

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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J8/WW2DX QRV from St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Air view of the DXpedition QTH: The EME shack is located in the small "hut" to the left.

From March 21st to March 26th Lee WW2DX was QRV from Bequia Island, being a member of a combined HF and VHF DXpedition to that place. Bequia is part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (J8) in the Caribbean (locator FK93JA) and most probably has never before been active on moon bounce. After having had bad luck with EME from Sao Tome & Principe last November when the EME amp wouldn't work, this time things were very much different: As Lee says, having QRO (Atlas 1 kW SSPA) and a LNA (SSB Electronics) made a big difference with this 2nd attempt of EME on DXpedition.

Antennas used were a pair of 9 elements yagis (InnovAntennas), vertical polarised and stacked horizontally. Right upon arrival on the 21st Lee started setting up the station and was QRV within only a couple of hours. When everything was ready he first checked the band and noticed a CQ by PA5Y which he answered. Conrad sure was somewhat surprised... after that QSO J8/WW2DX moved to a different frequency and started working in DXpedition mode. Though it was early morning in Europe the screen soon filled with syncs from callers. 33 stations worked in just a few hours is not quite bad. The following day another 41 stations were added to the log, and 26 QSOs followed on March 23rd. At the end of the DXpedition on March 26th a total of 153 EME QSOs was in the log, what a success! Last station worked was lucky Udo, DK5YA.



The outdoor shack with perfect view to the ocean.

Having an excellent VHF QTH, powerful equipment and take-off available, J8/WW2DX could not resist to try some CQs on 2 m SSB in the area. Since he worked FG4KH on tropo while having the antenna on the moon and elevated, it should also work with others via tropospheric propagation. However, usual tropo activity seems to be very low that area and only three more contacts were made, with FM5EP, 9Y4D and 9Z4BM. Even this was only possible after arranging skeds by email. Next time Lee will try some marketing before he's going to a DXpedition site so that the locals keep an eye on the band.

Right after the end of the activity WW2DX started thinking about consolidating his set-up down even further. He's considering a single long boom xpol yagi instead of the pair of yagis to have both polarity planes available. Moreover he would also like to eliminate the az/el rotor to save weight. Lee is very open to suggestions/options and would love to hear from other EME expeditions or portable stations: lee@ww2dx.com Meanwhile he has joined the CY9C St. Paul Island DXpedition

team. So Lee will be QRV from another much wanted DXCC from 19th to 29th August. Details are on <http://www.cy9dexpedition.com/index.html>



The two 9 elements yagis at J8/WW2DX (Photos WW2DX)

Re S9 Sao Thome there is good news: In October Peter DL1RPL will be QRV from that DXCC so that those missing out on S9 past November will get a second chance.

Status report by FK8CP (RG37FR)

Remi reports on his current status: "After fixing quite a few problems for both tx and rx (including replacing components in the T/R relay circuit) 2 m EME activity started end of March and ended mid April 2016. For some "good" AZ/EL, the noise (reference: 0 dB with 50 Ohms dummy load) was low: 0 dB to 2 dB. But for some other "bad" AZ/EL it was 12 dB and above. Sometimes there was a combination of AZ/EL (not too far from real AZ/EL) with which noise was 4 dB or 3 dB, sometimes lower: 2 dB to 0 dB (sharp null).

But even when noise was low (i.e. 0 dB or 1 dB) it seems that there was still rx problem. Here no bandpass filter and no LNA. Total of unique call signs: 135 (W,VE: 26, DL: 12, UA: 11, UT:10, JA: 7, OH: 6, PA: 5, S5: 5, I: 4, OK: 4, SM: 4, YO: 4, F: 3, HA: 3, SP: 3, VK: 3, YU: 3 and a few other entities with 2 or 1 unique call signs.)."

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.

EA6/PA2CHR: Chris is currently staying in Menorca from where he is QRV on 2 m EME until May 18th. The exact locations are not sure yet; he has to find out good places without QRM. However, he wants to be active from all three grid squares of that island: **JM29**, **JN10** and **JN20**. During his stay in Corsica (TK) last year, Chris found out that more and more stations are hunting for squares also via EME. Equipment is a single 26 ele xpol and a SSPA, all activity takes place from his car. Latest news as well as logs are on www.pa2chr.nl/News.html

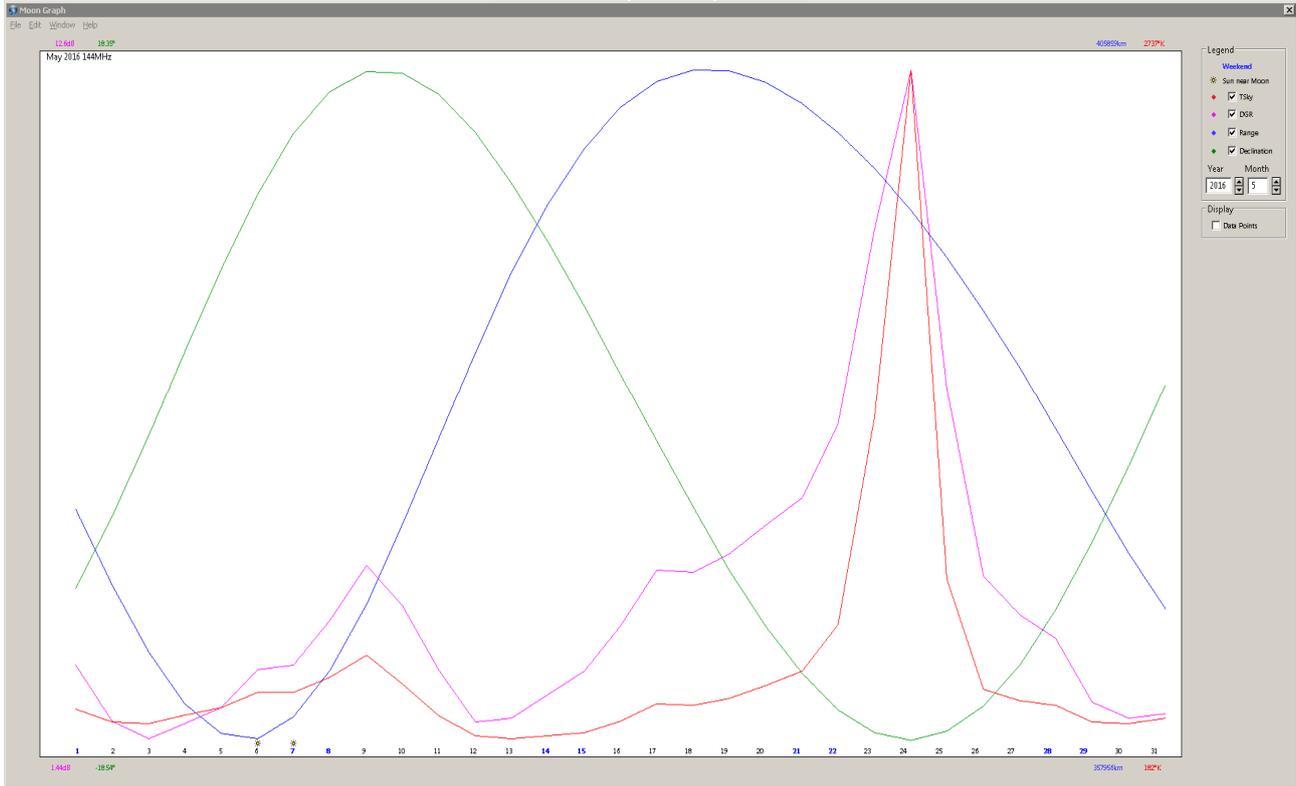
GS3PYE/P QRV from **IO75HO**: Continuing the Camb-Hams traditional Scottish Island activations, the group has decided to return to the Isle of Arran (**IOTA EU-123**) operating from a cottage on the west of the island near Balliekine IO75HO from the 22nd of May until 29th of May 2016. Also EME activity on 2 m is planned, at moonrise only. Latest news is on their dedicated website <http://dx.camb-hams.com/>

Time Table

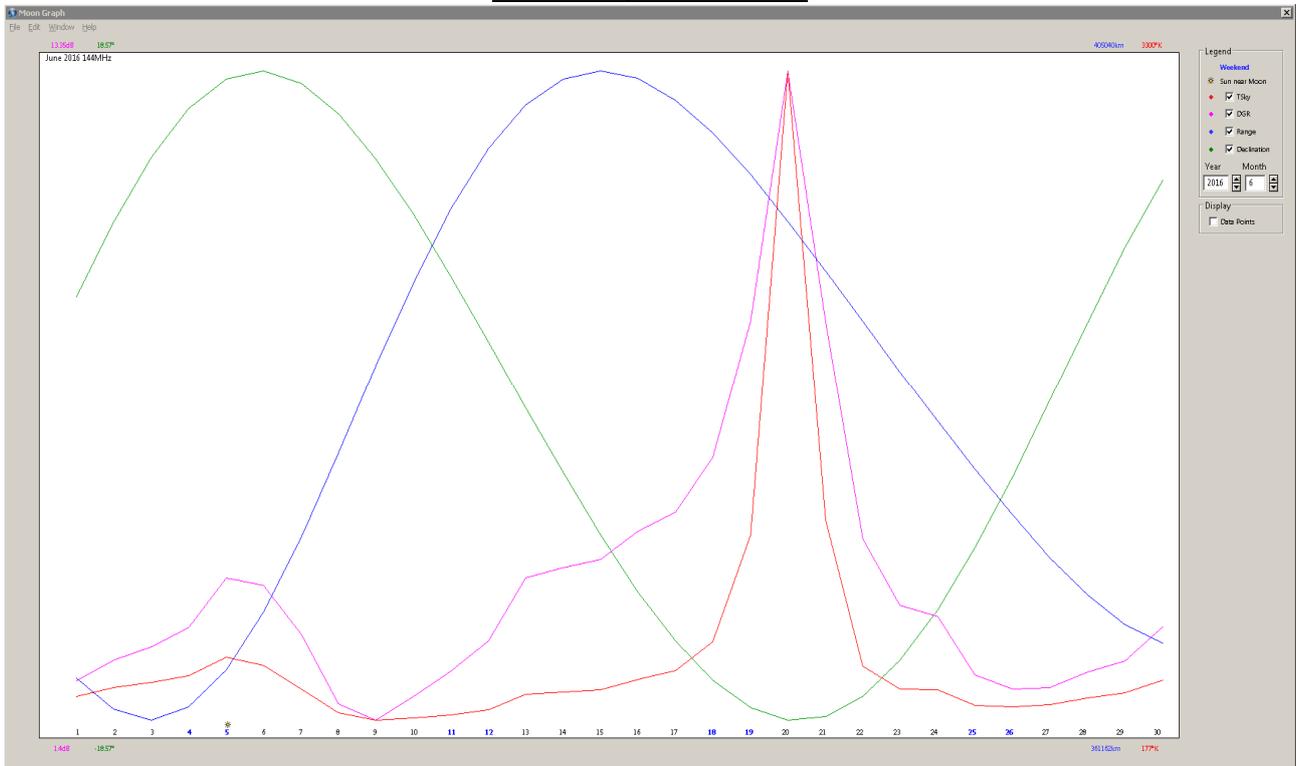
6 June June issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de>

19 – 21 Aug 17th International EME Conference, Venice/Italy www.eme2016.org

Moon Graph May 2016:



Moon Graph June 2016:



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