

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS

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THE NL WEB VERSION IS PRODUCED BY W6/PA0ZN AND AVAILABLE AT <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html>

CONDITIONS: Activity on 70 cm in Sept was way down. It is not clear if this was due to conditions or what? VK3UM reports some of the worst conditions he has ever experienced. This was during the weekend following the official activity weekend (AW). The post AW (11/12 Sept) seemed to have more activity on 432 than the actual AW. This may have been due to both the Italian EME Contest and the ARRL's Sept VHF Contest taking place on this weekend. The post AW also had more 'socially' friendly hours at least during the Eur-NA window. 1296 had good activity and conditions both weekends – see SM2CEW's comments. This difference just reinforces the impression of a migration to 23 cm and above discussed at EME2004.

ARRL EME CONTEST 9/10 OCT: This month the AW skips a week and corresponds with the first leg of the ARRL's EME Contest. There are some changes to the contest rules – see the Aug NL. Most important is that operation on 23 cm and above will take place on a separate weekend (4/5 Dec). The other change is that the multipliers are now U.S. states/Canadian Provinces and DXCC entities.

DB6NT 24 GHz EME Tests: I missed reminding everyone of this test in last months NL. 24/25/26 Sept DB6NT Kuhne.db6nt@t-online.de will activate on 24 GHz with the 20 m dish in Bochum. Michael will have 15 W on T X. He is also not sure of the signal level since the dish was designed for operation around 1.6 GHz and has a radome that possibly is not optimum for 24 GHz. Unfortunately the moon is at a low declination that will limit participations in areas far from Eur.

DF9CY: Christoph df9cy@web.de is proud papa -- I had planned to join the EME conference, but then we learned that a new baby was due around the conference time. Now the baby is here and we are very happy with our new son Michael (arrived 21 July - a little early). I plan to be active from DL0SHF again in this year's ARRL EME Contest. I have not spoken to DK7LJ, but hopefully I can activate 23 cm, 13cm and 3cm again. I would also like to add feeds for 70 cm and 9.5 cm to the dish, but have not yet finalized my plans. At home I am currently QRV only on 2 m EME. Next year I plan to replace my old aged telescopic tower by something more "robust" and add some 70 cm capability (2 or 4 yagis).

DK3WG: Jurgen dk3wg@nexgo.de was QRV on 432 during post AW (11/12 Sept), but reports poor activity on 70 cm. He heard nothing from USA. He did QSO S52CW, JA6AHB and SP6JLW. Nil was copied from SV1BTR in a sked on 70 cm.

DL3OCH: Bodo DL3OCH@t-online.de is planning to go to 3A again with his portable 23 cm single yagi station. He expects to be in Monaco on Saturday 23 Oct. Unfortunately Bodo has only a single day and a limited time window, (the moon will be at a low southern declination) for EME operation. If you are interested in a sked, e-mail Bodo and he will try to accommodate your request, but he notes that because of his restriction he will only be able to accept a very limited number of skeds.

DL7UAE: Tom doc@cadac.de in JO62ph is operational on 70 cm EME with 4 x 6.5 wl (22 dBd) yagis with full elevation. His PA is 1.4 kW, but he has a cable loss of about 3 dB due to a telescopic tower that needs flexible coax cable. His preamp is mounted at the antenna with 0.38 dB NF (~ 54 degs K). Tom is not much of a CW operator, but is willing to take skeds on SSB and JT44/65. (He has an accurate time and frequency reference).

DL8YHR: Frank DL8YHRFRANK@aol.com reports that his 70 cm EME station (4 x 13 wl yagis and YL1050 PA) is currently not in operation. He is planning to move the station to another QTH. Frank will be traveling next

summer to 6W and 5T and wants to try 70 cm EME from these rare locations using 150 W and a 9 wl yagi. He promises to keep us informed of his plans.

DL9KR: Jan Bruinier@t-online.de was not happy with the report from the EME conference forum on way to increase activity – I was surprised (if not annoyed) that no mention was made of the 432 & Up EME Net, which over the decades was a major factor in increasing EME activity, let alone K1RQG's untiring activities! How come that such a big mistake occurred? [I am afraid that Jan is correct. Specific mention should have been made of K1RQG and the 20 m net. This omission was not intentional. The 20 m net is an EME institution and the bedrock of 432 up EME activity. I apologize for any offence to K1RQG. Joe knows how much I value his efforts and the importance of the net]. During 11/12 Sept weekend there was very little activity, but I worked 7 stations including DL9JY for initial #804. I also ran tests with 9H1PA, but nothing really heard. 9H1PA reported (529) of me.



PA3CSG, F5VHX AND G3LTF (L-R) during visit to Graham

G3LTF: Peter g3lft@btinternet.com sends the following response to concerns about the Report of the EME Forum -- Friends, If there were omissions or errors in the in the report on the conference forum, that is my responsibility, I wrote it and I signed it and I apologize, particularly for any offence to Joe K1RQG who certainly knows that I value his efforts. I expect that the 14.345MHz net was indeed mentioned (and probably the US 75 m net as well) but I was chairing the session and frankly I can't do that and make detailed notes of everything that was said at the same time.... (and of course like in all hot debates everyone spoke in turn, only when asked, and didn't interrupt each other!!!) I should however have realized that it was missing from my list of places where EME information is exchanged and found. I got back home after the conference and had about 4 days to sort out the notes, get them agreed while doing the hundred and one other things that needed doing before we went off on holiday again, from which we have just returned. Marc posted the notes on the conference

website on Aug. 17th. We got the topics up and visible to everyone well before the conference, on the website and the moon net, but apart from Dom, HB9BBD, no-one sent in any comments or... "Sorry I can't be there, but these are my suggestions and or views". I'm glad to see them coming out now. I believe that I did correctly report that there was a STRONG CALL, particularly from newcomers AND those seeking to expand the number of bands they operate, for skeds, how to get going etc, to be available on a website. I think that's very reasonable and good and I will volunteer to contribute to the "how to" piece on 13 cm. Personally I was a bit disappointed that we didn't have more attendees both at the conference and the forum from what I would call long established EME operators to put their views forward on these topics. Also on the Sunday a number of people had left already. I strongly recommend to Rainer, DF6NA that the forum in 2006 be scheduled in the middle of the conference, if he wants to get a good, representative attendance there. Finally I wouldn't want anyone to think I'm being sensitive on this... For 12 years I ran an electronics research company comprised of 120 separate (and well developed!) egos ... that's good training! EME wise, I was active over the weekend of the Italian contest but high winds restricted my operations. On 11 Sept, on 1296 I worked G4CCH, OZ6OL, GW3XYW, K9SLQ, VE1ALQ, IK2MMB, K0YW, W7BBM, VA7MM and WA6PY, and on 12 Sept IK3COJ. On 12 Sept I also was on 432 and worked SP6JLW, DL9KR and S52CW. Faraday rotation was 90 degrees and fairly sharp. On 2320, on 11 Sept I worked OH6NVQ. Since returning from Trenton and subsequent holiday, I have been getting back to my EME projects. I'm concentrating on higher power for 2320 and getting the 3.4 GHz system finished. We had a very pleasant stay at Graham's, F5VHX, QTH while in France and met up with Geert, PA3CSG there.

JH1KRC: Mike jh1krc@syd.odn.ne.jp did not have very good results during the Sept SW -- On 4 Sept towards NA at 1159 I heard someone tune up and W7B?, but no response to my calls. Conditions were noisy, but with good echoes. No other signals were heard.

JA7BMB: Hiroshi ja7bmb@amber.plala.or.jp, a JA-Samurai 5 band EMEer, has decided to concentrate his activities on only 5.7 GHz and 10.45 GHz EME from now on. He has taken his old 6-m dish, which was located on top of a large building, out of service. Hiroshi is now using a beautiful 4 m mesh dish with which he can hear his own echoes on each band. [Tnx to JH1KRC for relaying this report].

K0YW: Bruce k0yw@frontier.net found lots of activity on moon during the Sept AW -- I was QRV on 4 Sept at 1100 looking for W9IIX, but worked W7BBM and K9SLQ. I also tried with NA4N, but no joy. NA4N had a tracking problem and his elevation was off the moon. During the post AW, I finally QSO'd W9IIX (559/559) and also added OE5EYM (569/559). I have received TH-1836-3 cavity for 23 cm and am looking for ideas on how to modify.

K5JL: Jay cliebman@ionet.net has strong feels on the Procedures and Practices Recommendations from EME2004 -- Due to recovering from our recent Tornado and a construction project, I was not able to attend the 2004 EME Conference. As a dedicated EME operator I make the following comments and observations. Activity Weekend (AW) - The AW dates were selected after much discussion and calls for input from around the World. After all comments had been received and reviewed the dates were selected. As noted, the current cycle did not leave a very wide selection of dates. As to making the AW more "sociable". Sociable for Who - the US, European or Asian operators? At some time or another - someone is going to have to get up in the wee hours of the night. If you were not happy with the selection of the AW, get involved and make your suggestion for next year. EME Contests - Much thought and a great amount of input has guided those responsible for planning the format of the EME Contests. The present format makes it fair for both the little stations and the Big Guns alike. One does not have to spend the entire weekend on the band. I operate four or five hours on the rising moon and then again two or three hours on the setting moon. For the past few years I have spent most of the mid-pass at the duck blind. In the past six years I have won first place five times and second place the other year in the ARRL Contest. The same operating practices were used in the DUBUS contest placing first several years. Have Fun and don't make work out of the Contests. Standings - The Procedures Forum at the Prague EME was attended by well over 100 of the world's serious EME operators. It was noted that the new digital modes were going to be an asset to EME. Larger stations agreed to participate and try to generate more activity using this mode. It was decided that there should be a separate category for the digital mode. New initials and new countries would not be counted except in the digital mode category. Less than a handful of the participants expressed objection. A motion was made and passed that the ARRL, DUBUS, and other similar organizations be informed of this decision. To my knowledge, no such action was taken by the forum committee. I think it was Most Improper that a small number attending the 2004 Forum took it on themselves to change a decision that was agreed upon at Prague without first contacting those who originally made the decision or

seeking their input. Before we Railroad something - we need to receive input from all concerned parties. Communication - I could not believe that in the Activity section that the 20 m net was not even mentioned. For more than thirty years this net has been one of the Main means for communication through out the EME world. The newcomer as well as the seasoned EMEer has looked to this net for help and information. I can recall at least a dozen stations that have been helped by this net in the past several years. Several of these stations were ready to throw their hands up and toss in the towel. Now they are active EMEers. Some of them were even present at the 2004 EME conference, but must have missed the Forum? The 20 m net has proven to be of prime importance in the dissemination of information and scheduling. Lets use the existing tools we have at our disposal, before we start looking for newer and unproven methods. During the Sept AW, I worked one station the first night, W2DRZ. No other activity was heard. Earlier I QSO'd several times W4SM -- [See last NL].

K6JEY: Doug doughhelen@moonlink.net enjoyed the EME Conference and is setting up for 23 cm EME -- I was really inspired by the experience and mostly working on 1296. I have a 7' mesh dish and am in the process of getting a septum feed. I have obtained a GS15b amplifier assembly and am putting it in a Dentron V amplifier, once the 2 m module is removed. I plan to meter screen current and output. It should make a nice compact unit with external waterworks. The voltages are nearly the same and the GS15b fits like it was made for it. I hope to be on 1296 for the ARRL Contest with a good signal.

KL7XO: Jeff k7xq@elite.net is in the process of moving QTHs -- I am moving to a house on one acre so will now have room to put up better EME antennas. I plan to move to the new location on 17 Sept and start putting up antennas ASAP. I hope to be QRV again on 432 and 1296 EME by mid Oct.

K9SLQ: Wayne k9slq@parlorcity.com writes that he wants to post a testimonial for what the 432 & Above Net has done for him and so many other new EME operators -- I wanted to attend, but could not because a business conflict. I am sorry for the insult cast on you and the history of the 432 & Above Net. If it were not for the net, I would have been lucky to completed more than 20 contacts on 432. I am sorry to say that I have been forced to abandon 432 due to Interference from a local hospital, but in the record book will go 65 initial contacts to faithful 432 operators. Thanks goes to the skeds arranged by none other than K1ROG and his net. Now that I am ready to operate 1296 EME, I'm back on the net looking for help to get the word out that K9SLQ is available for skeds anytime. During the post AW I had visitors and demonstrated EME with the help of G4CCH on the other end.

KL7FH: Frank kl7fh@gci.net has an array of 16 x 12 el 70 cm yagis on an Az-El mount with polarity rotation. Presently he has only 50 W, but he has made several QSOs and is will to take skeds.



KL7FH's 16 x 12 el 70 cm array with full el and pol rotation

KL7HFO: Roger rkh@alaska.net was active for a short time during the Sept SW -- I was on for a bit calling CQ, but heard nothing but my echoes. I will be on in the contest. The birch trees up here are starting to drop their leaves and so I will be able to hit lower declinations this winter.

KU4F: Les ku4f@earthlink.net has had more than his share of hurricane problems this year. Hurricane Frances destroyed his tower and TH6 triband

beam, but his big dish seems to be ok, and Les says the good news is that he has an improved moon window due to the tree's that were destroyed by the storm. [We are still waiting for news of the latest storms].

N2UO: Marc was active during the Sept SW. He reports working on 4 Sept OH2DG, SM2CEW, G4CCH, GW3XYW and HB9SV, and CWN'R'd DL1YMK and VE1ALQ. On 5 Sept he QSO'd SK0UX, PA3CSG, K2UYH and WA6PY with an incredibly improved signal! IK2MMB was also CWN'R.

N5ITO: Dave n5ito@davidv.net is planning to be QRV on 432 (as well as 2 m) EME for the ARRL Contest. On 432 he will be using 4 x 18 KLM yagis with full AZ/EL mounting and 500 W from modified AM-6155 PA. A mask mounted ARRL preamp will be used on receive. Dave can operate both CW and JT65.

OH3AWW: Matti matti.vilppula@luukku.com plans to be QRV during ARRL EME Contest on 144 and 432. I have bought a house in KP11vj square and I'll move my antennas from my present location to KP21qf next summer. On 70 cm I have 2 x 31 el 10.5 w1 JR yagis on a full elevation mount with 300 W PA. My cable loss is > 2 dB.

SM2CEW: Peter sm2cew@telia.com was on active on 70 and 23 cm during the Sept AW – On 432 I called CQ and heard good echoes, but no other signals. On 1296, I had better results QSO'ing VE1ALQ, N2UO, SK0UX, WA6PY, OZ4MM and others. It was good to get on 23 cm calling CQ, and also hear others call CQ and making random contacts. I cannot get on for the JA window at this time, but later in the fall when leaves are gone, it will be better. The suggestion by HB9BBD of a one moon pass contest is not real feasible at high declination. SM2CEW would have moon for 48 hours continuous, which would seem unfair?

VE1ALQ: Darrell ve1alq@nbn.net.ca is back on 1296 EME – Well I got back on the moon after a 2 years absence, and it is still fun, hi! I worked all those I heard with one Initial among them, IK2MMB with a nice signal. The PA fired up at 1200 W and I never had to re tune a dang thing.

VE4MA: Barry ve4ma@shaw.ca spent most of the AW listening on 47GHz on EME for AD5FP, but heard nil. He also did not hear RW3BP. Segei was hearing his own echoes. Barry is still working on the power supply for his TWT and is also working on SDR-1000.

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@telusplanet.net was active on 2300 during the Sept SW. He had some tracking problems, but still worked JA6CZD (cross band). He missed another JA due to his problem. Grant was on 432 during the post AW and worked 3 stations. DL9KR had a great signal. He got a QRZ out of 7M2PDT. He will be 432 until the end of the 1st ARRL contest weekend, then back to 13 cm.

VK3UM: Doug tikalunal@ycs.com.au reports very bad conditions in Sept -- After 20 years of active EME operating this last weekend must rank as the worst I can recall. I have often viewed "conditions" as an excuse, but not this weekend. It was unusual for sure! Why? I have no idea as the SFU and HF bands were "normal" although SM2CEW did report some Aurora. Peter also found conditions poor. I came on at 0000 11 Oct knowing full well that it was not going to be a "convenient time" for the Eur boys ... and I was right as there was only 4 operators present that I could detect up to my Moon Set at 0430. Firstly HB9JAW called right on "my frequency" and after 30 minutes of sending him (559) I had no contact. I later learned he had "lost his pre amp". I experienced the same with EA3DXU (439). S52CW called and we worked (559) easily, as was SP6JLW. I heard and called 7M2PTW for ages with no response as well. Why? Well Faraday was shifting so rapidly and it appeared so defined as to apparently lock me out of Eur. My echoes here were still loud. I echo test using H or V to indicate my TX polarity. Stations in the know respond with a ??? H or ??? V. Given this I information I can identify in the appropriate polarity and complete a contact. I believe this operating procedure is worth promoting. The previous "activity weekend" resulted in one contact with DL9KR after 2 hours of continuous calling! Those who suggest reducing contest times should consider those outside "convenient times" and the fact we have 1½ hours per window to Eur and NA and I rarely get time to work all stations available. However given the activity, 10 minutes total for the coming ARRL Contest should be adequate! I noticed that I have been nominated to serve on the Hall of Fame committee. I will be delighted and honored to assist in this regard.

VK4AFL: Trevor trenton@bigpond.net.au was QRV during the Sept AW – I worked on 4 Sept DL9JY with an excellent signal. Ruediger is a new 4 yagi station.

W2DRZ: Tom w2drz@madbbs.com was active on 1296 during the Sept AW -- On 23 cm, KA2ONY operated my station during the SW and worked K5JL. We

heard many Eur stations just as the dish was clearing the trees, (20 degs elevation), but many quit operation as the NA window became usable to Eur. I have seen this activity drop repeated in recent months. I have an HB9BBD preamp on order, this I hope will greatly improve our receive on 23 cm.

W4SM: Stacey w4sm@keplerian.com reports that he has completed his K2AH PA project and now can get 1.4 kW out on 1296, although he is currently running it throttled back to 1 kW. The PA has a two tube amp driving two 6 tube amps.



W4SM's completed dual 6 x 7289 ring 1.4 kW K2AH PA

W5LUA: Al al_ward@agilent.com reports on microwave EME – On 3 cm, I worked WA6PY during the week before the AW. During the AW on the first night I worked F2TU and WA7CJO on 3 cm, and on 13 cm QSO'd OH6NVQ for initial #56. I spent most of my time the 2nd night listening for AD6FP and RW3BP on 47 GHz, but conditions did not seem very good. I'm working hard on the power supply for my 47 GHz TWT.

WA6PY: Paul pchomins@san.rr.com has increased his dish size on 23/13 cm and is now QRV on 10 GHz as well – The first night of the AW, I QSO'd on 3 cm G4NNS -very nice signals, W5LUA and WA7CJO with extreme signals. I also heard F2TU, but not during our sked, and OK1UWA very well. The following weekend during ARI Contest On 1296, I QSO'd K9SLQ, OZ6OL, K0YW, IK2MMB, G4CCH, G3LTF, VA7MM and OE5EYM. On 10 GHz, IQ4DF was very strong. I heard I5PPE O-copy in sked, but they did not copy my signals. I also heard very well PA0EHG and a SSB QSO between IQ4DF and PA0EHG. I am again using my old 10' dish, which has some surface damage. At 3 cm I am getting 12.5 dB of Sun and 1.7 dB of Moon noise, and can copy M grade echoes. Comparing these results with my notes from 7 years ago, I estimate a deterioration of about 2 dB.

K2UYH: I decided to put some time in on 432 during the Sept AW, but the results were disappointing. Part of the problem may have been a bad preamp. I tried to arrange skeds with new stations via e-mail and was able to get a few skeds on JT44, but most stations either did not answer the e-mails (bad address) or were not QRV. I started out on 4 Sept at 0500 with ZE5LEE and during the 1st minute had my preamp go bad. I found that water had gotten into the preamp. I was able to replace it with a back up preamp (~ 0.8 dB NF) and ended with

partial calls both ways (ZE5LEE is running 50 W to 2 x 22 el yagis). My next sked was at 0700 with DL7UAE (O/O) on JT44 for initial #676. Signals peaked to -20 dB. Tom runs 4 x 9 el yagis and 300 W and could have been QSO'd on CW, but prefers skeds on SSB or JT44/65. Finally I QSO'd at 1050 PA5DD (O/O) using JT65C #677. This last contact was as close to perfect as I have experienced requiring only 3 transmissions for a QSO. PA5DD run a single 28 el yagi on the horizon (only) and 800 W. Between skeds I called many CQs on .010, but never heard a reply or another station. The next day I repaired my preamp (0.25 dB NF) and ran at 0600 with OZ/OH3MCK, but heard nil – Petri got partial copy from me, and at 1000 OH1JCS with similar results. Later I checked the preamp and discovered a resistor had gone bad and caused the NF to degrade to around 1 dB. Between skeds I switched to 1296 and worked at 0810 N2UO (549/549), 0822 VE1ALQ (55/559), 0835 IK2MMB (559/559), 0844 GW3XYW (559/559), 0854 K9SLQ (559/569) and 0931 HB9SV (579/569). I was traveling the following weekend and thus could not take part in the ARI and ARRL VHF contest activity.

f/D	Rib Ratio
0.2	1.22
0.25	1.15
0.3	1.11
0.35	1.08
0.4	1.06
0.45	1.05
0.5	1.04
0.55	1.03
0.6	1.03
0.65	1.02
0.7	1.02
0.75	1.02
0.8	1.02
0.85	1.01
0.9	1.01



DL7UAE's antennas – 70 cm 4 yagi array is in the center

NET NEWS BY G4RGK (BASED ON K1ROG's NETNOTES): PA5DD is QRV on 432 for horizon only skeds with a single 28 el 9 wl yagi (no elev) and 800 W (2 x 4CX250B) PA from JO22ic. **WB7OBS** is just about QRV on 70 cm EME. His 4 x 22 el FO yagis are in the air and looking good. The SWR is fine. **F6KHM** was QRV on 70 cm during the AW but found no activity. They are having a problem with their 23 cm TH-313 PA with big bangs! **9H1PA** has his antennas (2 x 25 el BV yagis and 100 W) back up for 70 cm and ready for tests. **G4RGK** was on 70 cm during the SW and had good echoes, but did not hear anyone. **KORZ** was on 432 during the Sept AW but heard nil. **PA3CSG** plans to be back on 10 GHz with about 200 W. **W2UHI** did not spend much time on the moon during the Sept AW because of the very late night hours. **K7XQ** is presently moving to a new location and QRT on EME. He hopes to have antennas back up in time for the contest. K9BCT had no major damage as a result of the hurricanes. **W9IIX** had some minor problems during the AW, but fixed and can hear echoes. He crudely measured sun noise around 12.9 dB. During the post AW QSO'd KOYW with no problem and K5GW who was moving the "S" meter! **KL6M** was not QRV during the Sept AW. Mike is working on all systems (now has > 100 W on 1296), but is still not sure which bands he will be on for the contest. **WB5AFY** is now active on 1296 with a 5 m dish, 8 x 7289 PA, and is hearing good echoes. **N2IQ** plans to be on 70 cm with his 48" dish for ARRL EME Contest. **W7CI** is coming back on with both 70 and 23 cm EME capability. Steve has 23 cm stuff in the rack and 130 W out. **F5VHX** is back on 23 cm EME. Graham had visits from G3LTF and PA3CSG – see picture on first page.

FORSALE: NIUG is working toward getting back on 70 cm EME and is looking a few bits of the unique hardware for one of the old version F9FT yagis. Paul's e-mail is paul@n1bug.net. **VE4MA** is looking for liquid nitrogen containers for cooling preamps.

TECHNICAL: G4KLX sent the following table, which should interest to builders of stress dishes. Jonathan shows the ratios of the actual length of a rib (strut) to the corresponding diameter (D) for various f/D ratios. What is shown is the ratio of the bent length to the straight length for the ribs. For example, for a 3 m diameter round dish (or equivalent stress dish section) with an f/D ratio of 0.4, the length of the rib must be 3 x 1.06 = 3.18 m in total length before stressing.



K1JT's antenna array includes yagis for 70 and 23 cm

FINAL: I am disappointed by the response to the Report on the EME2004 Forum. A mistake was made in not specifically mentioning the 20 m net. I apologize for this error. This omission was not due to a lack of appreciation of what the net has and continues to contribute to 432 and above EME. I have always been one of the strongest supporters of the net and the skeds list concept. No one who attended the conference wanted the net to end or its importance diminished. The very fact that the 20 net works so well worked against an extensive discuss of the net. Let's all try to check into the net more regularly. We are faced with many problems, but the net is not one of them. Part of the reason activity is down on 70 cm is the increase in interference on this band. Significant time was spent discussing the problem posed by locating the Galileo Satellite system in the 1296 band. Galileo could destroy EME on 1296! I want to correct suggestions that there were no active 432 and up operators at the forum. Almost 80 EMEers attended the conference and many stayed for the forum. The forum at Prague and at most of the previous conferences was run on Sunday. I will not embarrass anyone by listing the calls of those of us who were present, but I sincerely believe all who attended the forum, and there were a number of 2 m EME operators as in Prague, had only the best interests of our hobby on their mind. With regard to JT44/65 no major change in policy was recommended at the 2004 forum. The summary of the Prague proceedings said the following: "Some of the most intense discussion centered on JT44. Many stations felt that JT44 QSOs should not count for DXCC, WAS, initial counts, etc. Ian, G3SEK pointed out that the rules for awards as DXCC and WAS are set by the organization and do not differentiate by mode." No one at Prague or Trenton seemed to object to separating out initial counts on CW, SSB, JT44/65, and total. I will print individual tallies, but I need the information to do so. Please keep the activity reports and especially technical information coming.

I am looking forward to an exciting contest weekend. Let's make this contest the best ever! I hope to hear you all off the moon on 9/10 Oct.

73, Al – K2UYH