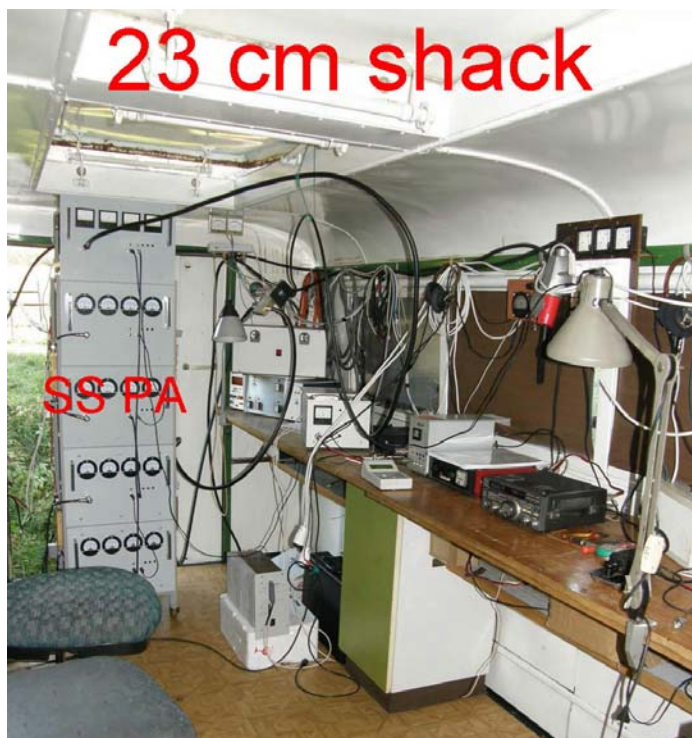


432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS MARCH 2009 VOL 37 #3

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CONDITIONS: Despite some very inhospitable weather, EME conditions during the Feb activity weekend (AW) were outstanding. Everyone seemed to have a great time during the 1296 SSB Contest. At times 1296 sounded more like a portion of the 20 m SSB band. A low liberation rate made for very good SSB copy, even on 432 where several SSB QSOs were made during the AW. I was especially impressed by RW3BP. Sergei did incredible well (20 SSB QSOs!) with his 2.7 m dish! Conditions were not as good during the pre-AW when the 70 cm CW activity time period (ATP) was scheduled, but there still was a reasonable turnout. Unfortunately I was delay in getting this newsletter (NL) completed causing it to miss this month's ATP (28 Feb/1 March). This time ATP activity and conditions (except for some non-reciprocal Faraday) were very good and will be reported on in the next NL. Because of the DUBUS/REF Contests, there will not be another ATP until May. At the end of this month will be the 10 GHz Contest (28/29 March) and a week later the 432 and 5760 Contest (4/5 April). If these were not enough to keep things interesting, there are also a number of up coming dxpeditions! Operation from Nigeria on 23 and 70 cm should begin this month – see 5N0EME below. DJ8MS is planning a mini 1296 dxpedition in OZ around the 7/8 March AW – see Tor's report. There is also potential 70 cm EME activity from H40HP around the March AW, but reports in www.mmmomvhf.de do not look promising. More exciting is DL1YMK's dxpedition to Northern Ireland in May – see Michael's report, and 70 cm EME activity from 40 in May – see PA2CHR's report. There is also a small chance of 70 cm EME from Kenya (5Z4EME) in April.

SSB EME CONTEST HIGH SCORES: Because of the WX conditions, the scores this year were lower than last year, but still impressive. OK1CA appears to have retaken the top fun maker spot with 976 points. In second place is LX1DB with 896 pints, and followed by PI2CAM with 840 points, HB9Q with 728, K2UYH 630 points and SP6JLW with 518 p0ints.



SP7JLW's shack used in the SSB EME Contest

5N0EME: Bodo (DL3OCH) dl3och@gmx.de writes that plans for his dxpedition to 5N are on schedule -- I have shipped about 60 kg of equipment. I

will keep you up to date. [See last months NL for more details. Activity could begin any day now. Bodo will be in Nigeria until July].

8J1AXA: Seiji (JH6RTO) sends news about operation on 7 Feb between 0556 and 1950. [Unfortunately this new arrived too late for the last NL and conflicted with the SSB Contest]. This activity was associated with a Moon Bounce Seminar for Young Generations. There operation was concentrated on CW/SSB near 432.015 with high school students operating/trying for the first time moonbounce with their maximum power output (200 W, 50 W or 20 W) depending of their license.

AL7RT: Dan dpahunt@alaska.net was active during the Feb AW on 1296 – On 7 Feb, I worked K2UYH (SSB) and N0OY (CW) - I was running low power by mistake when he could not hear me, Pete's receiver is fine. The next day, I worked OE9ERC (SSB), N0OY again (CW) and VE6TA (CW). I also CWNR VA7MM.

DD7PC: Marco dd7pc@gmx.de after a not too successful try at 23 cm QRP EME a while ago has decided to do EME on 70 cm now -- I have already QSO'd DL7APV and PI9CAM with a single 15 el yagi and 300-400 W. I changed last weekend my pol from horiz to vert. DL7APV copied me 4 dB lower than our last QSO. I suspect this may be normal and that vert pol is possibly only better between stations in Eur and NA. So I am particularly interested in skeds with big station in W/VE. I will add a second yagi in a couple of weeks, but I would like to find out if vert or horz pol is better for me. [My experience is that Faraday changes from day to day on 432 and that there is no one fixed pol that will be best for all times. DL9KR has been particularly successful using only horz pol].

DJ3JJ: Andreas dj3jj@gmx.net is studying and gathering data on EME station on receive performance. He has created RX performance table for 432 and 1296 EME at <http://www.do9bc.de/index.php?page=806688781&f=1&i=1179997641&s=806688781>, and is asking for additional stations to please send information for this table. Andreas reports that interest in the table is very high with > 200 hits/day.

DJ8MS: Tor dj8ms@web.de is planning a mini 23 cm QRP dxpedition to OZ (probably in JO56 (and possibly also JO66) with activity 7/8 March and a few of the following days. Conditions on Saturday/Sunday seem to offer particularly promising conditions. I will have a long (67 el) yagi and 100 W. My past EME QSOs were with only a 44 el (3 m boom) yagi, so I'm expecting another 1.5 - 2 dB. Stations interested in skeds, please e-mail me. I'm presently off 70 cm due to problems with my PA. I'm looking for a replacement. It is probably time to go for FETs.

DK3WG: Jurgen dk3wg@online.de remains active on 70 cm EME. He is primarily active on JT and in Dec added initial QSOs using JT65B with RW6AG, UK/DL9LBH new dxcc, OE3SJA, LZ1DX, EA3XU and PI9CAM in Jan.

DL1YMK: Michael dl1ymk@aol.com has announced his 2009 dxpedition plans. He will be QRV as MI/DL1YMK in Northern Ireland from Sunday, 24 May to Thursday 11 June -- It will hopefully be our first 4-band EME DXpedition. We plan to activate 70, 23, 13 cm and for the first time 9 cm. The 23 cm DUBUS Contest is covered by this period (30th/31st May). It is quite a difficult period of time moon-wise because we have only the second half of the declination period. For this reason operation on all 4 bands is planned in the first week despite the fact that much of the time will be during normal working hours. We have also scheduled a second day on all bands around the weekends, despite the very low declination (especially 5th/6th of June), but it will still be feasible to work into the US. Because of the immense transportation costs for the equipment to Uruguay last year, this year we will perform a kind of "low budget" dxpedition by car (saving money for another 'DX'- dxpedition in 2010. All the rigs will be stuffed into Monika's SUV (hopefully it fit!). We will then

drive (including 2 ferries) to Maggee Island (IO74du) where we have booked a nice holiday home. Weather permitting (it is AGAIN a very windy location - we love to take risks, it seems), we will be able to bring Northern Ireland on the moon for the first time on 23, 13 and 9 cm. The antenna will be again our 4.1 m stressed dish, running full legal output on 70 and 23 cm, 400 W on 13 cm (widely improved TX-power against CX) and 150 W on 9 cm. Operating frequencies will be 432.045, 1296.045, 2320.100 (TX/RX) and 2304.100 (RX), 2301.975 (RX) and 3400.100. Our operating plan is as follows: 24 May - 23 cm, 25 May 23 cm, 26 May 13 cm, 27 May 9 cm, 28 May 23 cm, 29 May 70 cm, 30/31 May 23 cm (DUBUS Contest), 1 June 13 cm, 02 June 23 cm (JT), 5 June 23 cm, 6 June 70 cm, the rest of the days are spare time - just in case. K1RQG will coordinate skeds for us as in previous years.

DL7APV: Bernd DL7APV@gmx.de was active in the on the 70 cm CW ATP and the Feb AW - I worked on 31 Jan I1NDP, K2UYH, K0RZ, G4RGK, N4GJV, IK6EIW, K1RQG, NC1I and K3MF. Not so much activity, but nice to see many US guys on. The following day I had to keep the antenna in save position due to very high winds, and had to cancel my sked with KA7V. I worked Barry on a resked the next weekend (AW). I did not hear WB7QBS, but had a nice SSB QSOs with P19CAM and WA4NJP. Both were (55). I have received a new rotor and my neighbor will weld a new top section for the EME antenna. I am waiting for spring - hi.

G3LTF: Peter g3lft@btinternet.com reports not a lot of activity in Feb because of cold snowy WX - Setting the feeds in place and undoing the dish has not seemed very inviting. On 31 Jan I was very pleased to make initial 432 QSOs with VE2ZAZ #421 and KA7V #422. I know that both will be workable by many other 432 stations. I also had a nice CW chat with K1RQG. The next activity was on 6 Feb on 1296 when I worked SP7DCS, ON4BCB and UT5JWCW. On 7 Feb, I spent the first part of my moon window on 432 and worked J11NNJ, JA5NNS and 8J1AXA for initial #423. Later on I came on 1296 for the SSB Contest and worked 20 stations in 10 major grids, OE9ERC, G4CCH, ON4BCB, HB9Q (with HB9JAW at the mic), DF3RU, OK1CA, HB9MOON, SV3AAF, LX1DB, OZ6OL, OE5JFL, P19CAM, RW3BP, VE6TA, DJ9YW, W7BBM, OK3RM, N0OY, K2UYH and VE3KRP. Heard were IW2FZR, N2UO, SP6JLW and KD5FZX. The band was pretty full, but my softrock SDR was a big help in finding a clear spot to call CQ (.034) and I got 10 replies, which is pretty unusual for me with 400 W at the feed. I think conditions were very good. The moon was at perigee and the libration was low. I have proposed an activity weekend for 9 cm. [See latter part of the NL].

G4DZU: Doug doug.parker@btinternet.com is QRV again on 1296 EME - I back on after some time with 400 W and my 3 m dish. I've cut back the trees and Sun noise is back up to my usual levels of 10 dB. I tried to be QRV for the SSB Contest, but had relay problems. The problem has now been cured and I should be active in the future.

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com was active during the Feb AW on 432 only -- The weather was appalling. We had snow every day for the previous week. I had to de-ice the lines before the PA would run. Conditions seemed pretty good but activity was down probably due to the WX in Europe. I worked on CW JA6AHB, PE1RDP, I1NDP, DL7APV, K0RZ, K1RQG and NC1I, and on JT DL7APV, LZ1DX, OH2BNH, OK2POL, I1NDP, UA4API, UA4AQL, P19CAM, UA3PTW and S53RM. Back on CW, 8J1AXA was worked but they were rather weak - the operator at the time was only licensed for 50 W.

HB9Q: Dan hb9q@hb9q.ch send in his group's log for the SSB contest - We QSO'd on 7 Feb at 1840 OH2DG (56/58) KP, 1846 OE9ERC (57/ 58) JN, 1903 P19CAM (58/59) JO, 1908 G4CCH (57/58) IO, 1911 HB9MOON (57/59) JN, 1913 DF3RU (57/58) JN, 1914 SP6JLW (57/58) JO, 1918 DL1YMK (56/57) JN, 1920 SP7DCS (52/55) JO, 1925 UT5JWCW (54/58) KN, 2002 LX1DB (58/58) JN, 2250 OE5JFL (55/57) JN, 2252 RW3BP (55/57) (55/57) KO, 2257, OK1CA, (57/58) JO, 2301 IW2FZR (55/57) JN, 2305 N2UO (55/58) FM, 2313 OK3RM (55/58) JN, 2316 DJ9YW (55/57) JO, 2320 G3LTF (55/57) IO, 2324 K2UYH (57/57) FN, 2333 OE9ERC (59/59) dupe, 2342 OZ6OL (56/57) JO, 2355 VE6TA (57/58) DO and 2357 SV3AAF (57/58) KM, and on 8 Feb at 0000 ON4BCB (57/56) JO, 0025 VE3KRP (53/57) EN, 0035 N0OY (55/57) EM, 0042 W7BBM (55/57) DM and 0054 KD5FZX (55/54) EM. All QSO were SSB to SSB for a total of 28x2x13 = 728 points. HB9JAW did much of the microphone work.

I1NDP: Nando nando.pellegrini@tiscali.it was active on 70 cm EME in Feb - I could operate only on Saturday of the AW and found only a few mostly weak signals. I suspect the weather with a frozen thick fog had a lot to do with the turnout and signal levels. It was much worse on Sunday with a continuous snow fall. I was not able to copy a single station and not the smallest trace of an echo. I worked N4GJV (weak), K0RZ, DL7APV (the only loud signal), G4RGK and LX1DB. I hope for a better condx the next AW.

IK6EIW: Stefano asmag@libero.it reports on the Feb AW -- I had a lot of fun on 70 cm despite only one QSO. I heard great signals from K0RZ, N4GJV and NC1I. K1RQG also had a big signal and was CWNr many times, but Joe did not hear me. I had only one QSO with DL7APV. I hope for better luck next time. I am using 4 x 26 el 8 wl BV yagis and 500 W.

IW2FWZ: Dario dario.fzr@gmail.com reports on his activity during the SSB contest - I made a total of 15 QSOs all on SSB in 6 sectors for 180 points. Good fun, but unfortunately no NA stations. I heard only VE6TA but no QSO! Worked were on 7 Feb at 1547 P19CAM (51/56) JO, 1625 LX1DB (55/56) JN, 1643 ON7UN (55/54) JO, 2652 OK1CA (55/55) JO, 1708 OE9ERC (55/54) JN, 1731 SP6JLW (54/42) JO, 2055 UT5JWCW (55/55) KN, 2106 RW3BP (55/55) KO, 2112 DF3RU (55/54) JN, 2210 GW3XYW (51/44) IO, 2248 SV3AAF (55/44) KM, 2259 HB9Q (57/55) JN, 2308 HB9MOON (57/57) JN, 2318 G4CCH (56/55) IO and 2336 ON4BCB (55/52) JO.

JA4BLC: Yoshiro ja4blc@web-sanin.co.jp was QRV on 23 cm PM65ML in the SSB Contest - I suffered from heavy wind during my NA window, which fortunately stopped before EUR window and I enjoyed some SSB contacts. I QSO'd on 8 Feb all on SSB at 0920 partial JA6CZD (33/42) sector?, 1510 partial VK3NX (33/?) lost, 1525 OK1CA (55/55) JO, 1548 P19CAM (56/55) JO, 1627 LX1DB (57/56) JN, SP6JLW (55/52) JO and 1644 RW3BP (55/55) KO for a total score of 5x2x3 = 30 points. I hope to be QRV on 5760 and SWL on 10 GHz during the DUBUS EUR EME Contest at the end of March.

K1ROG: Joe k1rqg@aol.com was on the moon during the Feb AW on 432 and worked the following: DL5FN, DF3RU, 8J1AXA, N4GJV, W8TXT, NC1I, K7XQ, KL6M, WA4NJP (SSB), KL6M (SSB) and KA7V. Heard during the weekend were DL7APV, S53RM, I1NDP, G4RGK and OE3JPC. Also heard and called was WB7QBS. Glenn was nice copy (539), but no contact. During the following week Joe worked WB7QBS. Glenn has again (539) with 100 W and 16 yagis. He could tell Glenn was busy trying to manually track the moon as well as maintain the contact. Joe also worked K5JL on 70 cm EME. Joe could not change feeds during the AW due to extreme weather conditions and thus was sorry to miss the 1296 SSB Contest.

K5JL: Jay k5jl@hughes.net has put his 432 MHz feed in his dish and should be ready to run on 28 Feb starting around 1530. He will be looking for new 70 cm EME stations as well as old friends. If anyone needs Jay in particular, you can drop him an email. If all goes well Jay will be operating through out the 70 cm ATP. Jay is interested in 40 in May.

K7XQ: Jeff k7xq@secure.elite.net writes - During the Feb AW I worked on 432 NC1I (559) for an initial and K1RQG (549) and KL6M (549). All had FB signals! Presently I am using 8 X 24 el vertically polarized yagis. I plan to add horizontal polarization to these yagis. I normally call CQ on 432.015 +/- 1 kHz and am interested in skeds.

KA7V: Barry vihraw1@gmail.com was active in Feb and completed a 70 cm EME skeds with G3LTF but heard nil from LX1DB. Later during the AW he worked SM2CEW and DL7APV. Barry will be removing his existing preamp in preparation for a new lower NF one. He may be off EME for a couple of weeks as a result of the switch over.

KL6M: Mike melum@alaska.net reports that he finally got back on the moon after a long absence during the Feb AW. I was on 70 cm and worked only 8J1AXA (O/O) for initial #200! My polarity rotator was frozen in vertical and could not move it at all. I had S6 echoes, but 8J1AXA had a hard time with me. I also heard JA9BOH (O) copy, but he could not hear me, because I could not optimize my TX polarity. I was also on at my moonrise on 7 Feb and called CQ on 432.010. Someone was testing and calling me. I QRZ'd a few times and whoever it was gave up - very annoying! I brought the rotor inside to thaw/dry out, and on 8 Feb worked NC1I (589/589), K7XQ (559/539) #201, WA4NJP (559/559), K1RQG (579/579), WA4NJP (55/55) SSB - I think that was my first SSB on 432 EME and K1RQG (56/56) on SSB. Then the rotor froze up again, so went QRT. I am building up some 432 LNAs with very good results, around 0.3 dB NF. I am also building a few more W7CNK 23 cm reproductions too and am planning to build a couple 23 cm square septum feeds, and have them available for some potential upcoming new activity (more on this later).

LA9NEA: Viggo la9nea@online.no was QRV in the SSB Contest for a short while -- The WX condx Saturday was terrible with a heavy snow fall, so I went home early from my EME site. Everything worked just fine. I QSO'd on 1296 the following stations: UT5JWCW (559/559) CW, OK3RM (549/559) CW, SP6JLW (55/55) SSB, JA6CZD (559/559) CW, SV3AAF (54/53) SSB, LX1DB (57/57) SSB, OZ4MM (55/54) SSB and OH2DG (55/44) SSB. Next planned activity will be on the 28 Feb/1 March weekend. My EME setup is a 5.3 m dish with VE4MA feed, 6 x 7289 ring PA at 500 W or MKU 13200B 250 W (spare)

SSPA, NE32484 0.28 dB NF LNA and second stage Kuhne MGF 4953A 0.4 dB NF LNA.

LX1DB: Willi wbauer@pt.lu reports on his activity in the SSB "fun" contest -- I worked on 7 Feb at 1605 ON7UN (57/57) JO, 1607 SP6JLW (56/57), JN57, 1609 PI9CAM (59/59) JO52, 1610 RW3BP (55/57) KN, 1612 UT5JCW (56/58) KN, 1615 VK3NX (56/57) QF21, 1621 OK3RM (55/58) JN69, 1625 IW2FZR (56/55) JN, 1629 JA4BLC (56/57) PM55, 1631 OK1CA (57/59) JO70, 1636 OE5JFL (55/58) JN, 1724 LA9NEA (57/57) JO55, 1738 DF3RU (57/57) JN59, 1744 DL1YMK (56/57) JO, 1747 IK3COJ (55/57) JN65, 1753 OH2LG (56/57) JP, 1754 SV3AAF (56/57) KM17, 1811 OZ4MM (57/55) JO, 1952 GW3XYW (56/55) IO, 2001 HB9Q (58/58) JN47, 2004 SP7DCS (55/55) JO, 2010 G4CCH (57/59) IO93QL, 2015 OE9ERC (58/58) JN58, 2026 G4CBW (54/55) IO38, 2340 HB9MOON (56/57) JN57, 2347 K2UYH (57/57) FN20QG, 2351 G3LTF (56/58) IO91, 2355 VE3KRP (55/57) EN, 0000 N2UO (55/56) FM, 0004 VE7BBM (57/57) DM42, 0006 VE6TA (57/68) DO33, 0009 ON4BCB (56/57) JO21 and 0015 N0OY (55/57) EM18. I had to end operation early due to heavy snow and high winds (40 KT), but still scored $32 \times 14 \times 2 = 896$ points. During the contest I measured 0.8 dB of moon noise. This performance was a consequence of optimizing the feed system with the RX preamplifier mounted in the feed horn by using a high ENR noise source (26.5) with a 8970B Noise figure meter. I calibrate it with attenuators in front to get a lower ENR out in the calibrating phase. Then I connect the ENR source on an antenna in front of the dish and turned the preamplifier (mounted on the feed system) for best noise figure. This is of course a relative measurement for optimization. Then I position the feed horn for the highest solar noise level by using always the same cold sky reference position. I am working on 432 transistor PA, this is the only band without an SSPA (with tubes). I use 4 modules of 350 W each and will bring them together with 3 dB couplers as I do on others bands as 144 where I have 4 500 W modules at 48 V and 1296 with 4 450 W modules at 28 V (modified from network services) and 2304 2 modules at 350 W each at 28 V (also modified from network services) and 3400 2 modules at 220 W each at 12 V. On the 3 m dish that I use on the higher bands, I have on 5.6 GHz 2 modules at 150 W each, on 10 GHz 2 modules at 55 W each at 12 V, and 24 GHz 4 modules at 12 W each at 9 V. On the higher bands, I have the PA always in the feed system including the transverters - practically no loss in RF. All the PAs from 144 including 5.6 GHz use quarter (or $\frac{3}{4}$) wavelength homebrew couplers. After the initial set up, there is no more touch for correction. So this is a very simple and stable manner to combine power amplifiers. All ports are isolated and below 1W of RF. For 10 GHz and 24 GHz combining, I use home made magic T combiners. They are also so stable that I never touch the amps after set up, even on 24 GHz. On the iso ports on 10 GHz, the power is less than 25 mW and on 24 GHz less than 10 mW!

N1KI: Phil n1ki@arrl.net reports on his 432 status -- I have not been very active lately, but I am still QRV on both 2 m and 70 cm and available for skeds. On 70 cm I run approximately 700 W to 2 x 9 w/ yagis horizontally mounted with full az/el. I have a high noise level due to several local sources, so I can usually only hear the larger stations on CW. I have had more success with JT65 and monitor the JT65 web site when I am QRV.

N2UO: Marc reports that he is making progress on his new 20' dish -- I poured the concrete for the new dish base. It is only 3' deep, but should be adequate. I also finished the optical encoders (a lot of work!), and now am working on the control box that will be mounted outside and includes the relays, power supply, etc. for the azimuth and elevation control. After that's done, I will take the mount outside and will start assembling the reflector. I found very good conditions during the SSB Contest! The SSB signals were of superb quality due to the low libration. I worked, all 2 x SSB on 7 Feb 7 at 2304 HB9Q JN and 2310 HB9MOON JN, and on 8 Feb at 0001 LX1DB JN, 0105 K2UYH FN, 0134 OK1CA JO and 0142 OE9ERC JN for a total 6 x 2 x 3 locators for 36 points. I also worked OK1CA CW x SSB after he answered my CW CQ, but then I found him later calling CQ on SSB and we worked again 2 x SSB, which is the QSO I report for the contest, and SV3AAF on CW as well, but not in the contest.

N4GJV: Ron's qstdemb@yahoo.com recent 70 cm EME activity report follows -- On 31 Jan I contacted I1NDP, K2UYH, K0RZ, DL7APV, K1RQG and NC11. G3LTF was heard. Conditions seemed to be good, but non reciprocal polarity alignment was an issue with the fixed polarity Eur stations. On 7 Feb, I contacted 8J1AXA and K1RQG, and heard J11NNJ and NC11. Apparently my receive polarity situation was much better for 8J1AXA, relative to Dec, as their signal was quite strong this time. Conditions, in general were very good. On 8 Feb a QSO was completed with W8TXT. I also heard KA7V with a superb signal and called him without success. WB7QBS was heard. Conditions seemed to be excellent. It's unfortunate that there wasn't more activity! I was also QRV on 9 Feb looking for WB7QBS and K7XQ with no success, but did QSO W8TXT again.

NC11: Frank eme@nc11.com as reported last month is back in operation with his big 70 cm array -- I was active for a few hours during the Feb AW. Conditions were very good with sharp polarity peaks and strong signals. Activity was also pretty good. I QSO'd on 7 Feb at 2150 I1NDP (559/589), 2200 OE3JPC (559/579), 2209 W8TXT (579/589) - by far the loudest I have ever heard Mike, 2235 G4RGR (O/O) - I suspect I had the polarity wrong, 2245 S53RM (559/569), 2333 K1RQG (599/599) - incredible signal and 2359 WA4NJP (559/559), and 8 Feb at 0110 partial WB7QBS - I called Glenn many times but only got QRZs, 0157 KL6M (589/589) and 0258 K7XQ (569/559) - heard (579) earlier. I also copied on 7 Feb OK1TEH. I found conditions to be noticeably better the previous weekend. I had lots of interruptions and distractions so I was not able to stay active for long periods of time. I much prefer getting on during the late night and early morning hours when the rest of the family is sleeping!

OE5JFL: Hannes j.fasching@eduhi.at sends his SSB EME contest results -- I managed to get my beacon station operational on SSB via remote control just before the contest. Although a 100 W is a little on the low side power wise with the 5 m dish for SSB and my operating time was limited, I still was able to work 12 stations. QSO'd were on 7 Feb at 1635 LX1DB (56/55) JN, 1658 OK1CA (56/55) JO, 1710 RW3BP (54/54) KO, 2052 DF3RU (55/43) JN, 2250 HB9Q (57/55) JN, 2300 OE9ERC (57/54) JN, 2305 HB9MOON (57/55) JN, 2315 G4CCH (55/54) IO and 2325 ON4BCB (54/51) JO, and 8 Feb at 0003 G3LTF (55/54) IO, 0010 K2UYH (56/54) FN and 0020 PI9CAM (56/54) JO for $12 \times 2 \times 5 = 120$ points. Heard only were 12 stations, W7BBM, SV3AAF, LA9NEA, IW2FZR, OZ6OL, DJ9YW, OK3RM, SP6JLW, JA4BLC, VE6TA, UT5JCW and N0OY.

OK1CA: Franta srihavka@upcmail.cz sends his log from SSB Contest -- I was active only eight hours in 1296 SSB Contest, but it was a very nice time. The conditions were very good with high activity and strong SSB signals. I worked SSB/SSB VK3NX, SP6JLW, OK3RM, UT5JCW, JA4BLC, LX1DB, ON7UN, RW3BP (56) excellent signal from his 2.4 m dish, IW2FZR, OE5JFL, HB9MOON, SV3AAF, OE9ERC, OZ4MM, DL1YMK, DJ9YW, OH2DG, DF3RU, HB9Q, G4CCH, ON4BCB, G3LTF, K2UYH, PI9CAM, VE6TA, OZ6OL, VE3KRP, N0OY, N2UO, W7BBM and VA7MM SSB/CW. CWNR was LA9NEA. I ended with a score of $(30 \times 2 + 1) \times 1 \times 2 = 976$ points. My station consisted of my 10 m dish with horn septum feed, 500 W SSPA, preamp + TRX + FT897D.

ON4BCB: Walter walter.crauwels@skynet.be unfortunately had to work during the Feb AW -- I returned home at 2300 and was only QRV until 0030 on 23 cm during the SSB Contest. I listened during the evening via my "Remote" setup and noticed a lot of activity with good signals. Once home I worked DF3RU (54/56), G3LTF (55/56), OK1CA (54/55), OE5JFL/B (51/54), K2UYH (53/55), RW3BP (52/56) excellent signal!, IW2FZR (52/55), HB9MOON (55/56), PI9CAM (55/58), HB9Q (56/57) and LX1DB (56/58). I heard but did not find during my limited operation time OZ4MM, OZ6OL, SP6JLW and VE6TA. It was fun. I hope to be QRV and see all of you this year on 13 cm (2302/2304/2320/2424).

PA2CHR: Chris post@pa2chr.nl has an opportunity to put 40 back on 70 cm EME and wonders if there is still interest in this DXCC since OK1DFC's trip. He would bring a 70 cm rig with 4 x 16 el yagis (21 dBd) and 700 - 800 W. The time slot is 26 May to 4 June. [Please let Chris know if you are interested! I am among those that still need 40 on 70 cm].

PI9CAM: Jan (PA3FXB) jvmmmap@bart.nl sends the 23 cm EME SSB Contest log for the Dwingeloo dish group - It was very nice to hear all those voices off the moon.

And those signal strenghts...wow! We QSO'd on 7 Feb 1524 RW3BP (56/57) KO, 1533 OK3RM (57/54) JN, 1536 UT5JCW (59/56) KN, 1540 VK3NX (56/53) QF, 1545 IW2FZR (51/56) JN, 1549 JA4BLC (56/55) PM, 1554 SP6JLW (54/58) JO, 1557 ON7UN (58/59) JO, 1609 LX1DB (59/59) JN, 1842 G4CCH (57/58) IO, 1851 DJ9YW (55/57) JO, 1854 HB9MOON (59/59) JN, 1859 HB9Q (58/59) JN, 1905 DL1YMK (56/56) JO, 1908 DF3RU (57/57) JO, 2103 GW3XYW (55/57) IO, 2127 OZ6OL (56/56) JO, 2132 SP7DCS (53/53) JO, 2142 OE9ERC (59/59) JN and 2351 ON4BCB (55/58) JN, and on 8 Feb at 0001 OK1CA (58/58) JN, 0006 G3LTF (57/58) IO, 0020 OE5JFL (56/54) JN, 0023 N0OY (57/57) EM, 0030 VE3KRP (56/54) EN, 0035 SV3AAF (55/58) KM, 0039 VE6TA (58/58) DO, 0050 K2UYH (57/59) FN, 0207 W7BBM (55/57) DM and 0214 VA7MM (55/55) CN for a total of $30 \times 2 \times 14 = 840$. It was a great event at the big dish, but once again it was difficult to choose on which band to be because we wanted to give everybody a chance to have a QSO with us. We can only operate one band at the time. It is difficult to break away from a pile-up on 2 m or 70 cm to go back to 23 cm. But we had to do that several times - sorry for that, but we had to do that because otherwise we should have missed a lot on 23 cm. I think we missed a few on 23, but not too much. At the

end of the night we had 114 QSOs in the log on 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm - our best night ever!



P19CAM operating position during SSB Contest:
from top down - Eene (PA3CEG), René (PE1L) and Eltje (PA3CEE).

RW3BP: Sergey rw3bp@co.ru and Dmitry joined forces to produce an astonishing score for a 2.7 m dish, even with 500 W. They QSO'd on 7 Feb at 1526 P19CAM (57/56) JO, 1611 LX1DB (55/57) JN, 1646 JA4BLC (55/55) PM, 1651 OK1CA (55/56) JO, 1655 UT5JCW (55/55) KN, 1659 OE9ERC (55/57) JN, 1706 G4CCH (54/56) IO, 1710 OE5JFL (44/54) JN, 1809 OZ4MM (54/57) JO, 1831 SV3AAF (44/55) KM, 1837 OH2DG (55/56) KP, 1929 DF3RU (54/55) JN, 1937 SP6JLW (53/54) JO, 2111 IW2FZR (55/55) JN, 2157 GW3XYW (54/55) IO, 2253 HB9Q (55/57) JN, 2326 HB9MOON (56/57) JN and 2335 ON4BCB (52/56) JO, and on 8 Feb at 0011 G3LTF (54/55) IO and 0042 K2UYH (55/56) FN for a total of $20x2x8 = 320$ points.

SP6JLW: Andy sp6jlw@wp.pl reports that he and Jerzy, SP6OPN operated the 1296 EME SSB Contest together and achieved a score of $(22x2 + 3)x11 = 517$ points. They used a 6.5 m dish and 16 x BLV958 1 kW SSPA and ATF54143 LNA. QSO'd were on 7 Feb at 1432 OK1CA (53/56) JO, 1555 P19CAM (54/58) JO, 1607 LX1DB (57/56) JN, 1631 UT5JCW (55/57) KN, 1634 ON7UN (57/57) JO, 1643 JA4BLC (52/55) PM, 1650 LA9NEA (55/55) JO, 1711 OE9ERC (58/55) JN, 1740 IW2FZR (42/54) JN, 1742 DF3RU (55/56) JN, 1813 OZ4MM (58/57) JO, 1840 SV3AAF (56/55) KM, 1854 G4CCH (56/57) IO, 1914 HB9Q (58/57) JN, 1936 RW3BP (53/54) KO, 1948 GW3XYW (53/44) IO, 2046 OH2DG (53/44) KP, 2319 HB9MOON (55/55) JN and 2330 ON4BCB (54/53) JO, and on 8 Feb at 0018 K2UYH (55/57) FN, 0241 OK3RM (44/54) JN, 0245 VE6TA (55/55) DO, 0253 OZ6OL (44/54) JO, 0325 VA7MM (55/55) CN and 0401 NY2Z (55/55) FN.



SP7DCS's 3 m dish use in the SSB Contest

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs@wp.pl reports great fun, many QSO and new stations in the SSB EME Contest -- I was QRV on 23 cm on Friday then on Saturday

switched to 2 m for the DUBUS ATP there. Later I QSY'd back to 23 cm for SSB contest and came back to 2 m for the second pass of the ATP. On 23 cm using a 3 m dish and 200+ W, I worked on Friday, 6 Feb GW3XYW for an initial #62 and DXCC 24, G3LTF and ON4BCB #63, and on Saturday I tried SSB on 23 cm for the first time with my small station. TNX to all for your patience and good ears! I added on 7 Feb on SSB OE9ERC (54/43), HB9Q (55/52), LX1DB (55/55) and P19CAM (53/53), and on 8 Feb on CW OK3RM #64 (449/449).

SV3AAF: Petros worked during the SSB Contest on 7 Feb at 1710 LA9NEA (54/53) JO, 1722 OK1CA (53/55) JO, 1741 OE9ERC (57/55) JN, 1755, LX1DB (57/56) JN, 1814 OH2DG (55/44), KP, 1826 UT5JCW (55/55) CW-SSB KN, 1830 RW3BP (44/55) KO, 1840 SP6JLW (55/56) JO, 1900 DL1YMK (54/54) CW, 1907 GW3XYW (55/55) CW, 1916 DF3RU (55/55) JN, 1919 G4CCH (56/56) IO, 2003 GW3XYW (44/44) IO, 2250 IW2FZR (44/55) JN, 2321 OK3RM (55/55) CW, 2334 N2UO (O/O) CW, 2345 G3LTF (44/55) IO and 2358 HB9Q (58/55-57) JN, and on 8 Feb at 0006 HB9MOON (55/53) JN, 0031 K2UYH (44/54) FN and 0037 P19CAM (55/56) JO for a final contest score $(16x2+1)x7 = 231$ points.

UA3PTW: Dmitrij ua3ptw@inbox.ru was active on 70 cm EME in Jan. He worked on CW UA4API, V5/KT6Q and 9H1TX, and on JT65B OH4LA, UK/DL9LBH, LU7DZ, YU7AA, VE2ZAZ, RW3WR, JG2BRI, V5/KT6Q, UA4API and SP3VSC.

UA9FAD: Victor rosmet@perm.raid.ru continues to add QSOs on 23 cm. In Jan, he reports new initials all on JT65C with LA9NEA, UT5JCW, HB9HAL, P19CAM, OE9ERC, W5LUA and HB9Q.

UT5JCW: Serge was active in the 23 cm SSB Contest using a 3.7 m dish and 450 W from KN64sn. He QSO'd 7 Feb at 1525 OK1CA (54/55) JO, 1538 P19CAM (58/56) JO, 1614 LX1DB (58/56) JN, 1633 SP6JLW (57/55) mixed JO, 1655 RW3BP (55/55) KO, 1737 OE9ERC (57/54) JN, 1806 OZ4MM (57/54) JO, 1825 SV3AAF (55/55) mixed KM, 1831 DF3RU (55/54) JN, 1849 OH2DG (55/55) mixed KP, 1852 G4CCH (57/55) IO, 1926 HB9Q (58/54) JN, 2030 HB9MOON (58/53) JN, 2057 IW2FZR (55/55) JN and 2123 GW3XYW (55/53) mixed IO for $(11x2+4)x6 = 156$ points.

V5/KT6Q: Dan (HB9CRQ) dan@hb9q.ch writes -- We have updated our homepage with the photos of the Namibia dxpedition, http://www.hb9q.ch/photo/main.php?g2_itemId=3223. We have also updated the logs with the QSLs we already have received (http://hb9q.ch/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=103&Itemid=139). The V5-QSLs are ordered and should arrive in about 3 weeks. As soon as we get them we will send out the QSLs to all we already got QSLs from. Anyone that did not get my QSL card, please let me know, I am very happy to resend you one immediately! I do QSL 100% direct (if I can find the address) for all initials within at most 3 weeks after the QSO. So if you did not get our QSL after 4 or 5 weeks it was probably lost! In case you are on the list of QSL cards missing, please send again your QSL (HB9Q, Box 133, CH-5737 Menziken, Switzerland), it will be very much appreciated. If you don't QSL or do not want QSLs, I would also appreciate receiving this information. Many thanks.

VA7MM: Mark ve7cmk@hotmail.com writes that his group, VE7CMK Amateur Radio Club, participated in the 1296 EME SSB Contest and completed 6 CW-SSB QSOs on 8 Feb at 0126 OK1CA (55/55) JO, 0152 OE9ERC (55/55) JN, 0215 P19CAM (55/55) JO, 0236 K2UYH (55/55) FN, 0324 SP6JLW (55/55) JO and 0440 VE6TA (55/55) DO. We have 6 QSO points and 4 multipliers for a total of 24 points. In all instances VA7MM transmitted CW and the stations received transmitted SSB. Other contacts made CW-CW on the weekend included OZ6OL, NY2Z, OK3RM and VE6TA. Thanks to OZ6OL for switching to CW to complete the QSO because we could not make out his call when he transmitted SSB. VA7MM intends to be active next in the DUBUS EME Contest on 1296 on 30/21 May. We are available at most other times for scheduled contacts.

VE3KRP: Eddie eddie@tbaytel.net was on moon on 23 cm for the SSB Contest -- I worked LX1DB, HB9Q, P19CAM, G3LTF, OK1CA, OE9ERC and K2UYH on SSB, and OK3RM on CW. On 9 Feb added OZ6OL and tried to contact NA4N but just got QRZs. Not much progress to report on my GS-15B PA project.

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@clearwave.ca was on 23 cm for the SSB Contest and found conditions to be good -- I worked 18 stations including OK3RM for an initial using SSB. I QSO'd VA7MM for 3 m dish SSB/CW contact. I now have power dividers/combiners for in/out on 3400. I am looking forward to see how the combining project works with the Toshiba PAs on 3400. I still have the 23

cm feed in at this time and am waiting for warmer weather to put 13 cm feed in and test the combined Spectrian PAs. I am interested in 40 in May.

VK3UM: Doug tikaluna@bigpond.com was in the fires that afflicted Australia in Feb and miraculously survived without any significant damage to his property. The following report arrived just prior to the fires. His report on the fires then follows -- After 6 days of >43 deg C, I will gladly swap for the overcoats in the northern parts of the world. I had a sked with VE2ZAZ. I tipped the dish over and went Auto track. It found the Moon then at 1 deg and I sat back and waited for sked time. Then I noticed the up indicator was illuminated but the hydraulics were not operating. Gosh I said and drove out to the control system and confirmed the slave up relay was not pulling in. I moved the relay board and it started working. I left an artificial finger (screw driver) in situ and resumed operation. After working Bert on 70 cm, I switched to 23 and ZL1WN returned with a good signal. We did not complete as he had a "problem with the CW", then VE7BBG called and we had an excellent QSO, the first with Cor in decades! I went back into the searing heat to find the problem with the elevation drive relay board. It turned out to be a crack in a track on the vero board I used for the relay drivers. (I hate the stuff but it is quick and easy to use). The track was the one on the very edge of the board and had "horsed shoed" up from the board as the end of the board had warped in the heat. This caused the track to crack. This relay board was firmly fixed in 4 places (with screws) so it could not move, but the edge did and it bent! I came on briefly during the start of the Eur window and worked UA3PTW on 70 with a huge signal as always. I called CQ for half an hour on both bands with no response and gave up. The libration on 23 cm on 31 Jan and 1/2 Feb was quite bad, but it was not evident on 70 cm. On 70 cm Faraday was ~45 on 31/1 but ~90 with deep fading on 1/2.



VK3UM (r) and friend fighting the fires

Then the fires broke out... We had over 80 spot fires (all round us) and one in the bottom paddock of our property. A hectare of my neighbor's place went too. Words cannot describe the devastation. It was blowing up to 75 kph. A major fire that started less than 2 kms from here was responsible for the devastation at Alexander, Narbethong and Marysville and now Healsville. It travelled 30 kms in less than 2 hours. Our area has been isolated. This situation may last for weeks. On Sunday 14 Feb exactly 7 days to the hour after it all began, the crisis eased considerably. We still have a lot of small spot fires and visibility is less than 100 m with the smoke. We stink in more ways than one as the mains power is still days away and a hot shower would be great. We now have our phone and Internet back. We are running on our diesel stand by plant so we have pumps and a basic house supply. It is an eerie sight, from this location we are a small island (hill) of unburnt ground surrounded by what can only be described as sheer and total devastation. We have lost ~20 homes, countless outbuildings etc, but incredibly no fatalities (a 10 km radius of Glenburn/Murrindindi). Unfortunately our adjacent hamlets of Kinglake, Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Hazeldene, Dixons and Steels Creek have effectively been removed (temporarily) from the map. We are still trying to establish contact with friends and associates and things are grim. Bev and I have avoided watching TV as much as possible as reliving it again is not pleasant. We were continually bombarded with ember attack (bark and leaves) that could be heard hitting the house roof (5 nights and days of it). The sheds are full of ash and debris and the house reeks of smoke and fine ash. We are unbelievably lucky and it is impossible to comprehend that the whole place is left standing. The camaraderie has been as only country people would know, and I must make special mention of the fantastic help we have received from the Pipeline Alliance, who too have worked around the clock with us (Country Fire Brigade) operating bulldozers, graders, water trucks and everything they have on hand. They (The Alliance) have been just brilliant. Our fire shed is powered by one of their generators.

Containment lines have been carved through the bush 60 meters wide stretching from Strath Creek to our property here near Murrindindi. The "Pipe people" did it and it is so enormous that it may be possible to see from the Moon! Bev and I have received over 250 emails from concerned friends for which we are so grateful - almost made DXCC! It will not be feasible to respond directly to you all in the near future. There is a huge amount to do around the district. We (our community) are overwhelmed with all the "stuff", from food including (dog, cat, horse and bird seed), clothes, toiletries, etc. that has somehow appeared at our fire station. It is certainly being distributed to those who are in need, many who also are most reluctant to accept as 'others are worse off'. Thank you all, and thank you so much for you lovely messages.

VK5MC: Chris cskeer@seol.net.au is back in operation and writes -- On 3 Jan Eric, VK5LP saw the EME antenna that he started to build in 1980 become a reality! Now living in a nursing home, he was given the medical okay to make the 300 km trip to VK5MC. Eric had made all of the ribs for the new dish, but was not fit enough to go through with the rest of the construction. VK3UM was on 1296 MHz for the occasion and was contacted on EME firstly on CW (549/559) and on SSB (53/55) later VK2JDS was decoded calling CQ on JT65C and signals from a sked with VE7BBG heard but no decoded. The new antenna is a 9.8 m with an F/D of 0.45 using an IMU feed, computer tracked by a VK5DJ controller, which is working well (VK5DJ still has some boards available). Equipment on 1296 is a Minikits transverter and sequencer to a 2C39 water cooled N6CA amplifier giving 65 W and G4DDK 23 cm preamp. Contacts were made back on 16 Nov on 1296 with OK1CA (449/559) and F2TU (549/559) and 14 Dec DF3RU (549/559) using a solid state driver giving 40 W. I have a few commitments that clash with the AWs, so you may not hear me on a lot until later this year. I should have a bit more power on 1296 by then. Some other bands will be activated as time permits.



VK5MC and VK5LP with 9.8 m Erik started in 1980

W5LUA: Al w5lua@sbcglobal.net reports success with his 902 effort. It was close on 7 and 8 Feb. He copied stations including K8EB, WA8RJF and VE4MA. On 8 Feb using a using new DEMI transverter he had similar results. K8EB reported hearing him as well as some of VE4MA. Then finally Al made a QSO on 902.050 on 14 Feb with WA9RJF (O/O). He is interested in additional 902 EME skeds.

W9IX: Doug w9ix1@yahoo.com was only able to be on 23 cm during the AW for a limited time late in the moon window. He only QSO'd OE9ERC on CW/SSB, but did hear K2UYH but he did stay around long enough to work.

WA8RJF: Tony temanuele@kentdisplays.com is on 902 EME and writes -- A very cold and snowy Dec/Jan precluded any EME activity during that period. However, I did work W5LUA on 902 EME on 9 Feb for my 902 EME #1. Al was (O) copy and peaked at the end of our schedule to (519). Our QSO was likely the first EME QSO on the band since 1998. Equipment was a homebrew XVTR driving a pair of Motorola 900 MHz SSPAs combined delivering 400 W. The feed is a W0PW dual dipole design from 1988. The preamp NF is 0.66 dB and the dish is a 3 m TVRO. With Spring approaching I hope to be QRV more often.

WY6G: Herb wy6g@hawaii.rr.com writes -- This year I'm very late getting to Hawaii due to my health situation. I believe it is now under control. The picture of the WA1DMV dish antenna almost made me cry! The phased dual dipole feed reminds me that I believe I have all I need to be active in HI on 432 - relays, LNA, 100 W SSPA, jumper cables, etc. I have not thought out the layout, but I don't want to be out in the rain, the wind, sun... This may be the year!

ZL1MW: Ross rbiggar@ihug.co.nz is still waiting for the return of his transverter from Kuhne that is being modified to make it stabilizer (GPS lock) and thus was not active in Feb -- I have my 500 W SSPA back from DB6NT and am itching to be QRV on 23 cm again. In Jan I had a partial QSO on 1296 with VK3UM. Doug copied me, but I had trouble with his CW. My CW is not too good! [Later he QSO'd K2UYH on JT with excellent signals]. I was using just 150 W from W6PQL SSPA with my 4.5 m (f/d = 0.4) dish with a VE1ALQ feed horn.

ZS6AXT: Ivo zs6axt@telkomsa.net is rather depressed as a result of his many lightning strikes and his health problems, but is working on getting on 10 GHz EME -- We still have lot of rain, so I cannot continue on the 3 cm testing outside. next to the dish. In the meantime I fitted new TCXO into my 3 cm transverter and will test everything inside. I am using a temporary horn from LX1DB (thanks Willi), but its position must be optimized on Sun noise. So far it does not look like the rainy weather will end. I thus must just wait. Hopefully I will be ready for the DUBUS 3 cm contest.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org had some problems in Jan/Feb, but overall a good month -- especially enjoyed the SSB contest. I contacted on 30 Jan at 0256 W3HMS (O/O) on CW for CW initial #288 and mixed #337* - my linear feed was still in place. I was on for the 70 cm CW ATP on 31 Jan but only QSO'd at 1910 N4GJV (549/559), 1939 DL7APV (569/559) and partial K0RZ (559/-). I forgot to turn off my dish AZ rotator, the stop did not operate and lost the chain on dish! This is why I did not respond to Bill. It could have been worse! I had everything fixed by the next day and worked on 1 Feb on 432 random at 1940 UA4ALQ (15DB/O) JT65B for mixed initial 760* and on 1296 at 2130 SP7DCS (559/569) CW, 2150 PA3FXB (12DB/10DB) JT65C, 2215 partial OH5KNG (O/O) JT65 - never replied, 2222 HB9HAL (2DB/7DB) JT65C and 2300 OE9ERC (6DB/O) JT65C. I put my 1296 circular feed back in the dish in preparation for the SSB Contest. I QSO'd on 3 Feb on 1296 at 0230 ZL1MW (10DB/O) JT65C for #338* - I believe this was Ross's first QSO, very good signal. Conditions seemed excellent during the 23 cm SSB contest although activity during the VK/JA window was low. I worked on 7 Feb at 0610 VE6TA (55/55) DO, 0622 AL7RT (549/54) BP, 0835 partial JA4BLC (?/44) PM - lost Yoshiro, 2300 DF3RU (45/55) JN, 2310 HB9MOON (55/57) JN, 2320 OE9ERC (56/44) JN, 2322 HB9Q (57/57) JN, 2328 ON4BCB (55/53) JO, 2332 OK1CA (55/57) JO and 2346 LX1DB (57/57) JN39, and on 8 Jan 0006 OZ6OL (55/55) JO, 0013 W7BBM (56/57) DM, 0016 SP6JLW (57/55) JO, 0115 RW3BP (55/56) KO, 0028 SV3AAF (56/44) KM, 0031 G3LTF (56/56) IO, 0035 G4CCH (55/56) IO, 0038 N0OY (55/56) EM, 0049 P19CAM (57/59) JO, 0054 OK3RP (55/55) JN, 0104 N2UO (54/54) FM, 0142 OH2DG (55/56) KP, 0215 VE3KRP (44/55) EN, 0231 VA7MM (559/55) SSB DN (CW/SSB) for a total $(22 \times 2 + 1)14 = 630$ points. We also ran some tests with DD7PC on 70 cm using JT, and although we have copied each other both ways several time never completed a QSO.

NETNEWS: **K3CB** is available for one the horizon EME skeds on both 70 and 23 cm with high power and large tropo arrays. Contact Owen at owormser@earthlink.net. **VE4SA** is working on his OZ9CR amp, but it is not yet ready for prime time. **WB7QBS** heard NCI1 and K1RQG on 70 cm during the Feb AW and worked Joe a few days later.. **OZ4MM** had problems with WX that limited Stigs activity in Feb. **RW3WR** on 432 worked K7XQ on JT65B in Feb. **UA4API** QSO'd in Jan on 70 cm CW UA3PTW (559) and OK1DFC (539), and on JT65B I1NDP, P19CAM, DL7APV, UA3PTW and OK1DFC. **UA4AOL** reports a JT65B QSO with K2UYH on 432. Dudin is running 2 x 26 el RA3LE yagis and 700 W and can be contacted at ua4aql@qsl.net. **RW6AG** running on 70 cm EME 4 x 27 el (10 wl) yagis and 1 kW, and on 23 cm a 3.7 m dish and 300 W. **N0OY** was active on 23 cm in Feb. He worked on 7 Feb VE6TA, VA7MM and AL7RT. AL7RT was only (339), but later heard with very good copy. **K2DH** was not on for SSB Contest as he had not yet received his SSPA back from repair. Dave did listen and heard a lot of loud 23 cm SSB signals. **VE4MA** has his EME system on 902 and is also now getting 600 W FROM his SSPA on 23 cm. **WDSAGO** will be on moon the next AW on 13 cm and in the DUBUS will also be on 5.7 GHz. **WW2R** is working on 3456 gear. **WA4NJP** is interested in 40 for May on 432 EME. **K6IQI** is working on 13 cm. He has 2 Spectrian SSPAs and various other pieces of equipment and a 10' solid dish. **VE6BGT** has 10' dish and 2 x 4 tube 7289 amps for 1296 and plans to be on soon. **WA9KRT** now has 600 W PA for 432.

For Sale: **DL1YMK** has seven 13 cm high power hybrids (see the last NL) available. If interested e-mail him. **VE4SA** looking for a variac to use with his 23 cm ring PA. **N7ANL** has for sale 2 M2 432-13WLA yagis (31' long, 18.6 dBd) plus coax phasing lines w/N connectors and KLM 430 2-way power divider. He also has a Mirage KP2 70 cm mast mount Gas Fet preamp. All are new and in boxes with manuals. Contact Rick at kootenairadio@netw.com. **VA3TO** has for sale brand new Eimac 7289 (2C39) tubes. The heat sinks can be removed for those wishing to use water jackets. Price is US\$20 each plus postage. **WB7UNU**

reports a couple dishes on trailers for sale (3 and 3.7 m) are for sale. Both are fiberglass and capable of ku-band operation. The contact Ken Staeger at KenStaeger@aol.com. Prices are negotiable, but he needs them gone soon.

TECHNICAL - GS15 PA INFORMATION: Mats, KD5FZ reports that the first run of his GS15 cavities (serial #s 1-30) were designed around the initial batch of tubes he had. After purchasing and testing additional tubes, he discovered the newer ones had a higher capacitance and would not tune in his cavities (early versions #1-30). Machining the cavity ring height 0.5 mm smaller corrects this problem and was implemented in all cavities produced since (serial #31-125) to solve this problem. Typical test results with 12 W drive and correct voltages are 300 W output and 51% efficiency. [TNX to W9IIX for forwarding this info].

9 CM ACTIVITY WEEKEND PROPOSAL BY G3LTF: In the last two years we have held a 9 cm AW in June. I propose that we do the same again this year on 20/21 June. If you have a 9 cm allocation in your country, but are not yet active then look at the links below for some more information: <http://www.moonbounce.info/3.4%20GHz%20Moonbounce%20Made%20Easy.pdf>, http://www.ntms.org/files/Florence_%203_4.pdf, and <http://vk3nx.com/9cm.html>. There is also more info on QSOs, etc in the 432 and Above Newsletters for July/Aug 2007 and 2008, see http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm_arc.html. All the activity last year was on 3400.100 +/- but if you have only 3456 capability then all the NA stations and several other stations around the world can operate on 3456 or work crossband, so don't be put off giving 9 cm EME a try.

FINAL: I have very bad news. Another EMEer has joined the silent keys, N2HLT. Leon was only 41 and died on 7 Feb from a massive heart attack. He has on 70 cm EME for many years. Although not particularly active lately, he was planned to become QRV more often. We can not afford to lose people like Leon. He will be missed.

Correction -- in the last NL the person in the K6JEY picture with the hat in the K6JEY picture is not K6JEY, but KJ6HZ, chairman of the San Bernardino Microwave Society.

The was considerable discussion on the 20 m EME net on making Sun noise measurements and the problems of a getting a good measurement with large Sun noise levels due to effect of AGC and non-linearity (stages compressing). An excellent way to get accurate sun noise measurements is to use the software radio hardware becoming available. SDRiQ besides giving a wideband display makes an excellent receiver for measuring Sun noise,

This time of year is always especially busy for me. I had hoped to get the NL out last weekend, but I just could not get it done sooner. I am sorry for the delay. I plan to be active for the EWW 10 GHz (WX permitting) and the 432 EME Contests and will be looking for you all. PSE keep the info and tech material coming. 73, Al -- K2UYH



WA8RJF's dish used to make first 902 EME QSO with W5LUA in nearly 10 years. A dual dipole feed was used.