PART 1

CONDITIONS: The main event in Jan was the 1296 SSB Funtest. SSBE QSOs are considered major achievements, but when combined with frosty cold weather (WX), you have the pinnacle of contest challenges. This Jan was true to form with bad WX throughout much of the EME World. However, despite the WX, there was still a good turn out.

The top fun maker on 1296 in the SSB contest was on again after the end of the last contest weekend. More info can be found at: http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html

The main even for activity reasons is permitted. Each different call prefix forms a major achievement, but when combined with bad WX throughout much of the EME World. However, despite the WX, there was still a good turnout.

The top fun maker on 1296 in the SSB contest was on again after the end of the last contest weekend. More info can be found at: http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html

The top fun maker on 1296 in the SSB contest was on again after the end of the last contest weekend. More info can be found at: http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html

The top fun maker on 1296 in the SSB contest was on again after the end of the last contest weekend. More info can be found at: http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html

NAME: PI9CAM 25 m dish used to be top fun maker on SSB EME

EUROPEAN (DUBUS/REF) EME CONTEST 2017 (CW/SSB only): The traditional EU EME contest (144/432 MHz) will start at 0000 on 11 Feb and end at 2400 on the 12 Feb. The 13 cm part is set for second weekend of March (11/12). The 23 cm part (now the VK3UM Memorial Contest) is on 1/2 April; 9 cm part on 29/30 April; 6 cm part on 27/28 May; and 3 cm & UP for 24/25 June. During contest time, it's not allowed to use other communications media such as Internet or packet radio to self spot, announce CQ frequency, make skeds, exchange any QSO progress info, confirm whether the QSO was valid or not. Spotting other stations for activity reasons is permitted. Each different call prefix forms a multiplier for 100 points. Contest entries MUST be sent no later than 14 days after the end of the last contest weekend. More info can be found at: http://www.marstrup.org.uk/dubus/EMEContest2017.pdf.

URGFR: Jürgen juergen.friedrich@di8fr.de sends his SSB Funtest log – I had a nice time on 1296 in the SSB-EME-Contest! But, activity was quite low in EU because of bad WX. I was lucky and had no snow or wind on my side. I operated from JO44wg single op and QSO’d on 7 Jan at 1513 HB9CW (59/59) JO, 1561 OK2DL (59/59) JN, 1522 G3LTF (58/57) JO, 1531 HB9Q (59/56) JN, 1534 1NDF (59/58) JO, 1539 PI9CAM (59/59) JO, 1559 CZGOL (57/56) JO, 1603 DL3EBJ (57/58) JO, 1606 SP6JLW (57/56) JO, 1649 SM7FWZ (55/55) JO, 1655 SP6ITF (54/54) JO, 1685 W2FZR (54/55) JO, 1735 RAEC (55/55) KO, 1739 PA3OLZ (55/55) JO, 1917 DF3RU (57/57) JO, 2021 SP3XBO (55/55) JO, 2038 SP5GD (55/57) KO and 2113 SP2HMR (54/55) JO for a total of (17x2+1)x4 for 140 points.

DK7LJ: Per per@per-dudek.de announced that Andy G4JNT was so kind to build a new beacon driver. The DL0SHF 10 GHz EME beacon can now be switched between JT4F and QRA64-D modes. The reason is determine if there are any advantages to using one of these modes over the other. The GPS module of the new beacon driver also delivers correct timing on its NMEA output after a delay of up to 12 minutes after switch on; it needs to acquire the leap-second offset. It will change between the modes by request. The modified beacon will be switched back on again at moonrise (JO54) on Saturday 28 Jan. Per sends his thanks to G4JNT andy.g4jnt@gmail.com for his support. A description of the hardware and details of the drivers built by Andy for the beacon can be found at: http://www.g4jnt.com/EME_Beacon_OpenPub_cpd.

DL7APV: Bernd dl7apv@qm.de reports on his New Year 70 cm activity after an Xmas radio break, the first weekend in 2017 started with many new stations, including 4 from JA! I added on 6 Jan KJ70G, N7NW (4 x 9 w yagis and a kW), JA4UMN (2 x 25 el yagis and 50 W) and JH5HBH (2 x 25 el yagis and 50 W) for his first EME QSO, 7 Jan JH7BAY (2 x 18 el yagis and 40 W), JH1LOC (2 x 17 el yagis and 50 W) and TM8DO (special callsign of F8DO), on 13 Jan F8GGD (23 el yagi and 45 W) on the horz for his first EME QSO and GM4FIZ for another first EME QSO, on 4 Jan DD7DAC, and 15 Jan DL9OBU (10 el yagi and 280 W) for his first EME QSO and to bring me to mixed initial #816*. Two new young cats have kept me and Astrid busy as we have tried to cat proof the shack.

F1PRY: andre_f1pry@yahoo.de was on 1296 for EME SSB Funtest -- I made some few QSOs. It was the 1st time on SSB EME and yes - fun!

FR-DL2NUD: Dan (HB9CRO) dan@hb9c.ro sends news of the first 2017 microwave bands expedition -- Hermann (DL2NUD) will be QRV from 28 Feb to 7 March from Reunion Island (LF7B) using FR-DL2NUD on 23, 13 and 9 cm. His equipment will be basically same as used for E44 in Dec (1.5 m dish with 170 W at the feed on 1296, and on 2320/2304 and 3400 100 W at the feed). He plans to be QRV 3 days on 1296, 2 days on 13 and 9 cm and 1 day on 3400. He will be QRV on 2320 and 2304, no crossband necessary. Tickets and accommodation are already paid. However he will be on his own, so all work will be done by him. [TNX to Dan for relaying this info].

G3LTF: Peter’s g3ltf@btinternet.com Jan EME report follows: -- I started the year off EME wise on 2 Jan with a test to E8B/G4RGK on 432, but we had only (T) copy each way. On 3 Jan also on 432, I had another partial with DL8DAU, but a nice solid QSO with YL2GD. On 5 Jan, I had a visit to the station by the BBC and I was very grateful to 1296 operators F5UKG, F1PRY and PA3DZL (SSB) for being QRV. Later in the day, I worked VE68GT and N4PZ on CW. On 7 Jan I was able to be on for the SSB Funtest for the first time in 3 years, and I had a very enjoyable time. The conditions were excellent and the WX in the UK was calm. All
contacts were on random except one where I gave the ORG on the reflector. I worked PK1CAM JO, HB9CJ WN, OK2DL JN, SP8LJW JO, HB9Q JN, SM7FWZ JO, DJ8FR JO, PA3DZL JO, G4CCH IO, OZ6OL JO, DL3EBJ JO, SP6ITF JO, 1NDP JN, RA3EC KO, IW2FZR JN, SP2HMR JO, DF3RU JN, PA2DW J0, N4PZ EN, SP8GDM KO, VE6TA DO, VE4SA EN, VE68GT DO, NOOY EM, KLM8 BP and VA7NM (CW/VE4MA). I had a total of 26 QSOs and a score of 459 points. The smallest single QSO was PA2DW, who was using 2.4 m dish and 400 W. He had MODTS calling OK2DL, but never heard him again. I'm sure the really big signals from HB9Q and PK1CAM gave many their first SSB EME QSOs. I was using a 6 m dish and 400 W. I also worked on 2-way CW N4CMN (S39) for initial #343 and the state of SC. Finally on 8 Jan, I worked on 70 cm SM6FHZ for 432 initial #467. Ingolf was using his OTH tropo antenna (4 x 9 el yagis). I have been having some problems with my 4CX250B driver, but managed to get 432 equipment together on the 3rd day, and had a partial on CW QSO with G3LTF (T/T). I have heard Peter (449) in the past, so I guess condx were really bad. Local WX condx at the time were also really poor with a howling gale blowing hot air/sand from the Sahara. That night, despite tying the antenna down, the storm got worse and blew the antenna over damaging it and the relay/preamp box. At first I thought the relays were beyond repair, but after a considerable amount of work, I got it working. So on the final day, Friday 6 Jan, I worked on 432 UT6UG (O/O) H/V, UX5UL (O/O) H/V, YL2GD (O/O) H/V, DL7APV (O/O) H/H and NC1I (O/O) H/V in my final few hours before QRT. Both OH6UW and DK4RC were decoded, but I just ran out of time. I have brought back the relay box and preamps to repair for my next trip in the future. On the final day, I worked on 432 UT6UG (O/O) H/V, UX5UL (O/O) H/V, YL2GD (O/O) H/V, DL7APV (O/O) H/H and NC1I (O/O) H/V in my final few hours before QRT. Both OH6UW and DK4RC were decoded, but I just ran out of time. I have brought back the relay box and preamps to repair for my next trip in the future. As a result of this, I was not able to be on 23 cm for the Funtest. I will be on 432 from home for the DUBUS CW 144/432 contest leg in Feb.

EA8/G4RGK: Dave zen70432@zen.co.uk reports on his winter trip to Fuerteventura (IL3BBQ) – Things didn’t quite go according to plan. I had to do lots of maintenance, which got in the way of operating. I did manage to get the 432 equipment together on the 3rd day, and had a partial on CW QSO with G3LTF (T/T). I have heard Peter (449) in the past, so I guess condx were really bad. Local WX condx at the time were also really poor with a howling gale blowing hot air/sand from the Sahara. That night, despite tying the antenna down, the storm got worse and blew the antenna over damaging it and the relay/preamp box. At first I thought the relays were beyond repair, but after a considerable amount of work, I got it working. So on the final day, Friday 6 Jan, I worked on 432 UT6UG (O/O) H/V, UX5UL (O/O) H/V, YL2GD (O/O) H/V, DL7APV (O/O) H/H and NC1I (O/O) H/V in my final few hours before QRT. Both OH6UW and DK4RC were decoded, but I just ran out of time. I have brought back the relay box and preamps to repair for my next trip in the future. As a result of this, I was not able to be on 23 cm for the Funtest. I will be on 432 from home for the DUBUS CW 144/432 event in Feb.

10NAA: Mario mario.natali@gmail.com sends news that he has been successful in his experiments to detect pulsars. – Recently I was able to detect pulsar B0329+54 at 409 and 1297 MHz. I used with my 5 m EME dish a loop feed on 409 and my regular 23 cm W2IMU feed on 1297. For reception I used an RTL SDR for both frequencies, and IW5BHY’s waterfall. I very much enjoyed 2017 SSB Funtest but was only able to be active during the NY window on 8 Jan. I QSO’d at 0606 KLM6 (55/56) BP and 0612 VE6TA (55/55) DO. At the time other JA 23 cm operators were involved with tests on 6, 3 and 1.2 cm. Thus the 23 cm band was very quiet as local power lines cooperated and did not make noise.

K4OF: Ben LoWeb@esp-nc.net is getting back on EME from Alabama – Back in the early ‘70’s, I built a K2RIW 12’ stressed dish to use on 2304 when I was still in Dallas. After moving to Alabama in 1973, there was no on 432. I added a 2’ rim to extend the dish to 16’ and was active on 70 cm EME until 1978 when I moved to my present hilltop QTH. Recently I dragged my old 12’ dish out of the woods and have refurbished it for 1296 EME. I’ve got it mounted on a polar mount, and am looking for a rotator [see For Sale in this NL]. I’m still not sure what is the best way to rotate the mast and looking for suggestions.

K5QE: Marshall k5qe@k5qe.com was active on 432 EME during the ARRL Jan VHF Contest. He was QRV during the contest’s only moon window on 22 Jan from about 0900 to 1900 using JT65B or CW on 080, and quite successful. Marshall’s station is 16 x 28 element yagis all H-pol, 600-W PA and a tower mounted preamp. He plans to have a new 1500 W amp on line for the next contest. [Hopefully we will have his report for the next NL].

K9JF: Doug drzarko56@yahoo.com updates us on his station – I am now using an Elecraft K3 and transverter. I also have an SDRIQ for band monitoring plus JT mode operation. Has anyone else used a K3 off the K4OF dates us on his station – I am now using an Elecraft K3 and transverter. I also have an SDRIQ for band monitoring plus JT mode operation. Has anyone else used a K3 off the

JH1KRC: Mike jh1krc@syd.ozn.net is briefly QRV for the 1296 EME SSB Funtest – I very much enjoyed 2017 SSB Funtest but was only able to be active during the NY window on 8 Jan. I QSO’d at 0606 KLM6 (55/56) BP and 0612 VE6TA (55/55) DO. At the time other JA 23 cm operators were involved with tests on 6, 3 and 1.2 cm. Thus the 23 cm band was very quiet as local power lines cooperated and did not make noise.

JH1KRC: Mike jh1krc@syd.ozn.net is briefly QRV for the 1296 EME SSB Funtest – I very much enjoyed 2017 SSB Funtest but was only able to be active during the NY window on 8 Jan. I QSO’d at 0606 KLM6 (55/56) BP and 0612 VE6TA (55/55) DO. At the time other JA 23 cm operators were involved with tests on 6, 3 and 1.2 cm. Thus the 23 cm band was very quiet as local power lines cooperated and did not make noise.

I very much enjoyed 2017 SSB Funtest but was only able to be active during the NY window on 8 Jan. I QSO’d at 0606 KLM6 (55/56) BP and 0612 VE6TA (55/55) DO. At the time other JA 23 cm operators were involved with tests on 6, 3 and 1.2 cm. Thus the 23 cm band was very quiet as local power lines cooperated and did not make noise.

K9JF: Doug drzarko56@yahoo.com updates us on his station – I am now using an Elecraft K3 and transverter. I also have an SDRIQ for band monitoring plus JT mode operation. Has anyone else used a K3 off the
defeasibly loud. S9 +40 when I tune to its center frequency, 2322.29. It has a bandwidth of 4.5 MHz. While it doesn’t move the s-meter at 2304, my preamp is getting clobbered. Has anyone else experienced problems with the SIIRIUS birds?

**NOY:** Pete (XW8DORL) petesgas@yahoo.com had a note worthy QSO during the 1296 SSB EME contest -- On 7 Jan around 0200 and 1296.016 during the Funtest, I heard KL6M, VE6BGT and N4PZ in a 3 way SSB QSO. I broke into their chat, which made it KL6M, VE6BGT, N4PZ and NOY in a 4 way SSB QSO via EME. Signals were Q5 all the way around for the 10+ minutes we talked. For me my 1296 EME journey has come a long way from the early days of struggling to make power and trying to hear weak signals to now with voice off the Moon - what a ride!

**N4PZ:** Steve n4pz@live.com found 1296 SSB a fun activity -- The SSB experience on 7 Jan was amazing. It makes me want to sell my house, buy a place in the country and start work on a 10 m dish. I have a 4.9 m dish and 1.5 kW, but my dish size and my hearing makes it hard for me to copy the SSB signals. Nevertheless here is my list of random SSB QSOs: G3LTF, RA3EC, DL3RU, VE6BGT, VE6XBY, VE6BGT, N4PZ and NOY on 7 Jan at 2012 UTC. I also sent out F1PYR on SSB/CW. What a challenging hobby and where could one find such a great group of very talented friends. In 60 years of ham radio, I have gone from a 6L6 oscillator on 40 m CW to working SSB off the Moon on 1296. Incredible! -- Also For many years I have dealt with occasional flashovers in high power tube VHF/UHF amplifiers. I know about cooking the tubes before applying power. I have built many amps in the last 60 years, but I have yet to find anyone who really knows why this happens, or how to stop it. Usually this happens on the tubes I use survive, but other parts of the amp don’t. If I Google the subject, I get answers from guys who encounter VHF parasitics in HF amps. Since the amps we deal with are not the same that’s of no help. I have seen 5 mm sparks jumping around the HV power supply at the instant of a flashover, which leads me to believe it’s an audio parasitic. The amplifier may operate normally for months and for no apparent reason “BANG” it happens. I can repair the damage and it may be fine again for months. Anone have any ideas? PS – I’ll see you all in Sweden in May.

**N5BF:** Courtney courtney.duncan.n5bf@gmail.com sends his EME report for Jan -- Since the end of the Nov contest weekend, I’ve picked up new initials using JT65C NC1L, WS5UA, XE1XA, W2LPL and JA1WCF, and using CW WS5UA, W4AF and VESTA for a total of 51 unique stations worked since I was first QRV in Aug 2016. I also sent out my first 13 QSL cards, all replies to receipts to date, and plan about 30 more. On the reflectors and loggers, I’ve identified over 40 other stations that I should be able to work when I’m able to encounter them on the air or make schedules. Near term plans include receive improvements that should make it possible to work smaller stations. I log all QSO attempts whether or not successful, and my statistics so far are: 113 Attempts, 81 QSOs, and 32 mixed initials. During Jan I had 13 new initials, no DXCC 20 and WAS 10 plus 3 Provinces for 161 days QRV!

**NC1L:** Frank frank@NC1L.COM reports on his Jan activity -- Most of my time the last two months has been spent on 432. Since the repairs to my 432 array were completed this past Nov, the antenna seems to be working as well as ever. On the negative side, I have been having amplification problems. My power at the input of the first power amplifier is now around 650 W, down about 2 dB from normal. The amp problem is also preventing me from using CW. The minor re-tune needed for CW has been causing an arc to the plate line. At this point I’m not sure when I will have this resolved, but now that the array is repaired and back in service I will try and focus on the amplifier problem. CW is still my favorite mode, have this resolved, but now that the array is repaired and back in service preventing me from using CW. The minor re

**OH2DG:** Eino metsamakieino@gmail.com has completed the first EME on 24 GHz from Finland -- The project started last summer to find useable dish for 24 GHz. During the autumn I had four reasonable offers. The best was 3 m aluminium dish f/D 0.4. For tracking I used the same software by F1EHN that I use with my regular EME 8 m dish. I simply switch the controller between dishes. The RX/ TX devices are from DB6NT. The WG-switch was a challenge. I had to take it to my shop and grind it with a CNC machine. My LO is locked to GPS and the feed is from VE4MA. My first QSO was on tropo in Oct with OH2AXH (559/559) using my periscope dish over 55 km. The first EME QSO was with G3WGD. In Dec, we copy each other, but only achieved a partial QSO. Later I noticed that I was using wrong polarization. The next time, on 5 Jan, the conditions were excellent with clear sky, no wind and temperature freezing, -21 C deg. Charlie had full Doppler correction and we copied soon each other (10DB/19DB). It was really great fun to hear the signals via Moon on this band. TXN Charlie for the first QSO on 24 GHz and tutoring me to use the WSJTX program. The following day I had a QSO with OK1KIR (10DB/18DB) and 10 Jan JA1WOF (11DB/15DB).
After 6 years running 2 m EME and completing DXCC, WAS and WAZ, I decided to try a new challenge. It has been big fun finding old friends from 2 m running 23 cm and new friends from 70 cm and up. Of course, my station may not be well balanced with a big signal from feeding 800 W into the septum from my PA behind the dish, and the limited RX capability of my 3 m dish. My JT65 QSO partners often ask me to try CW. I had something difficult for me, but by score (27DB), SJ5ZO (26DB), QSOs and 27 DXCC. This year the usual central EU RX returned with continuous frost and snow after some years of global warming. This was the reason that I wasn't able to join the SSB contest with my telescopic mast frozen in the retracted position. My next task after suitable WX returns will be fine trimming of the position of my septum feed and its choke collar to improve the ratio of my Sun to cold sky noise. The SSPA feed and its choke collar to improve the ratio of my Sun to cold sky noise was the reason that I wasn't able to join the SSB contest.

When I opened the hybrid, I found that one N-connector in hybrid had lost (solder) connection with the microstrip line - hi. This happened after after 5 years of pretty intense EME/contest operation and thousands of contacts. After re-soldering the connection, I was back in operation; luckily due to good protection circuitry, all transistors survived. See [http://www.ok2kw.com/00003016/pa70cm/pa_70cm_en.htm](http://www.ok2kw.com/00003016/pa70cm/pa_70cm_en.htm) for more info on this SSPA. During the contest I made my first EME QSO with OK1KIR and OK1DFC. They are only some 25/22 km away. We have almost have a line of sight path to each other, so tropo signals are very good on the S-meter. Thus any EME QSO is very hard even at maximal Doppler (around 900 Hz) and at 20 degrees of elevation to eliminate possible tropo reflections from near houses. In such a situation, we found out that it's much better to do a short EME contact during the Moonset rather than during moonrise because of JT65's characteristics. A big help was the digital DSP in my good old FT847 with sharp-cut-off function. During Dec, I was QRV again and worked OH3LWP (4 x 10 el yagi + QRO) for #114*. I haven't tried the QRA mode yet, but based on experiences reported by OK1KIR, it should be 2 dB better. I'm looking forward to trying some skeds in this new mode. I anticipate that I will be able to work 2 yagi stations with 600 W or equivalent.

OK1TEH’s SSPA failed at one the connectors of the coupler

OK2DL: Marek sochor@kwradio.cz was QRV for the Funtest but had problems -- Unfortunately during contest, I had problem with RX due possibly to a bad SMA relay. As my outside temperature was -12 degs C with 20 cm of snow, I had no chance to make repair. Despite my problem, I still QSO'd on 7 Jan on SSB at 1205 V856C (55/55) QF, 1240 HB6Q (59/59) JN, 1249 SP6ITF (55/55) JO, 1253 SP6JLW (57/58) JO, 1309 DL3EJBJ (57/57) JO, 1322 SP3BSO (55/55) JO, 1326 H1DP (59/59) JN, 1339 SP5GDM (53/57) KO, 1345 PI9CAM (59/56) JO, 1349 HB9CV (59/59) JN, 1354 PA3DZL (57/55) JO, 1401 O26L (57/57) JO, 1422 SM7F6WZ (57/57) JO, 1501 G3LTF (57/58) JO, 1516 DJ8FR (58/59) JO, 1538 F1PVR (55/53) JN and 1628 IW2FPR (53/55) JN. My total was (17x2)=350 points. My station consisted of a 6 m HB dish with OE5JFL tracking, 900 W SSPA at feed, DB6NT 0.1 dB NF LNA, TRVT and K3. [Check out his WebSDR RX for EME from time to time at http://www.sdr.ok2dl.eu](http://www.sdr.ok2dl.eu) for live EME operation.

OK2PMS: Jirka ok2pms@seznam.cz is QRV on 70 cm QRP EME with 2 x 19 el DK7ZB yagi (full elevation) and 50 W out from his FT847 without any LNA. Even with such a small station he was able to work on 22 Oct his #10 initial with K2UYH (24DB). So far he worked NC11, PI9CAM, UA3PTW, HB6Q, LZ1DX and OH2PO and possibly more. He is interested in sked with bigger stations such as WA4NJP.
OK2PMS uses 2 x 19 el DK7ZB yagis on 70 cm EME

PA0PLY: Jan pa0ply@pa0ply.nl sends some info on his recent operation – Beginning in 2016, I lost a part of my 432 antenna array due to heavy storms. This damage provided me the opportunity to evaluate the value of changing my initial array of 8 x 13 el hor into a 4 x 4 hor and a 4 x vert yagi array. My idea was to couple the two groups directly to each other without a relay. [This arrangement should provide a 45 deg linearly polarized antenna]. Since I am often frustrated by Faraday rotation on 70 cm, my plan was to evaluate the array’s performance in actual operation to determine if something similar in a bigger array might be worthwhile, and to present my results at the next EME conference. Initial tests with DL6SA showed reports of ~23 dB (VERT) and ~26 dB (HOR). YL2GD can change pol and showed ~18 dB (HOR) and ~24 dB (VER), while DL8DAU was copied ~19 dB (HOR) and nil dB (VERT). During the Funtest weekend on 23 cm, there was some increased activity on 70 cm. DL8DAU was copied –23 dB (VERT) and W5LUA (~20dB) and W5LUA (~25 m dish feed). It should has said 12 W. Conditions were quite tough with aggressive libration and maybe some suffering from an active geomagnetic field. I am now at my #10 CW EME initial from this QTH. I am enjoying 70 cm for the first time in many years using 5x2x6 = 180 points.

RA3EC: Anatoly ra3ec@inbox.ru sends his SSB contest log – I had a very nice time in the 1296 SSB contest. I operated single op from KOB2ppt with a 3.7 m dish and 650 W. I worked on 7 Jan at 1619 P19CAM (57/53) JO, 1657 I1NDP (55/55) JN, 1701 G3LTF (58/56) JO, 1714 HB9Q (59/53) JN, 1727 DL3EJB (52/52) JO, 1734 DJ8FR (56/55) JO, 1759 SP6JLW (56/54) JO, 1810 SP2HMR (55/51) JO, 1830 DF3RRU (56/55) JO, 2219 SP6ITF (54/55) JO, 2302 OZ6OL (56/55) JO, 2312 VE6TA (56/55) DO, 2316 VE4SA (44/53) EO and 2334 VE8BGT (55/55) DO for a total of 15x2x8 = 190 points.

PA0PLY’s 70 cm 4 x hor and a 4 x vert yagi array

P19CAM: Jan jvm@netvisit.nl P19CAM team in 23 cm EME SSB contest - Because of the snow and ice rain not all our operators could make it to our home QTH at 1296 EM. Our plan was to eval participation in the contest limited to Saturday 7 Jan, when I had the longest visibility of the Moon (1800 to 23 30) from my QTH. The elevation started at 43 degs and ended at 26 degs. I decided to mainly call CQ. My great joy was to have a few pile-ups in response to my SSB CQ! Although it would take a time to figure out the calls, the excitement was trilling! I worked PI9CAM (59/59) JO, RA3EC (51/55) KO, DF3RRU (55/55) JN, G3LTF (55/55) JO, DL3EJB (51/55) JO, SP6JLW (55/55) JO, SP6ITF (55/53) JO, OZ6OL (44/44) JO, DJ8FR (55/54) JO, HB9Q (59/55) JN and N4PZ (55/54) EN. In summary, it was a great beginning to the year; I made 12 QSOs and scored (11x2+1)x5 for 115 points.

TM8DO: Marius (F8DO) marius.cousin@libertysurf.fr celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first F to USA EME QSO (made on 2 m on 27 Jan 1967) using the special call TD8DO on 70 cm – I worked using JT65B unless noted DL7APV (15DB), NC11 (18DB), VK4EME (23DB), HB9QG (16DB), DL9KR (449) on CW, UX5UL (26DB), YL2GD (26DB), DK3WG (21DB), DL6SH (19DB), DL8FBD (24DB), DK4RC (24DB), WA4NJP (24DB), UT6UG (25DB) and OH6EU (29DB) for a total of 15 QSOs and 3 continents. I used only 2 x 21 el Tonna yagis, HL57/53) KO, DF3RRU (55/55) JN, G3LTF (55/55) IO, DL3EBJ (51/55) JO, HB9Q (59/55) JN, 1727 DL3EBJ (52/55) JO, 1734 DJ8FR (56/55) JO, 1759 SP6JLW (56/54) JO, 1810 SP2HMR (55/51) JO, 1830 DF3RRU (56/55) JO, 2219 SP6ITF (54/55) JO, 2302 OZ6OL (56/55) JO, 2312 VE6TA (56/55) DO, 2316 VE4SA (44/53) EO and 2334 VE8BGT (55/55) DO for a total of 15x2x8 = 190 points.

UA3TCF: Alex ua3tcf@mail.ru sends a correction to his report in the last NL. It said that on 6 cm with a 3 m dish that he was using only 2 W at his CP feed. It should has said 12 W.

VA7MM: Mark (VE7CMK) va7mm@rac.ca and Tobby were active on 1296 EME during the SSB EME Funtest -- We made four random QSOs on 8 Jan at 0016 G3LTF (51/549) CW to SSB IO and on CW VE7CMK, KL6M and N0OY. VE7CMK planning to operate the 1296 DUBUS EME Contest scheduled for 1 April. We are otherwise interested and available for skeds.Contacts us by e-mail.

VE3KRP: Fast Eddie eddie@tbaytel.net says – Wishing all a happy holidays but WX prevented operation in SSB Funtest. I got my elevation actuator working but it needed calibration; sure enough though, a Colorado low pressure system dumped 15 to 30 cm of snow on Christmas day...Grrrrrrr. Hope to be GRV again soon.

VE6BGT: Skip's macaulay.skip@gmail.com NL submission follows -- The SSB Funtest started a little early for me. The night before I worked N0OY on 23 CM with SSB and following him Mike, KL6M called me. Then Steve, N4PZ broke in and we had a four-way routable QSO
going with all of us using SSB. It was quite a thrill and the conditions were excellent. It was almost like having a four way QSO on 20 m! All four of us commented that this had to be a first. During the contest, I worked a number of stations all on SSB for a total of 13, and three initials. My dual cavity amp has been giving me some trouble by not staying balanced. I am seeing a lot of drift and power going out of the reject port of the condenser. It has been getting worse lately. The hard drive, then the bigger the problem. Finally I was able to locate a bad tube among the eight of them that was going bad. It shorted causing lots of excitement around here. I have replaced it and the amp is running 100 percent again.

W3HMS: John w3hms@aol.com has sent in his log for the 1296 SSB Contest – I worked on 7 Jan via SSB 2 OSOs at 2102 11NDP (56/53) JN45 and 2111 P10CM (57/55) J032. I also QSO’d the same day using JT65C at 2009 L3AEO (20DB/18DB) J028, 2021 GM4PML (18DB/9DB) IO66 and 2033 LI01A5/5 (19DB/17DB) JN53. I was using a 3 m dish, 450 W PA and G4DDK 0.19 dB NF LNA from (F110m).

K2UYH: I alkatz@toni.edu have nothing to report this month. I wanted to be on for the 1296 Contest but about 5” of snow prevented operation. When the dish is filled with snow, it throws off my counter away. Pau was the brother of EA3DXU and known for his 2 m EME work. He is also the brother of PA0PLY and a key contact. Pau was the brother of EA3DXU and known for his 2 m EME work. He was a member of the very successful to Andora. See http://www.on4sh.be/atv/70cm_1kw.html

EME 35 & 25 YEARS AGO BY PETER, G3LTF: 35 Years ago (Nov & Dec 1981 NL) ZE5JJ was making many DXCC initials from Zimbabwe with only 60 W to his 32’ dish. A lot of SSB QSOs were reported (although the 1296 powers were generally quite low, but the average dish size was much larger in those days). In a 1983 list of about 150 432 and up stations 53 had dishes of over 20’ and of the yagi users 35 had 16 el arrays and 23 had 8 el. WSLUA had made 432 WAS #4 with a 2 kW dish, 450 W PA and G4DDK 0.19 dB NF LNA from (F110m).

K2UYH: I alkatz@toni.edu have nothing to report this month. I wanted to be on for the 1296 Contest but about 5” of snow prevented operation. When the dish is filled with snow, it throws off my counter away. Pau was the brother of EA3DXU and known for his 2 m EME work. He is also the brother of PA0PLY and a key contact. Pau was the brother of EA3DXU and known for his 2 m EME work. He was a member of the very successful to Andora. See http://www.on4sh.be/atv/70cm_1kw.html

FOR SALE: PA0PLY reports that currently over 70 DU3BC 10 GHz preamps have been produced and sold. There is still material for another 8 LNAs. These will be the last produced. If you are interested in one, contact Jan at pa0ply@pa0ply.nl. After this last set is completed, a new design will be created for a different microwave band. K6LM is still making and has for sale 23 cm feed. For details see http://ptt-ak.com/SeplumFeed/ septum.html. [Mike does not make septum dishes but suggests using a “Fat Daddio” cake pan, 18” x 3” available from Amazon. He does make mounting brackets for these rings. OHNSH has available a 70 cm 30W PA with Valvo Triode TBL 9160 (8120) for sale. See http://www.ornsh.be/atv/70cm/dfiles.htm, HA1YA, Gabi has for sale some surplus 70 cm SSPAs. See http://www_ha1ya.hu/hmkepek/ PCU920.htm and http://www.ha1ya.hu/hmkepek_/ PCU1120.htm. See also G4HUP at http://hupfr.com/hupfr/ and IK3GHY at http://www. ik3ghy.it/23cm_pa_1kw.html.

N4QH’s dual band 70/23 cm feed with septum horn and loop

FINAL: I am sad to report that well known VHFeR EA3BB has passed away. Pau was the brother of EA3DXU and known for his 2 m EME work. He was a member of the very successful C37DXU 2m/70cm EME expedition to Andora. See http://www.ea3bb.net/. May he rest in peace.