

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS MARCH 2012 VOL 40 #2

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CONDITIONS: It has been quite a month with the 70 and 23 cm *Funtests*, the activation of 4U1ITU on 23 cm – see following report and two 70 cm CW activity time periods (ATPs) occurring within 30 days (29 Jan and 26 Feb). Activity should remain intense with the **DUBUS 70 cm and 9 cm EME contests taking place on the weekend of 3/4 March**. There are also a huge number of dxpeditions planned in the next few months. **The next 70 cm ATP is on 25 March from 0730 to 930 and 1530 to 1730.**

SSB CONTEST: Very cold WX in Europe reduced activity during the SSB contests, but this is always a problem with a Feb contest. The poor WX and conditions took its toll on 70 cm, where SSB needs a very big station for success. The situation was quite different on 23 cm where the reports of those who could beat the WX are very positive and found conditions and activity good. The **top SSB score reported thus far on 432 is by SM4IVE with a total of 168 points**. Lars is followed by DL7APV with 128 points. **On 1296 I [K2UYH] am currently in the lead with 918 points** followed by RA3AUB with 756 points, G4CCH with 708 points and I1NDP with 672 points.

DXPEDITION NEWS: On 23/25 March the PE1L team is to be guests of the 4U1ITU club. Their main focus is 144 EME, but they promise to put 432 on as well. 4U1ITU has previously been on 70 cm, but this was a long time ago. Rene says they have another location planned for April and then will go to 5X1EME (Uganda) in May/June – see Rene's report. From 3 March to 7 April J52EME is to be QRV from Guinea-Bissau. On 432 they will have 2 HB 18 el LFA yagis and an ITB Colibr 600 W SSPA. They will be first active on 144 and then move to 432. Operation will be on 432.090, first period. At about the same time, 28 March to 20 April, the team of DL2NUD (XV4HP) and DJ4TC (3W4TC) plan to put Vietnam on EME. Operation will be from the Island of Phuquoc (locator OK10-OK20) and include both 432 and 1296.



4U1ITU yagi array use for 23 cm EME with 20 W

4U1ITU: Joe joe@Princeton.EDU reports on the surprise operation of the International Telecommunications Union building (a separate DXCC country) during the 4/5 Feb weekend -- Some 3000 delegates from over 150 member nations attended WRC-12, the International Telecommunications Union's World Radiocommunication Conference in Jan-Feb. I was the special guest of HB9EHT, Secretary General of the ITU, and gave the keynote address at a gala celebration of the 50-year history of the International Amateur Radio Club. While in Geneva, I was able to join with OM1AM, SV3SJ/F5VIH, G0MJW, and other members of IARC to put 4U1ITU on the air for 23 cm EME. We used four F9FT yagis, and first tried listening on the morning of 4 Feb. We had problems with our preamp and also an inverted (miss-phased) yagi, and at first copied nil. But after eliminating the preamp, we were able to decode G4CCH and K2UYH. The next day with the yagi problem corrected, a repaired preamp and 20 W, we gave new 1296 DXCC credits to PI9CAM, G4CCH, K2UYH, OK1KIR, OK1DFC, I1NDP, and UA3PTW. All QSOs were on JT65C. Local IARC members plan to upgrade the 4U1ITU EME capabilities to a 3 m dish and 250

W in the near future, and be regularly QRV off the Moon. QSL's can be sent to INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, 4U1ITU, P.O. BOX 6, GENEVA 20 1211, Switzerland.



4U1ITU EME team, L-R SV3SJ/F5VIH, K1JT, OM1AM, DK1YQ & K1ZZ

DK3WG: Jurg dk3wg@online.de was active on 70 cm in Jan and reports adding QSOs on JT65B with KG7HF for an initial (#), KD3UY, K0DSP, YL2GD, VK7MO - who operated portable from both grids PF85 and QF04 and DH5NAH.

DL7APV: Bernd dl7apv@gmx.de writes that he is suffering from the very cold WX – It is still all frozen here in Germany. My el rotor stopped, but hopefully it is only frozen. As a result of a big storm in Jan, my yagis are bent much more than before. My Sun noise not appear degraded, but my RX in comparison to others seems to be down by about 3 dB. However, I am heard as well as before. I'm a bit confused. Hopefully when the WX allow me to check outside, I can figure out what is going on. In the SSB contest I worked VK3UM, UA3PTW, G3LTF, LZ1DX, SM4IVE, K5GW, PI9CAM and WA4NJP for a score of 8x8x2= 128 points. Tnx to OK1DFC I added KI4TZ in SC for WAS 46. I thus have 4 more to go. I have contacted someone in MO for sked and HI is to be activated from W7EME later this year. I heard that KY and VT may be on this year as well, so there is a good possibility that I could complete WAS this year. I am also very close to DXCC with a total of 98. There are many dxpeditions planned this year, so I am also very hopeful of completing DXCC in 2012!

F5SE: Franck's kozton@free.fr SSB Contest plans were upset by the cold WX - - Since my last report, I added a few random contacts. I QSO'd in Dec 15MPK (559/579), I1NDP (549/579) and OK1DFC (569/599), and in Jan G4CCH (539/579) - just above my east side tree curtain. Later at the end of Jan I added OZ6OL (53/55), SM7FWZ (559/549), G4CCH (55/55) - much better than earlier and I1NDP (54/56). But for the SSB contest, once more Murphy struck, but not as I would have expected. Since 2 Feb, we had been suffering a "deep freeze" wave. On 4 Feb, temperatures went down to as low as -20°C in Reims! The lubricants in the dish driving motors were frozen (lubricating oil looks more or less like cold butter...), and the elevation chain was covered with ice. A test was made on 3 Feb in the afternoon, when the temperature was still acceptable (around -6°C). The noise made by the motors and the chain were much louder than usual. It seemed painful for them to operate. So I decided not to move the dish any further. The situation on Saturday morning was even worse, as more snow started falling after dark. The snow layer is not that thick (20 mm in average) but made driving uphill to the dish quite dangerous. I was disappointed not to be able to join in, but will be QRV again when the WX is not so bad!

G3LTF: Peter g3lft@btinternet.com on his recent operation including the recent ATP and SSB activities -- Back on 10 Dec I was on 432 for QSOs with DL9KR and KL6M, and on 18 Dec on 1296 with SM7FHZ, I1NDP, OK1CS and G4CCH. On 6 Jan I was on 6 cm and worked PY1KK for initial #31 and DXCC

19. Bruce had an excellent signal. I was back on 1296, and QSO'd on 7 Jan OZ6OL, I1NDP, JA1WQF (on CW and SSB) and IK3GHY for initial #347, and on 70 cm on 10 Jan UR5LX - my first QSO with Sergei on 432 for many years. On 29 Jan, I was on for 432 for the CW ATP and worked OK1DFC, LZ1DX, JA6AHB, SM4IVE, OZ4MM, DF3RU, DG1KJG (outside ATP), K5GW, SM2CEW and WA4NJP. Heard were G4RGK and JE1TNL, and CWNR were UA3PTW and K2UYH (many times). I did have something wrong in the system and it looks as though my declination indicator has developed an error. It was only a real problem on 432, as on all other bands I set the dish by moon noise. On 30 Jan, I was very pleased to work WA9FWD for initial #36 on 3400. On 2 Feb, back on 1296, I worked I5MPK, N4PZ, SM7FWZ and W3HMS #348. I heard YO2BCT's JT tones (559), but he only works CW with big stations. The SSB contests were a lot of fun. My 432 PA now runs well on SSB, and on 1296 I have cured the flashover problems, which have stopped me working SSB in previous years. We had a 10 cm fall of wet snow Saturday evening, but it melted from the dish on Sunday morning. On 4 Feb 4, 432 SSB, I worked SM4IVE, K5GW, WA4NJP, VK3UM, PI9CAM, LZ1DX, UA3PTW, DG1KJG, DL7APV and ES5PC, and DJ3JJ on CW. Heard were SP7DCS on SSB and UY2QQ on CW. I ended with a score of $10 \times 5 \times 2 = 80$ points. On 5 Feb, I worked in the 23 cm SSB contest RA3AUB, VK3UM, F2TU, HB9BBD, SM4IVE, UA3PTW, I1NDP, G4CCH, OK2DL, VK5MC, S59DCD, JA1WQF, CT1DMK, I5MPK, OZ6OL, OK1DFC, SM7FWZ, K5GW, N2UO, K2UYH and on CW ON5TA #349. CWNR was DF3RU, heard on SSB were DL3EBJ, PA3DZL, PY2BS, N4PZ and SP7JSG (?), and on CW G5WQ and VE3KRP. I ended with a score of $20 \times 11 \times 2 = 440$ points. Finally on 6 Feb I worked WD5AGO on 23 cm with his 23 dB horn (the same as a 1.5 m dish!), which I believe makes #350 on 23 cm. The only real disappointment was a failure to work FG4KH. I had 2 tries and could copy them OK, but they couldn't copy enough from me for a QSO. I really appreciated their taking the time to try with me on CW. I think 1 minute periods are too short for 432 very weak signal CW, especially when searching for the optimum pol with deep long periods of QSB - this is why we adopted 2.5 minutes all those years ago, but I believe that JT stations operating CW are stuck with 1 minute periods. [The CW mode in JT can be set for 2.5 minute periods]. I'm looking for a 432 QSO with K0DSP for NE. I've heard his JT tones at (549), but he quit to fix his antenna.

G4CCH: Howard's howard@g4cch.com activity report and log for the 23 cm SSB Contest - I QSO'd on 3 Feb K2UYH (7DB/8DB) JT65C, on 4 Feb W5LUA (10DB/6DB) JT65C, W3HMS (11DB/8DB) JT65C, K5GW (6DB/3DB) JT65C, VK2JDS (559/559), JA1WQF (569/589), PI9CAM (599/599) - I also sent 22 pictures using SSTV, RD3DA (8DB/4DB) JT65C, PE1HNG (17DB/10DB) JT65C, YO2LEL (10DB/10DB) JT65C, 4Z5LV (20DB/13DB) JT65C and 4U1ITU (O/O) JT65C for First UK to 4U1ITU, digital DXCC* 65 and digital initial [#174], on 5 Feb YO2BCT (11DB/6DB), and on SSB in the contest I5MPK, SM4IVE, SM7FWZ, VK3UM, HB9BBD, I1NDP, RA3AUB, DL3EBJ, F2TU, OK2DL, DK7LJ, DF3RU, OZ6OL, G3LTF, UA3PTW, PA3DZL, VK5MC, SP7JSG, SV3AAF, S59DCD, JA6CZD incomplete, CT1DMK, G4DZU, PA3FXB (SSB/CW), PY2BS, SD3F, G5WQ (SSB/CW), K5GW, N2UO, ON5TA (SSB/CW), K2UYH and VE3KRP (SSB/CW) for a score of $59 \times 12 = 708$ points, and 4U1ITU (O/O) JT65C, on 8 Feb OK1TEH (O/O) JT65C - 90x130 cm dish with linear pol and 250 W and PA3FXB (10DB/7DB), and on 10 Feb UA3TCF (22DB/O) [#175] and digital grid 143. I have been running a 1 kW SSPA comprising 4 x PE1RKI 250W modules for the last 12 months, prior to that I had 650W from a 6 tube OZ9CR PA.

I1NDP: Nando nando.pellegrini@tiscali.it 1296 SSB Contest log follows - I worked on 5 Feb at 1554 G4CCH (58/58) IO, 1554 HB9BBD (58/54) , 1558 OZ6OL (55/55) JO, 1603 DF3RU (55/55) JN, 1606 G3LTF (55/56) IO, 1608 OZ4MM (58/56) JO, 1614 VK3UM (57/56) QF, 1616 SV3AAF (57/559) SSB/CW KM, 1616 DK7LJ (58/57) JO, 1628 F2TU (58/57) JN, 1647 OK2DL (58/58) JN, 1651 SP7JSG (55/57) KO, 1651 SM4IVE (59/57) JO, 1653 RA3AUB (57/57) KP, 1709 S59DCD (55/56) JN, 1711 I5MPK (57/57) JN, 1718 UA3PTW (56/57) KO, 1904 CT1DMK (56/55) JN, 1904 PA3FXB (54/54) JO, 1909 IW2FZR (55/52) JN, 2014 SM7FWZ (57/57) JO, 2054 PY2BS (55/55) GG, 2059 G5WQ (44/44) IO, 2102 SD3F (55/57) JP, 2111 PA3DZL (54/44) JO, 2225 K5GW (58/57) EM, 2227 N2UO (57/57) FM, 2248 ON5TA (549/55) SSB/CW JO and 2349 K2UYH (57/56) FN for a score of $(27 \times 2 + 2) \times 12 = 672$ points.

JA4BLC: Yoshiro ja4blc@web-sanin.co.jp writes - I am sorry that I could not be QRV in SSB contest due to bad weather. This winter has been very cold with a lot of snow at my location. I hope to work everyone in the upcoming 13, 6 and 3 cm contests. I am testing a PMDSR radio with HSDR software. The noise blanker of the HSDR seems effective in eliminating 2424 WiFi impulse. I will continue to study it operation and let you know my conclusions.

JH6VAX: Hide jh6vax@mac.com is a new station on 70 cm EME -- I am a QRP EME station using a vert pol 18 el M2 yagi and 50 W. Thus far I have worked 5 stations using JT65. I am located in an 11 story apartment in a city, so putting up a big antenna is not possible. I have copied your [K2UYH] signal on 1296, but only have 10 W, and need a special permit to run higher power. I am interested in skeds on 70 cm.

K5QE: Marshall k5qe@sabinenet.com writes about his 432 EME Woes - I was on 432 looking for EME contacts during the ARRL's Jan (21/22) VHF Contest weekend. I did not see a single 432 EME signal on the Moon this entire contest. MAP65-IQ did not detect a signal on 432 either and it sees a lot. I question if it is worth pursuing 432 EME any further in the contests. I will keep the antenna up until I get 432 WAS, but then I will probably find something more useful that I can put on that tower.

LZ1DX: Ned lz1dx@lz1dx.org operated the 70 cm CW ATP with his 16 x 15 el yagi array and 1 kW. QSO'd were 29 Jan at 1010 SM4IVE (579/549), 1033 OK1DFC (559/449), 1057 G3LTF (559/439), 1104 JA6AHB (559/539), 1121 DF3RL (559/539), 1150 OZ4MM (579/559), 1800 K5GW (579/569), 1818 G4RGK (559/559), 1829 SM2CEW (569/569), 1843 DG1KJG (559/549), 1858 UA3PTW (579/579), 1907 WA4NJP (559/559), 1928 K2UYH (559/559) and 2000 DF3RU (559/559).

N4GJV: Ron qstdebb@yahoo.com reports on his 432 CW activity during the Jan ATP -- I initially found conditions to be very poor. Only the strongest stations were easily copied. Most signals sounded as though their polarization was severely misaligned with my antenna polarity, and were extremely difficult to copy. However, conditions improved, toward the latter portion, of the ATP, and I found the activity level to be gratifyingly good. Many thanks to K5GW, SM4IVE, OZ4MM, OK1DFC, G4RGK, SM2CEW, UA3PTW and K2UYH for the FB EME QSOs! Got-aways included LZ1DX, DF3RU, and DK1KJG. Thanks to all, for the activity! Sadly family demands prevented me from being QRV during the SSB Contest.

NC1I: Frank frank@nc1i.com brings us up to date on his problems and recent activity -- After a 9 or 10 month absence, we have returned to 70 cm EME. Late last spring my polarity power supply shorted out when I was away and the polarity prop-pitch started rotating all by itself (should have had mechanical limits!). As best I can tell it was spinning continuously for at least a couple of days. Rotation past vertical destroyed the TX/RX flex lines as well as many control cables. This catastrophe was followed by a sewer line brake directly over my station. The station is setup in my basement and the main sewer line to the septic tank runs directly over the 432 station. This failure resulted in damage to the entire station. It was a very time consuming and disgusting job to clean and rebuild everything. The big K1FO 8938 amp and power supply had to be completely rebuilt with many components requiring replacement. All of the other equipment required many, many hours to disassemble, clean and reassemble. W1QA activated the station briefly on 28 Jan running just 150 W and worked at 0121 WA4NJP (8DB/10DB) and at 0144 JA6AHB (6DB/16DB). After getting the amp back up and running the following stations were added on 4 Feb at 0157 K3MF (7DB/20DB), 0234 WA4NJP (54/55) on SSB, 0247 W7IUV (11DB/13DB), 0316 LU1CGB (22DB/12DB) and 0535 K6CLS (17DB/17DB), and on 5 Feb at 0035 WA4NJP (3DB/4DB). All operating was done by W1QA as I had many family commitments over this period. Our WSJT echoes peeked at between +3 and +3.7 several times on Jan! We plan to activate the station on 25/26 Feb and 3/4 March. I will make it a point to get on CW for the contest on 3/4 March, but I am not sure how much time I will have available.

OK1DFC: Zdenek ok1dfc@seznam.cz was QRZ on 432 in for the CW ATP on 29 Jan at 1005 SM4IVE (579/569), 1025 JE1TNL (O/O) for CW initial #147, 1033 LZ1DX (559/559), 1044 G3LTF (569/439), 1050 DF3RU (559/559), 1143 JA6AHB (559/559), 1147 OZ4MM (579/569), 1804 SM2CEW (559/579), 1813 K5GW (569/579), 1821 UA3PTW (56/57) SSB, 1831 WA4NJP (55/55), 1836 DK1KJG (579/559), 1848 K2UYH (579/559), 1853 G4RGK (559/569), 1856 N4GJV (559/569), 1926 WA4NJP (579/599) and 1942 K3MF (559/559) #148 for a total of 17 QSOs. I also picked up the state of SC for WAS 32. I have to thank KI4TY, who was driving to his portable tropo QTH and got on to give SC. Joe was very nice copy (20DB) on JT and should be workable on CW. I am looking for more QSO like this one to finish off WAS.

OK1KIR: Tonda and Vlada vladimir.masek@volny.cz report of their club's EME in Jan/Feb - We were on 10 GHz on 17 Jan and worked on sked at 0604 SV3AAF (O/O) for initial #63 and the 1st SV-OK 3 cm QSO. Petros employed a 3 m dish, 20 W and circular feed vs. our linear polarization. So we suffered from 3 dB loss. On 29 Jan at 1539 in another sked we worked PA7JB (O/O) #64. John used a 2.4 m off-set dish and 15 W. On 1296 we added on 5 Feb at 1907 4U1ITU (27DB/20DB) JT65C for digital initial [#107] and the first 4U1ITU - OK QSO on 23 cm. It was a nice QSO despite a -16 deg C temp that

caused metal to stick to our skin. OK1KIR plans to be active only on 9 cm in the March DUBUS EME Contest. We also plan to utilize the low path loss at Moon's perigee and low spread predicted for weekend 9/11 March to initiate 24 GHz EME activity. Who will join us?

OZ6OL: Hans oz6ol@mail.dk 23 cm SSB Contest results follow – On 5 Feb, the WX was very cold and my AZ rotor was nearly frozen, but I still had very good fun with the SSB QSOs. I worked with a new TH339 PA on SSB at 0028 K5GW (56/56) EM13, 0032 CT1DMK (54/54) IN50, 0047 VE6TA (55/55) DO33, 0050 I5MPK (55/55) JN53, 0057 UA3PTW (44/55) KO93, 0059, F2TU (55/55) JN38, 0102 RA3AUB (56/56) KO85, 0109 SM7FWZ (44/53) JO77, 0112 DL3EBJ (55/55) JO31, 0118 S59DCD (54/55) JN76, 0121 WA6PY (54/55) DM13, 0151 N2UO (55/56) FM, 0205 K2UYH (56/56) FN, 0248 W7JM (55/55) DM46, 0254 partial W6YX (54/55) CM?, 1530 HB9BBD (57/57) JN, 1534 SM4IVE (56/55) JO, 1540 VK3UM (55/55) QF, 1559 I1NDP (55/55) JN, 1612 DK7LJ (57/56) JO, 1623 G4CCH (57/57) IO, 1633 OK2DL (57/59) JN, 1749 G3LTF (55/55) IO, 1844 DF3RU (55/55) JN and 1931 SV3AAF (54/54) KM for a score $24 \times 2 \times 12 = 528$ points.

PE1L: Rene hasperrene@gmail.com sends news that his group in planning additional 432 dpxpedition activity in the near future. Coming up is 4U1ITU in March and another location to be confirmed in April. Then they will go to 5X1EME, Uganda (KJ60gh), in May/June. They will take a small 70 cm station consisting of a 12 el xpol yagi by DF7KF, preamp by LZ1DX and a 100 W SSPA. Unfortunately the SSPA arrived broken. They are trying to get it repaired and need to buy a PSU for it (12 volt at 25 amp). PSE stay tuned.

PY1UNU: Jose angelo.beghini@gmail.com is a new EMEer from Brazil on 23 cm -- I'm friend of Bruce (PY2BS/PY1KK), who motivated me to start an operation on EME. After 2 year, I finally made my first QSO with Bruce. I believe in Brazil, that only Bruce and me are presently the only stations QRV on 23 cm. [PY5ZBU is sometimes QRV]. I am running a 3.36 m dish with OK1DFC septum feed, 90 W (57 W at the feed) SSPA and G4DDK LNA. I am interested in skeds, but travel a lot for QRL.



PY1UNU's 3.36 m dish with 1296 septum feed

PY2BS: Bruce's bruce@zirok.com SSB contest report – I had lots of fun in the 23 cm SSB contest and QSO'd at 0217 CT1DMK (55/55) IN, 0225 RA3AUB(55/55) KO, 0233 I5MPK (55/55) JN, 0240 VE6TA (55/55) DO, 0306 F2TU (55/55) JN, 0322 K2UYH (56/56) FN, 0326 N2UO (55/55), 0340 W7JM (55/55) DM, 2055 I1NDP (55/55), 2100 SM4IVE (57/55) JO and 2106 G4CCH (57/56) for a score of $11 \times 2 \times 9 = 198$ points.

RA3AUB: MIKHAIL had extremely low temperatures (-22 degs C) for the SSB contest. The temperature was so low that his rotor froze and he had to manually foist his dish. Nevertheless, he still did quite well in the contest. He used a 6 m dish with 1 kW PA to 40 m of 7/8" cable and G4DDK LNA. He QSO'd at 0010 SM7FWZ (55/53) JO, 0026 K5GW (56/56) EM, 0031 VE6TA (55K/55) DO, 0033 HB9BBD (57/58) JN, 0036 UA3PTW (55/55) KO, 0042 I5MPK (55/57) JN, 0045 S59DCD (54/54) JN, 0055 WA6PY (55/0) DM, 0105 OZ6OL (56/56) JO, 0111 F2TU (55/55) JN, 0116 CT1DMK (55/0) IN, 0121 DL3EBJ (56/56) JO, 0126 N2UO (56/56) FM, 0122 W7JM (55/56) DM, 0137 K2UYH (55/55) FN, 0225 PY2BS (55/55) GG, 0311 W5LUA (53/56) EM, 1405 SM4IVE (56/55) JO, 1409 OK2DL (57/57) JN, 1422 VK3UM (56/56) QF, 1537

G3LTF (56/55) IO, 1558 DF3RU (55/55) JN, 1608 G4CCH (58/57) IO, 1633 PA3DZL (55/55) JO, 1655 I1NDP (57/57) JN, 1704 SV3AAF (56/54) KM, 1742 SD3F (559/55) JP CW/SSB, and 1754 IK3GHY (559/53) JN CW/SSB for a total of $(26 \times 2 + 2) \times 14 = 756$ points. I also had partials with VK5MC and SP7JSG(?).



RA3AUB's 6 m dish used on 23 cm in the SSB contest

RW3WR: Yuri rw3wr@mail.ru is active on 70 cm EME added in Jan using JT65B UN/DL9LBH, F6FHP, JA6AHB, F6DRO, OK1TEH, YL2GD, UT6UH, K3MF, YL2OK and DL8DAU.

S59DCD: Silvo's s50x@sgn.net club was QRV for the 23 cm contest and worked at 0020 K5GW (57/54) EM, 0026 HB9BBD (57/57) JN, 0046 RA3AUB (54/54) KO, 0120 OZ6OL (53/54) JO, 0150 K2UYH (56/55) FN, 0204 CT1DMK (53/54) IN, 0217 N2UO (53/53) FM, 1647 OK2DL (58/57) JN, 1652 G4CCH (59/55) IO, 1656 SM4IVE (57/54) JO, 1702 FT2TU (54/55) JN, 1710 I1NDP (56/55) JN, 1715 G3LTF (53/54) IO, 1729 I5MPK (53/55) JN, 1740 UA3PTW (44/55) KO, 1808 DF3RU (55/54) JN, 1952 SV3AAF (55/559) SSB/CW) KM and 2059 SM7FWZ (43/43) JO for $(17 \times 2 + 1) \times 10 = 350$ points.

SM4IVE: Lars sm4ive@telia.com reports on his SSB contest effort – On 70 cm, I found extremely bad activity and went to bed at 2330 local with no sign of more traffic from NA. I worked at 0003 G3LTF (55/55) IO, 0005 K5GW (53/57) EM, 0008 WA4NJP (53/57) EM, 0033 SP7DCS (42/57) JO, 0048 UA3PTW (55/57) KO, LZ1DX (52/57) KN, 1422 SM7GVF (529/0) JO, 1430 PA3DZL (42/43) JO, 1437 VK3UM (45/57) QF, 1444 PA0PLY (429/529) JO CW, 1448 DG1KJG (52/54) JO, 1453 PI9CAM (55/57) JO, 1539 OH2DG (42/55) KP, 1749 UY2QQ (529/529) KN CW and 2107 DL7APV (56/56) JO. I could have worked PA0PLY on SSB, but Jan did misunderstand the rules, and UY2QQ was a new station for me. I thus ended with $12 \times 2 \times 7 = 168$ points. I did better on 23 cm. I QSO'd on 1296 at 1404 RA3AUB (55/56) KO, 1417 OK2DL (59/58) JN, 1424 VK3UM (55/57) QF, 14 32 UA3PTW (55/57) KO, 1433 HB9BBD (59/59) JN, 1436 SM7FWZ (55/55) JO, 1504 F2TU (55/55) JN, 1507 JA1WQF (55/57) QM, 1524 I5MPK (56/59) JN, 1526 DL3EBJ (56/57) JO, 1532 OH2DG (55/56) KP, 1534 OZ6OL (55/56) JO, 1546 G4CCH (59/58) IO, 1555 G3LTF (57/57) IO, 1637 SM4DHN (58/58) JP, 1643 PA3DZL (53/55) JO, 1649 SP7JSG (53/57) KO, 1650 I1NDP (57/59) JN, 1653 SV3AAF (55/56) KM, 1655 S59DCD (54/57) JN, 1657 VK5MC (54/56) QF, 1705 IW2FZR (52/55) JN, 1708 SD3F (53/57) JP, 1737 CT1DMK (55/56) IN, 1838 DF3RU (55/58) JN, 1904 PA3FXB (42/55) JO, 2059 PY2BS (55/57) GG and 2106 G5WQ (42/55) IO. All QSOs were on SSB and although I was only QRV for a short period (had to go QRT early due to early work schedule – no NA window for me), I still ended with $28 \times 2 \times 11 = 616$ points.

SP7JSG: Czeslaw sp7jsg@wp.pl participated for the first time in the 23 cm SSB Contest (KO01bw) using a 4 m dish and 200 W – I QSO'd at 1636 OK2DL

(59/57) JN, 1643 G4CCH (59/55) IO, 1648 SM4IVE (57/52) JO, 1704 I1NDP (57/55) JN, 2006 RA3AUB (55/54) KO and 2236 K5GW (59/55) EM. All QSOs were on 2-way SSB. My final score was $(6x2) \times 5 = 70$ for a total of 60 points. It was a great contest.

SV3AAF: Petros sv3aaf@yahoo.com sends his 23 cm SSB funtest score, but it should be noted also achieved 10 GHz EME this past month -- I was on able to be QRV for about an hour, but both conditions and participation seemed very good! I contacted at 1627 I1NDP (559/57) JN CW/SSB, 1643 OK2DL (57/58) JN, 1650 G4CCH (56/56) IO, 1654 SM4IVE (56/55) JO, 1703 RA3AUB (54/56) KO, 1932 OZ6OL (54/54) JO, 1950 S59T (559/55) JN CW/SSB and 1955 F2TU (54/54) JN. I ended with $(6x2+2) \times 4 = 56$ points.

UA3PTW: Dmitry ua3ptw@inbox.ru in Jan worked on 432 using JT65B KG7HF, VK7MO/p, DH5NAH, DL4WO and K0CIY. On 1296 he added on JT65C F1PYR. [I do not have Dmitry's SSB contest score.]

UR5LX: Sergey ur5lx@uy0ll.ampr.org is QRV 432 EME. He worked using JT65B in Jan K3MF, ES6RQ, F6DRO, OK2POI, DL8GP, FG4KH, UT6UG, DL8DAU, ES5PC, VK4CDI, K5QE and UN/DL9LBH.

UA3TCF: Alex ua3tcf@mail.ru (LO26iu) is now QRV on 23 cm EME. He was active on 432 EME some years ago. Alex is running a 1.8 m dish (f/d 0.4) with 100 W at VE4MA linearly polarized feed and 0.5 dB NF LNA. His Sun noise is 6.6 dB (flux = 113) and CS/ground noise 3.7 dB. Since 10 Feb he has worked on JT65C RD3DA, G4CCH, UA3PTW, JA6AHB, PY2BS, I1NDP, ES5PC, HB9Q and K2UYH. He has worked on CW SM4IVE and I1NDP.



UA3TCF's 1.8 m dish used on 23 cm with 100 W

VA7MM: Mark (VE7CMK) and Toby (VE7CNF) va7mm@rac.ca report of their EME team effort in the 1296 SSB Contest -- We made 4 random cross mode contacts with K2UYH, VE6TA, N2UO and CT1DMK. We heard P19CAM with an excellent signal but were unable to get their attention. We noted a lack of European stations operating this year, presumably due to the severe winter weather over there. We intend to operate next on the weekend of 26/27 May in the 23 cm DUBUS EME Contest and are otherwise available anytime for scheduled contacts via email.

VE4SA: Shawn ve4sa@rac.ca reports because of his far west location and window limitations, he did not find a lot of activity and made only two QSOs in the SSB contest. He worked at 0238 N2UO (559/44) CW/SSB and at 0314 K2UYH (54/44) on SSB.

VE6BGT: Skip macaulay.skip@gmail.com tried to do his best during the SSB FUNtest, but does not have a good window to Eur -- I have a lousy location for my dish and always miss the European window, so was quite pleased to hear you [K2UYH] on and did manage to work CT1DMK. Luis was weak at my end, but still a thrill! I am working on a new dish mount and hope to move my dish to a somewhat better location this summer. After the move, I am looking forward to working more stations. I know that I also need to improve my RX, and have some plans to achieve this.

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@clearwave.ca in Jan/Feb worked WA9FWD on 3400 for initial #28 and also PY1KK on 432 for a new initial. He worked on 23 cm SM7FWZ and G4CCH with great signals and heard K2UYH. Grant is planning

to build a G3LTF/N2UO IMU style feed for 5760 to see if he can improve his Sun noise on 6 cm.

W6YX: Sawson (KG6NUB) w6yx-info@w6yx.stanford.edu reports on his group's team effort in 1296 EME SSB Contest -- We worked at 0210 K2UYH SSB/CW FN, 0246 N2UO SSB/CW and 0318 CT1DMK SSB/CW IN for a score of $3 \times 3 = 9$ points. We also had partial contacts with ?Z6OL -- never sure of the call, F2?L the same and VK3UM strongest signal heard, but never copied his information. N2UO had the best audio by far. Use of non (NATO) standard phonetics made copying SSB signals more difficult than need be. This was our first SSB EME contest and we only anticipated having to detect call signs from a fixed set of standard phonetics. We suggest that everyone consider using the phonetics at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO_phonetic_alphabet. The use of random phonetics such as "Nancy," "Radio," "Ocean," "Sugar," "Norway," etc., cost us some contacts. We worked outside of contest W5LUA and JA6AHB via JT65C. We heard and tried tailending a few VK stations on JT65, but they seemed to be only making Internet chat assisted contacts outside of the contest. We also heard VA7MM on CW and got a few QRZs from them before they gave up. Our station was a 6 m dish with a 60 W SSPA and a mystery vintage DEMI LNA of unknown NF. We lost about 90 minutes at moonrise due to equipment issues. This was not serious contest effort for us, but we learned a lot and were happy to give a few points out. The operators were NF1R, KG6NUB and AA6XV. Many thanks to all. We hope to achieve QRO status and have better ears for the 2012 ARRL EME Contest.

WA6PY: Paul pchominski@maxlinear.com reports on the SSB Contest -- I'm sorry I could not be on 70 cm. It would have been interesting to see if I could be able to QSO some of the strongest station(s) on SSB. Who knows? Unfortunately I was busy at work. When the contest began, I was still at work -- Friday my time. When I came home GHA was already 90 degs; too late to operate - end of the window for the many of EU stations. I hope to try next year. I was QRV on 1296 and QSO'd at 0000 K5GW EM, 0017 F2TU JN, 0053 RA3AUB KO, 0108 CT1DMK IN, 0112 I5MPK JN, 0120 OZ6OL JO and 0136 VE6TA DO. Heard quite strong, but lost were N2UO and W7JM. I heard N2UO in QSO's with few stations, but did not find him calling CQ. I heard lots of QRM -- several stations operated on almost the same frequency. I called CQ few times, but had QRM problem. One station gave up too early, I almost got the call sign. With my 3.6 m dish, SSB is not easy, but I can hear my own echoes. The contest was lot of fun. I ended with a score of $7 \times 2 \times 6 = 84$ points.

WA8RJF: Tony WA8RJF@ARRL.net sends what he calls a lack of activity report -- I was not QRV during the SSB contest because of a work in progress on the TX side of my station but did listen a bit. I heard on SSB G4CCH, K2UYH and a few others. On CW I heard HB9BBD with a monster of signal working N4PZ, who was loud as well. Later I heard G3LTF with a FB signal. I am working to be QRV on 3400 for DUBUS contest. I have already worked W5LUA and would like to add to my initial list.



VA7MM operating position for SSB Contest

WD5AGO: Tommy wd5ago@hotmail.com sends news on his 1296 horn experiments -- Our student group did get the larger 2.4 m x 1.1 m CP horn and 300 W on the Moon for the 1296 MHz SSB contest. We copied SSB from P19CAM, K5GW, HB9BBD, K2UYH and parts of CT1DMK, and a couple of others. We did call all stations heard, but there was too much competition from other stations. The following week we worked G3LTF and K2UYH (CW/SSB).

This brings us to a total of 7 CW initials using either a 2.4 (or the earlier 1.5 m) long horn. The horn's antenna temperature is about 10 degs k (9.2 dB CS/G), and I am working on getting a few more 10ths. My plan is to have it back on for the DUBUS 23 cm contest, before going to RX only experimentation. At home, I plan is to stay on 13 cm until the 6 cm DUBUS weekend.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org was on for the Jan 70 cm ATP, but missed the Feb ATP due to a mix up on y part. I QSO'd on 28 Jan on 1296 at 1858 SM7FWZ (559/569) and 1908 G4CCH (579/589), and on 432 at 2050 DL3RL (22DB/17DB) JT65B, 2104 DH5NAH (22DB/26DB) JT65B for mixed initial #834*, on 29 Jan in the 70 cm ATP at 1835 SM4IVE (559/559), 1841 OK1DFC (559/569), 1900 K5GW (559/559), 1925 LZ1DX (559/559), 1936 DF1RU (559/559), 1944 SM4IVE (559/559) and 1957 N4GJV (559/559), and after at 2038 OK1TEH (24DB/26DB) JT65B and 2115 WA4NJP (15DB/12DB) JT65B. My SSB contest plans were somewhat disrupted. I was tied up at beginning of the 70 cm contest (on 1296 with 4U1ITU) and had a family conflict at the end. My noise problems are so bad on 70 cm that I cannot get very excited about SSB. It is not like the old days when I made 70 cm SSB QSOs all the time. I thus never made it 432 for the FUNtest. My start of the 1296 SSB contest was also delayed because of the 4U1ITU activity. On 3/4 Feb I was on testing with 4U1ITU and in the process QSO'd at 2324 G4CCH (4DB/6DB) on JT65C (Howard was the first station copied by 4U1ITU – see their report) and at 0117 W5LUA (8DB/9DB). Finally on 5 Feb I QSO'd at 0024 4U1ITU (26DB/O) JT65C for mixed initial #406* and DXCC 81*. I then switched over to SSB to work at 0112 F2TU (55/55) JN, 0119 I1MPK (56/57) JN, 0125 CT1DMK (55/55) IN, 0130 WA6PY (56/56) DM, 0133 RA3AUB (55/55) KO, 0141 N2UO (56/56) FM, 0144 VE6TA (56/57) DO, 0147 S59DCD (55/56) JN, 0151 WB2BYP (55/55) FN, 0153 W7JM (56/55) DM, 0156 VA7MM (559/55) CN, 0203 OZ6OL (56/56) JO, 0208 W6YX (559/55) DM, 0211 VE6BGT (55/54) DO, 0225 VE3KRP (54/55) EN, 0254 W5LUA (55/54) EM, 0308 VE4SA (559/54) EO, 0323 DL3EBJ (55/56) JO, 0735 JA6AHB (559/57) PM CW/SSB, 0747 VK4CDI (54/54) QG, 0751 VK3UM (56/56) QF, 0801 VK5MC (55/56) QF, 0814 JA1WQF (55/55) QM, 0818 JH1KRC ? lost, 0827 JA6CZD (54/?) lost, 0858 VK2AMS (21DB/15DB) JT65C - not contest #407*, 0920 VK2DJIS (549/55) QF CW/SSB, 2329 G3LTF (55/55) JO, 2331 G4CCH (56/56) IO, 2337 UA3PTW (55/57) KO, 2345 I1NDP (56/57) JN, 2358 N4PZ (55/44) EN and 2359 CT1DMK (55/55) DUP for a total of $(25 \times 2 + 4) \times 17 = 918$ points. Not my best, but a big improvement over last year. One of the big differences was my western window. After years of tree block, I was able to work out an arrangement to cut down some of the most problem trees. Even in winter, with no leaves on the trees, the change was spectacular! I have not been able to rag chew with VK3UM in years. I was also worked on 8 Feb on 1296 at 0210 WD5AGO (449/559) for Tommy's class demo (22 on SSB), on 25 Feb on 432 at 0000 JN4VAX nil in JT65B sked, on 1296 at 0037 VK4CDI (15DB/8DB) JT65C and 0047 VK2AMS (22DB/15DB) JT65C, and 26 Feb at 1623 UA3TCF (27DB/21DB) JT65C #408*, 1710 PA2DW (-/31DB) JT65C - Dick was using only his feed, 1720 W3HMS (21DB/10DB) JT65C, 1740 SM7FWZ (569/569) and 1748 IK3COJ (569/569) and on 432 1807 UY2QQ (14DB/O) JT65B and 1810 WC7V nil on JT65B in sked. [My apology to all - I completely lost track the CW ATP was happening at this time.]

NETNEWS: PI9CAM was active on 25 Feb from about 0900 to 2000 with their big 25 m dish and on 23 cm with 65 W @ feed and 70 cm with 300 W @ feed. **TI2AEB** is making good progress on his 1296 EME station. The mount is in place on his roof and the dish ready for installation. All he needs is the feed. **VE4MA/W7** should be QRV on 1296 very soon Barry is using a 10 foot dish that he plans to use as an offset feed dish by extending one side of it. **K2DH** recently moved to a new QTH and is temporarily QRT. He will be assembling his EME station just as soon as the WX improves. **WB7QBS** was unable to complete any of his Jan/Feb 70 cm schedules due to one thing or another, but did QSO PI9CAM with big signals both ways. **VE3KRP** worked K5GW and K2UYH during the SSB 1296 Contest and heard many others. Later in month worked G4CCH. **LX1DB** could not be on for the SSB contest weekend. Extreme cold solidified the 90 weight oil in his dish's gearbox. **N4PZ** is back from Argentina and listened to the first night of the 1296 SSB Contest, but made no contacts. K5GW was the strongest SSB signal, but Steve couldn't get Gerald's attention. **VK3UM** reports conditions during the 70 cm SSB contest poor. He worked only 6 stations on SSB and about the same on CW. [Never received Doug's info for the 1296 part of the SSB contest.] **JA6AHB** is not licensed for SSB on EME and thus could only make SSB to CW contact in the SSB contest. **VE2XX** is working on his 432 PA for his 70 cm EME station. **W5LUA** will be active on the 3400 band for the DUBUS contest. AI also plans to be active on 24 GHz. **K4EME** worked PI9CAM on 432 in Feb.

FOR SALE: WD5AGO has a 13 cm CP feedhorn (silver plated), 4 75 W 13 cm Spectrian PAs in machined enclosure w/sma connectors, a 300 W 70 cm SSPA (I0JXX) mounted in a machined enclosure, connectors, heat sink, w/an extra new FET (a 50 V, 11 A PS is also available) all pr sale. Contact Tommy at

wd5ago@hotmail.com for details. **VE4SA** has for sale a Spectran 180 W SSPA, 2 m to 13 cm Transverter and a G4DDK LNA for sale. Contact Shawn at speters@mts.net for more info.

FINAL: As promised this moth we have the G3RGK's updated CW Initials Listings for the top 10 stations on each 70 cm EME band. for the full list see <http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html>.

EME 2012 Cambridge: Registrations for the 15th International EME Conference opened in Jan and with more than 100 UK and overseas attendees already booked it is promising to be a great success. EME Conferences are the world's premier event for weak signal VHF and Microwave technology including amateur Radio Astronomy. Two days of technical papers will be presented over the main conference days of 17th and 18th Aug. There will be a comprehensive noise figure measuring facility available for you to have your equipment checked and measured. At the Friday dinner, Howard Long, G6LVB, has been invited to speak on the Fun Cube Dongle's journey from the kitchen table to production. Professor Tony Hewish, discoverer of the pulsar, will be the Conference dinner speaker on Saturday. The conference will be held in Cambridge, the greatest seat of scientific learning in the world. This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate that Amateur radio is a valuable science-based hobby. It is not too late to book. Residential packages, day passes and dinner tickets are still available, but book soon to take advantage of the early booking discount. Go to www.eme2012.com and complete the form. At the end under "how do you plan to pay" select the button "25% non-refundable deposit now and the balance by end of June ". Then proceed to book all the options you require. At "Check out" select payment "For UK bank account holders, Bank transfer or check preferred." You will be sent an invoice, which you can pay by bank transfer OR by PayPal. Once your first payment is received your booking will be secure and held until June.

Dayton is coming up on 18/19/20 May. There are always a number of EMEers at the VHF Dinner on Friday evening (18 May). WA8RJF, one of the organizers, wants to invite you to attend. The banquet is at the Dayton Grand Hotel at 11 South Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402. The cash bar opens at 6:15 PM. The dinner will be served starting at approximately 7:15 PM, followed by a speaker and with prizes drawn at 9 PM. Reservations are required. 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 email address. Indoor valet parking is included in the price. (I hope to be there this year). For more info email Tony at WA8RJF@ARRL.net.

The annual Japanese EME Meeting will be held in Kurume, Fukuoka (JA6-land the birth place of EME in Japan) on 2/3 June. JA6CMY will be a guest speaker talking about how to tune microwave power amplifiers and power dividers/combiners for 10 and 24 GHz. Many JA EMEers are expected to attend. Foreign guest will be welcome. Lectures and EME articles for the Conference Proceedings are solicited. Please contact JA6CZD, JA6XED, or JH1KRC.

KH6BZF notes the following eclipses in 2012 that may be of interest to the EME community: 20 May Annular eclipse, 4 June partial eclipse 4 June, 13 Nov Solar eclipse and 28 Nov Penumbral eclipse.

Please keep the info coming both reports and technical. I am planning to be active on both 9 and 70 cm during the upcoming DUBUS EME Contest. I hope to CU all off the Moon. 73, AI – K2UYH



TI2AEB's almost ready for mounting to put Costa Rico on 23 cm

G3RGK's Initial Listings

Call	70cm
DL9KR	908
K5JL	827
K2UYH	708
SM4IVE	624
K1FO	613
DK3WG	551
G3LTF	444
N9AB	440
SM2CEW	437
SM3AKW	390

Call	23cm
OE9ERC	363
G4CCH	355
F2TU	350
G3LTF	343
W5LUA	339
OK1KIR	325
OZ4MM	320
OK1DFC	317
HB9BBD	306
K2UYH	302

Call	13cm
F2TU	121
OK1KIR	115

W5LUA	112
OK1CA	104
G3LTF	102
OE9ERC	91
OH2DG	83
OZ4MM	82
WD5AGO	80
G4CCH	79

Call	9cm
W5LUA	39
OK1KIR	36
G3LTF	36
OK1CA	29
OH2DG	26
WD5AGO	15
PY1KK	15
G4NNS	12
OK1DFC	7
VE6TA	3

Call	6cm
OK1KIR	52
F2TU	46
W5LUA	44
OE9ERC	35

CT1DMK	35
G3LTF	30
OH2DG	27
OK1CA	24
WD5AGO	16
VE1ALQ	14

Call	3cm
W5LUA	75
WA7CJO	71
F2TU	63
OK1KIR	62
OK1CA	43
F6KSX	40
G4NNS	34
AA5C	34
CT1DMK	27
I5PPE	26

Call	1.2cm
W5LUA	9
OK1KIR	9
VE3MA	7
G4NNS	3