432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS
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CONDITIONS: There have been many very successful dxpeditions, but R2/DL1YMK has to be one of, if not the best on all counts. Excellent conditions certainly helped boost the QSO counts for both Michael and Monika's dxpedition and the 23 cm part of European World Wide (EWW) DUBUS/REF EME Contest. R2/DL1YMK completed 138 initials on 3 bands (79 on 1296!) – see their report. Despite a low declination weekend the QSO counts were way up in this year's contest over the last one. DL0SHF appears to have the gold ring with a total 69x58 for 400,200 points, but SM4IVE is not far behind with 66x57 and F2TU, DL4MEA, OK1DFC (and probably others I missed) are all above the 60 QSO count. SM4IVe is also the leader for the 70 cm leg with 50x44. I was not happy to see the conflict in weekends with the ARI Digital Contest, but it had a reasonable turnout on 70/23 cm judging by the reports. 3B8EME was active on 70 cm JT during ARI contest for a new DXCC for those lucky enough to find them. There are two additional JT oriented dxpeditions taking place in June/July. 9Q1EK in the Congo could come on 432 at anytime with 4 yagis, and DL2NUD is traveling north of the Arctic Circle with EME gear for 70 cm (1 yagis/500 W) and 23 cm (1 yagi/250 W) in rare grid squares, but not necessarily new DXCC locations. The alignment of high declination and perigee we have seen earlier in the year does not exist this summer. EME activity weekends (AW) are a compromise. The next AW is 19/20 June in southern dec. The next 70 cm CW activity time period (ATP) is not until the end of July/beginning of Aug. There will be a 6 cm AW on 10/11 July - see below. The weekend of 12/13 June corresponds to ARRL's June VHF Contest in which EME QSOs count for both contest points and multipliers. Unfortunately the Moon and Sun are closely synced on Saturday 12 June, but Sunday should be good day (high dec and low loss) to look for initials off the Moon with big contest stations - (the exchange is 4 character grid locators). The big event this summer is the International EME Conference on 12-14 Aug. The Texas group have put together a conference that you will not want to miss. It will not until 2012 before there will be another opportunity to share you EME experiences; and there is certainly a lot to share this year! 2010 has been an incredible time to be active on 70 cm and above EME.

6 CM AW 10/11 July: The weekend was selected earlier this year. The main idea is to get everyone who can operate or listen on that band to come on and hear and work some stations. It is an opportunity to test out new feeds, preamps, dishes, to compare station performances and, most importantly to have fun. There will be activity from VK, JA and NA and plenty from Europe. See http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/NLD/eme0909.pdf for a report on last year's event. Come on even if you have only QRP.... I made 7 QSOs last year with only 7 W at the feed of a 4.5 m dish. Almost certainly there will be some big signals on the band. K1RQG has kindly agreed to make a sked list and so contact him at kirqg@aol.com if you want to be on the list. Publicizing the skeds is very helpful, especially for smaller stations and listeners. I suggest also the use of the HB9Q logger, but please be careful not to spoil any QSOs by inappropriate postings. [TNX to G3LTF who is again taking the lead in promoting the 6 cm AW. Peter will be running on 6 cm a 4.5 m dish with 20-25 W at feed and a 0.7 dB NF preamp].

CT1DMK: Luis cupido@mail.ua.pt sends his 23 cm contest results -- I had a nice time in the contest. It was a pleasure to see so many stations on CW and luckily I could devote some hours for relaxed EME operation. My RX is fine, but on TX my power reaching the feed is below 100 W. (I'm working on higher power for next time). I was mainly QRV on Saturday, but did manage some QSOs (intermittently) on Sunday. I made 37 QSOs with VK3UM, SV1BTR, SM4IVE, DL0SHF, R2/DL1YMK, G3LTF, OE5JFL, DL4MEA, OK2DL, F2TU, LZ2US, OK1DFC, ES5PC, DF3RU, SP6JLW, OK1CA, UA3PTW, PI9CAM, G4CCH, IZ1BPN, SV3AAF, K2DH, K1RQG, OZ6OL, K5JL, OZ4MM, K2UYH, WA6PY, W6YX, K8EB, OH2DG, RD3YA, OZ6OL DUP, SD3F, DL4MEA DUP on SSB, ON4BCB and K1RQG DUP on SSB. My list of QRZs is very big - Most did not copy me at all and many just send QRZs and gave up. I know I did not have enough power - not comparable with my hearing capabilities. CWNR were 9A5AA, DL6SH, UT2EG, DF1SR, F5JWF, IK3COJ, SM6FHZ, IW2FZR, DL3EBL, UT5JCW, G4DDK, VE6TA, PA0BAT, PA3DZL, LX1DB (strong SSB), G4RGK and some JAs at my moonrise. I noted that activity from the US seemed very poor indeed. My rig is all homebrew (not a single piece of commercial gear except for an MFJ CW key) and consisted of a 0.25 dB NF preamp, TRV 1296/144, TRV 144/28, SDR/PowerSDR V1.14, 2C39 driver to GI7B PA at 250 W to 50 m cable to the feed (my main problem), scalar VE4MA feed and 5.6 m dish on a polar mount.

Michael and Monika by 20' dish at R2/DL1YMK

DL0SHF: Carsten (DL6LAU) carsten.esch@appello.de reports on his 1296 contest operation -- I started the contest using the DL0SHF remote controlled from my QTH about 150 km south of DL0SHF. Listening was with a DB6NT 23 cm converter connected to a Perseus SDR; TX was done with an IC-910. I worked the first day UT5JCW, UA3PTW, RD3YA, OH2DG, OZ4MM, VK5MC, OK2DL, SD3F, JA6AHB, DL6SH, 9A5AA, SP6JLW, SP7DCS, SM6FHZ, OE5JFL, IK3COJ, SV1BTR, OZ6OL, JA6CZD, OK1CA, VK3UM, ES5PC, VK3NX, LZ2US, DF1SR, IZ1BPN, SM4IVE, F5KUG, PI4Z, R2/DL1YMK, F5JWF, DL4MEA, UT2EG, CT1DMK, IZ2DJP, IK5QLO, S50C, PA0BAT, OK1DFC, OK3RM, G4CCH, SV3AAF, SM3JQU, DL3EBJ, ON4BCB, G4DDK, G3LQR, F2TU, K2DH, IK2RTI, PA3DZL, DF3RU, K1RQG, SM0ERR, CT1HZE, IW2FZR, VE3KRP, K5JL, K2UYH, G3LTF and W6YX. On Sunday, I drove up to DL0SHF to try a FLEX5000 with a DB6NT TR-1296H-28 for RX. I was very satisfied with the results and it was definitely an improvement to pick out those real weak ones (normally stations equipped for tropo and who are looking for their first ever CW EME QSO). I did a lot of A/B comparisons and apologies for any unnecessary QRZs. I added RA3WND, HB9IZ, UA3MBJ, UA3XBF, UR6EC, SP6XBO, LU1C and G4RGK. It became a bit slow with the moon due south, and I decided to pack up and drive back to my QTH to end the contest using DL0SHF in remote mode again. I was hoping that some more stations would show up for moonrise in the US. When I reached home, I found that the main server used for handling all incoming traffic to the various remote controlled PC/stations at DL0SHF had died. I was thus not able to add more stations. I know I missed WW2R. I wonder who else called me? I ended with 69x58 = 400,200 points. I am looking forward to giving more 'tropo stations' the chance for their first CW QSO, and to get them hooked for 23 cm EME. This is why the bigger stations (DL0SHF, F2TU, HB9BBD, HB9Q, K1RQG, LX1DB, OK1DFC, SV1BTR, VK3UM) built their QRO stations - we would like to increase activity on the bands we are active on.

DL4MEA: Gunther guenter.koellner@nsn.com writes on the 1296 leg of the DUBUS Contest -- Signals were incredible. I have to admit that even after years of EME, I rarely see the S-meter moving. This time nearly everyone made the meter move; some even moved it up to S5… Really great conditions! And it is pleasure to report I had no technical problems. My old TH347 gave (less) power as usual, but I'm getting used to it. I worked on Saturday JA6AHB (at 2 degs elevation), VK3UM, JA4BLC, UT5JCW, JA6CZD, UA3PTW, SP7DCS, ON4BCB, JH8IAD, RD3YA, F5VHX, SP6JLW, LZ2US, OK2DL, PA0BAT, DF3RU, R2/DL1YMK, G3LTF, F2TU, SM4IVE, DL0SHF (very loud signal, but at the edge of the band), ES5PC, OE5JFL, DF1SR, CT1DMK (tried to get on SSB), SD3F, OK3RM, UT2EG, SM6FHZ, DL6SH, OZ6OL, G4CCH, IZ1BPN (keying problems), SV3AAF, SV1BTR, OK1DFC, K2UYH, K2DH, IW2FZR, PA3DZL, OK1CA, K1RQG, IK3COJ, OZ4MM, W6YX (sounder like W6YB?), VE3KRP, VE6TA, VA7MM and WA6PY (at 4 degs elevation), and on Sunday JA4BLC (2 degs elevation), VK3NX, OH2DG, HB9IZ, JA4LJB, G4RGK, DL3EBJ, LX1DB, IK5QLO, G4DDK, 9A5AA (his CQ) and G4CCH. All QSOs were of course fully random CW/SSB, no skeds, no logger, no chat, nothing for a total of 61 stations. My rig consisted of a 4.5 m f/d=0.32 dish, round septum feed with chaparral choke, 2x MRF286 driver to a TH347 (750 W) with 2 dB of cable loss, and 0.3 dB NF G4DDK design preamp. Activity from USA was very low, I expected much more, especially because the local time must have been convenient. How can we get more NA participation in ARRL contest? Otherwise the ARRL contest will be mainly for Europeans, and this year there will be competition and interference from European terrestrial contest. In the ARRL contest, I will not be able to participate in the13 cm and up part because of holidays, but once again will be QRV on 70 and 23 cm.

DL7APV: Bernd dl7apv@gmx.de had another wind disaster – I was hit by another Tornado. Unlike 2008 when my vertical array was destroyed, this time all antennas are still there, but most of the yagis are bent. My Sun noise is down by about 2 dB. I will try to fix the array, but expect some difficulty in bending the aluminum back in place while standing on a 5m ladder. I may have to disassemble the array and repair each antenna on the ground. The wind speed was up to 150 km/h and as 2 years ago, many trees were blown over. The chicken egg sized hailstones crashed into the roof of my neighbor's indoor riding school. About 100 km south, we had a F3 Tornado same day. It seems we are now getting mid west US WX here. In the digital ARI contest on 70 cm activity was very low, but I was happy to work 3B8EME, OH6UW (75 W and a 19 el yagi), LZ1OA (4 yagis and 500 W), K8SIX (1 yagi and 500 W) and PY2OC (1 yagi and 100 W). Back on 16 May, I worked R2/DL1YMK with a super signal. It was the loudest ever heard from them. Their new feed seems to be working very well. I am still planning to add a vertical array for 432. The mounting is almost complete. [Bernd is now QRV again].

Bernd's bent yagis

F2TU: Philippe f2tu.philippe@orange.fr was active in both the UHF and microwave DUBUS CW EME Contests – I had problems during the last part on the 1296 leg because the Moon was quite low. I still managed to complete 62 QSOs on random with initials to IZ2DJP, DL6SH, PI4Z, K8EB, W7JM, IK5QLO and SP3XBO for #344 and for a score of 62x55. I know I missed some small signals because the noise produced by trees (sometimes > 4 dB). I was only on 70 cm during the contest for about 10 minutes and had a score of only 2x2. On 13 cm my score was 43x39, on 6 cm 17x17 with initials to ZM2TV, JA8ERE and SP6GWN (O/O) for initial #37 and DXCC 24, and on 3 cm 17x17. I also contacted on 23 cm on 10 May with UA3PTW (549/589) #337 and on 13 May R2/DL1YMK (53/54) on SSB. I worked R2/DL1YMK on 14 May on 2.3 GHz (54/54) SSB, and 16 May on 432 (539/539). [See the June and May NLs for more detailed reports on Philippe's 13 and 3 cm contest activity].

F5SE/P: Franck kozton@free.fr writes -- In early April, I thought I might have a chance to work KP4AO on 432. I decided to replace the 1296 horn with a 432 EIA dual dipole feed. I used my 432 tropo rig (IC910 + GS35) without any preamp, with an overall feedline loss estimated at around 4 dB in the RX branch - very far from an optimized RX setup. To my great surprise, I could hear my own echoes (very weak). I was ready about two hours before the beginning of the 16 April session. I heard G3LTF calling CQ with a good signal and we easily made a QSO for my initial #1 on 432 EME. Later I heard KP4AO on SSB, but only bits and pieces. Then KP4AO switched to CW and signals were far better (559), but still much weaker than computed. We QSO'd (559/599). Later, close to the end of the session, I made a second QSO using the callsign of the Reims radio-club, F6KIF/P. [Unfortunately the following day Franck had a heart attack. This news is quite disturbing as he has had problems with his heart for many years and is trying to take proper care of himself. Due to this attack, work on his dish will be delayed and it is unlikely that Franck will be heard off the Moon before late Sept].

G3LTF: Peter g3ltf@btinternet.com was active in the contest in May -- Thanks to Michael and Monica for another great multiband dxpedition. They were very successful and with an improved signal on 432. It shows that anyone with a dish as small as 4 m can expect to work a substantial number of stations on 70 cm. I note on Moonnet an ongoing discussion by 144 operators with only 2 yagis on whether it is better to have two in the same polarization or one each in H and V. The latter is considered preferable to combat faraday even at the sacrifice of some gain. With a small dish on 432 a rotatable feed is even better as ALL angles of pol can be reached with full gain. On 432 in daytime 90 degrees of Faraday is quite common, even the norm, so, I want to encourage all those with smaller dishes that they use on 1296 and above to extend their operation to 432 by putting in a rotatable feed. The one described by OK1DFC and used by R2/DL1YMK has only 36% of the blockage of a conventional dual dipole feed, and thus ideal for small dishes – see http://www.ok1dfc.com/EME/technic/432feed/432feed.htm. Making the feed rotate is more of a challenge, but think about some simple gears and a battery powered screwdriver fed from a reversing supply. Remote indication can be by a potentiometer. I worked on 1296 on 13 May R2/DL1YMK for initial #320 and DXCC 56 and K0YW, and on 2320 on 14 May R2/DL1YMK for initial #87 and DXCC 33, followed by VE6TA, SV3AAF and SM2CEW, and on 15 May R2/DL1YMK again, and G4CCH with an excellent signal. I then switched feeds to 1296 and worked N2UO, F5VHX, OK1KIR, SM4IVE, and CT1DMK. I was getting ready to go on 432 on 16 May when I got an e-mail from VK3NX telling me he was going to be QRV on 6 cm in an hour and could I be on to tailend a sked that he had? Yes we could!! I changed feeds and was absolutely delighted to work VK3NX for initial #11, DXCC 10 and the first VK-G QSO on 6 cm. I also copied PA0EHG on his sked. After changing back to 432, I worked R2/DL1YMK on that band for #initial 434 (I missed out on 3 stations recently in my 432 initials) and DXCC 72, I then worked I1NDP, SM2CEW, G4ALH, G4DHF #435 and OZ4MM. I worked on 1296 on 17 May OZ6OL. In the DUBUS contest, despite a very restricted easterly window due to tree blockage, I did manage to work 50 stations. The VK and JAs were worked through trees in leaf. Conditions were, however, extremely good. Even with the excess loss at 0.25 dB there seemed to be something "extra" going on. I worked the following stations VK3UM, LZ2US, OK3RM, DL4MEA, IZ1BPM, SM4IVE, RD3YA, F5VHX, SP7DCS, R2/DL1YMK, OK1DFC, UA3PTW, PI9CAM, CT1DMK, DL6SH, F5KUG, 9A5AA, DF3RU, ES5PC, PA3DZL, OK2DL, SM6FHZ, OZ6OL, OK1CA, F2TU, SP6JLW, S50C, SV1BTR, K1RQG, IW2FZR, IK3COJ, ON4BCB, OE5JFL, SV3AAF, K2UYH, DL0SHF, OZ4MM, K2DH, VE6TA, WA6PY, JA6CZD, JA6AHB, G4RGK, DF1SR, UT2EG, G3LQR, LX1DB (SSB), SD3F, G4DDK and SM3JQU. Heard were VK5MC, JA4LJB and HB9IZ, VE3KRP, G4CCH and K8EB. CWNR were DL3EBJ and IK5QLO.

G4DDK: Sam jewell@btinternet.com writes -- I managed to get my feed back on the dish and checked everything out after returning from Dayton. It was great to meet with so many EMEers at the VHF dinner on the Friday as well as out in the flea market. I also also visited K5GW and WW2R while in Dallas. Thanks to WA5VJB for hosting me. On 23 cm I worked on Thursday, 13 May using JT65C R2/DL1DMK, GM4PMK, UT5UTW and G4CCH, and then in the DUBUS CW contest I managed to work another 9 stations - 4 on Saturday and 5 on Sunday. That's one more than I worked all last year! QSO'd were G3LTF, G4CCH, F2TU, DL4MEA, SV1BTR, SM4IVE, DL0SHF, OK1DFC and PI9CAM. CWNR were K1RQG and LZ2US. I believe Joe heard me as I am quite sure I copied my callsign come back, but someone else was worked? Many, many, others were heard, but either were working another station or I was unable to identify (your call sign is the hardest part to copy). Why make it so

difficult by running characters together? Not everyone knows all the call signs! I did a screen grab on Saturday, using my SDR-IQ, and it shows 17 signals on the screen within the short period observed, which is amazing. My system is still 200 W to a 2.3 m dish with OK1DFC septum polarizer feed using a 14 inch aluminum cake tin choke and a G4DDK LNA (of course). Spid RAS, and Moonsked are used for tracking. I measured 8 dB of Sun noise over the weekend.

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com reports that he was only on during the 1296 leg of the EWW Contest for about two hours on the Sunday. He worked about 20 stations before the Moon disappeared behind the trees and he had to go out.

IK5QLO: Andrea's andrea@isaacasimov.it reports -- May was such a nice month, with good EME conditions, activity, contests, expedition! Many thank to Michael and Monica for their effort to be QRV on JT too, giving QRP stations like me the opportunity to work them. The M&M dxpedition also brought back to life some "sleeping" ops enabling me to add some nice CW initials. I worked on 15 May OZ4MM on CW, HB9Q on JT65C and YO8BCF on JT65C, on 16 May G4DZU on JT65C for an initial (#), on 17 May SV3AAF CW (#), and 20 May R2/DL1YMK on JT65C (#) and SD3F on CW (#). During the contest weekend I divided my few hours of operating time between the I-digital and the DUBUS contests. I had much fun due to good conditions and activity, especially during the second pass. I QSO'd in the DUBUS contest DL0SHF (#), OK1DFC, SV1BTR#, SM4IVE (#), F2TU (#), OZ4MM, SP6JLW, SV3AAF, DL4MEA (#), G4CCH and LZ2US (#), and in the Italian Digit contest PI9CAM, OK1DFC, OK3RM (#), RD3DA, PA3DZL, G4CCH and PY2BS. I heard some others, but no stateside stations except K1RQG, who was very strong. The rig was a 2.4 m dish with 150 W at the feed.

K2DH: Dave k2dh@frontiernet.net was active on both 70 and 23 cm in May. He QSO'd R2/DL1YMK on both bands. He was active in the 1296 contest and worked at the start W6YX, K2UYH, W9IIX, W7JM and AL7RT. During the second pass, he added another 28. Dave also QSO'd SM4IVE with his low power on 432 as well as on 1296 in the contest. On 6 June he QSO'd G4CCH and VE3KRP.

OK1CA: Franta strihavka@upcmail.cz sends news of his May activity -- I worked DL1YMK from R2 at 13 May on 23 cm and on 14 May on 13 cm – these were first OK/R2 QSOs and both reports were (569) with very good signals. I was also QRV on Saturday only for the DUBUS EME Contest on 23 cm. I worked 49 stations. Initials were RD3YA for #242, UA3PTW #243, SM4IVE #244, 9A5AA #245 and a new country, OK2DL #246, S50C #247 and new country, UT2EG #248, F5KUG #249, PI4Z #250 and W6YB #251 [W6YX?]. My contacts with NA were limited by my Moon window. When I worked W6YB, my antenna was only 2 degrees over the ground. I also called WA6PY, but the Moon and signal were gone.

OK1DFC: Zdenek's ok1dfc@seznam.cz had a great month -- During the contest weekend I split my time between the DUBUS and DIGI ARI contests. On 1296 CW, I made 62 QSOs and 57 multipliers for a total of 353,400 points! Thanks to G3LTF, K1RQG, VK3UM, JA6CZD, ZS5Y and PY2SB, I completed WAC on 1296 in 24 hours! I also added 7 initials on CW and 6 on JT. During weekend I also passed the 2000 EME QSO mark and now have 2,075 EME QSOs on all bands. I QSO'd on 1296 CW R2/DL1YMK for initial #270 and DXCC 67, G3LTF, SV1BTR, S50C, RD3YA, DF1SR, DF3RU, SM4IVE, R2/DL1YMK, SP6JLW, 9A5AA, CT1DMK, OK2DL, DL0SHF, SD3F, SM6FHZ, PI9CAM, F5KUG #271, SM3JQU, OZ6OL, DL3EBJ, SV3AAF, UA3PTW, PI4Z #272, F5JWF, ES5PC, F2TU, OK1CA, ON4BCB, PA3DZL, G4DDK, IK3COJ, K2DH, DL6SH, OE5JFL, SP7DCS, DL4MEA, IK5QLO, IZ1BPN, VE3KRP, G4CCH, W6YB #273, WW2R, LZ2US, OK3RM, K1RQG, OH2DG, VK3UM, JA6CZD, JA6AHB, IW2FZR, G4RGK, OZ4MM, UT2EG, G3LQR, UT5JCW, UR5LX, SP3XBO #274, PY2BS, PA2DW #275, RA3IS, K5JL and W7JM #276, and on JT65C SM4LMV (26DB) for digital initial {#90}, IK5QLO (14DB), PA7JB (18DB) {#91}, SV1DNU (18DB) {#92}, ZS5Y (24DB) {#93}, S57SU (25DB) {#94}, IZ5MAO (19DB) {#95}, PA2DW (19DB) {#96} and RD3DA (9DB). I worked on 432 on CW R2/DL1YMK for initial #114 and DXCC 63, and on JT65B UT5UAS (24DB), OH6UW (27DB), EB3DYS (21DB), K7MAC (20DB), KI7JA (19DB) for digital initial {#140}, 3B8EME {#141} and DXCC 64, YL3HA (24DB) and DK2ZF (21DB) {#142}.

ON4BCB: Walter's on4bcb@telenet.be 23 cm and WW EU EME Contest results –- A great contest; this was the first time I used my new SSPA and with great success. There was a lot of activity on 1296. I participated from 1400 to 2300 on 22 May and from 2000 to 2300 on 23 May working JH1KRC, VK3UM, DL4MEA, OK1CA, PI9CAM, OZ4MM, OZ6OL, OK2DL, JA6CZD, SD3F, G4CCH, UA3PTW, OK2DL, DF1SR, SV1BTR, OE5JFL, DL0SHF, R2/DL1YMK, IZ1BPN, SV3AAF, LZ2US, OK1DFC, F2TU, IW2FZR, IK3COJ, F5KUG, SM4IVE, DF3RU, DL6SH, OK1CA, SP6JLW, K2UYH, K2DH, SP7DCS, G3LTF, K5JL, K1RQG, LX1DB, RD3YA, UT2EG, DL3EBJ, 9A5AA and CT1DMK. I heard RA3AQ, OK3RM, VK5MC, PA3DZL, PI4Z, OH2DG, SM6FHZ, VK3NX, G4RGK, IK2RTI and WW2R.

OZ4MM: Stig vestergaard@os.dk had only a limited window during the 1296 contest weekend -- Family activities I couldn't miss and the low Moon declination really limited my time. I was active for around 6 hours, but still added 56 stations to my log. Even at the low declination many stations were QRV and some with huge signals, but I made no initials this time. During the previous 432 CW ATP weekend I worked 11 stations and had initials with SM7GVF (FB signal for a single yagi) and G4DHF. A big TNX to M&M for their very superb R2/DL1YMK dxpedition, which I worked on 70, 23 and 13 cm. Back in April in the DUBUS 432 CW contest, I lost the HV in my TH327 PSU, but worked a couple of stations with only 30 W at the feed.

R2/DL1YMK: Michael and Monika DL1YMK@aol.com tell the story of their very successful dxpedition -- Since the former military restricted area of Kaliningrad was opened in 1991, there had been no guest licenses issued by the Russian authorities for UHF/SHF operation to our knowledge, not to mention any moonbounce activities. It was a very lengthy procedure taking many months to get all the necessary legal permits, starting with the special moonbounce license with a special event callsign issued by the General Radio Frequency Center in Moscow and ending with the allowance to temporarily import all the radio equipment by the Russian customs and border control. By far the job of logistics management was the toughest ever encountered to make this event become a reality. Monika spent many nights on the computer with endless correspondence and the heap of documents finally reached some 6 cm in height. We are sincerely obliged to the Russian authorities for the extremely professional handling of our license application and also to the German embassies in Moscow and Kaliningrad for their support, whenever things seemed to slow down. After two days travel by car and ferry we passed the Russian/Lithuanian border near Nida on 11 May without any problems due to the perfect preparation by Monika. We were cordially welcomed by our hosts, who proved to be very tolerant people, allowing us to set up the dish amidst a strawberry field. The next day the stressed dish was installed, which by now is a routine matter. Although its location was very close to a concrete fence running around the farm ground, we had only some tolerable obstructions to the East (below about 7° EL there was a chicken shack) and to the extreme West (a farm house). On Thursday night (13 May), R2/DL1YMK started the first ever moonbounce operation from Kaliningrad on 23 cm. After the first CQ, at 0324 OK1DFC was the first to enter the log (569/559), immediately followed by at 0329 OK1CA (569/559), 0337 VK3UM (559/559) and went on to QSO on this first moonpass 42 different stations including very enjoyable sideband QSOs with DF3RU, F2TU and LX1DB. Although, but also because the Sun was close to the Moon on Friday, 14 May, we were on 13 cm, hoping for some QSOs due to the narrower beam of the dish. Despite the generally unfavourable condx, we worked 19 different stations including sideband QSOs at 0742 F2TU (54/53), 0841 LX1DB (55/54) and 0847 G3LTF (54/54). On Sunday, 16 May, we activated 70 cm for the first time with a slightly modified rig compared to OH0. The feed was down-gauged to just a linear polarized 1wl short backfire loop, running the risk of possible Faraday lock-out, but saving 1 coax-relay with its inevitable losses. Also the DB6NT LNA was upgraded in terms of NF in order to compensate for the lower power of 500 W, imposed by the license conditions. When firing up the amp, we could hear echoes for the first time despite the relatively low output. The line was started at 0603 by VK3UM (559/559) with 1/3 of the dish still obstructed by the chicken refuge and ended on Sunday at 17020 by G4YTL (O/O). The trade-off rig-wise seemed to pay off, as on the first 70 cm shot we were able to log 23 initials, not to forget K2UYH at 1516 (O/O) for his 98 DXCC. A significant improvement of the portable setup in terms of moontracking was the implementation of a brand new OE5JFL controller (produced by HB9DRI) together with cheap 12 bit magnetic absolute encoders, which were incorporated in the SPID rotator. We never lost the moon for the first time on a dxpedition. This was very essential as we only had a visible Moon for half a night – the second op really appreciated this technical improvement as the nights were quite chilly in R2-land! On the following days we subsequently reactivated all three bands again. We also ran some JT QSOs on 70 and 23 cm after the hard disk of our laptop, was came back to life after some problems, although it was extremely slow on decode operation. During the 23 cm DUBUS Contest we gave out the R2-multiplier to 49 stations, which is a quite respectable result for a portable setup. Unfortunately the activity from the US was low on all three bands compared to previous dxpeditions. Overall we QSO'd via EME on 70 cm on 16 May at 0603 VK3UM (559/559), 0612 SM4IVE (559/539), 0628 SP6JLW (539/O), 0635 OZ4MM (559/549), 0645 PA3CSG (539/529), 0652 VK3UM (539/539), 0659 I1NDP (549/559), 0716 SM6FHZ (O/O), 0726 SM2CEW (539/539), 0733 DL7APV (549/539), 0742 F2TU (539/529), 0754 JA6AHB (O/O), 0805 DL9KR (559/559), 0841 DK3WG (O/O), 0919 OZ4MM (559/559), 0954 G3LTF (539/449), 1103 HB9Q

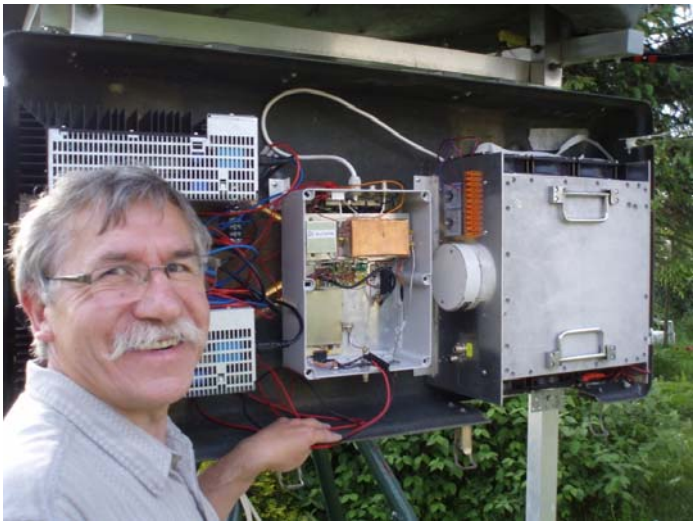
(559/539), 1232 OK1KIR (O/O), 1258 UA3PTW (559/559), 1325 (O/O), 1343 OZ6OL (O/O), 1616 K2UYH (O/O) and 1720 G4YTL (O/O), on 19 May at 1555 LX1DB (O/O), 1557 K1RQG (O/O), 1609 OK2POI (O/O) JT, 1632 I1NDP (O/O) JT, 1802 DL5FN (O/O) JT, 1840 ES5PC (O/M), 1955 WA6PY (O/M), 2012 WA4NJP (O/O), 2024 K5GW (559/559), and on 21 May at 1855 OK1DFC (559/559); on 23 cm, on 13 May at 0324 OK1DFC (569/559), 0329 OK1CA (569/559), 0337 VK3UM (559/559), 0345 UA3PTW (O/O), 0349 DL4MEA (559/559), 0356 SP6JLW (569/559), 0400 HB9BBD (579/579), 0406 OZ4MM (569/559), 0410 PA3CSG (559/559), 0425 JA4BLC (549/549), 0430 DF3RU (559/559), 0438 OZ6OL (539/549), 0457 DF3RU (44/44) SSB, 0502 ES6RQ (559/559), 0507 G3LTF (559/559), 0524 JA6AHB (539/449), 0531 VK3UM (579/569), 0600 G4CCH (559/559), 0625 SM2CEW (559/559), 0651 F2TU (569/559) and (54/53) SSB, 0734 SP7DCS (O/449), 0744 PA0BAT (549/549), 0757 SM4DHN (559/559), 0809 IK3COJ (549/529), 0821 SV3AAF (559/549), 0830 OE5JFL (549/559), 0847 OK3RM (O/O), 0910 UT5JCW (O/O), 0935 DJ9YW (549/559), 0942 DL0SHF (569/559), 0957 G4RGK (O/O), 1056 LX1DB (579/569) and (55/55) SSB, 1115 N2UO (559/559), 1150 DL6LAU (579/559), 1201 K8EB (549/449), 1218 K0YW (559/559), 1222 K5JL (569/579), 1240 K2UYH (559/559), 1400 CT1DMK (O/O), 1425 WA6PY (559/539), 1446 OK2DL (539/539) and 1521 W7JM (549/549), on 15 May at 1317 OZ4MM (579/569), 1329 OK1KIR (559/559), 1343 SM4IVE (449/549), 1358 F5VHX (539/449), 1412 K2DH (559/549), 1421 F5KUG (549/549), 1428 W9EQ (569/559), 1435 HB9Q (579/539), 1440 VE6TA (559/559), 1447 PA3FYB (549/529), 1508 HB9IZ (579/569), 1515 IZ1BPN (569/559), 1607 OZ6OL (559/559), 1640 DF3RU (559/559), 1705 F5HRY (M/M), 1717 K5GW (569/579), 1722 OE9ERC (579/579), 1751 N2UO (559/559) and 1815 AL7RT (529/429), on 18 May at 1500 G3LTF (559/559), 1740 G3LQR (529/539), 1745 W5LUA (559/559), 1830 PA3DZL (O/O), 1912 ON4BCB (559/559), 1940 ES5PC (10DB/12DB) JT, 1944 ES5PC (559/559), 2007 ES6RQ (13DB/11DB) JT and, 2015 YO8BCF (12DB/17DB) JT, on 20 May at 1945 RD3DA (16DB/15DB) JT, 2015 IK5QLO (22DB/24DB) JT, 1853 PA0PLY (18DB/O) JT, 1906 G4DZU (14DB/O) JT, 1927 G4DDK (18DB/O) JT, 1942 UA3PTW (14DB/O) JT, 2002 SD3F (559/559), 2040 PA3FXB (13DB/14DB) JT, 2106 WW2R (20DB/O) JT and 2120 N2NQI (14DB/O) JT, on 21 May at 1956 G4CCH (559/569), 2010 SM4IVE (579/549) and 2055 RD3YA (O/O), and on 22 May at 1430 VK3UM (559/559), 1445 F2TU (569/559), 1458 SD3F (559/559), 1505 JA6AHB (549/549), 1510 OK1CA (569/559), 1520 OE5JFL (559/559), 1530 LZ2US (559/559), 1535 SP7DCS (549/449), 1540 DL4MEA (559/549), 1553 F5HRY (O/529), 1559 IZ1BPN (559/539), 1610 DL0SHF (569/549), 1616 OK2DL (559/559), 1625 UT5JCW (O/O), 1634 SV1BTR (559/559), 1639 G3LTF (559/559), 1656 CT1DMK (O/O), 1702 PI9CAM (569/579), 1709 UA3PTW (549/559), 1720 IK3COJ (559/339), 1740 OK1DFC (569/569), 1753 DF3RU (559/559), 1803 G4CCH (559/559), 1808 RD3YA (O/559), 1820 SM4IVE (569/559), 1830 PY2BS (559/559), 1835 SP6JLW (559/559), 1838 PA2DW (559/559), 1845 DF1SR (559/559), 1850 F5KUG (O /549), 1922 ON4BCB (569/559), 1926 SM6FHZ (559/549), 1948 UT2EG (O/O), 2000 OZ6OL (549/549), 2010 K2DH (559/559), 2100 K1RQG (579/579), 2120 ES5PC (559/559), 2153 IW2FZR (559/559), 2232 OZ4MM (559/559), 1600 OK3RM (O/O), 1830 SV3AAF (549/549), 1840 OH2DG (549/549), 1858 UT2EG (O/O) and 2002 LX1DB (569/579), and on 13 cm on 14 May at 0450 OK1CA (569/559), 0525 SP6OPN (569/559), 0530 G3LTF (559/559), 0537 F2TU (559/549), 0556 DL4MEA (559/559), 0604 OZ4MM (559/559), 0628 DF3RU (549/559), 0645 SV3AAF (549/559), 0724 PA0BAT (539549), 0738 F2TU (559/559), 0742 F2TU (54/53) on SSB, 0816 SM2CEW (549/559), 0833 LX1DB (579/569) and (55/54) SSB, 0847 G3LTF (54/54) SSB, 1216 SM2CEW (549/549), 1220 HB9Q (579/559), 1334 VE6TA (559/559), 1453 G3LQR (O/O), 1541 WA6PY (559/559), 1549 W7JM (559/559), 1558 WD5AGO (559/559) and 1623 WW2R (539/O), on 15 May at 0853 G3LTF (569/559), 0920 DF9QX (559/559), 1039 OZ4MM (569/569), 1045 SV3AAF (559/559), 1051 G4CCH (559/569), 1059 OK1KIR (569/559), 1110 IW2FZR (559/559), 1118 ES5PC (549/559) and 1130 LA8LF (539/549), and on 17 May at 1520 PA3DZL (O/O), 1618 K2UYH (559/449), 1632 OE9ERC (579/569) and (56/54) SSB and 1810 W5LUA (559/559). When the dish was dismantled on Monday, 24 May, the total score was 201 moonbounce QSOs, which split up as follows, on 70 cm 34 QSOs with 31 initials in 19 DXCCs, on 23 cm 130 QSOs (3 SSB and 12 JT) with 79 initials in 35 DXCCs and finally on 13 cm 37 QSOs (4 SSB) with 28 initials in 20 DXCCs. The return trip was again somewhat exciting as we feared possibly getting stuck in customs, but all went smooth and the rig was returned home safely. So there is a good chance for hearing us off the rock from another well searched after DXCC in the future. Thanks to all QSO partners.

SM4IVE: Lars sm4ive@telia.com reports on his recent activity on 432 and 1296 -- I managed to work 8Q7QQ on 432 CW, which was nice as it seems that I was the only one. The KP4AO activity was a nice event that hopefully will help 432 EME activity to grow. I heard so many stations that I had never heard at other times. I was on in the DUBUS Contest on both 70 and 23 cm, and really enjoyed the large CW turnout, but found activity very POOR activity from the US. I worked on 432, on 24 April at 0004 G4CCH (439/579), 0007 LZ1DX (529/579), 0011 SP7DCS (529/579), 0015 K2UYH (559/579), 0019 W8TXT (549/579), 0023 AF6O (O/O) for an initial, 0031 N4GJV (549/569), 0045 VE6TA (549/579) (#),0055 OK1DFC (579/599), 0101 K6JEY (539/559) (#), 0105 OZ6OL (539/579), 0117 K2DH (O/O), 1654 OE5JFL (559/579), 1705 SV1BTR (569/589), 1719 DL1YMK (549/579) (#), 1724 SP6JLW (549/579), 1729 PI9CAM (579/599), 1732 UA3PTW (579/589), 1745 I1NDP (569/589), 1751 G3LTF (549/589), 1843 G4DHF (529/579) (#), 1850 SM3JQU (529/559), 1854 SM6FHZ (529/569), 1907 S53RM (529/559) (#), 1912 DL9JY (529/559), 1919 IK2RTI (529/579), 1925 SD3F (559/559), 1931 G4ALH (519/559), 1945 DF3RU (539/559), 2022 SV3AAF (529/559), 2048 DL9KR (589/599), 2105 DL4MEA (549/579), 2123 SM2CEW (559/589), 2155 OK2POI (O/559), 2215 ES5PC (O/O) and 2219 DL5FN (549/579), and on 25 April at 1525 JA6AHB (529/549), 1535 JA9BOH (O/O), 1553 SM7GVF (429/O). 1602 DG1KJG (559/559), 1618 DL7APV (589/579), 1633 SM7SJR (O/O) (#), 1722 IK6EIW (O/O), 1913 UA4AQL (O/O), 1926 RX9YM (O/559) (#), 1936 CT1DMK (539/559) (#), 1951 DL1AAH (O/O) (#), 1957 G4YTL (549/569), 2039 F2TU (559/559) and 2149 LU7DZ (539/549) for total of 50x44 = 220,000 points. This rig was a 13 m dish with 1.5 kW at the feed and MGF 4919G LNA. I worked on 23 cm, on 22 May at 1443 VK3UM (569/579), 1446 SD3F (559/559), 1454 OK1CA (569/579), 1501 F2TU (579/569), 1507 LZ2US (579/569), 1510 F5VHX (539/569), 1513 JA6AHB (569/589), 1516 OK2DL (569/569), 1800 UT5JCW (549/559), 1529 SV1BTR (569/579), 1548 DL0SHF (599/559), 1556 G3LTF (559/569), 1608 OZ6OL (549/559), 1612 DL4MEA (569/579) 1621 OE5JFL (579/579) 1622 CT1DMK (529/559), 1642 UA3PTW (539/579), 1645 IK3COJ (559/559), 1650 OK3RM (539/559), 1654 SP7DCS (549/559), 1659 9A5AA (539/449), 1706 SP6JLW (569/579), 1100 RD3YA (559/559), 1716 SM6FHZ (569/569), 1900 PI9CAM (599/589), 1735 OK1DFC (579/569), 1759 UT2EG (549/559), 1803 S50C (539/539), 1807 DF1SR (539/549), 1820 R2/DL1YMK (559/569),1846 F5JWF (529/579), 1901 G3LQR (539/559), 1907 PA3DZL (539/539), 1200 SV3AAF (549/569), 1917 DF3RU (559/559), 1941 ES5PC (559/569), 1948 IK2RTI (559/569), 1958 PI4Z (539/539), 0500 SM3JQU (539/559), 2023 SM4DHN (579/569), 2032 ON4BCB (559/559), 2035 DL6SH (539/559), 2055 IZ1BPN (569/569), 2112 F5KUG (559/569), 2140 K2UYH (569/569), 1000 K2DH (559/569), 2214 G4CCH (559/589), 2301 K8EB (569/559), 2312 VE6TA (549/559), 2315 K1RQG (579/579), 2300 W6YX (569/579) and 2347 WA6PY (559/569), and on 23 May at 1511 HB9IZ (579/579), 1521 OH2DG (559/569), 1527 VK3NX (549/559), 1554 JA6CZD (569/569), 1610 VK5MC (569/569), 1631 OZ4MM (579/579), 1654 IW2FZR (559/559), 1658 G4RGK (539/559), 1734 DL3EBJ (429/559), 1754 IK5QLO (O/O), 1920 G4DDK(O/O), 1950 UR5LX (529/579), 2052 LX1DB (59/579) and 2226 K5JL (569/579) for a total of 66x57 = 376,200 points. Rig on 23 cm is the same 13 m dish with 190 W at the feed and G4DDK LNA. I have not completed my plans to allow my feeds to be switched automatically, so I had to change feeds (bands) manually. On 1296 I made an N2UO 5 step Septum feed with the help of SM4DHN, who has a fantastic workshop. (TNX to Lars-Bertil for all the help). I measured 7.4 dB CS/G with the feed itself, but only 4.4 when in the dish. So I have some more work to do to find the correct phase point. The tracking is not optimized, so plenty of stuff to do to get the 23 cm system working properly. On TX I used a TH328 with 250 W in the shack, so in feed I have about 180 W. Since I haven't been on 23 cm in 14 years, almost all stations are new for me. I am collecting parts for 13 cm as well but it may be a while before I am QRV on this band.

Lars with his new 1296 feed

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs@o2.pl writes on EWW DUBUS Contest – I operated together with my son, SP7MC on 2m, 70 cm and 23 cm and made a total of 82 CW random QSOs. On 432 we used 4 x 25 el yagis (H-pol) and 500 W, but had serious TVI problems, so we could only TX at night during high elevation hours. Despite these limitations and a lot of risk with the TVI issue (as I really like 70

cm), we were able to work the same number of station as a year earlier, but in much harder condition for us. We QSO'd on 24/25 April SM4IVE, OK1DFC, OE5JFL, SV1BTR, G3LTF, SM6FHZ for initial #28, DL9KR, DL7APV, I1NDP, UA3PTW, PI9CAM, SD3F, SP6JLW, JA6AHB,#29 and DL4MEA #30. On 22/23 May we were QRV on 1296 using my 3 m dish, 500 W to an RA3AQ feed and a G4DDK LNA (giving 12 dB of Sun noise). 1296 was my favorite band last time due to its high level of CW random activity. So I really regret I was not able to be QRV for the full contest weekend as my dish needs a very high declination weekend. During most of contest my dish was partially blocked from the Moon. During the rest of time - It was totally obstructed by buildings. I also had Thunderstorms that forced me to QRT 4 times. On top of this I had urgent family matters that forced me to leave or few hours during the Saturday window that my son was unable to cover. So our 23 cm score was worse then last year, but considering all the circumstances I am happy with 32 QSOs. Worked were OK1CA, VK3UM, JH1KRC for initial #101, OZ6OL, DL4MEA, DL0SHF, R2/DL1YMK, OK2DL, F2TU, SP6JLW, SV1BTR, G3LTF, DF3RU, SM4IVE, ES5PC, OK1DFC, SV3AAF, K1RQG, ON4BCB, IW2FZR, W6YB (NG - wrong call, should be W6YX), K2UYH, OZ4MM, OH2DG, UA3PTW, UT5JCW, SD3F, IK3COJ, RD3YA, DF1SR, LZ2US, G4CCH and DL3EBJ. To sum up, I would like to thank all stations for the FB QSO. I do hope to be QRV in this contest next year. Congrats to the M&M team for great R2 expedition.



SP7DCS with 1296 SSPA mounted behind his dish

SV1BTR: Jimmy jimmyv@hol.gr reports on his 1296 contest operation -- Once more, a great WW European CW/SSB EME Contest by DUBUS & REF! I enjoyed myself very much working 171 CW EME Random QSOs on 2 m, 70 cm, 23 cm and 13 cm. I want to congratulate the organizers for making a Contest entirely devoted to radio random operation. Signals during the 1296 weekend were great, although as other have commented US activity was very low. I only heard and worked 4 US/VE stations (thanks guys!), declination also did not help us. The patience award goes to RA3WND, who being an excellent operator had the patience to stay with my many QRZs until I copied his callsign. My big new problem is 4-9 dB of QRM, which is purely white noise (almost impossible to track the source). During the contest I logged 63 stations (all worked on CW with no skeds, loggers, etc.). QSO'd were UA3PTW, VK5MC, UT5CJW, JA6AHB, JA4BLC, JA4LJB, 9A5AA, OK1CA, OH2DG, DL6SH, ES5PC, VK3NX, IK3COJ, RD3YA, JA6CZD, DL0SHF, OK3RM, F2TU, DF3RU, SM4IVE, SM6FHZ, VK3UM, OE5JFL, LZ2US, F5KUG, CT1DMK, OZ6OL, OK2DL, SP7DCS, R2/DL1YMK, SP6JLW, OK1DFC, SD3F, PI9CAM, UT2EG, IZ2DJP, DF1SR, S50C, SM3JQU, PA3DZL, IZ1BPN, ON4BCB, PI4Z, F5JWF, IW2FZR, DL4MEA, SV3AAF, G3LTF, VE3KRP, K2DH, G4CCH, WW2R, DL3EBJ, RA3WND, IK5QLO, G4RGK, OZ4MM, SM4DHN, SP3XBO, G4DDK, G3LQR, UR5LX and K1RQG.

SV3AAF: Petros sv3aaf@yahoo.com operated the DUBUS Contest on five bands -- On 1296 in May, I did not have any eastern window due to low declination. But, conditions seemed good, and I worked DL0SHF, OK1DFC, LZ2US, SM4IVE, ON4BCB, IW2FZR, OZ6OL, OK2DL, UA3PTW, SM6FHZ, SP6JLW, RD3YA, UT2EG, CT1DMK, DL4MEA, SP7DCS, OK1CA, SV1BTR, SD3F, IZ1BPN, K2UYH, DF3RU, OE5JFL, G3LTF, OZ4MM, ES5PC, DF1SR, UT5JCW, R2/DL1YMK, IK3COJ, DL3EBJ, OH2DG, F2TU, LX1DB (SSB), IK5QLO, K1RQG, K2DH and G4CCH.

VE3KRP: Eddie eddie@tbaytel.net was active during the EWW Contest on 23 cm in May and worked K2UYH and W6YX on his first Moon pass and SV1BTR, OK1DFC, DL0SHF, G4CCH, OZ4MM, DL4MEA, OK1CA, F2TU, K2UYH (DUP), K2DH and K1RQG on his second pass. On 6 June he QSO'd G4CCH and K2DH.

UN7GK's EME arrays for 2 and 70 cm

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@clearwave.ca was QRV for the 23 contest activity, but was very handicapped by the low declination and resulting short window to EU. Grant did add one initial with OK2DL for #214. He also copied LU1C working K1RQG, but missed working him.

VK3NX: Charlie ibnkarim@bigpond.net.au had a great time operating on all 5 weekends of the DUBUS EME Contest -- Having separate weekends for the higher bands certainly concentrated activity and I hope this format is repeated next year. Condx were pretty good on all weekends except for high winds on the 2nd day of the 10 GHz weekend, which kept me off the air. Condx during the 1296 weekend were very good. Thanks to all the stations that were patient with me whilst I tried to "pull out" their callsigns. There seemed to be a few more new stations on the higher bands especially on 5.7 GHz. I'm looking forward to working them on the July AW. I was pleased that I managed to work lots of initials and more importantly there were no technical problems on any of the weekends at my station! All in all I only made 57 contacts, but they were all great! Of particular note was my QSO with ZM2TV on 5.7 GHz. His was one of the biggest signals I have heard on any band (excluding some of the "ultra big guns" on 1296). During the 6 and 3 cm weekend, I worked on 5760 ZM2TV, JA4BLC, JA8ERE, IK2RTI, F2TU, W5LUA, JA6CZD, OK1KIR, OK1CA and ES5PC, and on 10368 OK1KIR, F2TU, ES5PC, G3WDG and ON5TA. In the 1296 leg I QSO'd OZ4MM, SP6JLW, SV3BTR, VK3UM, PI9CAM, DL0SHF, VK5MC, RD3YA, JA4BLC, JA6AHB, UA3PTW, OK3RM, OK2DL, DL4MEA, SM4IVE, OZ6OL, UT2EG and IZ1BPN.

VK3UM: Doug tikaluna@bigpond.com writes -- Firstly a big thank you to Michael and Monica, R2/DL1YMK, whom we worked on both 23 and 70 cm through some obstruction. Despite blockage on every dxpedition, we have never missed. Stations worked in the 23 cm DUBUS Contest were 23 May W6YX, N2UO, K2RQG, AL7RT, K2UYH, W7JM, VA7MM, JA8ERE, VK5MC, VE7BBG, RD3YA, UA3PTW, JA4LJB, UT5CJW, VK2JDS, JA4BLC, JA6AHB, OK1CA, DL4MEA, OZ4MM, OZ4OL, DF3RU, SM6FHZ, JA6CZD, OH2DG, SP6JLW, SP7DCS, 9A5AA, IK3COJ, SD3F, ES5PC, ON4BCB, OK3RM, F2TU, OE5JFL, R2/DL1YMK, VK3NX, F5VHX, SM4IVE, G4CCH, PA0BAT, OK2DL, DL0SHF, F5KUG, G3LTF, SM3JQU, CT1DMK, SV1BTR and LA2Z, and on 24 May VE6TA, UT2EG, RW3BP, OK1DFC, G4RGK, LZ2US, IZ2FZR and DL3EBJ for a total of 59x52 (4 more than last year). Given the 'low Dec' weekend it certainly posed challenges for many, so many challenges that US stations were far and few between. However there were several rewards - working CT1DMK at 1 deg with half his dish illuminated (see also how many I also worked after that down to 0.3 deg), G3LTF through a brief gap in his trees and similarly G4RGK. For me the chosen declination resulted in many of my QSOs being concentrated in my last 5 degs of Moon and given the 7 dB of ground noise from 2 degrees, it was a challenge. The first night I worked 45 in less than 2 hours, so there was not time for too many niceties. The following are a few pointers: 1) Listen and adjust your speed to the other station. If he calls at 10 wpm, respond similarly. (Calling me at 30+ wpm is fine but at R3 you are making it tough)! 2) If you hear YYY VVV KKK 333 UUU MMM follow suit! I really am trying to tell you something. 3) During a pile up, spread out. I do tune and I do respect your ability to zero beat with 10 others but... 4) YYY BK means just that .. a couple of quick call signs off the pile and we will work before the mob even finishes calling. Michael and I do that most of the time. Over the years one particular station calls with JJJ BK and I respond with

RRR 57N BK and he responds with RRR 57N 73 BK then a couple of dots. and it all over. Now that is deep search and short message handling at its finest .. we invented it first .. sure its not 'legal' but its fun and we both are 100% right in our log entry! No prizes for whom I refer .. there is another too that just sends KR. 5) Tail ending .. you know who you are. When I have 3 degrees of Moon left and I am trying to work a pile up, you do not help calling someone I have just worked.. You have 8 hours of coincident Moon starting so please show some respect to others. Watch out if we meet at a conference, I will put beer in you chardonnay (or worse). 6) and then becoming the meat in a frequency sandwich. I had two 10 m dishes, one 200 Hz high and another 300 Hz low at one stage. Next year, I may just operate above 030.. but all the above will happen there too! 7) And finally the 'willy wagger' that comes up on SSB with 1 KW plus to a big birdbath on 020.. You stuff it up for every one mate.. And those who respond are just as bad. It was a great contest and great operating very much on the whole.

W0DRL: Bill (WA0ARM) Bill.Glynn@westarenergy.com writes that Al, W0DRL, because of his age is moving and has to give up his EME station. Bill reports that Al was able to close down on a high note. His is last EME QSO was also his first EME SSB with KP0AO, Arecibo on 17 April. What a way to finish your EME career! Bill plans to pick up where Al left off and hope to make some EME QSOs of his own in the near future. He has Al's EME array.

Al, W0DRL and XYL for 64 years, Neloise

W6YX: Goran goran@ad6iw.com reports that the Stanford University Radio Club was QRV on Saturday of the EWW/DUBUS Contest on 1296 using what looks like about a 30' dish. There was only a short EU window, and the weather was windy and unusual cold for CA, but in a few hours of operation they made 30 QSO.

W6XY dish at Stanford University

WA6PY: Paul's pchominski@maxlinear.com activity in DUBUS EU Contest was limited by window and Moon "timing" -- I could not operate on Fridays (local time) when the contest started on most of the weekends because I was still at QRL. On 9 and 6 cm I had a equipment problem. On 17/18 April I spent some time on 13 cm, but I was concentrating more on working KP4AO on 432 SSB with my single yagi. Unfortunately suddenly KP4AO SSB signals dropped way down. I did not know the reason, but I kept calling them and we made easy QSO during this weak signal period. Later from email reports I learned that it was a PA problem. Before this failure, SSB signals were like on 20 m and copied on the loudspeaker. I did not try SSB, but month before I copied KP4AO on CW on loudspeaker with a hand held 5 el yagi and a 0.6 dB NF LNA. I bet I would have been able to QSO them with this antenna and my 1 kW PA. I was tempted to try, but didn't wat to take the time from others that had not yet made a QSO. On 13 cm I QSO'd F2TU, OK1DFC, OK1CA, ES5PC, SP6OPN, OK2DL, but lost SP6GWN. I could not get the attention of many stations on 2320 for example DL4MEA, DL1YMK, SM2CEW and SV3AAF were called many times. On 25 April I worked on 432 PI9CAM, DL7APV, I1NDP and SP6JLW, and heard K6JEY on tropo. For the 1296 contest on 22 May my window started at about 2315. I called CQ, then and about 10 strong stations called me on almost the same frequency with very similar signal levels. On my side it was heard as an almost continuous carrier with no way to get any callsigns. Everybody ended transmission at almost the same time, I could only get a few letters. I repeated QRZ several times with exactly the same outcome. Finally OK2DL, who was not the strongest, called me about 400 Hz high and I could catch his call and make a QSO. I also QSO'd K2DH, G3LTF, OK3RM, SM4IVE, OZ6OL, CT1DMK, DL4MEA, KB8EB and VA7MM. At this point the EU window closed. The Next day my window started after the contest ended. I should be QRV for the 6 cm activity 10/11 July. My biggest problem is aiming the dish. Currently I am using a 3.6 m mesh dish, which has some backlash especially in the AZ drive. I might be better of to switch to my X-band 3 m dish currently setup for 3 cm, but I am not sure If I will have time to make this change. So far I have only QSO'd OE9ERC on 6 cm, last year.

Progress on mounting WB2BYP's 28' dish

ZS5Y: Derek derek@fotogravett.com is now QRV on both 70 and 23 cm EME. On 1296 he is using a 3.5 m dish with a septum feed working and running about 150 W in the shack. Thus far I have worked on JT the following stations on 23 cm: PI9CAM (8DB), G4CCH (15DB), OK1DFC (13DB), OK3RM (20DB), PA0BAT (21DB), PA3DZL (19DB), PY2BS (14DB), RD3DA (14DB), UA3PTW (21DB), VK2ABP (23DB), VK2JDS (18DB) and VK4CDI (25DB). I will soon move my SSPA to the feed and will then try some CW.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org had some conflicting activities that limited my EME contest time. I was chair of a major conference (TCF2010) on the same weekend as 432 contest in April, and had to leave on a business trip in May during the 23 cm contest weekend. Going to Dayton on 14/15 May did not help either, but I had a great time. It was nice to meet all the EMEers and many old friends there. Tony, WA8RJF did a great job with the VHF banquet – TNX! TNX too the M&M team who real came through for me and just about everyone else. They truly produced a *super* dxpedition! I manage to work them on all 3 bands - on 1296 on 13 May at 1229 R2/DL1YMK (559/559) for initial #306 and mixed initial #367* plus mixed DXCC 76*, on 432 on 16 May at 1517 R2/DL1YMK (559/559) for initial #721, mixed initial #799 and most importantly DXCC 98*, and on 2304/2320 on 17 May at 1600 R2/DL1YMK (449/O) for initial 46 and a new DXCC on this band. I also worked on 16 May on 1296 at 1546 PA2DW (15DB/O) on JT65C #368* and (O/O) on CW for #307, 1714 partial SM4LMV

(21DB/O) JT65C– no Rs and 1748 DL6ABC (16DB/O) #369*. I was also called at 1730 by SA4Z (22DB) and 1735 HA1YA (22DB), but they both disappeared. The same day on 432 I worked during the ATP at 1819 I1NDP (569/559) and 1824 OZ4MM (569/559) on CW. In the 1296 EWW EME Contest I QSO on 21 May at 0017 AD6IW (569/579) – also worked just before the contest start, 0022 W6XY (569/579), 0035 W7JM (55/55) on SSB, 0040 W9IIX (559/559), 0114 K2DH (559/569), 0130 VE3KRP (549/569), 0140 VA7MM (559/579), 0224 AL7ART (559/569), 0300 K1RQG (579/589), 0332 N2UO (559/559) – heard (55) on SSB, 0412 VK3UM (559/559) – through almost total tree blockage, 2115 DL4MEA (559/569), 2120 F2TU (569/569), 2125 ES5PC (559/569), 2131 OK1CA (569/569), 2135 ON4BCB (559/559), 2139 SM4IVE (569/569), 2143 G4CCH (569/579), 2146 SV3AAF (559/569), 2153 SP6JLW (559/559), 2155 LZ2US (559/569), 2209 DF1SR (559/569) for #371* and #309, 2214 OK2DL (559/569) for #372* and #310, 2220 RD3YA (559/559), 2225 DF3RU (559/559), 2230 DL0SHF (589/579), 2239 G3LTF (569/569), 2245 SP7DCS (559/559), 2301 K8EB (559/559), 2330 CT1DMK (559/559), 2312 OK3RM (559/579), 2358 OZ6OL (559/569) and 0022 VE3KRP (449/559) DUP. There was plenty of activity but not enough time to work everyone with my limited window.

NETNEWS BY G4RGK: **K5JL** was on 23 cm and worked R2/DL1YMK and active in DUBUS contest. **VE4MA** was not on for 1296 contest because of bad WX. Barry did work in May a week earlier PA0EHG on 5.7 GHz with a linear feed. Hans was running circular pol. **K1RQG's** 23 cm contest time was limited to after 2030 on 22 May. **N4PZ** should be back on the Moon very soon with a 4.9 m dish and 1.5 kW. **W9IIX** was active in the 1296 EME Contest in May and worked at the start W6YX, K1RQG, K2DH, K2UYH and W7JM, but ended with only a total of 7 QSOs due to window problems with the low declination. **AL7RT** had no window with Europe during DUBUS 1296 contest. He did work a few NA stations and VK3UM. **WA8RJF** was not able to get on for the 23 cm contest. He had conflicts with a business trip. **WW2R** worked R2/DL1YMK on 23 cm and 13 cm. Dave was not on for the first pass of the 1296 contest, but did work in later passes six stations - five with a struggle. He did hear DL0SHF and K1RQG loud and chased DL0SHF but never worked him. **K5SO** says check out his web site for updated information on new 70 cm feed at www.k5so.com. The noise temp is 23 deg K.

FOR SALE: **VE3KRP** is looking for a good 432 preamp. [Contact WD5AGO]. **N8CQ** is looking for info on a 1296 4 x 2C39 cavity built by K4QI. Contact Gary at gabercr@nc.rrcom.

14TH INTERNATIONAL EME CONFERENCE UPDATE: We are only a couple of months away from of the 14th International EME conference which takes place on 11 through 14 Aug at the Westin Hotel at the DFW airport in Texas. The official web site with all the details for the EME Conference as well as on-line registration is located at http://www.ntms.org/eme. Some important dates to remember include: Early conference registration has been extended to 15 July. Hotel cutoff is 12 July. Conference papers for the proceedings are due 14 June. More details are included in this note.

The program is developing into a great one with speakers from around the world. The list of speakers includes the following: AD6IW - "A New Generation of High Efficiency Solid State Power Amplifiers", DL1YMK - "EME-DXpeditions to MI, OH0 and R2", 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" and "KP4AO 432 MHz EME Activity at Arecibo," K2DH - "The Design and Implementation of A Hydraulic Elevation Drive System," K2UYH- "Small Antenna EME," K5GW and W5LUA - "Working with Commercial & Home brew TWT Power Supplies," 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 Construction," OK1DFC - "EME DXpedition Results at E77DX on 144 MHz through 3400 MHz," - "2.3 GHz Transverter Construction," W1GHZ - "Parabolic Dish Focus, Tilt and Zoom," W4SC - "Measurements Using the SDR-IQ Receiver," WD5AGO - "13 & 9 cm Cooled LNA's and Circular Polarization Feedhorns" and "70 cm EME Systems: The Last Yagi Standing," WA5WCP – "On-Site EME Demonstration on 1296 and 2304 MHz."

The block of rooms at the Westin is filling up quickly. The hotel block and the corresponding $89 conference rate (plus taxes) will only be held until 12 July, so it is best to make your hotel reservations now to avoid disappointment. 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 may be 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. Hotel registration is 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.

EME Conference early registration has been extended to July 15th. Other options to consider during registration 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.. Keep in mind that Gerald Youngblood K5SDR and Joe Taylor K1JT are our featured lunch speakers. See schedule for more details. Plans are moving in a positive direction for a special guest speaker for the Saturday night banquet so be sure to sign up. Various tours of the Dallas Ft. Worth area are also available for you and your spouse. On Thursday we are offering a full day highlight tour of the Ft. Worth and Dallas area. 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.

Wes, WA5TKU is collecting papers for the proceedings. His deadline is 14 June. You may send papers to Wes at wa5tku@centurylink.net.

FINAL: I am very sorry to report that we have lost another long time member of the EME gang, W2UHI. It only seems a short time ago that Frank had to give up his station and moved to a nursing home. He passed away on 3 June and would have turned 88 next month. Up to his falling ill, Frank was a regular on 1296. His passion is carried on by K8EB, who is using Frank's dish and has an excellent signal on 23 cm (and now 13 cm as well). I am sure Frank is pleased.

Frank, W2UHI in his shack

W5LUA is now a grandfather six times over. His son Bryan, N5QGH and his wife Tamara gave birth to twins.

One thing not mentioned in the write up of the EME2010 is the opportunity to purchase microwave equipment. Dallas is a surplus Mecca. There should ample opportunities to buy EME related equipment and supplies at and in the vicinity of the conference.

Those traveling to the USA might want to consider extending their visit and attending the 2010 CSVHF Conference. The conference is taking place in St.

Louis, MO, a great place to visit, on 23/24 July. See the conference web page for details at www.csvhfs.org.

A technical site you don't want to miss is http://www.vhfdx.ru/apparatura/accurate_noise_figure_measurements_1296_mhz. RW3BP give the secret to successful EME, what make the real difference, get the noise down. There is also part 4 about LNA optimization on 23 cm including improvement of the fine G4DDK VLNA from 0.25 dB to 0.13 dB NF at http://www.vhfdx.ru/apparatura/rw3bp_1296mhz_lna_optimization. There is also a first two parts, but I believe they are still in Russian at http://www.vhfdx.ru/apparatura/malenkaya-eme-stantsiya-s-horoshimi-vozmozhnostyami-1296-mgts-chast-1 and http://www.vhfdx.ru/apparatura/malenkaya-eme-stantsiya-s-horoshimi-vozmozhnostyami-1296-mgts-chast-2. We can all learn a lot from Sergei.

Don't for get the 6 cm AW mentioned at the start of the NL.

G3LTF's 6 cm feed

That is pretty much covers the news for this 29. I will be looking for you off the Moon and at the conference in Aug. 73, Al – K2UYH