

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Issue 9/2015 7 Sep 2015

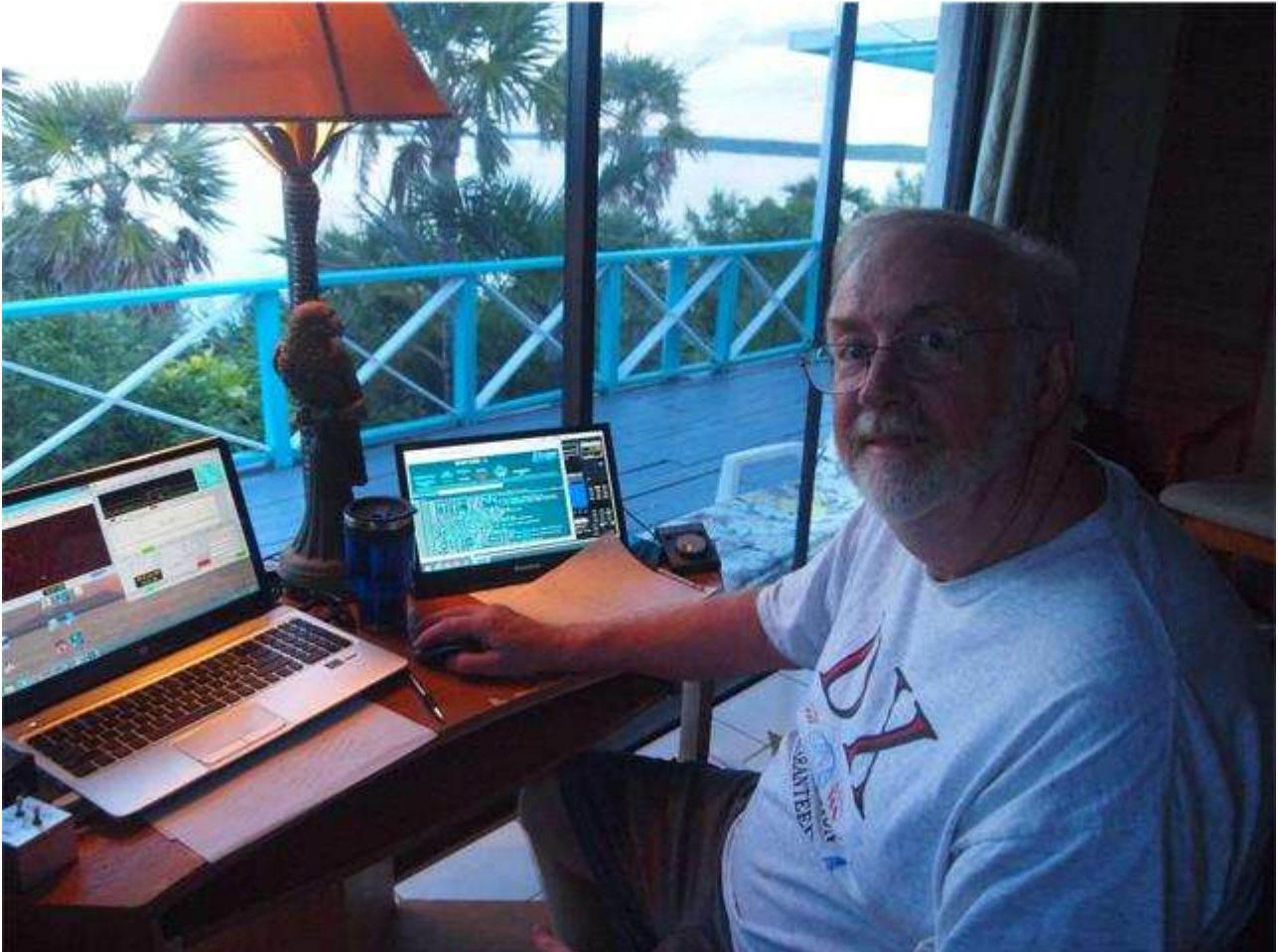
At last...Bahamas QRV Again Via EME: C6ANS (FL15QV)



C6ANS' portable 2m EME setup on Eleuthera Island.

From 8th to 14th June AA7A, K2KW, W4XKY and WO7R were QRV from the Bahamas, a DXCC very close to the USA mainland but yet very much wanted on 2 m EME. Though the primary activity focussed on participation in the ARRL June contest, Ned AA7A as chief EME op also put a strong emphasis on 2 m EME the days before the contest weekend. Equipment was 4 x 9 ele xpols at full elevation with preamp and good EME power.

At moonrise on 8th June operations started. The tx side of the station worked well but on the rx side there was an issue. QSOs were possible though. C6ANS operated from moonrise 0412 UTC until 0730 UTC when fatigue set in. After a few hours sleep, Ned ran some experiments and found a faulty cable on rx. As soon as this was replaced the station performed much better. Indeed, the next moonrise the EU pile-ups were amazing.



Ned AA7A operating at the EME position and enjoying the scenery. (Photos AA7A)

The following two days everything ran smoothly, though manually rotating antennas using ropes was a challenge: half the time was spent untying/tying ropes, the other half on swatting bugs. Moreover on June 12th a serious amount of interference was coming in from the direction of moonrise. The quiet polarization was masked with birdies and the other one was struggling with noise. C6ANS could not start until the moon got to 20 or so degrees of elevation and the noise/birdies started to fall outside of the pattern of the array. That is the usual gamble of going to an unknown location: nobody can tell you what you are going to experience.

On 14th they operated in two "modes" at the same time: Trying to work new DXpedition initials while also working all the US/VE stations they could for the ARRL June VHF Contest (with the contest callsign C6ATA). There were still plenty of stations to work even after 7 straight days of operating. At the end of the dxpedition 238 EME QSOs were logged and many hams were happy with a new DXCC, particularly VK5APN: for Wayne it was no. 100! QSLs for all EME contacts for both C6ANS and C6ATA go to AA7A.

Wyoming DXpedition By KB7Q

Since Gene now has a working portable 2 m EME system he became QRV from Wyoming, one of the very much wanted US states on 2 m moon bounce. Since he holds the 2 m WAS #86 he knows what the chase is like. It is about a three hour trip from his home and he is happy to activate that state and grid square. The campground QTH he was QRV from in June had a decent horizon and several camp sites have electrical power.

Gene favours the "W7GJ technique" for operating which is very helpful during dxpeditions <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/DXpedition%20Procedure.pdf> to indicate if the caller has lost or gained the dx signal.

When Gene arrived at Big Horn, Wyoming (DN54UX) on June 5th he was early enough to get the second best camping spot for moon bounce i.e. on the South side of the campground with on few neighbors. The station setup went flawlessly until he plugged in the 48 vdc power supply for the SSPA: it turned out the common and ground side of mains power there are wired strangely, and the power supply was trying to protect itself. Finally he got that resolved.

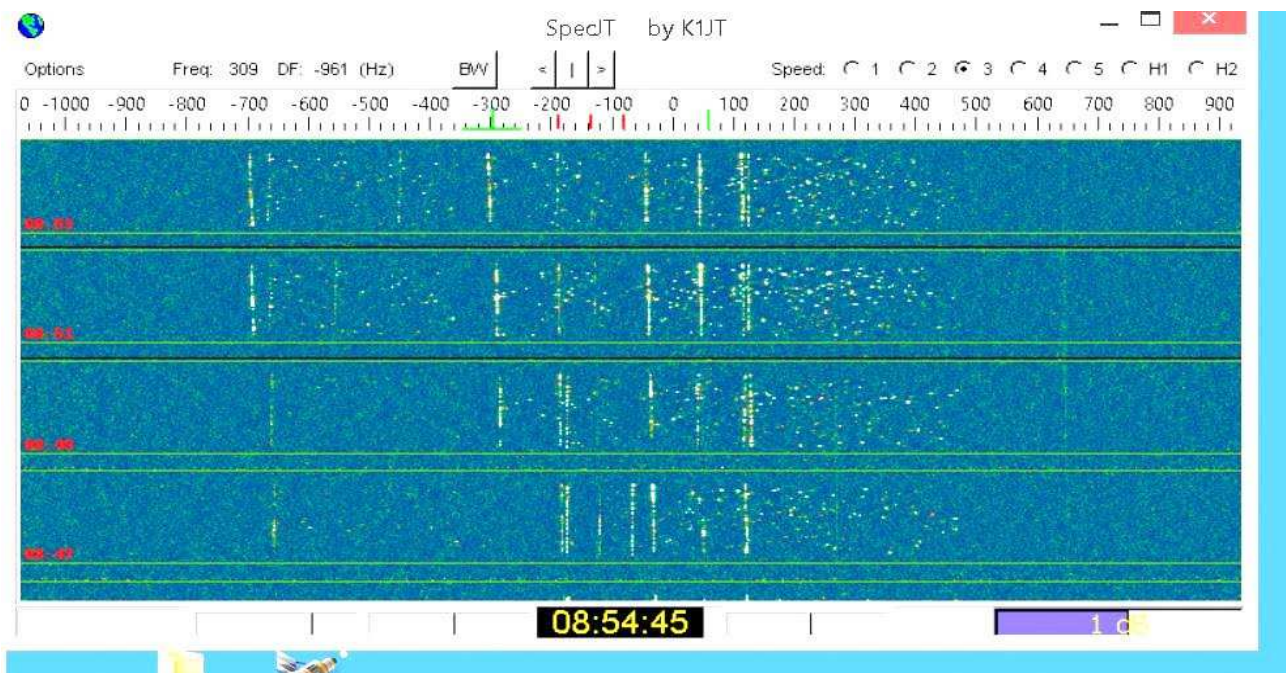


Not a bad take-off in Wyoming...

The first moon path on June 6th was influenced by occasional rain and lightning for hours as well as by low declination. So KB7Q ran out of callers quite early. However, those worked all had excellent signals.

The second moon pass on 7th June brought another 13 European stations into the log, in just two hours mutual moon. As soon as the moon cleared the 3.5 degree mountain range on moon rise at 0640z it was off to the races. Best effort was working UXOFF during a very short window, now Nikolay only needs Iowa to complete W.A.S. That should be done soon as Gene will become QRV portable from there in just three weeks. As there were no more callers after the European window Gene went back to bed for a few hours. He got back up and calling CQ by 1130 UTC and attracted some folks, with VK5APN as highlight. It was nice to work Wayne easily on the other side of the world.

At last excellent conditions showed up the following day, with many particularly strong signals during the European window. Gene tried to work all Eastern Europe stations he copied first because of their limited mutual moon time. It was especially rewarding to make a contact with ZL1ADU later in the day: Gene knew someone was there, but it took about 10 minutes for his signal to peak.



Screen shot of June 9th at 0854Z from Spreading out is clever! (Photos KB7Q)

After one day break for sightseeing KB7Q was back on June 9th with a superb start: for the first two hours he was logging a contact every four minutes. Signals were simply outstanding. He also had a look at 144.124 MHz, the frequency of the C6ANS ops on the Bahamas and worked the as well. That was the "cherry on top".

The final activity from Wyoming on June 10th he had great expectations as the degradation was quite low. However, a cold front with strong winds came through just before moon rise so Gene had to use ropes and tied the array onto the right heading. The wind quit after an hour or so. Signals were very strong, but after about two hours he ran out of callers. Then it was only lots of CQ'ing and working some smaller stations which was neat though. That final pass many SM and OH stations were worked.

Altogether KB7Q managed to complete 113 EME QSOs on this trip, as he says "not too shabby for a small two yagi system with fixed polarity and 900 watts" – and only part-time EME activity as there was also a focus on tourist activity. With the same set-up KB7Q/0 will be QRV from EN42FA in Iowa on Sep 28th and 29th.

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.

V73EME Marshall Islands (RJ57QC)

Kay JH3AZC will be QRV 2 m EME from Majuro Island (RJ57QC), Marshall Islands (DXCC V7) during his vacation this year. The operation will be start with the moon pass from Sep 24th and last until Sep 27th at local time. Depending on the situation Kay could also be QRV on the 28th, but that is not sure. Callsign requested but not yet confirmed is V73EME.

The setup consist of is YAESU FT817, ITALAB Phoenix1000A, Create Design 2x211A Antenna and homemade LNA. Frequency will be 144.130 MHz +-QRM/QRN JT65B. The common windows to Europe will be rather short during this operation. Moreover Kay needs some minimum elevation because the hotel building (3 stories) is in the direction to the moon: unfortunately, the hotel is built from East to West and the garden is located in the northern part. Once at site, maybe Kay will find a better suited place for the antennas.

VK5APN Once Again QRV Portable EME From PF86 and PF96

Wayne once again has to travel to the Pt Pirie area for work. As his last stay end of August the weather was very unsupportive he now hopes it will be kind to him so that he can activate both grids. The moon conditions on the planned days 28/29 September are also much better than last time. His plans are (weather depending) to be QRV from PF86 on 28th Sep ~1600 - 2100 UTC and from PF96 on 29 Sep ~1630 - 2145 UTC. Working frequency is 144.130 MHz with VK5APN 1st. Wayne will use his standard setup, i.e. 2 x 9 elements YU7EF and a small SSPA. Further details and pictures from his previous eme dxpedition from Pt Pirie are on his website <http://people.aapt.net.au/~pearsons/PortableEME.html> Wayne writes: "If you would like to use "W7GJ procedure", that is fine. It will let me know that you are decoding me."

KB7Q/0 QRV From EN42 In Iowa

On 28th and 29th September Gene will be QRV from EN42FA where N0YY has been very gracious and offered the use of his QTH. The distance from Gene's home in Montana to EN42FA is like driving from Paris to Budapest, but as Gene's wife has family there he'll make it a combination trip.

Equipment is K3 with internal xverter, two 9 element M2 Yagis, 900 watt SSPA LDMOS amp, GasFET Preamp, microHam Digi-Keyer II interface/sequencer, LMR600 feedline, Honda 2KW generator, Garmin GPS and time sync software. Working frequency is 144.140 MHz. Read KB7Q's blog for latest updates: <http://kb7qgrid.blogspot.de/>

TO2EME (Saint Martin) And PJ7/PE1L (Sint Maarten)

René PE1L, Johan PA3FPQ, Jurgen PE1LWT and Marshall K5QE will be QRV from Saint Martin and Sint Maarten combined from October 22nd to October 27th 2015 as TO2EME and from 29 Oct to 1 November as PJ7/PE1L. Please see August newsletter issue for details.

Portable EME From Connecticut: W1E

Fred N1DPM reports: "After some of the surveys that were conducted last year it appears that there is a desire for stations to have someone in Connecticut to work on 2 meters to help complete awards such as Worked All States. We are assembling a portable 2 meter EME station and will put Connecticut on the moon on 2 meters WSJT in November. The team of NC1I, W1QA, KA1QFE and N1DPM will set up in FN32QA in Connecticut on Wednesday November 18th and be on until our moonset. We will then operate from our moonrise on Thursday November 19th through our moonset on Sunday November 22nd. We will use the call of W1E. The station consists of 2 x 14 element LFA yagis (H pol), 1 kW and a WA2ODO LNA. Primary operating frequency will be 144.144MHz. We will also be on the NOUK EME chat page, so look for our posts there. We have a clear shot at the moon from this QTH from rising to setting moon and plan to be on the whole time."

Time Table

25 Sep 2015	0000Z -	ARI Autumn Trophy
26 Sep 2015	- 2400Z	
5 Oct 2015	October Issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at http://www.df2zc.de	
31 Oct 2015	0000Z -	ARRL EME Contest
01 Nov 2015	- 2400Z	

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

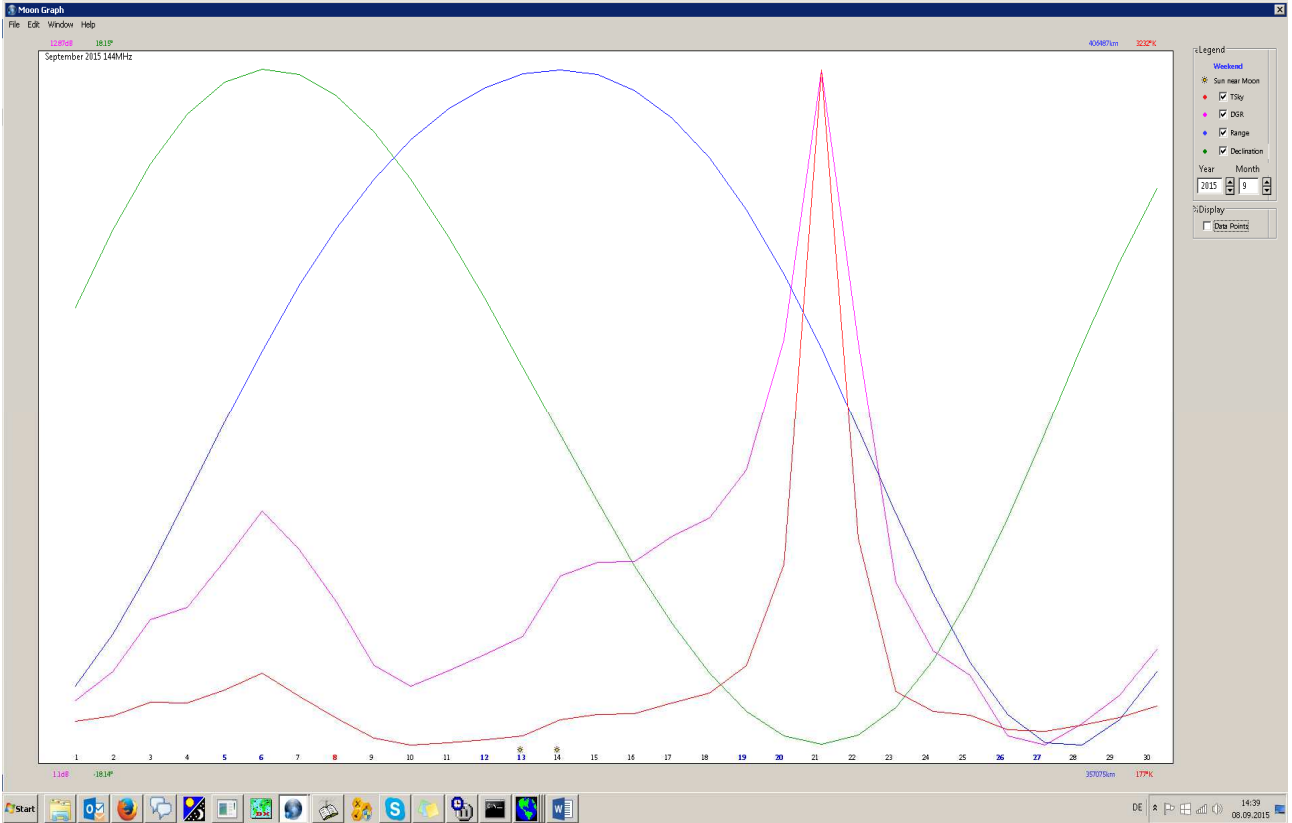
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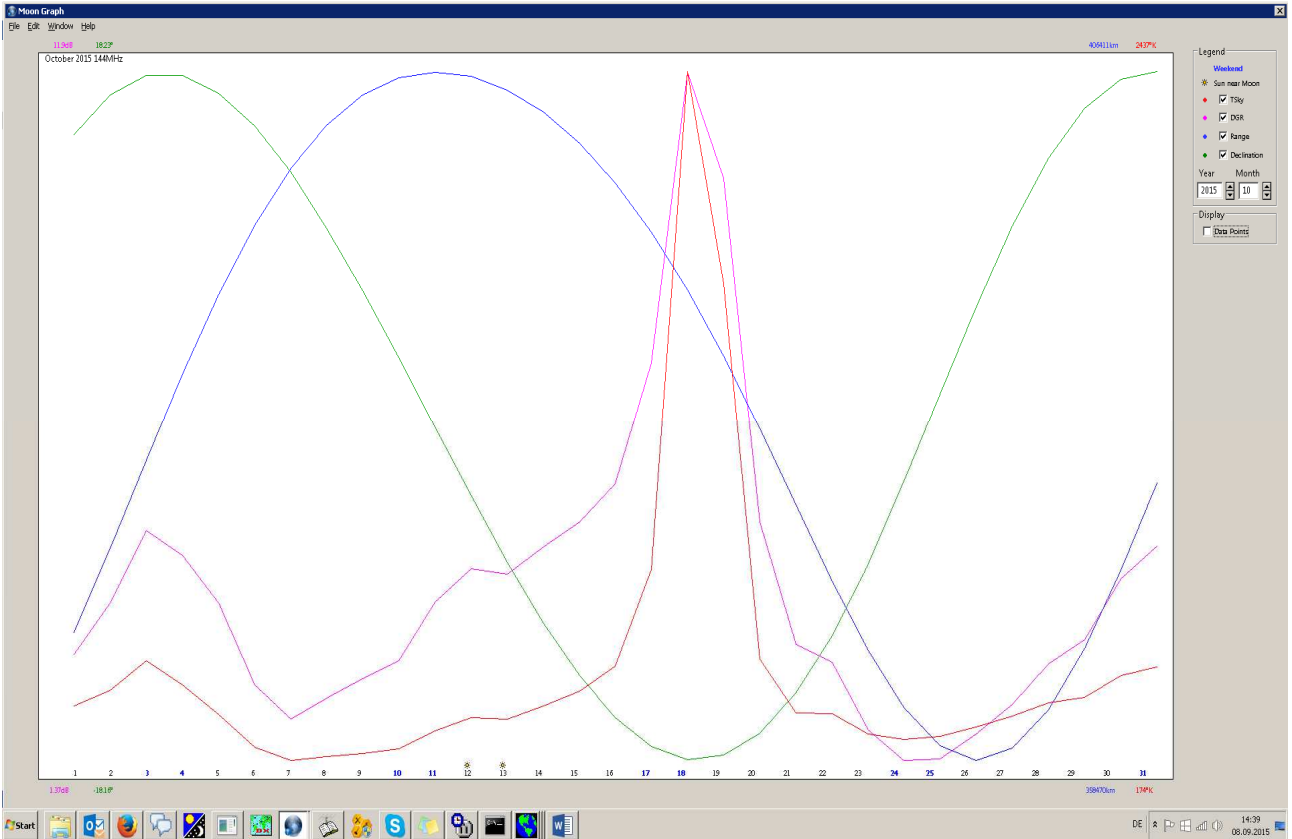
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Latest DXpedition Info:
www.mmmonvhf.de

Moon Graph September 2015:



Moon Graph October 2015:



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