

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Aruba (P4) EME Activity by DF7KF and DM1AC

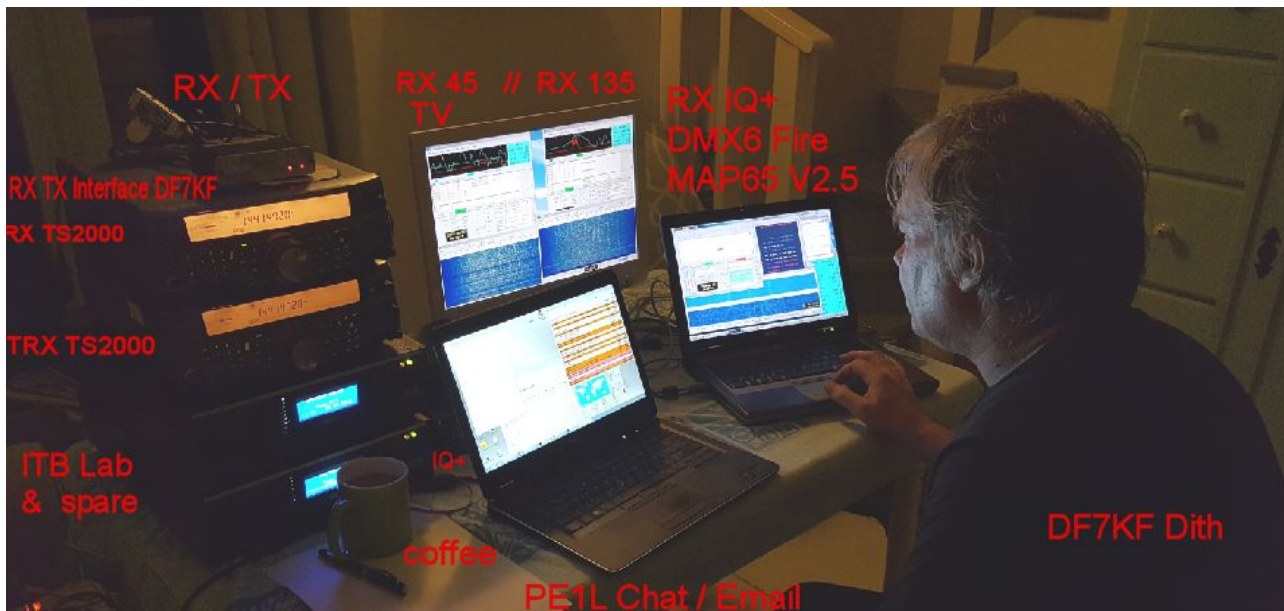
Making the best of a family holiday by travelling to a much wanted DXCC entity and becoming QRV from there – that's something probably most radio hams would like to do.

Dith, DF7KF, und Angelo, DM1AC, were happy to do exactly this last May when they and families spent two weeks in Aruba in the Caribbean. While the families enjoyed the wonderful weather and the beaches they both concentrated on 2 m EME (and two days also on 70 cm EME). Due to the benefits of the digital JT65 mode different from the CW-only times nowadays you do not have to invest so much in antenna equipment and consequently in weight for very successful moon bouncing. With a single 14/14 elements yagi (DF7KF Design) and a small SSPA running some 400 watts P40MB completed 323 QSOs on 144 MHz during the 10 activity days. It comes as no surprise that a fair number of country firsts was worked as Aruba had not been activated on EME before.



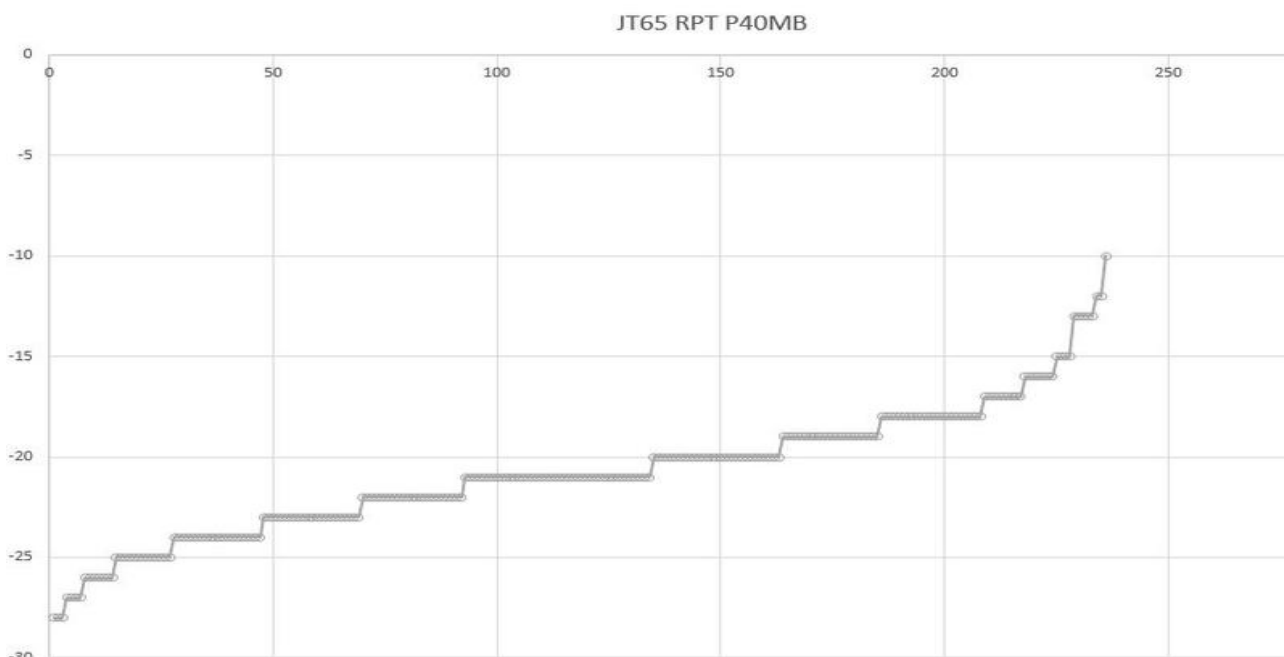
The P40MB-QTH was located in FK42XO in the Western part of the island. For most this also meant a new square.

Choosing a xpol yagi always pays off, particularly when working from locations close to the equator or the pole regions. So the sometimes twisted polarisations can be countered, if like with P40MB reception is possible in both planes, h and v. On the tx-side P40MB always ran circular which resulted in a solid signal strength at the QSO partner's site, independent of the polarisation used there.



Dith DF7KF in the P40MB-shack

The yagi used at P40MB played very well. The physical length was some 10 ½ meters with 15 dBd gain in either plane. This might look a bit daunting, mechanically. However, as Dith says, it is not at all: You just need a glass fiber pipe of some 4 ½ meters plus guy ropes. First “mast” and guy ropes are set up, then the antenna is assembled. After this, one rope is loosened and the pipe tilted, antenna screwed onto the mast top, mast erected again, guy rope fixed – and that is it. Of course the baseplate of the mast also needs to be fixed to the ground, usually with tent pegs. Dith confirms that if needed this can even be done all by a single person, without any assistance.



QSO and report statistics at P40MB (photos/graphics DM1AC)

How this construction reacts to high winds is shown here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYSNinpc_8w&feature=youtu.be

The team is very happy and pleased with the result 323 QSOs, particularly as for various reasons this DXpedition could be announced only few days before departure. During the two days 70 cm activity P40MB made another 15 hams happy with a new DXCC.

EME Conference 2016 Venice

It is merely a month now until the EME Conference 2016 in Italy opens its gates on August 19th. Nearly 130 delegates have now registered. The options for the hotel rooms have expired on June 30th, however there should maybe still be available rooms.

Latest news is on the conference website <http://www.eme2016.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.

SW8YA: Gabi is still QRV from Corfu (**JM99VT**) until July 23rd. He told he'll try some EME at moon set with his single 10 elements yagi on the hotel roof, very short cable and good power.

JT0YTX: UA9YPS, RA9YTX and RA9YGC are now QRV from **NN8AO**, running some 400 w into two 9 elements yagis. Operation is scheduled from 19th to 24th of July, frequency 144,119 MHz tx 2nd.

SM/DM2BHG: Heinz is travelling the Northern part of Sweden from July 26th to August 2nd. He will be QRV from **JP75**, maybe also **JP65** and **JP76**. Rig is 4 x 6 ele DK7ZB (25 Ohm) and 2x4CX250.

EI9E: This Perseids shower EI9E outing is to the rare square of **IO44** in Co. Mayo. They will also do good 2 m EME this year as they will operate from a quiet radio site with moon visible for a full pass. EME Setup is four 9 ele LFAs with full elevation and sufficient power.

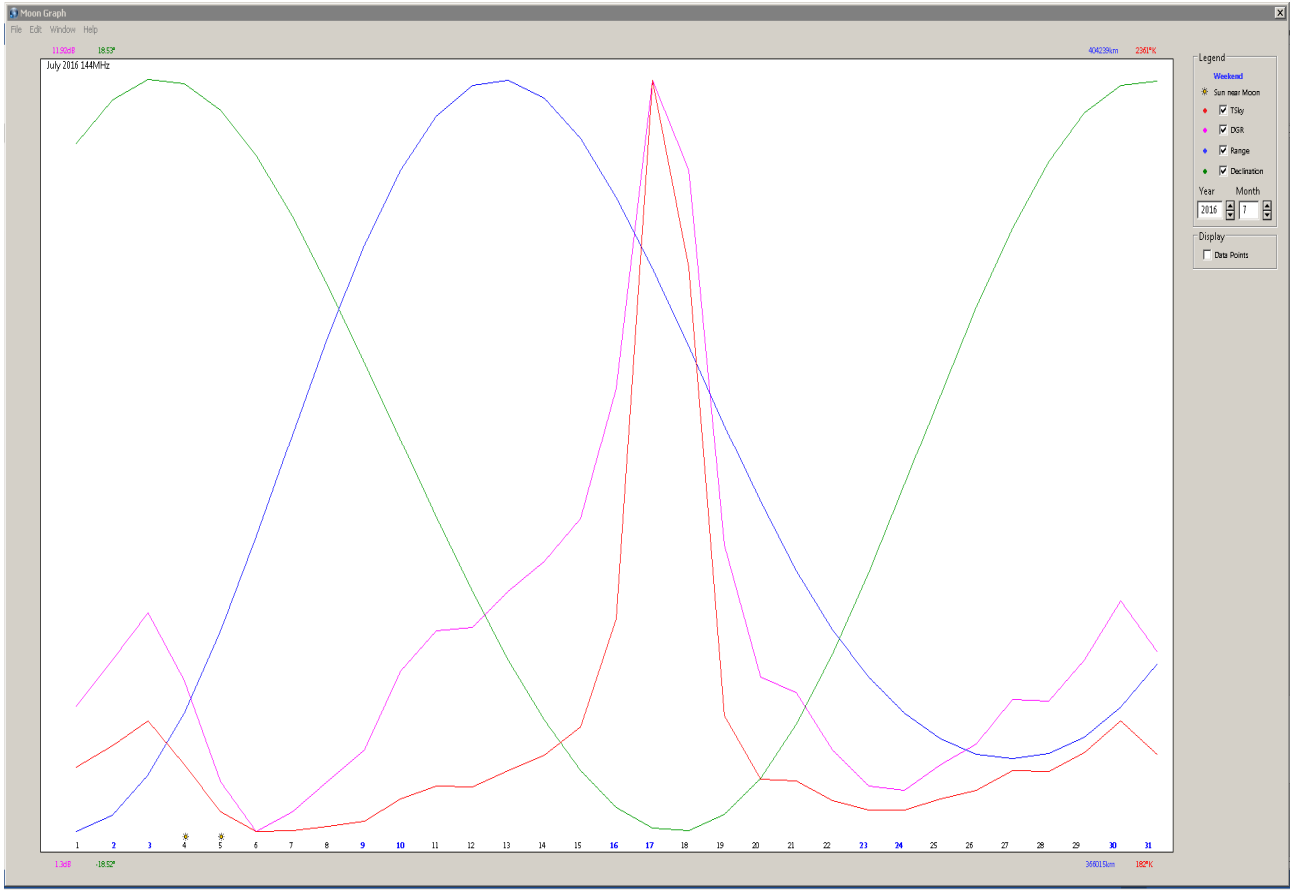
CY9C: Lee WW2DX who did the successful J8/WW2DX 2m EME activity in March this year will be part of the CY9C team. From August 19th to 29th he will be QRV from **FN97WF** with 2 x 9 ele yagi and 900 watts.

Time Table

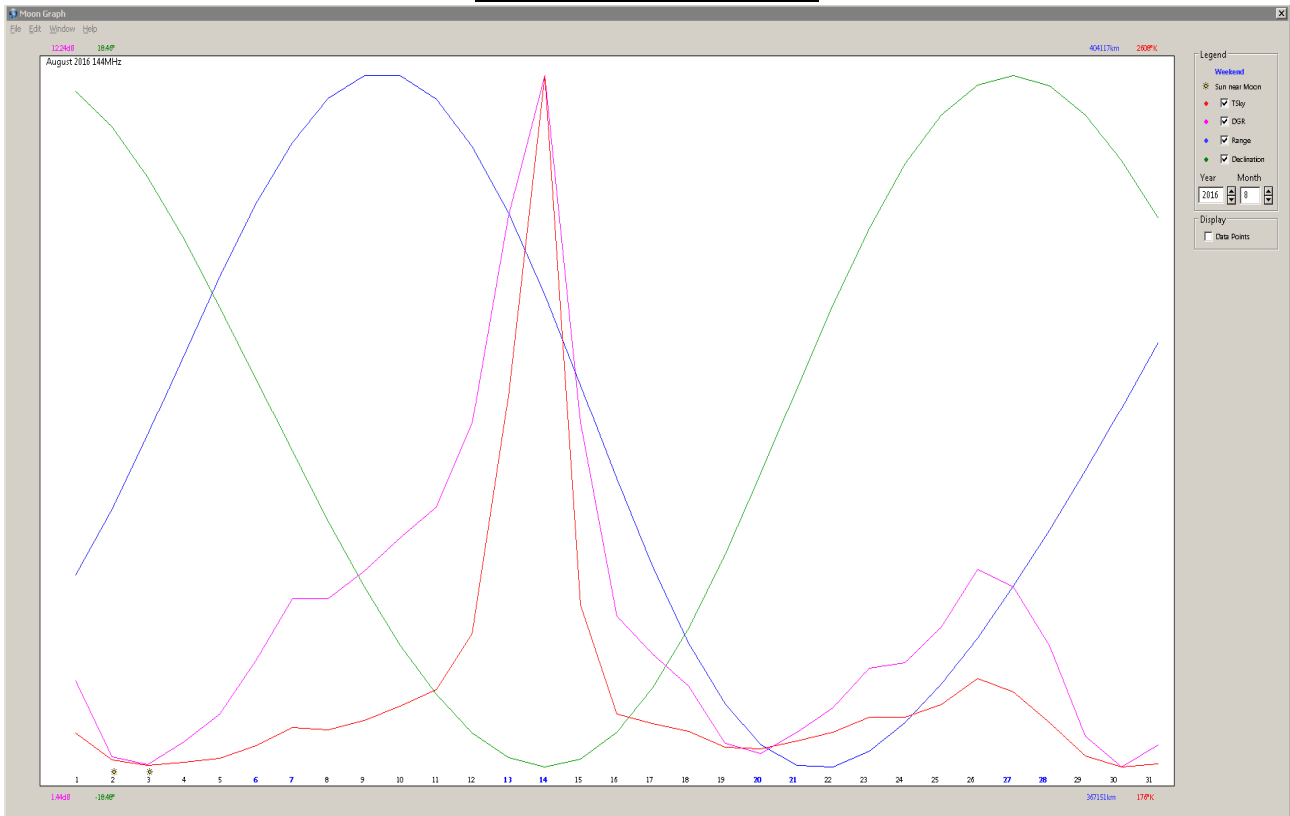
8 Aug July issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de>

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

Moon Graph July 2016:



Moon Graph August 2016:



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