432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS
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CONDITIONS: This month both Microwave and UHF EME were the stars. On 24 GHz there was a highly successful activity weekend on 8/9 March. The following weekend was the 70 cm and 6/3 cm legs of the European World Wide (EWW) (DUBUS) EME Competition. On both 70 and the upper bands conditions and WX particularly in Eur were not very cooperative. On 432 the turn out was consider quite good, but the 3/6 cm crowd felt that active was a bit down. There was also a successful dxpedition to Monaco by DL3OCH. On 12/13 April the DUBUS Contest will move to 23 and 9 cm and these bands will get their share of the attention. There will also be a 70 cm activity time period (ATP) on 12 April from 2100-2300 and on 13 April from 1200-1400. The 24 GHz group has scheduled their next activity period for 6 April with the NA window from 1430 to 1630. I know of no April dxpeditions, but there will be at least two in May as reported below.

DXPEDITION NEWS: OK1DFC has announced plans for a 70 and 23 cm EME dxpedition for June to Z3 - Macedonia and E7 - Bosnia and Herzegovina. This month I will be testing a new portable 3.2 m mesh dish with an SPID AZ/EL rotator and tracking software from GM4JJJ. On 432 I will have a 1.5 kW K1FO PA and on 1296 with 800 W from my YL1336 driver amp. I will use a septum feed for 23 cm with a G4DDK VLNA, and on 432 MHz dual dipole and NE325 VLNA. I plan to test the whole setup in May. I will have available a web page with more details soon. I still do not have the dates fixed but I expecting to be in Z3 the first weekend in June and during week move to E7 for two days. I will be QRV on each band for only one EME window because time pressure. I will be QRV primary on CW and by request on JT65 - more details later. Plans for DL1YMK's dxpedition to CX are moving along. Michael's preliminary operation plan is as follows: 30 April 23 cm possibly, 1 May 1296 0630-1000 random and 1000-1700 skeds, 2 May 70 cm 0730-1100 random and 1100-1730 skeds, 3 May 13 cm 0900-1730 skeds, 4 May 70 cm 1030-1200 skeds, 1200-1400 open activity and 1400-1900 skeds, 5 May 23 cm 1100-2000 skeds, 6 May 23 cm 1230-2100 skeds, if needed 9 May 13 cm 1600-0030 skeds, and 10/11 May 23 cm activity during the DUBUS Contest. Please write to K1RQG to arrange skeds.

3A/DL3OCH: Bodo dl3och@gmx.de reports that he had to cancel his plans for operation in HA on 14/15 Marc but had good luck in Monaco -- Greetings from 3A. We had nice weather [22 March] until late afternoon. It then became very windy and even had a storm. The temperature was about 10°C without any clouds. The moon was bright and clearly visible, but the wind made it very difficult to operate and point the antenna. I had to hold the antenna the whole time during RX and TX and just went very quick to the laptop during seconds 48 to 59. I called CQ once or twice and was still playing with the settings when I saw HB9Q calling. He was -22 dB and would have been stronger if the antenna was pointing the whole period to the moon. The QSO was done very quick and I continued calling CQ. Then, G4CCH called. I copied him with -25 dB. It was still not even 0100. I then worked OK1DFC with -22 dB. I continued calling CQ and received PA3CSG, but he had some problems and never responded. I next worked at 0207 K2UYH at -22 dB with very quick decoding. Just before this QSO the wind became stronger and I almost lost my mast. My yagi hit the car, but nothing bad happened. So after K2UYH I decided to take everything down. The police showed up at about 0130 but were happy when they saw my license and the document from the telecommunication authorities of Monaco. I was also able to QRV the following night. The weather was very good and I QSO'd OK1DFC (gain), PA3CSG and ES6RQ for a total of 6 stations in the log. With the other two that I worked in the past, a total of 8 stations can say they have worked 3A on 23 cm. I do not think this is bad for having only a single yagi. I also worked HB9Q on 70 cm. I also had some time to compare the IC7000 with the IC706. It seems that the modified 706 is more sensitive for EME. I also made more than 1000 QSOs on HF this time. Its always fun to combine these two passions with each other. Having the pile up on HF and giving out new DXCCs on 23 cm. If I counted right, I have 78 first ever contacts in my log. I think there is nobody worldwide who can claim more... certainly not with one yagi. If I also count my OA activity, my first contact number grows to 84 first ever. I should give out a special QSL card for the 100th - hi.

3A/DL3OCH operating 23 cm EME from Monaco

9H1TX: David davcut@maltanet.net was QRV on 70 cm both days of the EWW EME Contest in March – I especially active on Saturday, about 80% of time and worked four stations; OZ4MM, I1NDP, KL6M and SM2CEW. On Saturday I saw many stations with huge signals and others that I was not able to copy. Those from NA were generally very strong. I guess that polarity was horizontal. On Sunday the only station I heard from NA was KL6M with lots of QSB, but a fairly good signal in QSO with DL9KR. I called several strong stations, but was only answered with QRZ or Y - VK3UM on Saturday and UA3PTW on Sunday. I worked on Saturday OZ4MM and I1NDP - I only needed to call them once, and on Sunday KL6M and SM2CEW. Stations heard were VK3UM, OK1?R, SV1BTR, G3LTF, K2UYH, K1RQG, UA3PTW and OK1DFC on Saturday, and DL9KR (called him but was impossible in pile up) I5CTE (new station) on Sunday. My station is 4 x BVO70 yagis, MGF 1302 LNA and 120 W PA with TS790/E.

DF1OI: Johannes reports on his March 24 GHz EME activity -- Thanks to all stations which participated in the 24 GHz activity day. I completed QSOs with OK1KIR, VE4MA and W5LUA. I also exchanged test signals with DK7LJ and LX1DB, and was received by DL7YC and PA0EHG. Although the WX was not too good (lots of rain clouds, but no rain) all signals where (O) quality with spreading around 150 Hz.

DJ8MS: Tor dj8ms@web.de besides being QRV on 70 cm EME is also experimenting with 23 cm single (67 el) yagi EME on JT. He should have > 100 watts this month and have copied K2UYH at the 21DB level. He plans to do portable operation once he has his system reliably running.

DL7APV: Bernd dl7apv@gmx.de was active in the 70 cm CW part of the DUBUS EWW EME Contest -- Condx were ok on Saturday, but terrible on Sunday with deep fading. I worked 38 stations with only one initial. I was only QRV for a few hours and had the first problem with my station in years. The RX line went dead after my QSO with SV1BTR. The same thing happened before the contest. I then replaced the 2nd preamp and all was ok. This time it seemed to be another problem. I disassembled the complete preamp box, but found all was in good shape. I put the box back together and the problem disappeared. This was a bit frustrating, but the problem did not return - hi! I worked on 15 March VK3UM, DL1YMK, OK1DFC, UA3PTW, SV3AAF, SP6JLW, UT2EG, JA9BOH, I1NDP, SV1BTR, G4RGK, SD3F, YO2IS, RW3PX, OZ4MM, KL6M, I5CTE, G3LT, OZ6OL, VE6TA, K1RQG, SM3BYA, W8TXT, DG1KJG, NC1I, WA6PY – (449 from a single yagi!), DF3RU, F3VS, G4ALH, N8CQ for an initial (#), DL5FN and K2UYH, and on 16 March S53RM, I5YDI,

JA6AHB, UA6LGH and SM2CEW. My 8x13 wl yagi array is sold to a PA0 and will be gone just as soon as the WX is a bit warmer. I am not sure what will be next.

DL9KR: Jan bruinier@t-online.de reports on his 70 cm DUBUS Contest operation – On Saturday I was helping out my oldest son and on Sunday we had guests, so I was only able to operate at the very end on Sunday when there was only 50 minutes left. Conditions were very good though some libration caused slight difficulties with weaker stations. Anyway, I enjoyed the pile-up. TNX for all the QSOs. Worked were OK1DFC (599), OZ6OL (579), OZ4MM (599), UA3PTW (589) – unstable frequency, SD3F (579), KL6M (589), VE6TA (589), G4ALH (569), I5CTE (569), K1RQG (589), W8TXT (569), K7XQ (569), KE2N (579), N8CQ (569), WE2Y (579) and SM3BYA (579).

ES5PC: Viljo vallik@telia.com sends a short summary of his QRP operation during the EWW Contest on 10 and 5.7 GHz -- On 10 GHz I worked on random OK1KIR, OK1CA, IQ4DF and LX1DB, and on sked VK3NX. CWNR were F5VKQ, F5JWF, HB9SV and G4NNS, and heard was SP7JSF. I worked on 5.7 GHz on random OK1KIR, and VK3NX, and on sked OK1CA. CWNR were JA6CZD. My station on 10 GHz is a 4.5 m dish, 6.5 W SSPA, V pol with RX NF about 0.8 dB, and on 5.7 GHz the same 4.5 m dish, 15 W SSPA, C pol with RX NF about 0.6 dB. I hope to increase my TX power soon.

F5JWF: Phil f5jwf@wanadoo.fr reports on his my activity during the DUBUS competition on 10 GHz – I QSO'd HB9SV, F5VKQ, OK1KIR, OK1CA, IQ4DF, G4NNS, K6RE, VK3NX for an initial (#), F3VS and LX1DB. I have had some intermittent trouble with my LNA probably caused by oscillation, which increase the NF. Sorry for the stations I couldn't decode. The weather was crazy as usual during this leg of the contest, but my station is now water proof. Not a lot of people this time. It is a pity because all signals were quite good.

G3LTF: Peter g3ltf@btinternet.com confirmed his score for the 23 cm SSB EME Contest – I ended up with 22 SSB QSOs and one CW/SSB QSO in 11 sectors for a score of (22x2+1)11 = 495 points. In March I did not have much opportunity to be active as the WX has been poor for much of the time. I was active for the DUBUS contest, but even then was only able to operate for one day due to very strong winds. On Saturday 14 March I worked 37 stations although conditions were very variable. Polarization varied between being very sharp and well defined at times to being completely spread with no peak. Signal levels were definitely down here; I'd guess by about 2 dB. I understand that there was some auroral activity, so that may explain it. Stations worked were VK3UM, UA3PTW, KL6M, SV1BTR, G3LQR, SP6JLW, DF3RU, DL5FN, OK1DFC, DL1YMK, UA6LGH, SM3JQU, OZ6OL, I1NDP, IK6EIW, JA6AHB, SM2CEW, JA9BOH, SM3BYA, OZ4MM, F3VS, S53RM, NC1I, YO2IS, SD3F, UT2EG, SV3AAF, DK8VS for initial #410, K1RQG, RW3PX, K1FO, DL7APV, I5CTE, G4RGK, W8TXT, K2UYH, VE6TA and HB9Q. I heard in QSO IK2RTI and WA6PY. I know that I missed out on a few of the USA stations who were QRV on the Sunday. On 18 March I was very pleased to work 9H1TX for #411. Signals were weak, M copy at the best, but David was very patient and eventually I got both calls from him. I continue to work on my 6 cm system and on feed modifications for 3.4 and 2.3 GHz. Lets hope the WX is good for the next leg of the DUBUS contest for 2.3 and 3.4 GHz and may I remind everyone that there is a growing level of activity on 2320, so please listen there for stations in G, GW, DL, PA who are not permitted to transmit on 2304.

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com had intended to seriously operate the 432 part of the DUBUS Contest this year but the WX in the UK did not cooperate – The WX was so bad on Sunday that it did not allow me to operate at all. I was only on for one Moon pass and worked a total 25 stations. Conditions seemed bad with constantly rolling polarization and heavy rain. Every signal heard was down from their usual strength, but I was not sure how much was attributable to conditions and how much was due to the heavy rain on the open wire lines. I am planning to expand the antenna to 16 yagis in the next few months WX permitting.

GM0ONN: Iain iain_barnetson@hotmail.com updates us on his status on 23 cm EME – It is a long story. Last year I made a major career change - for the better I think. I am now working for a major offshore subsea company doing oil and gas pipe laying as a Senior Survey Engineer. I have spent many months at sea this past year - UK, Norway, Gulf of Mexico and currently in Brazil. With regard to radio, I have recently purchased a new DB6NT 23 cm transverter and Preamp, so I am looking to getting the station back up later in the year. I also hope to go solid state with the PA at the feed. This change will greatly simplify my setup and ability to operate at a short notice. In addition, it should results in a stronger signal! I am also looking for a new house. I hope to have all sorted and settled by autumn and then rebuild my shack from scratch. That's the news from Scotland (actually in Brazil). I am looking forward to working you guys again in Oct/Nov.

I1NDP: Nando nando.pellegrini@tiscali.it was QRV on 70 cm for the March leg of the EWW Contest – I could not be present for the whole duration. There was good activity on Saturday, but it was a bit boring on Sunday as there were a very low number of signals left. Conditions were very variable and I would say poor to average with rain disturbing a lot on Saturday. I collected a total of 40 QSOs including initials with YO2IS and SD2F. Contacted were SV1BTR, DL7APV, SV3AAF, OK1DFC, DL1YMK, KL6M, UA3PTW, OZ6OL, DF3RU, SP6JLW, SD3F, JA9BOH, RW3PX, G3LTF, JA6AHB, SM3JQU, G4RGK, I5CTE, YO2IS, OZ4MM, DL5FN, DL1YMK, SM2CEW, F3VS, IK6EIW, S53RM, 9H1TX, UT2EG, OH2DG, UA6LGH, VE6TA, W8TXT, HB9Q, VK3UM, DG1KJG and WE2Y.

IQ4DF: Vico (I4ZAU) reports his group is working on 24 GHz and was listing during the 8/9 March AW -- Sunday was a wonderful day for us at IQ4DF. We copied VE4MA, W5LUA, OK1KIR plus others smaller sigs on 24 GHz. We are working on a transverter and have a 20 W (RW1136) TWTA, but we hope for more power from a VTU6191 if we can get PS information.

JAXA USB-1: Mike, JH1KRC jh1krc@syd.odn.ne.jp reports that JA hams are planning to operate from the 18 m (Gregorian feed antenna) JAXA dish. This activity is organized by the Katsuura Dish Experimental Station (KDES) in Katsuura, Chiba, on the Pacific coast to the east of Tokyo. This would be a year long project with activity planned for 144 to 5.7 GHz and probably starting in the summer or autumn. The JARL Chiba Branch is applying for a special station license.

18 m (Gregorian feed antenna) JAXA dish

K1RQG: Joe k1rqg@aol.com was active on both 70 and 23 cm during the March 15/16 AW -- I worked K5PJR and W9IIX on 23 cm prior to switching to 70 cm for the DUBUS Contest. It was nice to work a few new stations in the contest – especially N8CQ on with a very nice signal.

K3MF: Wayde k3mf@aol.com reports on his March 70 cm EME activity -- I have been very busy the last couple of months; so I did not have much to report. I am now using an LZ2US amplifier running 1.2 kW. I worked KL6M (449/559) during the 432 CW DUBUS EME Contest. Conditions seemed very poor. I barely heard NC1I. Frank rotated his polarity, but his signal did not change. He is usually (579+). This indicated just how bad the conditions were. On 22 March I worked ZS6WAB on JT65b (24DB) for an initial and one step closer to 432 WAC. I need only South America now. I also worked I1NDP on JT65b (29DB) for another initial. Nando's excellent antenna system pulled him out of the noise even with the great polarity shift from Europe to the US that evening. I was also heard by OK1TEH and OE3SJA, but polarity was not cooperating at the time and I was unable to copy them.

K5JL: Jay k5jl@hughes.net was active 1296 during the 15/16 March AW, but reports that not much was going on. He did QSO WA8RJF (549) for an initial, NA4N, SM5LE, LA9NEA, WW2R, WA5WCP and others.

K5SO: Joe k5so@valornet.com recently hosted a visit to his 23 cm EME station by WW2R. The visit included discussions and demonstrations of his 8.6 m dish and EME station's operations on 1296 with his 1.5 KW PA and of his radio telescope operations at 1420 MHz. K5SO has completed modifications of his hydraulic elevation control system to include a hydraulic accumulator arrangement that was suggested and used by K1RQG. It has

resulted in improved control of dish elevation. Joe is presently completing construction and testing of a 100 Hz synchronous-detector and solid-state reflective switch at his 1420 feed horn to synchronously switch between the antenna and a calibrated noise source in order to obtain accurate power measurements of stellar radio sources. These measurements will augment the existing Doppler shift frequency measurement capability of the station for neutral hydrogen cloud motion in the Milky Way galaxy. More details of Joe's EME station and radio telescope can be found at www.k5so.com.

WW2R visit to K5SO

K7XQ: Jeff k7xq@secure.elite.net was on 432 during the EWW Contest to try out his newly modified M2 4 X 9 W.L. XPOL array -- I operated about 5.5 hours Saturday including 2 hours in the VK/JA window and about 2.5 hours Sunday. I worked NC1I, DL9KR and HB9Q. CWNR were DF3RU, DL7APV, OK1DFC and K1RQG. I heard about 7 ~ 10 other stations, but too choppy to get their calls. I called CQ and thought I heard some replies, but I was not sure who they were. If you replied, sorry, I think I need a new preamp. I would very much appreciate anyone who can help me look for and make some suggestions on a good 432 preamp! I am currently using a SSB SP-7000 preamp. [WD5AGO makes excellent 70 cm preamps]. Echoes were way down compared to last month, but detectable most of the time. I am not sure if anyone else experienced the same problem, although I had high winds and I am not sure if wind noise affects 432 as it does on 144. I found almost all stations to be on horizontally polarized, although the replying stations were on the opposite polarity (RX one polarity, TX on the other). I believe that a 4 yagi station like this one is too small for EME, so will continue to add more yagis. 432 EME is still new to me so will continue to learn on this band!

KL6M: Mike melum@alaska.net was active on 432 in the DUBUS Contest in March and worked more than 45 with one new one, 9H1TX for #193. Heard but not worked were G4ALH, IK2RTI and K7XQ. He had problems with two 24 volt power supplies that cost him a few hours of prime time.

N8CQ: Gary gabercr@nc.rr.com has finished up a 432 12 x 16 el end-mounted yagis array (with polarity rotation) that he used for portable during the EWW EME Contest in March -- I mounted my new array on a landscaping trailer and used my new 8938 1.5 kW W6PO cavity PA with Lunar Link PS, 0.3 dB NF preamp and updated homebrew antenna controller in the contest – all major improvements over my past setups.

OK1CA: Franta strihavka@upcmail.cz send his March DUBUS Contest report -- I was QRV during the contest on 5.7 and 10 GHz. I worked on 6 cm on 15 March VK3NX (O/O) for initial #7, JA6CZD (O/O) #8 and OK1KIR (559/539), and 16 March ES5PC (549/559). I measured Sun noise of 14.1 dB (SF70), Moon noise of 1 dB, Cygnus A 0.04 dB, Taurus A 0.05 dB and Cassiopeia A 006 dB. I QSO'd on 3 cm on 15 March ES5PC for initial #32, OK1KIR, F3VS, F5JWF #33, HB9SV, F5VKQ, IO4DF, K6RE, SP7JSG and G4NNS and 16 March VK3NX. I was disappointed to work no one from NA. I plan to be QRV in the April part of DUBUS Contest on 2.3 and 3.4 GHz.

OK1DFC: Zdenek ok1dfc@seznam.cz March activity report – I was greatly affected by bad WX conditions in March. I survived a wind storm in Feb that peeked at 141 km/h at my QTH. The first day I was able to operate was 14 March and QSO'd on 23 cm DJ9YW (4DB) for initial {#39} on JT, K2UYH (2DB), PA3FXB (12DB), PE1HNG (15DB) and W5LUA (7DB) {#40} on JT. I then changed to a new feed on 432 and tested a new xverter and driver SSPA. I worked during DUBUS 432 EME contest SV1BTR, DL7APV, UA3PTW, SP6JLW, DL1YMK, I1NDP, G3LTF, DF3RU, KL6M, DK3WG, JA6AHB, G4RGK, SM3BYA, JA9BOH for initial #72, UA6LGH #73, SD3F, OZ6OL, DL5FN #74, RW3PX, NC1I, SM3JQU, SM2CEW, UT2EG, K1RQG #75, DK8VS #76, K1FO, W8TXT, VE6TA, K2UYH, I5CTE #77, OZ4MM, IK2RTI #78, SV3AAF #79, F3VS #80, S53RM #81, YO2IS, KE2N #82, WE2Y #83, DL9KR, WW2R #84, G4ALH #85 and than QRT because it became too windy. The WX looked very bad for Bodo's dxpedition to Monaco, but the wind calmed a bit. So I decided to take the risk and moved the dish to the moon about 30 mins before the announced time. I immediately found 3A/DL3OCH calling CQ. After two calls he answered with (O) and the first 3A-OK QSO was done (21DB) for #50 DXCC* and {#41} on JT. The next day I worked G4CCH (5DB), ES6RQ (7DB) {#4} on JT, ES5PC (9DB) and again 3A/DL3OCH (21DB) JT. I wanted to try CW, but did not get Bodo's attention. I have received several requests about the design of my new 432 feed. I will send some drawings/pictures for the next NL.

OK1KIR: Tonnda (OK1DAI) and Vladimir (OK1DAK) report on their group's microwave EME activity in March – During the March part of the EWW EME Contest they were QRV on 5760 and worked on the 15th at 1050 JA6CZD (549/559), 1100 ES5PC (O/O), 1123 VK3NX (559/449) and 1134 OK1CA (539/559). The measured sun noise was 14.2 dB (SF70), the moon noise was 1.1 dB, Cass A was 0.04 dB and Tau A was 0.05 dB. On 10 GHz they QSO'd on 14 March (before the contest) at 1650 HB9SV (549/559), 1736 ES5PC (529/569) #39, KO field, DXCC 18 and the first OK – ES 3 cm QSO, 15 March at 0003 ES5PC (O/O), 0029 OK1CA (559/569),1443 HB9SV (559/559),1455 F5JWF (547/579), 1510 F5VKQ (549/559), 1540 SP7JSG (O/539), 1807 IQ4DF (569/559), 1815 G4NNS (549/559), 1841 F3VS (549/559) #40 and 2336 K6RE (O/O), and 16 March at 1118 VK3NX (O/O) (ground noise at el of 2.6°!), 1527 SP7JSG (O/579) - second QSO and 1748 IK2RTI (O/559) for a total of 12 QSOs. F/DJ2DY was heard but lost - too weak a signal. The measured sun noise was 18 dB (SF 70), the moon noise was 2.6 dB, Cass A was 0.04 dB and Tau A was 0.04 dB (values were degraded by interference around 10368 being converted down to the noise meter, which used 3 dB bandwidth of 8.5 MHz). On 24 GHz, we worked on 15 March at 2143 DK7LJ (O/O) - Doppler was 35 kHz at el of 36°, moon noise was ≈ 2 dB. This was our first operation on 24 GHz in an EME contest. Greatly appreciated was the continuous band surveillance by OK1VAO using SDR-14 RX. Instead of the fatiguing rolling of a tuning knob, we just watched the noise waterfall! It's a great help in surviving hours without any new signals, hi! Only our TWT was working hard high above in the dish focus driven by the CW keyer down in the shack. Not one signal was lost even when at the noise level due to the dish steering. The weekend before the EWW Contest we had a party on 24 GHz EME! OK1KIR was finally able to get on board. We completed our rig after 4 years of work, and contacted all stations available during the weekend. QSO'd on 9 March at 1103 DF1OI (O/O) on 24048.100, 1134 DK7LJ (O/O) on 24048.100, 1401 LX1DB (449/449) on 24048.200, 1601 W5LUA (549/449) on 24048.100 and 1706 VE4MA (O/O) on 24048.150. We were really happy for each one contact, especially the first OK-LX and OK-VE QSOs. Rotating the feed (LP) showed low influence (as perceived, not measured) except ~ +/- 10-15 degs from a deep minimum (at perpendicular pol). Signals showed frequency spreading from about 100 Hz up to 200 or 300 at maximum on the Spectran waterfall. Very clean (narrow) signals were received during our QSO with DK7LJ and later on from LX1DB (quite clean) and especially from W5LUA. An RX CW bandwidth of about 1 kHz was optimum for the reception of most of signals during the day. Sun noise was 14.8 dB at 0900 (lightly cloudy) and 14.4 dB in the afternoon at an el of 43 degs with more clouds. The respective moon noise was approx. 1.95 dB in both cases. Noise ratios were measured to close sky without searching for a maximum in the coldest sky. The antenna beamwidth was slightly over 0.2 deg. It was hard to measure on noise sources of 0.5 deg size. Moon tracking using F1EHN's software with incremental steps of 0.02 deg was used to point the beam to the moon's center (tested every 10 ~ 15 minutes with small but necessary corrections). The change in moon noise, when rotating the polarization, was < +/- 0.02 dB. We used a 4.5 m solid dish with a linear pol feedhorn, TWTA and transverter all located at the focal point and rotatable over +/- 90 degs. Our LNA was by DB6NT with a 1.5 dB NF (not measured). Our RF power was about 20 W (not measured precisely as each section of WG or transition swallows 0.5 dB or more. Two WG switches in series after TWT (continuously powered up) with proper sequencing were used to safely operate the LNA.

OK1TEH: Matej ok1tehlist@seznam.cz took part in DUBUS Contest on Saturday and Sunday on 432 -- I worked only HB9Q and heard very well OZ4MM - but after 15 minutes of my calling, Stig went QRT, NC1I (very weak), SM2CEW (419), VK3UM (319), K1RQG (?) and several weak CQ too weak to be identify. I suffered from a lot of local QRM and almost a "forest" of birdies. I also tried out of contest a JT65 test with ZS6WAB. He has new 70 cm array 16 x 12 el Xpol yagis and 600 W PA. I was able to copy him (21DB), however he has his LNA in shack, so we didn't make a 2 way QSO. I hope that after some improvements of his RX we'll make it on CW too (due to the nice JT65 melody

heard in my headset). On 432 I am using a 23 el DK7ZB 5.7 m yagi and 600 W GS31 PA BTW on 14 March I was testing on 23 cm EME on JT65c with my small 17 dBd dish with linear polarization and heard K2UYH calling HA/DL3OCH with UFB signal, peaking 419! I also saw on JT65 G4CCH (28DB), DJ9YW (29DB). I have still some problem with the signal drifting due to 12 year old transverter. For more information on my station see <http://ok1teh.nagano.cz/eme_log432.htm>.

OZ4MM: Stig vestergaard@os.dk wrote on the March EWW Contest weekend -- It was fun as usual, but this weekend I had lots of problems keeping the station running, hi. I missed the first hours after moonrise on Saturday due to a fault in the high voltage power supply. I had it repaired and was on by 1500. I found very good activity, but and conditions seemed only average on Saturday. During the night, I noticed that in some directions the background noise increased, but I didn't use up contest time to locate the problem. On Sunday conditions were even worse and the noise problem definitely degraded the RX here. After some pointing around I located the source to be a UHF TV transmitter located about 25 km in a west direction. I need to find some way to add a filter in the LNA. I am using a fairly broadband ATF54143 LNA followed by a very narrow and deep filter, but I may need to try out a input cavity design again. My contest total was 47 stations with one new initial, 9H1TX who is doing very well. I worked only 2 stations from Japan and VK3UM from Australia. Activity seems down in the east. From NA more stations were on, but still lower activity. During the last 70 cm ATP activity had increased, so I had hoped for even more contest activity. Possibly it was the influence of the bad weather and aurora that was around during the weekend. I am available for skeds on 432 and 1296 with anyone interested.

PA0EHG: Hans pa0ehg@amsat.org reports his first results listening on 24 GHz EME -- I mounted my feed and RX system in my dish and measured moon noise of about 1.1 dB (cloudy sky) and sun noise of 11 dB. During the AW I heard signals from OK1KIR and LX1DB, but they were very hard to copy and hardly detectable on Spectran. I had moon noise variations from 1.2 dB max to 0.6 dB min. The signals from LX1DB and OK1KIR were very rough and spread over I don't know how much bandwidth. Could this be caused by the falling raindrops? I expect so. [Hans now has 12 W from a Hughes TWTA and will try to be QRV in April]..

SD3F: Carl (x-SM3AKW) sm3akw@spray.se has a new call -- This was my first day on 432 with my new callsign and it rendered a lot of QRZs! My CQs did not cause any pile ups. I am sure that it will get as known as my old one. SD3F is not a new initial, but I believe it will count as another multiplier in the DUBUS contests. The first station worked as SD3F was UA3PTW. From there on I QSO'd VK3UM, SP6JLW, SV1BTR, I1NDP, JA6AHB, DF3RU, SM2CEW, OK1DFC, OZ4MM, DL7APV, G3LTF, NC1I, HB9Q, G4RGK, KL6M, VE6TA, K2UYH, DL1YMK, K1RQG, K1FO and SM3JQU. At 0140, I still had 2½ hours of moon, but K1FO and NC1I were the only US still coming through. By this time my moon was well beyond 300 degs, so it may well have been a polar cap absorption phenomenon. Stations heard were UA6LGH, JA9BOH, OZ6OL, S53RM, SV3AAF, I5CTE, OH2DG, UT2EG, W8TXT and SM3BYA.

SM2CEW: Peter sm2cew@telia.com reports on his March activity -- The DUBUS 432 CW EME Contest was again an enjoyable event. Conditions were not the best due to a strong aurora, but still activity was high and the low end of the band was buzzing with stations. I worked the following stations: KL6M, DL1YMK, G3LTF, YO1IS, IK6EIW, UA3PTW, RW3PX, SD3F, OZ4MM, G4RGK, I1NDP, UA6LGH, SM3JQU, S53RM, OK1DFC, SP6JLW, UT2EG, SV3AAF, DF3RU, VK3UM, JA6AHB, DL7APV, SV1BTR, SM3BYA, OZ6OL, 9H1TX #430, K1RQG, W8TXT, VE6TA, WE2Y, KE2N. It was a thrill to work 9H1TX on random. Congrats to David for getting the 432 MHz EME station going so well! My operating time was somewhat limited on Saturday, so there are certainly a few regulars who were getaways. Thanks to all, hope to see some of you on 13 cm in the next leg.

SM3BYA: Gudmund gudmund.wannberg@telia.com operated 432 in the DUBUS Contest -- The XYL and I went down to our SM3 QTH last weekend with a long list of things to do. The DUBUS contest was on the list too, but only towards the bottom. Anyway, in the end I managed to operate for about four hours on Saturday and three hours on Sunday. Subjectively, conditions appeared poor to average with lots of libration fading and below average signal strengths from most stations. I worked 21 stations in all. I QSO'd on Saturday VK3UM, UA3PTW, OK1DFC, SV1BTR, G3LTF, OZ4MM, DL7APV, NC1I, SP6JLW, KL6M, RW3PX, I1NDP, DL1YMK, K2UYH and G4RGK, and on Sunday SD3F, SM2CEW, VE6TA, K1RQG, OZ6OL and DL9KR. I also copied DJ1KJG and I5CTE. I Guess I should be pleased that I did even this well. Sun noise measurements on Sunday yielded only 9.6 dB Sun/cold sky, which is about 2.3 ~ 2.5 dB below what my system ought to deliver (and normally does)! If this is correct, my receive performance was in reality only like that of a four Yagi station, and there could have been several two and four yagi stations replying to my CQs that I just didn't copy. My apologies to all who wasted their time! I simply don't understand what the reason could be - the antenna pattern is normal, the overall RX gain seems normal too and the VSWR on transmit is below 1.2. Admittedly, last time I had the front end down on the bench, it measured in at about 40°K, a bit high but nowhere close to what would be needed to cause the overall system performance to degrade this badly. My next operation will probably be around the 1-4 May extended weekend and DUBUS ATP. Skeds are welcome!

SM5LE: Sven SM5LE@telia.com was active on the weekend of 15/16 March on 1296 – I worked 10 stations over the weekend but found very little activity. QSO'd were G4DZU, G4CCH, VE7BBG, HB8BBD, IW2FZR and K5JL.

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs@o2.pl sends news on his March 70 cm contest activity – I had very disappointing results here. The beginning was quite nice. I worked VK3UM and KL6M. After some time, I found that my TX was not working. I discovered that my 7/8" TX line got broken while elevating the antenna. The last winds must have change TX line alignment on the mast with the H frame and there was not enough cable to rotate the antenna safely. I wonder if cable was not broken partly during my first QSOs. It took several hours to make just temporary repairs. I was ready again in the evening with even less power due to more SWR and worked OZ4MM. After that my preamp went dead and decided this was enough for that weekend. Since Dec, I have had a lot of Murphy visits and it seems I have spent more time repairing than operating! I plan to take down my 70 cm array for maintenance and to move it to a better location at my EME QTH. I will use a lower mast that will allow me to do repair and maintenance work without taking antenna down. Presently I am using 4 x 25 el yagis and 250 W (closer to 200 W this weekend). I also heard DL7APV, DL1YMK, SV1BTR, SM3JQU, OK1DFC, DF3RU, G3LTF, I1NDP, SM2CEW, JA6AHB, NC1I and UA3PTW. My effectively operating time was only about 3 hours.

SV1BTR: Jimmy's jimmyv@hol.gr 70 cm activity in March -- It was a big pleasure to me to operate one more year in the EWW Contest (DUBUS/REF) 70 cm CW section – (The Moonbounce Competition which respects and honors RADIO). I was QRV for 60% of the weekend's available moon time. I worked on random the following 40 UFB operators/stations: SD3F, UA3PTW, SP6JLW, OK1DFC, SV3AAF, DL1YMK, VK3UM, JA9BOH, I1NDP, DL7APV, G3LTF, KL6M, DF3RU, RW3PX, OZ6OL, UT2EG, DL5FN, JA6AHB, IK6EIW, DK3WG, OH2DG, G4RGK, SM3BYA, I5CTE, UA6LGH, YO2IS, OZ4MM, F3VS, W8TXT, K1FO, WE2Y, K1RQG, VE6TA, K2UYH, NC1I, S53RM, SM2CEW, KE2N, W7MEM and N8CQ. I also CWNR WA6PY. This was the farewell of my current 70 cm array of 8 8.5 wl H pol & 8 6 wl V pol yagis. It has sure provided much insight. The previous 70 cm xpol array i had was back in 1998. I am now QRT on 432, but I will be back this summer with 24 xpol yagis. It will be my 15th EME array.

SV3AAF: Petros' sv3aaf@yahoo.com 70 cm DUBUS Contest results -- It was nice to Find really good participation in the 70 cm part of the DUBUS contest. Conditions were poor to average at their very best. I experienced quite a few negative effects ranging from Faraday spreading and 90 deg polarity shift to choppy libration and unusually high path loss for a perigee. This at times made it near forbidding to operate with a smaller station like mine. Stations worked were VK3UM, SV1BTR, DL7APV, I1NDP, UA3PTW, DF3RU, OZ4MM, G3LTF, SM2CEW, HB9Q, OK1DFC, KL6M and NC1I. Heard were SP6JLW, RW3PX, F3VS, K2UYH briefly and JA6AHB - sorry impossible to complete the QSO. WX was good and did not cause any problems. A big bang in the shack at 1900 Sunday knocked me off the air for a 15 min repair break. I will be looking for everyone on 1296 in the May leg of the contest.

VE4MA: Barry ve4ma@shaw.ca reports on the 24 GHz activity in March -- Thanks everyone the great activity! It seems that the WX was bad for most in Europe. Signals seemed to vary up and down considerably during a transmission sequence on all EU stations. My moon noise was stable. I was able to put my new preamp in this morning and the measured NF was 0.35 dB better almost the same as the increase in moon noise up to 2.1 dB again. I used to have 2.1 on 24,192 and still need to put in a better down converter (which I have). I did not improve the TX power this month, but maybe next. I had some problems here. My tracking program failed about 5 times and I had to restart and check pointing. I need to improve this system. It is good after a while but not reliable enough. I worked W5LUA (449/449), DF1OI (O/O) - nice signal, saw someone getting ready to tailend, partial DK7LJ (M/-) incomplete - signal was weak and variable, OK1KIR (O/O) for initial #8 - nice signal at times but variable and CW speed too fast, LX1DB (559/559) - great signal but it took a while to find. It's getting very exciting with all the regular activity on 24 GHz. Next month we can possibly have PA0EHG and IQ4DF joining us. [After his 24 GHz activity, Barry

visited Japan on business where he participated in mini EME meetings in Tokyo and Kawasaki City. JA6XKQ/1 and JH1KRC visited Barry. Barry received a silver plated HB GS15B cavity PA made by JA6XED. In Kawasaki City Barry visited Creative Design Corp, where JL1ZCG is located in the factory area of Kawasaki's heavy industries. The club put on a demonstration, sending CQ on 432. JH0WJF and someone else replied. Barry enjoyed meeting with the young guys who mainly operate JL1ZCG and investigated their antennas (27x12 yagis on 70 cm) on the rooftop and their kW amplifiers. Back in Tokyo with JH1KRC, Barry visited Akihabara, a major electrics market. Barry purchased for some SMA adapters and some high voltage capacitors for his TWTA PS. Barry's business took him to Fukushima, JA7. He wanted to visit JA7BMB, but had no time. (JA7BMB is presently QRT and his dishes are down). Tnx to JH1KRC for providing this report].

VE6TA: Grant's ve6ta@clearwave.ca 432 DUBUS Contest report -- I had an enjoyable time over the weekend despite the usual challenges of equipment failures and a disturbed ionosphere. Saturday there was a large amount of very fast QSB and signal polarity spreading making it difficult for me to copy RSTs in particular. Conditions did get better during the Asian window, but only a couple stations were on. I worked NC1I (589), K2UYH (579), DL1YMK (449), N8CQ (449) for an initial, KL6M (579), W8TXT (449), JA6AHB (559), VK3UM (579), OK1DFC (579), I1NDP (579), UA3PTW (569), OZ4MM (589), SV1BTR (559), HB9Q (579), UT2EG (O), RW3PX (O), F3VS (559), DL7APV (569), G4RGK (O), OZ6OL (449), K1RQG (579), DF3RU (569), G3LTF (559), SP6JLW (559), SD3F (449), SM2CEW (559), SM3BYA (O) and DL9KR (599). I heard but did not work KE2N, WA6PY, I5CTE and K3MF. Conditions were poor enough that where I normally work several 4 yagi stations, few if any were in the log this time. My plan is to change the feed to 13 cm for the contest in April, and I am feverishly working to get 9 cm on line by then as well.

VK3NX: Charlie ibnkarim@bigpond.net.au writes on the EWW Contest at 6 cm up -- There seemed to be fewer participants than last year unfortunately. On 15 March for my first moon pass, conditions were difficult at my QTH due to very, very, enhanced local tropospheric condx on the microwave bands. The result was a scattering of signals and created a very spread signal on Rx. Luckily on 16 March when I operated on 10 GHz, the local enhancement subsided and the moon signals on 10 GHz were exceptional at my QTH. On 15 March on 5.7 GHZ, I worked OK1CA (new #), OK1KIR, ES5PC and JA6CZD. No other signals were heard. On the 16th on 10 GHz I worked OK1KIR, ES5PC (#), OK1CA and F5JWF (#). I heard HB9SV with a very loud signal, but I was right near my moonset and refraction made it difficult to stay on the moon. We exchanged reports with no problems but never confirmed reports. I was astonished to hear ES5PC (M) with his 6.5 W on 10 GHz. Tnx to Viljo and all the other stations for coming on in my limited window. It was disappointing to not work any stations to my East. I am sure more stations were active on 10 GHz on 15th, but due to my short window, I choose to stay on 1 band for the entire pass as it takes me approximately 1 hour to change bands (feed, amplifiers, etc). It would help to know when operators are going to be QRV, so we could maximize our time on the "right" bands. I am looking forward to 2/13 April when I will be QRV on both 13 and 9 cm.

VK3UM: Doug rports on his 432 contest activity on15/16 March –- I took sun noise measurements at 2300 Saturday 15 March with an SFU of 65. 70 cm was 17.1 dB and 23 cm was 18.9 dB (as predicted by the VK3UM EMECalc), cold sky was 6.2 dB at +37 °C air temperature. At moonrise, the Faraday was aligned with slow QSB, but at ~10° el, the polarity changed to ~45° and stayed that way until ~1220 when significant liberation, deep fading and widely swinging polarity made conditions quite challenging. On Sunday, very similar conditions to the previous day but with considerably less Libration were present. Locally, while Northern Hemisphere Stations were battling with snow, wind and gale force winds, I had temperatures of +41°C on both days! (If only we could share)! This was measurable with my CS/termination. Conditions were good to excellent for most of the time. The 45° Faraday offset reduced signal levels of course, but it probably helped those with fixed polarization. Patience was required to combat the fading, but I managed to work single and 2 yagi stations without query (YYY). As an aside (for new stations a tip), please be aware that increasing your CW speed is far better than slowing it down. Trying to duplicate the other stations speed is always good practice. I battled with a couple of guys during periods of libration where that would have been and advantage from my view point. Thanks for their persistence. Activity was Very good. I was very pleased with the NA turn out (compared with previous months) and although the number of stations has diminished significantly over recent years, there was plenty of activity to keep all quite busy. The operating technique and manners was exemplary from what I heard in keeping with 70 cm tradition. It was a 'pleasant' change to have to work for your QSOs given the libration, QSB, swinging polarity, etc. Everybody was spread out and mutual QRM seemed at a minimum, contrary to what sometimes happens on some other bands. I think I worked all available with the exception of WW2R and 9H1TX. If I missed someone please accept my apology as it got pretty hectic at times. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, most fitting to the dedicated memory of our highly respected and sadly missed friend, Jose EA3DXU SK. QSO'd on 15 March at O458 VE6TA (559/579), O507 K2UYH (559/559), O513 JA6AHB (559/559), O517 KL7M (569/569), O528 NC1I (579/579), 0536 WA6PY (539/549), O555 W8TXT (559/569), O605 N8CQ (549/559), 1025 SM3BYA (549/549), 1930 UA3PTW (559/569), 1035 SD3F (559/569), 1038 OZ6OL (559/569), 1043 SP6JLW (569/569), 1047 SV3AAF (559/559), 1055 RW3PX (549/449), 1103 DL5FN (559/569), 1112 DL7APV (569/569), 1118 UT2EG (559/559), 1130 F3VS (449/549), 1138 JA9BOH (549/549), 1142 SV1BTR (569/579), 1145 G3LTF (559/559), 1150 DL1YMK (559/559), 1158 SP5CJT (539/559), 1209 SM3JQU (539/559), 1228 SP7DCS (539/559), 1231 DF3RU (569/559), 1239 G4RGK (549/559), 1248 DL9KR (579/579), 1337 DK3WG (549/559), 1320 I5CTE (559/569) and 1342 OH2DG (559/559), and 16 March at O605 WE2Y (549/559), O615 K1RQG (579/579), 1148 OZ4MM (579/579), 1212 DG1KJG (539/549), 1248 I1NDP (559/559), 1301 S53RM (559/559), 1330 SM2CEW (559/569), 1341 UA6LGH (559/569), 1415 HB9Q (579/579) and 1426 IK2RTI (559/569) for a total of 42 random QSOs and 39 multipliers giving a claimed total score of 163,800 points.

W5LUA: Al w5luu@swbell.net comments on the 24 GHz EME activity in March -- At present all 24 GHz EME activity is on 24,048 MHz, not 24,192 GHz because 24192 MHz is not a primary allocation everywhere. A good thing about 24,048 MHz is that the last OSCAR satellite had a transponder on 24,048 MHz. Hopefully future satellites will as well. We are all use linear polarized at the moment. NA is normally horizontal and Europe is vertical, although I do have a twist section so I can go vertical. Power levels as low as 20 to 25 watts at the feed are workable by all. I am now using my 2.4 m offset dish with a new W1GHz feed for both 24 and 47 GHz. I use a TH-3864C TWT at 100 W mounted on the arm of the dish. If you would like to be on an e-mail list of proposed future schedule sessions on 24 GHz, please send VE4MA or me an e-mail. I will be around for 13 and 9 cm for the April part of the DUBUS Contest. I will attempt to be on 24 GHz from 7 to 11 April and through the weekend as well.

WA6PY: Paul pchominski@maxlinear.com reports on his March effort in the DUBUS Contest –- I was QRV for a few hours in the European EME Contest. Due to very high winds I was unable to operate 10 GHz. On 432 I QSO'd: VK3UM, UA3PTW, OZ4MM, DL7APV, KL6M, HB9Q, NC1I and DF3RU. Due to the winds I was forced to QRT at GHA 60 deg with still at least two hours of European window left. The first night I heard K2UYH working VK3UM, but I could not find Al later. I also heard a few other stations. The strongest signal that night was from KL6M. The next day I also heard I1NDP and SM3JQU. Due to the other commitments I could not be QRV for the next Moon pass. I am still using only a single 8 WL cross yagi made from a dual dipole feed with 1.2 kW at the feed point.

WA8RJF: Tony temanuele@kentdisplays.com made his first QSO on 1296 in March -- It gives me great pleasure to finally report success on 1296 EME. I worked K5JL, W5LUA and G4CCH during the March AW on random CW. I also heard but did not work LA9NEA and WA5WCP. After the weekend I ran skeds with K2UYH and G3LTF, but heard nil. This probably means I had a problem at my end, since I have heard both in the past. I think the position of the feed may have been miss aligned. Plenty of optimization remains for my little station, which consisting of a 10' TVRO dish and 160 W PA. The gear at the feed is not yet weatherproofed, so I must remove everything between operating times. My next likely activity will not be until mid-April as I have a very busy work schedule including overseas travel.

WW2R: Dave ww2r_eme@g4fre.com report for the March AW –- On 432 on 15 March I worked NC1I for initial #35 and KL6M. I CWNR K2UYH and VK3UM, and on 16 March added K2UYH and HB9Q who was the loudest signal of the weekend. CWNR were SV1BTR (15 mins), I1NDP (15 mins - got QRZ) and DF3RU. I also heard NC1I, KL6M, OK1DFC and UA3TPW at this time. At the end of the contest I worked OK1DFC #36, who came back on my first call. This was nice as I had just spent 30 minutes calling DL9KR, who was 11 dB louder with no success. On 1296 I worked G4DZU (CW initial) and K5JL (569) and heard SM5LE. I called CQ a lot, but no responses. The good news is that the amp survived 6 hours operation without protest (TH338 at ~450 W at 2200 V). I now have 13 cm feed on dish and getting over 12 dB of sun noise and good echoes in prep for DUBUS contest's April leg.

YO2IS: Szigy yo2is@wa7v.ampr.org was QRV on 70 cm for the DUBUS Contest in March –- I was pleased to run again in the DUBUS contest on 432, but had to split my time to take part in the RDXC contest on 160 m. My EME rig was in good shape as I have updated the exciter from tubes to power modules and reshaped the grid tuning of my K2RIW PA. On Saturday conditions seemed a bit better than Sunday. I worked SM2CEW, SV1BTR, I1NDP for initial #167,

DF3RU, OZ4MM, DL7APV, G3LTF, UA3PTW and OK1DFC. Most stations responded to my first call, but I had to fight with local QRM. As my EME QSO counter was close to the 1,000 mark, I decided to get some double QSOs in. So I made repeat contacts with OZ4MM, DF3RU and finally with UA3PTW to reach my 1,000th QSO via EME! This fulfilled my 1990 dream goal! CWNR where JA6AHB and SP6JLW. I also heard NC1I but never on a CQ. Regarding 23 cm EME, I am working on improving my system and will have a new mount and less tree blockage. If weather permits, I will retry 23 cm EME during the April moon perigee.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org was in March QRV on 23 cm on 14 March looking for HA/DL3OCH, who did not make it on because of bad WX, and worked instead at 2120 OK1DFC (5DB/4DB) on JT65C. The next day I operated the 70 cm leg of the EWW Contest. I had to continuously battle my noise problem, but still had a good time. I apologize to all those I QRZ'd and was never able to ID. I hope people realize just how bad the noise is. It all depends on if I can find a polarization were I can null the noise and still copy the signal. This does not always work and some stations are not too patient. During the contest most of the time I had to TX at 90 degs to RX to be heard. I QSO'd on 15 March at 0014 W8TXT (559/559), 0025 KL6M (569/569), 0035 UA3PTW (559/559), 0052 OZ6OL (559/559), 0100 NC1I (579/569), 0108 DL1YMK (559/559), 0118 VE6TA (559/579), 0415 JA6AHB (559/O), 0506 VK3UM (559/559), 2027 OK1DFC (569/569), 2105 RW3PX (559/559), 2111 DF3RU (559/559), 2121 WW2R (559/559), 2139 OZ4MM (559/569), 2147 UT2EG (559/559), 2155 SP6JLW (559/559), 2203 G3LTF (559/559), 2209 SV1BTR (559/559), 2216 G4RGK (559/559), 2228 SD3F (559/559), 2233 IK2IRT (559/559) for initial #701 on CW and #743* mixed, 2310 DL7APV (559/559), 2332 SM3BYA (559/559), 2346 I1NDP (559/559) and 0626 K1RQG (O/O) for a total of 25 QSOs. I did not operate Sunday - social conflict, but did try on 1296 at 2100 DJ8MS (T/24DB) on JT65C. DJ8MS was using a single yagi and 60 W. He copied me solidly on JT. I was able to detect his trace, but was never able to decode him. On 22 March 22 on 1296 I QSO'd at 0205 3A/DL3OCH (24DB/O) on JT65C in Monaco for initial #316* and DXCC 62*. I started detecting a trace shortly after 0100, but I could not decode until later when we easily QSO'd. Signals were good considering the apogee moon position.

SOME THOUGHTS ON 70 CM EME FROM HB9Q: Unfortunately 432 is not blessed with the activity of the last several years on 144 with almost daily new stations and weekly new countries and dxpeditions. Never the less, I am certain it is a great EME band with a lot of potential. The only problem is people. People don't know or believe in it! The huge 144 and the nice 1296 activity boom took away a lot of activity. Almost everyday I am QRV on 432. I work new stations. Okay, they are QRP (if not *QRPP)* and it is their 1st EME QSO. Never the less they are the future EME stations for 432 and some of them are in exciting countries! Very often they are QRV 144, so they know the basics and they have WSJT experience. I often get the question: "who else can we work"? I then try to answer the best that I can. It is not easy since I do not really know who else (QRO station) is active on 432 these days and what equipment they have and last but not least if they are QRV on JT65. I belief it would be of big help to have a list of stations equipped for 432 with their antenna and power (especially the QRO ones). I would be willing to add such a list to my home-page and to update it on a regular base. What do you think? Would this be at all helpful? Does anyone you have any better ideas? Do you have already such a list or is there somewhere such a list (maybe an old one) is available? [I agree that activity generates activity - it is like a rolling snow ball. It would be great if the new stations you work tried with other stations. I have never been received a request from a station you have worked for a schedule. I have contacted some myself. One of the problems is finding their e-mail address. I produce the newsletter each month to generate new activity. If the new stations the QSO you would write to me, I would feature them in the newsletter. Big stations QRV on 432 that operate on JT65 include myself, OE9ERC, OK1DFC, G4RGK, PA3CSG, JA6AHB, OH2DG. I am sure any of these stations would welcome JT skeds].

NETNEWS BY G4RGK: **IZ1BPN** reports that he has a new e-mail address iz1bpn@libero.it. **KL7HFQ** also has a new email address trygve@mtaonline.com. **DK3WG** worked on 432 using JT65B UA4AQL and IZ5MAO/4 for mixed initial #440*. **W4TJ** is working towards 432 and 1296 EME. He plans to run 8 yagis on 70 cm and is working on a 14.5' dish for 23 cm. His 70 cm GS-35B PA is ready to go. His 70 cm LNA NF is 0.2 dB. **W9IIX** is back on 23 cm EME! He worked F2TU and K1RQG in March. **W2UHI** is recovering from a fall. Frank hopes to be back in operation on 23 cm soon. **W7MEM** worked SV1BTR and VE6TA on 70 cm during the March AW. **LX1DB** was active on 24 GHz during 9/10 March weekend. He QSO'd OK1KIR (449/449) among others.

FOR SALE: **W7UPF** is looking for a 1296 to 28 MHz receive converter. Does an individual or company make such a converter? Contact Don at donsay2@cox.net. **WA2FGK** has available a 6 x 7289s 1296 PA, converted by VE1ALQ, with power supply except for the HV transformer (1,000 V at 1.5 amps needed). It has brand new tubes and puts out 600 W. Completely metered. If interested contact Herb at wa2fgk@ezlinx.net. **W9IIX** has for sale 2 new 7289s and 3 used ones. **K0YW** has a list of equipment available from W7GBI's estate. K0ALL is looking for a 200 W+ solid state amp for 23 cm. **WD1V** has for sale WA1JOF's 6 tube 800 W 1296 linear with supply, extra tubes, VARIAC, docs, pix available for $US1,000 - pick-up preferred. Contact John at john.seney@gmail.com.

FINAL: I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of SM7BAE. Kjell was a leading 2 m EMEer. His absence is a huge loss. We will greatly miss him.

DL7APV is temporarily giving up his DUBUS 432 & up EME column because of the pressures of work. The column will be done by DL8HCZ/CT1HZE, Joachim, but Bern will do the next lunar calendar.

Florence-EME2008 eme2008@ari-crt.it – Registration for the 13th EME Conference has begun. The website www.ari-crt.it/eme2008 has the form and necessary details on the registration process and the accompanying programs, (just click on the "Registration" button and the "Visit" button). Regarding hotels, I5CTE reports that the preferred conference Hotel is Mediterraneo. The conference will provide shuttle service in the morning and evening from the conference center to this hotel. They are also focusing the social activities there and are holding the conference banquet there. They will also start the tours from the Hotel Mediterraneo.

The 70 cm & Up CW Initials lists organized by G4RGK has been updated and can be found at http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html. Dave asks if there is interest in a JT list as well? The top ten lists for 70 and 23 cm are shown at the end of this NL.

I plan to be active on 13 cm in the April part of the EWW/DUBUS EME Contest and hope that there will be a good turn out. Please keep the information coming. 73, Al – K2UYH

CW only Initials.

	Call			23cm
1	OE9ERC			335
2	OZ4MM			296
3	K2UYH			277
4	G3LTF			273
5	F2TU			272
6	G4CCH			260
7	HB9BBD			259
8	W5LUA			257
9	K5JL			254
10	OK1KIR			253

CW only Initials.

	Call	70cm
1	DL9KR	869
2	K5JL	827
3	K2UYH	701
4	K1FO	613
5	SM4IVE	497
6	N9AB	440
7	SM2CEW	427
8	DK3WG	417
9	G3LTF	408
10	SM3AKW	379