

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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EM5EME QRV From KN55DW



From left: UX5UL, US7GY, US8ICM, PA3BIY, UY5HF, UT1FG, DF2ZC.

What was planned to be a small meteorscatter activity by UT1FG, PA3BIY and DF2ZC turned out to be a combined MS/Tropo/EME DXpedition: When Peter PA3BIY and Bernd DF2ZC visited their ham friend Yuri UT1FG in his home town Odessa, Ukraine in September 2019 they discussed possibilities of activation the close-by square KN55 on 2 m meteorscatter. KN55 is a “nearly water square” having only a fraction of land reaching into the square. Hence it is very much wanted by the 2m DX community.

Yuri is captain of a bulk carrier and since he made his first MS QSO 2019 he is very much hooked to that propagation. When travelling the West Atlantic he already made a huge number of MS QSOs on 2 m since he started his first successful tries in February 2019. Even though Yuri had only some 60 W ERP then he completed many QSOs, sure also thanks to his antenna location on top of a big ship on the ocean with good take-off. Now he is QRV with 300 W out still to a 5 ele yagi because due to the mostly high winds on the ocean any bigger antenna would not survive the forces of the wind for long. With that set-up UT1FG/MM even made a fair number of QSOs >2000 and some >2100 km.

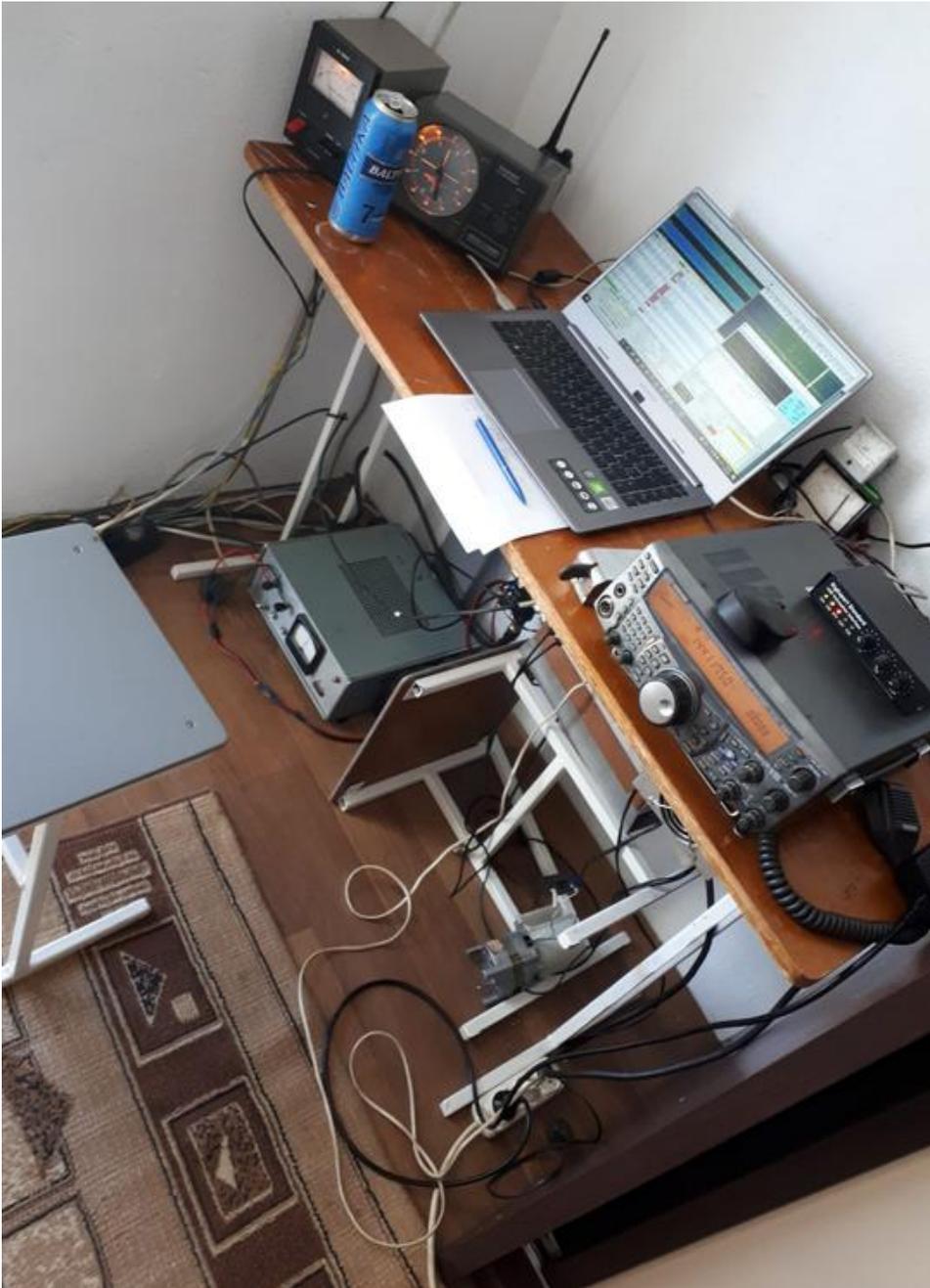


The apartment buildings in Kurortnoe with 4x9 ele group.

So when Peter and Bernd spent some days at Yuri's place in 2019 the main discussion point was going on DXpedition. They travelled the one hour from Yuri's holiday house outside Odessa to KN55 to perform some location check. Very soon they found an apartment block *Udachniki Kurortnoe*. It was very well situated outside the village with excellent take-off to central Europe, promising good results. The consent of the owner of the apartments was reached easily. The plan was to go there in late summer 2020. Then came Covid-19...

The Germans have a saying "Postponed is not canceled" – so the activity was rescheduled for September 2021. When the planning process started again in March Yuri spoke to some ham friends in Ukraine and in the end the planned small meteorscatter activity with maybe 300 W and one or two yagis developed into a MS/EME activity. Anatoly UY5HF, Oleg UX5UL, Stepan US7GY and Max UR8ICM joined the team. Valentin UT6UG would also have liked to be with the group but had to withdraw because of his Covid vaccination date. The Ukrainian hams arranged for a high power LDMOS amp, for four 9 ele yagis (UY5HF design), for mast, cables etc: So when the setup in KN55DW was completed on Friday September 10th this was a really serious VHF dxpedition.

Right after set-up and check the EME traffic started because the moon was already up. Some nice and strong signals were copied and the log started filling with QSOs. The fun continued after moonset with operating meteorscatter and tropo. During the entire stay no technical problem came up – except for the preamp box DF2ZC brought from the X-Team setup: It turned out that due to



the only 12 V connected to the 25 m cable feeding the preamp plus the two CZX 3500 relays the voltage loss on the cable made the relays not always switch properly. With the X-Team they are always 13,8 V fed into the cable so the voltage loss on the 25 m had no effect. Therefore the box was taken out and a spare preamp mounted in shack. Not a perfect solution but better than none. The second negative experience was local noise: Particularly at moonrise there was strong broadband noise though there were zero buildings, just a lighthouse in a distance of about 1 km. And that was the culprit because when walking there a number of solar panels could be seen which were quite likely not properly mounted, at

least rfi-wise. On meteorscatter the team also suffered some noise issue when beaming to North/North-East where they had just a small gap between the two buildings of the apartment complex.

Having good summer-like weather in KN55DW made the DXpedition great fun particularly since the beach was just a 10 min footwalk away. Too bad this year the Black Sea was rather cold and a lot of jelly fish made swimming no fun. Oleg's xyl Tanya who accompanied him and had some nice vacation days at the sea also had a strong influence on the success: She always arranged for nice food. A very important thing at DXpeditions! Щиро дякую, дорога Таня!

Direct QSLs are direct only via DF2ZC. Please add a SASE (address label is being preferred) and 3 US-\$. In November there will be more pictures plus log available on the DF2ZC website. Since the team had so much fun they are looking at possible places to go for 2022.

Upcoming DXpeditions

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

SV9/DK5EW KM15WL Holiday Style Activity

From October 13th to 28th Erwin DK5EW will spend his holidays on the island of Crete SV9. Not just by accident he chose a holiday house in the wanted KM15 square. Erwin will be QRV on EME and meteor scatter from there. Setup is IC-9700 GPS, 2 x 8 ele IOJXX xpol, ITB Atlas amp, tripod and mast by Spiderbeam. He will run EME both in Q65-60A as well as JT65B. Frequencies will be communicated on NOUK chat after arrival depending on local QRM.

KA6U Has Suspended His Activities

After travelling the Eastern and Central part of the USA for nearly three months in a row at the end of September Peter decided it was time for a rest and drove back home to Florida. However, he considers activating a number of grid squares in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi in November. Please follow his blog <https://ka6u.blogspot.com/> for updates.

Time Table

8 Nov	November Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download
20/21 Nov	ARRL EME Contest

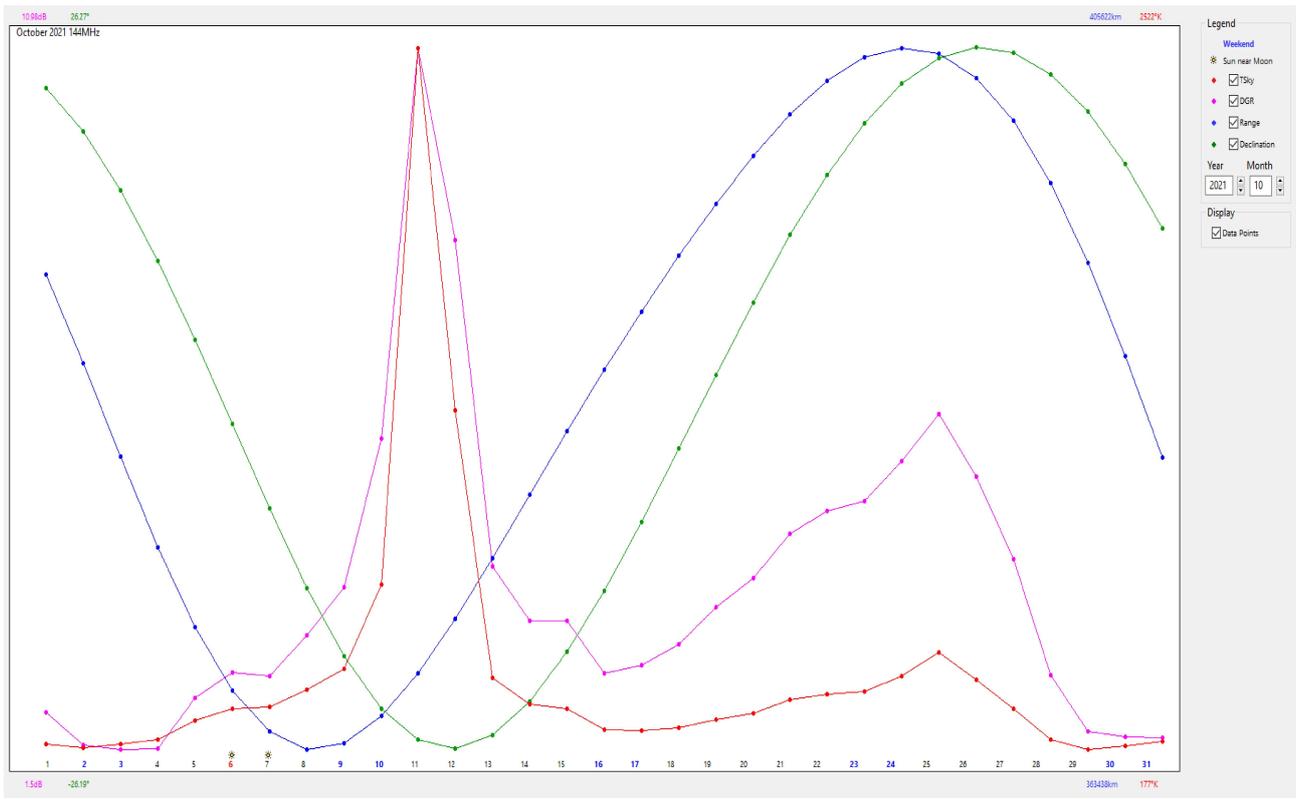
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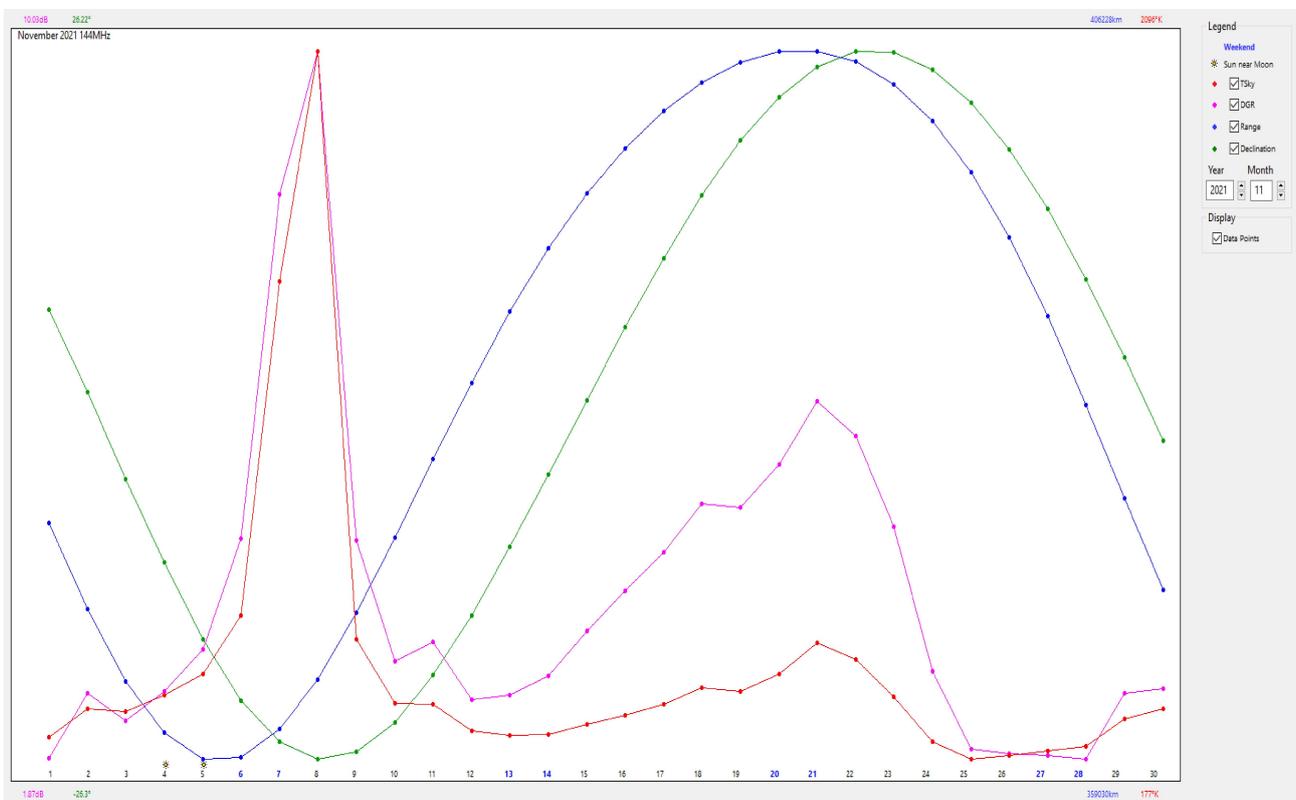
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph October 2021



Moon Graph November 2021

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