

The 144 MHz EME NewsLetter

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First Time EME from Cameroun: TJ9MD



Back in 2018 during the C8T Mozambique HF Dxpediton Emil, DL8JJ, got hooked on 2m EME. Being an avid HF Dxpeditonier he since tries to bring also 2m EME gear whenever he goes to some place wanted on that band. And in fact, most places Emil becomes QRV from on HF are also wanted on 2m, which is no surprise. In October/November 2022 as team member of the J28MD DXpediton he brought Djibouti on the moon for the very first time. And one year later he was again on DXpediton with the Mediterraneo DX-Club, now to Cameroun.

To run decent EME he brought a new antenna which was developed by Antennas&Amplifiers and him. It's a unique antenna in the world – a cross yagi with 10,50 m boom and 15 elements in either plane. Being dismantled, the antenna is only 1,4 m long and weighs 9,5 kg. The gain is 15 dBd and the dipole can handle up 1,5 kW, more than enough. Moreover Emil bought extremely high quality coax cable (SUCOFLEX 104) from HUBER+SUHNER. On 144 MHz this coax can handle over 1000 W, it is made entirely of silver and has just 5,5 mm diameter.

The mast is also a new one which he made with a special POM tube at the end, so that the V-field is working free from influences by a conductive tube. Emil also changed the mechanics of elevating the yagi by mounting a new climbing clipstick (made by EVO sport), so that he can move the antenna very precise and quick in the vertical direction.

RIGs were: YAESU FT-857D & PSU, Phoenix 1000A sspa, sequencer DCW-15 & SSB-Elektronik PRE-amplifiers. Thanks go to DL8YHR for support. Emil also brought a Tajfun 1000 amp kindly loaned from Vlad, OM4CW (<http://vhelectronics.sk>)

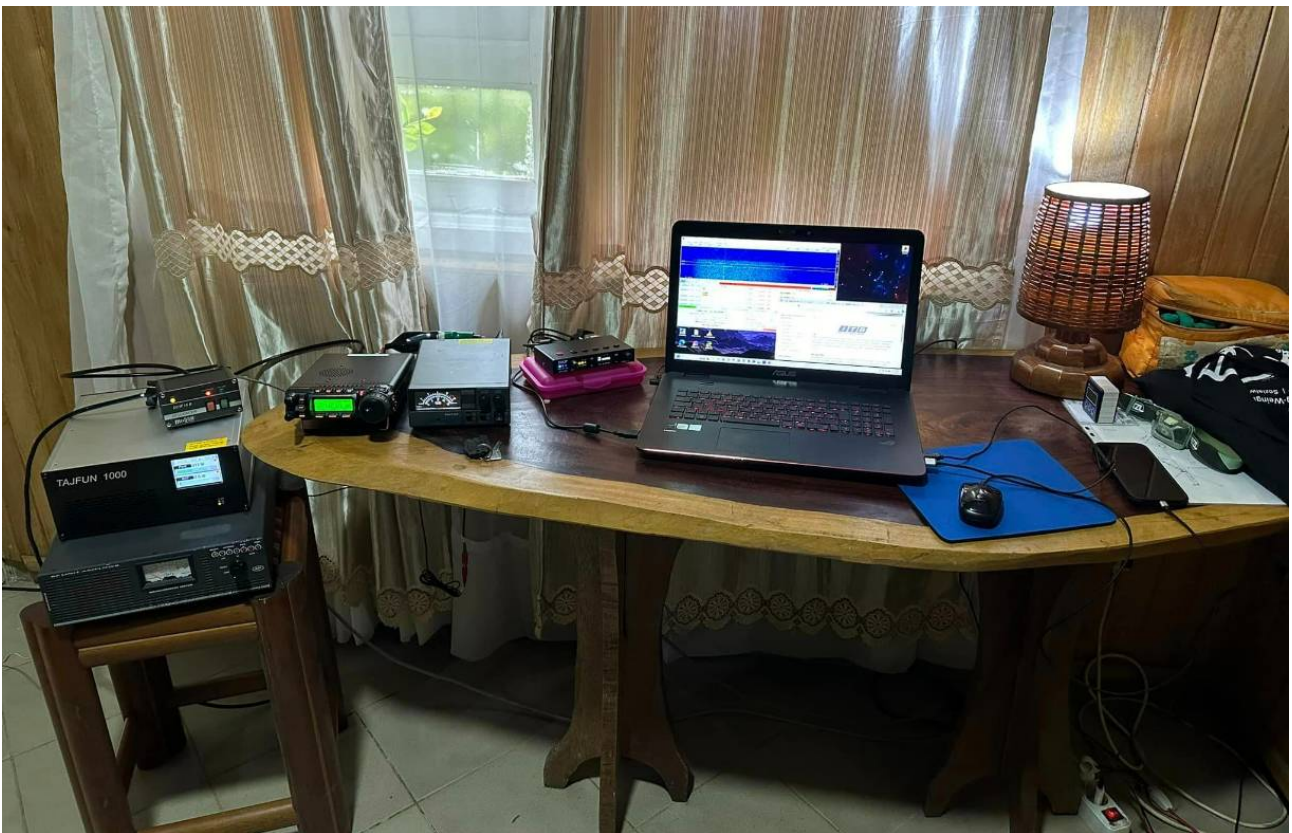


The biggest worry of all DXpeditioners...will the equipment arrive with me? With Emil it did.

When the team arrived at the DXpedition QTH on Nov. 4th Emil had to realise that it was not at all well suited for EME. High buildings all over, so there was not much visible moon. However, it was the only one place for that so he set up the station in kind of inner courtyard and was curious to find out what would be possible in the gaps between the buildings. UA3PTW was the first station completed at 0138 UTC – only to be followed by 39 more stations until 0955 UTC. It could have been worse. With these QTH constraints Emil successfully tried to make the best during the next days.

Many however do not know that he could only be QRV during his off-duty slots as he was dedicated CW operator of that DXpedition. Luckily he can cope well with sleep deprivation – he never slept more than 3 hours per day.

At times he could not be QRV at all: power failures for hours or heavy rain and storm did not make things easier. Also the QRM from the HF transmitters degraded RX performance, a typical problem when EME hops on HF DXpeditions and EME antennas are not far from the HF antennas. On November 10th it got so bad that Emil had to look for a different place to move the antenna to. Finally he managed to set up the yagi at the beach and move the inhouse setup to a different building. This cost him some additional fees but it would sure be worth it, he believed. Then he could use the moon the entire pass and had less rx trouble. This was very fortunate particularly for the USA stations who then had a much longer window to Cameroun.



View to the EME shack at TJ9MD.

At the end of the activity on November 14th the EME log contained 137 QSOs which is a very good result given the negative impacts of rain, storm, shadings by buildings, QRM, voltage outages and limited time slots. Let's see where Emil will go next. There are already plans...if you want to help Emil covering the costs of his activities, DL8JJ is grateful for every support as little it may be. You can donate via paypal to emilbergmann@yahoo.com.

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At times the activity suffered from storm and torrential rain. (Photos DL8JJ)

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.

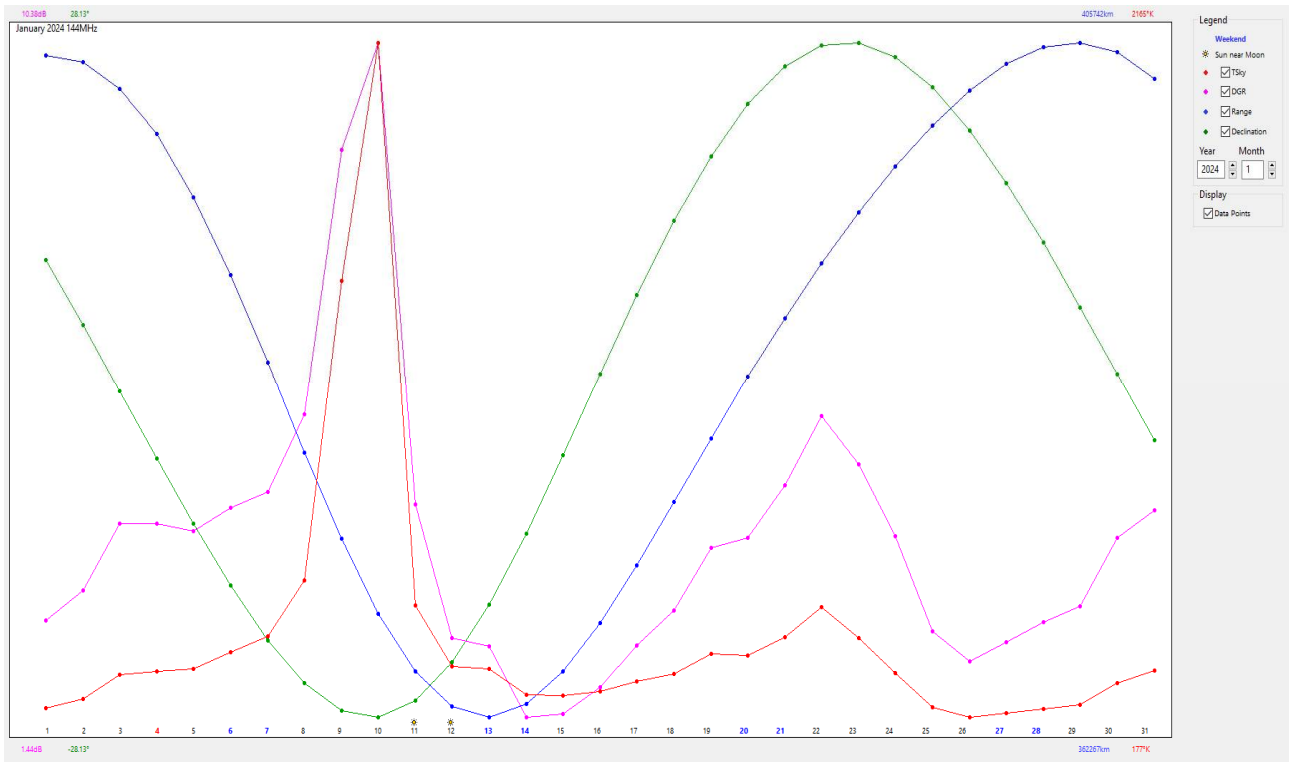
KA6U back on the Road – for 144 MHz

Peter KA6U informs about his plans to activate much asked grid squares in the South East part of the USA: His latest plans are Jan 17-18 EM62 EM72 and Jan 24-25 EM42 EM52, always starting at moonrise. And always if weather is permitting.

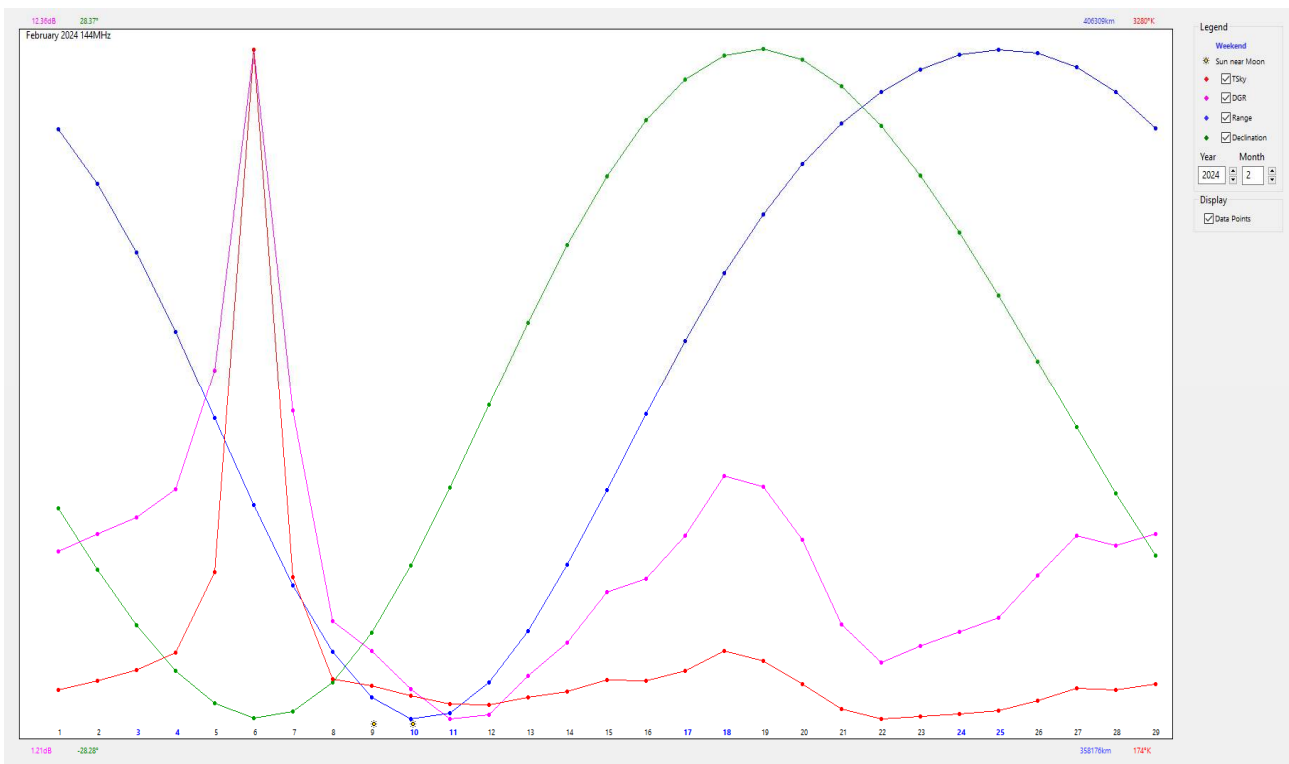
Time Table

5 Feb The February issue of the 144 MHz EME Newsletter ready for download.

Moon Conditions



Moon Graph January 2024



Moon Graph February 2024

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