

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Activating Zone 2: VC2EME

Marshall K5QE had been considering activating Zone 2 for the WAZ award on 2 m for quite some time. Finally, in 2017, these thoughts became reality and a team gathered to make this – for many hams – last missing WAZ zone available via EME. Bob VE3WY was able to secure the special event call of VC2EME. This was great, because the group did not have to use a "portable" type call.



The team finishing antenna set-up.

They began with two teams, one from Ontario (ON) and one from Texas (TX). The Ontario team was Bob VE3WY, Peter VE3ADQ and Marshall K5QE who flew from Texas up to Ontario to join them. The Texas team consisted of Bill N5YA, Chuck AF8Z and Kenny K5KNY.



The QTH in the last available part of the park.

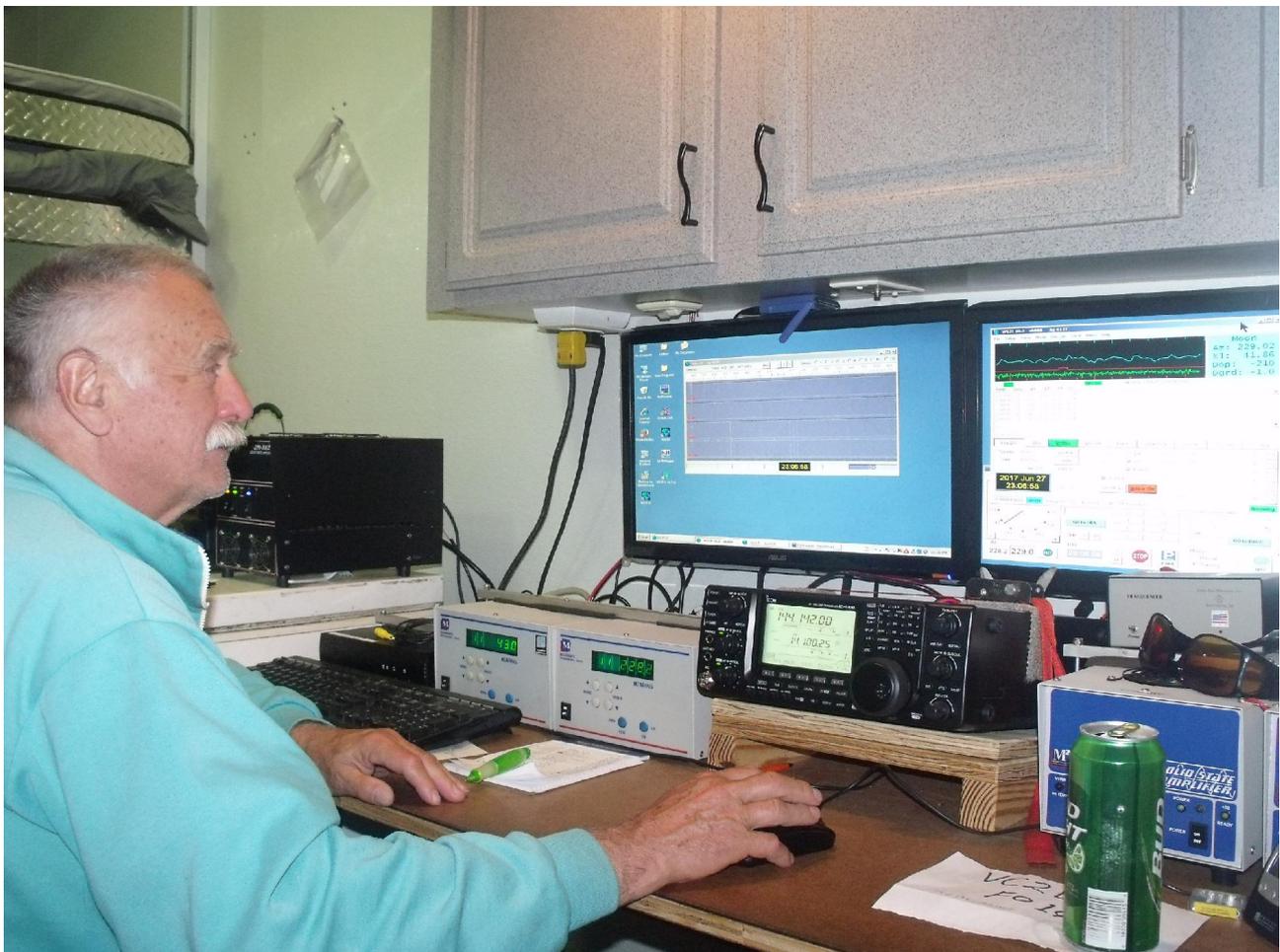
The ON team brought the antennas, courtesy of Maple Leaf Communications (VE3WY) and assorted masts, rigs, power supplies etc. The 2 m EME antennas were 4 x 7 ele loop yagis, a design that Bob has been working on for some years. As they also planned for 50 MHz they brought a neat off-center fed 5 ele yagi for that band.

The Texas team left by car on June 18th so that they would have plenty of time to make the drive in a relatively easy manner. They at least thought so...however, Murphy arrived very quickly and fouled all that up. Bill was pulling a large RV "toy hauler" which had all their gear and two stations built into it. They got only about 100 miles and then sheared off a wheel, tire, and hub from one of the axles. An entire day was lost finding and installing the parts to fix this. Then they travelled on to Forrest City, AR, where things even got worse and they sheared off two more wheels, tires, and hubs.

Fortunately, Steve AG4V who lives in Memphis, knew of a guru living in Forrest City who was able to fix all of the axles. Only, that just took three more days! By this time, Marshall was more or less dying at Bob's house waiting and seeing the precious DXpedition time elapsing.

Nevertheless, Bob and Marshall then took off for FO10LE, north of Matagami, QC. Peter came straight from his home in Sault Ste. Marie. Finally they arrived on Friday, June 23rd and set up a small base camp.

Bob and Marshall had already made a reconnaissance trip to the area in October of 2016. That was when they found the small provincial park that could be now used to operate from. At that time, the park was absolutely barren. There was not a car, trailer, or vehicle anywhere. However, when the team got there this time, the place was packed. It turned out that the weekend they picked (because of the very low EME degradation) was an important Quebec holiday! And someone had arranged a fishing tournament for that weekend too. None of the locals with whom they had talked, had bothered to tell them of this. Marshall and Bob more or less got the last possible spot in the park. Presumably, no one else wanted this spot, because it was right next to the two chemical potties provided by the park.



Peter VE3ADQ working the pile-up

After driving almost day and night, the TX team finally arrived late Saturday night, June 24th. Everyone was really beat, so they all waited until Sunday to start setting everything up. By about 4pm local time, they were on the air. The game could begin. The first contact was at 1956Z, with Dan HB9Q, which completed his full WAZ award. After that, they were off to the races. VC2EME continued EME operations when the moon was up until we QRT on June 28th at about 1900Z. They worked 151 stations on 2m, in 118 grids, and all continents (except Antarctica). Thus VC2EME earned a WAC and a VUCC. Bob is going to apply for those awards.

The 2m gear consisted of 4 x 7el loop yagis with full steering, an M2 2M1K2, and a WD5AGO cavity preamp on a short tower that was bolted to the back of the toy hauler. The feed-line was only about 24ft of LMR-600, so losses were low.



Happy after a great accomplishment! (all pics K5QE)

On 6 m however, things were not so rosy. 6 m propagation was truly awful for the entire time VC2EME was QRV. They also had some problem getting WSJT-X to work with the computer that they had and the K3s. It did work in Bill's shop before they left. Still, the team has not figured that one out yet. Only ~60 stations were worked on 6 m. As Marshall had learned on their DL88 trip, if the propagation gods are off playing volley ball, you just don't work very many stations at all.

So far, they know of at least 8 stations that now have all 40 Zones for their WAZ awards. Sure there are many more out there. Those stations are PE1L René, EA6VQ Gabriel, IK1UWL Gio, JR3REX Seiichi, UT6UG Val, I2FAK Franco, DF2ZC Bernd and HB9Q Dan.

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.

LB6GG/P QRV from the Arctic (KQ50KG)

Hans will stay in KQ50 square until November and will be QRV whenever his work schedule permits this. Setup is about 450 W out into 2 x 2.4wl DK7ZBs plus a LNA with 0.5 dB nf. Hans has already completed >60 QSOs. Logs and pictures are on <https://lb6gg.wordpress.com/>

Franz Josef Land being Activated!

Members of the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) are planning an expedition to Victoria Island (KR80ID). Vladimir, R9LR (ex RA9LR), will be activating 144 MHz EME, using the call signs RI1F. Further details are not yet known, even the activity period (Sep 30th – Oct 6th) is still unconfirmed.

Time Table

11 Sep 2017	September issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at http://www.df2zc.de
16/17 Sep 2017	ARI EME Trophy 2017, Autumn session
7/8 Oct 2017	ARRL EME Contest 1 st leg

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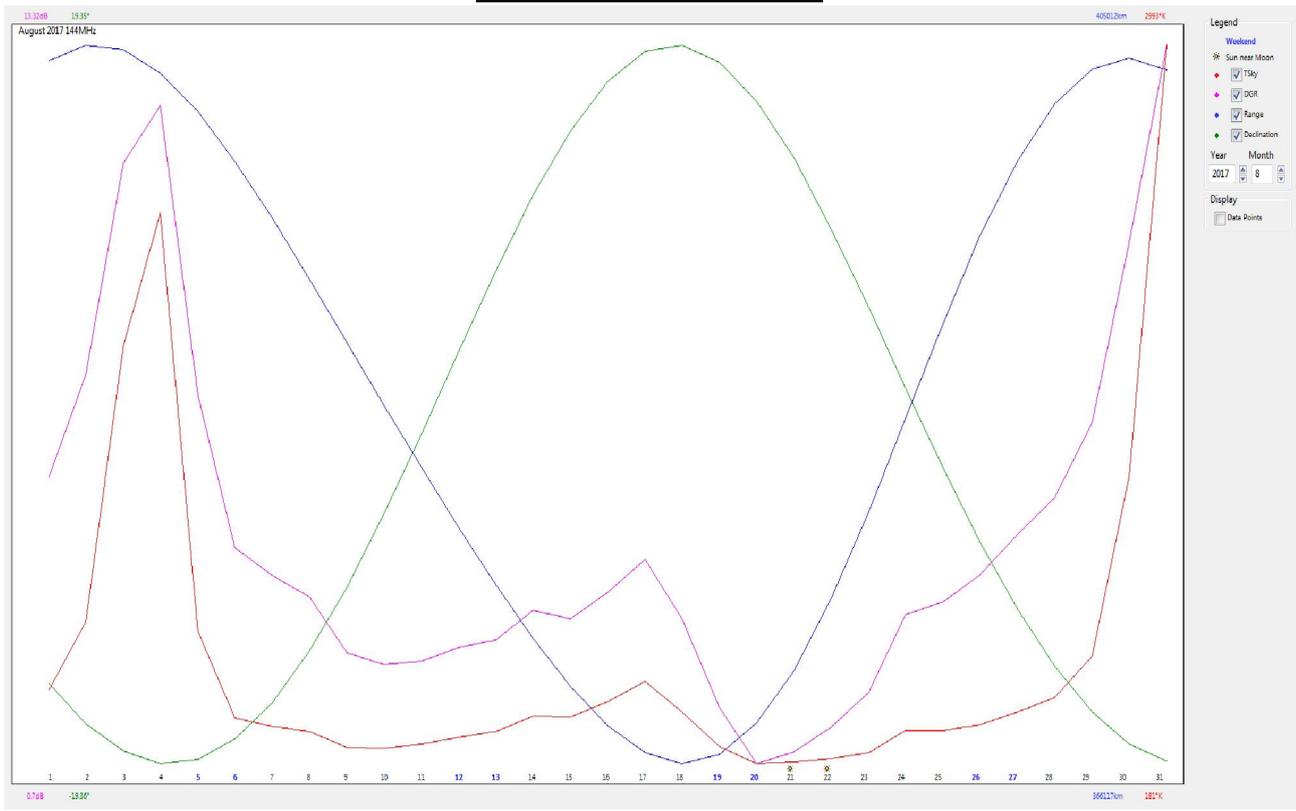
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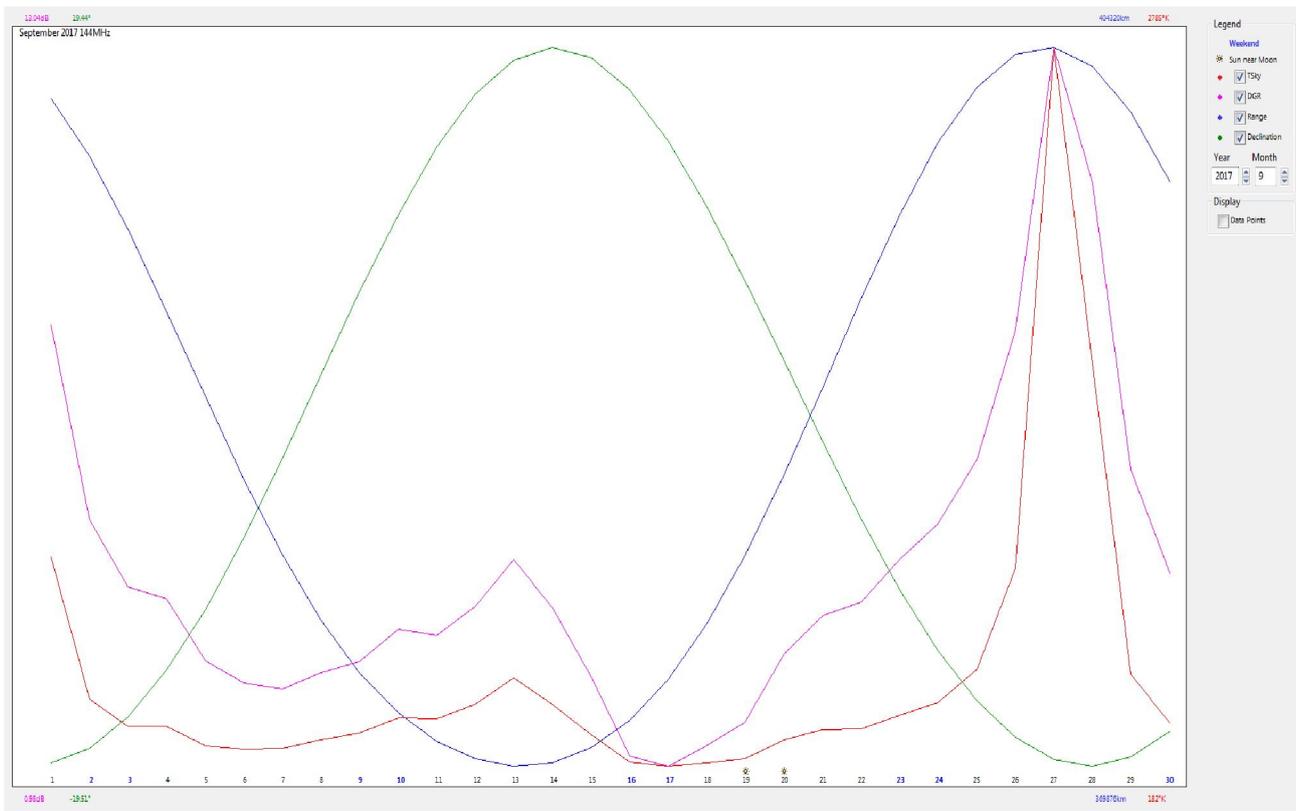
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DXpedition infos courtesy
www.mmmonvhf.de and others

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph August 2017



Moon Graph September 2017

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