

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS JUNE 2012 VOL 40 #5

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CONDITION: The April/May Moon cycle produced another 29 days filled with high excitement EME. 2300 EME continues to grow with the 13 cm leg of the DUBUS EME Contest on 27/28 April producing new contact highs for many participants. OK1CA appears to be the top gun with a score of 56x49. F2TU is a closed second with 55 stations worked. In and around the EME contests, what seems like a record number of dxpeditions have been taking place. During this cycle EY8ZF gave new 70 cm DXCCs to 19 stations on both JT and CW, and HB0/DF1SR gave out first Liechtenstein QSOs on to many on 13, 9 and 6 cm – see the following reports. TNX fellows for two great dxpeditions! But the streak is not over! Rene is off again this time with PA3CEE to put Uganda on 70 cm on 27 April [see below], and DL7YMK will be off on their 9th dxpedition to a surprise location yet to be announced between 17 and 31 May on 70 through 6 cm [see last month newsletter (NL)]! There was also a well supported 70 cm CW activity time period ATP on 22 April. (The next ATP is 20 May from 0500 to 0700 and 1300 to 1500)... Among all this, many new stations are showing up on 70, 23 and above. VK7MO made his initial 10 GHz QSO using JT65C – see report below! RK3WWF is now QRV on 24 GHz. Coming up is the BIG ONE on 26/27 May, the 1296 part of the DUBUS EME Contest. (Also the same weekend is the ARI's new modes EME contest.) The ARRL's VHF Tropo (& EME) Contest is also on 9/10 June – see K5QE's plea for 70 cm activity.

surely among these), but Rene does not distinguish the CW QSOs. The rest were made on JT65B. [Rene will be on next from 5X1EME in Uganda at the end of May.]



38 el M2 yagi at EY8ZF (left there for future 70 cm EME)



HB0/DF1SR operating location in Liechtenstein

5X1EME: Rene (PE1L) hasperrene@gmail.com and PA3CEE report that all looks good for their Uganda dxpedition and that they will have an improved system for 70 cm with a 100 W SSPA close to their yagi and a SP7000 preamp (TNX LZ1DX). 70 cm is planned for Sunday 27 on 432.090 with 5X1EME first. If they have Internet access, they will be on the HB9Q logger.

DK3WG: Jurg dk3wg@online.de was very productive on 70 cm EME in April. He QSO'd on CW DJ3JJ, and on JT65B XV4HP in grid OK10 for DXCC 103, YO8RHI who was using 2 x 21 el yagis and 50 W, DG1VL, 3W4TC in grid OK20 and EY8ZF for DXCC #104.

EY8ZF: Rene (PE1L) hasperrene@gmail.com writes that he and Peter DL8YHR had a very successful 70 cm dxpedition to Tadzhikistan (grid MM48jn). They made 19 70 cm QSOs using a single 38 el M2 yagi and 300 W. They left the antenna there in hopes of generating some regular 70 cm activity by the local operators. Worked were F2TU, SM4IVE, DL9KR, OK1DFC, DL7APV, DF3RU, HB9Q, I1NDP, DK3WG, DL2NUD, G4FUF, LZ1DX, WA4NJP, OZ4MM, PI9CAM, G4RGK, SM2CEW (complete?), G3LQR and UA3PTW. Several of these QSOs were on CW (DL9KR and SM4IVE were

F2TU: Philippe f2tu.philippe@orange.fr had an exceptional month — On 27 April, I QSO'd EY8ZF on CW (O/O) for the first F/EY contact on 70 cm. Then, over the following weekend during the DUBUS 13 cm EME Contest I worked 55 different calls and made 68 QSOs including 14 SSB/SSB QSOs on Sunday afternoon, while killing time. Initials were IK3COJ, OK2ULQ, SN2012GAM (SSB), IK6IEW and SP7JSG (SSB). On Monday, I added initials with OK1KKD (569/569) and G0MIN (559/449) to bring me to initial #131, plus HB0/DF1SR (559/559), OH2DG (579/579), OKIDFC (57/57) on SSB, IK3GHY (44/53) on SSB, DL1YMK/A (55/56) on SSB, HB8Q (59/59) and ES5PC (57/57) on SSB. I was also on 6 cm on 27 April to work HB0/DF1SR (529/O) for DXCC 27, PA7JB (539/559) for initial #53, OK1CA (579/579) and G3LTF (549/569), and on 30 April HB0/DF1SR (539/539) again.

G3LTF: Peter's g3ltf@btinternet.com report for April/May -- I was on for the 432 ATP on 22 April and worked LZ1DX, SP7DCS, DG1KJG, K2UYH, OZ4MM, N4GJV and K5GW. Conditions were difficult again in terms of polarization. It was hard to find the right position to transmit on. On 27 April, I was on for the start of the HB0 dxpedition on 6 cm, but was not able to complete a QSO with them. There was just not enough signal and wide spreading, but I did work DL7YC, PA7JB, F2TU, and SV3AAF. The next day, 28 April, I was on for the 13 cm DUBUS Contest, which had high participation, especially from Europe. A * indicates a cross-band QSO from 2320 to either 2424 or 2304. I worked SN2012GAM, JA4BLC*, JA6CZD*, JA8IAD*, PA7JB, OZ4MM, RK3WWF, S59DCD, OK1DFC, CT1DMK, F5JWF, F1PYR, F2TU, IZ2DJP, 9A5AA, PA3DZL, ON5TA, DL1YMK/A, G4CCH, SM3BYA, G3LQR, SV1BTR, LZ1DX and HB9Q. At this point, 1800, the wind became too strong to continue and in fact the bolts securing the HA axis became loosened as I found next day. I therefore missed the NA window on the first pass. On the second pass, 29 April, the wind was still too strong for the JA/VK window, but at about 1500 the wind suddenly dropped and I was able to get back on. I worked OK1CA, SD3F, IW2FZR, SV3AAF, HB9SV, IK3GHY, OH1LRY #102, IK3COJ #103, OK1KKD #104, ES5PC, OK2ULQ #105, DL3EBJ, K2UYH*, K5GW*, WD5AGO*, WA6PY* and VE6TA. Heard were LA8LF, HB0/DF1SR and OH2DG; CWNR were WA9FWD and NA4N, and WA8RJF was an incomplete QSO. So, nearly 50 stations worked or heard with about 1/3 operating time taken out by wind, and 4 initials was a pleasing result. I really don't understand why there is such low activity on the microwave bands from the USA these days. On 30 April, I was able to work HB/DF1SR for initial #35 on 5760. The next day, 1 May, HB0/DF1SR was on 3400 with an excellent signal, and easily worked for initial #38. I also worked LX1DB, S59DCD,

WB5LUA and K2UYH. On 28 April I had a sked with EY8ZF on 432, but although they copied me (539), I could only see very slight traces of them on the SDR with no audible copy, and this was with my RX pol optimised. I am puzzled by this as my Sun noise check was normal, I will continue to check the system! I want to congratulate the HB0/DF1SR team for a great dxpedition. I know that they had big problems with the wind, but despite this they provided many QSO's on 3 microwave bands!

G4DZU: Doug doug.parker@btinternet.com reports on his recent EME activity – I was not QRV recently as my azimuth prop-pitch motor had died. Thanks to a local, I've got a new one that gives me good tracking. I find that even on week days, if the Moon is up, then there's JT65 activity on 1296. And there has been with a swathe of new stations in the sub 3 m dish size bracket. During one week, I worked the following on JT: PY2BS (11DB), PA3FXB (18DB), OZ6OL (13DB), PY1UNU (24DB), ZS5Y (17DB), IK5VLS (18DB), YO2BCT (18DB), IK5QLO (20DB), JA1WQF (14DB), PI9CAM (16DB), UA3TCF (26DB), JA6AHB (10DB), I1NDP (7DB), PA2DW (20DB), IZ0CLS (22DB) and GM4PMK (19DB). I also worked on CW N2UO and I1NDP. My station is now 3 m dish and 400 W at the feed with a G4DDK VLNA2.

GM4PMK: Roger gm4pmk@marsport.org.uk is back on 23 cm EME – As result of a severe storm last Dec, which seriously damaged by dish, I was forced off 1296 EME. I am now pleased to report that I am QRV again from the Isle of Mull, off the West coast of Scotland (IO66/EU008). I have a 3.2 m dish with 100 W at the feed, and a G4DDK preamp. I am available for skeds on JT65c and with CW to follow shortly.



GM4PMK's 3.2 m dish with 1296 feed

HB0/DF1SR: Kasimir (DL2SBY) dl2sby@arcor.de sends news on his and Georg's (DF1SR) dxpedition to Liechtenstein -- After 10 days of hard work, we can now relax a bit that the dxpedition is over. It was hard work, but we had lots of fun! This was the third time that we were QRV via EME from Liechtenstein. However, it was the very first time that we were active on 6 cm and 9 cm. We were very concerned, because we could not test either of these bands from home. But all worked very fine. Unfortunately, we had to stop operation of the DUBUS Contest on 13 cm after only 3 QSOs. The WX turned bad with very strong wind gusts up to 100 km/h! Happily, we had started early (on Friday) on 6 cm, thanks to PA7JB, who asked us to be active on this band earlier because he was unavailable later. We had planned to start on 13cm during the DUBUS Contest and then, after the weekend, operate on 6 cm and 9 cm. This gave us some time for 13 cm after missing most of the weekend due to the WX problems. We ended up QSOing on 13 cm F2TU, SV1BTR, HB9Q, ES5PC, OH2DG, JA4BLC, JA6CZD, S59DCD, PA3DZL, LZ1DX, OK1KKD, ON5TA, OZ4MM, PA0BAT, DL3EBJ, G4CCH, F1PYR, LX1DB, G3LQR, SM3AKW, W5LUA and K2UYH, on 9 cm OK1CA, OK1KIR, LX1DB, G3LTF, PA0BAT,

S59DCD, PA3DZL, ES5PC, OH2DG, OZ6OL, DL7YC, K2UYH and W5LUA, and on 6 cm F2TU, OK1KIR, LX1DB, PA0BAT, PA7JB, OK1CA, DL7YC, K5GW, W5LUA, F1PYR, G3LTF and SP6GWN. We want to thank DL6SH, who was with us for 2 days actively supported our operation; HB9Q, for using his chat room; and all our QSO partners for the wonderful EME-QSO's. Thank also to those who had already sent us QSLs with a "small donation" - really appreciated!

JA4BLC: Yoshiro ja4bhc@web-sanin.co.jp reports on the DUBUS Contest on 13 cm – I worked 17 stations on crossband. TNX to all who listened on 2424. I worked on 28/29 April K2UYH, K5GW, VE6TA, VK3NX, ES5PC, F2TU, G3LTF, OK1DFC, SV1BTR, OZ4MM, G4CCH, ON5TA, PA0BAT, CT1DMK, WA6PY, OK1CA and HB9Q. I am pleased by my much improved score. Last year I worked only 13 stations. Sadly worldwide Wifi QRM on the JA EME frequency is growing worse, but we can still work many QSOs. As 2320 activity in Europe is growing, many Europeans now operated around 2320.100 ± 20 kHz. I had trouble to pick up 2424 equipped stations in the crowd. I propose as a solution that during the Eu-JA window, those who wish to contact JA, should operate on segments 2324.040-060/2320.040-060. JAs will try this solution in the autumn ARRL EME Contest.

JA8ERE: Mikio sgl01011@nifty.ne.jp was QRV during the 13 cm leg of the DUBUS EME Contest weekend and worked VK3NX, K2UYH, VE6TA, WA6PY, OK1CA and F2TU. [TNX JA4BLC for forwarding this report.]

JA8IAD: Mikio ana11142@yahoo.co.jp in QN03 was active in the DUBUS 13 cm contest weekend. He QSO'd VE6TA, K2UYH, K5GW, ES5PC, F2TU, G3LTF, SV1BTR, G4CCH, OK1CA and SN2012GAM. [TNX JA4BLC for forwarding this report.]

JA6CZD: Shichiro ja6czd@mx35.tiki.ne.jp (PM53fm) operated the 13 cm DUBUS EME Contest, and contacted K2UYH, SV1BTR, ES5PC, OK1DFC, G4CCH, G3LTF, F2TU, OZ4MM, OH2DG, OK1CA, HB9Q and SN2012GAM. [TNX JA4BLC for forwarding this report.]

K5QE: Marshall k5qe@k5qe.com is interested in 432 EME skeds for the ARRL June VHF Contest -- The ARRL June contest is coming up on the 9/10 June. I will be attempting to run 432 EME as part of the contest and would appreciate any and all QSOs. Moonrise here in EM31cj is at 0545 on Sunday morning. That means that our moonrise is perfect timing for Sunday morning operators in EU. We will be staying up all night to try to work the EU operators, but you don't have to. What a deal. In the past, I have had some problems with antenna pointing. We were not able to work stations that should have been easy. I believe that I have all this worked out, so please try to work me on 432 EME on Sunday morning, 10 June. I will operate on 432.070 and will be using Second Sequence. (I will also be on 2 m.) If you would like to make a schedule for this time frame, please send me an email and we can work something out. Please note that my email has changed to k5qe@k5qe.com. [Marshall has 16 yagis and 1 kW. He operates primarily on JT, but can get on CW.]

LA8LF: Anders anders@la8lf.com reports on his 9 and 13 cm contest activity -- I was QRV on 9 cm EME for the first time on Sunday 4 March during the DUBUS EME Contest and worked 12 initials. All heard were worked. The first QSO ever from Norway on 9 cm EME was with ES5PC. I then worked OZ6OL, OH2DG, S59DCD, LZ1DX, PA0BAT, PA3DZL, DL1YMK, DL7YC, LX1DB, K2UYH and K5GW. Gerald was 589! I added on 5 March OK1KIR and PA3DZL, and on 25 March G3LTF, W5LUA and WW2R to bring me to initial #16. My equipment is an SSPA with 2 Toshiba SSPAs combined for 85 W out, 80 W at the feed, which is a scaled down version of my 13 cm 5 ring, septum feed. The LNA is an old DDK version with a NF of 0.8 dB, later modified to the latest version measuring 0.42 dB NF. My SSPA and Kuhne transverter and PSUs are located behind dish as on 13 cm. Measured before the contest was 16.4 dB of Sun noise at a flux of 104. This with the 0.8 dB NF LNA. During the 13 cm contest leg, I worked 32 stations. Initials were ON5TA, DL1YMK/A, PA7JB, OK1ULQ, PA3DZL, IK3GHY, S59DCD, IK2RTI, 9A5AA, S50C, OK1KKD, DL3EBJ and F5JWF to bring me to #56. Heard were G3LTF and OZ4MM – I forgot that I had NOT worked them earlier in the contest. Sri. My new Kuhne 2304 MHz transverter stopped working just before contest. Therefore I missed the US guys and probably a few others that spent most of their time on 2304. My DDK LNA was upgraded to latest version before contest and now is measuring 0.3 dB NF. My Sun noise was 18.2 dB at flux 119 and CS/G 7.2 dB. Full logs for 9 and 13 cm can be found on my web page at www.LA8LF.com.

LZ1DX: Ned lz1dx@lz1dx.org despite torrential rain and bad weather, had a great time in the DUBUS 13 cm EME Contest -- I operated on 2320/2304 and worked on 28/29 April G4CCH (559/559), SV1BTR (579/569), ON5TA (559/529), F2TU (579/569), PA7JB (559/559), G3LTF (569/559), PA0BAT

(559/569), S59DCD (559/559), SD3F (559/559), RK3WWF (569/569), LA8LF (569/549), HB9Q (579/549), CT1DMK (559/559), HB9SV (579/569), PA3DZL (559/549), OK1CA (579/559), OK1DFC (569/559), SV3AAF (559/559), K5GW (579/569), K2UYH (559/549), F5JWF (559/549), WA6PY (559/559), ES5PC (579/559), OZ4MM (579/559), OK1KKD (559/349), IK3GHY (559/539), 9A5AA (559/559), DL1YMK (559/549), LX1DB (589/569), DL3EBJ (559/549), OH2DG (579/559), IK2RTI (559/559), WD5AGO (559/559), IW2FZR (559/559) and SN2012GAM (579/559), on 30 April (2320) IK3GHY (559/549), G4CCH (569/559) and OK1DFC (569/559), on 1 May (2320) K1KKD (559/539) and PA3DZL (559/559), on 02 May (2320) S59DCD (559/559), HB0/DF1SR (559/529) and F1PYR (559/549). I heard with IK6EIW. I also operated with the memorial call LZ67VZ on 5 May, and worked S59DCD (559/559), ON5TA (559/529) and G4CCH (569/569). I QSO'd on 432, on 27 April using JT65B ES3RF (28DB/16DB), YO8RHI (29DB/20DB), EY8ZF (28DB/22DB), G4YTL (24DB/25DB), JA6AHB (15DB/7DB), DL5FN (13DB/15DB) and UT6UG (24DB/18DB).

N4GJV: Ron qstdemb@yahoo.com sends the follow report on his April 432 activity – The comments I read on the "reflectors" indicated that some would be participants elected to forego participation in the April ATP due to the near angular proximity of the Moon to the Sun. I probably did experience some solar noise QRN, due to the very small size of my antenna array, but conditions seemed to be reasonably good. Faraday rotation seemed to be minimal, and I was easily able to hear my own echoes. Many TNX to K2UYH, G3LTF, K5GW, SP7DCS and DG1KJG for the enjoyable CW EME QSOs.

N4PZ: Steve n4pz@live.com sends the following comments -- The ON0EME beacon is the best thing on 1296 in years. What a great idea! I can calibrate my polar mount in 30 seconds instead of hunting for the peak on my echoes for 10 minutes. My polar mount works flawlessly. I worked on 28 April on 1296 CW WB2BYP, VE3KRP, I1NDP, N2UO, IK6EIW and DJ3FI. I have also worked ZS5Y twice now. He's my first African. I think I now have WAC: S.America, N America, Australia, Asia, Europe and Africa. I also had a nice CW QSO with GM4PMK - No problem. Roger did not think he could work me on CW. I told him that he underestimates his ability to work EME on CW. There is more signal there than you think and we use very narrow filters. I use 100 Hz. That makes a huge difference. If I put my Rx in SSB mode I hear nothing on a 100 W station, but at 100 Hz there they are, just like magic. Not pounding in, but with a little patience I can get everything. The main thing is to send YOUR call a lot. I can pick mine out easily, but the other guy's call isn't so easy. I'll bet I can work most of the guys on the HB9Q chat page, who are doing just digital. I worked WB2BYP when he was running only 30 W! One of these days I'll get my 2304 stuff fired up. I bought all of K1RQG's 2304 stuff including down converters for all the worlds segments. K5GW forced a 180 W amp on me, so I will have that on my 5 m dish soon.

N8CQ: Jerry gabercr@nc.rr.com is basically now QRV with his big 10 m dish. He is working on the pointing control system, but already has a 70 cm loop feed in the dish in anticipation of activity. He also plans to be QRV on 23 cm very soon. He has 300 W and also a big a TH-347 PA is in the wings.

OK1CA: Frana's stihavka@upcmail.cz activity report -- I worked on 27 April on 5.7 GHz HB0/DF1SR for an initial #25, F2TU, PA7JB #26, DL7YC #27, LX1DB #28 and S57NML #29 for 5 initials and 3 new countries during 1 hour. In the 2.3 GHz part of the DUBUS Contest, I started on 28 April at 1600 and I worked 40 stations during Saturday, followed by an additional 16 QSOs on Sunday. My score in Contest was 56x49. This is my best result on 2.3 GHz thus far. I worked initials with ON5TA, PA7JB, OK2ULQ, SP7JSG, F1PYR, OK1KKD, IK3COJ and IK6IEW to bring me to initial #113. There was great activity from all regions during the contest. On 1 May at 1522, I worked on 3400 DF0/DF1SR (579/539) for initial #36 and the first HB0-OK QSO on 3.4 GHz.

OK1DFC: Zdenek ok1dfc@seznam.cz writes that in April he was changing feeds like crazy because of all the dxpeditions -- On 432 JT, I worked S51ZO, YO8RHI for digital initial {#243}, F6APE, OK1KIR, DJ3JJ, EA3BB, 4U1ITU {#244} and DXCC 80, ZL3TY {#245} DXCC 81, VK4CDI, WQ0P {#246}, K4EME, WD4JHD {#247} and WAS 34, WC7V, F6APE, JN4VAX, DL2ALF {#248}, XV4HP {#249}, DXCC 82 and first OK-XV QSO, OH8MGK, ZS6OB, W7IUV, WA4NJP, LZ1DX, UY2QQ, WB8TFV {#250}, J52EME {#251}, DXCC 83 and first OK-J5, EY8ZF {#252}, DXCC 84 and first OK - EY, ES3RF, F6APE, K0CIY and K5DOG. On 432 CW, I worked F6APE, LZ1DX, SM4IVE, SM2CEW, VK4EME, SM6FHZ, G3LTF, SP7DCS, OK2POI, OZ4MM, K2UYH, K5GW, N4GJV, SM4IVE, ES3RF for CW/SSB initial #154, RW3WR #155 and EY8ZF #156. I also worked PI9CAM on 432 SSB. On 1296 JT, I worked XV4HP for digital initial {#149} and DXCC 78 and IZ0CLS {#150}. On 1296 CW, I worked IZ0CLS for CW/SSB initial #323 and UA3MBJ #324. I also worked IZ0CLS and VK2JDS on 1296 SSB. On 2320

CW [during DUBUS contest], I worked HB9Q, SN2012GA for initial #63, JA4BLC, JA6CZD #64, ES5PC, OZ4MM, G4CCH, S59DCD #65 and DXCC 32, F5JWF, SV3AAF, ON5TA #66 and DXCC 33, F2TU, S50C #67, HB9SV, OK2ULQ #68, PA7JB #69, CT1DMK #70 and DXCC 34, PA0BAT, F1PYR #71, RK3WWF, G3LTF, PA3DZL, SD3F, 9A5AA, OK1CA, SV1BTR, IK2RTI, SM3BYA #72, IZ2DJP #73, LA8LF, K5GW, LZ1DX, WA9FWD #74, WD5AGO, NA4N #75, SP6GWN, WA6PY, DL1YMK/A #76, K2UYH, VE6TA, OK1KKD #77, DL3EBJ, IW2FZR, IK3GHY #78, LX1DB and G0EWN #79 [for a total of 46x44]. I also attended the 21st EME and Microwave Seminar organized by OK VHF club with the assistance of OK1CA and myself. We had excellent attendance with OK, OM, SP and DL hams well represented.



OK1DFC's feed for his 10 m dish and 150 W SSPA used in 13 cm DUBUS contest.

OK1KIR: Tonda & Vlada vladimir.masek@volny.cz send their April-May EME report -- On 27 April at 1223 we worked on 5760 the HB0/DF1SR dxpedition (O/O) for initial #56 and the 1st HB0-OK 6 cm QSO. Afterwards on 432 MHz no signal was found from the dxpedition in EY due to terrible local noise. In the 13 cm part of DUBUS Contest on 28 April, we started at 1033 with VK3NX (O/O) and 1059 SN2012GAM (559/529). While investigating an S7 level of WiFi interference on the 2424 JA band, we received a message that Russian crew of RK3WWF was QRV on 24 GHz. A sked was negotiated and we changed bands. Unfortunately after initial good echoes, our TRX suddenly refused to provide enough power on 24 GHz. The test was several times postponed as we were not able to find the source of the recurrent trouble. Finally we decided to move the test (wisely, Hi) to the next day at the time of lowest libration spread just after Moonrise. In the late night, the problem was finally discovered in a random parasitic oscillations of DB6NT 24 GHz PA, but hours were spent fighting spurious around 11 GHz and later on even persistent spurious on 20 GHz, which both impacted wanted output power of the PA on 24 GHz. After all, finally the proper places and absorption material were found. Three Ferrocart cores glued to the inner walls suppressed spurious, hopefully forever, Hi. The next morning on moonrise we found our own echoes at 4 deg el with a nice clear ringing sound (libration spread was close to the minimum of 25 Hz). The sked on 24048.100 started at 1100, when mutual spread was growing, but still only about 75 Hz. RK3WWF signal was found a bit later on 24048.101 instead of expected 24048.153. A QSO was easy completed at 1124 with (O/O) reports for initial #11 and the 1st UA-OK 24 GHz QSO. OK1KIR's signal recorded at RK3WWF was only about 45 Hz wide at -3 dB and the QSO sounded like on 23 cm. Unfortunately, no record was found on OK1KIR's side (probably a typing mistake, sri). RK3WWF used 2 m dish and 22 W from TWT (RW1127). Recordings and pictures can be found at <http://forum.vhfdx.ru/obshchiy/qso-na-24ghz/msg123454/?topicseen=new>. After that delightful success, we returned to the 13 cm contest and worked at 1242 OK1CA (569/579), 1251 SV1BTR (569/579), 1339 F5JWF (549/549) and 1405 F1PYR (549/559) when Mr. Murphy returned and stopped the azimuth drive. This failure had the potential of causing a disaster with dish stuck out of its parking position. We were obviously forced to QRT. Luckily, the next day we were able to get the dish moving again after the purchase of needed parts. We then QSO'd OK1KKD on 2320 (559/559) for initial #116. On 1 May at 1553 we worked on 3400 HB0/DF1SR (O/O) for initial #42 and DXCC 24.

OK1KKD: Petr (OK7FA) ok1faq@volny.cz is a new EME station that was active in the 13 cm DUBUS EME Contest using a 4 m dish with septum feed/Chapparall choke, 200 W SSPA and 0.6 dB NF LNA. During the contest,

he worked ES5PC, OK1CA, OZ4MM, OK1DFC, RK3WWF, SN2012GAM, HB9SV, G3LTF, ON5TA, LA8LF, LZ1DX, G4CCH, HB9Q and DL1YMK/A.



OK1KKD 4 m dish used on 13 cm in DUBUS EME Contest

OK1TEH: Matej ok1teh@seznam.cz sends information about his recent EME activity -- On 70 cm with my single yagi, I worked W7IUW (24DB), DF3RU (22DB), PA0PLY (25) for mixed initial #73*, RW3WR (27DB) #74*, F6DRO (26DB) #75*, K2UYH (21DB), WA4NJP (21DB), K4EME (28DB) #76*, WD4JHD (24DB) #77* and on 28 April DL7UDA (26dB) #78*. I had partials with KE7NR (25DB), SV1BTR CW and DG1KJG CW. I have improved my 23 cm system. I now have a new transverter with a rubidium source and a 400 W SSPA (with JT). But I am still using only a 1 m dish with linear pol feed and the LNA is still in the shack; however I'm working to place it closer to feed. This station was designed for tropo contests and not real EME; however, I have fun trying with it. During Feb, I worked on JT65C IINDP (27DB) for digital initial {#8}, G4CCH (25DB), PY2BS (27DB) {#9} (10142 km!) and PI9CAM {26DB}. I was heard by JA6AHB and few PA stations with only 3 m dish (27DB), so when I finish my LNA BOX at feed, I should be able to work even 2.5 m dish station. More info can be found at http://ok1teh.nagano.cz/eme_log1296.htm.

OK2ULQ: Petr was active on 13 cm in the DUBUS Contest using his 3.6 m dish with a septum feed and 90 W OM6AA SSPA. In the contest he worked OK1DFC, SV1BTR, HB9Q, F2TU, OK1CA, CT1MDK, ES5PC, LA8LF, G4CCH, OZ4MM, SN2012GAM and G3LTF.



OK2ULQ's 3.6 m dish used on 13 cm for the DUBUS contest.

ON5TA: Eric eric.vanoffelen@skynet.be reports very nice activity during the DUBUS 13 cm Contest -- I worked a total of 36 stations with 10 initials: VK3NX, LA8LF, DL1YMK/A, SN2012GAM, DL3EBJ, IW2FZR, OK1KKD, SM3BYA, IK3GHY and K2UYH. The QSOs with VK3NX and IW2FZR were "firsts" VK and I from Belgium. On the second day, I heard F2TU calling CQ on SSB with an impressive signal. I made a quick call and he came back right away with a (53) report! Bad weather and wind prevented me from working all of the stations I heard. Among them where RK3WWF with a very nice signal, and PA7JB with good but lost him. I spent a lot of time listening to 2424 band, but the interference level at my QTH has recently grown tremendously and the only station I could contact was JA4BLC. Other signals were seen on the SDR and I tried to decode them, but no way. On 2 May the HB0/DF1SR expedition had a beautiful signal on 13 cm and was easily worked - TNX Georg and Kasimir. I am now running about 150 W at the feed of a 3.6 m mesh dish.

PA3DZL: Jac pa3dzl@planet.nl has now added 6 cm to his microwave EME bands -- After building for half a year, I completed my 6 cm station on 25 March. The rig is a 3.7 m dish with RA3AQ feed, 0.6 dB preamp and 18 W output at the feed. I worked on 25 March F2TU (O/O) for my first QSO #1, on 28 March OK1KIR (O/M) #2, W5LUA (O/M) #3, F2TU (O/O) and F1PYR (O/O) #4, on 31 March G3LTF (O/M) #5 and K5GW (579/O) #6 - super signal, and on 4 April PAØBAT (O/O) #7. I was QRV on 9 cm and contacted on 1 May at 1635 HB0/DF1SR (559/529) for initial #19, square 17 and DXCC 14. I was on for the DUBUS 13 cm EME Contest and worked 33 stations and 3 new DXCCs, and on 2 May made the first contact between HBØ and PA on 13 cm EME. QSO'd in the contest were on 28 April ES5PC (559/549), SV1BTR (559/549), PAØBAT (529/529), HB9SV (559/559) #45 and square 66, ON5TA (529/529), F2TU (559/549), OK1DFC (559/559), G3LTF (559/559), HB9Q (559/539), OK1CA (559/569), CT1DMK (559/559), S59DCD (539/539) #46, square 67 and DXCC 29, IW2FZR (449/559), G4CCH (559/559), LZ1DX (449/559), LA8LF (559/449) #47 and square 68, SV3AAF (559/539) #48 and square 69, K2UYH (449/449), WA6PY (O/O) #49 and square 69 and K5GW (559/559), and on 29 April VK3NX (559/569), RK3WWF (559/559), SN2012GAM (559/559) - special call sign Global Astronomy Month 2012, OZ4MM (559/559), F5JWF (559/559) #50 and square 70, SD3F (O/O), DL3EBJ (559/569) #51, DL1YMK/A (549/549) #52, 9A5AA (449/559) #53, square 71 and DXCC 30, LX1DB (559/569), IK3GHY (559/559) #54 and square 72, VE6TA (559/449) #55, square 73 and DXCC 31 and WA9FWD (O/M) #56 and square 74. After the contest I worked on 1 May OK1KKD (529/559) #57 and square 75 and LZ1DX (559/559), and on 2 May HBØ/DF1SR (559/529) #58, DXCC 32 and first PA-HBØ 13 cm QSO and OK1KKD (559/559).

S50C: Matija (S53MM) s53mm@lea.hamradio.si reports on his club's operation on 13 cm during the DUBUS Contest -- We were QRV from grid JN76jg on 28 April on both 2304 and 2320 with 2.8 m dish and about 150 W at feed. We worked G4CCH, HB9Q, F2TU, SV1BTR, OZ4MM, OK1DFC, G3LTF, RK3WWF, HB9SV, OK1CA, IW2FZR, CT1DMK, ES5PC, LA8LF and K5GW. RK3WWF is believed to be the smallest station worked so far with 3.7 m dish on their side. We now are up to initial #20. On Friday before the contest, we were ready also on 9 cm with good Sun noise present, but no one to sked. Our next try on 9 cm should be in the autumn.



S50C 2.4 m dish used on 13 and 9 cm

SM3BYA: Gudmund sm2bya@telia.com writes on 13 cm in SM and his recent activity -- The selling of the 2300-2400 MHz band in Sweden has not started yet. Earlier this spring our P&T unexpectedly opened for extension the 13 cm high power licenses until 30 June. Some of us applied and got the extension, myself included. Thanks to this, I was able to participate briefly in the DUBUS contest on 28/29 May. I set up the rig in the tractor garage again, as we were scheduled to leave on a month long trip to the US on 1 May. I had lots of last minute travel related things to attend to and could only put in a few hours each day. Also, I couldn't leave the rig set up there while away, so I had to spend several hours on 30 April to disassemble it. I'm writing in a motel room in Klamath Falls, OR. I worked 15 stations in the contest. I don't have my notes available and cannot guarantee that the list below is in the order I worked them, but here they are from memory: G3LTF, HB9Q for an initial (#), ES5PC, K5GW, F2TU, OK1CA, RK3WWF, ON5TA, SD3F, OZ4MM, VK3NX, SV1BTR, HB9SV (#), OK1DFC (#) and IW2FZR (#). I copied several others, but didn't have the time to chase them down. I will be back in SM the first week of June, and would like to sked as many potentially new initials as possible before the end of the month. It is very likely that this time is really the end of the story; we are unlikely to get any more high power extensions after 1 July. There is something very strange with my receive performance on 2320. The RX system seems to be nearly 3 dB noisier there than it is on 2304, although the NF measures about the same to within 0.1 dB on both ranges when checked on a HP 346A/8970B NF setup with the 144 MHz IF going into the 8970. With my own transverters, I have excellent echoes on 2304, while they are hardly detectable on 2320. I suspect the 144/28 transverter and/or the Drake R-4C IF receiver, but won't have the time and equipment to look into it before the end of June. I will therefore concentrate on skedding stations that can transmit on 2304, primarily W and VE. I will be emailing a number of you shortly!

SM7WSJ: Håkan sm7wsj@telia.com is setting up for 432 and 1296 EME -- I am well on the way to getting my 4 m dish in the air. The rotating tower is built from scratch and is now running with computer control. I will mount the dish and feedhorn and start some testing by the end of the summer. My first goal is 1296, but I will also build a feed to be active on 432 to work some big ones.



SM7WSJ on his dish mount

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs@wp.pl sends his April 70 cm ATP results -- I was active on 70 cm CW during the ATP. Conditions were difficult on my side, but I was happy to work some QSOs with old friends. My equipment is a 6 m dish with a fully rotatable dual-dipole feed, and 500 W at feed. I was also testing autotracking for the first time -- it was very convenient! Worked were G3LTF, DG1KJG, K2UYH, N4GJV and LZ1DX. I heard K5GW and OZ4MM calling me, but they disappeared. I was also able to work 2 new DXCC (both firsts from SP) on skeds in April: PY2BS and LX1DB. I plan to put my 23 cm feed into the dish in May and will make some noise!

TI2AEB: Armando aebonilla@ice.co.cr is getting very close to being QRV on 1296 EME. His 12' dish is now mounted and a septum in feed is placed TNX to OK1DFC. He hopes to complete Sun noise tests and be listening for signals very soon.

UA3MBJ: Arbusov ua3mbj@rambler.ru is active on 1296 EME. In April he contacted on CW I1NDP, and on JT65C JA6AHB, PA3FXB, K2UYH, G4CCH, I1NDP, VK2JDS, JA1WQE and ZS5Y. [TNX to DK3WG for forwarding this report.]

UA3PTW: Dmitry [ua3ptw\(x\)inbox.ru](mailto:ua3ptw(x)inbox.ru) had good luck and worked in April on 70 cm using JT65B DL2ALF, XV4HP (OK10), J52EME, 3W4TC (OK20), and EY8ZF for 3 new DXCC. On 23 cm Dmitry added using JT65C VK2CBD, 3W4TC (OK20) and IK5VLS. Last month he had already worked XV4HP in

OK10 on 1296 for the new DXCC. [TNX to DK3WG for forwarding this report.]

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@clearwave.ca reports on his 13 cm DUBUS results -- I found moderate activity this year on the band. I was hoping to set a personal best, but that was not to be as low North American activity. Sirius satellite QRM, and dropping declination reduced the QSO count a fair bit. Echoes were absolutely loud at times especially during my western window. Overall I worked 25 random QSO's, plus some nice SSB contacts with F2TU and CT1DMK, and added one scheduled station outside of the contest. New ones were JA8IAD for initial #72, RK3WWF #73 - after many QRZ's, JA8ERE #74 and PA3DZL #75 with a super signal from his new amp. I CWNR JA6CZD and WA8RJF, and had a few others call me on 2320 that I could not pull out due to the QRM. My apologies to those that called that did not complete with me. My QSO breakdown was NA stations 4, EU stations 17, AS stations 3 and OC stations 1. Quite lopsided, so it sure pays to be in Europe for these contests. I will change to the 23 cm feed soon and plan to be QRV for the 1296 leg of the contest.

VK3NX: Charlie ibnkarim@bigpond.net.au was active on 13 cm during the DUBUS contest weekend, but had lousy WX conditions his first Moon pass with too much wind to stay on the Moon. He did work K5GW and VE6TA with BIG signals but they were strong enough to move the S meter around substantially even while the dish was rocking furiously in the wind. He was on again the second day and worked a number EU stations plus K2UYH. Unfortunately I did not receive any info on his later results besides a TNX for our QSO. Charlie does say he will be on again for the 23 cm contest weekend.

VK7MO: Rex rmoncur@bigpond.net.au reports that after a number of attempts that he has worked VK3XPD on 10 GHz EME QSO using JT65C! Rex was using only a 64 cm (about 2') dish and 8 W. Alan (VK3XPD) had a 10' dish with a TWTA and 80 W at the feed and a DB6NT preamp. Success was achieved by choosing a time of low libration spreading and a program by VK1XX that automatically corrects my IC-910H for Doppler. More interesting information can be found at <http://www.vk3hz.net/microwave/10-GHz-EME-QSO-with-64-cm.pdf>.



TI2AEB's 12' dish with 23 cm feed in place

WA6PY: Paul pchominski@maxlinear.com April report -- I was QRV in the DUBUS contest on 13 cm and QSO'd CT1DMK, ES5PC, F2TU, F5JWF, G3LTF, G4CCH, IW2FZR, JA4BLC, JA8ERE, K2UYH, K5GW, LZ1DX, OK1CA, OK1DFC, ON5TA, OZ4MM, PA3DZL, RK3WWF, S59DCD, SD3F, SN2012GAM, SV1BTR, VE6TA and WD5AGO. I heard WA9FWD in QSO, but could not find John later on the band. QRM in JA band was stronger compared to the last ARRL EME contest, but still I was able to make two QSO's. I have to see how to improve my 2424 system even more. The best

would be if JA stations were allowed to move to the low end of the band 2400.100 for EME. QRM on this frequency is weaker. On 2320, sometimes I experience a very high noise floor. I suspect that this is noise from Sirius satellites transmitting XM radio in this frequency band. Contrary to the burst type of QRM, this is a continuous wide band modulated signal. Prior to the contest, I QSO'd DL7YC on 6 cm, and on Monday after the contest on 9 cm. I've got a new SSPA for 9 cm that is smaller and lighter than my old 2 x IONICA PAS. I was able to move this SSPA to the feed, and now have 40 W at the feed and stronger echoes. I plan to participate in last two legs of the DUBUS contest on 23 and 6 cm. I missed HB0/DL1SR due to the combination of weather conditions in HB0 limiting their operation time, my window limitations at lower declination and my work hours.

WA8RJE: Tony TEmanuele@kentdisplays.com was QRV for the 13 cm contest – I worked during the DUBUS 13 cm contest weekend K2UYH, F2TU, K5GW, OZ4MM, ES5PC and OK1CA. CWNR were SV1BTR, OK1DFC, HB9Q, CT1DMK, WA6PY, VE6TA, HB9SV and G3LTF. I am hoping to see many of the EME community at Dayton and the VHF Banquet on the Friday evening 18 May [see details in the FINAL section of the March NL].

WA9FWD: John Jstefl@wi.rr.com sends news of his April activity – I was QRV on 13 cm on 28 April and worked SV1BTR (559/559), HB9Q (559/539) for initial # 23, F2TU (559/559), OK1DFC (549/559) #24, OK1CA (559/559), HB9SV (559/559), K5GW (559/559), ES5PC (559/559), K2UYH (549/559), DL1YMK (549/559) #25, VE6TA (449/449) and OZ4MM (559/559), and on 29 April IW2FZR (449/549) #26, SN2012GAM (559/569) #26 and PA3DZL (M/O) #27. I am making progress on improving my station. In the contest, I used my WD5AGO septum feed with a "super VE4MA" scalar ring for the first time. I also threw together a 2320 RX converter the day before the contest. I am getting 13 dB of Sun noise on 2304 and 13.5 dB on 2320. My absolute encoders are working perfectly, and dish positioning is not a problem. This was not the case with the incremental encoders that I was using previously. On TX, I was using a single Spectrian amp with about 120 W at the feed. I am working on getting more power, but I was pleased with the results at my present power level. I still have a problem with my EME window. I lose the first two hours due to trees, and then once I hit 90 to 135 degs azimuth, I am looking thru my self-supporting tower. Signals are definitely degraded during this time. Once I hit 180 degs azimuth, I am in the trees again.

WB2BYP: John wb2byp@iecc.org was active on 1296 in April -- I worked on CW ZS5Y, GM4PMK, PA3FXB and PA2DW, all of whom are low power stations who normally operate on digital. I think they were amazed that I heard them on CW. I think most are in the 100 W category with small dishes, 2-3 m in dia. ZS5Y is my first African QSO on 1296. Derek was quite copiable, although all of them required some patience and 100 Hz filtering. I also easily worked WA1ZMS/4 (579) and N4PZ while running only 30 W. WA1ZMS is working on his feed. It lacks a scalar ring, but this should be resolved soon.

WD5AGO: Tommy wd5ago@hotmail.com reports on his contest problems and successes – While setting up for the DUBUS 9 cm Contest leg, my 12 V/40 lb power supply took a 6 ft drop on to a concrete pad. I bent back the shorted transistor pins and it turned right on, and in time for the start of the contest. I had phased two 50 W PA for 95 W output. Echoes are now easily heard. I worked in March K5GW, DL1YMK, K2UYH, G3LTF, OK1KIR, W5LUA, S59DCD for an initial (#), PA0BAT and ES5PC (#) with no readouts running; echoes were my only tracking. In April, after having 13 cm off-line for 5 months, I got things connected up again for this leg of the DUBUS contest. I was ready for the Asian window on Friday night, when a relay decided not to work. It took some time to find the problem, and I missed the window. Got it fixed on Saturday, but then another coax relay went intermitting, which caused the LNA to oscillate. It was fixed but much of the weekend was a wasted. I decided to not call CQ and only RX and answer for the remaining contest time. I heard and called several stations crossband with only G3LTF (569/569) and G4CCH (559/569) worked, so this issue goes both ways. I also worked on Saturday OK1DFC (559/559), SV1BTR (559/579), F5JWF (339/529) for an initial (#), ES5PC (559/559), WA6PY (559/559) and OK1CA (559/559), and on Sunday for about an hour LZ1DX (559/559), F2TU (569/569) and (55/56) on SSB, K5GW (569/569) and (55/56) on SSB, and K2UYH (339/559). CWNR over the weekend were LA8LF, PA3DZL, IW2FZR, HB9Q, CT1DMK, DL3EBJ, S59DCD and VE6TA. Next time I will have the 2424 checked out and fixed before the west window starts. New relays are in place and we have added a +17 dBm mixer/HB converter for 2424. I will be putting the dish on 23 cm the next leg of the contest. It has been a while since I operated 23 cm with something other than a large horn. We did work K2UYH (33) on SSB, but in a contest you just get eaten up with such low ERP! The 23 cm system will only be up with the dish for the contest weekend. I will be running a 3.1 m dish with CP, 300 W TX, and a 0.2 dB NF LNA on RX.

ZS5Y: Derek's derek@fotogravett.com reports on his 23 cm EME and his new dish – I've worked the following stations during the last few months, on JT: I1NDP, YO2BCT, GW3XYW, PY2BS, YO2LEL, UA3TCF, G4DZU, IK5VLS, UA3MBJ, PA2DW, GW4PMK, VK2AMS, VK2CDB, HB9A and PI9CAM, and on CW: SM3AKW, I1NDP, N4PZ and LX1DB. I have also been working on getting ZS6AXT's dish, which I now have, back in operation. I re-covered it with mesh and replaced some of the original screws with stainless steel. It went up this past weekend (12/13 May) and I should be doing first Sun noise testing within the week. More to follow!



ZS5Y's new dish

K2UYH: I did not do much better with the dxpeditions this month, but still had fun off the Moon. I QSO'd on 22 April, on 1296 at 1350 UA3MJB (22DB/26DB) JT65C for mixed initial #410*, and on 432 during the ATP at 1426 G3LTF (559/559) , 1431 SP7DCS (559/559), 1437 OZ4MM (579/559), 1459 N4GJV (559/559), 1515 DG1KJG (559/559), 1522 K5GW (569/559) and 1547 LZ1DX (569/569), and after at 1640 partial DG1VL (18DB/O) JT65B – lost me and 1706 LZ1DX (6DB/12DB) JT65B, and on 27 April, on 432 at 2055 DJ3JJ (549/549) for CW initial #725, but on 28 April just could not complete with EY8ZF (29DB) on JT. I operated the 13 cm DUBUS Contest with K1JT and NE2U. We worked before the contest on 27 April at 1800 NA4N (559/559), on 28 April in the contest at 0018 NA4N (559/559), 0050 WA8RJE (O/O) for initial #59, 0100 K5GW (579/579), 0153 VE6TA (569/569) , 0300 JA8IAD (549/O) #60 – TNX to my improved western window, 0308 JA6CZD (559/O) #61, 0348 JA4BLC (559/559), 1950 ES5PC (559/569), 2012 LZ1DX (559/559), F5JWF (569/559), 2028 F2TU (559/579), 2040 OK1CA (569/569), 2042 OK1DFC (569/579), 2046 HB9SV (569/579), 2054 G4CCH (569/559) XB, 2104 SV1BTR (569/569), 2111 RK3WWF (559/559) #62, 2119 PA3DZL (559/449) XB, 2148 SV3AAF (549/559), 2153 WA6PY (559/559), 2202 SD3F (559/559), 2210 IW2FZR (559/559), 2216 WA9FWD (549/559), 2221 CT1DMK (569/559), 2242 OZ4MM (579/579), 0330 JA8ERE (549/559) #63 and 0410 VK3NX (559/559) #64 and DXCC, 29 April at 1956 S59DCD (559/559), 2000 OH2DG (559/559), 2018 G3LTF (569/569) XB, 2108 ON5TA (559/559) #65, 2128 CT1DMK (569/569) DUP, 2138 SN2012GAM (559/589) #66 and 2158 WD5AGO (339/559) for a total of 33x31. We heard a number of stations on 2320 as LA8F, DL1YMK, IK3GHY, DL3EBJ, etc., but could not get their attention. I added on 1 May, on 9 cm at 2155 HB0/DF1SR (449/559) for initial #27 and DXCC 13 and 2210 G3LTF (569/559), and on 2 May on 13 cm at 2325 HB0/DF1SR (559/559) #67 and a DXCC.

NETNEWS: **RW3WR** worked on 432 PY2BS in April using JT65B. **VE3KRP** was back on 1296 on 28 April after a teardown and making welding repairs to his dish. He worked N4PZ and I1NDP. Heard were WB2BYP, N2UO and possibly other weak ones. Eddie still needs to do a bit of work on the AZ drive and calibration. **WB2BYP** was on 1296 on 28 April with only 40 W and worked several stations including N4PZ. But, John is in the process of firing up a YL-1050 PA, which should produce a big jump in his power. **K2DH** will active on 1296 EME soon. **WA1ZMS** reports hearing the ON0EME beacon, N4PZ and

