

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS

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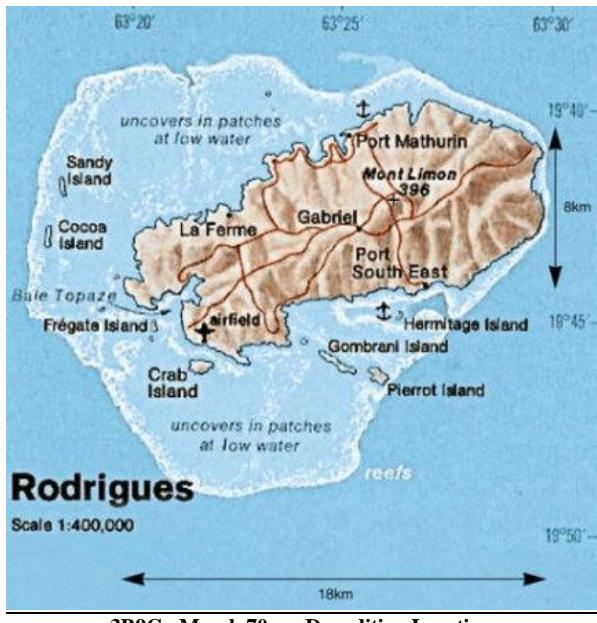
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THE NL WEB VERSION IS PRODUCED BY W6/PA0ZN AND AVAILABLE AT <<http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html>>

CONDITIONS The focus in March was on 70 and 13 cm with the first part of the European World Wide (EWW) EME Contest taking place on these bands. Reports on conditions are mixed, but from my prospective 70 cm conditions were much better than during either weekend of the ARRL EME Contest. Unfortunately WX was not cooperative in many places and this affected turnout. The late moon hours did not help activity either. 13 cm seemed more affected than 70 cm, but I think there is anticipation of a separate microwave EME contest for this band and those above. Activity on 23 cm was reasonable, but of course will blossom at the end of this month (27/28 March) along with 3 cm for the second leg of the EWW Contest. At the same time the 70 cm Rodrigues EME dxpedition will be taking place – see below – and well continue through the regular activity weekend (AW) on 3/4 April.

HIGH SCORES FOR 1296 SSB AND 432 PART OF EWW EME CONTESTS: More scores have now been received and it appears that OE9XXI will receive 2004 SSB Contest Chief Fun Maker Award for giving the most SSB contacts. Peter made 19 QSOs in 10 sectors for a score of 370. G4CCH is in 2nd place with a score of 168. Scores were considerably down this year from past recent years. In the EWW Contest F6KHM appears to have the lead with 58x34, and is followed by HB9Q with 54x28 and OZ4MM with 41x?.



3B9C DXPEDITION: David (GOMRF) GOMRF@ao.com [Dxpediton URL is <http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c/>] writes that everything is go for 70 cm EME operation Rodrigues Island -- I am sending an update on the 70 cm EME situation. I should be on my way to 3B9 by the time this is received. The expedition is fairly large. This will allow me to operate though out any suitable periods. The whole HF operation is 24 hours a day. From my perspective I can work any sked during this period. My horizon is down to sea level for East and North. To the west I have a small hill, but I should be OK down to about 10 - 15 degrees. One limiting factor is pointing accuracy. I am using a camera and not computer control. Obviously clear skies are going to help and thick cloud will be a hindrance. I have been learning as much as possible during the past few months. I was pleased to get very good copy of HB9Q on several occasions on CW and JT44, but I have been disappointed not to get better reception of other

stations using CW. I wonder if this may be related to polarization mismatch? [HB9Q runs circular on transmit]. The 70 cm station was originally designed for operating the uplink to Oscar 40. Since the battery failure on the satellite, we have upgraded the station for CW and JT65 EME communication. The 70 cm antenna is an array of 4 x 19 el yagis from Tonna (F9FT). The combination has 20 dB gain. A 'Discovery' amplifier from Linear Amp UK will produce 700 W from a GS31B triode. The yagis will be set for horizontal pol and have azimuth and elevation rotators. The best period for EME occurs between 26 March 5 April. We plan to xmit on 432.050 always, and listen for sked partner on 432.060. JT44/65 will be on 432.074. We will listen for random calls on 432.055. Messages regarding skeds for EME can be sent to our email address on the island deserving@3b9c.com. Be sure to include "EME" in the message title. I have asked K1RQG to coordinate skeds and will communicate via e-mail. I say that because on 3B9 there will be two stations on 14 MHz active all the time. With 1 kW on CW and 1 kW on SSB, it will be difficult to check in to the 14.345 EME net (or even find a spare 20 m aerial on the island. 3B9 is at Lat/Long 63 deg 29 min E and 19 deg 0 min S. I think that makes the grid MH10. Incidentally, I have an 'unknown' FT847 in the shipping container. Its frequency accuracy has not been measured. Last weekend in the DUBUS Contest I was monitoring JT44/65 signals and found a 900 Hz error. Timing on 3B9 will be via GPS.

9H1ES: Fortunato fbonnici@hotmail.com had great success in his skeds on 1296 – I confirm the following QSOs: K5GW sig (439) and very stable easy to read, N2IQ sig (329) with little fadding but well readable, K2UYH sig (329) good sig sometime with QSB. Earlier I also worked G4CCH (439/439). I want to thank F1EHN for his updated tracking program, which works very accurate, especially the Doppler readings. I will be QRV on random during 2nd part of the EWW Contest with a friend (9H1JT) to help.

DJ9YW: Heinrich DJ9YW@t-online.de in JO42qa is looking for 23 cm skeds on JT44 with his QRP station. It consists of 2 x 21 dBd yagis and 150 W at feed.

DL9KR: Jan Bruinier@t-online.de writes -- It's good to have Joe back on the 20 m net though I've been unable to check in due to the fact that I'm very active on the topband these days or rather nights. Therefore all wires for my other HF bands have been taken down to give room for the 160 top loaded vertical. It is amazing how many EMEers are active on the topband as an alternative for weak signal work. Since Nov last year I have worked 20 new DXCC bringing me up to 200 countries after 18 years of absence. WAZ 160 was also completed. During the DUBUS Contest I was down with a severe cold and only worked 12 stations in a brief period. I am looking forward to spring time and the upcoming expeditions.

F6KHM: Xavier (F5TTU) f5ttu@club-internet.fr reports on his group's moon activity – F6KHM was QRV during the DUBUS EME Contest's first weekend on 432 and worked 58x34 for 197,200. Conditions seemed to be quite good, but activity was low, especially stateside. Only 8 NA stations were logged. I've read that some US stations had WX problems weather (K0RZ). The rig is the same as usual, but we'll improve our RX soon with new LNAs. We enjoyed very much working some of the QRP stations, for example PA5DD (easy) and GW4DGU and others. Sometimes I asked stations to repeat there callsign. It is not a signal problem, but a CW problem. We are some VERY bad CW operators HI HI!!! A new website will posted soon on qsl.net with antenna construction pictures, sound and videos of moon echoes, amplifiers, feed, shack, etc. We hope see you on 27/28 March on 23 cm.

G3LQR: Simon G3LQR@ao.com Was active on both 70 and 13 cm during the EWW EME Contest – I was on for a little while in the contest on 432 and

2320. My 8 yagis on 432 seemed a little better and echoes were there most of the time. I worked HB9Q on CW, but heard Dan later on SSB with an amazing signal. I called DL3WG and on going back to RX was hit by a storm with rain static that made copy difficult, but able to complete the QSO ok. Afterwards I caught F6KHM and the next day OZ4MM, and on moonrise VK3UM, VK4AFL, JA6AHB and DF3RU, before going on 2320. I used my new septum feed, but echoes were still very weak. With no visible moon plus rain conditions were very poor. I only worked OE9XXI and OE9ERC with others heard, but unable to copy. I guess the septum is not good for my .42 f/d dish and needs a choke ring. It should work better when I make the dish a little bigger. On Sunday I changed back to my VE4MA feed with ring on 13 cm and my echoes were much better. Once the moon had cleared the tropo tower and buildings my returns were the best so far. My new 200 W solid state amp is going FB, but I still need to fix my best preamp, which decided to hoot when used this time. I added F1ANH - very hard going but we made it, F2TU and LX1DB to bring me to initial #16 on 13 cm. I was unable to make the USA window as it was past the bedtime for a 70 year old. My sun noise on 23 cm at flux of 100 was about 16.5 dB and on 13 cm 14.5 dB – which is down a little. I will be on 23 cm for the next leg of the contest.

G4CCH: Howard howard@g4cch.com sends his log for the SSB contest -- It's a shame that activity was so low. The WX conditions over here in Europe didn't help. High winds forced me to quit at 0330 several hours before the end of my window. My contest score was 12x2x7 = 168. I missed a chance to score extra points with G3LTFT at 2316. I worked him on CW forgetting that the contest didn't finish till 0000 on the 8th. The following day, I spent some time setting my station up for JT44. Frequency precision and stability is not good on my "prehistoric" system, but I managed to make my first QSO with OE9ERC (O/O) at 2316 on 8 Feb. I am working on a PLL LO for my transverter using CT1DMK's reflock board. Early experiments have failed to lock my G8ACE VCXO. John is working with me to fix the problem. My SSB contest log follows: 7 Feb at 0022 GW3XYW (55/45), 0030 OE9XXI (59/57), 0045 HB9BBB (59/57), 0058 K5GW (58/57), 0126 N2UO (43/43), 0150 DL4MUP (44/43), 0229 F2TU (55/55), 0240 K5JL (57/57), 0250 W7BBM (43/55), 0254 OZ6OL (54/54), 0302 K2UYH (55/55) and 0320 VE6TA (43/54).

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com was active in for the DUBUS Contest on 432. He worked around 12 stations, but was plagued with intermittent sequencer relay problems, which destroyed one pre amp. The intermittency eventually became permanent allowing it to be traced and fixed.

GW3XYW: Stuart's gw3xyw@thersgb.net sends his March EME Report -- My first contact on Fri 5 March was with GW4DGU (M/O) for an initial GW to GW on 70cm EME. It was possible to hear Chris on two frequencies separated by the 600 Hz Doppler shift. This was followed by a JT44 contact with HB9Q. JT44/65 operation has now resulted in EME QSOs on 23 cm, 70 cm and 2 m. Contacts for 6/7h March on 70 cm were UA3PTW, OH2DG, K4QI, F6KHM, K1FO, HB9Q (SSB), SM3AKW, OZ4MM, S52CW, SP6JLW, DJ6MB, DL1YMK and UA3PTW (dup) for 12 contacts in 10 countries. After maintenance of my W2IMU (23 cm) feed has been re-installed on the dish and is ready for the 27/28 March. I also hope to be QRV on 10 GHz for the contest. Please check for a weak signal around 10368.100 MHz.

HB9Q: Dan (HB9CRQ) hb9crq@hb9q.ch updates us on his group's activities -- On 432 we participated in the DUBUS EME Contest and ended with 54x28. Conditions seemed to be below average - lot's of fast and deep QSB. Participation was okay and it was very nice to work several stations on SSB! We were also active on JT44 and worked several QRP stations down to 1x21el and 50W! It looks like we can work almost any tropo station using JT44! It was a pleasure to work 7 new initials for a total of 249. We worked the following stations on 5 March JH3QYM (OH-13/O) JT44 for initial #243, 1738 JG2BRI (OH-18/O) JT44, 1943 GW4DGU (OH-13/O) JT44 and 2146 GW3XYW (OH-7/O) JT44, on 6 March at 1715 SP6JLW (539H/559), 1719 OH2DG (549H/559), 1723 SK0CC (539H/539), 1729 DJ6MB (559H/559), 1733 JJ1NNJ (539H/569), 1738 UT3LL (539H/539), 1742 YO4FRJ (539H/O), 1747 EA3DXU (539H/539), 1755 OZ4MM (559H/569), 1803 YU1EV (429H/569), 1808 DF3RU (539H/579), 1822 JA8IAD (429H/559), 1830 JA2TY (429H/449), 1835 VK4AFL (559H/579) and (54H/55) on SSB, 1839 DL7APV (53H/55) SSB, 1850 S52CW (549H/579), 1852 ES6RQ (539H/559), 1854 UA3PTW (549H/579), 1902 DL7UDA (529H/559), 1908 G4ALH (429H/559), 1915 HB9JBL (539H/519) #244, 1927 UA3DJG (429H/O) #245, 1935 DK8VS (429H/539), 1941 OK2BDQ (539H/559), 1958 G4RGK (539H/559), 2004 YO2IS (429H/569), 2009 G3LQR (549H/569), 2029 JA6AHB (439H/559), 2037 JA3SGR (429H/559), 2047 RW3PX (429H/439), 2054 DL1YMK (549H/559), 2103 GW4DGU (419H/539), 2118 F6KHM (54H/55) SSB, 2121 S52CW (42/55) SSB, 2123 GW3XYW (53V/55) SSB, 2126 SP6JLW (42H/53) SSB, 2130 DL7UDA (41/53) SSB, 2133 DJ6MB (52/55) SSB, 2152 ON5OF

(549H/569) SSB, and 2245 DL7UAE (OH-16/O-17) JT44, and on 7 March at 0018 K9SLQ (529H/569), 0030 K4QI (539H/569), 0036 CT1DMK (529H/559), 0055 K9BCT/4 (529H/579), 0059 N9AB (529H/579), 0119 ZS6NK (OV-21/O) JT44 #246, 0134 K1OLE (OH-12/O) JT44 #247, 0215 DL5LF (429H/559), 0337 VE6TA (529V/569), 0343 K4EME (549H/579), 0430 OH1JCS (OH-23/O) JT44 #248, 0520 KL6M (559H/559), 1838 JA4BLC (529H/559), 1909 DG1KJG (419H/559), 2038 JH4JLV (549H/569), 2045 VK3UM (559H/579), 2053 JH3QYM (549H/O) and 2200 ON4DPX (OH-24/O) JT44 #249. QRP stations worked on 432 in March were N9AB 16 x 22 el with 20 W on JT44 - heard loud on speaker, OH1JCS 1x21 el with 50 W JT44 - first EME QSO, ON4DPX 2x26 el 50 W on JT44 - first EME QSO, JJ3JHP 4x21 el 50 W, SP2OFW 8x22 el 50 W, JG2BRI 16x17 el 50 W, DL7UDA 4x21 el 70 W [PA was QRT!], SK6EI 2x28 el 100 W - first EME QSO, A71AW 3 m dish 100 W - first EME QSO, ZS6NK 2x13 wl 100 W JT44 - first EME QSO, DF6NA 4x39 el 100 W, UA4ALU 12x29 el 100 W - first EME QSO, KL7FH 16x12 el 100 W, VK3FMD 2x27 el 120 W, VK3BRZ 4x15 el 120 W first EME QSO, IIPIK 4x31 el 120 W - first EME QSO, GM4ISM 4x21 el 175 W, PE1ITR 2x28 el 180 W, VK7MO 1x17 el 200 W JT44 - first EME, VK3HZ 1x21 el 200 W JT44 - first EME QSO and UA3DJG 2x5 m 200 W. Our next activity will probably be 26/27 March from 2100 to approx. 0000. We will be calling CQ in JT44 on 432.040 or in on 432.020 and will take skeds (JT44 and CW) on request. We will be focusing on QRP stations. During our JT44 activity we log-in at <<http://www.chris.org/cgi-bin/jt44eme>>. On 27/28 March we will participate in the DUBUS EME Contest on 144 and 1296. We plan to be calling CQ on 1296.016 from approx 0845 on 27 March to 0145 on 28 March and from approx 0930 on 28 March to 0000.

JA4BLC: Yoshiro ja4blc@web-sanin.co.jp had problems during the March part of the contest -- On Saturday night of first part of Euro contest, I had a failure of the elevation control relays of my dish. The repair was done on Sunday and as a result I worked only the following stations on 432 KL6M for initial #267, HB9Q, UA3PTW, DF3RU and OZ4MM, and on 13 cm ZS6AXT, OE9XXI, OZ4MM and F2TUon 2304 and SM3AKW on 2320.

K4EME: Cowels candrus@rica.net had lost of problems during the EWW Contest weekend. He came home to find high wind and his array damaged with a number of broken U-bolts. On top of this he was coming down with the flu. Despite all his problems he did make it on 432 after the winds calmed down. He worked F6KHM, K1FO, HB9Q and OZ4MM.

K4QI: Russ K4QI@aol.com is active on EME again – I was back on 432 EME for the DUBUS Contest. I worked on 6 March UA3PTW, F6KHM, I5CTE, RA3LE, OH2DG, S52CW, EA3DXU, OK2BDQ, GW3XYW, YU1EV, DF3RU, DL7APV, DL1YMK, SP6JLW, N9AB, DK3WG, CT1DMK, K9SLQ and K2UYH, and on 7 March HB9Q, G4RGK, UA6LGH, ON5OF, K9BCT/4, DJ6MB, SM3AKW, DL5LF, OZ4MM and VE6TA. I was not able to be on for the Asian window on 6 March because of very high winds. In general, activity seemed low for a contest weekend. I will be on 1296 for the second weekend.

K7XQ: Jeff k7xq@elite.net is now available for skeds on 432 with 3.3 m dish, dual dipole feed and 800 W from a 2 x 4CX400A PA. He is experimenting with JT65 and has initial #5. He is also still on 1296 using the same 3.3 m dish with 130 W at feed from 2 x 7289 water-cooled Hi-Spec PA. He is at initial #22 on 1296. Jeff's webpage: <http://www.elite.net/~k7xq/k7xq.html>.

K5JL: Jay cliebman@ionet.net was active on 1296 during the AW. He found 23 cm activity good and had 5 on SSB QSOs including one 3way. Jay notes excellent signals from N2IQ and that NA4N was on as well.

KD3UY: Bob kd3uy@comcast.net is interested in 70 cm EME and looking for the design of a long boom quagi – I am active on 2 m JT44/65 EME, and am attempting to become similarly QRV on 432. I have a 100 W brick and a 5 wl quagi (optimized for 435.5 MHz) for 70 cm. I would like to do is extend the quagi to approximately 10 wl. I have searched everywhere for a very long quagi design with out success. Does anyone have a good design for a 10+ wl long quagi? [W1EJ did some long loop yagi designs. N9AB has a excellent results with stacked quagis – see <http://www.qsl.net/pa3csg/Boek/BoekH3/art3-29.htm>]. With some help from W6/PA0ZN, I kludged together a design based on the 5 wl quagi and a long K1FO yagi using "Antenna Modeler" software. The resultant design was a bit of a dog. 10 wavelength gain is only 17.8 dBi. Does anyone have any suggestions on how I can improve this beast? It is my sincere belief that the availability of a long quagi will increase 70 cm EME activity.

M0EME: Paul m0eme@qsl.net in IO93gf is listening on 70 cm EME with 1 FO20 yagi. He hopes to expand to 4 yagis and 400 W soon. He has been working to get on 70 cm EME for 2 years. He is also interested in the design of a 70 cm HEMT preamp.



M0EME's EME Antenna (RX only now)

N2IQ: Marc gummer@dreamscape.com reports that back in the ARRL EME Contest he score 97x40, which I believe would have put him in second place in the ARRL's single operator category. Unfortunately Marc had the report ready to mail, but just forgot to mail it in on time.

OE9XXI: Peter rimal.peter@@aon.at has the top reported score for the 1296 EME SSB Contest with 18 SSB QSOs and one CW to SSB contact in 10 sections for a score of $(18 \times 2+1) \times 10 = 370$ points. His complete contest log is as follows: 0003 OZ6OL (54/55) JO, 0011 GW3XYW (55/55) IO, 0030 G4CCH (56/59) IO, 0039 HB9BBB (57/57) JN, 0045 FIANH (44/56) IN, 0051 DL4MUP (44/52) JN, 0107 K5GW (58/59) EM, 0526 WA6PY (44/55) DM, 0529 F2TU (55/57) JN, 0540 VA7MM (43/56), 0543 K2UYH (56/59) FN, 0559 W7BBM (44/55) DM, 0611 VE7BBG (43/56) CN, 1940 OE9ERC (56/57) JN, 1952 IK3COJ (44/55) JN, 1958 DK7LJ (57/58) JO, 2006 HB9SV (57/58) JN, 2055 UR5LX (449/55) KO. Peter's station consists of a TS700/FT757 with HB xvrter, TH327 PA at 1000 W and ATF36036 0.4 dB NF LNA to an 8.84 m dish (f/d 0.51, circular pol. dual mode horn, with 3dB coupler).

OZ4MM: Stig vestergaard@os.dk reports on the first leg of the DUBUS EME Contest -- I operated on both 432 and 2304 again and found condx under normal here. Also QRM on 432 is a growing problem. Activity seemed to be less during the weekend compared with other years. On the positive side was good WX here and time for family projects beside contest operating. Initials were made on both bands. I decided to take time for sleeping during both moon passes, so I could do something with the family during the day. On 432 41 stations were worked and initials added with ES6RQ for DXCC 45, DL7UDA, RW3RX and GW4DGU. I missed many regular stations. Some on of these were active on Saturday when I was operating 2304. On 2304 I worked 12 stations with initials to VE6TA and OH6NVQ to bring me to #44. Nil was heard from OK, LX, G or GW during the weekend. I was trying to get my 2424 receiver alive again. Just prior to moonrise on Sunday I succeed with outstanding help from JA4BLC. I expect to be active on 1296 in the 2nd part of the contest.

PA2CHR: Chris c.ploeger@planet.nl writes that his group (PI9CM club) will go to a nice DXCC-country this year. We plan to be QRV on 2 m and 70 cm EME. The 432 rig will be 4 x 33 el BVO yagis, a PHEMT preamp and a GS31 PA. We will be QRV on CW (we all like this most) and JT65b modes to give as many people as possible a chance to work us. Because we will operate at the same time on 2 m and 70 cm we need to TX/RX in the same period!

PY5ZBU: Don py5zbu@onda.com.br writes that he is changing QTHs -- I am presently moving my QTH to a farm, which I purchased some months ago. The HF station is now active and the dish will be ready in about 2 or 3 weeks. I am way up on high ground with almost zero noise level and a horizon-to-horizon moon view.

SK0CC: Sven (SM5LE) sven.o.nordin@telia.com reports 12 QSOs in 8 hours on 70 cm in the first leg of EWW EME Contest-- Lot of inband spurious that no filter in the world can fix were a major problem! SK0CC can only work when side lobes are at a minimum on the horizon. We still have 3 dB of TX feed loss, but just hear a EME signal keeps one going! I had a lot of fun despite the problems.

VE6TA: Grant ve6ta@telusplanet.net is QRV on 2304 and has QSO'd W5LUA and F2TU, and during the first night of the contest F2TU, OZ4MM, OE9XXI and OE9ERC, which brings him to initial #5. He has 90 W in shack and feels that his receive is down. Grant will be comparing the VE4MA feed with the Septum feed. Grant was also on 70 cm a bit and worked 6 stations. He is now at #99 and looking for #100. He is looking for skeds on both 70 and 13 cm (tel is 780-973-5127).

VK3UM: Doug's tikaluna@ycs.com.au log for the 1st part of the EWW EME Contest follows – 7 March at 0926 K2UYH (55N/55N), 0938 JA2TY (53N/44N), 1002 VK4AFL (54N/55N), 1015 K9SLQ (55N/57N), 1025 JA6AHB (53N/55N), 1030 VK5MC (53N/54N) and 1044 JJ1NNJ (53N/55N), and on 8 March at 1001 KL6M (55N/55N), 1716 UA3PTW (55N/56N), 1736 UT3LL (54N/55N), 1741 SK0CC (53N/O), 1819 DF3RU (55N/55N), 1833 DJ6MB (55N/55N), 1850 RW3PX (53N/53N), 1912 OZ4MM (55N/55N), 1924 RA3LE (53N/45N), 1931 EA3DXU (55N/44N), 1946 G3LQR (55N/55N), 2000 DK8VS (53N/54N), 2009 F6KHM (55N/55N), 2017 DK3WG (55N/55N), 2027 ON5OF (55N/55N) and 2047 HB9Q (57N/55N) for a total of $23 \times 17 \times 100 = 39,100$ points. Unfortunately we had a 13 hour 10 minute mains power outage, which prevented me getting on for the European window on Saturday. Although I have a diesel back up supply for the house, it has insufficient capacity to run the hydraulics and azimuth motors of the dish. I simply did not have enough time on the Sunday to work everybody and ended up with about half those I normally work. The NA window provided little activity with only 3 stations present. Conditions were pretty good, if not unusual, as I had little Faraday into Europe where reciprocal pol was present in lieu of the 'normal' cross polarization. There has been considerable discussion lately on the best dates for the ARRL's EME Contest. From a VK perspective 11/12 Sept and 9/10 Oct would be preferred as these give me the most window to Eur. From my stand point 'conditions' don't really matter as all weekends give me adequate 'head room' to work those that come on. Really I only need two hours total to work all NA stations over 4 days, but my European windows are important as I generally have insufficient time to work all of those available.

W5LUA: Al al.ward@@agilent.com sends the following proposal regarding the ARRL EME Contest-- Based on the comments I have seen posted on Moon-Net it appears that the Oct 9/10 and the Dec 4/5 weekends are good potential candidates for the ARRL EME Contest in 2004. If that is the way the vote goes, then I would like to suggest the following: 1) Since it appears that most 2 m operators would like to have a 2 weekend contest, I propose in 2004 that we have a Microwave EME contest on a third weekend specifically Oct 30/31. The Microwave EME contest would start at 13 cm and encompass all bands higher in frequency. The higher declination would give more moon time and the additional path loss would only amount to a dB or so. If the vote that VE7BQN is taking happens to favor the Oct 30/31 weekend then we can pick another date for the third weekend. 2) I would be interested in knowing what you folks think about limiting the Oct 9/10 and Dec 4/5 weekends to all bands up through 23 cm, and leaving the third weekend for 13 cm and higher? Please comment to me on both items. As many of you have pointed out, it is all about increasing activity on all amateur frequencies. I for one am looking forward to getting back on 2 m EME and this may be the year for me to do it. And, I also hope to see some of you 2 m guys think about getting on 3 cm or 23 cm EME. The ARRL is receptive to making changes to the EME contest that are of interest to the EME community, and shares our intent of increasing activity. Please let me know how you feel about these proposed changes and I will forward them on to the league. EME wise, Al worked on 13 cm VE6TA (O/O) for initial #54, and during the 1st day of the contest QSO'd F2TU, OZ4MM and OE9XXI. He also tried with nil results with SM3AKW - hi winds and chased F1ANH and OE9ERC.

WA9FWD: John cjstefl@execpc.com is still looking for 3456 EME skeds, but had his 2304 feed in his dish for the EWW EME Contest. He called CQ for 3 hours and worked on random only OZ4MM. F2TU was heard but not worked. He still has only 30 W at feed of a 12' dish, but has a 300 W Spectran SSPA on order. John is now QRT on 70 cm.

ZS6AXT: Ivo zs6axt@global.co.za is QRV again after his disastrous lightning strike – I have finally repaired my dish drives and am back on. After the repair and installation of the EL transducer, I tried to lower the dish but the clutch between motor and gear gave up! I had to wait for few days until the WX allowed me to change the motor with clutch. After that I took out first the 6 cm assembly and found that the 20 W SS PA was not damaged, only the preamps got hit. This was good news. The 23 and 13 cm preamps survived too. So on 29 Feb I got on 23 cm and after many CQs caught G4CCH with good signals both ways. I had bad WX during the following week and thus gave up installing 6 cm. WX for the contest weekend was even worse, it took me 2 hours on Saturday to find the moon since the AZ potentiometer was soaked with water! After my CQ, I worked on 13 cm ON5RR for initial #32 and then OZ4MM,

F1AHN (very unstable signals), OE9XXI, OE9ERC and SM3AKW. After that, the WX got much worse and I had to close down. On Sunday evening the WX was a bit better and I worked JA4BLC and F2TU. G3LQR was coming through with good signals, but I CWNR. By then I was at the limit of my elevation, so I had to close again. Signals of all stations were quite good. On Monday, of course, the WX cleared up! I hope see all of you in the second part on 23 cm.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org operated the EWW EME Contest with Bob, N4HY on 432 and 2304. N2UO also showed up for the 13 cm effort, which was very last minute. Nothing was tested before the contest. We used my 28' dish with a circular polarized horn mounted offset above my 1296 feed with a DEM 80 W SSPA. We just put the pieces together and hoped. It turned out that our xverter, which was suppose to have a 0.8 dB NF, actually had a NF > 22 dB! After I put a preamp in front of the xverter, we were able to hear our own echoes and worked on 7 March at 0424 OE9XXI (449/569) for my initial #1 and 0429 OE9ERC (559/569) #2. [My dish has previously been used on 13 cm under the call WA2WEB, a club station for which I am trustee. Stations who have worked WA2WEB on 2304 should not count QSOs with K2UYH as initials]. The NF of preamp/xverter was still > 4 dB, so we have plenty of room for RX improvement. We are planning to concentrate on 23 cm for the 2nd leg of the EWW EME Contest, but may be active on 13 cm during the normal AW on 3/4 April and are interested in skeds. On 432 we QSO'd on 6 March at 0201 S52CW (559/559), 0206 UA3PTW (549/559), 0212 DF3RU (559/559), 0216 DL1YMK (559/559), 0224 EA3DXU (559/439), 0242 F6KHM (579/569), 0251 OK2BDQ (559/449), 0307 K1FO (559/559), 0313 K4QI (569/559), 0320 N9AB (559/559), 0326 CT1DMK (559/559), 0333 YU1EV (549/569), 0418 SM3AKW (569/569), 0443 OZ4MM (559/559), 0502 F2TU (559/559), 0517 SP6JLW (559/559), 0529 KL6M (559/559), 0537 WA4NJP (559/449), 0922 JA6AHB (559/559), 0932 VK3UM (559/559) and 0945 VK4AFL (559/559), and on 7 March at 0058 DK3WG (559/559), 0121 G4RGK (559/559), 0128 OH2DG (569/559), 0135 DJ6MB (559/539) and 0141 ON4OF (559/559) for a total of 26x20. The next night I QSO'd on 1296 at 0830 9H1ES (559/439). This was not an initial as I had previously worked Fortunato, but this time had a much improved signal. It would be nice to get some 9H1 activity on 70 cm. I ran skeds on 9 and 10 March on 1296 using JT44 with VK3FMD. Although signals were copied on both ends, neither of us received full calls. I used my regular circular feed the first day and on the 2nd try a linear feed, but observed very little difference. On 21 March, I finally QSO'd on 432 at 1700 OK1DFC (-20 dB/19 dB) in JN79 using JT65C for Initial #675, and am interested in more JT44/19 and CW skeds.

NET/REFLECTOR NEWS BY G4RGK (BASED ON K1RQG'S NETNOTES): **G3LTF** is working on a 3.4 GHz EME and now has the RX system working. Peter has a new email g3lif@btinternet.com. **YO3FF** is planning to build a small 1296 EME system to activate YO on this band. He has a TS450 transceiver and is considering buying a DB6NT TVTR for 23 cm. He is looking locally for a TVRO dish and will try to build a feed horn. His big problem, because of the expense is the PA. Cristi is a beginner at this and would appreciate any help he can get. **TI2NA** is making plans to get back on 70 cm and 23cm EME according to K5L. **WA3DJG** is working to be QRV on 1296 in Oct. He has a 4.5 m dish and 2x7289 water cooled PA. **W7DSA** has 250 W and a 12' dish 23 cm. He hopes to be QRV this summer. **W7QX** is QRV on 23 cm, but still with low power. He is working to get on 10 GHz EME. Jerry has a new email address W7QX@MSN.COM. **SM4IVE** reports no progress on his new dish. **IK2MMB** is now using ik2mmb@email.it for email. **KU4F** also has a new email ku4f@earthlink.net. **K0YW** is working on his dish tower, putting in a new encoder and hopes to be back on EME soon. **W7CI** hopes to be on 23 cm EME soon. Unfortunately his prop-pitch motor died, but he has a replacement. **W9IIX** now has his 23 cm PA running at 500+ W out. **W2UHI** was on moon in March on 23 cm and can be QRV anytime. **NA4N** is QRV on 23 cm with 300 W. **W5BL** is interested in 23 cm EME. **K9BCT** has a 70 cm feed in his dish and was active in the contest making 10 QSOs. **UA9FAD** worked on 70 cm EME YO4FRJ (29.Feb.) and DF6NA. **DK3WG** QSO'd on 432 YO4FRJ (539/O) in sked and made 22 QSOs in the EWW EME Contest. **F5VHX** expects to be on 23 cm for 2nd leg of contest. **SM2CEW** will be on 1296 for the contest too. **WB0GGM** has not been active due to some equipment problems. **ON5OF** worked 9 stations on 70 cm in the EWW Contest. He notes that when he sends "YYYYYY" stations still send his call instead of their own call. **NA4N** was on 23 cm during the March AW and worked K5JL and heard several others. **K0RZ** had hi winds (over 80 mph) and could not get on for the EWW Contest. Fortunately there was no damage to his antennas.

FOR SALE: **G0Ruz** has 2 TH347 pulls that are in working order and a cavity for sale. The cavity is suitable for 1296 modification. They are in the US, but there is no problem for shipping to Eur. I have photographs. Please email Conrad at CONRAD@G0Ruz.NET, if you are interested. **DL8OBu** has for sale his entire 70 cm EME station. A 4 x 33 el yagi array including the complete

H-Frame, commercial power-splitter, elevation rotator, YL1050 PA, an HF400 relay and a Versatower P40. Contact him at <http://www.qsl.net/dl8obu/Graphix/Antenne.jpg>. **PA3CSG** has the complete mechanics for a 432 PA as described on his webpage <http://www.qsl.net/pa3csg>. Only few hours work are needed to complete the RF deck. No tube, no blower and no power supply, just mechanics. Geert also has low pass filters equipped with 7/16 plugs on the in- and outputs. **UR4LL** has for sale relays: REW14 1500 W (on 650 MHz) 50 ohm coaxial relays + 3 cable connectors for \$US33, REW15 1500 W (on 650 MHz) 75 ohm coaxial relay + 3 cable connectors for \$US23, and tubes: GS31b 1000 W (on 1000 MHz) triode for \$US75. You can see these and other parts at www.nd2x.net/ur4ll.html. **K6JEY** is looking for a complete 23 cm PA with 100-200 W output. **OE9ERC** has for sale 2 PA for 10.3 GHz. One has an output of 13.5 W for 200 mW in with 12-15 VDC and the other has 30.5 W output for 440 mW in with 12-15 VDC. See <http://www.oe9erc.com> for more details. **GM4PLM** is moving from Scotland to DL Land and most sell his 5 m., 3 f/d, 12 GHz Pioneer dish (fine mesh surface) complete 3 m mounting tower and positioning system with gun turret type mounting and worm driven motor for azimuth movement. Elevation is with a large screw jack motor. Two large counter weights mount to the back of the dish for balance. The dish position readout uses two US Digital position encoders. These read out position in serial format to an accuracy of 0.1 deg. The controller software and RS232 interface to test and align the encoder units and auto control are included. The buyer must collect, but a large van could carry it all! Price is set only to recoup the transport costs when it was moved to the UK from HB land. He is looking for around 750 UKP. Simon also has for sale a Western Heavy Duty 60° Tilt Over Lattice Tower in good condition for around 300 UKP. If a serious buyer, please contact Simon at gm4plm@hotmail.com.

FINAL: With K1RQG back on the job as 20 Net Control, the skeds list is back! Although no large, it is a beginning and will hopefully help generate a greater turnout on the AWS.

EME2004 – The EME Conference is little more than 4 months away. This conference will have everything... outstanding speakers, tutorial session, plenty time to socialize and BS with appropriate refreshment, an area for every attendee to post information on his station, available laboratory with quality test instruments for checking out equipment, super flea market with great buys, terrific spouses program, and more... If you look at the conference webpage <http://www.qsl.net/eme2004/spouses.htm> you will see that the registration is growing, but we need your registration. There is still space for more speakers and papers. Please make your travel plans and get you registrations in ASAP.

Want to know the full story of the ARRL EME Contest? Russ, K2TXB has done and outstanding job writing up the 2003 ARRL EME Contest. Detailed information the 4 ARRL EME Contest results can be found at <http://www.eitcomm.net/~russk/eme/eme.htm>.

What about next year – choosing the 2004 dates has turned into a real battle, with very strong opinions on what dates are best. One of the reasons that activity has been down this year is that there are no outstanding weekends, and activity tends to be spread out. An added complication is that the Italian EME Contest is already schedules for 11/12 Sept. The only remaining Fall dates with GOOD/MODERATE conditions and POSITIVE DECLINATION are 9/10 Oct and 4/5 Dec.

See W5LUU's comments on a Microwave EME Contest. It is very likely that both the ARRL and the European EME Contests will have separate weekend for microwave EME in 2005.

We have received several letters expressing concern about have ones email address published in an electronic NL as this one where Internet robots might pick it up and use it in SPAM lists. To avoid this problem we have added a 2nd @ to all email address. **To use the email addresses shown in the NL you must delete this 2nd @.**

G4RGK notes that the technical note on power slugs in the last NL should have been attributed to OZ5IQ not him.

Want a current list of active 432 & up EME stations' calls? See DL4EBY's EME Info Page "Cheat Sheet" at <http://www.dl4ebv.de/>.

I tried to get this NL out a week early with the EWW Contest coming a week before the AW, but was not very successful. Please keep the reports and technical material coming – as you can see this month we need more technical pieces. I shall be looking for you during the contest and also during the following AW. 73.AI – K2UYH

27 March Skeds

Time 1296.050

1400z 9H1ES -F5VHX

1430z 9H1ES -G3LTF

1900z 9H1ES -W2UHI

1930z 9H1ES -K0YW

28 March Skeds

Time 1296.050

1930z 9H1ES -W2UHI