

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS JULY 2008 VOL 36 #8

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CONDITIONS: There is lots of news this month. DL9KR has completed the first DXCC on 70 cm. Jan accomplishment is doubly impressive as all his EME QSOs were made the hard way on CW. His final two QSOs were made possible by OK1DFC's dpxpedition to O4 and Z3 – see Jan's report. OK1DFC's and OK3RM's dpxpedition was very successful, providing many new DX QSOs on both 70 and 23 cm – see report below. The second 9 cm activity weekend (AW) grew in size and was a banner event – see G3LTF's report. Unfortunately not all the news is good. DJ9BV has died after a long health battle – see DL9KR's remarks below. The 70 cm CW Activity Time Period (ATP) was not stellar this month. I suspect the low activity was a result of all the other competing events. The ARI's EME Digital Contest was also on the anemic side, but still provided some interesting activity. The next ATP is on 27 July from 0000 to 0200 and 0800 to 1000. The July AW will also be the weekend of the 26th/27th. In July many of the 70 cm & Up gang's attention will be on finalizing their plans for attending the 13th EME Conference in Florence on 8-10 Aug. More than 120 are already registered!



DL9KR 70 cm DXCC #1 with his 16 x long yagi array

DJ9BV AN SK: We have lost another EME great! The following from DL9KR said it all -- Rainer's passing is another severe blow for the VHF-SHF community! Our personal friendship dates back to his first EME QSO in March 1985. Since then Rainer's good humored and deeply knowledgeable ways were a substantial part of my *UHF-life*. Lucky were those who met him in person at the EME conferences or at the Weinheim EME discussions over (more than) a glass of wine. His activities for all of us are legendary: DUBUS manager/editor for many years, DJ9BV antennas and LNAs, PANFI project, power meter, "new components" column in DUBUS. Tongue-in-the cheek, he even ran a cooking recipe page in DUBUS. He always lent a helping hand to the countless inquirers, too. He definitely has a place in the EME Hall of Fame! My condolences to his family; Rainer, you'll be missed forever!

40/OK1DFC AND Z3/OK1DFC DXPEDITION: Zdenek (OK1DFC) reports on his trip made with OK3RM -- For the dpxpedition we fabricated an especially light 3.2 m dish. Its frame was cover by 6x6 mm mesh good up to 5.6 GHz for use in future trips. Rotation and moon tracking was provided by a SPID rotator in combination with my note book and GM4JJJ's software. A heavy duty telescope mount was used for holding the dish. On 70 cm we used a dual dipole feed and on 23 cm one of my septum feeds. We arrived in Montenegro (JN92hj) on 3 June at 0100. In the morning after a short sleep, we started building the station. First we assembled the dish and installed cables. Because everything was tested at home, we did not have any problems and by 1200 we checked sun noise. All was ok. At 1245 we copied DL9KR and QSO'd for his DXCC 99 on

432. We also called G4YTL (339), but David had problem with rain static and a QSO was not completed. All was proceeding according to our plan expect for noise from the communication services that were located on the same hill as our station. We were able to decrease the noise somewhat (S3) by switching to vertical pol. This meant that we always TX'd and RX'd vertical. We spent 4 June exclusively on 432. I have to apologize for our deafness in a couple of directions where the noise was especially bad. We worked VK3UM (539), OK1CA (O), DL7APV (539), OZ4MM (539) - strongest station of the day, PA3CSG (O), F2TU (O), OH2DG (O), SM2CEW (M) - because of QRM, HB9Q (539), G3LTF (O), SM3AKW (M), UA3PTW (M), G4YTL (M) and partial K2UYH (M) - JT65 was not possible because of interference. In couple of directions the QRM was S9. 4O3A used this QTH mainly for HF contesting and did not know about the QRM on higher bands. In all 14 QSOs were completed. The next day we operated 1296 where the noise not a serious problem. QSO'd on CW were VK3UM, OK1CA, OZ4MM, JA6CZD, G4CCH, LX1DB, ES6RQ, OK1KIR, ES5PC, F2TU, SM3AKW, HB9Q, OE9ERC, DF3RU, HB9BBD, K5SO, PA3CSG, K2UYH, VE6TA, W5LUA and OH2DG, and on JT65C ES6RQ, G4RGK, RD3DA, SM5LE and DJ9WY for a total 27 QSOs.



40/OK1DFC 3.2 m dish with 432 feed

As soon as activity was completed on 1296, we packed up and headed off to Macedonia. After 650 km of night driving, we arrived on 6 June (KN11bs). Immediately we started to build the station to be QRV as soon as possible. By 1300 we were able to start testing. Our first results were far superior to the 4O QTH, and encouraged us to ask DL9KR for some beacon signals via Moon. His signal was great (579) and so we immediately installed also driver and PA (2 x 3CX800s). Jan was still echo testing when we were ready to TX. We called him and he immediately answered first (O) and after (549). We started jumping and dancing around the dish after his RRRR, as it was clear that our main mission was done. DL9KR had become the first ham in the world to achieve DXCC 100 on 432. We opened a bottle and each of us drank a glass to cheer Jan's success. After a couple of QRZ's, we didn't have any takers, so we turned off the station. It was time for dinner and to go to sleep. I had not slept for more than 24 hours! When we came back from dinner, a big thunderstorm has passed through our location and had twice hit a 10 kV power line. All fuses where blew out. There wasn't a piece of ceramic left. This could have been a disaster. Tnx to the relationship of our friends with people from the power company, work on repairs started almost immediately. It turned out the fault was not just the fuses. The power was back on Saturday morning (7 June) just in time for our VK3UM sked. We worked Doug in his last couple of minutes of moon. We stayed on 70 cm all day and worked UA3PTW, HB9Q, OZ4MM, PA3CSG, DF3RU, SM3AKW, OK1CA, SP6JLW, DK3WG, G4YTL, SM2CEW, OH2DG, F2TU, G3LTF and K2UYH all on CW, and G4RGK and K2UYH on JT65b. In all 19

QSOs were made on 432. The next day we switch to 1296. All contacts there were on CW unless noted. We worked VK3UM on CW and SSB, OK1CA, OZ4MM, HB9Q on CW and SSB, JA4BLC, JA6CZD, ES6RQ on JT65c, SM5LE on JT65c, G4CCH, DF3RU, F2TU, OK1KIR, OH2DG, G3LTF, RD3RA on JT65c, ES5PC on JT65c, PA3CSG on JT65c and CW, PA3DZL on JT65c, JA6AHB on JT65c, OE9ERC on JT65c and CW, SM2CEW, SM3AKW, G4RGK on JT65c, OZ6OL, G4DDK on JT65c, LX1DB, K5JL, W5LUA on JT65c and CW, SM3LBN, GM3SBC on JT65c, K5SO, K2UYH, G4DZU on JT65c, VE7BBG on JT65c and ES5PC for a total on 40 QSOs. 100 QSOs in all for another outstanding dxpedition!

DJ8MS: Tor dj8ms@web.de has his new antennas working on 432 from JO63ct -- I checked out my new 4 yagi array. After exchanging some coax, the SWR was down to 1.5 and everything appears to be working well. As this was the ARI Digital Contest week end, I listened on JT and worked DL7APV (20DB/O) and G4YTL (28DB/28DB). I also had a partial with K2UYH (20DB/-). I was running 300 W and had a problem with one of my sequencers that I was able to fix with an old relay sequencer. I have some drift on 70 cm that is definitely not helpful on JT. I'll try to add an additional driver for the PA, to drop the power my transverter must produce and thus reduce the heat. I should be QRV again next month with a better sequencer and improved preamp.



DJ8MS's long 67 el yagi used on 1296 EME

DL9KR: Jan has completed DXCC on 432 -- Zdenek had asked me to give him a beacon. When I paused to listen to my echoes, he suddenly appeared with a (549) signal. We QSO'd, thus giving me DXCC entity 100 after more than 30 years of CW EME on 432. A huge TNX to OK1DFC and OK3RM for making this possible! Here's my list of initial QSOs with the respective DXCC entity: 1978 - 15MSH, K2UYH, YV5ZZ, ZE5JJ, F9FT, LX1DB, SM5BFK, VE7BBG, KH6HP, JA6CZD, DJ8QL; 1979 - G3WDG, PA0SSB, GW3XYW, ON4DY, VK5MC, OK3CTP; 1980 - XE1RY, ZL3AAD, HB9SV, OH3TH, GM3YGF/P, OZ9CR; 1981 - ZS6NG, OE9XXI, KL7WE, YU1AW; 1982 - GU3YGF/P, OY5NS, UA3LBO; 1983 - LA1K, EA2BK, UB5GBY; 1984 - CT1WW, Y23TI, 1985 - LZ2KSQ, SO1MN, WP4G; 1986 - DF6NA/OH0, RQ2GAG; 1987 - EI4VBF by "Five Bells Group", UA9FAD; 1988 - 4U1UN by NC1I & group, C30BVA by F6HKA & group, HG8VF; 1989 - FO4NK, GI0/DF6NA, TK4EME by F6HKA & group, HB0/DF6NA, 4U1ITU by F6HYE, 4X1IF, DG1PJ/C6A; 1990 - G4PIQ/TF by "Five Bells GROUP", GD4IOM by G4GCM, UI2/UZ3YWB by UA3YBT & group, YO2IS, SV0EC; 1991 - VS6BI, GJ/F6KSX by F5HRY & group, UC2O/UB4LL, ES0SM by SM0ERR & group, T70A by "Yota Save Group" (DJ9BV et al.); 1992 - KG6UH/DU1 by exWB6NMT, EA6/DF5JJ, YU3C (Slovenia), 9M2BV by SM0ERR, ZB0T by GM6TKS; 1993 - FR5DN, LU7DZ, A22BW, HL9UH by exWB6NMT, 9M8WB by SM0ERR, OK1CA; 1994 - PY5ZBU, 9A1EZA, OM1TL, EA8/ON5FF; 1995 - 3A/DJ5MN, HP3/KG6UH by exWB6NMT, SV9/SV1BTR, ED9UHF by EA3DXU & group, CN2EME by "Yota Sawe Group"; 1996 - NIL; 1997 - NIL; 1998 - LY2WR, 9H1BN; 1999 - NIL; 2000 - OX2K by Danish Group; 2001 - NIL; 2002 - IS0/DJ5MN; 2003 - FY5DG, JW/SM2BYA; 2004 - 3B9C by "Five Star Group" (G0MRF, G4FRE op), OJ0/DL8YHR; 2005 - OA40 by HB9DRI and OAs; 2006 - 4S7CCG by ZL1RS, CT3/DL1YMK, 5A7A by DL8YHR & group; 2007 - CU2E by DL9MS, D44TD by DL8YHR, P43L by K2UYH; and 2008 - DL1YMK/CX, 4O/OK1DFC, and Z3/OK1DFC. To top things off on 9 June I received an unexpected email from LZ2US asking me if I could run with LZ1DX "right now" and LZ1DX was immediately heard (449) and worked for #875.

F2TU: Philippe f2tu.philippe@orange.fr sends his TNX to OK1DFC - I QSO'd 40/ and Z3/OK1DFC on both 432 and 1296 for new countries TNX to Zdenek. I was also QRV for activity 3.4 GHz activity weekend on 7/8 June and had a very satisfying Saturday and Sunday. I heard OK1KIR (559), VK3NX (O), G3LTF (559), OK1CA (559) and (44) on SSB, W5LUA (569) and (54) on SSB, PA0BAT (529), VE6TA (549), LX1DB (569), DL4MEA (559) and (33) on SSB, VE4MA (549), G3LQR (529), GM4ISM (O), WD5AGO (439). A total of 13 stations and 9 DXCC were copied including VK3NX at 0° EL and GM4ISM with a 2.4 m dish and 45 W! Thank you to G3LTF for organizing the 9 cm weekend. I hope that operation on 9 cm from France will be approved soon.

G3LQR: Simon g3lqr@aol.com enjoyed the 9 cm AW -- It showed me what is needed to improve my station. I worked G3LTF, W5LUA, OK1KIR and another. I heard little else, but was not on so much with my short window. Tnx to all for having patience with my poor signal. I found sun noise was 9.5 dB on Friday and down to 9 dB on Sunday when moon noise had also dropped making it difficult to keep the dish on the moon (manual tracking). I have now measured my power output at the feed and was surprised to find only 8 W with 45/50 from a pair of Toshiba's in shack. I will lower my cable loss next time and try to find some more sun noise. Even so, I did hear very small echoes on the Friday. I will do better next time. I am using a 4.2 m dish with a square septum feed and a preamp with 0.5 dB.

G3LTF: Peter's g3ltf@btinternet.com 3.4 GHz AW was a great success -- I was very pleased with the 9 cm activity and to work the OK1KIR/OK3RM dxpedition on both bands. An excellent job was done by the two Zdeneks. Something had to go, so I did not operate in the 70 cm activity periods. On 4 June on 432 I worked 4O/OK1DFC for initial #414, the next day on 1296 for #282, on 7 June Z3/OK1DFC #415 on 432 and then on 8 June on 1296 for #283. In the 3.4 GHz AW I used the same TX/RX as last year with 28 W at the feed of my 6 m dish, but with a new feed, which is a circular septum with a super VE4MA choke (see picture). It definitely performs better than the old square septum with choke. I worked on the first pass, 7 June, LX1DB, VK3NX - copied right down to his moon set, OK1KIR - louder now that they are on circular pol, PA0BAT for initial #13, OK1CA, G3LQR and W5LUA. I heard GM4ISM (T-M) very weakly but he couldn't hear me at all. The next day, 8 June, I spent some time ensuring the feed was accurately pointing at the centre of the dish and optimizing its position. This effort with some minor profile corrections made earlier in the week probably added another 0.75 to 1.0 dB to the dish gain. As a result I worked, on sked, GM4ISM #14 who came up to (M) copy and on random DL4MEA, PA0BAT, WD5AGO #15 and VE6TA. F2TU reported my SSB (33). I heard and called VE4MA, who also heard me. Spreading seemed to be worst at transit, but was very evident on VK3NX's signal, but not on my echoes or OK1KIR's signals at the same time. I ended with a total of 12 QSOs, 3 initials and several contacts with small dish stations, 2.7 ~ 2.4 m dia. I think I can get another 1.5 ~ 2 dB of power, but I have a feeling that the dish is pretty close to optimized now. Thanks to everyone who took part, and for the great QSOs. I think the real benefit of the AW with a sked list is that it enables new stations to try their systems with the knowledge that there is activity and people are not in a rush as in a contest. It also allows a direct comparison of systems so you get to know where the shortcomings are (dish, preamp, TX power, frequency accuracy, etc.). I can be QRV on 3.4 GHz anytime that the moon is above 0 degs dec. The next project is to get my 6 cm system finished and to build a similar feed on 2.3 GHz.



G3LTF's new 9 cm feed

KIDS: Rick, rick1ds@hotmail.com made his first 1296 EME QSO on JT65C during the June AW -- After a failed trial 2 weeks earlier, I got everything together and worked on 7 June at 1444 K2UYH (O/O) on 1296.070. His best signal here was -19 dB, and my best at his QTH was -21 dB. I was using a TS2000x into my 120 W DEMI amp. Feedline was 14' of LMR600 to a 16' long WIMO Yagi (specs at 19.7 dB gain) with Az/EI. I used a WD5AGO 0.4 dB NF preamp at the TR relay at the end of the coax, as the LMR connector is fully sealed at the driven element. I was setup at the end of my driveway, and the neighbors were quite cooperative driving their cars around my van and table as I live in a small cul-de-sac and there were folks coming and going. I tried to find VA7MM also, but with no luck. I had just enough advance warning with a few raindrops to get all the gear inside before a big downpour started. I plan to be active on both 70 and 23 cm EME from my van and hope to have some more QSOs before I attend the Florence EME Conference.

LY2BAW: Tadas LY2BAW@takas.lt made the first 23 cm EME QSO from Estonia in June on JT65C -- I was very happy and surprised to QSO on 8 June at 2130 K2UYH (O/O). I was using a single 45 el loop yagi made by Directive with no elevation and about 50 W. The contact was completed right at moonset (< 2 degs) and the disappearance of the moon did not allow enough time for the exchange of 73s, so we repeated the QSO a second time a day later with both Rs and 73s. I plan to have a 1.8 m dish with full elevation mounted very soon and then make some CW as well as more JT QSOs.



LY2BAW's 45 el loop yagis & 50 W used for 23 cm 1st EME

LZ1DX: Ned lz1dx@lz1dx.org is now QRV on 432 EME from KN22. He is running 6 x yagis and 1,500 W. He has already worked DL7APV, HB9Q and DL9KR.



N2UO's 10' dish at his new NC QTH -- a bigger one is in the works!

NA4N: Greg na4n@hughes.net sends his report for the May leg of DUBUS EME Contest -- I worked the following stations on 23 cm on 10 May: K2UYH (559/559), K1RQG (569/569), K9SLQ (579/559), HB9Q (569/559), OK1CA (569/569), IQ4DF (559/519), HB9SV (579/569), OZ4MM (579/559), VE6TA (569/559), OK1DFC (589/559), SD3F (559/559), IW2FZR (559/549), SV1BTR (559/439), OZ6OL (559/549) and F2TU (579/549), and on 11 May K5SO (589/559), VK3UM (579/559), SV3AAF (O/O), LA8AV (559/559), DL4MEA (559/559), E55PC (O/O) and G3LTF (569/559). My results would have been better, but it rained here in Virginia and I had to shut down right after I worked Peter G3LTF because of lightning. The WX was bad all weekend. I heard JA8ERE (559) but could not work him. Tnx to all the stations I did work, I had a good time.

OK1CA: Franta srihavka@upcmail.cz was active off the moon on first week of June -- I worked on 70 cm 40/OK1DFC on 4 June and Z3/OK1DFC on 7 June. Both QSOs are first OK-40 and Z3 EME contacts. Zdenek produced good signal with his small dish on this band. I also worked on 23 cm on 5 June 40/OK1DFC and 8 June Z3/OK1DFC (559/559) for the first OK-Z3 QSO with very good signal. I heard Zdenek on SSB during QSO with VK3UM. A very big thanks to OK1DFC and OK3RM for their excellent dxpedition. I was also QRV for the activity weekend on 3.4 GHz, but only on Saturday. I worked F2TU (569/559) and (55/55) for initial #11, OK1KIR (579/549), DL4MEA (559/539), G3LTF (579/559), PA0BAT (O/O) #12 and VE6TA (549/549) #13. I heard GM4ISM (M ~ O) and W5LUA (589). My measured sun noise was 18.2 dB, moon noise was 1.7 dB, Cassiopeia-A 0.4 dB and Cygnus A 0.3 dB.

OK1KIR: Tonda ok1vao@o2active.cz reports on his club's EME activity in June -- On 1296 the Zdenek and Zdenek dxpedition to 40 & Z3 was worked respectively on random on 5 June at 0816 (O/O) for initial #262 and on 8 June at 1054 (539/539) for #263 and DXCC 52. We also participated in the 3400 MHz Activity weekend. We QSO'd on 7 June and at 1010 VK3NX (O/O), 1017 G3LTF (549/559), 1054 PA0BAT (549/O) for initial #11, 1324 LX1DB (569/569), 1418 G3LTF (559/559), 1428 OK1CA (549/579), 1440 DL4MEA (559/549) and 1702 W5LUA (569/559) and heard VE6TA (O) in QSO with OK1CA, and on 8 June at 1810 GM4ISM (M/O) #12 and the first GM -- OK contact on 9 cm and DXCC 10, 1901 VE4MA (O/O) for #13 and 1936 G3LQR M/M for #14 and heard VE6TA (O). All QSOs were random except GM4ISM and VE4MA in skeds. F2TU copied us on 7/8 June (559). The noise levels measured on Saturday, 7 June, with simple square septum feed (after optimizing its focus position for peak sun noise) were CS/G = 3.55 dB, Sun = 12.8 dB (SF 66) and Moon = 0.6 dB. Our new CW EME standings are: 70 cm initial #361 and DXCC 64; 23 cm initial #263 and DXCC 52; 13 cm initial #77 and DXCC 30; 9 cm initial #13 and DXCC 9; 6 cm initial #28 and DXCC 17; 3 cm initial #40 and DXCC 18; and 1.2 cm initial #5 and DXCC 4 for a total of 787 initials and 194 DXCCs.

OK1TEH: Matej ok1tehlist@seznam.cz writes on his 70 cm single yagi EME in June -- I didn't have much time for EME, but I was looking for signals from the 40/OK1DFC dxpedition and saw Zdenek (28DB) on JT65, however I had no chance to work him through his local QRM. Anyway, it was nice to see such a high activity on 70 cm. I saw K2UYH calling Zdenek. He was peeking (19DB) so later when he started calling CQ, I worked him on JT65 truly random. Then I met OE9ERC on the 70 cm chat. I tried to work him ASAP. He produced quite a good signal on JT65 for initial #19*, so after our JT contact we moved to CW. Erich's CW signal was unexpectedly strong and the QSO was done in few minutes. I found that I was his first single yagi station on CW. I next tried a CW test with WA4NJP and Ray heard me with a nice signal, but unfortunately his 250 W PA was too small for my RX with very high noise from city and a near CDMA tower. On 70 cm I am using a 5.7 m long yagi and GS31 PA -- details are at http://ok1teh.nagano.cz/eme_log432.htm#gal. I am very interested in schedules with new QRO stations on JT65 or CW. I'm QRV for tests almost every evening after sunset. I'd like to add my congrats to Jan for his great achievement of the first DXCC on 70 cm - it's really fantastic!

RA3IS: Sergey ra3is@mail.ru is QRV on 1296 EME using a 2 m dish with linear horiz pol and armstrong tracking (every 7-8 min he needs to scramble to roof for correction), a barefoot IC-910H (no filter, DSP, stability option) with about 7.5 W. Thus far Sergey has completed 2 EME QSOs and a random partial with K2UYH during the ARI digital EME contest in June.

SV3AAF: Petros sv3aaf@yahoo.com reports on his activity during the June 70 cm CW AP -- I worked DF3RU, UA3PTW and heard K2UYH. There were peculiar Faraday conditions with one way propagation to Europe. I had to TX on V pol and RX on H pol to make any QSOs. Libration fading was very prominent, possibly due to the fact that the latitudinal libration velocity was at its max during this activity weekend. The two Zdeneks did a great job with their 40/Z3 dxpeditions. I heard them on both bands, but due to time limitations was only able to call for a few periods on 23 with no response in the pile-ups.

VA7MM: Mark va7mm@rac.ca reports on his group's recent activity -- we were active in recent Eur EME Contest contests on 1296 and made 21 CW QSOs in 8 hours of operation. Contacts include initials ON4BCB and IQ4DF. We were also QRV for the ARI Digital Contest in June and made 9 JT65C QSOs in 8 hours of operation. Contacts include initials with G4DZU and RW6AG. We found activity in the European EME contest to be excellent with a solid QSO rate for our 8 hours of operation. Activity in the ARI Digital contest sadly was quite slow although signals seemed good. Since commissioning our station in 2003, we have logged over 300 EME contacts with 75 initials on CW and 18 on Digital modes. The VA7MM Moon Bounce Team operates from Coquitlam, BC (CN89OG). Operators are Mark (VE7CMK) and Toby (VE7CNF).

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@clearwave.ca had WX problems during the June AW -- Despite tornadoes in the area and heavy rainfall, I managed to get on for the first moon pass on 3.4 GHz. I had spent some time optimizing and was encouraged to hear my first 3400 echoes. My effort seems to have paid off as I managed to work the following stations: VK3NX for initial #4, OK1CA #5 - once on a sked and again on random and F2TU #6 with a huge signal. Also heard were G3LTF, OK1KIR - much improved with CP, and briefly W5LUA. Nothing was heard on skeds with WW2R and GM4ISM. I was QRV for the second moon pass on 8 June and found good activity again with poorer weather. I worked LX1DB #7, G3LTF on random and VE4MA #8. Heard were DL4MEA prior to our sked and OK1KIR. It seems that rain or heavy cloud has a significant impact on signal strength and signal spreading on 9 cm. Have others observed similar effects? Thanks to everyone for all the fun on 9 cm. I hope to continue to improve the station.

W0DRL: Al al.tyler@sbcglobal.net writes that he finally got his station going again -- I believe despite all the bad WX and problems, it is going ok. I am running 500 W at the antenna, which is 8 x 15 el yagis with the preamp now at the antenna feed. I do have to be able to sight the moon - I have no auto tracking, but as long as I can see the moon I am ok. [After this report was received, Al had a 4CX250 failure and is no looking for replacements for his PA].

WD5AGO: Tommy wd5ago@hotmail.com writes -- My activity picked up after our family ski trip in March. In May I added initials on 13 cm with WW2R #36, DL1YMK/CX #37 (M & M did a great job! I tweaked the feed, cooled the LNA, and up'd the PA voltage for this one) and PA3CSG #38. I also work several other non initials and heard PA0BAT and SP6GWN. In June I added SP6GWN #39 and heard G4CCH before making a second attempt to get on for the 3400 activity time. I had problems with much water and wind to work around and thus was limited to random operating on 9 cm. I called and worked G3LTF and W5LUA. Heard and called were VE6TA, LX1DB, OK1KIR and VE4MA. I felt pretty good about these results for my low power station (40 W, 0.5 dB NF LNA, HB CP feed and my same 2.7 m dish). On 9 cm the dish mesh is down ~ 0.4 dB. My plans are to get a little more power from the 13 cm PA by use a power supply along with batteries and to extend the dish to 3 m (0.30 f/d). I will be at Central States Conference in July and hope to see some of the EMEers there.

WC8VOA: Jim N8ECI murph@erinet.com reports that WC8VOA is QRV again on 3 cm EME after 6 months off the air -- During the downtime we installed a G4HUP DFS synthesizer for our transverter LO (thanks Dave) and did some other cleanup of the RF gear. We are using a 7.2 m Cassegrain dish with 8 W SSPA at the feed, and DB6NT and DEMI LNAs.

YO2IS: Zsagy yo2is@wa7v.ampr.org writes that he have just finished reworking his 23 cm EME system is looking for skeds. He will be operational during the end of June Perigee on the 28th-30th. CW sked proposals are welcome. Zsagy's EME window starts at > 45 degrees EL in KN05ps.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org was busy off the moon again in June. I participated in ARI's Digital EME Contest on 70 and 23 cm, but made no QSOs on 70 cm. I worked on 1296 on 31 May at 0943 ES5PC (12DB/6DB), 1003 IW2FZR (O/13DB), 1007 SM5LE (14DB/12DB), 1420 VA7MM (12DB/10DB) and 1440 K1DS (22DB/20DB) for mixed initial #325* - this was Rick's first 1296 EME QSO, and on 1 June at 1058 RW6AG (O-23DB/O) #326*, 1100 partial RA3IS (T/22DB) -- I could see his signal, but not decode and later learned who was calling and 1138 RD3DA (9DB/5DB). All contacts were on JT65c. On 432, on 1 June I ran a CW sked at 1200 9H1TX with nil copy and had partial at 1230 DJ8MS (T/-) on JT65B. Tor reported copying me FB. I was seeing his signal (28DB) but could not decode. On 4 June I had a partial at 1530 4O/OK1DFC -- not enough for a QSO on CW. I called on JT65b with nil results, but did work at 1740 OK1TEH (24DB/19DB) on JT65b and 1853 DF3RU (559/559) on CW. I QSO'd on 5 June at 1535 4O/OK1DFC (559/559) for CW initial #286 and mixed #327* - I previously worked 4O on JT, on 7 June on 432 at 1715 Z3/OK1DFC (20DB/16DB) JT65b and (O/O) CW for #703 #746* and DXCC 88*, 1758 UA3PTW (569/449), 1814 WA4NJP (559/559) -- good to have Ray

back on, 1842 N4GJV (559/459) -- big surprise to find Ron QRV again!, and on 1296 at 2105 HB9HAL (579/579) #287 #328* - this was Christoph's initial 23 cm EME QSO, 2110 HB2008GR (55/55) on SSB -- same as HB9HAL but special call sign and 2145 AL7RT (559/559), on 8 June on 1296 at 1736 Z3/OK1DFC (559/559) CW #288 and #329* - I previously worked Z3 on JT and 1900 Z3/OK1DFC (559/559) -- better signal out of the trees, 1911 WB2BYP (559/549), 1941 GM3SBC (19DB/O) on JT65c, 2023 W9IXX (559/559) and 2110 LY2BAW (O/O) JT65C #330* and DXCC 65* - this was amazing QSO made at < 2 deg el, and 9 June 2110 LY2BAW (O/O) - repeated with linear feed for (26DB).

NETNEWS BY G4RGK: DL2NUD was heard calling 4O/OK1DFC on 70 cm on JT with a FB signal. He was last active in 2004 on 23 cm EME as SV/DL2NUD. **G4RGK** worked Zdenek from 4O on 23 cm and from Z3 on 70 cm and 23 cm, but only on JT. **I5MAO** is QRV 432 EME with 500 W and 4 yagis. Roberto's e-mail is i5mao@alice.it. **CX5IC** now has all the information he has been looking for on yagi designs for 70 cm and is planning to be on EME soon. **CTIEKD** is QRV on 432 EME on JT65 with 300 W and a 10 wl yagi from IM59IB and is looking for skeds. Contact Pedro ctiekd@hotmail.com. **VE2ZAZ** is now QRV on 70 cm with 4 x 13 el DK7ZB yagis, TS-790A and 90 W from FN25bk. Bert, ve2zaz@yahoo.ca, is looking for skeds with big stations.

FOR SALE: WD5AGO has for sale a couple of 6 cm CP feeds and LNAs for 23, 13 and 9 cm. Contact Tommy at wd5ago@hotmail.com. **W0DRL** is looking for 4CX250s for his final. Contact Al at al.tyler@sbcglobal.net.

FINAL: K1ROG has given up conducting the 20 m net and his related netnets. He will remain active on EME. Joe has done a truly outstanding job as net control over the years, and has put in more than his fair share of time. No one can fault Joe for retiring from this heroic task. He very much deserves our thanks. The impact of his absence will be felt and can be seen in this newsletter -- particularly the Netnews section. Hopefully Joe will reconsider. I have him still listed in masthead. Those who have only send reports to the netnotes should send them to a.katz@ieee.org for inclusion in the newsletter.

The 13th EME Conference in Florence is only a little more than a month away. Piero, I5CTE reports there are now > 120 registered participants and > 70 spouses attending. Time is running out! Have you completed your plans yet? The conference information is at <http://ari-crt.it/eme2008/index.html>. Click on the "timetable" button to see the schedule. We will be arriving on 5 Aug to allow participation in the tours on 6 and 7 Aug. The official conference begins on Friday 8 Aug. I hope to CU there!

The 2008 Central States VHF Conference always attracts many EME operators. This year it is on 24-27 July in Wichita, KS. See <http://cshfs.org/conference>.

P19CAM pictures and recording of the Dwingeloo Radio Telescope dish can be found at <http://www.camras.nl:8901/>. See report in the June NL.

A ham social has become a regular event at the annual International Microwave Symposium. At this year's event in Atlanta, noted EMEer Joe Taylor, K1JT addressed both the plenary session and the ham gathering. Among other EME operators present were Paul (WA6PY), Marc (N2UO), Mac (JH3ERQ) and K2UYH.



WA6PY, K1JT, N2UO & JH3ERQ at MTT Conference

That is the news for this month. PSE now more than ever your reports and technical info is needed. I hope to CU off the moon and in Florence. 73, Al -- K2UYH