432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS
MAY 2010 VOL 38 #5

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CONDITIONS: The big news this month is the KP4AO operation from Arecibo (FK68oi) on 70 cm. They tested their station on 19 March and made several QSOs with huge (599) signal reports. Signals were so good that they decided to try again on Monday, 22 March between about 2100 and 2330. This second test had a whole crowd waiting and produced many more QSOs. They used a 3CX800 500 W PA with a GaAs FET preamp into a TS-2000 and of course the Arecibo 1,000' dish. The same sense circular pol was used on both TX and RX with the assumption that stations would be operating with linear polarization. The big show will be begin on Friday 16 April 1645 – 1930, with repeat performances on Saturday 17 April 1740 - 2020 and Sunday 18 April 1840 – 2125. Transmission will be on 432.045 and should be more efficient and better organized for these "real tests" – see KP4AO's report for more details. The same weekend as the KP4O operation is the DUBUS 13 cm contest. And the following weekend is the DUBUS 70 cm contest. Then in May is Michael and Monika's next *mystery* dxpedition – see ??/DL1YMK below, and the 1296 DUBUS weekend, which also coincides with the ARI's digital modes EME contest... There should be no complaints about activity level this year!

??/DL1YMK: Michael and Monika DL1YMK@aol.com have announced another super *mystery* dxpedition for May – We plan to activate a "wanted DXCC" via EME on 70, 23 and 13 cm starting Thursday, 13 May and ending on Sunday, 23 May with operation during the DUBUS 23 cm CW EME Contest. Due to the 70 cm ATP on the 16th and the close Sun on the 14th, we changed our original operating plans. The new schedule has all random on the first 4 days. We will start on 1296 on Thursday (13th – a bank holiday in parts of EU), then switch to 13 cm on Friday where activity should be possible despite of the close Sun, then back to 23 cm on Saturday (15th), 70 cm on Sunday (including both ATPs) and 13 cm again on Monday (17th). Our operating frequencies to be 432.045, 1296.045 and 2320.100 with RX on 2304.100 for US and 2301.975 for VK. Depending on possible Internet access on site or perhaps in a town nearby (our QTH will be in a farmhouse in plain country side), we will be open for skeds during the week on all 3 bands for smaller stations or those who couldn't make it over the weekend. During the 1296 DUBUS contest on 22/23 May we will have a very limited window to NA from our position only about 1 hour open to the west coast on Saturday, even less on Sunday.

4L1PF: Alex 4l1fp@mail.ru continues to provide Georgia on 432 EME. Now with 2 x 18 el yagis added QSOs with DK3WG, DL7APV, NC1I, UA3PTW, OK1DFC and I1NDP. He is interested in EME skeds. More details can be found on my Web site http://qrz.ge/4l1fp.

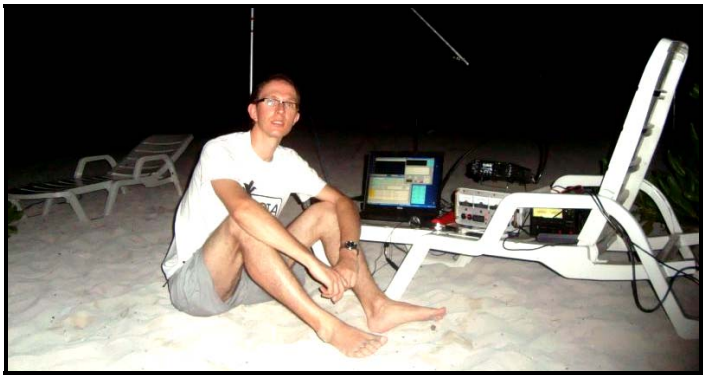
8Q7QQ: Dan's (HB9Q) hb9q@hb9q.ch dxpedition to the Maldives Islands was overall a great success despite strange if not poor conditions. His team, DL2NUD on 432 using a single 38 el yagi and 100 W SSPA and HB9EHJ/DL3OCH on 1296 using Bodo's long yagi and 80 W made a number QSOs. On 70 cm they completed 9 QSOs all I believe on JT with DK3WG, DL7APV, G4RGK, I1NDP, OH2DG, OK1KIR, PA3CSG, PI9CAM and UA3PTW. On 23 cm they worked DJ9YW, ES5PC, G4CCH, HB9Q, OH2DG, OK1DFC, OK1KIR, PA3CSG, PY2BS and RW3BP for a total of 10, all on JT.

DK3WG: Jurgen dk3wg@online.de reports good success on 432 in March. Using JT65B he was glad to worked 4L1FP for DXCC #88, ZS5Y, VK4EME and 8Q7QQ for DXCC #89 and field #54. These QSOs bring him to initial #500.

DL4MEA: Gennter guenter.koellner@nsn.com was QRV on 9 cm in the DUBUS Contest – I worked OK1KIR, OK1CA, OZ6OL, G3LTF, HB9JAW, DL1YMK, PA0BAT, G4NNS, OH2DG, K2UYH, K5GW, VE6TA for an initial (#), WW2R, K2UYH (#), VK3NX, G3LQR, WD5AGO and LX1DB. On Sat at 2018, I listened to a station in QSO with OK1KIR, but could not figure out who it was? Conditions improved from hour to hour and from Saturday to Sunday. While I nearly wasn't able to copy OZ6OL as my 3rd QSO, I copied him solid on Sunday night. On Sunday afternoon I also heard K5GW on SSB in his QSO with LX1DB. This was my first solid SSB copy on 9 cm. I also recognized my own SSB echoes. 9cm is still a problem for me. My CS/Sun is just 10 dB; it should be 13-16 dB. I have not found the reason as yet. I have 50 W into a round septum feed with a chaparral choke, DJ9BV preamp with around a1 dB NF, FT847/filters and Winrad waterfall display. Thanks a lot for the unique band option, which caused a lot of activity on 9 cm. I hope similar contest scheduling will be done next year. I also want to thank Peter, G3LTF, without him starting the initiative to activate 9 cm some years ago, it would still be a lonesome band. Let's hope this is extended to 6 cm - I am already building! I was also on 432 on 22 March for the Arecibo test using my 4.5 m dish and 1.5 kW, but gave up after an hour as I did not see any chance of getting through the pile up. The activity was fine and welcome and of course their signal was extra strong. I heard most of the stations they worked; this means these were real big ones since I am only a small system on 70 cm. KP4AO should say we TX on 432.045, we RX in between 432.050-432.060. This would have two advantages: The callers will distribute over a band and the pile up will be easier for them to read, and the weak signals would have a chance, too. I was totally astonished by how many stations I can hear on 70 cm! I remember OZ4MM, SM4IVE, DF3RU but there were many more. If all these would appear during the contests on 70 cm, it would be a wonderful and not a lonesome time. Maybe I'll try 70 cm this year during the ARRL contest.

EA8/G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com is in Fuerteventura (EA8) and QRV with a long yagi and high power. He should have a big enough signal to work CW and will be active during the DUBUS Contest and until the end of April. Before he left, he QSO'd KP4AO at Arecibo.

F2TU: Philippe f2tu.philippe@orange.fr reports on his recent 10 GHz activity – On 23 March I QSO'd JA4BLC (O/O) for initial #53 cross band 10368/10450 – this was my fourth JA on 3 cm. I was also active during the 10 GHz lag of the DUBUS EME Contest on 27/28 March. I had very wet weather, lots of QSB and not good conditions, but still made 17 QSOs. Worked were WA7CJO, OK1KIR, WA6PY, ON5TA, ES5PC, VK3NX, RA3AQ #54, G3WDG #55, OK1CA, IQ4DF, F5JWF, SP7JSG, LX1DB, G4NNS, JA4BLC, JA6CZD and F6CQK. I will be QRV on 17/18 April for the 13 cm leg of the contest. I will TX/RX on 2304 and 2320, and on RX 2424 on Saturday from 0700 – 2100 and Sunday from 0830 - 2100. I will also be active on 17 April on 70 cm for Arecibo.



Bodo at 8Q7QQ's 1296 operating position -- yagis is at top right

F5SE/P: Franck kozton@free.fr (JN19XH) writes -- On 21 March at around 1600 I drove up hill to my EME station to just check the RX side of my 1296 installation. A few days earlier I noticed some degradation because my echoes seemed weaker than during the Feb "fun test". It seems there is definitely something not right inside the protective relay located on the feed-horn. While I was testing, I heard somebody else testing. It was F5KUG, another new French station. He was first QSO'd by SV3AAF and slightly later on, I QSO'd him (429/539) for initial #17. I then QSO'd G4CCH (539/569) #18, OK2DL (539/539), #19, SV3AAF (539/559) and K1RQG (569/589). I also heard K8EB (539), PA3FXB (429), PA3DZL (529), IW2FZR (429) and DF3RU (O). The first two stations were heard for only a few minutes and not called. The last

three stations never answered my calls. I could not stay later than 1900. Here is the list of my first EME QSOs made during the 1296 SSB Contest back in Feb. I worked on 26 Feb at 2057 SP6JLW (55/55) JO, 2101 OZ6OL (53/54) JO, 2105 OZ4MM (55/56) JO, 2106 RW3BP (55/55) KO, 2118 SV3AAF (54/43) KM, 2136 PI9CAM (56/57) JO, 2222 K1RQG (57/56) FN, 2235 SM2CEW (539/56) CW/SSB KP, 2331 UA3PTW (43/55) KO and 2342 N2UO (54/54) FM, and 27 Feb at 0000 K5JL (55/58) EM, 0036 K2UYH (55/55) FN, 0107 N4PZ (54/57) EN, 0127 VE6TA (54/55) DO, 0230 VE6BGT (329/449) CW DO, 0329 PY2BS (54/55) GG for a score of (14x2+1)x10 = 290 points. It took me about 45 minutes to make the QSO with VE6BGT. He had a good signal before I called him, but then faded away just at the beginning of the QSO. He was first heard Q5 on SSB and then hardy hearable on CW. Anyway with patience we "doed" it. Later we had an e-mail exchange in which he wrote that the Moon just moved behind a tree when I called him. Other stations heard but not worked were DL6SH, SP7DCS, W7JM and W4OP. To the East my moon window seems to be blocked more than I previously thought. I have to wait for the moon to be at least 20° above horizon in order to get echoes. Nearest trees are extremely close to the dish. One is closer to the dish than is the feedhorn! Some trimming is necessary for sure! On the TX side I am still using a single DB6NT SSPA at ground level delivering 400 to 500 W, with only about 120 to 150 W available at feed-horn due to 5 dB feed-line loss. I hope to be QRV with higher power in late April if everything goes right.

G3LTF: Peter's g3ltf@btinternet.com EME report March -- It was a real delight to be able to do some EME operating for the first time in 2010. My first QSO was on 19 March on 432 with SM4IVE followed by KP4AO with an enormous (599) signal, 40-50 dB over noise in a 6 Hz bandwidth. My first ever EME QSO was with Arecibo back in June 1964! Looking on the SDR at the pile up one could not help wishing that all those stations would stay around and be there for the DUBUS contest on 17/18 April. In the 3400 DUBUS contest on Saturday 20 March we had thick cloud and rain virtually all day, and also enough wind to move the dish off the Moon. Everyone's signal seemed down and so were my echoes. First thing on Sunday I checked the feed pointing, i.e. was it pointing exactly to the center? I found it was slightly off. Subsequently everything sounded better, both echoes and signals. It's hard to know if this was the cause as some others also reported lower signals than usual. On 20 March I worked OK1KIR, OH2DG, OK1CA, OK1DFC for initial #29, VK3NX, DL4MEA, PA0BAT, HB9JAW #30 and DXCC 17, DL1YMK, OZ60L, G3LQR, K5GW, VE6TA, G4NNS, K2UYH and WW2R. On Sunday I added LX1DB (also on SSB) and then a second QSO with G3LQR, but heard no more new ones despite lots of CQs. I had to QRT at 1630 before the US window, and when I returned at 2230 (hoping to find WD5AGO) the band was silent. In the following week, on the 22 March, I worked LZ1DX #31 and S59DCD #32 for DXCCs 18 and 19. In the days before the DUBUS 10368 contest weekend I decided to fit a 3 cm feed to my HB 6 m dish and see what I could hear. Illuminating the centre 4 m with a W2IMU type feed I found I was about 5 dB short of sun noise and the moon noise was only 0.5 dB. I tried several different feed horns without any improvement and concluded that there is an error somewhere in the profile. (Finding this out in fact made the whole effort worthwhile!) I did hear F5JWF, OK1KIR, G3WDG, LX1DB, F2TU, IQ4DF (big signal!), OK1CA and G4NNS. It was quite exciting to hear 3 cm EME signals on my own system for the first time. I shan't pursue this route, but will concentrate on getting a solid 2.4 m offset mounted and operating. It did at least result in my packaging the 10 GHz transverter system (apart from the TR relay) into a waterproof box. I had one other EME QSO, on 1296 with PA3DZL on 20 March while I was looking for 8J1AXA.

G4RFR: John (G0API) jfell@tesco.net was working to have his club (IO90AS) QRV on 20 March for the DUBUS 9 cm Contest using their 3.4 m dish with 90 W at feed. As last year, they may need to operate near to 3400.450 due to local QRM from cell towers. It is a Science and Engineering Open Day event for the club and they hope to demo Solar, Moon and Earth noise to the public. Any EME activity will be a very welcome bonus! They have improved their system and plan to arrange more EME events this year – [TNX G3LTF for forwarding this report].

HB9JAW: Michel hb9jaw@bluewin.ch operated the 9 cm leg of the DUBUS Contest -- Myself and HB9DRI installed a 9 cm EME station at HB9Q for operation on 20/21 March. This was the very first activity on 3400 EME from HB9 ever. Friday afternoon we installed the 9 cm system on the dish. We measured Sun noise, but it was not very strong. Some adjustments improved it quite a bit. As the sun was to low, further adjustments were not possible. We turned to the Moon and worked OK1KIR, OH2DG, W5LUA, LX1DB and PA0BAT. On Saturday rain and wind made additional adjustment impossible. So we started with the setup the way it was and QSO'd OK1CA, OK1KIR, G3LTF, OZ6OL, DL4MEA, PA0BAT, OH2DG, G3LQR, G4NNS, K2UYH, VE6TA, K5GW, WD5AGO and DL1YMK. Missed or not complete were VK3NX, DF9QX, LZ1DX, WW2R and OK1DFC. The strongest station heard was K5GW. Station consisted of HB9Q's dish 15 m dish, IC706, DB6NT transverter, DJ9BV 2 stage 1.2 dB NF preamp and DB6NT 100 W SSPA. I plan to improve the station in the future. I have a new preamp from G4DDK and will add TX/RX filters. Our special license will expire in June. Hopefully I can get another one for next year so that 9 cm activity can continue from Switzerland. This fall I hope to be on 3 cm EME.

JA4BLC: Yoshiro ja4blc@web-sanin.co.jp reports on his activity in the DUBUS 10 GHz contest – I worked three stations. On 27 March I QSO'd OK1CA (O/O) for initial #5 and OK1KIR (O/O). Heard were ES5PC (O), F5JWF (O), ON5TA (M), VK3NX (M), JA6CZD (O) and G3WDG (O). On 28 March I added F2TU (O/O). Before the contest on 25 March 25 I worked F2TU (O/O) #4. I am happy to that many people are now listening on 10450 and hope more stations will have an RX on 10450 in the future.

JA6CZD: Shichiro ja6czd@mx35.tiki.ne.jp was also active in the DUBUS contest on 10 GHz. He worked on 28 March OK1CA (549/559) for initial #9, F2TU (O/O) and G3WDG (O/O). On 27 March he heard LX1DB. [TNX to JA4BLC for forwarding this report].

K1RQG: Joe k1rqg@aol.com was QRV on 23 cm on 13 March looking for F5KUG with nothing heard, but did work G4CCH and K5GW. On 21 March I added AL7RT, VE3KRP, F5SE/P, K8EB, PA3DZL and IW2FZR (Dario was running his station remotely). A station called me, but I just could not get the call. Then my single tube driver died a violent death and I was temporarily QRT.

K2DH: Dave k2dh@frontiernet.net had feedline problems. After replacing his hardline, he discovered that the problem was really a bad TR relay. He initially worked on 1296, on 21 March K1RQG but found that he still had problems. Later in his western window, after relay replacement, Dave worked OK2DL and W4OP. The following weekend he added F5KUG and PA0BAT for new ones on 23 cm.

KP4AO: K1JT k1jt@ARRL.NET will be assisting with the operation and writes -- Operators at KP4AO will do their best to work as many stations as possible. Each session will start with a brief announcement and CQ on SSB. SSB QSOs may continue for 30 minutes to an hour, if the QSO rate remains high. The mode will be shifted to CW as soon as it is judged that a higher QSO rates would result. We will listen for calls at frequencies 5-15 kHz higher than our own, and even higher if QRM warrants. Callers who s-p-r-e-a-d o-u-t are more likely to be copied. If you've already worked us in any mode, please do not call again -- give others a chance. If we call "CQ QRP", we will listen for stations running 100 W or less to a single yagi. Please do not answer such a CQ if you are running more power or have a bigger antenna. On 18 April, if we reach a condition where most calling stations have been worked, and we judge that operating in the digital mode JT65B would produce a higher QSO rate, we will switch to JT65B. Note that any of these planned operating strategies may be changed as circumstances dictate. We are extremely fortunate to have been granted access to the world's largest radio telescope for this amateur radio good-will event. We look forward to working as many stations as possible in the allotted time!

LX1DB: Willie wbauer@pt.lu was on 9 cm using a 3 m dish. He reports working on 19 March W5LUA, HB9JAW, PA0BAT and LZ1DX, and in the contest on with his big 10 m dish on 20 March DL1YMK, OK1KIR, OZ6OL and G3LTF on both CW and SSB. Willie was very surprised that the 3 m dish works so well on 9 cm. He was also active for the 3 cm leg of the DUBUS Contest the following weekend and worked 2 new ones, 9A1AA and LZ1DX and a total of 10 stations in the contest.

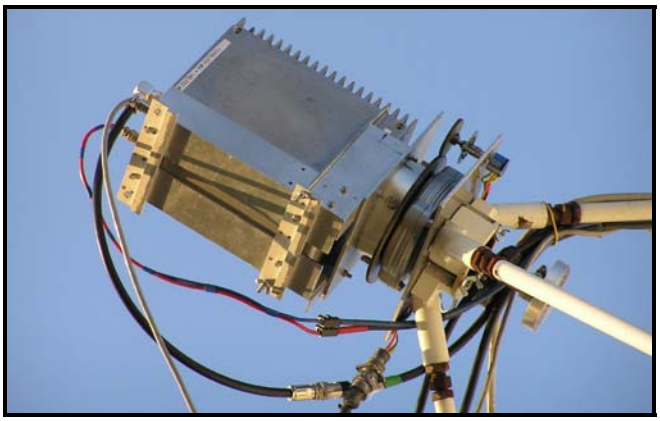
LZ1DX: Ned lz1dx@lz1dx.org is now QRV on 9 cm -- I plan to be active on 21/22 March on 3400 provided the WX is good. My setup is a 5.4 m dish with a 120 W SSPA at the feed and a 0.47 dB NF G4DDK LNA. Thus far I have completed a test QSO with OK1KIR.

NC1I: Frank frank@nc1i.com sends news on his March activity -- In March Bob, W1QA, activated the NC1I station again on WSJT and logged a number of initials and a couple new countries. The following stations were worked on 20 March: RA3LE, RX9YM, EA7AJ, LZ1DX, IK6EIW, 4L1FP, F6APE, TK5JJ, K5DOG and DL8DAU. I was also able to spend a short time on CW and worked SM4IVE, I1NDP and IK6EIW. On 21 March I added K3MF and WA4NJP (599) on CW. On 22 March Bob worked KP4AO on both CW and SSB with the expected 59+ signals both ways. Bob also worked OK1DFC and VE7BBG on WSJT. Bob returned on 27/28 March and added the following on WSJT: OK1DFC, RU4HU, OK1YK, S51ZO, OH4LA, YL2HA, SV1DNU, WA3QPX, PE1RDP and W7MEM. WB7QBS was worked (549/559) on CW. This is the best I have heard Glenn. We will do our best to keep the station active next month, especially during the DUBUS 432 CW EME Contest. It won't be a huge effort but I hope to put in at least 8-10 hours. I'm sure W1QA will make an

effort to activate the station on WSJT again in April as well, but most likely not during the DUBUS contest weekend. After April activity from NC1I will be sparse over the summer unless W1QA has an opportunity to get over.

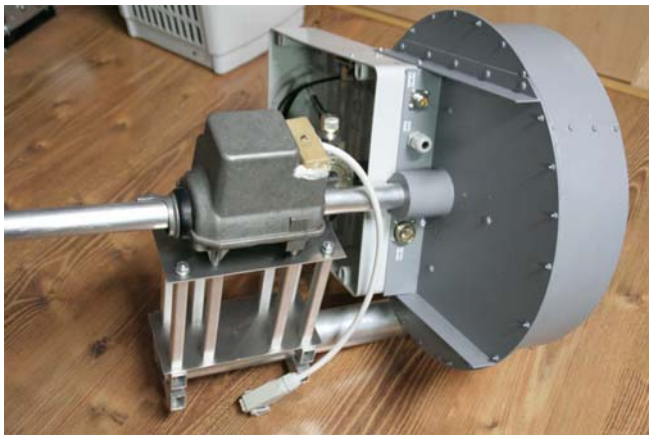
OH2DG: Eino oh2dg@sral.fi found the 9 cm leg of the EU EME Contest quite interested -- Condx and local WX were good and conditions seemed good too producing some excellent QSOs. After a cold winter, I put some time in working on the antenna tracking system. I found the EL readout system was not operating at all. At room temperature the inclinometer was complete dead, but 2 hours later I had the device operating normally. During the first Moon pass I worked 13 stations. Initials were DL1YMK, G3LQR, G4NNS and K2UYH. During the contest my inclinometer stopped operating again. My last two QSOs with K5GW and K2UYH were worked using Moon noise for tracking. As a result I was QRT the second day. Fortunately my good friend OH2AXH located a bran new inclinometer for me, and a few days later worked the Maldive islands on 70 and 23 cm - TNX to the 8Q7QQ team.

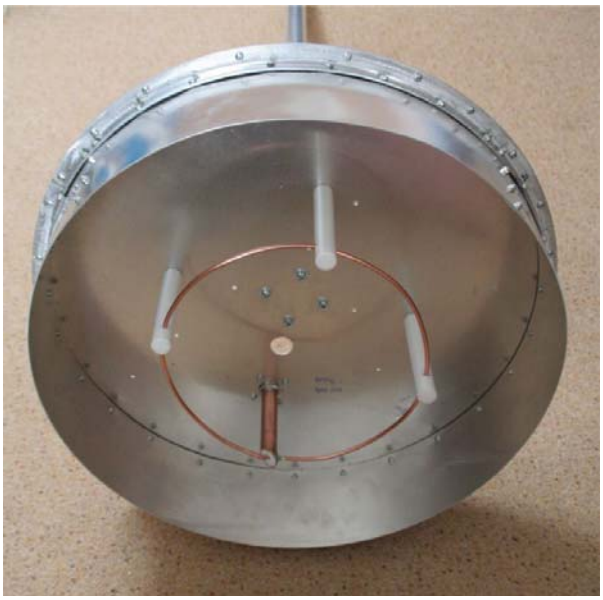
OK1CA: Franta reports strihavka@upcmail.cz on his 9 and 3 cm EME activity -- I was QRV in the first part of DUBUS EME Contest on 3.4 GHz, but only on Saturday 20 March. I worked VK3NX, OZ6OL, OK1KIR, OH2DG, OK1DFC for an initial #23, DL4MEA, G3LTF, PA0BAT, HB9JAW #24, G4NNS, G3LQR, K5GW, VE6TA, K2UYH #25, WW2R, S59DCD #26 and S57NML. The club station S59DCD with operator S57NML is a new station on 3.4 GHz. Our QSO was the first contact EME from Slovenia. More info can be found at www.s59dcd.si. I was also QRV in the second part of DUBUS EME Contest on 27/28h March and I worked on 10450 MHz JA4BLC for initial #39 and JA6CZD #40, and on 10368 MHz OK1KIR, ES5PC, F2TU, F5JWF, SP7JSG, G4NNS, ON5TA, RA3AQ #41, G3WDG #42, IQ4DF, LX1DB, WA7CJO and F6CQK #43. I now have a new feed configuration of my equipment that provides rotary linear polarization.



OK1CA's new 10 GHz SSPA and rotatable feed

OK1DFC: Zdenek ok1dfc@seznam.cz was QRV on 9 cm for the DUBUS Contest and also is back on 70 cm EME -- I had problems keeping my 10 m dish pointed to the Moon on 9 cm because of very bad WX with high winds and rain on Saturday of the DUBUS contest. Despite these problems, I worked OK1KIR (O/M) for initial #4, OK1CA (O/559) #5 and G3LTF (O/O) #6. I heard VK3NX (559), DL4MEA (539), K5GW (579), HB9JAW (579), DL1YMK (559) and K2UYH (559). On Sunday I put my dish on 70 cm with a new loop feed and cavity filter. I can now work without QRM! During my testing on 70 cm I worked the first 4L-OK QSO with 4L1FP by JT65B (26DB). This was a surprise random QSO. 4L1 is my DXCC* 56. Later I worked on CW IK6EIW (539/O), #102, WA4NJP (579/559) #103, SM4IVE (579/559), UA3PTW (579/579), LZ1DX (559/559), ES5PC (559/O) #104, G4RGK (O/O), KP4AO (59/59+) on SSB #105 and DXCC 57* and EA3XU (O/O) #106, and on JT65B WA4NJP (5DB/O) for digital initial {#75}, OK2POI (14DB/O), YL2OK (17DB/O) {#76}, K7XQ (O/O), EA7AJ (26DB/O) {#77}, 4L1FP (26DB/O {#78} DXCC 56*, ES5PC (10DB/O) {#79}, JH7PAV (O/O) {#80} – 2 x 25 el yagi with 50 W, ZS5Y (O/O) {#81}, DK3WG (O/O) {#82}, OK1YK (O/O), EA3XU (O/O), NC1I (4DB/O) {#87}, VK4EME (12DB/O) #88, UT6UG (17DB/O) {#89}, RU4HU (28DB/O) {#90}, YL2OK (26DB/O), F6APE (20DB/O), OH4LA (22DB/O), TK5JJ (O/O) {#91}, DXCC 58*, EB3DYS (23DB/O) {#92}, G4ZFJ (O/O) {#93}, NC1I (7DB/O), M0EME (O/O) {#94}, S53RM (O/O) {#95}, DF6SM (23DB/O) #96, UT5UAS (O/O) {#97} – 15 W, IV3CYT (O/O) #98, S51ZO (16DB/O), YL2HA (24DB/O), DF3RU (6DB/O) {#99}, W3SZ (O/O) #100, K5DOG (22DB/O) #101, WA3QPX (23DB/O) {#102}, WF1F (25DB/O) {#103}, PE1RDP (15DB/O), KE0CO (O/O) {#104}, W7MEM (20DB/O) {#105}, KE7NR (21DB/O) and W4RBO (23DB/O) #106. I also was QRV on 1296 waiting 8Q7 dxpedition and QSO'd on 24 March on JT65C PA0PLY (O/O) for digital initial {#88}, W3HMS (16DB/O), PY2BS (5DB/O), OK1KIR (9DB/O), JA1WQF (16DB/O), 8Q7QQ (23DB/O) {#89}, DXCC 66* and first 8Q-OK QSO, and on CW PA0BAT (559/559). I am considering putting up a 2.5 m offset dish for use on 3 cm.





OK1DFC's new rotatable loop feed & filters for 70 cm EME – more details can be found at http://www.ok1dfc.com/EME/technic/432feed/432feed.htm

OK1KIR: Tonda (OK1DAI), Jan (OK1VAO) and Vladimir (OK1DAK) jelinek.antonin@email.cz reports on their clubs Feb/March EME activity – We were on 432 (JT65B) and worked on 16 Feb at 1331 PA3SCG (9DB/13DB) for digital initial {#16}, 1404 CWNR FY/DL2NUD (21DB), 1452 OK2POI (27DB/17DB) [#17] and 1503 DF3RL (24DB/24DB) {#18}, on 21 Feb at 1552 YL2OK (25DB/23DB {#19} and new DXCC, 1648 9H1TX (26DB/20DB) {#20} and new DXCC, 1700 UA4AQL (17DB/21DB) {#21}, 1714 CWNR FY/DL2NUD (18DB), 2035 K3MF (15DB/20DB) and 2054 W7AMI (16DB/O), on 27 Feb at 1719 JA6AHB (9DB/11DB) {#23}, 1727 OK2POI (19DB/20DB), 1823 IK6EIW (15DB/16DB) {#24}, 1839 DF5LN (14DB/14DB) {#25}, 1957 OK1YK (23DB/24DB) {#26} and 2038 SM2A (13DB/O), on 28 Feb at 2013 SV3AAF (20DB/19DB) {#28}, and on 30 March with for the first time a new GS35B PA (1.5 kW) at 1408 VK4EME (26DB/21DB) {#29} to complete WAC on 70 cm digital, 1428 VK4CDI (22DB/19DB) {#30} and 1948 8Q7QQ (24/O) {#31} and 1st 8Q-OK 70 cm QSO. We also decoded UA3PTW (8DB) and HA7KPL (18DB), DL7APV (13DB), DF3RU (8DB), DL5FN (14DB) and NC1I (13DB). On 432 CW we QSO'd on 16 Feb at 1708 partial LZ1DX (O/-), on 21 Feb at 1608 G4YTL (549/539) for CW initial #372, on 27 Feb at 1851 SM4IVE (569/559), on 28 Feb at 1921 SM4IVE (569/549), and on 19 March at 1846 KP4AO (599/599) #373 with the strongest EME signal ever heard on 70 cm and the 1st KP4 – OK 70 cm QSO. We worked on 1296 CW on 23 Jan at 1251 8J1AXA (569/569) for initial #293 and 1457 F5VHX (559/569) #294, on 23 March at 1700 OZ6OL (549/549), and on 24 March at 1102 OK1DFC (569/569). Using JT65C on 1296 we worked on 23 Jan at 1419 JA6AHB (7DB/9DB), 1427 JA1WQF (16DB/O) and 1435 PE1HNG (16DB/15DB), on 23 March at 1312

PA0PLY (18DB/O) and digital initial {#59}, 1324 PA0FXB (12DB/15DB), 1341 ES5PC (6DB/11DB), and on 25 March at 1707 OK1DFC (6DB/9DB) and 1746 8Q7QQ (22DB/O) {#60} and a new DXCC. All QSOs in March were completed with linear rotatable feed prepared for the 8Q expedition. On 3400 we QSO'd on 19 March at 1118 LZ1DX (O/O) and 1340 HB9JAW (559/449) for initial #28 as the 1st HB9-OK 9 cm QSO, during the EU EME Contest on 20 March at 0656 VK3NX (549/539), 0706 OZ6OL (O/O), 0728 OK1CA (559/569), 0738 OK1DFC (M/O) #29, 0756 DL4MEA (549/549), 0806 OH2DG (559/559), 0821 G3LTF (559/559), 0837 PA0BAT (549/549), 1029 HB9JAW (559/529), 1118 DL1YMK (559/559), 1348 G3LQR (O/O,) 1512 G4NNS (549/539), 1635 K5GW (579/569), 1738 VE6TA (O/O), 1843 K2UYH (559/549) #30 and NJ state, 2013 S57NML (559/579) #31, 2033 WW2R (549/549) and 2033 K2YUH (559/569) 2nd QSO, and on 21 March at 1300 LX1DB (559/559) and 1753 WD5AGO (O/O) #32 and OK state. We ended the 9 cm contest with a total of 19x17. We worked on 10 GHz on 26 March before EU EME Contest at 2355 WA7CJO (589/569), and in the contest on 27 March at 0003 ON5TA (549/549), 0011 ES5PC (549/569), 0017 WA7CJO (589/579), 0021 WA7CJO (56/55) on SSB, 0040 F2TU (549/549), 0046 WA6PY (549/559), 1510 VK3NX (549/549), 1638 JA4BLC direct on 10450.080 (O/549), only heard JA6CZD (549), 1714 SP7JSG (O/559), 1728 G3WDG (549/549), 1740 RA3AQ (O/559) for initial #51, 1759 F5JWF (559/559), 1806 OK1CA (569/569), 1828 G4NNS (549/569), 1956 IQ4DF (579/559), 2058 LZ1DX (M/O) #52 and the 1st LZ - OK QSO on 3 cm. Later we suddenly lost RF power and were forced to QRT. The TWT and PS both failed, spare units failed later on in the same way. Must seek more spares otherwise OK1KIR will be out of business on 3 cm EME for a longer time.

PA0PLY: Jan pa0ply@pa0ply.nl is now QRV on 23 cm -- I finally managed to overcome all the small problems with my 23 cm set-up. I can run full Moon tracking using the simple IN3HER interface with PS/2 mouse electronics. It's really nice to run the dish without taking care of positioning using a camera system – hi. I am running 100 W into a 3 m dish with a modified OK1DFC Septum feed. I had my first QSO on JT with PA3FXB, followed by OK1KIR, ES5PC, OK1DFC, PA3DZL and PA0BAT. [See dish on next page].

PA3DZL: Jac PA3DZL@planet.nl completed his 100th 1296 EME initial in March -- With a small setup a lot is possible. I´m still using my small 2.5 m dish, VE4MA feed and G4DDK preamp, and was thus very pleased to make #100. QSO'd in March were on the 20th G4CCH (559/559) CW, G3LTF (549/559) CW, PY2BS (10DB/O) JT65C and RD3DA (21DB/16DB) JT65C, on the 21st OK2DL (O/O) CW for initial # 99, K1RQG (559/569) CW, K8EB (14DB/O) JT65C, VE7BBG (20DB/O) JT65C and W3HMS (25DB/O) JT65C # 100, on the 24th PA0PLY (20DB/24DB) JT65C #101, and on 28th OK2DL (13DB/O) JT65C.

PA0PLY's 1296 3 m dish used with a100 W SSPA.

PY2BS: Bruce bruce@zirok.net had a very successful month – During March he made what is very likely the moderate sized station (4.6 m and 5.4 m dishes) EME SSTV by exchanging 23 cm SSTV images with G4CCH in robot 36 mode. Later he also worked PI9CAM on SSTV. Bruce also caught the 8Q7QQ dxpedition (26DB/O) on 23 cm using JT65C. His station consists of 4.6 m dish, RA3AQ feeder, G4DDK LNA and 550 W at feed.

RA3AQ: Dmitry ra3aq@vhfdx.ru was QRV during Saturday 27 March on 3 cm for the DUBUS Contest -- Using my QRP setup of a 2.4 m offset dish and 11 W at the feed, I worked ES5PC, OK1KIR, F2TU, OK1CA and IQ4DF - all on random. Heard were G3WDG, ON5TA, F5JWF? and G4NNS. My CS/Sun was 15.7 dB and CS/Moon was 2.6 dB. The WX was good. Unfortunately I had no window to NA due the low Moon.

SM2CEW: Peter sm2cew@telia.com reports that the highlight of the month was hearing/working KP4AO on 432. What a signal! After I worked them I listened for a while, then started to park the dish. No matter where I was beaming I could still hear KP4AO, weak but there all the time – truly amazing! I hope that many of the "new" stations who were heard calling KP4AO will remain on 432 EME for a while, they could surely work some of the regulars also. I will be QRV in the DUBUS/REF EME contests on 2320, 432 and 1296.

SM4IVE: Lars sm4ive@telia.com was on the Moon during the March AW on 432 -- I did not find much activity on Sunday, 21 March, but did work on Saturday WB7QBS 2 kHz off freq and very weak. I also copied K5DOG very easily on JT and tried to get his attention on CW without success. On Sunday I worked JA6AHB, DG1KJG and DF3RU. My Sun noise was about 20 dB. On 22 March and the following week I added the following new stations: SM7GVF (O/O), KP4AO (599/599), G4YTL (539/569), DL5MAE (O/O) using a 21 el FT yagi and 1 kW on the horizon and 8Q7QQ (O/O). I hope to be on 23 cm by May if all goes well.

SV1BTR: Jimmy jimmyv@hol.gr writes on his problems with 23/13 cm operation -- Having a remote EME QTH and having 4 bands to maintain and needing to spend most of my time on QRL abroad is making regular operation an impossible task. I have been out of business the last 4 months due to this problem on 23/13 cm. The motor was replaced with a much bigger one, and the damaged control box fixed, but only yesterday did I realized that the actual 25 kg rotor has some broken gears. So I took out the rotator and now my 4.9 m dish remains free and is being held in place by only some ropes - God bless! I really doubt that I can be QRV on the 13 cm for the DUBUS Contest as I return to SV just the day before. I will do all possible to replace the rotor, etc. but chances look really slim.

VA7MM: Mark va7mm@rac.ca send news of his group's activity -- We operated briefly in the 1296 SSB contest on 27 Feb and made the following CW/SSB contacts at 0610 K1RQG (59/569 - FN), 0750 VE6TA (55/559 - DO) and 1021 VK5MC (42/559 - QF), the following CW QSOs with N2UO, VE6TA, AL7RT and the following JT65C QSOs with VK2JDS and VK4CDI. We plan to be QRV for the DUBUS CW EME Contest and ARI Digital Contest on 22/23 May. In between we are interested and available by e-mail () for scheduled contacts. Operators are Mark, VE7CMK and Toby, VE7CNF.

VE3KRP: Eddie eddie@tbaytel.net was QRV on 23 cm on 20 March and QSO'd LA9NEA. He tried to work OK2DL, but did not complete. During the AW on 27/28 March he added AL7RT for initial #63 and IW2FZR #64.

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@clearwave.ca was on 9 cm EME in March -- I enjoyed a very nice weekend of EME participating in the DUBUS 3400 segment. The WX was not a big factor, but signals were sure down on Saturday as compared to Sunday. Nevertheless 13 stations were worked on random, including 3 initials to bring me to #21. Stations worked were K5GW, G3LTF, OK1CA, OK1KIR, K2UYH, DL4MEA, OZ6OL, HB9JAW for initial #19 and A NEW DXCC, DL1YMK #20, LX1DB, PA0BAT, G4NNS and WD5AGO #21. Heard were G3LQR WW2R and WA6PY?. The big signal awards belong to several stations this year. K5GW, OK1CA, K2UYH, DL1YMK, LX1DB to name a few. For me however, HB9JAW was head and shoulders above the rest - good job Michel! Signal strengths and activity are improving every year. On 3400 I use my 5.5 m HB dish and 40 W at the feed. I really like the DUBUS format as it causes a critical mass to be generated on these sparsely populated bands. As an exclamation point to a great few days on the Moon, I also worked KP4AO on 432.045 SSB. What a beautiful SSB signal. Just like 20 m and a real thrill to work an installation with such history and technical achievement. I am sure many others will find their way into the Arecibo log in April.

G4CCH slow scan EME TV as received by PY2BS

VK3NX: Charlie's ibnkarim@bigpond.net.au 9 cm EME report -- It was great to have two Moon passes during the first weekend of the DUBUS EME Contest. Conditions on 20 March were poor for some reason. My echoes were OK, but everyone seemed a little down from usual. My Moon noise was the same, so I figured my RX was OK. On the 21st condx were excellent. All signals heard were very loud. I had the same WX both days with almost clear blue skies so I can't see why there was such a difference. My echoes seemed much louder on the 21st and I saw my highest Moon noise ever on 3.4 GHz ~ 0.58 dB. Running a "lonely outpost" on 3.4 GHz from VK, I appreciate that many people's windows to VK are out of the "peak activity times" by several hours. Thank you very much to those that took the time to come on and work me during my windows. Unfortunately I didn't get to operate much into the NA window because of family commitments. I was able to be on for my moonrise on the 22nd and worked a few stations in NA with excellent condx as well. I QSO'd on 20 March OK1KIR, OK1CA, OH2DG, OZ6OL and G3LTF - Peter's signal was several S points down from normal seeming to confirmed poor condx during this pass!, on 21 March DL4MEA and PA0BAT, and on 22 March (after end of contest) WD5AGO for an initial (#), K5GW (#) on CW and SSB and WW2R (#). Unfortunately I missed OK1DFC, DL1YMK, LX1DB, HB9JAW and VE6TA. Of particular interest, whilst trying to pull out a call through the QSB I sent QRZ several times and was having a lot of difficulty when I finally heard: DDDDD LLLLL 4444 MMMM EEEE AAAA. This technique has been spoken about before [advocated particularly by OK1DFC]. It certainly helped immensely in Gunter's case and I got his call immediately. I know that this may actually be confusing with some call signs, but if each character is repeated enough it becomes self evident.

VK3UM: Doug tikaluna@bigpond.com reports that his EME Calculator Ver 7.02 has been further enhanced to include a) dish mesh loss in the effective dish gain, b) change of some TSky values to reflect verifiable values, c) echo calculations are now fully independent of TSky, d) additional offset feeds for Cassegrain fed dishes, e) user specific operating frequency input, f) XP and Classic Styles will now appear the same, f) the Help file updated to reflect all changes, and g) a data file for the Arecibo facility has been included for all to wonder - (load as Get Data/Combined to see what you can do with a single yagi)! Regarding the VK3UM Planner 2009: a) yes it has Polar mount display option (since 1979), b) yes it has the ability to turn refraction on and off, and c) yes by selecting the Puerto Rico KP4 Call and setting min. elevation to 70 degrees, you can determine your window. All software is available from http://www.sm2cew.com or http://www.ve1alq.com/downloads/software/vk3um.htm. Note: When all else fails... Please read the User Handbooks provided!

W1RJA: Bruce (N2LIV) n2liv@optonline.net writes that the NEWS group will be operational on 432 EME during the 36th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference under the club call of W1RJA on Saturday 17 April for the Arecibo EME test. They will be running a pair of FO33 yagis with full azimuth and elevation, an 8938 PA at QRO power, a new prototype DEM 432 transverter and a K3. They will also have a 300 W SSPA for back up. Modes will be SSB and CW. They are also interested in skeds with other stations.

W7EME: Jeremy oaxaca@oregoncoast.com is seeking uWave operators and their gear to travel back with him to JT1 in Sept. He is primarily wants to set up on 23 cm, but 13 cm is also a possibility. It to be a 10 to 12 day trip. Some of us may also Visa for China and have a night on the town in Beijing.

WA3QPX: Paul wa3qpx@atlanticbb.net is now QRV on 432 with a big signal - I have four M^2 9 wl yagis with 1.5 kW available (been running only about 700 W). I have 4 more yagis in the barn that will go up just as soon as the tree guys cut back a 70' Oak tree. There is no room to swing them right now. I hope to have this down in a few weeks. My weakest link is RX. I am not using a good preamp, but will switch to a new SSB preamp as soon as I feel comfortable with everything. I have worked using JT DF3RU (15DB), K2UYH (15DB), OK2POI (24DB), EA3XU (28DB), I1NDP (14DB), PI8CAM (10DB), UA3PTW, DK3WG, DL7APV, UA4AQL, K3MF, W7AMI, K7XQ, G4RGK, OK1DFC, NC1I, ES5PC, DL2FN and KE7NR. I also tried with OK1TEH, but nil copy. On 22 March 22 I QSO'd at 2254 KP4AO on SSB (59/59)! I can operate CW and will be active on this mode – especially after I get the new preamp/enlarged array in operation. 70 cm is a great band, although the operating frequency parameters are a bit different than 2 m. I had great fun and a real learning experience.

WA6PY: Paul pchomins@san.rr.com tried to get on 9 cm with a RW-85 TWTA that he thought had about 15 W of power on 9 cm, but it turned out to be almost all in harmonics -- I CWNR OK1CA, K2UYH and DL1YMK on their CQs. Then I figured out that something must be wrong. I measured power at the feed through a band pass filter. It was about 0.5 W! Then I went QRT. On Friday W5LUA could only find traces of my signal and I got "T" copy and Willy reported "M" copy. I hope to be QRV with good power next time.

WA8RJF: Tony TEmanuele@kentdisplays.com is operational on 9 cm -- My goal was to be QRV on 3400 for the DUBUS Contest but my work travel schedule had severely limited my time the past several weeks. I managed to complete the feed late Friday, but an intermittent receive problem was not solved until late on Saturday. My efforts finally paid-off as I was able to copy K5GW, K2UYH and OK1KIR all with very nice signals. Unfortunately, I was not able to TX. The XVTR is located unprotected at the dish and with the weather changing, I decided not to risk of exposing the XVTR, Toshiba amp and power supply to the wind and rain. However, I did set-up everything the following week and worked W5LUA for #1 on the 9 cm. I should have the second amp in line for the next activity on the band. The 3400 system consists of my 3 m dish, 40 W at the feed, WD5AGO preamp and an SDR. In the March NL I was incorrectly reported as working on 1296 G4CCH, W4OP and K8EB. [Sorry, I think I pasted in the wrong report into your].

WB7QBS: Glenn <not available> was active on 70 cm during the March AW – On 20 March I heard DL7APV on 432.016, but don't hear me. Later I worked at 2030 SM4IVE 432.013 (579). On Sunday 28 March I added at 0328 NC1I on 432.011 (559/549). I also tried calling CQ to the West (>0800) but alas no takers.

WD5AGO: Tommy wd5ago@hotmail.com writes -- After skiing and traveling in a snow storm for 500 mile (14 hr), we made it back in time to get on 9 cm for the last pass in the DUBUS Contest. Once we melted the 6" of snow out of the dish (we used a broom and hot water) and dried out the 12 V PSU and SS 40 W PA (it was under a porch, uncovered as snow was not in the forecast), we began hearing echoes. We QSO'd on 21 March OK1KIR for initial #4, HB9JAW #5, K5GW (579) #6, PA0BAT #7, DL1YMK #8, DL4MEA #9, K2UYH #10, VE6TA #11, LX1DB #12 and OZ6OL #13. G4NNS was CWNR. On our western pass on 22 March, we worked WW2R #14 and VK3NX #15. Our system consists of a HB 5 step septum feed, HB 0.4 dB NF 30 dB gain LNA and my 3.1 m dish. There was no time to rest as we heard KP4AO was going to be on 70 cm again on Monday. I took the station back to QRL where our 16 x 10 el array is located. After many calls on CW and SSB we made it through the pileup and worked Arecibo on SSB for #103. We heard at least a dozen stations on SSB calling KP4AO that should be workable from here in the future. We promise to have more than the 100 W for future contacts. We will be back on 70cm from the school for the DUBUS 70 cm Contest and on 13 cm on 16/17 April from my home.

WW2R: Dave eme_ww2r@g4fre.com sends news on 9 cm EME -- In preparation for the 9 cm contest, I decided it was time to build a new way to mount the feed on the dish. The cage and lots of packing pieces was too fiddly, especially when trying to change bands quickly. Inspired by a visit to my local plumbing shop i managed to convert a plastic shower drain into a feed clamp. This was mounted on a plate at the feedpoint, and allowed the position of the feed to be adjusted easily. On the first day of the contest I worked K5GW, DL1YMK for initial #15, OK1CA, K2UYH #16 and my second state, OZ6OL, OH2DG #17 and DXCC 11, DL4MEA, OK1KIR and G3LTF. Heard was VE6TA. DL1YMK was the loudest signal of the weekend, All this with 30 mph winds gusting to 40 mph, rocking the dish. Overnight we had 4" of snow, so I had to dig out the equipment housing at the dish. At moonrise on Sunday, I heard HB9JAW. I went out to tweak the dish and slipped in the snow hurting my arm and spent the rest of the EU window asleep on painkillers. When I awoke that evening, very sore, after the contest had finished I still had echoes and worked WD5AGO #18 for state 3 and VK3NX #19 and DXCC 12. A total of 11 QSOs is amazing for my 3 m dish. My 100 W PA worked flawlessly again. It was so cold at the dish that I didn't need the fans. I changed from using the FT847 to the K3 with internal 2 m xverter as the IF. This worked well, and allowed me to hang the SDRIQ off the K3 IF port, and was much easier than feeding 144 back from the dish and using a 144/28 converter in the shack to feed the SDRIQ. Having a "bandscope" was very useful. If anyone would like a sked on 9 cm, let me know. Also will be on for KP4AO.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org did not consider this a great month EME wise. I had a class at the time of the 19 March Arecibo test, so I arranged for K1JT to operate my station. He QSO'd them at 1856 KP4AO (599/579) and again at 1910. I planned to operate the DUBUS 9 cm Contest with K2TXB, but our plans were disrupted when Russ fell off a ladder while checking the SSPA at the feed. Russ initially thought he was OK, but it turned out that he had a fractured vertebra. Russ is recovering fine and should be back to normal soon. Despite the accident, I did get on 9 cm and operated a bit. I QSO'd on 20 March at 1740 VE4MA (559/539), 1757 G3LTF (559/559), 1802 K5GW (569/569), 1806 VE6TA (559/559), 1818 OZ6OL (559/O), 1830 OK1CA (569/579), 1834 OK1KIR (569/559) – QRM, 1849 PA0BAT (549/559), 1854 DL1YMK (569/579), 1907 OZ6OL (559/559) solid (dup), 1922 WW2R (549/O), 1930 OH2DG (559/558), 2032 OK1KIR (569/559) (dup) and 2133 DL4MEA (559/549), and on 21 March at 1722 HB9JAW (569/549), 1722 G3LQR (559/559), 1748 G4NNS (549/539), 2017 LX1DB (579/569) and (55/55) SSB

and 2036 WD5AGO (549/559) for a total of 17 QSOs. On 432 on 20 March I tried with 4L1PF again with nil heard, but did QSO at 1620 F6APE (23DB/O) on JT65b for mixed initial #786*, and 2000 TK5JJ (28DB/23DB) JT65b #787*, on 21 March at 1830 4L1FP nil again, on 24 March at 2244 DL5FN (19DB/9DB), on 26 March at 2300 WA3QPX (9DB/14DB) JT65B #788*, on 27 March 0054 CT1FFU (24DB/22DB) JT65B #789*, 0205 K5DOG (22DB/19DB) JT65B #790*, 0605 VK4EME (19DB/13DB) JT65B #791* and 0625 VK4EME (449/O) CW initial #719, 0649 VK4CDI (19DB/15DB), but nil on moonrise from 8Q7QQ, on 29 March at 0043 partial WA3QPX (O/-) on CW - off 1 kHz, on 9 April at 1100 partial N6RMJ (26DB/-) JT65B and 1155 WD4JHD (13DB/21DB) JT65B – big sig #792*, and 10 April 1125 partial N6RMJ (26DB/-) JT65B. I also worked on 23 cm on 27 March at 0015 WA3HMS (12DB/O) JT65C and 2309 PA0PLY (23DB/17DB) JT65C, on 28 Marc at 0035 K7XQ (12DB/13DB) and 0051 YL2HA (25DB/0) JT65B and 2130 nil 8Q7QQ – too many trees. We had planned to operate the 3 cm DUBUS Contest, but didn't want to miss the chance of working 8Q7QQ on 1296, even if it was a long shot because of our window, and thus decide not to substitute the 3 cm gear for 23 cm. We will probably not be QRV for the 70 cm DUBUS Contest as will because of conflicting events.

NETNEWS BY G4RGK: **W4TJ** is now retired and is refurbishing his ham shack. Bill has N4MW's 14.5' dish and should be back on EME soon. Bill is also setting up single yagi for the 432 Arecibo test. **8J1AXA** had to cancel their final 1296 operation planned for 20/21 March due to the very stormy WX. **SM7GVF** built up a 70 cm 500 W PA and was QRV on Monday 22 March for KP4AO with a single yagi on 70 cm. **W5LUA** is working on 78 GHz EME. **K5CBL** has 4 yagis set up for 70 cm EME. **WB2BYP** is work on his 28' dish and hopes to be on by June. **CT1DMK** is not on 9 cm EME. **AL7RT** worked K1RQG and N2UO on 23 cm EME during the March pre-AW (20/21) and K1RQG, VE3KRP, OZ6OL, K2DH and K2DS during the AW. **VE6BGT's** elevation motor and jackscrew failed, He will add counter weights and a new jackscrew. Skip also plans to be on 70 cm for KP4AO. **UA4AQL** worked KP4AO on 432 CW. **N4PZ** has taken down his 10' dish and switching over to a 16' dish (4.9 m). **K4QF** will be 432 for Arecibo tests. **K7XQ** will be on for KP4AO. **K0YW** is still not ready on 23 cm EME. **VE4MA** is working on 78 GHz EME as well. Barry may try for KP4AO.

FOR SALE: **N4PZ** has a 10' dish available to anyone who wants to arrange to pick it up or for shipping. It has a complete polar mount and is a mesh type TVRO dish. Contact Steve at n4pz@juno.com.

DALLAS-2010 - 14TH INTERNATIONAL EME CONFERENCE UPDATE: We cordially invite you and your family to Dallas, Texas on the 12 – 14 Aug. The web site is http://www.ntms.org/eme. Registration can be done online with PayPal or if desired a registration form can be downloaded and check written to the North Texas Microwave Society in USD sent via the postal service to the address indicated on the form. The registration form offers many options to conference participants. The basic registration is only $50. Other options include extra proceedings or a nice embroidered conference shirt for an additional charge. We are also offering many meal options for both you and your spouse. The breakfast buffet coupons and the lunches are presented as a convenience to minimize the need for going out and finding a place to eat. The conference hotel is The Westin at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport, which is just a short shuttle ride from DFW Airport and offers first class conference amenities at an excellent conference price of $89 USD per night plus taxes. The hotel address is 4545 West John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063. We have guest rooms blocked for Wednesday night through Saturday night. The conference rate is guaranteed only for the dates shown above. If you arrive before Wednesday night or if you stay past Sunday morning, your rate maybe higher on the non-conference days. Please book your room directly with the hotel as it helps the conference organizers meet our hotel commitment and help offset the price of conference meeting rooms and other amenities. We expect a large turnout and strongly recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. The hotel block will be held until 12 July. After July 12th, it will be difficult to get the same conference rate. Hotel registration is now available online at http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0902108016&key=7BF3D. If you have any difficulties in using the on-line Westin hotel registration, please call reservations at 888-627-8617 and reference the "EME Conference" to get the conference rate. If all else fails please drop Al a note at w5lua@sbcglobal.net. We have Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR and Joe Taylor, K1JT for our featured lunch speakers - see the schedule for more details. Plans are also moving in a positive direction for a special guest speaker for the Saturday night banquet, so be sure to sign up. We have an excellent technical program lined up with many notable speakers from around the world. To date we have the following speakers and presentations: AD6IW, "A New Generation of High Efficiency Solid State Power Amplifiers", DL1YMK, "EME-DXpeditions to MI,OH0 and XXX", G3LTF, "Practical Optimization of 432 MHz and up EME systems using VK3UM's EME-Calc program", G4HUP, "A 23 cm DFS based RX Converter for SDR", HB9DRI "DRIAC-G2, Tracking the Moon and celestial bodies without a PC", JH1KRC, "8J1AXA, Moon-bounce Using the JAXA 18 m Dish on 2 m through 23 cm – Another Big-Dish project in Japan", K0YW, "KH7X DXpedition and Preparations for Future Trips", K1JT, "Frequency-Dependent Characteristics of the EME Path", K2DH, "The Design and Implementation of a Hydraulic Elevation Drive System", K5SDR, "Expanding the SDR Technology", KL6M, "A New Technique for Construction of 23 cm Septum Feeds" and "Considerations for Construction of LNA/Relay Combinations", KL7UW, "My Big Dish Project", N2UO, "A Lightweight 6 meter Stressed Parabolic Dish for EME", N4PZ, "VHF/UHF Coaxial Cavity Amplifier Construction", OK1DFC, "Latest Microwave EME DXpedition Results", W4SC, "IQ Measurements", W5LUA & K5GW, "Working with Commercial TWT Power Supplies and Building you own TWT Power Supplies", WA7CJO, TBD, and WD5AGO, "13 & 9 cm Cooled LNA's". We are still soliciting people to speak or if you just want to submit an article for the Technical Proceedings of the 14th EME Conference, we will be happy to have you send us an email with your article. Please contact Barry at ve4ma@shaw.ca if you would like to speak and/or submit an article. Our famous state side road warrior WA5WCP/5 has agreed to pull his portable EME system complete with 12 ft (3.7 m) parabolic dish to the hotel. Paul has capability on 1296 and 2304, so if you have yet to hear any EME signals on the higher bands, this is a great opportunity to hear it live and work stations. The Dallas-Fort Worth area offers a wide range of holiday/vacation activities. Plan on arriving at the conference hotel Wednesday afternoon or evening. We will have a hospitality suite and registration on Wednesday evening so we can get acquainted and prepare for a full day of family activities on Thursday. We have been working with an excellent tour guide company and have pulled together some excellent tours of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. On Thursday we are offering a full day highlight tour. Since there are no technical presentations planned for Thursday, we are planning for this to be a widely attended tour by both husbands and wives. While the technical sessions are going on during the day on both Friday and Saturday, we plan two full days of family activities. The Friday tour is a 9 am to 3 pm tour of the world famous Southfork ranch from the "Dallas" show plus a North Park Shopping Experience, which is one of the largest and premier shopping centers in the country. On Friday evening it is time to put on your blue jeans and take your gal to Ft. Worth for a fun western styled evening at the Fort Worth Stockyards Championship Rodeo. We will leave the hotel at 6:30 pm and arrive back at the hotel by 10:30 pm. On Saturday morning, while the EME guys are enjoying the technical sessions, the wives are invited to a guided tour of Historic downtown Grapevine. We have several electronic vendors signed up to showcase their goodies. The vendor rooms will be open all day Friday and Saturday. If you are interested in obtaining a vendor table, please contact Craig, KA5BOU at ka5bou@dfwair.net as soon as possible before the start of the conference. We will also have NF measurement equipment on hand to showcase your newest low noise amplifier or to help you troubleshoot a troubled LNA. WD5AGO and W5LUA will be coordinating the testing. The EME conference will conclude with the Saturday evening banquet. A guest speaker is planned, details will follow. We will have a short session on Sunday morning to wrap things up and then you are free to continue your travels. We hope that you can make the Dallas-Ft. Worth area the center of your 2010 vacation or just a stopping point as you tour other parts of North America. The Dallas Fort Worth area is served by DFW International Airport making international travel easy while still a convenient jumping off point to other destinations within the USA or Canada.

FINAL: This has been another one of those months. Much is going on – perhaps too much! There are 2 events of interest to EMEer coming up. You will definitely want to get your registration in for the Dallas-2010 EME conference – see above. And then there is the Dayton gathering – see below. I plan to be there.

For EMEers attending Dayton, the VHF Weak Signal Group Banquet is back! It will be held on Friday evening 14 May at the Doubletree Dayton Downtown Hotel at 11 South Ludlow Street – (this is a new location). The cash bar opens at 6:15 pm A 2 entrée sit-down dinner will be served starting at approximately 7:15 pm and with prizes drawn at 9 pm. Reservations are required. The cost is $35 and includes dinner, prize ticket and indoor valet parking. Seating is limited to 125 and spouses are welcome. For tickets please send $35 per person and an SASE to: Tony Emanuele, WA8RJF, 7156 Kory Court, Concord Township, Ohio 44077-2221. Please include the names and calls of all attendees as well as an e-mail address. For more information contact Tony at WA8RJF@ARRL.net.

Regarding the slow scan EME, it may not be so new. K5JT believes that he made the first EME SSTV QSO with K3NSS in the late 1970s. Back then Jay was using the call W5ORH and the K3NSS group was lead by Willie, W1XZ operating from an 85' dish in the Navy Yard in MD. Jay was using an array of 16 yagis.

I was very interested in OK1DFC's new 70 cm feed. I had hoped to have more information this month, but ran out of time. I will try to have more for Jun.

This all that I have time for this 29. PSE keep info coming. I will be looking for you off the Moon. 73, Al – K2UYH