

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS NOVEMBER 2008 VOL 36 #13

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CONDITIONS: In Oct 1296 seems to have stolen the show with excellent conditions and historic activity levels. Conditions on 432 were not very good and this coupled with 1296's high activity may have lowered the time stations spent there. I suspect if conditions improve that 432 will see increased activity in Nov. Reminder A43DLH will be QRV on 432 EME in Nov – see below.

HIGH CONTEST SCORES: OK1CA has the early lead on 1296 with an impressive score of 85x36, all on CW/SSB! His closest competition is from F2TU with 78 CW QSOs, G3LTF with 70x36 on CW and DL0SHF with 68 on CW/SSB. The highest JT score reported on 23 cm was 10 by ES6PC. On 432 the undisputed leader is DL7APV with 59 QSOs on CW followed by OH2PO with 52x36. HB9Q reports the top 70 cm JT tally with 18 QSOs.

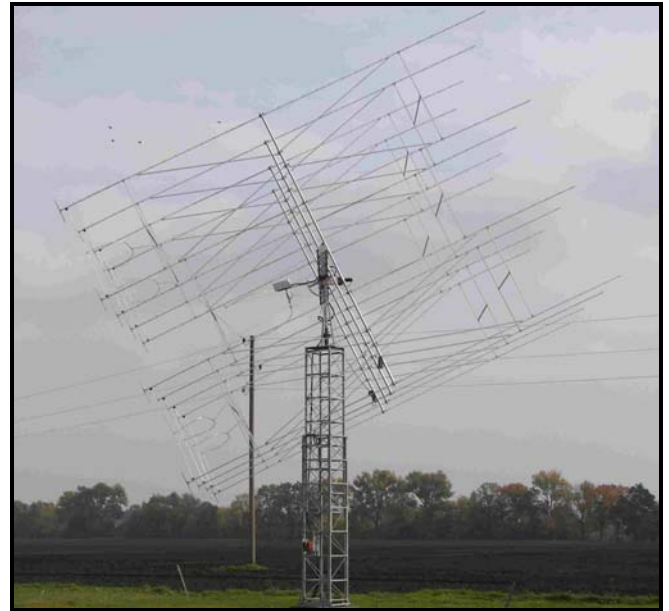
DXPEDITION NEWS: A43DLH should be QRV on 2 m and 70 cm EME from 6 to 11 Nov, operated by DL8YHR. They will have a single 38 el M² yagi plus 1 kW on 70 cm. Operation will be on 432.050. CW is preferred, but JT65B will be used as well. A43DHL will operate first with 1 minute sequencing. Direct sked requests to Frank at DL8YHRFRANK@aol.com.

DF1SR: George df1sr@arcor.de is relatively new on 1296 EME -- I found good activity on 23 cm in the contest. I had 24 QSOs and hope to work some VKs and JAs in the next leg. My station consists of a 3 m dish and a 400 W PA.

DJ8MS: Tor dj8ms@web.de was active on 432 EME from his portable location in JO63 with 4 yagis -- Unfortunately I found activity on 70 cm rather poor during the EME contest, at least when I was active. I worked only DL7APV (impressive signal) and HB9Q. I heard ES5PC and VK3UM on (CW). Thus I made no new QSOs. Maybe I'll be on 23 cm in the Nov leg of the contest.

DL0SHF: Carsten (DL6LAU) carsten.esch@appello.de writes -- I was at DL0SHF for the Oct contest weekend. It was the first time that our new amp (4 x 500W SSPAs from DB6NT) was used. There were no big problems to report. On Saturday morning some of the protection circuits tripped quite often, but DK7LJ was able to cure this after moonset, while I took a nap. This means we now have 3 dB more power. The old 4x 250 W SSPA was located directly in the feed. Because the new amp is much heavier, the amp is now located a few meters away on the dish platform. The cable in between is 1 5/8 Flexwell. I was not feeling very comfortable when stations with a very small signal called and I missed at least 2 weaker ones on Saturday evening around 0200. I would be very interested who they were. One was a G3R???. I need a smaller RX bandwidth for these signals. The 500 Hz from the IC910 was not sufficient for my ears - sorry to these stations. We also have too much overall gain. We plan to work on this too. If you called me in vain, please let me know! I worked on CW (unless noted different) in the first pass: RA3AQ, OK3RM, SV1OE, OK1DFC, HB9HAL, ON4BCB, RU3ACE, LA2Z, SV3AAV, UT5JCW, DL6SH, F5VHX, OK1CA, SD3F, K1RQG, W9IIX, DF1SR, G3LTF, ES5PC, SP7DCS, LA5ZK, W4OP, K2DH, G4RGK, W3HMS, NA4N, IK2MMB, SP6JLW, RA3EC, DL4MEA, N2UO, OH2DG, IK3COJ, K5PJR, VE6TA, NY2Z, DF3RU, LA9NEA, WW2R, PI9CAM (SSB), UR5LX, W7UPF, ON7UN, WA5WCP, F5JWF, RW6AG, VA7MM, G4CCH, IW2FZR, K1JT, HB9SV, F2TU, DL1YMK, IK5WJD, VE4SA, K4QI, K6JEY, K3JNZ/0, SM4DHN, HB9Q, AL7RT and LX1DB (SSB) for 62 different stations. At 0900 I went QRT some hours before our moonset (not enough fresh meat available). Heard but not worked were PA0BAT, SM5LE, OE5JFL and I5MPK. On our moonrise I worked VK3UM, OE5JFL, PA0BAT, JH5LUZ, PA3DZL and VK4AFL. I went QRT at 2100 because I was tired and felt bad because I could not identify two very weak callers, and because there was not too many new were stations around. Our total for the weekend was 68. Heard Saturday evening and not worked was ES6RQ. We could hear our echoes with the moon at 0.2° of elevation, probably not too much moon surface to hit with most of the moon below the horizon. I (again) wonder why there are two full weekends devoted to 23 cm in the ARRL EME Contest. I will probably be on a few hours in the Nov leg in four weeks (but not for the full time) to chase the remaining stations.

DL4MEA: Gunter guenter.koellner@nsn.com reports on his activity on 23 cm in the Nov leg -- I got up at 0430 local time, had a nice breakfast and then something unusual happened; stations were worked as expected! No broken cable, no blown preamp (well, that happened during the preparations), no water in a connector... I simply switched on and it worked. I QSO'd K1JT, K1RQG, DL0SHF, DF1SR, SP6JLW, G3LTF, OK3RM, PI9CAM (SSB), K5PJR, SD3F, K2DH, VE6TA, W9IIX, F5JWF, NA4N, NY2Z, HB9SV, OH2DG, LA9NEA, WW2R, ES5PC, RA3AQ, DL1YMK, OK1CA, I5MPK for an initial (*), DL6SB, ON7UN, LA2Z, W4OP, F5VHX, RU3ACE, DF3RU, VA7MM, F2TU, SM4DHN, HB9HAL, LX1DB (SSB), HB9Q (SSB) and K4QI. Heard only were G4RGK, IK2MMB, IW2FZR, N2UO and SV3AAF. It was nice to see the stations spread out. Activity went up to nearly 040. There were some very strong signals (DL0SHF for example). For nearly the whole time I was only listening and searching for other CQs; it was real fun. Not the least at the end when there were a number of SSB QSOs going. My rig remains a 4.5 m dish, TH347 (operating at 700 W output), 2 x MRF286 driver, FT847, G4DDK preamp with 0.3 dB NF and DD9DU transverter. Currently I am measuring 13.2 dB of sun noise at an SFI=70. I am thinking about trying 70 cm in Nov.



DL7APV's new 16 x 13 wl 9BV array for 70 cm

DL7APV: Bernd dl7apv@gmx.de did well on 70 cm in the Oct part of the ARRL EME Contest with his new array -- The new antenna works fine now (16 x 13 wl 9BV yagis with 6 mm open wire feed line). Readout was a problem, but I have changed the AZ rotor and added an inclinometer. My new preamp from DJ3FI (NF = 0.22 dB) helped a lot. My sun noise is 18.5 dB close to the calculated 19.3 at a solar flux of 73. Also I changed all to 7/16 connectors including the TX/RX Relay. On the TX side, all is as before with TH327 PA and 50 m of 1 5/8" Heliac plus 6 m of Ecoflex 15 around the rotor. I have about 1 kW at the feed. (PA3CMC took my old system, 8 x 13 wl yagis, and plans to put it up in the spring). Before the contest I worked RA6DA with 4 x 23 el yagis and 50 W, UA4LCF, EB3DYS 4 x 13 wl yagis and 25 W, EA3XU 2 x 21 el and 85 W and I1NDP (53/53) on SSB. In the contest I QSO'd 59 stations and missed only KL7HFQ and WB9OWN. I gave KL7HFQ several QRZs, but when I got his call he gave up. WB9OWN was in a pile up and disappeared when I got him. Initials on CW were PI9CAM, JA0TJU and WA9KRT. I am awaiting QSLs from LZ1DX, N8CQ and ZS6OB; promised but not received.

ES5PC: Viljo viljo@comnet.se was QRV for the ARRL contest mainly on 23 cm -- I ended up with my personal best results for a single weekend on 23 cm EME. I worked 69 different stations on CW and JT. I also worked my first 70 cm EME contact with DL7APV on JT65B using my tropo setup during moonset on Saturday. On 23 cm I called CQ most of the time. I only worked about 5 stations by answering their CQs. QSO'd on CW were DL0SHF, OK3RM, DF1SR, K2DH, G3LTF, SD3F, IK2MMB, SP7DCS, OK1CA, LA9NEA, RU3ACE, RA3AQ, DF3RU, NA4N, SV3AAF, LA2Z, F5VHX, ON7UN, F5JWF, NY2Z, DL4MEA, K4QI, G4CCH, K1RQG, OE5JFL, HB9Q, HB9SV, F2TU, SP6JLW, WW2R, P19CAM, VA7MM, WA5WCP, IK3COJ, SM4DHN, SM5LE, UR5LX, JA6AHB, JA6CZD, RA3EC, F5FEN, JA4BLC, ON5RR, DL1YMK, PA3FXB, DL4DTU, K3JNZ/0, VE6TA, IW2FZR, OH2DG, W9IIX, F6CGV, K1JT, OE9ERC, HB9DGK, K7XQ, AL7RT, VK3UM, JF3HUC, I5MPK and G3LQR, and on JT65c SV1OE, RW6AG, VK2JDS, HB9Q, SM5LE, LA5ZK, RK3WWF, PY2BS, K6JEY and PE1HNG for a total of 59 on CW and 10 on JT. CWNr were DL6SH on CW and HB9EHJ on JT65.



ES5PC station – see Technical info later in this NL

F1EHN: JJ jim_flehn@wanadoo.fr reports that he now has 88 photos on his database covering the EME bands from 6 m to 1.2 cm -- The goal of this database, <http://www.flehn.org>, is to quickly display during a QSO an antenna photo and location of a DX station. Of course, the database can be browsed with other tools than my EME System. I plan to add the last received photos to a new package at the end of Nov. If you wish to add your antenna photo, please send via e-mail: 1) a photo of your antenna (1 per band) (640*480 pxl or more), 2) a comment/title of this photo (ex: F6KXSX 3 cm - 3.3 m dish), latitude and longitude of the antenna**, 3) your grid square (locator), 4) the nearest city to check the location of the photo and 5) your web site if you have one. (** can keep secret if requested).

F2TU: Philippe f2tu.philippe@orange.fr sends his Oct contest results -- On 1296 I contacted AL7RT, DF1SR for an initial (#), DF3RU, DL0SHF, DL1YMK, DL4DTU, DL4MEA, ES5PC, F5FEN, F5HRY, F5JWF, F5VHX, F6CGJ, G3LQR, G3LTF, G4CCH, G4RGK, HB9DGK #293, HB9HAL [same HB9DGK], HB9Q, HB9SV, I5MPK, IK2MMB, IK3COJ, IK5WJD #294, IW2FZR, JA4BLC, JA4HZN #295, JA4LJB, JA6AHB, JA6CZD, JA7ERE, JF3HUC, JH5LUZ, K1JT [same K2UYH], K1RQG, K2DH, K4QI, K7XQ, LA2Z, LA9NEA, LX1DB, N2UO, NA4N, NY2Z [same W2DRZ], OE5JFL, OE9ERC, OH2DG, OK1CA, OK2KJT #296, OK3RM #297, ON7UN, OZ4MM, PA3CSG, PA3DZL, PA3FXB, P19CAM, RA3AQ #298, RA3EC, RU3ACE #299, RW6AG #300, SD3F, SM4DHN, SM5LE, SP6JLW, SP7DCS, SV3AAF, UR5LX, VA7MM, VE4SA #301, VE6TA, VK3UM, VK4AFL, W7UPF, W9IIX, WA5WCP, WB2BYP #302 and WW2R for 78 QSOs and 10 initials. Heard were K5PJR, UT5JCW and RW3PX. Also I had a partial QSO with VK2J?? -- possibly VK2JDN? He did not understand YYY. There were many people on 23 cm. I think more than 90 stations were QRV. I was also on 432, but only for 20 minutes and QSO'd N4GJV, K1JT, W8TXT for an initial (#) and SD3F.

FS5E: Franck kozton@free.fr send news that the Big Dish Up! -- In late Oct, I managed to set my 10.5 m (34') dish on top of its rotating pedestal. Tracking hardware and software are all OK, but of course plenty of work still remains to be done before F5SE can be heard off the Moon. First of all, receive only tests will be carried out on 1296 using a W2IMU dual mode feed (built and used many years ago by F5AQC) in order to check the efficiency of the dish.

Transmitting will come later. I hope to be fully operational on 23 cm during winter. 432 will come later. Higher bands are also planned, but only after the "low bands" are both OK.



Mounting F5SE's 10.5 m dish

G3LTF: Peter g3ltf@btinternet.com writes -- Another interesting month on EME, the 9 cm activity continues to rise, on 14 Oct I worked DF9QX for initial #18. I also worked OZ6OL again with an improved signal. On 1296 I worked on 17 Oct before the contest started JA4BLC and RU3ACE for initial #285, on 18 Oct DF1SR, RA3AQ, JA6AHB, SP6JLW, SM5LE, RA3EC, UT5JCW, OK3RM #286, IK2MMB, RU3ACE, F5VHX, OK1DFC, LA9NEA, SD3F, K1RQG, SV3AAF, ON4BCB, DL0SHF, LA2Z, K2DH, LA5ZK, P19CAM, ES5PC, W4OP, K1JT, OH2DG, W9IIX, DL4MEA, NA4N, IK3COJ, K5PJR, NY2Z, VE6TA, WW2R, I5MPK, LX1DB, HB9Q, K4QI, OE5JFL, G4CCH, AL7RT, F2TU, G4RGK, DL6SH #287, G3LQR, SP7DCS, F5FEN, OK1CA, JA6CZD, JA4BLC, ON5RR, DL1YMK, UR5LX, and on 19 Oct F5JWF, DL4DTU, PA3FXB, K3JNZ/0 #288, N2UO, RW3PX, VE4SA, IW2FZR, HB9PNR, OZ4MM, HB9HAL (dup), F6CGJ, HB9SV, VA7MM, K7XQ, VK3UM, VK4AFL and JF3HUC. CWNr were OE9ERC and SV1OE. Heard working other stations but never heard calling CQ were ON7UN, W3HMS, JA4HZN, RW6AG, VK2JDN and SM4DHN. I spent less time on 432 than I usually do but did work on 18 Oct SP6JLW, DL7APV, OH2PO, I1NDP, UA3PTW, N4GJV, DF3RU, W8TXT, SD3F, UA6LGH and UT5DL, and on 19 Oct N8CQ #419, K1JT, SM2CEW, OZ4MM, OE5JFL, I5CTE, JA5NNS, LZ1DX, JA9BOH, DL5FN and J1NNJ. CWNr on 432 were G4RGK, S53RM and KE2N. I heard DL7UDA. Scores so far are 70x36 on 1296 and 22x16 on 432. Conditions seemed very poor here on 432 on the first pass but on the second and third seemed much better. There was an amazing level of activity on 1296. I often counted 20 traces on the SDR between 1296.005 and .035. The SDR is now an invaluable operating aid here, both for spotting weak signals, especially those higher up the band and also for finding a good spot to call CQ.

G4CCH: Howard howard@g4cch.com reports on his Oct contest activity -- I managed to get on over the weekend despite the pain from an operation on my foot earlier in the week. I was only going to QRV for a few hours to take advantage of the increased activity, but I didn't let up through the night and only missed about 12 hours of operating time to sleep... after all I was supposed to be resting, hi! I also missed the last session due to gusty wind as I didn't want to risk any damage to the dish. I found plenty of activity and some very strong signals. Quite a few stations that I didn't work were only heard in QSO with someone else and then disappeared, never calling CQ and rarely answering my CQs. At least 3 initials got away. I operated mainly on CW, but did make a few QSOs on JT65c. Two of these were initials: HB9EHJ/P from JN36 and K6JEY -- both on random. On CW I added initials with HB9HAL, DF1SR, DL6SH and OK3RM. On both days I worked right through to the end of my window, and was hearing good CW and SSB echoes down to 3 deg elevation shooting between my house and my neighbors. I also worked JA8ERE the "opposite way" to normal, and heard him again on the second pass both at moonrise and moonset! I streamed some audio and video of my EME activity through the BATC website - http://www.batc.tv/ch_live.php?ch=5&id=94. At times there were up to 13 viewers, I hope they found it interesting. I was on HB9Q's 23 cm logger and ON4KST EME chat for much of the weekend. This is not normal for me during a contest, but as I have no interest in entering this time, then it makes no difference. Actually, despite that there were 20 to 30 stations logged in, there were very few postings and it appears that very little if any advantage was gained by anyone. I suspect that there were a few guys with small systems hoping for a big gun to announce they would be on and maybe make their first

EME steps, but it didn't happen. Here's the stations who appear in my log in alphabetical order: on 17 Oct on CW/SSB RU3ACE, HB9HAL and JA4BLC, on 18 Oct on CW/SSB AL7RT, DF1SR (#) for an initial, DF1SR dupe, DF3RU, DL0SHF, DL4DTU, DL4MEA, DL6SH (#), ES5PC, F2TU, F5FEN, F5VHX, G3LTF, HB9DGK (same as HB9HAL), HB9Q, JA6AHB, JA8ERE, K1JT, K2DH, K4QI, LAZZ, LA9NEA, LX1DB, NA4N, NY2Z, OK1CA, OK3RM (#), ON7UN, PI9CAM, SD3F, SP6JLW, SP7DCS, SV3AAF, UR5LX, VA7MM, VK4AFL, W9IIX and WA5WCP, on JT65c HB9EHJ/P and PY2BS, on 19 Oct on SSB/CW DL1YMK, IK2MMB, IK3COJ, K1JT dupe SSB, K1RQG, K1RQG dupe SSB, K7XQ, N2UO, OE9ERC, OH2DG, PA3CSG and WW2R, on JT65c K6JEY, K7XQ, PA3FXB and RW6AG. Heard were HB9SV, I5MPK, IW2FZR, JA4HZN, JA4LJB, JA6CZD, RA3AQ (same as RW3BP?), RU3ACE (same as RD3DA?), SM4DHN and VE6TA, and on JT65c DJ9YW, G4DZU, IK5WJD and W7UPF. I ended with a total during the contest period of 47 on CW/SSB and 6 on JT. I plan to be around during the next session in Nov.

G4RQK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com reports that his dish was damaged in a heavy snow storm, but he was not planning to be QRV for the Nov contest weekend as he will be away in EA8. During Oct contest weekend, Dave was only on 23 cm a short time, about 30 minutes, and spent most his time on 70 cm, but found activity was very light there. He CWNR K4EME and N8CQ many times (maybe QRZ from N8CQ). He also heard N4GJV.

HB9EHJ: Bodo (DL3OCH) dl3och@gmx.de was active using his new HB call On 1296 during the Oct contest weekend – I operated on as HB9EHJ/p from JN36rx on 1296.090 using JT65C without prearranged skeds. I used my normal single yagi and 80 W portable EME station. I made 6 contacts with DJ9YW, K2UYH [not contest QSO], HB9Q, K1JT, G4CCH and PI9CAM.

HB9Q: Dan (HB9CRQ) hb9q@hb9q.ch did well in the contest. He reports that his team worked in Oct on 432 9 CW and 18 JT QSOs, and on 1296 57 CW and 9 JT QSOs plus many additional QSOs on 144.

K0YW: Bruce k0yw@frontier.net was active on 23 cm the weekend before the ARRL contest – The weather finally moderated. I was QRZ on 13 Oct at 0000. I used the new version of F1EHN's program for the first time. It seemed to be OK. I had not re calibrated for a long time and found that the wind gust movements in the dish had caused the AZ to slip off by about 3 degrees. I decided to Manual track, so I had my hands full tracking and getting the 3600 plus Doppler in the passband. I ended up with 8 Q's including an initial with WA8RJF. QSO were K1RQG (589/579), K5JL (589/579), NA4N (569/579), WB2BYP (559/559), NY2Z (569/579), VE3KRP (559/559), WA8RJF (559/O) and K2DH (569/579). I quit at 0200. We had our first freeze and snow is on the way. Its going to be a long Winter in the Rockies.

I1NDP: Nando nando.pellegrini@tiscali.it send some info on his 432 contest operation in Oct -- I was active on 70 cm CW unassisted. I found conditions average to poor and not too many participants, but I had fun. I scored a total of 45 QSOs (44 valid with 1 dupe).

IK3COJ: Aldo ik3coj@fastwebnet.it found good activity during on the Oct leg of the ARRL EME Contest – I managed to make 41 QSOs on 1296. Initials were with OK3RM, RU3ACE, ON5RR, NY2Z, SP7DCS and last but not least WA5WCP. Only heard were LAZZ, ON7UN, ON4BCB, PA3FXB, F5FHX, W9IIX, WW2R, VA7MM, OE9ERC and JF3HUC.

IK6EIW: Stefano asmag@libero.it was QRV on 70 cm in the contest -- I was active Saturday evening on 432 and QSO'd OH2PO, VK3UM and DL7APV, and CWNR SD3F. On Sunday morning I made no QSOs and only CWNR to OZ4MM, K1JT, SM2CEW, OE5JFL and I1NDP. I had little time this weekend, but will be more active next in Nov. My dish is on the tower, motor for AZ and EL is ok. I need a feed for 23 cm. I started building a super VE4MA feed, but was not sure of the dimensions. N2UO send me info on his 5 steps Septum feed – TNX Marc.

JJ1NNJ: Kouichi jj1nnj@extra.ocn.ne.jp sends his ARRL Oct contest weekend report for operation on 70 cm CW -- I QSO'd on 18 Oct JA9BOH (449/439) V/V, N4GJV (449/449) V/V, W8TXT (O/O) V/V, K0RZ (559/559) +30/+30, VK3UM (569/559) V/V, DL7APV (559/559) V/V, OH2PO (559/559) V/V, UA3PTW (559/569) V/V, SD3F (559/559) V/V, JA5NN (559/569) V/V, DF3RU (559/559) V/V, DL1YMK (559/559) V/V, OH2DG (559/569) V/V, DL5FN (559/559) V/V, SM3BYA (339/549) V/V, SP6JLW (O/O) V/V, I1NDP (569/559) V/V, UT5DL (339/559) V/V for initial #104, DL7UDA (449/O) V/V #105, JA0TJU (339/O) V/V and YO2IS (O/O) V/V #106, and on 19 Oct K1JT (559/449) H/H (same K2UYH), JA6AHB (559/559) H/H and G3LTF (559/559) V/V. Heard were JS3SIM, KE2N, K3MF (QRZ 5 times), K4EME, W7AMI and S53RM. Conditions were stable but on the bad side. I had hoped for more activity from NA.

K0RZ: Bill wmccaa@comcast.net was active during the Oct EME contest weekend on 432. He worked old friends N4GJV and WA4NJP and ended with a score of 11 x 6. [Bill had his 3 month cancer check and reports all looks very good].

K1JT: Joe k1jt@ARRL.NET reports on his Oct contest activity – We operated on 144 from my QTH and on 70 and 23 cm at K2UYH's QTH. The team on 70/23 consisted of K2UYH, K2TXB and W2KV. All QSOs were on random CW unless noted. We worked on 18 Oct, on 1296 at 0251 G4CCH (569/579), 0300 G4RQK (449/3449), 305 DL4MEA (569/569), 0308 OH2DG (569/589), 0312 G3LTF (569/579), 0316 N4AN (569/579), 0324 OK3RM (559/579), 0337 SP7DCS (559/579), 0300 SP6JLW (569/559), 0346 N2UO (559/559), 0349 DF3RU (569/559), 0351 K2DH (579/589), 0355 W9IIX (559/569), 0359 OK1CA (569/559), 0421 HB9EHJ/P (21DB/19DB) JT65, 0443 HB9SV (569/569), 0446 DJ9YW (559/559), 0450 F5JWF (559/589), 0453 RU3ACE (559/599), 0457 I5MPK (559/569), 0502 DF1SR (559/579), 0506 PA0BAT (549/559), 0510 DL0SHF (599/579), 0512 LA8NEA (559/579), 0517 SD3F (569/579), 0521 IK2MMB (559/569), 0525 F2TU (569/569), 0529 ON7UN (569/569), 0532 K1RQG (579/579), 0538 W4OP (569/569), 0543 DL1YMK (569/559), 0544 LAZZ (539/559), 0615 RA3Q (559/589), 0620 VE4SA (O/O), 0634 SM5LE (O/O), 0640 RA3EC (O/O), 0647 NY2Z (559/559), 0652 WA5WCP (559/589), 0657 VA4MM (559/579), 0710 PY2BS (17DB/14DB) JT65, 0724 RW6AG (11DB/O) JT65, 0734 PARTIAL PE1HWG (21DB/-) lost JT65, 0745 W7UPF (11DB/O) JT65, 0823 K4QI (569/559) and 0828 WW2R (549/539), and on 432 at 0945 SD3F (569/569), 0950 F2TU (559/599), 1012 N4GJV (559/559), 1032 N8CQ (449/559) and 1050 W8TXT (559/569), and back on 1296 at 1134 JA8ERE (559/559), 1155 JA4HZN (559/559), 1240 JA4BLC (559/569), 1242 JA6AHB (559/579), 1249 JH5LZU (569/569), 1313 JA4LJB (O/O) and 1404 VK2JDS (20DB/O) JT65, and on 19 Oct, on 432 0525 OH2PO (549/549), 0537 UA3PTW (559/569), 0546 UA6LGH (O/O), 0608 UT5DL (O/559), 0619 DL9IY (O/O), 0658 K0RZ (559/559), 0705 SP6JLW (559/559), 0711 DL7UDA (559/549), 0715 G3LTF (569/569), 0729 SM3BYA (549/549), 0800 I1NDP (559/539), 0820 OE5JFL (569/569), 0827 DL7APV (549/559) and 0835 SM2CEW (569/589), on 1296 at 0912 VE6TA (569/579), 0915 F5FEN (559/559), 0924 SM4DHN (579/589), 0929 AL7RT (549/559), 0935 ES5PC (559/569), 1020 HB9Q (599/589), 1032 OE5ERC (589-579), 1038 HB9HAL (579/589), 1044 K7QX (559/559), 1112 K7QX (11DB/O) JT65, 1140 K1RQG (56/57) dup SSB and 1142 G4CCH (56/56) dup SSB, and on 432 at 1230 JJ1NNJ (549/559), 1317 K3MF (20DB/O) JT65 and 1430 partial JA6AHB (O/O) – lost in the noise. Conditions on 1296 seemed excellent, but on 432 copy was much more difficult, probably due to our noise problems on this band, and we often had to TX at 90 degs to our optimum RX pol due to Faraday. We ended on 1296 with 55 CW and 6 JT QSOs x 30 and on 432 with 20 CW and 1 JT QSO x 15.

K1RQG: Joe's k1rqg@aol.com Oct activity report -- I was QRV on Sunday 12/13 Oct and had 13 contacts on 23 cm with K2DH, ON4BCB (CW and SSB), I5MPK, W4OP, NA4N, K0YW, W3HMS, NY2Z/W2DRZ, K5JL, WB2BYP, VE3KRP and WA8RJF. The band was very busy. It was actually very busy all week with a few new ones on too. I was on 23 cm during the EME contest and worked many stations, but also missed some too. I did hear some weak ones call me that I just could not copy.



K2DH's 5 m dish with 1296 feed.

K2DH: Dave k2dh@frontiernet.net reports on his ARRL EME Contest 1st weekend results -- I had a great time. This was the first real test of the new hydraulic

elevation drive and the improved azimuth drive system, as well as tracking using incremental encoders and W2DRZ's hardware/F1EHN's tracking software. I was very pleased- everything worked perfectly, with no problems anywhere in the system the entire weekend. There was a tremendous amount of activity on 23 cm. I worked 33 the first night, but had a number of "get aways". List includes HB9HAL, OK1DFC, LA9NEA, PI9CAM, OK1CA, G3LTF, ES5PC, DL0SHF, IK2MMB, W4OP, SV3AAF, DF1SR, K1JT, F5VHX, SP6JLW, DL4MEA, RA3AQ, K5PJR, IW2FZR, SD3F, DF3RU, NA4N, VA7MM, DL1YMK, K1RQG, SM4DHN, HB9Q, G4CCH, RU3ACE, NY2Z, K4QI, JA6AHB, JA4BLC. I just couldn't get the call of a station patiently calling me. In retrospect, I believe it was F5JWF. CWNR were SP7DCS, UR5LX, LA2Z, OK3RM, HB9SV, WA5WCP, ON7UN, W9IIX, N2UO, JA4LJB and JA8ERE. I ended up (the first weekend) with about 50 QSOs. My transmitter is still at the QRP level with 150 W in the shack and maybe 100 W at the feed of my 5 m solid dish with VE4MA Super Feed and 0.28 dB NF LNA. My echoes were consistent at S3 to S5, and many people heard me well enough to answer my CQ's - very satisfying. I'm looking forward to the second weekend- there were many stations that I either missed or who didn't hear me well enough to make a go of it. There's a slight chance I'll be QRO by the second weekend (500 W+).

K3JNZ/0: Bill k3jnz@aol.com was a new call that showed up during the EME contest on 1296. It turns out that Bill purchased KA0Y's QTH (including dish and station) - [see FOR SALE in the Jan 2007 EME NL]. The question was raised if QSOs with K3JNZ should count as initials for those who have worked KA0Y in the past. I do not think there is any question that K3JNZ should count as an initial (different from KA0Y). The rules say that if someone moves his station (but stays within the same grid or geographical area, state or country) that the new location does not count as another initial. On the other hand, if someone sells his transmitter and/or antenna to someone in the same grid, I do not believe that anyone would question that the new person using the antenna/rig, etc. is not a new initial. K3JNZ represents the ultimate of the sales rule where a whole property is sold. Obviously it has to be a legitimate sale, transfer of deed, etc. We do not want people playing games, i.e., I will sell you my QTH for \$1, and then you can buy it back for \$1 so that you can be an initial... But I think we can all see through this kind of ruse. K3JNZ's purchase appears quite proper and thus should certainly count as an initial.

K4QI: Russ k4qi@aol.com writes on his Oct contest operation - I got on EME for the first time since Feb and everything seemed to be working OK. On 18 Oct it was pouring down rain and echoes and signals were down somewhat, but I worked the following: ES5PC, NA4N, DL0SHF, WW2R, WA5WCP, HB9SV, HB9HAL, LA9NEA, DL1YMK, RA3AQ, OK1CA, F2TU, HB9Q, K1RQG, SP6JLW, SM4DHN, PI9CAM, RU3ACE, G4CCH, OE5JFL, VA7MM, K1JT, SD3F, DL4MEA, NY2Z, G3LTF, JA8ERE, W9IIX, K2DH, JA6AHB, JH5LUZ, N2UO, JA4BLC, JA6CZD, K5SO, JA4LJB and VK4AFL. On 19 Oct, I was only on for my Asian window and worked JF3HUC, VE6TA, VK3UM and K3JNZ/0. Condx were much improved but activity was down. I will try to be on again next month.



K6JEY on 23 cm EME during the Oct contest weekend.

K6JEY: Doug dougnhelen@moonlink.net was on 1296 for the Oct contest weekend - Well, we had an excellent weekend. The team was K6JEY, W6SZ, KJ6HZ and KI6LQV. We were on 23 cm with 150 W and a 7' dish. Conditions were good with deep QSB. Some stations were 2 - 3 S units over the noise. There was lots of activity. During the contest we were unassisted class and

called CQ quite a bit. We worked HB9Q (12DB/O) on JT, DJ9YW (14DB/O) on JT, DL0SHF (O/O) CW, partial K1JT (13DB/-) on JT, K1RQG (O/O) CW, ES5PC (14DB/O), K7XQ (25DB/O) on JT and G4CCH (12DB/O) on JT. Heard were W7UPF, SM4DHN, G4DZU and OZ4MM. For the Nov weekend we will be back up to 300 W and will have a 10' dish (already mounted).

N4GJV: Ron gstdemb@yahoo.com was on 432 for the EME contest in Oct -- On the earlier hours of Saturday, conditions seemed to be extremely poor, with very deep, rapid QSB. Signals abruptly disappeared for several seconds, at a time, and for even longer periods, then suddenly returned. With a few notable exceptions, few strong signals were heard, until near European moonset when conditions seemed to improve markedly. Conditions seemed to be mostly good to excellent, on Sunday, but non-reciprocal polarity problems continued to be a major issue. Several stations that I had heard well early, and called without success, later replied to my CQs. Now that they were hearing my signals, I now experienced difficulty copying them, due to degraded polarization alignment, on my receive side. Many thanks to DL9KR, FR5DN, W8TXT, K0RZ, W7CI, OH2PO, DL7APV, G3LTF, UA3PTW, I1NDP, SD3F, F2TU, K1JT, JJ1NNJ, VK3UM, WE2Y, KE2N, SM2CEW, SV3AAF, OZ4MM, and OE5JFL for QSOs. Called without success were K4EME, UA6LGH, UT5DL (called many times), as well as JA9BOH, DF3RU, DL7UDA, JA6AHB, and W7AMI. Others heard include SP6JLW, WA4NJP, N8CQ, K3MF, DL9JY, and I5CTE. I hope to be QRV again during the Nov contest weekend.



N8CQ's portable 12 x 16 el yagi array for 70 cm.

N8CQ: Gary gabercr@nc.rr.com was operational during the ARRL EME contest on 70 cm -- I worked DL7APV, K0RZ for initial #18, OH2PO #19, I2NDP #20, UA3PTW #21, DF3RU #22, K1JT, G3LTF #23, OZ4MM, OE5JFL #24 and SM2CEW #25. I missed a number of stations that I just couldn't dig out with the rapidly changing conditions. Guess I need a faster polarity rotator - hi. It was nice to finally work from my home station in NC many of the stations that I worked up at K1FO during the last four years. I used my portable 12 x 16 el array. I am making incremental improvements each time I erect the portable setup. The shorter phasing lines made a great improvement this time. I have a lot of tree (and house) blockage. It appears that my transmit section is working fine as echoes were quite strong at times. I need to tweak the receive section and get away from all the trees. Hopefully same time next year, I will have my new 30' dish operational on 432 and 1296. I am still looking for an EME friendly QTH for the dish. K9SLQ is eager to come down to NC and help me get the setup operational again.

NA4N: Greg na4n@hughes.net writes on his 23 cm contest activity - I worked the following stations: DL0SHF, K1JT, G3LTF, SV3AAF, ES5PC, DL4MEA, W4OP, RA3AQ, DF3RU, LA9NEA, IK2MMB, HB9SV, K1RQG, K2DH, K4QI, F2TU, OK1CA, DL1YMK, HB9Q, PI9CAM, SM4DHN, G4CCH, SP6JLW, NY2Z and JA8ERE. I found conditions to be very good; probably the best I have ever experienced on 1296. I'm looking forward to Nov.

NY2Z: Tom w2drz@madbbs.com reports that NY2Z operating from his station QSO'd during the Oct leg of the ARRL EME Contest on 18 Oct at 0326 K1RQG (569/569), 0338 DL0SHF (569/569), 0344 OK1CA (569/569), 0358 RA3AQ (559/559), 0415 SV3AFF (599/499), 0425 SP6JLW (559/559), 0432 G3LTF (569/569), 0451 DL4MEA (559/549), 0516 ES5PC (559/559), 0540 G4CCH (569/569), 0552 I5MPK (549/549), 0606 HB9SV (559/559), 0625 DF3RU (559/559), 0647 K1JT (559/559), 0745 PI9CAM (579/579), 0800

ON7UN (549/559), 0853 SM4DHN (549/539), 0903 K4QI (539/539), 0917 LX1DB on SSB (53/559), 0927 OE5JFL (539/549), 0938 HB9Q (559/559), 1016 WA5WCA (449/449), 1054 NA4N (0/0), 1158 K2DH (559/559) and 1303 JA4BLC (0/0), and on 19 Oct 0507 OZ4MM (569/569), 0539 K5PJR (539/529), 0545 IK3COJ (549/559), 0608 WW2R, (449/559), 0643 VE6TA (569/569), 0645 PA3CSG (569/569), 0707 HB9DKG (579/579), 0722 LA9NEA (579/569), 0728 SD3F (569/569), 0822 IK2MMB (559/559), 0851 OH2DG (549/549), 0919 F6CGJ (559/549), 0950 F5FEN (559/559), 1024 W9IIX (449/549), 1048 AL7RT (349/449), 1107 F2TU (449/549), 1252 JA6ERE (449/449), 1353 JA4BLC (449/449), 1414 JA6AHB (449/549), 1556 JA6CZD (449/549) and 1537 VK3UM (559/559).

OE5JFL: Hannes j.fasching@eduhi.at was active during the Oct contest with his beacon station -- I was running the beacon equipment, 5 m dish and 100 W at the feed - [see <http://member.eduhi.at/OE5JFL>]. The station was operated remote via Internet from my home. I worked 27 stations, but was not QRV all the time.

The 100 W was also a little low in power, so I got many QRZs, on the other hand RA3AQ came back at my first call and he is running only a 2.8 m dish. Among my QSOs was ES5PC, who also operates his EME station remotely. This may have been the first EME QSO between station both being remotely operated via the Internet! [He was also active on 432 from his regular station].

OH2PO: Jukka (OH6DD) oh2po@dlc.fi reports that his team scored on 432 CW 52x26 in the 1st leg of the ARRL EME Contest. They operated only CW in the 1st leg because their JT operator was sick. They are not sure if they will work JT during the 2nd weekend.

OK1CA: Franta strijavka@upcmail.cz was very successful during the first part of the ARRL EME Contest -- On 23 cm CW/SSB my total score is 85x36. I made initials with OK3RM, DF1SR, RU3ACE, DL6SH, NY2Z [same W2DRZ], HB9HAL [Same HB9DGK and HB9BPR], F5FEN, OK2KJT, RW6AG and JA4HZN to bring my initial total to #227. I missed DL4DTU, ES6RQ, ON5RR and W3HMS. I closed operation on Sunday at midday. The weather was very good all weekend. I found the conditions slightly better on Saturday. I plan to be QRV again in Nov on 23 cm.

OZ4MM: Stig's vestergaard@os.dk sends his report for Oct -- I was first able to get on Sunday morning and only had 4.5 hours of operation. All contacts were on CW as usual. On 1296 I worked DF1SR for an initial (#) (same as DD0SB?), RA3AQ, NA4N, IK3COJ, RA3EC, NY2Z, VE6TA, DL4MEA, ON5RR, LA2Z, OK1CA, W9IIX, N2UO, HB9PNR (#), WA5WCP, SV1OE, G3LTF, I5MPK, PA3FXB, W7UPF, VA7MM, SP6JLW, WB2BYP, RU3ACE (#), K1RQG, WW2R, F5JWF, DL1YMK, SD3F, OK3RM, VE4SA, F2TU and OH2DG. On 432 I worked I1NDP, OH2PO, SP6JLW, UT5DL, DL9JY, UA6LGH, DL7UDA, SV3AAF, N8CQ, UA3PTW, W8TXT, G3LTF, N4GJV, SM2CEW, WA4NJP, DL7APV, I5CTE, DG1KJG, OE5JFL and K4EME. I found conditions good on 23 cm with outstanding activity, but on 70 cm only average. This year I do not join the ARRL contest, but instead was on to help give good activity on the bands. It was a pleasure to meet old friends and pickup new initials due the very high activity.

PA3DZL: Jac pa3dzl@planet.nl was QRV in the EME contest -- I put my new G4DDK preamp at the feed and was QRV for 3 hours (after 4 months of no activity). I worked on 18 Oct DL0SHF and SM4DHN and on 19 Oct K1RQG for initial #66, HB9Q, OK1CA and F2TU. The station is a 2.5 m dish, VE4MA feed, G4DDK NE32584 preamp with 0.35 dB NF and 2 x 2C39BA oil cooled PA with 125 W at the feed.

P19CAM: Dick (PA2DW) and Jan (PA3FXB) jvmmmap@bart.nl report the 25 m Dwingeloo radio telescope was QRV on 70 and 23 only during the first moonpass of the Oct ARRL contest weekend -- A total of 65 stations were worked and we now believe that the 25 m dish is working at its optimum. 13 QSOs were on 70 cm (3 JT and the rest CW), 52 were on 23 cm (7 SSB, 6 JT and 39 CW). Highlights were a SSB QSO with PA3FXB, who had been our JT and SSB operator and a test with QRP. We went down to (estimated 250 mW and still could perfectly read our own echoes! We were not on for the remaining passes for safety reasons -- there was a large crowd of visitors (from the public) on Sunday and no one wanted to be found suspect of causing any health related issues. We will be QRV during all the moon passes in Nov. On 23 cm were running 65 W at the feed, and on 70 cm 300 W. Our team consisted of Dick, PA2DW (CW-op and key supply), Jan, PA3FXB (SSB/JT op and equipment supply), Eene, PA3CEG (tech stuff and QRO), Pieter, PA3FWM (WEBSDR) and Paul (our moon track specialist) who is a ham but as he is inactive I forgot his call, and Piet (not a ham!) and Cor, PE0SHF (take care of the mechanics, the moral support and coffee!)

PY2BS: Bruce bruce@zirok.com was active during the Oct contest weekend on 1296 with JT65C and SSB. He is using 2.7 m dish and 50 W. Many improvements planned for coming months including a bigger dish, higher power, better LNA, lower loss coax, and first RX experiments on 13 cm. The week before the contest Bruce worked K2UYH on JT and had a partial on SSB.



PY2BS QTH and view of 2.7 m dish.

SD3F: Carl (SM3AKW) sm3akw@spray.se had a great time in Oct -- Tnx to everyone for a wonderful weekend on the moon! Weather was cooperative with no tough winds and even a clear sky now and then. I made 80 QSOs with 52 on 1296, 26 on 432 and 2 on 144. At the end of the weekend on Sunday evening, I had a moon window at 1730, but on 432 I heard no signals even though a large part of North America and Asia had moon. Three hours of CQs gave no result. I will do more time on 432 in the next leg.

SM3BYA: Gudmund gudmund.wannberg@telia.com made it on for the contest -- I didn't think I would be able to get on 432 for the contest this year, but I managed to reshuffle my work schedule so I could spend some days before and after last weekend at the farm. I was looking forward to some fun. Powering up the rig on Friday, the TX and RX checked out OK, but the VSWR was almost 2:1, and there was only 5.5 dB of sun noise. I figured that something had to be wrong with the antenna (8 x 21 el yagis arranged as two bays of 4x 21. Saturday morning I climbed the tower, disconnected the cable from one of the 2 bays at the central 2:1 power divider, leaving the PD port open. I climbed down, rechecked the VSWR and it was down to 1.6:1, so clearly something in the disconnected bay (probably the feed harness) had gone bad. Sun noise was also up a little, from 5.5 to 6 dB (this demonstrated clearly how a preamp can display fair noise performance over a wide range of source impedances). I realized there was no chance to fix the antenna in time for the contest as this would have required lowering the whole array. I made up a lambda/4 transformer from a piece of 75 ohm RG11, climbed the tower again, and inserted the transformer between the coax coming from the healthy antenna bay and the input to the power divider (and shorted the other PD). Checking the VSWR again, lo and behold it was now down below 1.1. However, sun noise only increased marginally. I got on the band on Saturday night and was pleased to copy a few stations that would have been initials, (e.g. I5CTE, UT3LL and others), but had a heck of a time getting through with only half of the array in operation. TX power at SM3BYA is typically 550 W at the antenna; this simply didn't cut it in a contest. Eventually I worked UA3PTW, DL7APV, VK3UM, J1NNJ and K1JT (K2UYH) just to give out some points. The whole experience was eerie - like suddenly going deaf. I later learned from the neighbors that at the end of Sept there had been two consecutive days of very bad weather, a rainstorm with gusts probably approaching 30 m/s. It is likely that this caused the CATV cable in the feed harness to vibrate so strongly that one or several N plugs fractured internally. This happened once before, in 1999. That time I was off the air for 18 months, while the array was down for repairs - the whole arrangement is extremely maintenance unfriendly and I've only myself to blame for constructing it like that in the first place. I don't feel like repeating that exercise again. So the next time you hear a signal from SM3BYA off the moon, it's likely to be on 1296 and/or 13 cm!

SM5LE: Sven SM5LE@telia.com reports working on CW 19 QSOs, 9 more than last year, during the Oct EME contest weekend -- I worked were OK1DFC, OK1CA, G3LTF, LA9NEA, HB9HAL, K1JT, SM4DHN, ES5PC, K1RQG, DL4MEA, OH2DG, DF3RU, ON4BCB, F2TU, HB9Q, VK3UM, SP6JLW,

F5FEN for an initial (#) and SD3F. Heard were DL0SHF, HB9SV, HB9DGK, ON7UN, OZ5MM, P19CAM, F6CGJ, OE9ERC, JA6CZD and JA4BLC. Conditions on Saturday night were really bad with a heavy fog. I could barely see the moon, even with clear skies. I tried hard to work of some JAs, but the pile ups were too big.

SM0FOB: Kjell sm0fob@gmail.com in JO99bd provides additional info on his report that appeared in the last NL. He QSO'd on 23 cm CW and JT with G4CCH on JT, OK1DFC CW/JT and ES5PC on JT. His equipment was a 1.8 m dish and 75 W at a mesh septum feed. [It does not appear he was active during the Oct contest weekend].

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs@o2.pl sends the following info on his recent activity -- I was QRV on 23 cm and 2 m CW during the Oct EME contest. I worked only random unassisted and I had great fun. After a 23 cm SSPA failure during summer, I started to work on new PA. I managed to finish all the work on the Friday evening before the contest without any chance to check my rig - fortunately all worked well giving a solid 200 W at feed. The bad side was that work on the 23 cm PA postponed repairs of my 70 cm array. 1296 is fascinating me more and more. Even with my small station I could hear the band crowded with a lot of signals and pile ups like on HF - hi hi. The little more power than last year helped a lot! Unfortunately 2 m activity was a huge disappointment. It is hard to believe, but my conclusion is that modest 23 cm station (3 m dish and 200 W) is much more productive than big 2 m array (16 x 8el and GS35b PA). I guess it shows the direction I am going. On 1296 I made 33 QSOs. I worked on first pass P19CAM for an initial #40, DL0SHF #41, K1RQG, LA9NEA, RU3ACE #42, OK1CA, ES5PC, K1JT, OH2DG #43, SP6JLW, DL1YMK, RA3AQ, F2TU, SM4DHN #44 and SD3F #45, on second pass HB9Q, G4CCH, SV3AAF #46, G3LTF, K2DH, IK2MMB #47, IK3COJ #48, DL4MEA, HB9DGK #49, ON7UN, HB9HAL (same as HB9DGK), F6CGJ #50, and on the third pass VK3UM, DF3RU, JA4BLC #51, OE9ERC, F5VHX #52 and JA6CZD #53. I had a total of 61 CW QSOs on both bands. Last year I had 19 QSOs on 23 cm and total of 61 after first weekend. Now my main goal is to repair my 70 cm array before second weekend; keep your fingers crossed! I am strongly for separate weekends for CW and JT in ARRL contest. I don't think a boycott will have any positive result, but for sure it will decrease activity.

SV3AAF: Petros sv3aaf@yahoo.com reports on 18/19 Oct activity -- Very nice to work many old friends and new stations in the contest. I was on for parts of all the moon passes, but will not register for participation with the ARRL in protest of their unsuitable rules. The WX was overcast and mostly calm with some rain, but with minimal effect to EME. On 432, activity was relatively low and condx were average with QSB and moderate libration, and some Faraday problems to the west. I worked on CW UA3PTW, DL7APV (congrats Bernd - greatly improved signal), VK3UM, SD3F, DF3RU, I1NDP, K0RZ, N4GJV, OH2PO, OZ4MM, SM2CEW and OE5JFL. On 1296, activity as high and condx fair with moderate libration. Excessive echo testing QRM "spamed" my spectrum monitor, fortunately this time I did not suffer any frequency hijacking incidents. I worked DL0SHF, HB9HAL, OK1DFC, G3LTF, P19CAM, OK1CA, IK2MMB, K1RQG, OH2DG, SP6JLW, DF1SR, K2DH, F5VHX, LA9NEA, W4OP, VE6TA, WW2R, NA4N, NY2Z, ES5PC, RA3AQ, DF3RU, IW2FZR, OK3RM, SD3F, F5JWF, F2TU, HB9DGK [same HB9HAL], SM4DHN, LA2Z, SP7DCS, DL4MEA, IK3COJ, JA6CZD, JA6AHB, G4CCH, DL1YMK, IK2RTI, ON5RR and DL6SH (?). I was also on 2 m EME for brief periods.

VA7MM: Mark lunarlink@hotmail.com sends the news from CN89og on his moonbounce team's success in the contest -- We operated on 1296 in the Oct leg of the ARRL EME Contest and found conditions to be good. A total of 33 random CW QSOs were completed in about 10 hours of operation in the multi-operator category. Stations contacted were DL0SHF, DF3RU, LA9NEA, OK1CA, SP6JLW, RU3ACE, K2DH, F2TU, K1JT, K1RQG, G4CCH, DL4MEA, P19CAM, HB9Q, SM4DHN, K4QI, LX1DB, ES5PC, JA4BLC, JA6AHB, K5SO, VK3UM, OZ4MM, VE6TA, HB9DGK [same as HB9HAL], PA3CSG, DL1YMK, RA3AQ, HB9SV, IK2MMB, ON7UN, HB9HAL and G3LTF. We intend to operate in the Nov weekend.

W4OP: Dale parinc@verizon.net was finally QRV on 1296 during the contest using 10' dish from NC. He reports copying many nice signals. He worked 16 stations, but also missed a bunch. He did work NA4N for initial and many more initials. Dale will active again in Nov.

W7EME/KH6: Jeremy oaxaca@oregoncoast.com writes from Hawaii on his 23 cm SWL activities -- I took along a simple pair of M² 35 el EZ yagis, a phasing harness, DB6NT preamp and RX converter. I was mesmerized by the flurry of activity on 1296. My goodness, I am so impressed with the popularity of 23 cm. Who ever is reporting to QST on this year's contest should note the explosion... incredible! I had a ton of fun just listening on 23 cm. It was really something; I wish I had a transmitter with me!

WB2BYP: John tshing@comcast.net has big news -- I will be moving about 25 miles from current location. At the new QTH I will be able to get the big dish up and running. I am still working on the tracking system. I hope to be on for the Nov contest weekend.

WW2R: Dave ww2r_eme@g4fre.com writes on his results in the Oct leg of the EME contest -- On 1296, before the contest on 16 Oct I worked K1RQG, K2DH and an initial with VE3KRP. In the contest I worked 40 stations. The initials were DL0SHF, SV3AAF, K3JNZ/0 - (my first NA initial for 12 months!), F6CGJ, HB9HAL and F5FEN. CWNRR were W9IIX, NA4N, F5HRY and JA4BLC. I also heard JF3HWC, JA8ERE and JA6CZD. Conditions were good all weekend; I even had an SSB QSO with K1RQG. I worked more on 23 cm in first weekend than in whole contest last year. 432 was disappointing! I CWNRR VK3UM and DL7APV. Heard were HB9Q, UA3PTW, I1NDP and OH2PO. I could detect my echoes, but it seems that my polarization was not working with anyone! This will probably be my last activity on 432 EME. I will not be QRV in the Nov leg as I will be visiting the UK for the Martlesham round table.

YO2IS: Szigy yo2is@wa7v.ampr.org was pleased to run his 19th consecutive ARRL EME Contest on 432 - I operated on CW without any Internet help and found modest conditions, I was QRV only a few hours fighting the noise and birdies of a crowded urban location. No echoes were heard at all! I used my K2RIW PA and 4 x 7.7 w/ BV yagis. I worked almost all the stations I heard. QSO'd were DF3RU, OH2PO, DL7APV, UA3PTW and I1NDP - all solid copy, and by surprise two initials with JJ1NNJ (hard to copy call in CW, hi) and SP6JLW to bring me to initial #169. I hope they QSL. I still need my 9M2BV confirmation. Heard in QSO were UA6LGH, DL9KR, K4EME and JR4AEP. If all runs as planned, will be QRV again in Nov.

ZS6AXT: Ivo zs6axt@telkomsa.net sends his agrees and disappointment at not being able to be QRV -- My small dish is now erected, but more heavy mechanical work is necessary. The counterweight must be installed, mods to the EL drive, etc, are progressing slowly. My plans are to use it first on 3 cm, if it works OK, then 6 cm too. It should be more impervious to lightning, and since this dish is just above the ground, I can easily remove and install equipment. I have abandoned have repairs on the 5 m dish. Thunderstorms have already started. Yesterday, I had fireworks in the shack, when lightning hit close by! Thus I will replace preamps, etc., to be damaged again in the next thunderstorm! Any ideas anyone?

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieec.org, besides operating with K1JT in the EME contest - see Joe's report, did not make many QSOs. On 12 Oct on 432 I had a near QSO at 0230 with W0DRL (O/M) on CW. Al's station seems to be working, but he never acknowledged my Rs. I worked Al more than 25 years ago on EME, so in any case this would not have been an initial. On 16 Oct on 1296, I worked at 0355 PY2BS (16DB/11DB) on JT65c for mixed initial #330*. I also copied Bruce (31) on SSB, but he could not understand my SSB. On 25 Oct on 432, I QSO'd at 1228 DJ8MS (24DB/O) on JT65b for mixed initial #752*. During the contest using my own call I worked on 1296 on 18 Oct at 0432 HB9EHJ/P (21DB/19DB) JT65c for mixed initial #332*, 0540 W4OP (569/569) #333* {#289} - [I thought Dale was in SC and need a QSL from this state, but he is actually in NC] and 1410 VK2JDS (O/O) JT65c #334*.



W4OP, Dale, by his 10' dish with 1296 feed.

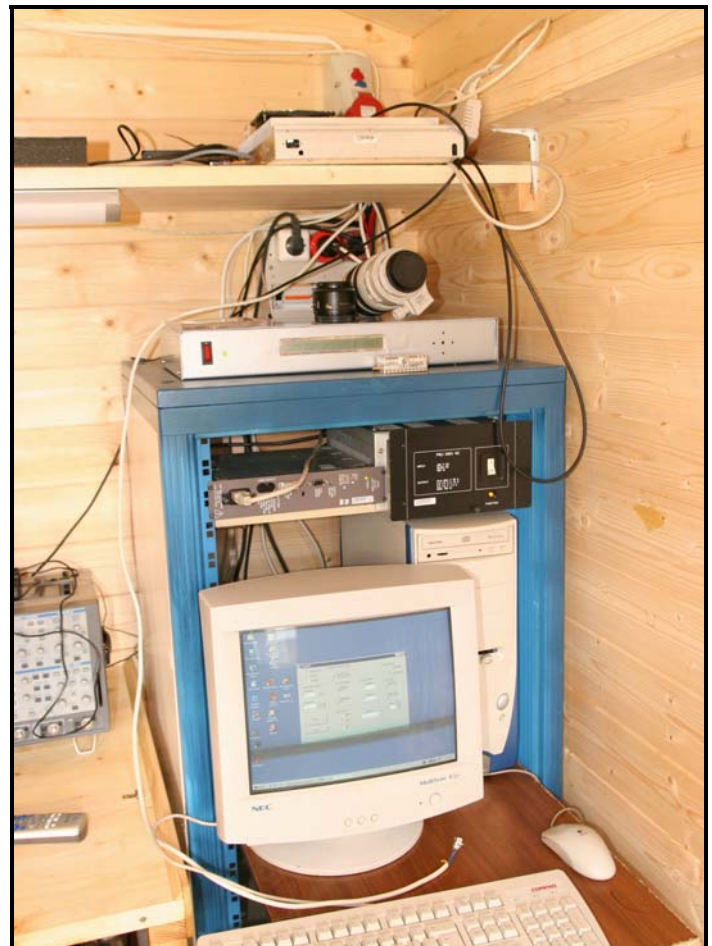
NETNEWS BY G4RKG: **NY2Z** (W2DRZ station) had 46 QSOs on 1296 during the contest with a nice ending by working VK3UM just before the tree noise at 13 deg el masked signals. **8J1AXA** and the KDES club members have completed JA Telecom inspection of their 18 m dish and station and received a high power license for 144 and 432 EME. Operation on the higher bands (23 cm

and up) is expected to follow early next year. They have already completed a QSO on 144 EME. **RA3EC** (K082pt) was QRV on CW in the Oct part of the EME contest on 23 cm. He used a 3 m dish, RA3AQ septum feed and 200 W output PA. Anatoly's e-mail is ra3ec@inbox.ru. **LU8EDR** is re-building his old rusty 6 m dish and plans to be QRV again on 23 cm soon. **N2UO** was active in the contest for only a very limited time. He was using his old 10' dish. He does not expect to have his new 20' dish operational before 2009. He plans to be QRV again in Nov with his 10' dish. **OK1DFC** was only active on 23 cm for the first few hours of the contest in Oct because of business travel, but should be on in Nov. **W4TJ** SWLed on 432 with a single R1W 19 el yagis and heard K4EME (449), N4GJV (459) and K0RZ (559). **KL7HFO's** new email address is trygve@mtaonline.net. **KL6M** was not QRV for ARRL contest in Oct because of business travel and attendance at Microwave Update. Mike plans to operate in Nov probably only on 70 cm. **LX1DB** was only QRV briefly during the Oct contest weekend due to family commitments, but earlier in the week did work OZ6OL (559/559) and DF9QX (569/559) on 3.4 GHz. **WA9KRT** will be looking QSOs during the EME contest on 432 during his moonrise on 432.027 with 1 minute sequencing. **VE4SA** was active on 23 cm during Oct contest weekend and had fun and found a lot of activity. **KL7HFQ** was QRV on 432 for the contest but gave up after hearing only 3 stations and working OH2PO. **N0OY** hope to be on QRV on 23 cm in Nov. Pete has a dish and GS15bPA. **RW3PX** was QRV on 1296 in Oct and worked on CW PI9CAM (559/529) and K1RQG (569/O). **RA6DA** was active on 432 in Oct and QSO'd on JT65b new stations DL7APV, I1NDP, DK3WG and PA3CSG. **UR5LX** was active in Oct on 23 cm and QSO'd on CW K1RQG, DL4MEA, RA3AQ and HB9HAL, and on JT65c RD3DA, RW6AG, PA0BAT and PI9CAM. **DK3WG** was QRV on 70 cm during Oct and QSO'd with JT65b RA6DA (QRP), UA4LCF (QRP) and ZS2GK (QRP) to bring Jurgen to initial #446. **RA6DA** is running 4 x 23 el yagis and 50 W. RA0FCA is using 4 x 9 w/ yagis and 150 W. **WD5AGO** will try to be on 432 EME during Nov contest weekend. **VE6TA** will also try to be 432 during the Nov contest weekend. **WA4NJP** plans to be on during the Nov contest weekend on 70 cm. **W7MEM** will try to be on 70 cm for the next contest weekend. **CT1DMK** will not be on during the contest. **DL1YMK** is working on a 9 cm round Septum feed. **W2UHI** is back up and running on 23 cm. **VE4MA** hopes to be on 23 cm during the Nov contest weekend and will try to have his GS-15 up and running.

FOR SALE: **K2DH** has reduced the price of the tube amplifiers which are for sale and were posted in the last newsletter. Everything (OE9PMJ cavity amp, 3 great tubes, water-cooling, and power supply; N6CA single 7289 water-cooled driver and power supply) now reduced to \$US1500; or separately at \$US1200 for the TH-328 amp, tubes, etc, and \$US300 for the N6CA system. Contact Dave at k2dh@frontiernet.net or by phone at 585-395-0571. **N7KA** has for sale a DEM 1296 XVRTR with 30 W out and 144 split IF ports. Contact Arnie at n7ka@comcast.net. **OZ4MM** have a 70 cm GS35b cavity PA for sale with extra tubes. Contact Stig at vestergaard@os.dk. **K1CA** is looking for a 23 cm feed for a 28' Kennedy dish. Contact Larry at lblouin@arnold-ind.com.

TECHNICAL: ES5PC sends details about how his remote station's operation -- My station in Estonia is split between two locations: my ham shack in my house and a small "garden house" close to the 4.5 m dish. The distance between them is about 40 m and they are linked together only by a 144 MHz IF cable and an Ethernet cable. The main rig of the station is an Icom IC7400 and is located in the shack. All microwave transverters are located in the "garden house" (23 cm and 13 cm) or under the dish feed (5.7 GHz and 10 GHz). I can use only one band at any time. For band switching the equipment at the feed including the feed itself must be changed. The dish is controlled by a custom-built microcontroller based on the Atmel ATmega128 CPU and interfaced to a PC in the "garden house" via RS232 serial port. The azimuth feedback is done by an incremental encoder (1000 pulses per 360 degrees extended to 4000 pulses by using both raising and falling edges of the output pulses on both tracks). This makes its accuracy acceptable even for 10 GHz provided the wind is not too strong. The azimuth axis is driven by a 400 W 3-phase AC motor connected via 100:1 gear transmission plus 3:1 chain transmission. The motor speed is variable and typically reduced to about 20% of its normal speed by using an Omron 1 to 3 phase AC-AC inverter unit. The elevation axis is driven by a heavy duty linear actuator and elevation feedback is implemented by a pulse transducer. As the number of elevation pulses from the actuator has a nonlinear function of the actual elevation, there is a lookup table and interpolation algorithm implemented in the microcontroller firmware. The computer and the antenna controller are switched on continuously and I have a remote access to the computer from the Internet using VNC remote desktop. The antenna tracking software is written by myself. The microcontroller also includes hardware for switching the power supplies for transverters, PA-s and a "band switching" signal for selecting the 13 cm sub-band. For EME operation, I usually just start the tracking program, switch on the equipment and it does not require much assistance for the whole moon pass. In the shack there are 2 PC-s and a microcontroller unit with an embedded web server. The microcontroller is used to switch on/off the station

equipment, select the RF/IF path for different bands, control the antenna rotator in my tropo setup and monitor output power from the 144 and 432 PAs. It also includes a "server" function for CW transmission. The microcontroller unit is built using a commercially available CPU board with built-in Ethernet controller. It's called "Ethernut" and available from a company called Egnite from Germany. It's also based on ATmega 128 CPU. The web page with all controls is written mostly in Javascript. It includes all necessary processing to generate CW texts for a typical QSO just by typing in correspondent station call sign and RST. One PC in the shack is used to control the main transceiver (Icom IC7400) via the CIV interface and transmit audio from the rig over the Internet. WSJT runs also on this PC. The PC can be reached from the Internet via the VNC remote desktop. This PC does not need to be always switched on, I can switch it on and off via the microcontroller unit from its web page. The audio link is established using a small freeware program called PicoPhone (<http://www.vitez.it/picophone/>). It's a small but a very stable program for a point-to point or even point-to multipoint audio link. It needs a dedicated UDP port to be open in the firewall on the server side. It also allows fine-tuning of some important packet size and delay parameters to find a good compromise between audio dropouts and transmission delay. The transceiver is controlled using a nice and well-known program called Ham Radio Deluxe by HB9DRV. The second PC in the shack is mostly used to run SpectraVue or Winrad or CW Skimmer connected to the SDR-IQ receiver. The SDR is used mostly to get a remote wideband waterfall display transmitted via remote desktop. I have also built a 144 to 27 MHz down converter for my SDR-IQ to be able to receive the 144 MHz IF from microwave transverters or from 144 MHz antenna. I have added a special RX RF output connector to my IC7400 which connects the RF from the IC7400 RF amplifier output to the SDR down converter input. This avoids any trouble caused by RX/TX switching of the transceiver. For safety reasons, there is an analogue timer circuit, which switches back to RX mode after reasonably long continuous stay in TX (about 4-5 minutes). Although there are still many things that can be improved in my remote setup, I'm currently quite pleased with its performance. I use it both for my EME and tropo operation. The next step for me could be adding 70 cm and 2 m EME capability and perhaps also to start preparing for 24 GHz EME.



ESP5PC station control

GUEST EDITORIAL ON ARRL CONTEST RULES BY G3LTF: After last years contest there was a lot of complaining going on about the rules. When the

contest results were published KX9X specifically invited comments and there were also several invitations to send in comments to the "soapbox". Many people sounded off on the reflectors and I assumed that there would be a lot of inputs to ARRL and that consequently there would be changes to the rules for 2008. When the rules were published unchanged my reaction was: "Why is the ARRL ignoring all the inputs on this; there must have been loads of them." As a result I decided not to send an entry this year. I then discovered that in fact I was the only person who actually wrote in suggesting changes (drop assisted mode and change the band pairing). Even the operators who had been protesting vociferously on the reflectors hadn't bothered to copy and paste into an email to KX9X. So, isn't it reasonable that the ARRL should look at the complaints as a proportion of the entrants and conclude that the mixture is OK? After finding this out I decided that my boycott made no sense and so I will be entering this year. I will also be emailing KX9X again with comments and I urge everyone else who feels the rules need changing, or not, to do so. If you don't input the debate, you can't complain about the result.

Fellow EMEers there are many bands now active (hurrah!) but there are only so many weekends in spring and autumn....and we have other interests and families to consider. My proposal for pairing the bands in EME contests is as follows.

First weekend 144, 432 & 1296, Second weekend 432 and 5.7 GHz and up, third weekend 144 and 2.3/3.4 GHz and fourth weekend 1296. They do not have to be in this order, but the advantage of this pairing is that the 144, 432 and 1296 operators all get two shots and the microwave guys operations are divided between two weekends (which is what we asked for after the experience of last Sept). Digital and analogue operation should take place at the same time in my opinion. How the scoring and classes are arranged is a separate issue.

FINAL: If North American activity seemed light during the Oct contest weekend, part of the problem was the scheduling of Microwave Update (MUD) for the same weekend. KL6M, W5LUA, WA8RJF, VE4MA, VE3KRP, WA9FWD and WD5AGO were all at MUD. Look for these stations to be active in Nov.

K5SO reports that DRAO solar observatory website URL where the results of current 10.7 cm solar flux measurements are posted has been changed to: http://www.spaceweather.gc.ca/latestflux_e.php.

Please keep the technical material and reports coming. There was no lack of reports this month thanks to the efforts of G4RGK and K1RQG – thanks! Good luck in the Nov leg of the contest. I will be looking for you all off the moon using K1JT's call in Nov. 73, A1 – K2UYH