

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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ZB2BU Gibraltar on 144 MHz EME



The two yagis were situated close to Harding's battery and the Europe Point lighthouse.

After a successful 2 m meteor scatter activity from Gibraltar back in 2015 together with Hans ON5AEN (SK 2021) Jean-Jacques ON7EQ and this time Jacques ON500 travelled to ZB2 again in April 2023. The objective was to bring ZB2 on the moon after many years. In fact Bernd DF2ZC and Frank DH7FB were the last ones active from there – back in 2007! Due to amp problems they then only made 45 QSOs, hence the worldwide “demand” for Gibraltar on 2 m EME was huge now.

Thanks to the big support by the local radio hams with the Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society GARS the team was allowed to run with the ZB2BU callsign, the GARS club's callsign. This made things a lot easier when it came to discussing the needed power output for EME. For non-residents the

temporary license only permits 100 W EIRP. Being permitted to run the club station the necessary power was no issue anymore.



Jean-Jacques ON7EQ, Jacques ON500 and John ZB2JK (vice president of GARS) in the DXpedition shack.

The chosen dates April 14th to 17th made sure that one week-end was included and degradation was good, only the declination was rather low. However, the most critical factor nowadays is the noise/QRM situation. Because of this they had to look for a place within the ZB2 borders which is as far as possible from all potential RFI sources. With again the kind support by GARS it was possible to set up at the “Europa Point”, the southern-most spot in Gibraltar and in a good distance from town and airport. Close to the light house they had a wonderful view on the sea and being 25 m above sea level also meant good ground gain – sea gain – at moon rise and set. The “Rock” to the North did no harm as there the moon always travels the Southern sky. The team could not have hoped for anything better.

After some 2500 km car drive Jacques and Jean-Jacques, who already conducted a number of IOTA activations as well as a C31 DXpedition together, finally arrived in Gibraltar on April 12th and set up the entire station the next day, together with Kevin, ZB2GI: two 11/11 hpol yagis (DK7ZB Design) with full az/el tracking plus LNA and homemade sspa. Since the antenna always had to be taken down when they were not on site it setting up and taking down for storage in a near-by shelter became a daily routine. It helped a lot that the system was constructed a portable in the first place: It always took them less than 15 minutes time.



Start of operations was on April 14th. At 0314 UTC the first EME QSO was in the log. This first day 54 more QSOs followed. 44 complete contacts were made the following Saturday and yet another 41 on Sunday, April 16th. At moon rise (0,2° elevation) they then had a clear decode from Remy FK8CP in Nouméa (RG37FR). What a pity the window was only 10 minutes short and due to local QRM and Faraday a QSO could not be completed. After on Monday 17th only 7 stations replied the CQ from ZB2BU the team QSYd to 70 cm, running just two 30 years old 19 ele TONNAs. They had expected not more than a handful of big guns, however 20 stations made it into the log until moon-set.

During this activity, their thoughts often were with memory of their beloved friend Hans ON5AEN who passed away in October 2021 at the age of only 64, and with whom Jean-Jacques was QRV from Gibraltar in meteor scatter on 4 m and 2 m during Perseids 2015. Hans was a die-hard VHF enthusiast, excellent technician and operator, and would certainly have loved to be part of the team and share the EME challenge.

(all photos courtesy of ON7EQ)

Instead of asking \$\$\$ or €€€ for every QSL card - or even a LoTW upload - to sponsor their enjoyable hobby, the team decided to give some '*social dimension*' to this activity and ask for a donation – as small as it may be – for a local cancer research project. As of May 10th already 1020 € have been donated. For details please see <https://www.qrz.com/db/ZB2/ON7EQ>

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.

OJOEME Market Reef (JP90NH)

From June 18th to 24th Sebastian DG5CST, Roland DK4RC and Norbert DL4DTU plan to be QRV from Market Reef, running as OJOEME. Though the focus is on the higher bands they will also run 144 MHz EME with 2 x 9 ele and 500 W.

Time Table

3 July The June Issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download.

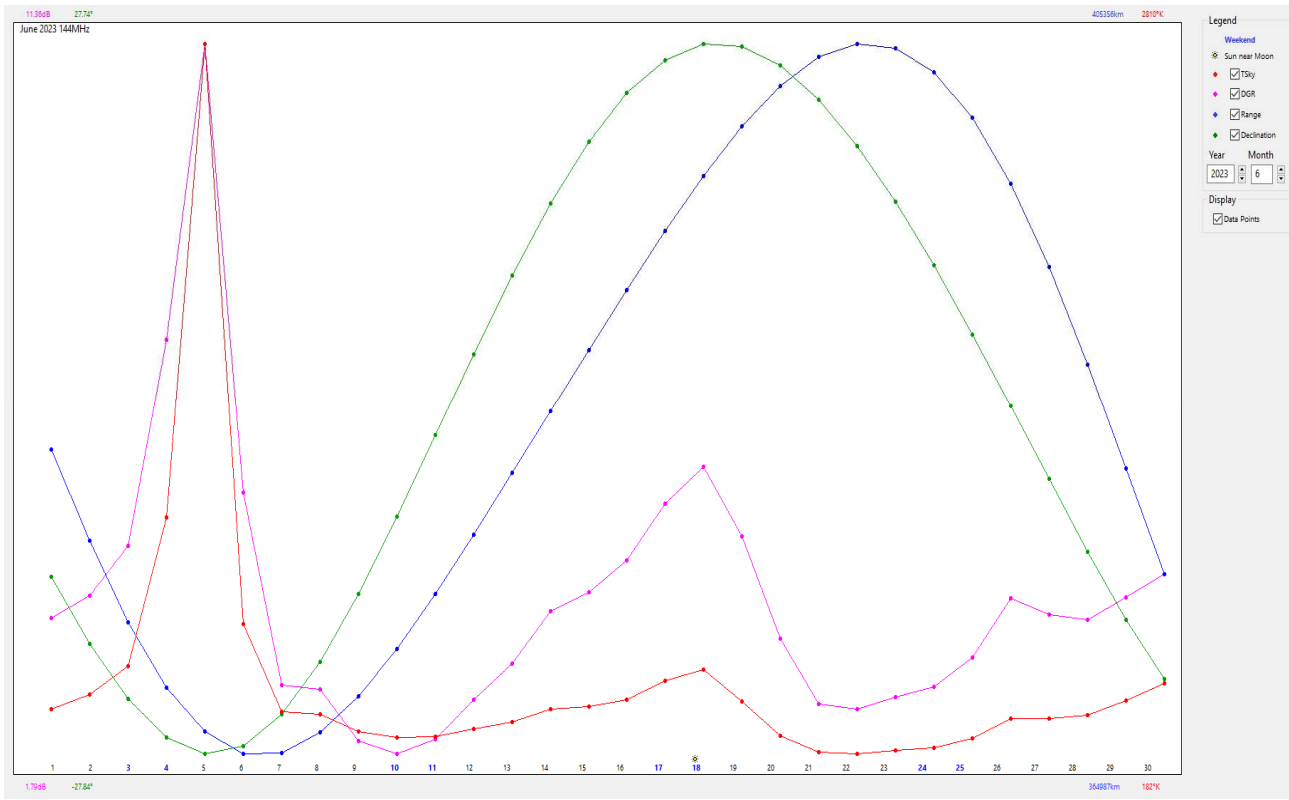
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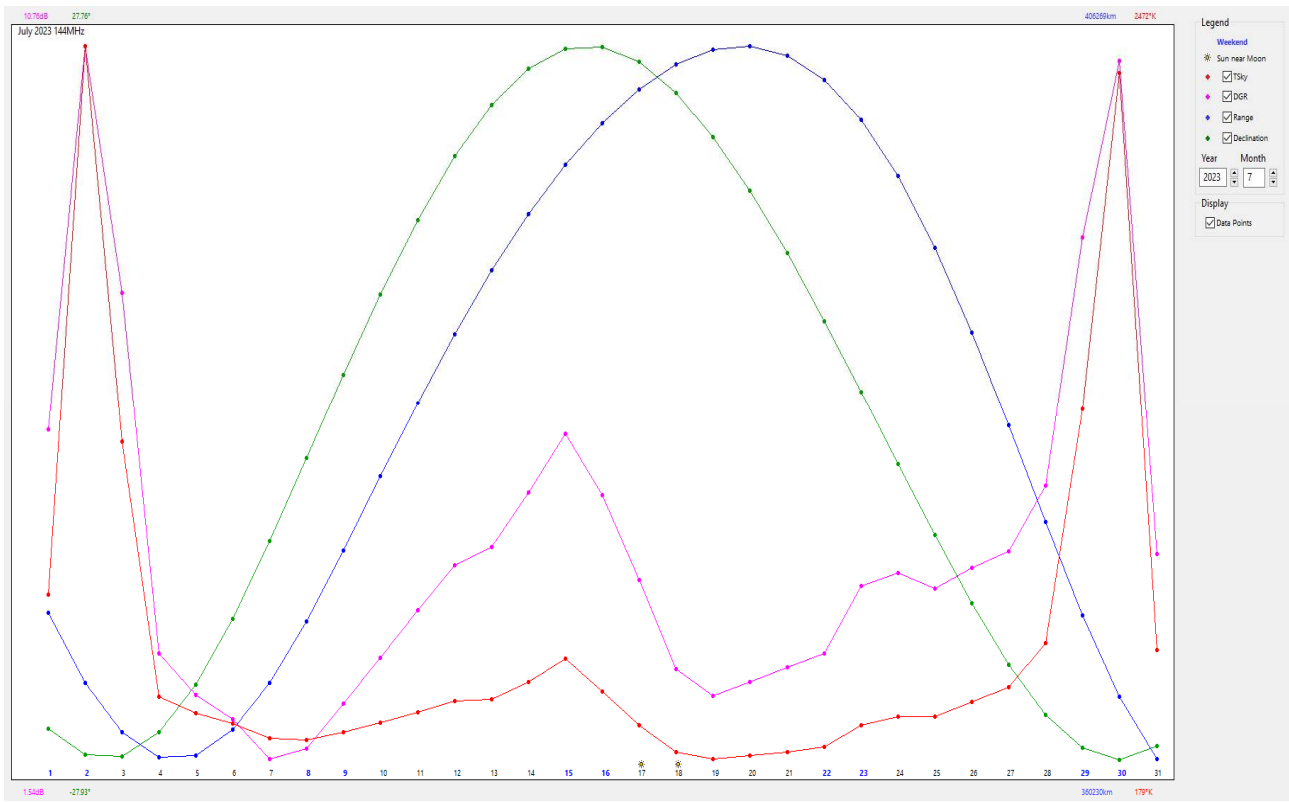
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Moon Conditions



Moon Graph June 2023



Moon Graph July 2023

(Courtesy of David GM4JJJ (sk 2019) www.gm4jjj.co.uk/MoonSked/moonsked.htm)