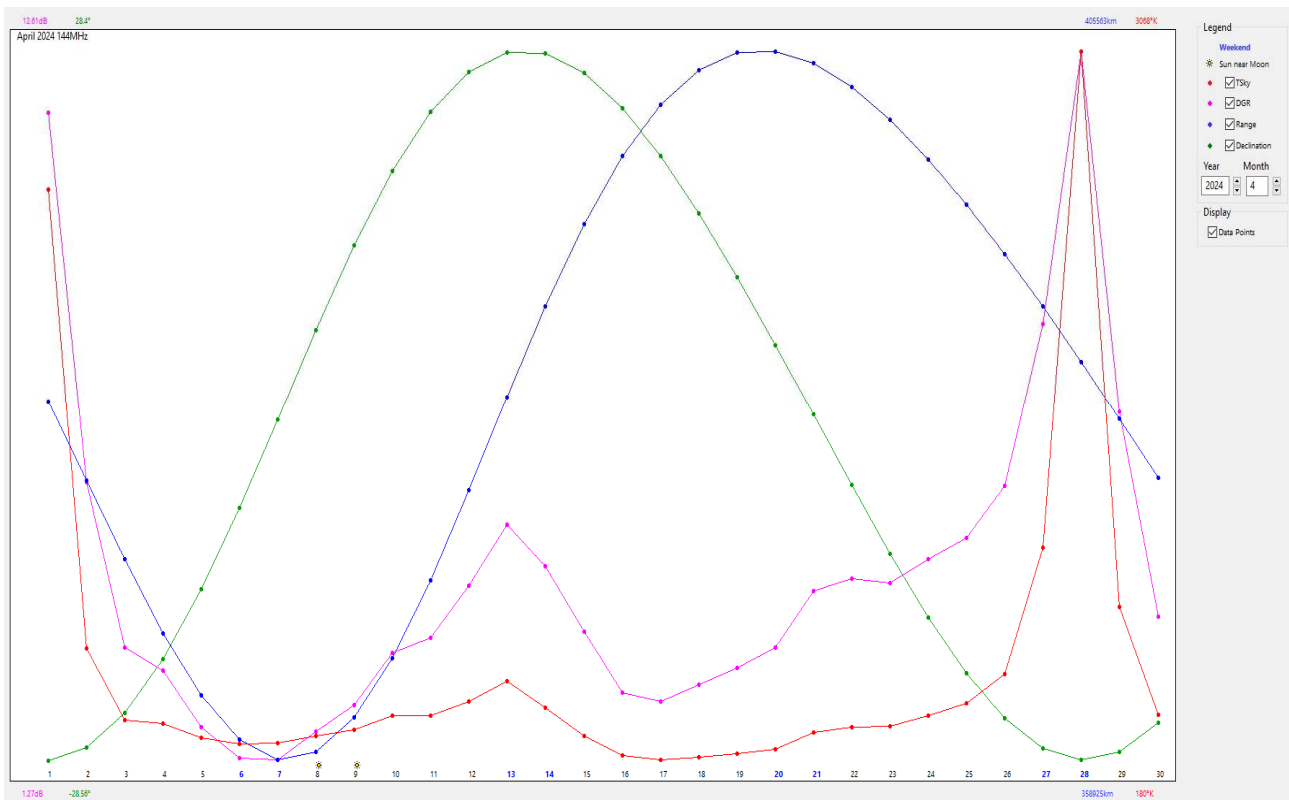
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph March 2024



Moon Graph April 2024

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