

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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2024 EME Conference

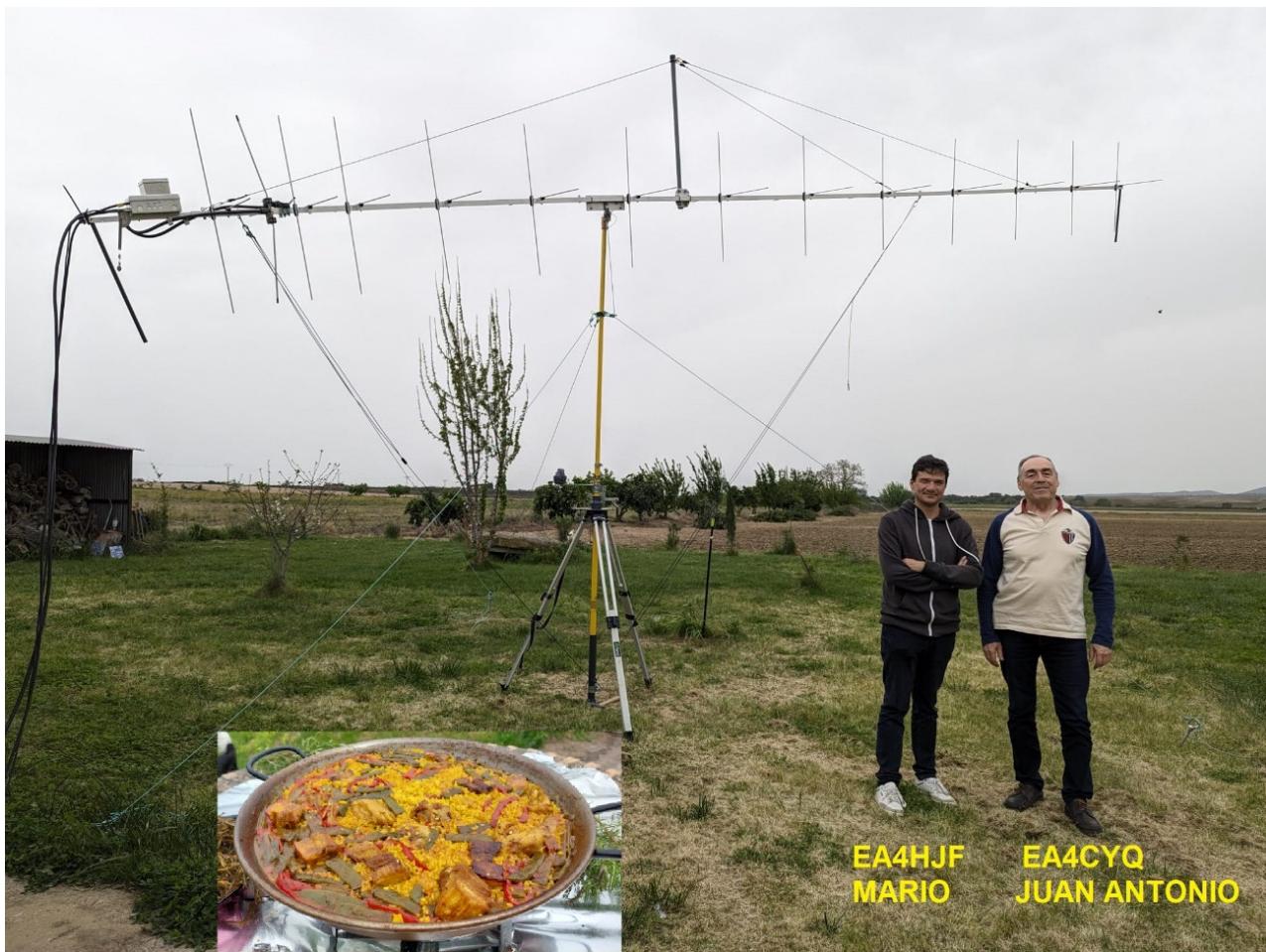
August 9th to 11th, 2024

...since 2003

Issue 4/2024 10 Apr 2024

EA4CYQ QRV From IM69XD

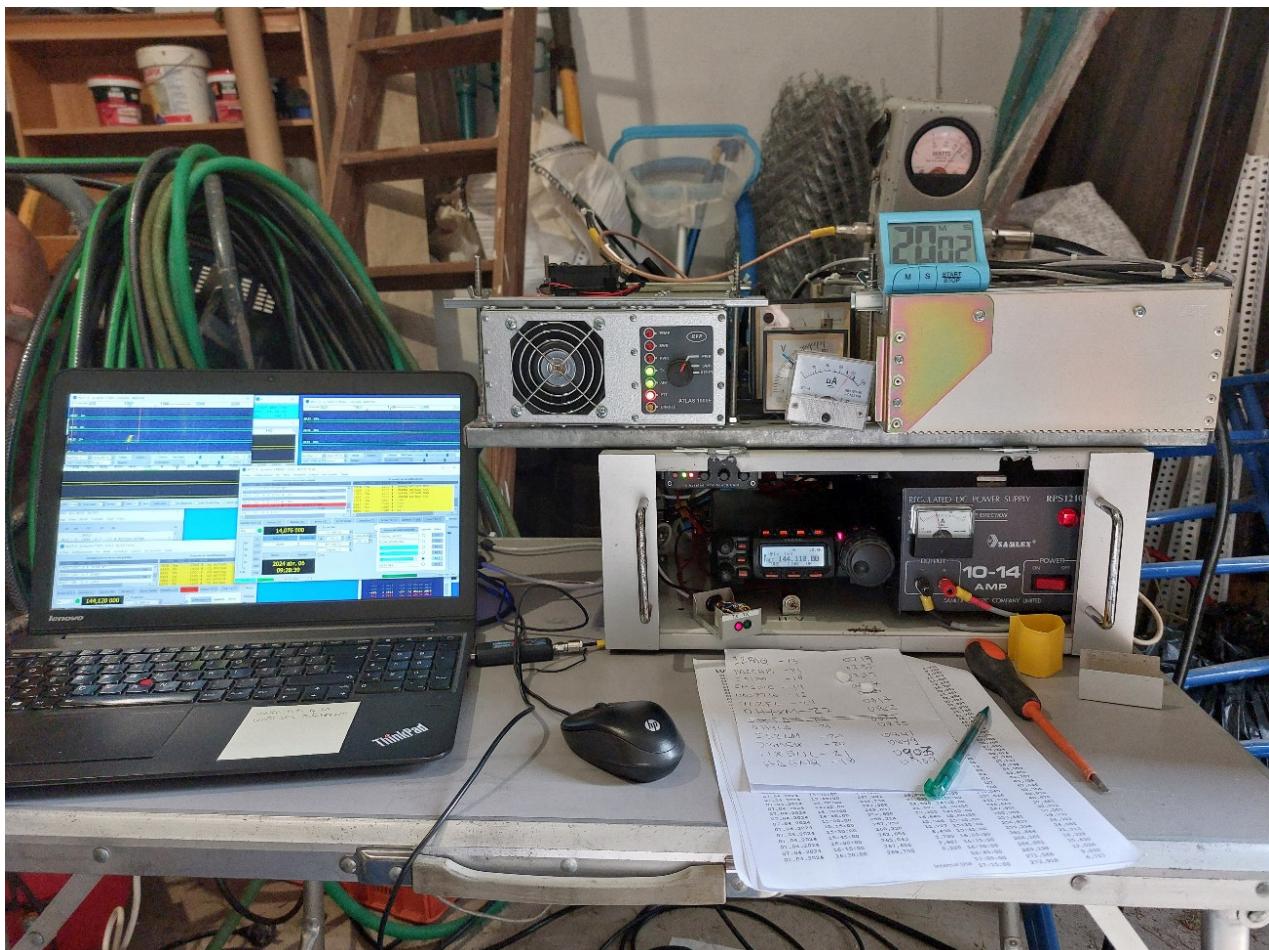
With experimentation in mind, Juan Antonio built a portable setup for 144 EME and activated two grids in the Spring Seasons of the A.R.I. Italian EME Trophy of 2016 and 2019. The global pandemic then stopped this idea.



Two very important ingredients for a successful DXpedition: antenna and food

Taking advantage of the spring season of the 10th A.R.I. Italian EME Trophy (2024 held on April 6th-7th) he then resumed this project. His old friend Mario EA4HJF offered to him his cottage in IM69XD so a wanted grid square could be activated.

Juan dusted off the setup (hardware) and updated the software, the week before the contest he tested the whole equipment, all things worked flawlessly. He set up the station on Friday evening and Saturday in the morning he started the activation with 14 degrees of elevation at 0600Z. He did not start so very early because he did not want to wake up Mario's family who was sleeping. Set up used was FT-857 + 1kW PA + GTV 2-14 Xpol (OWA-style), with bent driven element by Hartmut DG7YBN. LNA 0.28dB NF of RFHAM and FCDPP.



The EA4CYQ DXpedition shack in IM69XD

The moon was not visible then through the haze and clouds, hence EA4CYQ had to use the targeting hardware which consisted of a compass of a sailboat (with 5 deg marks) and a mechanical inclinometer (see picture). Juan Antonio used separated RX and TX line, so in the RX line with a splitter, he could set the FT-857 receiver + WSJT-X and also his FCDPP + LINRAD + MAP65 + TRACKBOX + WSJT-X. With MAP65 he could verify that he was on the Moon when he saw the traces of other QSOs as a kind of beacon. The whole system (compass + inclinometer + MAP65) worked as an efficient targeting system.

Mario's cottage was a low noise place which let him clearly decode the signals and although his power out was close to 800 watts it was reported that his signal was not very easy to decode. Juan verified ALC and it was right, so he decided to lower modulation level to 20% of ALC and it seemed to work better. Within five hours 27 QSOs were worked. Mario and his wife were superb housekeepers and they all enjoyed a very tasty paella after the "work".



The compass + inclinometer helped aiming at the moon even with cloudy skies. (Photos EA4CYQ)

Time Table

6 May 24

The May issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download.

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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.

SZ5RDS (KM46CK) by the X-Team

Sadly this DXpedition had to be cancelled for the 2nd time after 2023. Only a week before departure, during the final stages of preparation Frank DH7FB again suffered a sliding disk after lifting the antenna and booms. Herniated disks are no fun: This even led to loss of sensing in both legs. On strong advice by his doctor there was no point travelling. The X-Team will now reconsider the entire situation and then decide whether to try even a third time.

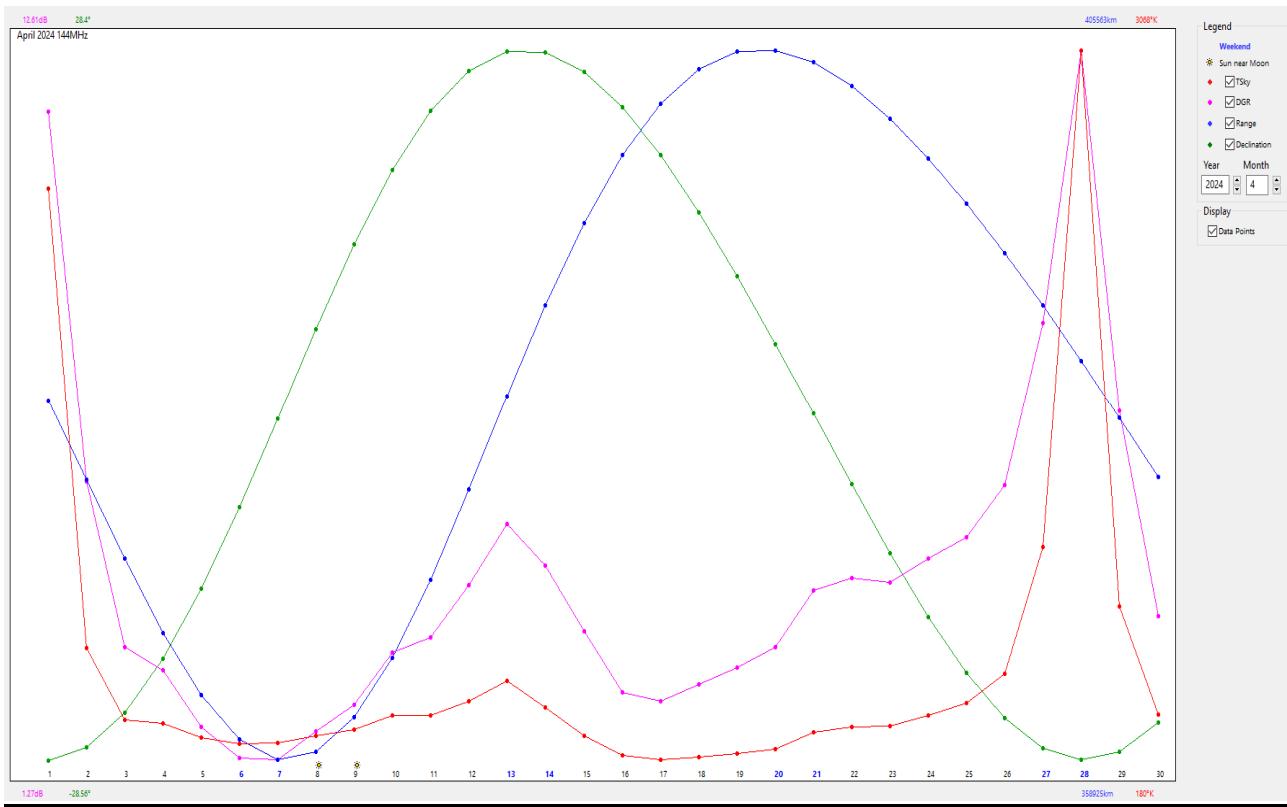
However, the post on https://www.ok2kkw.com/index_en.html (see below) we regard as at least unfriendly and not at all ham spirit like. It more or less has the meaning that the reason for the short term cancellation was fake. The website lists OK1TEH and OK1VPZ as responsible persons. So why did Matej and Vladimir post such an expression with "pain" in quotations? We do not know but are very disappointed by this. We sent an email to both of them asking to delete the quotations but they remain.

EME trip SZ5RDS to Rhodos cancelled - DH7FB has back "pain" -> QSP DF2ZC. Dubus EME Contest today.

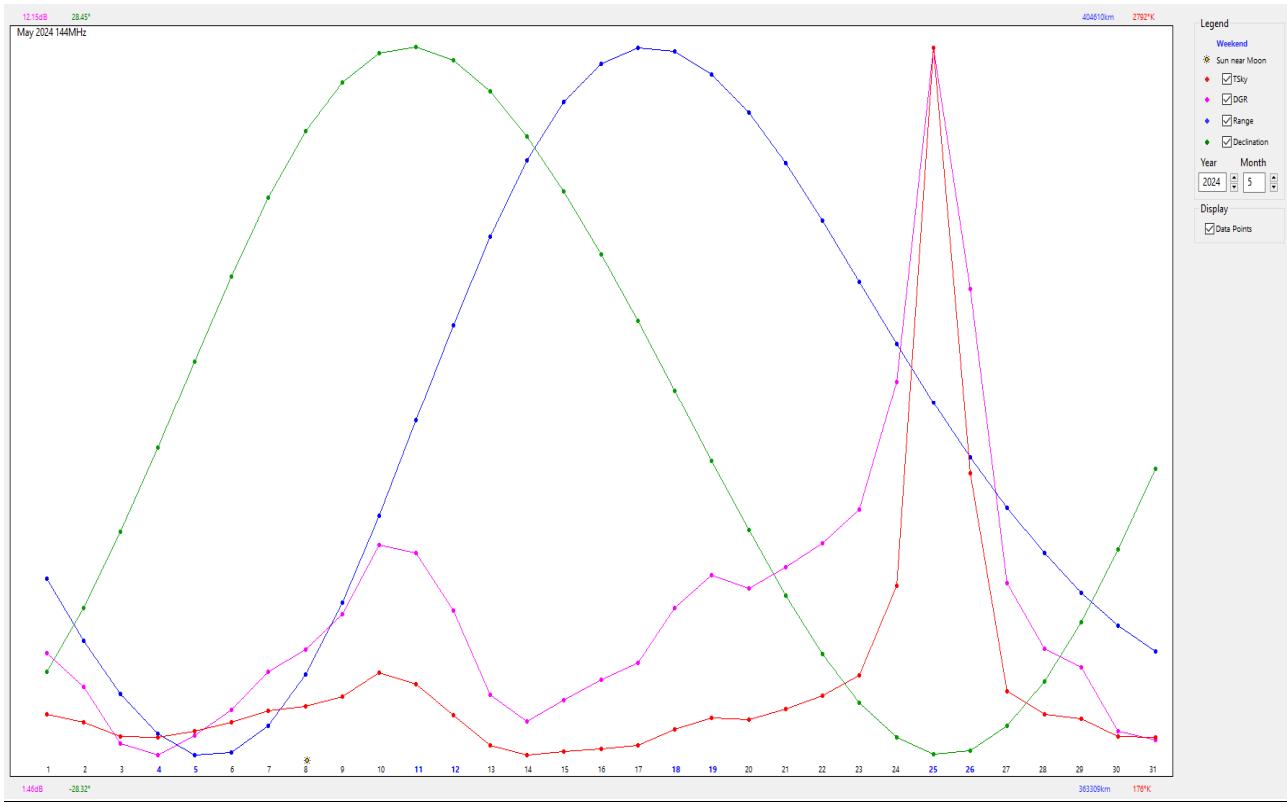
KA6U Grid Activities

Peter reports that the first summer activity this year will take place in June but on the higher bands only. He hopes he can do some more 2 m EME later this year.

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph April 2024



Moon Graph May 2024

(Courtesy of David GM4JJ (sk 2019) www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm)