

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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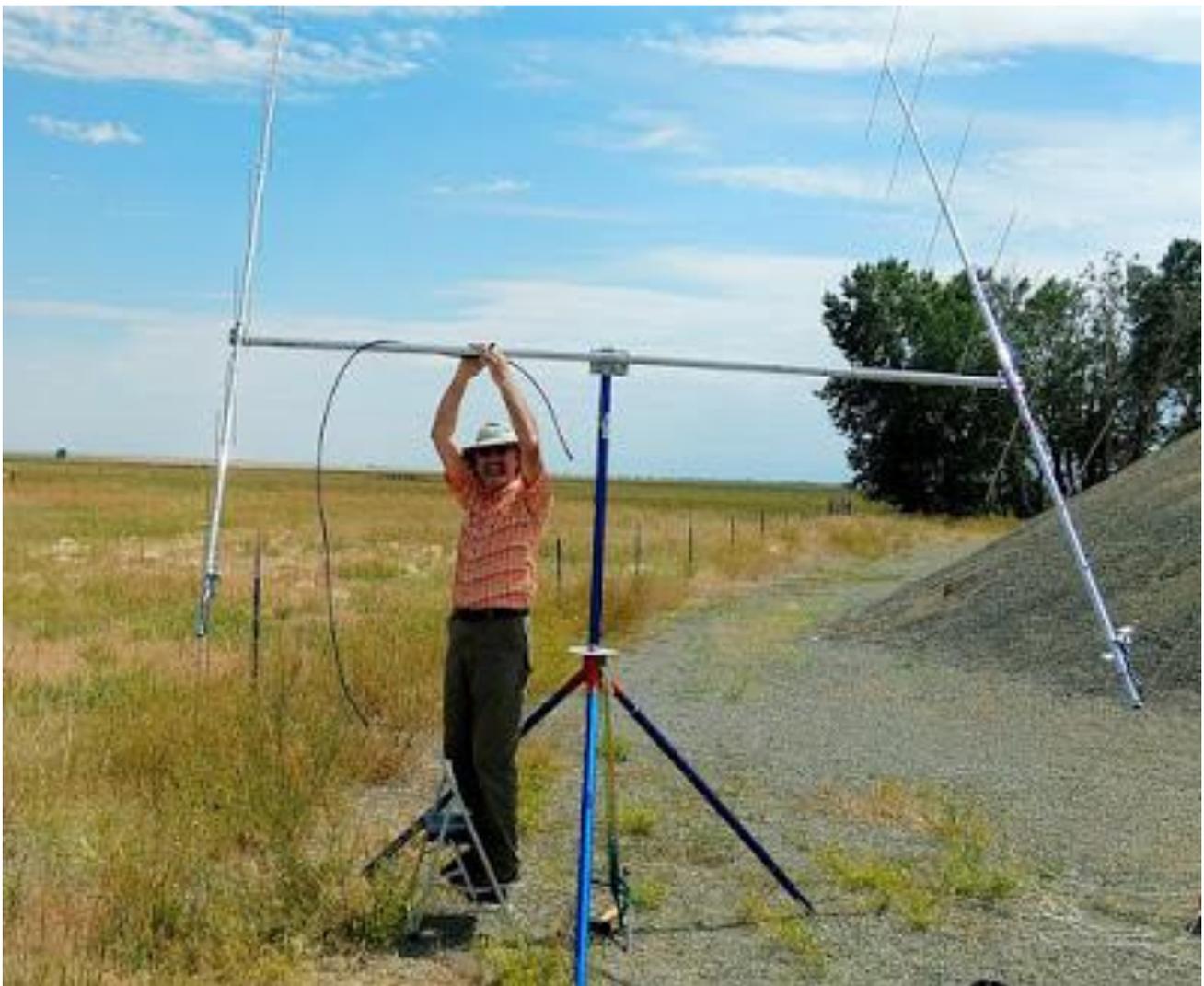
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Issue 9/2017 18 Sep 2017

KB7Q QRV from DN56, Montana

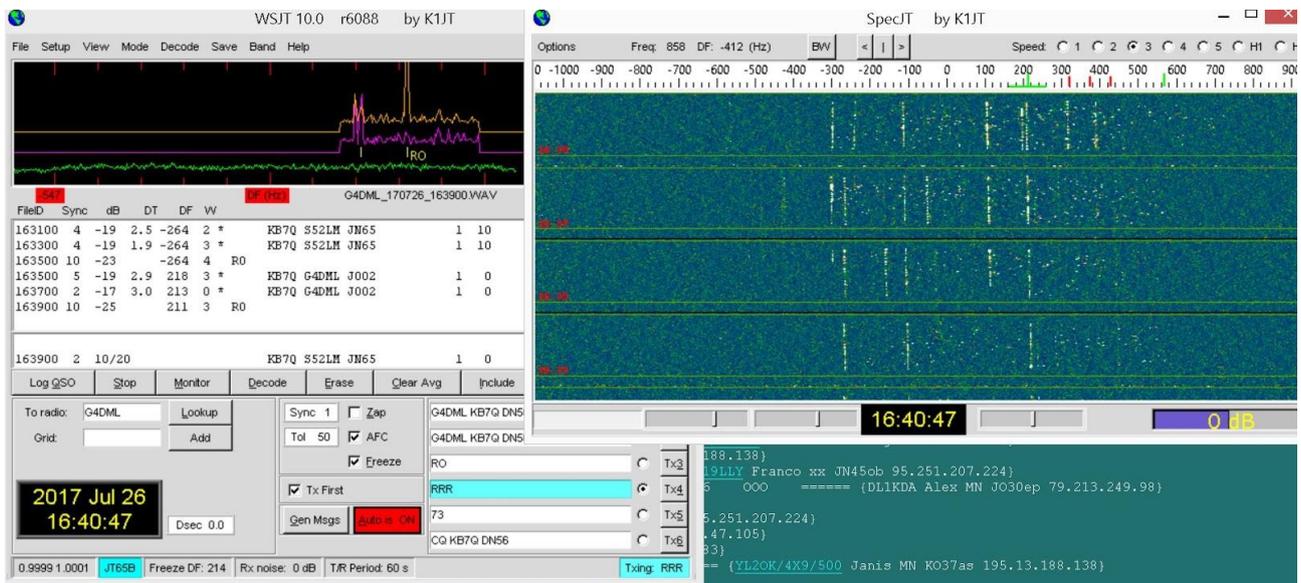
Gene KB7Q is notorious for successful portable moon bounce activations; it always means big joy to him to activate rare grid squares. On July 26th he added yet another one to his activity list: DN56.



Being tall helps with antenna setup: KB7Q with his two 9 ele yagis.

Together with Chris KA1D he became QRV from DN56AC, North of Big Timber, Montana. When they both travelled to the chosen QTH their expectations were not really high as the K index reached a level of 4 then. This meant a high risk of one-way propagations and sudden polarisation changes. Moreover the travel to that area also was not really easy going: When they arrived at the QTH – a sandpit well off the highway – they found out that an accident between a big semi-truck and two pick-up trucks had just happened right there. Fortunately there were no injuries, and the deputy sheriff seemed to have the matter in hand. So Gene and Chris could ease past the wrecks into their spot and began to set everything up.

When switching the rig on they noticed heavy noise: the single power line for miles in any direction had really leaky insulators, that is really bad luck. Thanks to the K3's two noise blankers it was knocked down to a reasonable level. So then with the entire system (2 x 9 ele yagis vpol, 800 watts, K3 w/ internal xverter, LNA and a 2KW generator) they sat waiting for the moon to rise above the horizon. And exactly as calculated at 1600Z the first signals were copied. However, the reflections from the moon were not as strong as usual: even I2FAK was only -20 dB which is some 6-10 dB less than normal. Eventually during the next hours the conds improved and at the end of the activity HB9Q was the “King of the Hill” with a strong -11 signal.



The screen shot shows less pile-up than usual but still many callers (*Photos KB7Q*)

Nevertheless, the high k index had his influence on the DXpedition: at one point Gene and Chris were left for 62 minutes without a contact and then had a short pile-up again. When that was worked down things changed for the worse and Faraday locked them out to Europe for the rest of the activity. With SM7FMX for instance they tried for quite a while until Mog lost his moon. His signal had peaked at -18 but no way to complete the QSO – sad for both parties.

Chris KA1D was very impressed by his first encounter with that “EME thing” and the addiction it can cause: Half way through the operation he was driving WSJT 10 like a pro and logging a contact every four minutes. So maybe another ham is hooked on moon bouncing now?

On September 19th Gene was working some 70 stations from DN66DB during another very successful grid square activity. We’ll report about that one in the October issue. Currently KB7Q is busy preparing a special setup for PJ2 Curacao where he will take care of the PJ2T hf contest station from February 12th to April 1st next year. More about this next issue.

DM2BHG's EME Holidays in Northern Norway

The end of June this year Heinz was again travelling Northern Norway with his car – and a portable EME setup (500 W out, 2 x 8 ele DK7ZB, LNA). However not everything went as planned: at a final test shortly before departure his amp crashed. Heinz decided to buy a Italab SSPA and indeed it was delivered right in time. So he and his xyl could leave fully equipped and travel North.

The first stop was on June 21st in JP51PC and it was a complete failure. Heinz' signal was being copied well by many stations while zero was on his FFT display. A technical check showed that everything was o.k. with the setup. Maybe it was the Aurora or noise from a nearby BC and TV station? Heinz remembers that two years ago he had had the same problems at the same location. Two days later at last, from JP53PC things were different and 37 QSOs could be completed.



LA/DM2BHG on June 24th in JP53PC (Photo DM2BHG)

Then they travelled further North, to JP89. Upon arrival Heinz noticed the campsite very crowded, with no electrical power sockets available for him anymore. Heavy rain and high winds didn't make it any better. There was no point building the station. After he travelled on the next stop was on 29 June in JP88GT where everything was different and LA/DM2BHG could start operating at last. However, this time the conds were not in favour: A magnetic storm with radio-Aurora and in consequence lot of one way propagation were present. Heinz worked 17 stations easily and then all of a sudden nobody else was copied: a typical Arctic experience as Rune SM5CUI told him, due to Aurora. After an hour or so with no callers and yet many comments on NOUK about his good signal Heinz decided to turn his yagis to vpol. All of a sudden he could copy all the stations that had been calling him for hours. At DF2ZC for example it looked like Heinz had switched his amp on: After the manual change of polarisation his signal rose from -30 to -20 from one sequence to the next. The log filled with new QSOs.

When back home in JO51 again on July 6th 5500 km had been travelled – and Heinz began thinking about rare squares to visit in 2018...

Upcoming DXpeditions

For more information on current and upcoming DXpeditions please have a look at www.mmonvhf.de from where most of the information here was gathered.

A43MB: Oman QRV again after 9 Years!

On September 19th two members of the OL7M contest group are flying to Oman to join the A44A contest team in the CQ WW RTTY 2017 on HF. If everything goes well they will also be QRV on 2 m EME, as A43MB from LL93FO. Setup is 2 x 13El vpol, PA, LNA 0,6dB and Icom IC-9100. Activity period should be Sep. 20th through 27th.

RI1F QRV from Franz Josef Land (KR80ID)

From October 4th to 7th Vlad, R9LR, will operate RI1F from Victoria Island (Franz Josef Land) on 2 m EME. Setup is 2 x 8 ele H/V IOJXX - 8*8JXX2, IC-910, LNA by SHF-Elektronik and 1 kW amp by IOJXX, together with a backup FT-897. Latest news is on www.grz.com/db/RI1F

CN2R: OK1DFC and OK1VVP QRV from Morocco

After a long time of preparation and units testing, OK1DFC is organising his first large 7 bands EME DXpedition to Morocco. In cooperation with Vaclav OK1VVT (144 MHz operator) and courtesy of Jim W7EJ, Zdenek is being QRV from Casablanca (IM63DM) from Oct. 4th to 10th. 2 m rig is TS-2000, SSPA 1,5 kW, LNA and 4x8 ele yagis. More info is on www.ok1dfc.com/peditions/morocco/cn_2017.htm

3DA0MB (KG53MN): Moonbounce from Swaziland

3DA0MB
Moonbounce from Swaziland

DX expedition

First ever 8 band EME DX Expedition
6m - 2m - 70cm - 23cm - 13cm - 9cm - 6cm - 3cm

13 - 18 October 2017 6m, 2m & 70cm
13 - 21 October 2017 23cm & up

Locator KG53mn

Vincent 3DA0VV
John ZS6JON
Andrew ZS6AVH
Alex ZS6EME
Bernie ZS4TX
Dan HB9CRO
Sam HB9COG
Chris PA2CHR
Lins PA3CMC

From Oct. 13th until 18th 3DA0MB is QRV from KG53MN. Vincent 3DA0VV, Lins PA3CMC, John ZS6JON, Chris PA2CHR, Alex ZS6EME and Andrew ZS6AVH will be QRV on 2 m with 4 x 9 ele hpol and 4 x 6 ele vpol (I3DLI design). News updates on pa3cmc.nl/#home

T8EM (PJ77HQ) Activating Palau

Kay JH3AZC is spending his 2017 vacation together with co-operator Taka JP3EXR on Koror Island, DXCC Palau (T8). From Oct 11th to 15th they will be QRV on 2 m EME (JT65B only) with FT-817, ITB Phoenix-1000A and LNA. Antennas are not decided yet.

DL1RPL QRV from Cap Verde D4

Together with Hermann DL2NUD Peter DL1RPL will be QRV from Cabo Verde from Nov. 1st to 7th. Their focus lies on >430 MHz but Peter will also bring a 2 m set-up. As the QTH will be different from the X-Team's (DH7FB & DF2ZC) QTH past May (but still HK85) they may have less minimum elevation at moonrise, good for the VK/ZL boys.

Time Table

7/8 Oct 2017	ARRL EME Contest
9 Oct 2017	October issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at http://www.df2zc.de
4/5 Nov 2017	ARRL EME Contest

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

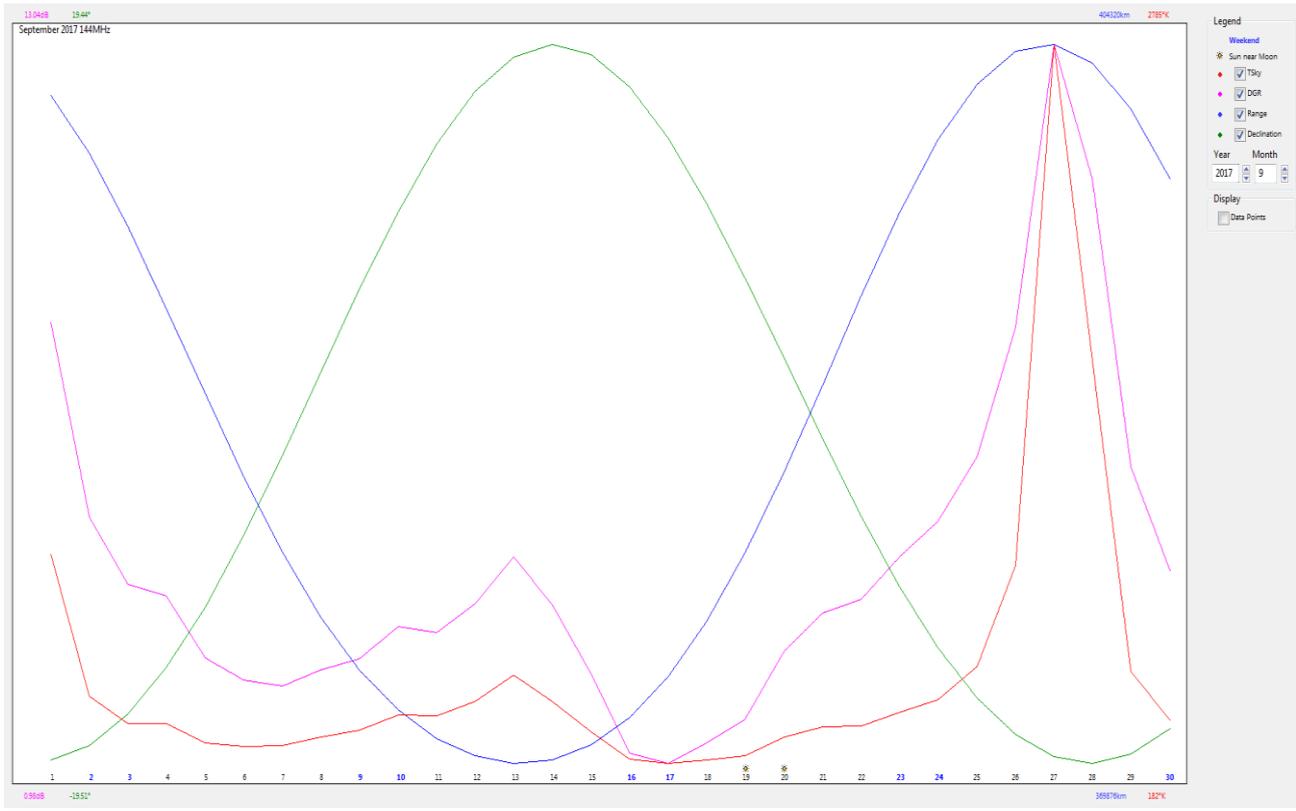
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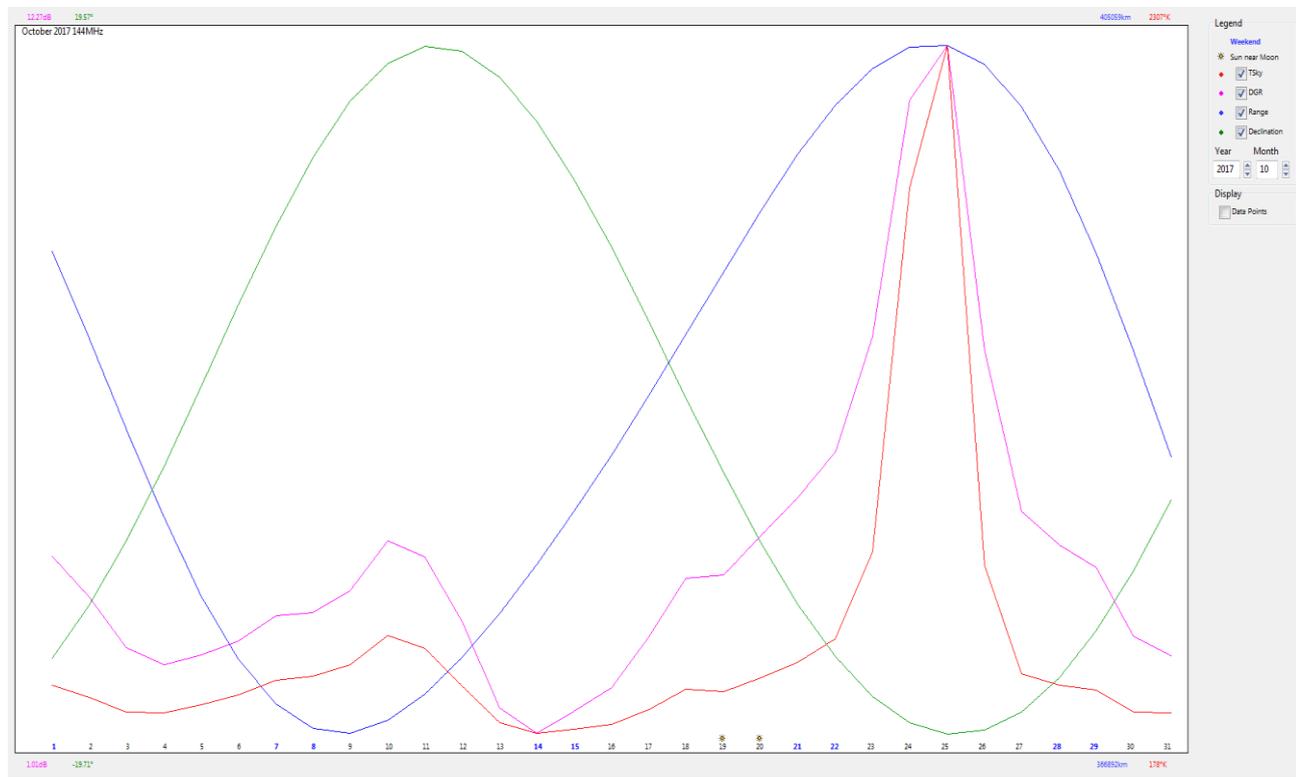
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DXpedition infos courtesy www.mmmonvhf.de and other sources

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph September 2017



Moon Graph October 2017

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