

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Issue 4/2018 19 Apr 2018

PA2CHR and PA3FYC QRV from Guatemala

Finding new DXCCs to activate via moon is getting harder and harder: Many of the more or less easily accessible countries have already been activated during the past ten years or so. But some hams still find rare entities and manage to organise a DXpedition to there. So did Chris PA2CHR and Jos PA3FYC. From February 24th to March 5th they were QRV from Guatemala as TD9CHR and TD9FYC, on 144 MHz, 432 MHz and 1296 MHz.



The 2 x 10/10 ele homemade xpol yagis (DK7ZB design) on the hotel roof.

After intense preparations and checks as this was their first three bands DXpedition the journey started on February 22nd at Amsterdam Shiphol airport – with a surprise: Jos and Chris were upgraded and given the two last available Business class seats of their KLM plane to Mexico City. Now, that was a fine and very comfortable way to start a DXpedition! Only, the “bill” for that came after their connecting flight from Mexico to Guatemala: when arriving at Guatemala airport the realised that one of the suitcases was missing, a mission critical one with preamp box, lots of coax, tools and other essentials parts. When they contacted the flight carrier they learned that this suitcase had been left in Amsterdam. However, they promised to send it with the next flight, one day later, as “urgent and rush” material.

Luckily at least all antenna parts and the tripod, packed in 2 golf bags, had arrived. So Chris and Jos could use the waiting time and build up the complete antenna system for 2 m on Friday, February 23rd. And indeed, in the afternoon they received a phone-call from Guatemala airport called with the good news: the suitcase had arrived and was on the way to the hotel where they lodged, Hostel Las Marias in Taxisco (EK44SB) <https://www.facebook.com/HostalLasMarias.gt/>. The team now only needed to mount the cables and do a final check of the system. Everything was o.k. and there was nothing between them and the first 2 m QSO which took place with Franco I2FAK just after midnight UTC, on Febr. 24th at 0035 UTC.



Chris and Jos with many suitcases waiting to travel to Central America. (Photos PA2CHR)

At the same time they found out that there was QRM. Sadly this is no surprise nowadays. Wherever you are in the world, at most places you are likely to find electronic garbage causing QRM. Here

there were lines every 100 Hz all over the screen which were moving slowly up and down in frequency. That meant that a good trace could be gone from one rx period to the next, being covered by a QRM line. Some 'fox-hunting' with a small receiver the next day gave no clear results of the QRM source. It was present at most QTFs, being between 4 to 12 dB. At least the QRM fence disappeared sometimes and usually was less strong after 22 hours local time.

The antennas were placed on the flat roof and were very close to the "shack" just below in the room. This made it possible with the use of the spare lengths of coax Jos and Chris had brought to operate simultaneously on 2 m and 23 cm. The last weekend of the activity they took down the 2 m antennas and mounted the new 30 el 70 cm antenna on the boom. It can be easily controlled manually between horizontal and vertical polarization by just turning the boom inside the mast clamp.

All in all Chris and Jos are very happy with the results on all three bands, particularly with the surprising amount of USA stations that were worked this time. The final results are 261 QSOs on 2 m which was more than expected given the local QRM they had. On 432 MHz they made 42 QSOs with a single 30 ele homemade (DG7YBN design) antenna and on 1296 MHz 47 QSOs, twice as much as expected with just the 67 ele yagi. Being back home both OM are very happy nothing was broken at all during transport and on site as it was a real challenge for 2 people to become QRV on 3 bands.

Upcoming DXpeditions

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

Kosovo DX Expedition

Uwe DG8NCO and Hermann DL2NUD are currently QRV from Kosovo, working 2 m on 144,146 MHz with a solid signal. Locator is KN02. They intend to stay at least until Friday this week.

3B8MB QRV from Mauritius (LH80TA)

Giulio IW3HVB and other Italian hams are on site already and made a handful of QSOs on 2 m. However, it looks like they encounter some technical problems on 144 MHz as well as with wx. Operations are scheduled to run until April 28th. Latest news are on Giulio's website <http://www.iw3hvb.it/>

PJ6E QRV from Saba (FK87JP)

Dit DF7KF and Angelo DM1AC are currently combining amateur radio and family holiday on Saba. They are QRV with a 14/14 xpol yagi DF7KF design and EME power. Working frequency is 144,144 MHz. They plan to stay until April 28th.

7P8Z Lesotho

Bernie ZS4TX is planning for a two day DXpedition from Lesotho (KG30VO). He will be QRV with 2 x 18 ele M2. Activity is planned from moonrise time 14.40Z (First 3 degrees blocked by mountain range) on Friday the 27th until Moonset on Sunday 03.40Z, April 29th. Bernie asks all callers to use the W7GJ calling procedure. This expedition marks 28 years from Bernie's first [and last...] 2m EME activity from Lesotho when he worked W5UN in 1990 on CW for his country #104.

C8T Mozambique (KG64OQ)

Guy ON4AOI is reporting about a (V)HF DXpedition to Mozambique in May 2018. The DXpedition is focussing on HF but will also conduct some 2m EME, probably as soon as May 5th. Guy will do some coordination and assist from his home.

Time Table

13 May 2018 May issue of the 144 MHz EME NewsLetter ready for download at <http://www.df2zc.de>

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

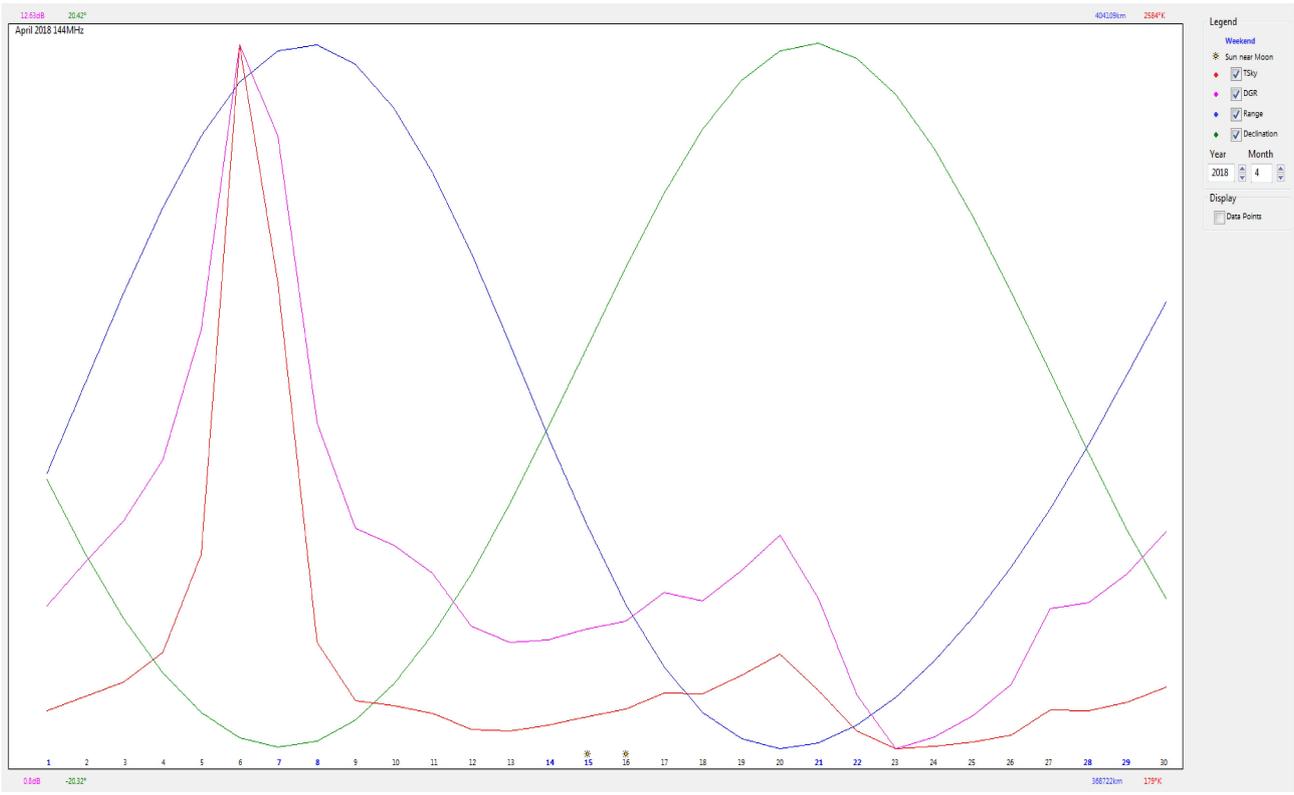
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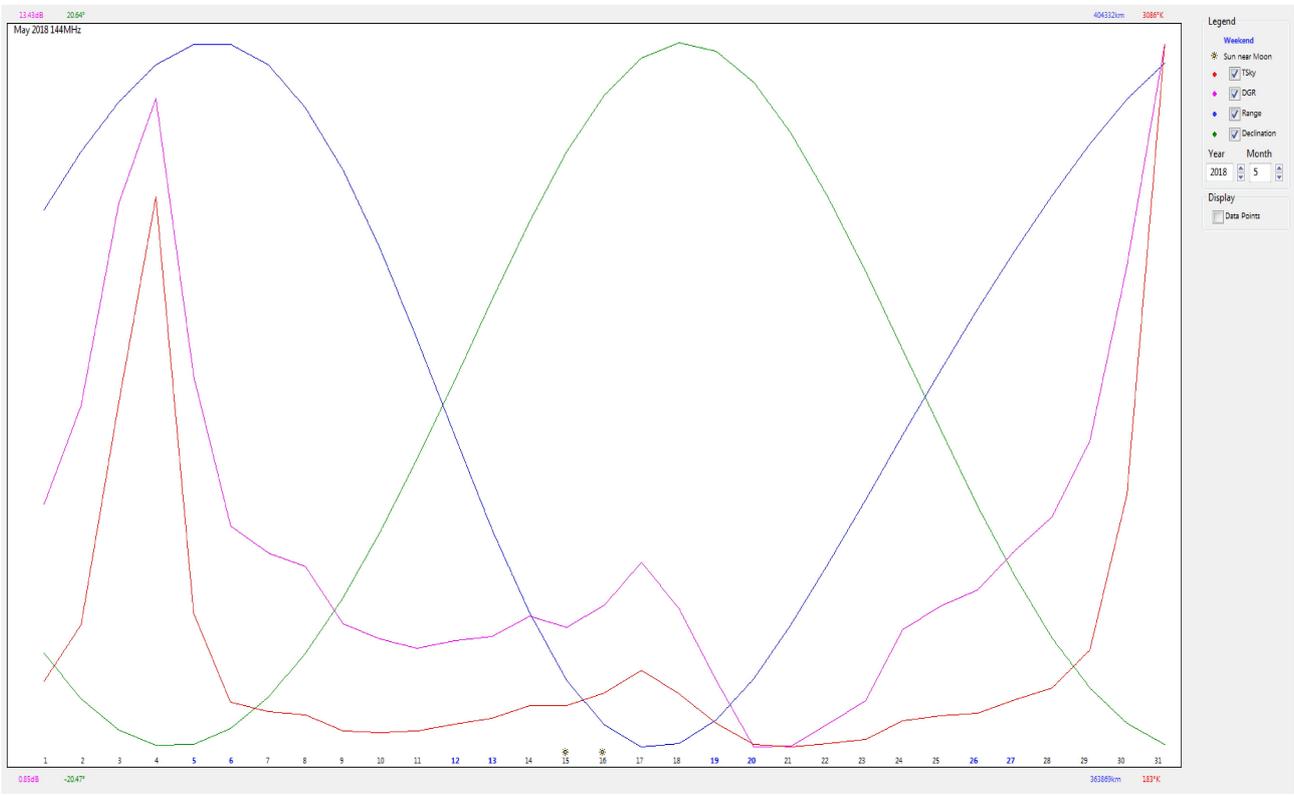
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph April 2018



Moon Graph May 2018

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