

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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Issue 8/2019 8 August 2019

OH6ZZ Activating Yet Another Square in the Arctic

Past July Jussi, OH6ZZ, was on the road to the far North again. He had planned to activate two grid squares, KQ21 and KP49. The first one running as LA/OH6ZZ was planned for 26th to 28th, the second one for some hours only during the return trip on 29th July.



LA/OH6ZZ in KQ21 right after setup, when wind strength was still fairly ok.

When he arrived in KQ21WA after a 13 hours drive he immediately started building the station. This was a rather tough challenge since he was on his own. Though it was late at night the midnight sun put everything into bright daylight. Also the temperatures were so warm that just a T-shirt was fine. After testing that all was working Jussi finally could sleep for some hours.

The next morning everything was different. Strong wind and rain had started. During the course of the next hours the wind gusts got stronger and stronger, even reaching storm level. It was impossible to fix the antennas at a given direction, they were being moved like dancing in the wind. Looking at the weather forecast did not give a good perspective either: That storm was supposed to stay for the next few days. So with a heavy heart Jussi broke down the station before something could get damaged and changed plans. Now he was travelling straight to KP49AG, a place he knew from earlier activities.



Jussis 2x11 hpol/2x10 vpol yagis in KP49EI: To the right you can see some commercial transmitting towers which made a little QRM when the moon was right in that direction but OH6ZZ still found a silent frequency to work.

Only, when he arrived there after 400 km drive the place was occupied by fishermen's cars – no way setting up antennas. He had to look for another QTH. Now it paid off that he had been in that area before, even if that was some ten years ago. Then, so he remembered, there was an excellent place on a hill with wonderful tropo take-off where the access road was closed by a gate. Jussi went there only to find out that this time the road was open. So he drove up to that hill. Luckily the 4 wheel drive helped to climb some very steep sections of the road.



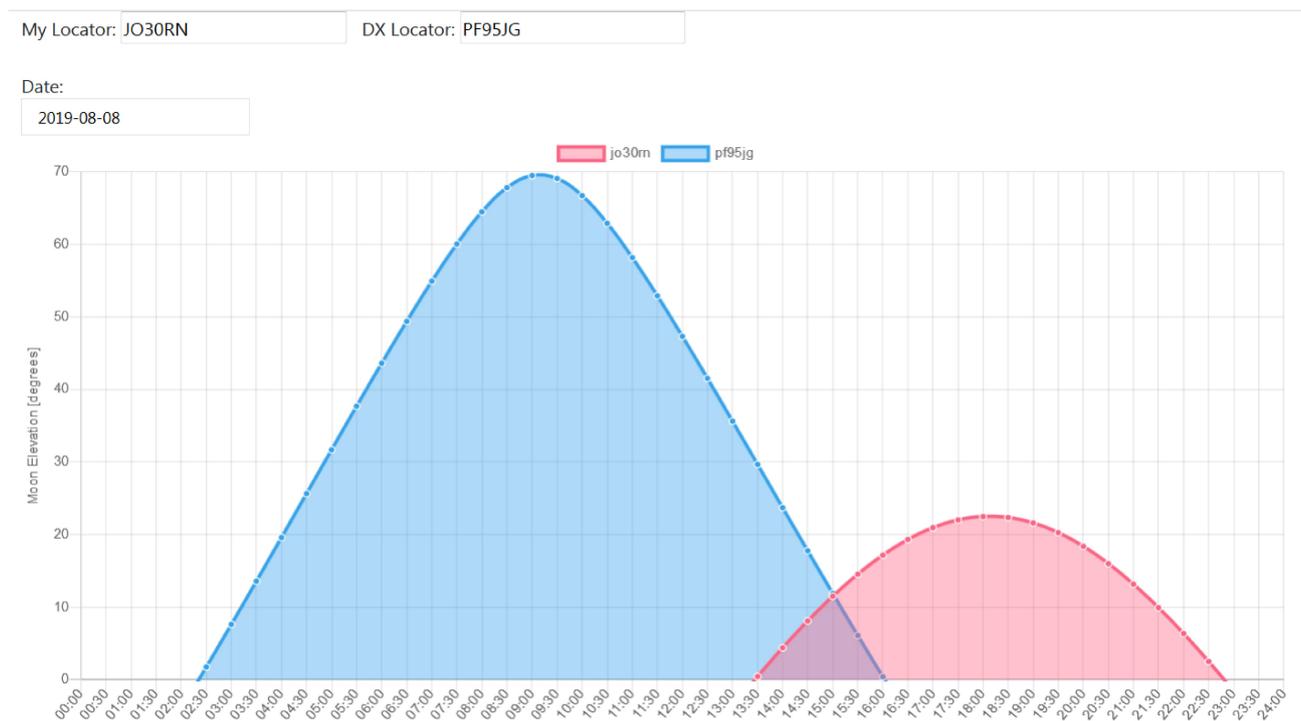
View into OH6ZZ's mobile radio shack

The QTH was excellent indeed, with a mostly negative horizon to all directions. Though being some 200 km from KQ21WA only, it was again sunny T-shirt weather. At 1215 UTC the first QSO was completed. Another 57 followed until 1540 UTC on the 28th. Three of them were meteor scatter contacts, all others moon bounce. Jussi had to play a little with switching polarisations because an Aurora did not make things easier.

All in all he is very happy with the results though the KQ21 misfortune made him a little sad. The cold, windy and rainy weather later followed him from the North when travelling back home. It was already present when he took the antennas down which was no fun in the rain, particularly if you have a 900 km journey ahead.

OH2LHE's Visual Moon Elevation Calculator

Hannu OH2LHE has programmed an interesting moon elevation calculator. The first version is available at eloranta.info. You only need to enter home and dx locators in 6 characters and select the date (default is today). Then the moon elevation graphics at your and at the dx site and possible common windows can be easily seen.



Moon elevations both at DF2ZC and VK5APN on 8 August 2019 in OH2LHE's calculator.

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 unless noted otherwise.

C37NL QRV in EME

Jean-Jacques ON7EQ, Jack ON500 and an URA team will be QRV from Andorra during Perseids meteor shower. However, since they received a couple of requests for EME activation they plan to give it a try. They believe the most favourable period would be on August 13th evening. Their moonrise (above mountain tops) is expected to be around 2000 UTC. Please monitor the ON4KST chat R1 2 m. Setup is 1 kW out and a 13 dBd yagi. Latest news is one www.facebook.com/on7eq/

Time Table

24/25 August Russian 145 MHz EME Contest (see EME NL 7/2019)
12 September September issue of the 144 MHz EME News-letter ready for download

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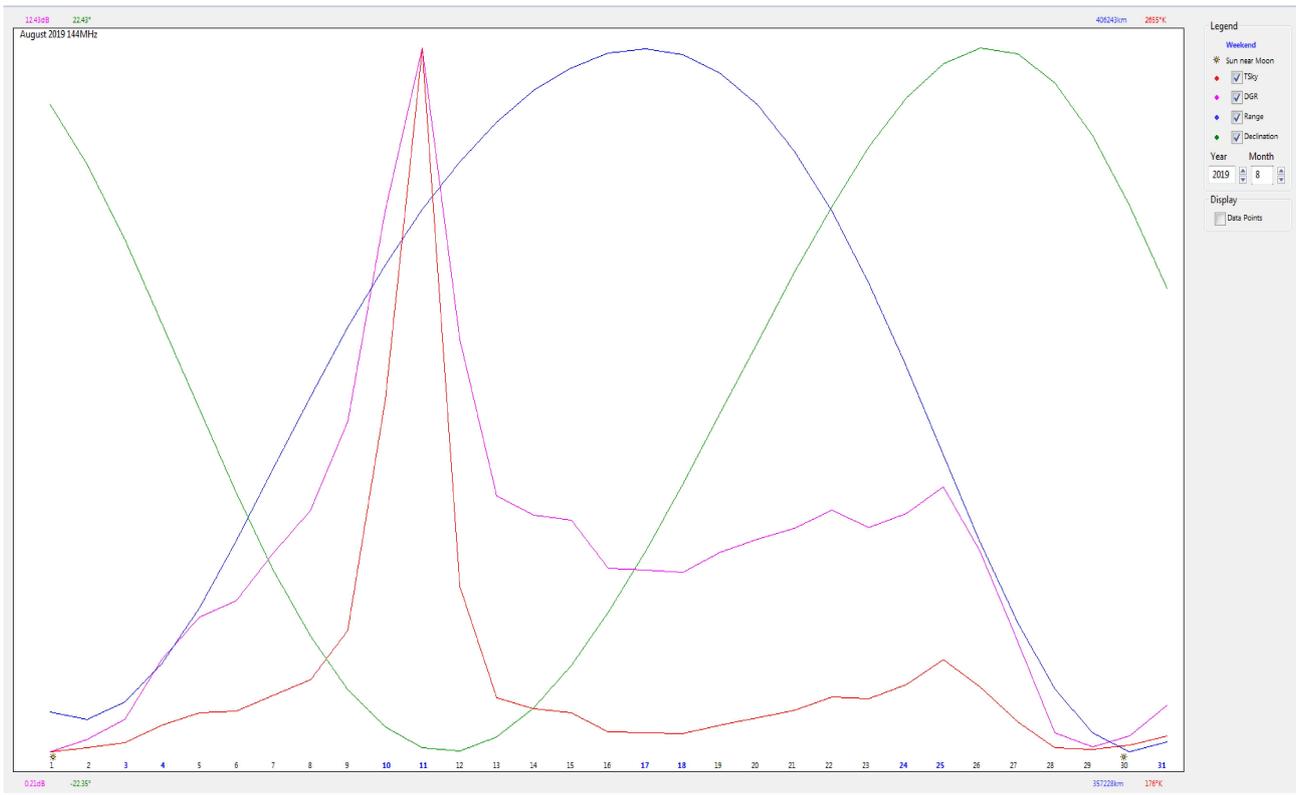
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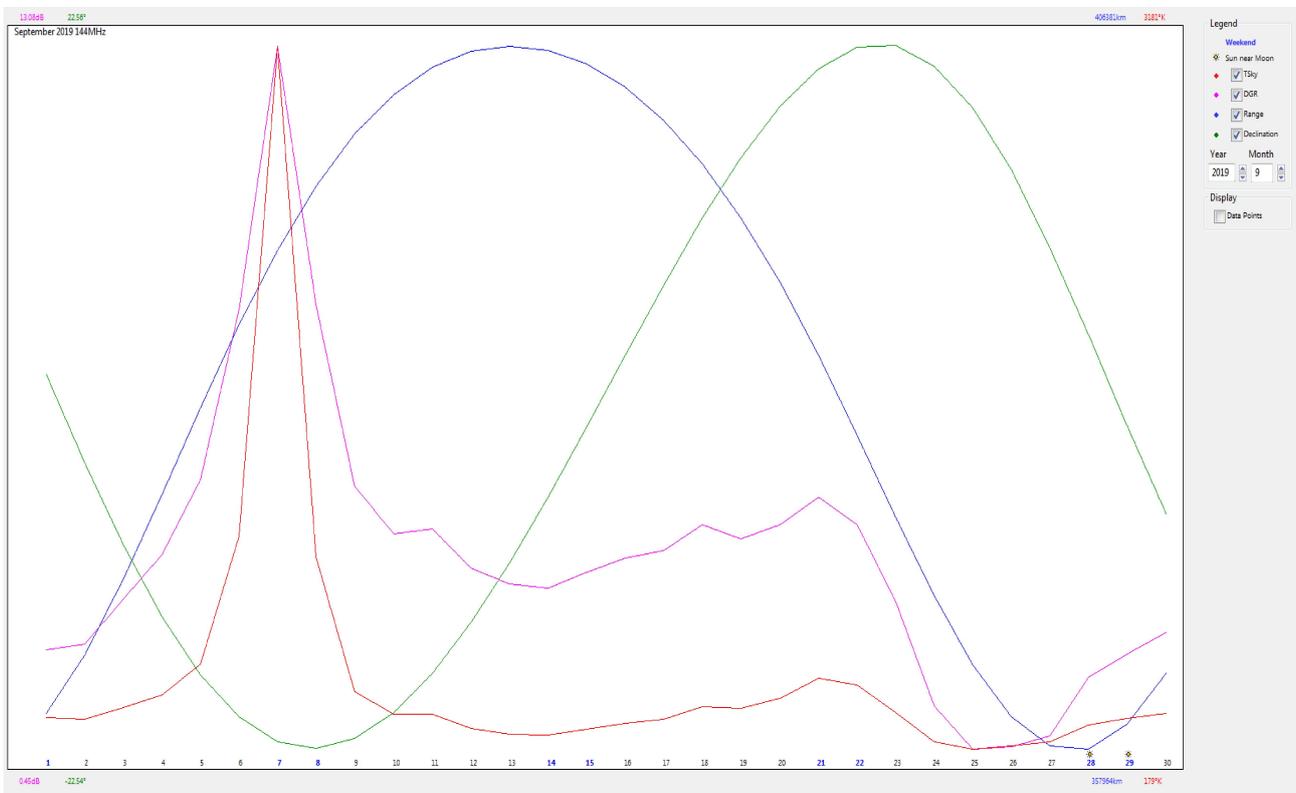
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DXpedition info courtesy
www.mmmonvhf.de and other sources

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph August 2019



Moon Graph September 2019

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