

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Moon Bouncing from Palestine

It came as a big surprise when Chris PA2CHR announced last autumn that he and Jos PA3FYC were in the final steps preparing for a DXpedition to E4 (Palestine). Since both are very experienced EME operators and Chris has a strong reputation of being very reliable DXpeditioner the entire EME community was looking forward to working another rare DXCC. And that's how it went...



The E44CM QSL card

The activity was scheduled to start on Nov. 15th and last until 24th. Main focus was on 144 MHz but some time was also devoted to 70 cm. Equipment used on 2 m was FT857 and 2 x 20 ele x-pol antennas with 16,0 dBd gain, together with an Italab Atlas PA. This is a very reliable setup which had been used by Chris during a number of different DXpeditions before. And from experience the team also brought spare transceivers, amps and preamps...



Chris and Jos in front of the hotel's garden house from where they were QRV.

Right after arrival on November 14th both hams started setting up the station and indeed on 15th they were QRV, exactly as planned. The QTH in Jericho (KM71RU) was very good and also a safe place. The antenna was built on the roof of the building: The two yagis and the tripod fixed with 6 concrete blocks to give the construction stability.

The moon rise was completely free, looking straight over to the Dead Sea in some 10 km distance. Moon set however was blocked by hills which resulted in losing the moon already at 13° elevation. When the transceiver was switched on for the first time – always a moment of big excitement as one never knows what the noise situation will be – there was indeed some noise increase by about 6 dB. Sadly this was at the moon rise direction which made it very hard to copy weak ZL stations. Luckily it was only that direction so elsewhere no rx degradation was noticed.

The first QSO was completed on November 15th at 1614Z with SP4K, quickly followed by SP4KM, JR3REX, JE1TNL, FK8CP and SM7GVF only until 1700Z. The game was on...

From then on until the end of the activity on November 24th at 0830Z a total of 337 QSOs (including 16 dupes) was completed only on 2 m. Though JT65 was used OK1MS was well detected when calling in CW and was also worked. The same was the case on 70 cm where Jan DL9KR was also logged in CW.

Jericho is located some 250 m below sea level and calls itself the lowest city in the world. Though the team tried hard it was not possible to make a single meteor scatter QSO. Few very short reflections from stations in LZ and YO were copied but it was not enough to complete a contact.

Luckily during the moonless hours Jos and Chris at least had some time for sightseeing, travelling to Jerusalem and the Dead sea.



View to the E44CM shack (Pictures PA2CHR)

When PA2CHR and PA3FYC arrived back home at Amsterdam's airport Schiphol on November 26th they noticed that three of their suitcases had got lost. They contained about 90% of the radio-equipment. No surprise Chris and Jos were very concerned. But it all came to a good end: the missing baggage was tracked down and delivered to Chris' home on November 28th. Only the control box of the actuator was damaged, so nothing serious and easy to repair. Apparently the suitcases were delayed at Tel Aviv airport for manual security inspection. You can expect this when you put an actuator inside: it looks like a shotgun when it passes the scanners.

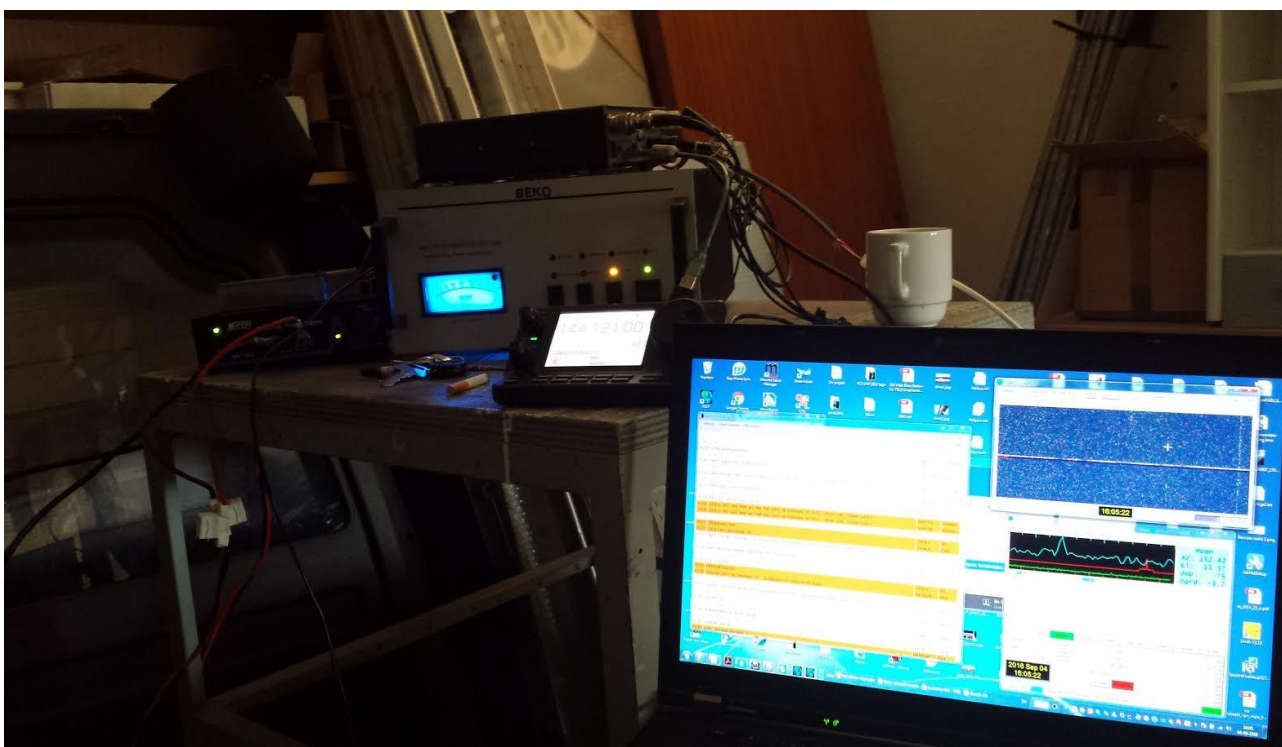
The log is on the E44CM site on qrz.com. Chris also produced a nearly professional video about that DXpedition and also the tourist activities in the team's free hours. It is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_XJPm_iQfo

OX3LX/OZ1DJJ Again QRV from Greenland

Every now and then Bo OZ1DJJ has to travel to Greenland due to work assignments. And always when he goes there he brings ham gear, mostly for 6 m and 2 m. His most recent stay in GP38NQ he was working 2 m EME again. However, antenna-wise that was a small setup this time: OX3LX was QRV with just a single 10 elements yagi and a BEKO QRO amp. Some 40 QSOs were completed with that setup, even though the antenna was not installed very well and close to some metal fence which probably resulted in a strange pattern. Moreover, the rx side was affected by a lot of local noise and birdies.



It would be a surprise if the fence had no affect on the antenna. But a fair number of QSOs was made even though.



The OX3LX shack in GP38 last September (pictures OZ1DJJ)

DXCC With a Single 12 Elements Yagi!

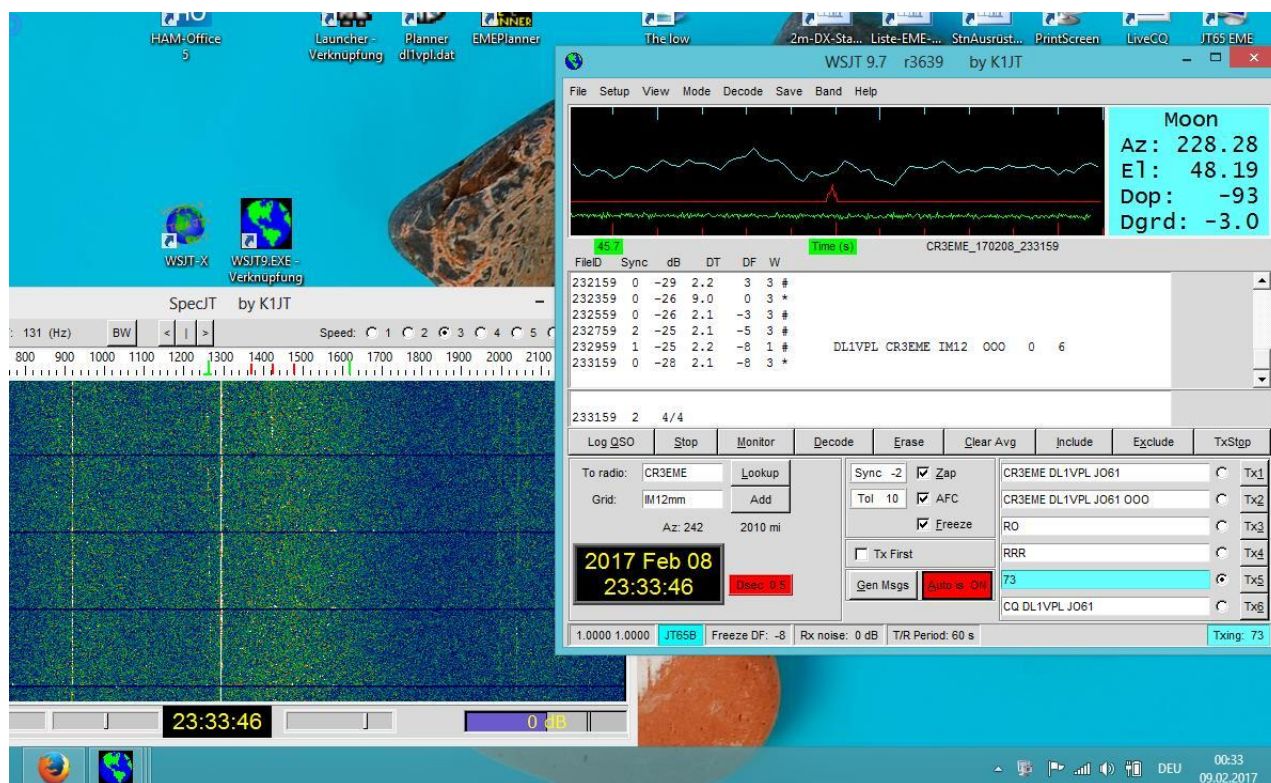
Thomas DL1VPL is celebrating his DXCC 100 worked with CR3EME on February 8th. Though he had been QRV on 2 m meteor scatter since 1978 he made his first EME QSO only in 2011 when working I2FAK with then a single 11 elements yagi and only 400 watts. Since he retired that year he finally had more time for the hobby and now was hooked on moon bounce. This gave him the time needed to improve the station and move to a 12 ele M2 with 750 watts out. Since two years Tom



now also has also elevation available while before he could only work rise/set.

As putting a tower in the garden was no option he had to continue with the single yagi on the roof of the house. Nowadays when the situation with man-made noise steadily gets worse he often can only work EME at elevations > 20° when the noise gets low enough.

With this constraints he - so he writes - usually has to wait long hours in the queue whenever there is a DXpedition to a rare DXCC. However, as a result of his persistence and with a piece of good luck he can now celebrate his 100th DXCC entity on 2 m. On February 8th late evening Tom got into QSO with CR3EME on Madeira island. Patience paid off!



Screen shot of the QSO with DXCC 100 (Pictures DL1VPL)

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.

FG4KH (F1DUZ) will be QRV from February 23rd to March 28th from the usual QTH in **FK96HF**. Further details are on Phil's dedicated website <http://fgdexpeditionf1duz.monsite-orange.fr/>

Frank DH7FB and Bernd DF2ZC will be QRV from **Cap Verde (D4)** from April 30th to May 3rd. Their QTH is in **HK85FA**. Further details next issue and on df2zc.darc.de

Miscellaneous

Wayne VK5APN Joining The Editor's Team

Wayne VK5APN, well-known from many DXpeditions to rural Australia has volunteered to assist with the EME newsletter. Starting with the April issue Wayne and DF2ZC will work together producing the monthly 144 MHz EME Newsletter. In the first "joined forces issue" Wayne will also report on his own recent DXpeditions this February to PF84 and 85 grid squares.

No March Issue of The EME Newsletter

For a number of reasons including travel at DF2ZC there will be no March issue of the newsletter. The next issue will be the April issue which should be ready for download on April 3rd.

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

has been produced monthly since 2003.
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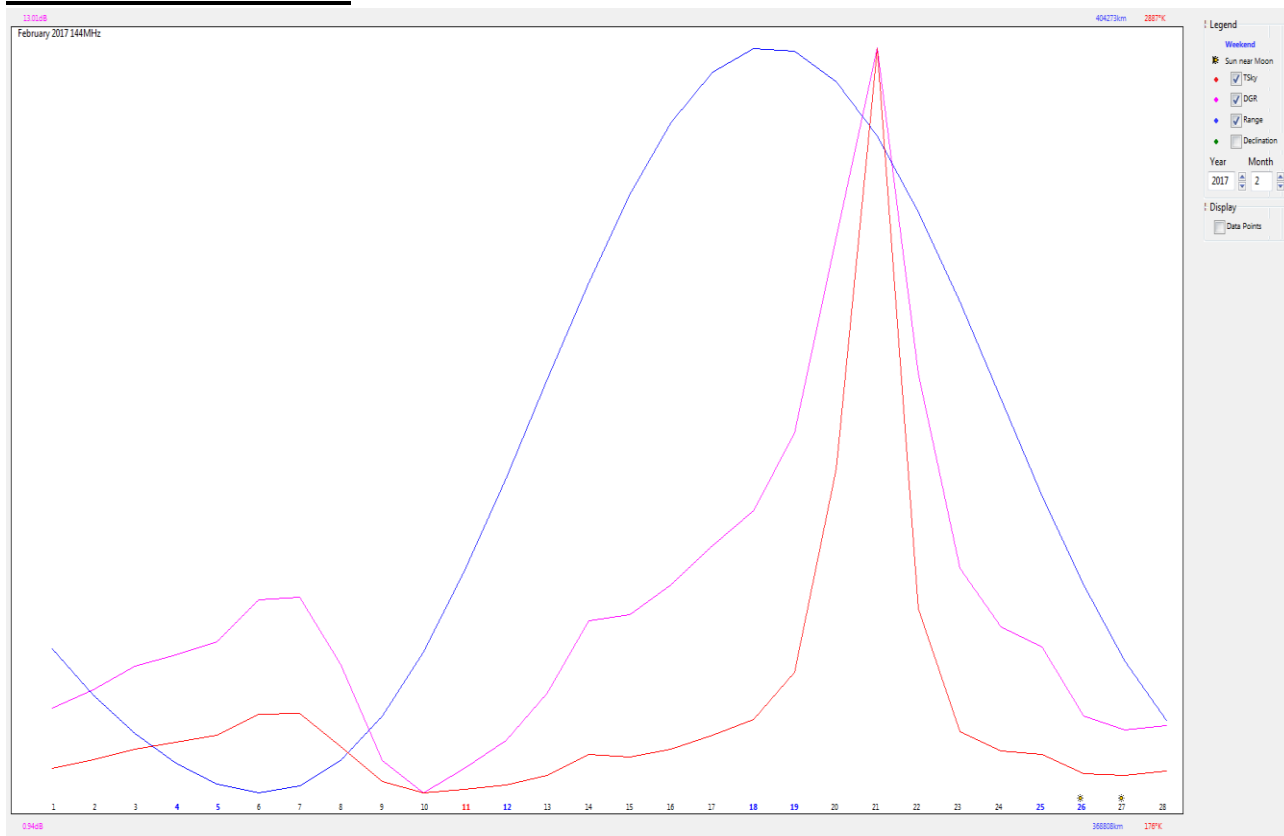
Latest DXpedition Info:
www.mmmmonvhf.de

Time Table

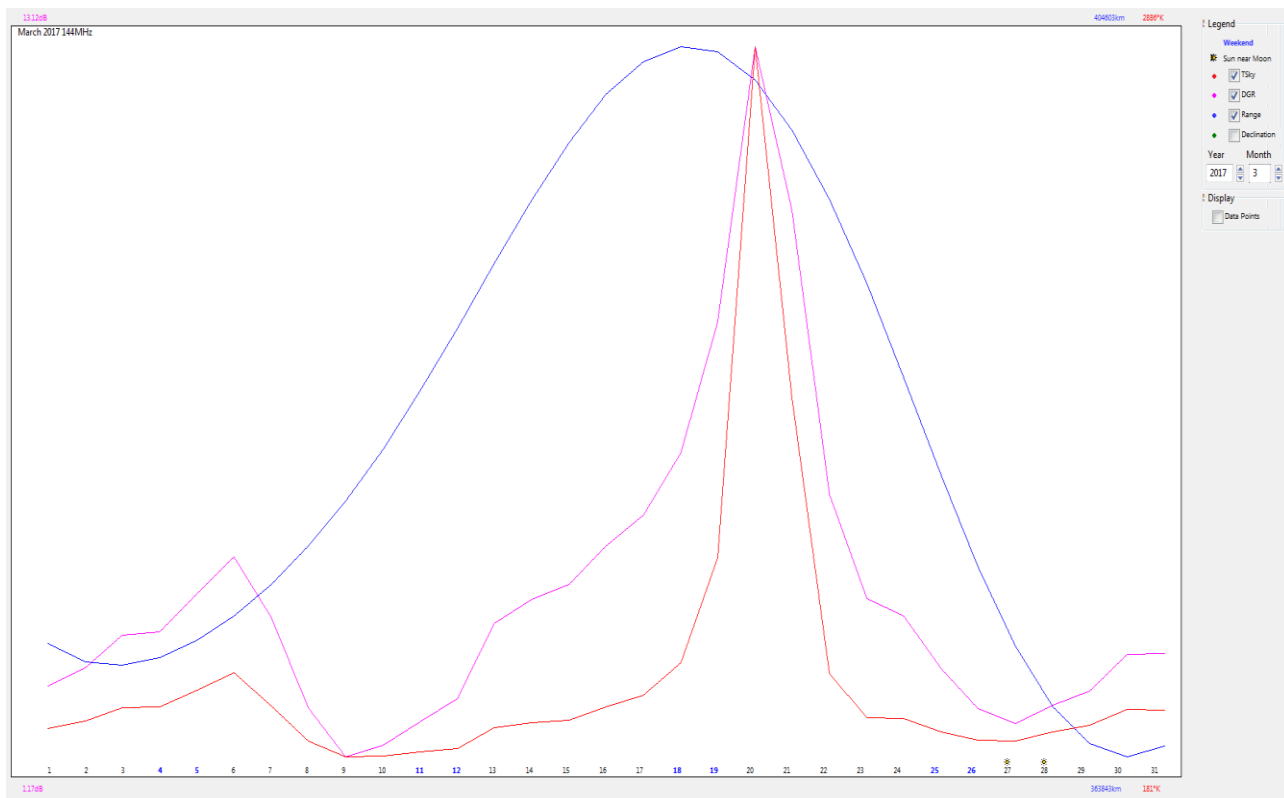
3 Apr 2017

April issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de> (There will be no March issue).

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph February 2017



Moon Graph March 2017

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