432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS
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CONDITIONS: This summer was one of the best I can remember for EME activity. And Sept was another excellent month in a string of excellent months. Conditions on 23 cm and the higher bands were outstanding during the ARI contest weekend. So much so that conditions during the following Microwave Contest weekend paled in comparison. On 13 cm activity was very good. Unfortunately 3 cm conditions were reported poor, especially in comparison to the previous perigee weekend, but there was still some good activity. The only band that suffered was 70 cm with all the higher band activity. I think it was a mistake not to schedule a 70 cm Activity Time Period in Sept. The picture will be different in Oct with the ARRL EME contest on the 14th/15th. You can expect plenty of 432 activity then. There is some bad news. WA5WCP is off the air. Paul had a fire that completely burnt his garage and business along with his ham shack and equipment. He had planned to have a mini 23 cm expedition/EME demonstration to grid EM11ga over the 7/8 Oct weekend before the conflagration. [For other dxpedition news see my comments in FINAL at the end].

DL1YMK: Michael DL1YMK@aol.com was active in the ARI Contest -- I worked 18 stations on 23 cm with initials to VK4AFL (539/539) and VA7MM (M/O) just at moonset. I also had a nice (569/559) contact with W6IFE, and later on SSB (55/52), and DK7LJ (57/55) also on sideband... So the big dish is not that advantageous. I am getting ready for 13 cm EME. The LNA is ready and I have a septum feed from OK1DFC. A separate 3.7 m dish is in our attic and I am now looking for some reasonable power.

DL4KG: Gerald znoyek@t-online.de writes about his plans to move to 1296 -- Unfortunately I couldn't come to the EME conference in Wurzburg. I had to quit 432 some years ago. Now I would like to come back on 23 cm EME. I already have a good preamp made by DJ3FI (0.3 dB NF) and a small PA (80 W), which will become bigger when I get a dish. I am looking for a small mesh dish (~ 2 m) to start, and am considering building a stress dish. I would like to hear from others that operate 1296 with a small dish.

DL4MEA: Guenter guenter.koellner@siemens.com reports on his 13 cm ARRL Microwave Contest activity –- After returning from holidays, I quickly installed my 13 cm equipment (on 9/10 Sept), but did not get any echoes or hear any other stations. As I thought this was the EME Microwave Contest weekend, I was very disappointed. I continued working on the system and even completed a Super VE4MA feed with a septum polarizer that achieved a 1 dB improvement over my old diagonal waveguide feed (~ 7 dB sun noise - my scalar ring is 0.6 WL wide and 0.45 WL deep and mounted flush with the mouth). It might be that this feed is optimum for a 0.35 f/d dish, but my dish is currently flatter (0.475 f/d). I designed for the smaller f/d, since I plan to expand my dish later. On the next weekend, I was very surprised when I found lots of activity on the moon. A check of the ARRL web pages showed me that this was the weekend of ARRL contest and not as I thought the weekend before. I worked (all on 2320 random CW) OK1CA, OH2AXH, G3LTF, ES2PC for an initial (#), RW1AW (#), F2TU and OK1KIR. I heard (on 2304) W5LUA, OH2DG, K5GW, OE9ERC and HB9SV. I tried to call a few of these stations, but received no reply. I want to re-ask the question how to work 13 cm crossband? [Call and listen on the same frequency but with a 16 MHz delta. I and others used this approach successfully. I normally have two receivers on at all times]. The station was 3 m dish, Super-VE4MA feed with septum polarizer, 200 W TX, NE144 DJ9BV preamp, DB6NT transverter and FT847. I have an IQ-Mixer connected to the IF of the 847. Using Winrad it is possible to observe ±6 kHz from the RX frequency with better sensitivity than the ear. Unfortunately the audible reception with Winrad seems no better than the FT847, so I am still using the FT847's internal receiver and filters for the headphones. I am not sure I will be ready on 23 cm in Oct. There is much more that needs to be done than on 13 cm, but am trying to be QRV.

F2TU: Philippe f2tu.om@neuf.fr sends his results for the ARRL's Microwave EME Contest – I found activity good on 2.3 GHz and completed 27 QSOs with initials from K5GW (57/57) on SSB for #53 and PA3CSG #54. On 5.7 GHz as always, there were very few stations, but I still made 5 QSOs including an initial with ES5PC (O/O) for #19 and the first F/ES QSO on 5.7 GHz. On 10 GHz, I found conditions bad with rain and fog. Signals were spread 150 – 200 Hertz. My first QSO was with RW1AW (559/559). QSO'd on Saturday were RW1AW and F5JWF, and on Sunday (day without Sun!) IQ4DF, DL0EF, F5JTA, WA7CJO and LX1DB. I also copied IK2RTI, DF9QX, HB9BHU, WA6PY, OK1CA, OH2AXH and WA6PY.

F5JTA: Guy guy.delouard at wanadoo.fr is QRV on 3 cm and writes -- I operated in the ARRL EME Contest for the first time on 10 GHz. I was really pleased to complete 11 contacts with following stations: On 16 Sept F5JWF, DF9QX, IQ4DF, DL0EF, W5LUA, LX1DB, RW1AW and WA7CJO, and on 17 Sept HB9BHU, F2TU and WA6PY. I added 6 initials to bring me to initial #18 since I began operation in Feb. From my point of view conditions were degraded compared to previous weekend. The path loss increased and we had loss as well from rain scatter conditions in Europe. Bad weather on the west of France and a high level of humidity meant I lost my echoes from 0100 to 0800 on Saturday morning. Fortunately activity seemed to be focused on second part of moon windows, so I don't believe I missed many. I am located in IN87xe and running a 3.5 m dish with a Cassegrain feed, 20 W TX and 0.8 dB NF LNA with an F1EHN tracking system.

F5JWF's 3.8 m dish for 3 cm EME

F5JWF: Philippe f5jwf@wanadoo.fr reports on his 10 GHz efforts -- Sept was an interesting month for EME on 3 cm with 2 contests taking place... And my TWTA is now very stable with low helix current optimized with a small magnet on the body of the tube. I had very good weather for ARI Contest on 10 Sept and worked F6KSX, F5JTA, F2TU, WA7CJO and WA6PY. One week later I was active for the ARRL Microwave EME Contest. The weather stable and condition reasonable despite 2 dB of excess loss moon loss. I worked F2TU, RW1AW for an initial, IQ4DF, F5JTA, WA7CJO, W5LUA, DL0EF and WA6PY.

G3LQR: Simon: G3LQR@aol.com reports on EME 2006 and the ARRL Microwave Contest – It was nice to meet old friends and many new faces at Wurzburg. Ever since, I have been trying to get my 9 cm EME system going but I have had to leave its completion until after the ARRL contest. I was on 13 cm and QSO'd 10 stations with another 7/8 heard. I missed K2UYH – seemed very busy at the time of my copy, WW2R and NA4N with only T copy. I will try to NA4N when the path loss is lower. I worked F2TU, RW1AW, OK1CA, G3LTF,

OK1KIR, SM4DHN, PA3CSG, RW3BP, K5GW and HB9SV. PA3CSG, RW3BP and K5GW were new and bring me to initial #27. I'm still using a 4 m dish with VE4MA feed and 36077 preamp.

G3LTF: Peter g3ltf@btinternet.com sends some catch up info on his summer activity -- On 1296, on 29 July I worked ZS6AXT for the first time since his surgery. It was great to hear Ivo again. Then WA5WCP's the wonderful DXpedition came along. On the morning of 13 Aug while waiting for Paul, I worked, LA9NEA with his 2.5 m dish, G4CCH and ON7UN, and then WA5WCP/1 in RI for initial #240, followed by F2TU, DL1YMK and K0YW. I added on 14 Aug K9SLQ and on the 15th SM3LBN, W1AW/1 in CT #241 (and my first with W1AW on any band!), on 16 Aug K2UYH, G4HUP #242 and OK1DFC, and on 19 Aug WA5WCP/1 in VT #243, OH2DG and IW2FZR. I missed Paul in MA as we were en route to the conference (EME2006). It was a tremendous effort that generated a lot of activity and interest - well done Paul and thank you. After I returned from EME2006, it was the weekend of the ARI contest. Most activity seemed to be on 1296. It was very hard to fit in contacts on 4 bands in one weekend. On 8 Sept I worked LA8AV and on 9 Sept RW1AW, IW2FZR, OZ6OL, JA6AHB, DL1YMK, SP6JLW, ES5PC, SM5LE, IK2RTI #244, G4RGK on random with 60 W at the feed #245 and G4CCH,and on 10 Sept N2UO, LA9NEA (a big signal with revamped dish), K5JL, G4DZU, IK2MMB, W6IFE, IK3COJ, K2UYH, VA7MM and W6IFE again on SSB. I changed to 432 and worked K3MF near to horizon. I should have gone on 432 earlier. On 11 Sept I did a test with G4ZTR who heard me weakly with his 4 yagi system, but he only has 25 W or so at the feed so I didnt hear him at all. On 12 Sept signals on 1296 at moon rise were excellent and I worked SM5LE on his CQ, LA8AV, VK4AFL - loud, ES5PC and G3LQR. On 15 Sept I had a sked with WB2BYP and made an easy QSO #246. John has a good signal from his 3 m dish. The ARRL Microwave EME contest was the best ever here. On 13 cm there was lots of activity, especially from Europe. My final score was 25x16. My new PA mounted at the dish providing 250W at the feed, makes a big difference. On 16 Feb I worked OH2DG, OK1CA, JA6CZD, JA4BLC, RW1AW on both CW and SSB, F2TU, OK1KIR, OH2AXH, DL4MEA, ES5PC, W5LUA, RW3BP for initial #39, DK7LJ on SSB #40, SM4DHN, G3LQR, PA3CSG, K5GW #41, WA6PY, WD5AGO, WW2R and VE6TA, and on the 17th HB9SV, SM3AKW, K2UYH and OE9ERC. CWNR were W9IIX, JA8ERE and DF3RU. I heard NA4N. 50% of my contacts were made crossband, mostly into 2304 MHz, and I'm pleased that several people called crossband in answer to my CQ. I must emphasize that we in G, PA and DL are absolutely not allowed to transmit on 2304. So if you want to work us, and we are a growing number, get receive capability on 2320. The Wurzburg Conference was a terrific occasion with a very relaxed atmosphere and excellent papers and venue. It was so good to meet up with old friends and many of the new stations that have come on the bands in recent years. Well done Rainer! I'm working on a super VE4MA for 1296 MHz for the next leg of the ARRL contest trying to gain another dB. If it works I'll replicate it on 13 and 9 cm.

125 Years of EME! (L-R G3LTF, ZS6AXT, G3LQR & SM3AKW)

G4CCH: Howard howard@g4cch.com had a really busy month with lots to report – I worked on 7 Sept at 1946 SM5LE (O/O) and (-15/-17dB) on JT65C, and 2230 nil in sked with PY2MJ (2 m dish and 20 W), and on 8 Sept at 1924 SM5LE (O/O) and (19/21dB) again on JT65C, 2002 LA8AV (569/569) - very nice signal with new dish, 2104 LA9NEA (559/559) and 2300 partial on sked with PY2MJ on JT65C - this time I copied Guilherme -26 dB after tuning to find him but he didn't find me. On 9 Sept I started the ARI EME Contest late due to my sked with PY2MJ. Activity was low on the first pass, so I don't think that I missed much. I worked IW2FZR, LA9NEA, IK2MMB, F2TU, K5PJR, VA7MM, VK4AFL, DLØSHF, IK3COJ, ES5PC, G4RGK for CW initial #232 - Dave was running a 3.8 m stressed dish and 80 W, LA8AV, JA6AHB, DL1YMK, SM5LE, G4DZU, OZ6OL, SP6JLW, RW1AW and G3LTF. At 0117 I tried another sked with PY2MJ and this time made it (O/O) -26 dB best on JT65C #d10 [digital initials] and Guilherme's first ever 23 cm EME QSO. On 10 Sept I added in the contest N2UO, K5JL, K2UYH, W6IFE, VA7MM (dupe), W6IFE on SSB (dupe), SM5LE (dupe), IK3COJ (dupe) and G3LQR. At 1950 I contacted VK7MO (15/14dB). I reduced my TX power to 20 W and exchanged (13/23dB). We then both tried 5 W and exchanged (27/29dB), but did not complete because signal levels suddenly reduced due to obstructions in Rex's window. We tried again on 11 Sept at 2002 and exchanged (18/14dB) at normal power, but didn't complete at 5 W. We exchanged (27/29dB), but I forgot to send RRR so not complete. Rex was able to decode my signal at 400 W even after the Moon had disappeared behind his metal roof, and finally lost me at 3.8 deg. There is more detail in the report: Receiving EME Signals Below the Visual Horizon at http://www.g4cch.com/data/reports/vk7mo_g4cch_eme_below_vis_horizon.htm by VK7MO and G4CCH. We finally completed a QSO with 5 W on 12 Sept at 2054 with (27/30dB) reports. After VK7MO I worked at 2208 PAØBAT (O/O) -19 dB best on JT65C for #d11 (Gerard's first 23 cm EME QSO), 2233 G4RGK (O/O) -18 dB on JT65C (Dave's first JT QSO on 1296), 2241 G4HUP (16/14dB) on JT65C and 2306 ES5PC (7/5dB) on JT65C. On 14 Sept at 0730 I ran a QRP test with G4DDK (21/28dB) on JT65C. We were both transmitting with 30 W and completed easily in a few minutes. I also ran at 0800 with UA3MBJ. Nik copied me at -24 dB again with his 39 el yagi, but unfortunately his 20W was not enough for me to copy, and 2226 VK7MO (17/16dB) for another window limit check and again found lowest elevation was 3.2 deg with almost total obstruction. I worked on 16 Sept at 0945 SM5LE (15/16dB) on JT65c, 1022 OH3MCK (17/22dB) on JT65c, 1124 K7XQ (449)/559) on CW and 1302 heard SM5LE calling CQ on CW, but signals were too weak for a QSO. I tested with SM5LE on JT65C to explore the limits of Sven's window (19/21dB). We continued in QSO until the Moon disappeared below pine trees 200 m away at 11.7 deg elevation. During the test the Moon was obstructed by apple trees and we exchanged full reports and had a brief chat in text mode. I worked on 17 Sept at 0818 partial UA3MBJ on JT65c - Nik decoded my signal at -24 dB again but no trace of him, 0902 SM5LE (16/17dB) on JT65C, 1052 LA9NEA (559/569) on CW, 1108 LA8LF (569/569) on CW and LA8AV (569/579) on CW. At 1240 I listened for the SETI Beacon, http://priups.com/emebeacon/, on 1296.000 and was easily able to detect it in a bandwidth of 2.5 kHz using specJT. The beacon transmits every 5 minutes for a period of 1 minute (followed by calls) with 350 W to 2 x quad helix array. I, www.g4cch.com, am using a 5.4 m HB dish, W2IMU feed, F1EHN tracking, 650 W CW or 400 W JT65C from 6 x 2C39ba water cooled PA and 0.31 dB NF LNA.

G4HUP: Dave g4hup@btinternet.com sends his activity update for Sept – I worked 2 more initials (on 23 cm) with OK1DFC on CW and RW3BP on JT65 before I went to Wuerzburg for EME 2006. The conference was very much enjoyed! Two other skeds did not succeed with VE6TA on CW whom I heard from the start, but he did not hear me, and WW2R on JT65 whom I did not hear (see) at all. G4CCH reported that there was about a 1 kHz offset between us. I left my DB6NT PA with Michael for checking as it appeared to have lower output than specified. I missed the first AW in Sept as the PA had not arrived back, but I did get on during the week that followed and had a contact with G4CCH on JT65, which at least proved that the system was working. Unfortunately, that was the last time the system was working! When I went back the next day, I noticed that the dish was not pointing where it should be. On checking, I found that the drive chain had thrown it's split link. In investigating I also found that the bearing had seized, and spent some time freeing it up. Re-adjusting the limit switches and re-calibrating the AZ drive took a lot of time. The controller seemed to have some difficulty in holding the new calibrations, but it seems to be working now! I then found that I had no 'down' drive in elevation. On investigation, I discovered some tracks had burned out on the controller relay board. They now have been bridged with thick wire and I'm running again - well almost! I am still not happy with the AZ position, and have arranged to borrow a theodolite to do some accurate measurements. I've been as accurate as I can with a hand-held compass and it doesn't seem to be good enough. I don't understand why as it worked very well originally. Due to a family situation, I have to immediately go to the US for an indeterminate time. I will almost certainly miss the first leg of the ARRL EME Contest, which I was looking forward to. The only upside of this trip is that I will be in the Dayton/Cincinnati area, and there is a good possibility that I will get to MUD – and see some of you there!

GM0ONN: Iain <iain.gm0onn@virgin.net> is back after 2 months and plans to be QRV on 23 cm for Oct and Nov ARRL Contest weekends -- I hope to have the assistance of GM4ILS this year. No time so far to enhance the set-up

unfortunately. I will have a look at the feed and preamp and get them remounted soon.

GW4DGU: Chris chris@chris-bartram.co.uk was QRV in the ARI and ARRL Contests on 10 GHz -- It was fascinating to have 10 GHz EME contests on two subsequent weekends - one close to perigee with the Moon at medium declination, and the other approaching apogee at high declination. I was only able to operate for a few hours in the ARI contest, after getting home from a wedding at 0230. I guess that I missed a lot of the activity; however I had easy QSOs with F6KSX, F5JTA, WA7CJO and HB9SV. I also heard IK2RTI with a good signal, but I think he went QRT as I came on. Echoes were good, and I heard my SSB echoes yet again. I finally got to bed at about 0600! I looked forward to the ARRL contest, but it was very hard going on 3 cm. Close to apogee, signals were weaker and there was also quite a lot more spectral decorrelation than usual. I could hear my echoes all the time, although they were weaker than the previous weekend. During the first pass I was only able to work IQ4DF (529/529) and WA7CJO (559/579). I took the focus box off of the dish after the first pass and it checked-out properly on the bench. The second pass was even worse! I heard OH2AXH and HB9BHU with what would normally be workable signals, and I had had a nice (539/519) QSO with RW1AW - (actually I could have given Alexa better report, but I'd based it on a minute or so when the dish drifted off of the Moon and didn't want to change it). Even after an hour of trying, I failed to work DL0EF! They were strong (549), but were clearly having problems copying me. Sun and Moon noise were both normal when I looked just after I finished trying with them. I know other people had similarly disappointing results, and it leads me to question the wisdom of moving the microwave leg of the contest to a high path-loss weekend. After a bit of experience on 10 GHz, it seems that unlike the lower frequency bands, 10 GHz is particularly affected by path loss. I have a hypothesis that when signals decorrelate to the extent of becoming audibly noise-like, the ear is quite poor at detecting them. There seems to be some form of threshold effect which can make signals sound as though they vary by 6 dB rather than 2 dB over the lunar cycle. Do any experts in psychoacoustics read the NL? I suggested earlier in the year that it would make sense to move sked weekends for 5.6 GHz and up to low loss weekends, rather than the traditional high declination weekends. I think there are about four occasions next year when the activity could be split. This would have the advantage of occasionally removing the dilution of higher microwave/millimeter wave EME activity by activity on the lower bands. I was sorry to have missed Wurzburg, but I'm looking forward to Florence. I've spent some time there, as a big (linearized) VHF PA, which I designed is in quantity production by a company there.

HB9Q: Dan (HB9CRQ/KT6Q) dan@hb9q.ch operating plans for the contest follow -- We plan to be QRV on 14 Oct from 0000 to 13.30 and 2300 on 14 Oct to 1400 on 15 Oct. On 432 we plan to us 50% JT and 50% CW. On 1296 we will use mainly CW. Please check for us on the following frequencies: 432.030 CW and 432.077 JT65B 1st and 1296.030 CW and 1296.077 JT65C 1st. Depending on QRM we move our frequencies a few KHz up or down.

K7XQ: Jeff k7xq@secure.elite.net was QRV on 1296 for the ARI Contest and made the following QSOs on random CW: SM6CKU for an initial (#), OZ6OL (#) and G4CCH. He also worked VK7MO (#*) on a JT65C sked. Jeff is no longer pursuing 50 MHz or 10 GHz EME at this time and is putting his gear for these bands (antennas, 18 W TWTA, transverters, etc.) up for sale on Ebay. Jeff plans to use the proceeds to get 1 kW amplifiers on 1296 and 2304.

K5PJR: Tony k5pjr@centurytel.net was active during the ARI contest on 23 cm and found signals were way above normal -- I QSO'd IK2MMB, OZ6OL, LA9NEA, G4CCH and F2TU. I also tried SSB with G4CCH but we were not able to complete. The 2nd night I added initials with LA8LF and IW2FZR. I plan to be QRV on 23 cm 6/7 Oct.

KD3UY: Bob kd3uy@comcast.net is QRV on 70 cm using JT -- After a 2 year absence I am back on 432 EME. My system is quite humble, a single 12 wl yagi and 100 W at the antenna. The preamp is also at antenna. The set up is temporary and I am hoping to make some JT65 skeds.

LA9NEA: Viggo la9nea@online.no was active on 1296 EME on 16/17 Sept. He QSO'd on the 16th LA8AV (559/559) and on the 17th LA8LF (559/559), G4CCH (569/559), KL6M (579/549) and IW2FZR (559/559).

NA4N: Greg na4n@hughes.net reports on his operation of the ARRL Microwave Contest -- I worked on the first day SM4DHN, F2TU, HB9SV, W5LUA, K5GW and ES5PC, and on the second day OK1CA, OK1KIR and K2UYH. I had bad weather the first day. It rained during the night and signals didn't seem as strong as the next morning. A few stations that got away were WA6PY, OE9ERC and OH2DG and several others were incomplete contacts. I would like to see a second 2304 weekend be part of the contest.

NC1I: Franks nc1i@gcq.net an update on his station status -- Nothing has really changed. I'm still running the 48 x 15 el K1FO rear mount yagis with mechanical polarity rotation and TS-2000 driving an 8938. I finally had some time to troubleshoot my preamp problem. It took me all of 10 seconds to fix. Nothing more than a broken 12 volt connection in the shack! My station is again fully operational. I still have limited time to get on until late Oct, but should have some time before then (including part of the first ARRL contest weekend) to activate my station. As in the past I will make an effort to get on and call CQ as much as possible until I get sick of just hearing my own echoes. I much prefer random activity (does that exist anymore?) but will set up skeds if asked.

OK1CA: Franta ok1ca@ges.cz sends news of his Sept activity – I was QRV for the ARRL Microwave EME Contest on 2.3 GHz and scored 26x20. I worked initials with JA6CZD, PA3CSG, W9IIX, RW3BP, SM4DHN and K5GW to bring me to #40. I heard JA4BLC and I called many times JA8ERE. There was very good activity. I can work on the all frequencies (2304, 2320 and 2424 MHz) and have a new SSPA. I was also QRV on 10 GHz, but had very strong winds that made antenna tracking a problem. I started operation on 10 GHz on Sunday, but the power supply for TWTA broke during my second QSO with F5JWF. Thus I worked only one station on 3 cm, IQ4DF.

OK1KIR: Tonda (OK1DAI) <ok1vao@quick.cz> reports on EME activity in ARRL EME MW Contest – We worked on 13 cm on 16 Sept at 0404 OK1CA (569/559), 0411 G3LTF (559/569), 0417 RW1AW (569/569), 0422 F2TU (569/569), 0508 HB9SV (569/569), 0631 OH2AXH (569/569), 0655 ES5PC (559/559), 0728 SM4DHN (559/559), 0733 OH2DG (559/559), 0800 W5LUA (559/559), 0818 RW3BP (549/559) for initial #58, 0902 WD5AGO (O/O), 0915 K5GW (569/579) #59, 0922 VE6TA (549/559) and 1056 WA6PY (559/569), and on 17 Sept at 0625 G3LQR (549/559), 0710 DL4MEA (549/559), 0853 WW2R (O/449), 0905 OE9ERC (579/559), 1006 NA4A (549/559), 1033 W9IIX (549/549) #60 and US state 14 and 1125 K2UYH (559/559). We worked on 6 cm on 16 Sept at 0008 IK2RTI (549/549), 0052 F2TU (559/569), 0128 ES5PC (M/O) for initial #22 and 1st ES–OK 6 cm QSO and 1223 W5LUA (559/559), and on 17 Sept at 0011 VK3NX (O/O). Heard was OE9ERC and on 8 Sept we had partial at 1931 with RW1AW (559/559).

RD3DA: Yuri rd3da@list.ru is a new station on 23 cm. He presently has a modest equipment with only a 1 m dish and 150 W from a 4 x RA18H1213G SSPA, but has worked several station on JT65C including K2UYH in Sept. He plans to put up a 3.7 m dish in the spring.

RD3DA's 2 m dish for 1296 EME

RW1AW: Alex rw1aw@appello.de in KP50da was QRV for the contests -- Sept was a very interesting and productive month! I started EME on 6 cm with a very nice QSO on 8 Sept with VK3NX (539/559) for initial #1. On 9/10 Sept I was QRV in ARI EME Contest and QSO'd on 3 cm HB9SV (439/559) for an initial (#), IQ4DF (57/54) on SSB and DF9QX (569/569). I QSO'd on 13 cm VE6TA (569/569), and on 23 cm G3LTF (579/579), IW2FZR (579/569), SM5LE (529/539), OZ6OL (569/579), JA6AHB (569/579), IK3COJ (569/569), DL1YMK (579/569), G4CCH (579/589), ES5PC (579/569), IK2RTI (579/579), K5JL (579/579), W6IFE (599/599), K2UYH (569/569) and IK2MMB (559/559). The next weekend (16/17 Sept) I operated the ARRL Microwave EME Contest with excellent success the 3 cm and 13cm bands with all QSOs on random. I worked on 3 cm F2TU (559/559), IK2RTI (539/539), IQ4DF (58/57)

on SSB, DF9QX (539/539), G4NNS (O/O), F5JWF (529/449), WA7CJO (599/579) and (58/58) on SSB, F5JTA (O/O), LX1DB (569/569), W5LUA (569/569), DL0EF (599/529), GW4GDU (539/559), HB9BHU (559/559), F3VS (O/O), OH2AXH (559/539) and WA6PY (559/559), and on 13 cm G3LTF (579/579) and (56/55) on SSB, F2TU (579/579), OK1CA (579/559), OH2DG (579/559), OK1KIR (569/569), G3LQR (559/559), OH2AXH (569/569), ES5PC (569/569), RW3BP (559/559), K5GW (579/579), W5LUA (579/579), HB9SV (579/579), WD5AGO (539/559), VE6TA (579/579), DK7LJ (57/57) on SSB, K2UYH (579/569), LX1DB (569/569) and (56/55) on SSB, DL4MEA (539/449), F2TU (57/57) on SSB and WW2R (529/539). On 21 Sept I added on 13 cm a very nice QSO with NA4N (539/559). I will be QRV in Oct on 23, 13, 6 and the 3 cm bands.

RW1AW's 3 cm dish

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs@wp.pl has completed his 1st 70 cm EME QSO -- I am happy to report that I made my first 70 cm EME QSO on random CW during Italian EME Contest. After several unsuccessful attempts, I wanted to add some more TX power and good preamp. I completed a 4CX250 PA before the ARI Contest, but I had only temporary power supply with low voltage. This gave me about 125 W in the shack, which was a significant improvement over my previous power. I also prepared a new FHX35 preamp, but was unable to test it before the contest. Unfortunately signals were 10 dB weaker with the preamp. I decided to use my TX line for receiving as it has lower loss, but this made impossible to use my T/R switching. So I had to switch manually every period as I did 25 years ago! The antenna was 4 x 25el I0JXX yagis with open wire feed system. During contest I concentrated on 2 m CW EME, but was QSYing to 70 cm to look for big guns. On Sunday I heard DL9KR with good signals with no preamp, 30 m of coax and very old and noisy transverter. I called him and we easily QSO'd on random CW. After my QSO, my son SP7MC took the keyer and also called Jan. As PA was already hot our power was down to about 100 W. Jan proved that he has good ears once again, as Maciek also made his #1 QSO. We want to finish the power supply and have more power and maybe preamp for the ARRL Contest part 1 or at least part 2. I will be looking for big guns during ARRL contest on CW random.

SP7DCA's 70 EME QSL

VA7MM: Mark lunarlink@hotmail.com reports on his (VA7MM) and Toby, VE7CNF's Sept 1296 activity -- We were active during the Italian EME Contest in Sept and completed CW QSOs with IK2MMB, W6IFE, LA9NEA, G4CCH, F2TU, VK4AFL, K2UYH, G3LTF and DL1MYK. We tried an SSB QSO with W6IFE but were unsuccessful. We intend to be active on 1296 EME on both legs of the upcoming ARRL EME Contest.

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@telusplanet.net sends his 13 cm microwave contest results – I did not have much cooperation from the weather or Murphy over the microwave contest weekend. It all started well with 14 stations worked during the European window of the first pass. Weather was windy but not too bad. During the JA window rain really picked up and somehow infiltrated my elevation sensor box. At this point my elevation sensor stopped working, so had to stop operations. When checking out the elevation sensor problem on the next pass, I noticed that my output was erratic on Spectrian. It turned out that my 50 amp, 26 volt switching supply had suddenly decided to provide only 20 amps or so. I managed to fix the elevation sensor by removing a few drops of water. The power supply however has something more serious wrong with it. I got on for the last JA window with reduced power using batteries, but only heard a JA8? for one sequence and then he left. Stations worked were W5LUA, ES5PC, F2TU, OK1KIR, RW1AW, OH2DG, SM4DHN, K5GW for an initial (#), WD5AGO, OK1CA, HB9SV, WA6PY, G3LTF and OE9ERC. I also heard RW3BP, WW2R and NA4N, but had no chance to call them. The weekend after the contest I caught WA5WCP on 2304 for #30 and heard W9IIX calling but did not complete. My 70 cm feed is now back in the dish. I will be QRV on the weekends of 7/8 Oct and 14 Oct on 70 cm, then on 23 cm on 15 Oct and the Nov contest weekend.

VK3NX: Charlie ibnkarim@bigpond.net.au in QF21ex is now QRV on 5.7 GHz EME -- I am having difficulty getting skeds. I know there aren't too many with 5.7 GHz capability, but so far W5LUA is my only one who has responded to my sked requests. I have only been on about a month, but already have successfully completed 5 contacts. I am running a 3.7 m dish, CP prime focus feed, 20 W PA at the feed and 0.7 dB LNA. I hear my own echoes 100% of the time. So I would appreciate if you could mention my arrival on 5.7 GHz EME. If anyone wishes to a sked, I am contactable via the moon-net reflector or directly via e-mail.

VK4AFL: Trevor tbenton@bigpond.net.au reports on his 23 cm activity -- In early Sept VK7MO (2.3 m dish) and myself (3.7 m dish) achieved our goal of a QRP EME contact on 1296 with 5 W at each end using JT65C. This contact was the conclusion to several months of testing working down from 50 W. Conditions on the night were exceptional combined with the moon near perigee and a new VE4MA Super feed at Rex`s end. A subsequent attempt with 3 w yielded some syncs and one decode, so at that stage we called it a day. New 23 cm initials on CW in the last two months are W9IIX, SM6CKU, LA8AV, VA7MM and DL1MYK to bring me to initial #62. The W6IFE gang did their usual excellent job with the big dish during the ARI Contest. I was able to work them quite easily on SSB (53) both ways.

VK7MO: Rex rmoncur@bigpond.net.au reports on his experiments with a new version of WSJT -- Version 5.9.5 is now available from K1JT's web site at http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/. The most important features are a dramatic reduction in false decodes and an improved AFC and sync system for JT65C that allows the program to cope better with frequency drift and libration effects on 1296. VK4AFL (3.7 m dish) and myself (2.3 m dish) have found that through the use of the new version, that we have been able to complete 23 cm EME contacts at 10 W where they previously required 20 W. A contact has also been achieved both ways at 5 W. There has also been one important operational change. With the earlier versions it was general practice in VK to replace the grid square with a dB level report such as in the following format: VK7MO VK4AFL -27 OOO. It appears that overseas practice was to send either the -27 report or OOO report but not both. Unlike the old version the new version does not respond to messages with both systems of reporting, which has trapped a number of us in VK. With the new version you can use either reporting system, but not both – thus the options are: VK7MO VK4AFL -27 or VK7MO VK4AFL QG62 OOO. Trevor reports that "With the new version I have not received one false decode in a few hours of operating QRP EME, but when I once reverted to the previous version I immediately encountered false decodes". The improvement in false decodes is very impressive. But it is first useful to explain that there are two types of false decodes as follows: False Positives: These occur when you receive a message (e.g., callsign or signal report) from the station you are working in error and thus you might believe you have completed a QSO, but it would be invalid. And False Negatives: These are when you see an odd callsign which is easy to recognize as being false. These do not lead to invalid QSOs because if you call them they will not respond and if you see them later in a QSO you just reject them. I have done signal generator tests under worst case conditions to stimulate the maximum number of false decodes. These worst case

conditions are with the signal at -29 dB, and the program set to "aggressive", "exhaustive" , "sync" = 0 and "freeze/tolerance" disabled and with the Deep Search decoder using the full call.txt list of 4,720 call signs. With the earlier version I found the rate of false decodes was almost 50% under these extreme settings, but of these only 0.01% were False Positives that could lead to an invalid QSO. Thus while the false decodes were annoying one could still, under these very worst case conditions have 99.99% confidence in the QSO. With the new version the rate of false decodes dropped to 0.3% and the error rate for False Positives is so small that I could not find one. From tests on the earlier version it was found that the rate of False Positives could be derived from the false decodes divided by the random chance that the expected message would be found on the list. If this also applies to the new version, as one would expect, the error rate for False Positives would drop to around 0.0001%. Now I qualify this by saying that all these tests were with white noise and the rates are likely to increase under "on-air" conditions with birdies and interfering signals. I have completed only about 10 hours on air testing and have not seen one False decode. If anyone finds an example of a false decode on the new version please save the wave file and send it to me. [Since Rex wrote the above, Joe has released 5.9.6. This version includes all the above features and some more. It expands the bandwidth of spectral display down to dc and up to 5 kHz. Thus you can use the latest version as a spectral display for CW operation. The wider display is also very help for spotting stations that are off in frequency, (especially if you have a TS2000, which allows use of the full 5 kHz without any modifications)].

W5LUA: Al al_ward@agilent.com sends news on his microwave activity and about interference from Sirius Digital Audio Broadcast Satellites -- I tried with W6IFE on 10 GHz, had but no luck. [They did not make it on 3 cm – see their report]. I did work VK3NX on 5.7 GHz. (VK3NX has also worked OK1KIR, F2TU and RW1AW on 5.7 GHz). We have the potential for the reception of a couple of the Sirius Radio satellites. These satellites are in a highly elliptical orbit above North America. The lowest freq satellite transmits from 2320 to 2324 MHz and can thus cause interference to our 13 cm activity. They are normally only heard when I try to find cold sky. They are upwards of 50 dB over the noise. This past weekend, I did not see any noise increase, so I guess the path of the satellite and the moon did not cross. I actually found myself "forgetting" to tune up a lot. I have a separate FT-847 tuned to 160 MHz for 2320 MHz, which did quite well. How about renewing the old 13 cm activity day as we had when 2304 EME pioneer Paul Wilson, W4HHK was still alive? We could concentrate on 23 cm the first night and migrate to 13 cm the second night. It should be fun and it should get us more accustomed to tuning the "other" bands. After the contest I QSO'd on 13 cm W9IIX, NA4N and WA5WCP for his initial QSO.

W6IFE: John (KJ6HZ) john.d.oppen@boeing.com sends news on OVRO's activity during the ARI Contest -- KJ6HZ and WA6QYR had a great time operating W6IFE (40 m dish and 60 W) at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) on 9/10 Sept. We had planned to work both 10 GHz and 1296, but we had trouble receiving on 10 GHz. Sorry to all those who were looking for us on X band. We spent most of the first EU window trying to sort out the 10 GHz problems. We got back on 1296 for NA and JA/VK but heard nothing. Sunday we worked nearly the entire pass with a 2 hour sleep break during the NA window. Successful skeds with two VK stations made the weekend complete. The smallest station we know that we worked was a 2.3 m dish and 100 W. We would like to hear details of other QRP stations that worked us or tried to work us. Stations worked on 23 cm on 9 Sept were OZ6OL on SSB, IK2MMB on SSB, VA 7MM, LA9NEA and F2TU, and on 10 Sept K5JL, G3LTF, IK3COJ, LA8LF, N2UO, DL1YMK, RW3BP, RW1AW, K2UYH on SSB, IW2FZR, LA8AV, DF9QX, G3LTF on SSB, DL1YMK on SSB, DK7LJ on SSB, ES5PC, G4CCH on CW and SSB, JA8ERE, VK7MO, JA6AHB, JA4LJB and VK4AFL on CW and SSB. 9H1ES heard but not worked.

W8TXT: Mike <no internet access> reports working on 432 on 9 Sept JJ1NNJ and on 10 Sept N9AB. He did hear others, but no complete call signs. His elevation readout needs some work, which he plans to preparation for the ARRL contest.

WA6PY: Paul's pchominski@Jaalaa.com activity report -- On 9/10 Sept I was active on 10 GHz and QSO'd WA7CJO, HB9SV, F6KSX, F2TU, F5JTA, F5JWF and G4NNS. On 16/17 Sept I was active on 10 GHz and 13 cm sharing limited operating time with the SAC-CW contest on HF. On Saturday my TWT protection tripped and I was forced to insert a 3 dB pad at the TWT input. I could not investigate what was the reason during the night. On Sunday problem disappeared. On 3 cm I QSO'd IQ4DF, RW1AW, HB9BHU, F5JTA, F5JWF, DL0EF and WA7CJO. On 13 cm I worked G3LTF, OK1KIR, K5GW, OH2AXH, OK1CA, HB9SV, VE6TA, WD5AGO, RW3BP and K2UYH.

WA7CJO: Jim wa7cjo@futureone.com had active in the ARRL Microwave EME Contest on 10 GHz, but had a devil of a time copying CW -- I made 10 contacts and 2 initials. HB9SV and F5JTA were the new ones. I also worked IK4DF on SSB, F5KSX, GW4DGU, F2TU, W7SZ, WA6PY, IQ4DF, RW1AW, DF9QX, F3VS and F5JWF. There were a few others on, but I could not copy them. I am now at initial #70 on 3 cm. .

WB2BYP: John storyavenue@hotmail.com is QRV on 23 cm and working to enhance his system. He has a 6 tube (7289) PA and hopes to have it integrated in his system for the ARRL EME Contest in Oct. On 15 Sept he worked G3LTF (O/O) for an initial. He also heard W6IFE and others pretty well and could detect N2UO when he was in QSO with them, but probably not good enough yet to say I could work another 3 m dish. I gave W6IFE a few calls, but the QRM was pretty thick. My tree-free window is common to Europe, so lots of stations were potentially in their window at that time. I could hear 3-4 stations calling them so I can imagine what it was like on their end. I also worked OE9ERC.

WD5AGO: Tommy wd5ago@hotmail.com reports on his microwave contest operation -- I had a much better time during the contest on 13 cm than last year. All of the feed designs and testing paid off. Currently the dish is 2.7 m, 0.34 f/D with a HB circular septum waveguide and 3 ring scalar. We see 11.3 dB sun noise with SFU at 80, and about 0.15 dB moon noise. Efficiency is about 63%. With 200 watts, mounted at the dish powered by batteries, echoes are found 100% of time at a 2 to 5 dB SNR. Perigee is our friend. In the contest we worked on 16 Sept OK1KIR (O/O), HB9SV (559/559) for an initial #18, F2TU (559/559), RA1AW (559/539), OK1CA (559/559), OH2DG (559/449), VE6TA (339/339), G3LTF (559/549), K5GW (569/569) #19 - at this point we were running 125 W, WA6PY (O/339), K2UYH (559/549) #20, ES5PC (O/O), replaced battery, K5GW (55/43) SSB-dupe and W5LUA (559/O), and 17 Sept SM4DHN (559/549), W5LUA (559/539) dupe, RW3BP (O/O) #21 and OE9ERC (559/559) for a total of 16x13. I noticed half way through the first night that my power was sagging, I thought it was due to heating, but found the battery voltage was low (17 volts under load). I got to the store Saturday morning and picked up a new one, parallel the two bad ones and was back on with 25 V. The two others have been getting weaker over the past year. I am now using solar power to keep them fresh over the monthly period. I could not get away from school work to make it to Germany, missing the first week of students just does not go over well, even though they said I my take off. Maybe next time or move it a week earlier.

WD5AGO with his 2.7 m dish and 13 cm feed

WW2R: Dave ww2r_eme@g4fre.com writes about his recent 13 cm activity during the ARRL Microwave Contest – I worked on 13 cm on 16 Sept OK1CA, F2TU, W5LUA, K5GW for initial #9 and G3LTF - very weak, and on 17 Sept K2UYH #10, OK1KIR, PA3CSG #11, RW1AW #12 and OE9ERC. The 2nd day signals were much better than on 1st day even though we had 2.65" of rain during the EU period. I got very interested in recording W5LUA's rain scatter signal as I had never heard it on that band before. I tweaked my AIDC3733 C band converter (previously used for AO-40 with a 1.8 dB NF) for 2424. I monitored around 2320.1 all weekend using softrock 7, but only heard G3LTF and OK1CA. I CWNR were HB9SV, OH2DG and SM4DHN. I also heard W9IIX, SM3AKW and WD5AGO.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org had a great time in Sept. I was active in the ARI Contest on 70 and 23 cm and the ARRL Microwave Contest on 13 cm. The fun started on 8 Sept on 1296 with JT65C QSOs at 0240 RD3DA (-26dB/O) on sked for initial #273* (2 m dish and about 30-35 W) followed by 0254 RW3BP (12/11dB) on random. I started the ARI contest on 432 and worked on 9 Sept at 0347 K3MF (559/559), 0406 DL9JY (559/559) and 0415 F2TU (559/559) on CW. At 0600 I switched to JT65C for a partial with EA6VQ (24dB/-) at his home QTH. The next day he went to his EME QTH where he has a lower noise level where we easily QSO'd on JT65C at 0720 EA6VQ (22dB/O) for mixed initial #726*. Earlier on CW (on 10 Sept) I worked in the ARI contest on 1296 at 0348 LA9NEA (559/569), 0352 OZ6OL (559/559), 0357 G4CCH (559/579), 0404 IK4MMB (559/579), 0409 K5JL (579/579), 0412 ES5PC (559/569), 0416 N2UO (559/559) – we also exchanged grids for the ARRL VHF contest with not hint of direct copy, 0425 LA8AV (559/569) #274*, 0430 IW2FZR (559/569), 0442 G4DZU (549/339), 0510 VA7MM (549/569-DN89), 0522 DL1YMK (559/559), 0556 W6IFE(56/53- DM07) on SSB, 0604 G3LTF (559/579), 0610 IK3COJ (559/569) and 0620 RW1AW (559/569). I also QRZ'd someone I never identified – because of the low moon I had considerable tree blockage at the time. The next weekend I removed my 23 cm feed and replaced it with my 13 cm system, unfortunately it began rain quite heavily before I could complete the switch and did not end until most of the Eur window was over. On 13 cm I was running about 80 W to an old IMU design (RIW tin can special) with no flair. I have been thinking of adding a scalar ring. I have one of the Spectrian PAs converted with > 180 W out. I was going to use it, but with all the rain and the 80 W working ok, I decided to wait until my next 13 cm activity. I QSO on 16 Sept at 1256 F2TU (559/559), 1304 ES5PC (559/559), 1379 RW1AW (569/579) for initial #26, 1336 WD5AGO (549/559) #27, 1356 K5GW (559/559) #28, and 1412 W9IIX (449/449) #29, and on 17 Sept at 0948 OK1CA (549/559), 0954 HB9SV (559/559), 0958 W5LUA (559/559), 1004 RW3BP (559/559) #30, 1010 G3LTF (559/569), 1023 WW2R (449/O) #31, 1028 OH2DG (559/549), 1032 OE9ERC (569/559), 1047 WA9FWD (559/549), 1057 PA3CSG (549/549) #32, 1124 OK1KIR (559/559), 1224 WA6PY (549/559) and 1525 NA4N (449)/O) #33 for a total 19x15. I plan to put Hawaii on 1296 EME this June. I will be there for a microwave conference (MTT IMS) and will operate either before or after the conference depending on which week has a better moon window. I am putting all the pieces together and will probably use the same dish as in Bermuda, but with an improved feed and a little more power (200 W).

EA6VQ's single yagi used on 70 cm EME (1296 in the future?)

NETNEWS BY G4RGK: WA9HIR has is getting a 10' dish that he plans to use on 2304 EME. **N8CQ** is going back to K1FO QTH to operate in the Nov leg of the ARRL EME Contest. **WB7QBS** is plans to acquire the N9AB antenna system. **PA3CSG** is working on his 70 cm system and will be active on 432 in Oct. Geert is still looking for K5AZU's QSL. **K5AZU** has moved to Alaska. **K5SO** worked KL7HFQ and F3VS on 70 cm in Sept, but will be switch back to 23 cm for the first part of the ARRL EME Contest. **DK3WG** is QRV on 70 cm for skeds almost anytime, but will no longer be on for random contacts due to the low activity. Jurgen welcomes skeds. **SM2CEW** is working on a system for 13 cm. **DL9KR** met up with a lot of the EME gang at the Wienheim VHF/UHF conference. **HK1DX** (EA1DDO) is planning to be QRV on 70 cm EME from HK in a couple of months. You can get more information from Maximo at www.hk1dx.com **N1KI** is QRV on 432 EME from EM73 with 2 x 19 el yagis and 250 W and is looking for skeds n1ki@arrl.net. **DL0EF** was QRV on 10.368 (and on 10.45 GHz for JA) using a 10 m dish with 100 W during the ARRL Microwave EME Contest. During the contest they celebrated 50 years since the inauguration of the radio telescope Radiopeiler Stockert on 17 Sept 1956. **VE4MA** was active in the ARRL Microwave Contest and QSO'd on 10 GHz F6KXS and heard many others. **KL6M** is still struggling to get QRV 13 cm, but could not have been active in any case as Mike had wind problems during the microwave contest weekend. He plans to be active on 23 cm with 200 W during the ARRL contest. **W9IIX** worked 7 on 13 cm in the microwave contest of which 5 were initials. **KL7HFQ** is alive and well and promises to find more time to be active off the moon on 432 this fall. **K2DH** is working on getting dish up before the snow flies. He will QRV on 23 cm first. **VE1ALQ** still rebuilding from lightening hit. The transverter is still down and he does not think he will make it back on in time for the ARRL contest. **K4EME** is planning on being on 70 cm for the ARRL contest. **WA9FWD's** dish readouts quit, but despite this problem John worked K2UYH on 2304 during the microwave contest. **WA1JOF** is getting close to being back on 1296 EME. **N2IQ** needs to do some work on his big 48' dish for 70 cm, but plans to be active in the ARRL contest on 23 cm with his 28' dish.

FOR SALE: **DL9KR** is looking for a SK-306 chimney. **DL4XX** has two 2 nearly new (maybe 4-5 hours operating time) Thomson YL1050 tubes for sale. Contact Andy at dl4xx@web.de or phone 0049- 4102-204194. **K0YW** is looking for a 12' Paraclips type dish - preferably one that assembles easily. **VE1ALQ** has a Pro-pitch motor assembly for sale, in excellent condition and can ship. **W7MEM** has his 432 WA5AGO 3CX800a7 PA up for sale for $US600. **KY1K** has a 12' fiberglass dish to give away. Has no feed. It was a satellite link at a commercial installation. It breaks down into 4 sections, so it is very transportable and is already apart and ready to go. Art is in Maine, near Waterville and can be reached at KY1K@verizon.net or days/evenings at 207-649-1154. **WB3EYB** in Harrisburg, PA has 2 big dishes available for the taking. Tim's e-mail is tshing@comcast.net. **N8CQ** have 2 large scalar rings and 3 Septum kits still available.

IMPORTANT ARRL CONTEST RULES CLARIFICATION: F5VHX, K1JT and SV1BTR writes – We asked the following two questions of Dan Henderson, N1ND, and Tom Hogerty, KC1J, at ARRL headquarters. (Dan is the former ARRL Contest Branch Manager; Tom has just recently taken up this position). **1)** Is "self-spotting" permissible for stations who enter in the Single Operator Assisted category? **RESP:** "Self spotting is never permissible for any station - regardless of the category. This is in the General Rules for All ARRL Contests: 3.14. In contests where spotting nets are permissible, spotting your own station or requesting another station to spot you is not permitted." **2)** Is active solicitation or pre-arrangement of QSOs by non-amateur means permitted during the contest? **RESP:** Active solicitation by non-amateur means during the contest is also never permitted (except in the 10GHz and Up contest ONLY). This is in the General Rules for All ARRL Contests: 3.10. The use of non-Amateur Radio means of communication (for example, Internet or telephone) to solicit a contact (or contacts) during the contest period is not permitted." We think that self-policing is the best policy. If you enter the 2006 EME contest in the Single Operator Assisted category, please remember that passive use of loggers is permissible, as is the spotting of other stations; but self-spotting and the real-time arrangement of QSOs are not permitted by the rules. In addition, we wish to remind you to include mode information (CW, digital, SSB) for each QSO in your contest log.

FINAL: EME Calendar help is needed. For many G3SEK (now GM3SEK) has made up the EME calendar used for planning 70 cm and up EME activity and listing the moon position for weekends throughout the coming year. Since moving, Ian has given up this task – much thanks is due Ian for his efforts on behalf of EME. I wonder if there is someone who would be willing to take on this important task?

I am using a new system to identify initials. #NNN will indicate exclusively CW initials, #NNN* will indicate mixed CW and digital initials. #dNNN will be used to indicate exclusively digital (JT) initials.

K1JT has released a new version of WSJT that appears much superior to his earlier versions – see VK7MO's report. The 5.9.6 version includes an expanded spectral display allowing dc and up to 5 kHz to be viewed with a standard sound card. This latest version makes a nice a spectral display for CW operation as well as JT.

Don't forget DL3OCH's dxpedition Montenegro (4O6EME) on 23 cm and 70 cm EME starting around 28 Oct – see Bodo's report in last month's NL. He also has some interesting activity planned for 2007 including the possibility of 1296 activity from Peru. I am planning at 23 cm dxpedition to HI in June – see my report and DL1YMK is making plans for another extravaganza next summer. There are rumors of other up coming dxpeditions, but I have not received any information.

Good luck in the ARRL EME Contest. I plan to be active during the contest on both 70 and 23 cm and hope to work all of you. 73, Al – K2UYH