EDITOR: AL KATZ, K2UYH; DEPT. ELECTRICAL/COMPUTER ENGINEERING, THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY, PO BOX 7718 EWING, NJ 08628, TEL (W 609-584-8424) OR (H 609-443-3184), FAX (609-631-0177), E-MAIL alkatz@tcnj.edu ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND NETNEWS (BASED REFLECTOR NEWS) MATEJ PETRZILKA, SIMUNKOVA 1609/21, 18200, PRAHA 8, CZECH REPUBLIC, TEL (+420 603 489 490), E-MAIL ok1teh@seznam.cz CW INITIAL LIST G4RK, DAVID DIBLEY, E-MAIL zen@zen432@zen.co.uk, AT: http://www.zen70432.zen.co.uk/Initials/index.html EME INFORMAL NETS: 14.345. ~ 1500 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NET COORDINATOR: OPEN ON0EME EME BEACON, 1296.000 IS QRV WHEN MOON >10°, SEND RX REPORTS TO WALTER (ON4BCB) on4bcb@gmail.com DL0SHF 3 CM EME BEACON, 10368.025, SEND INFO & QUESTIONS TO PER (DK7LJ) per@per-dudek.de. NL EMAIL DISTRIBUTION AND EMAIL LIST CORD: WARREN, W2WD wbutler@ieee.org [PDF OR "ON WEB" NOTICE] THE NL WEB VERSION IS PRODUCED BY REIN, W6SZ rein0zg@gmail.com AND AT http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html

CONDITIONS: The big activity this month was associated with the Dubus VK3FU Memorial Contest for 13 cm CW EME. The top score was reported by OK1KIR with 42x36 and is closely followed by OK1CA with 41x36. There are also a few late reports from the 70 cm Dubus Contest that was reported on in the last newsletter (NL). Dominant in this month's news is the FR/DL2NUD microwave expedition. Hermann made over 40 initials on 1296 – see his report. The only expedition in April is S79Z to Mahe Island (L75) on 2 m and 7 cm. Operation is from 6 to 18 April. I have no other details. The final results of the 2016 ARLR EME Contest are in. KIDS reported total sum of 6,048 QSOs in MGM and 2,616 CW/SSB, so total number of all contacts was 8,664 QSOs and 164 submitted logs, which means an increase of 25% from last year. Winners in each category were OK1CA, OK1DFC, OK1IL, OK2DL, LZ1DX, OK1KIR, OZ1LPR, SP6JLW, F5KUG, W6YX, DL0EF, K2UHY, SS0P and OH2PO; congratulations! For more info see the ARLR web page. Unfortunately there is considerable controversy over the dates selected for the 2017 EME Contest as they conflict with several major EU tropo contests. This conflict is predicted to negatively impact the expected activity. The upcoming event for April is the very popular 23 cm Dubus EME Contest during 1st/2nd April. See for more info http://www.marsport.org/dubus/EMEContest_2017.pdf and the web for announcing the expected activity by OK1TEH at: http://www.darkside.cz/eme.php. You do not want to miss it!

DK3WG; Jurg djk3wg@web.de added on 432 in March using JT6B F8DO, JH3HBH, JH7BAT, BG6LOZ and 452CP. On 1296 he added using JT65C FR/DL2NUD for his DXCC 52 and EASDOM.

F1PYR; André andre_f1pyr@yahoo.fr had problems during the Dubus 13 cm contest – I had good luck during my first moonpass and made 16 QSOs including VE6BGT and WA9FWD. However at about 0000 my power dropped and was not able to fix the problem before the contest ended.

FR5DN; Phil fr5dn@iizi.re is again QRV on 70 cm from Reunion Island, well known in the EME world due to Phil’s EME activity, which allowed many 70 cm operators to get their last continent for WC. A few years ago he lost his 8 x 21 el F9FT array in a gale, but he is back with a new smaller 4x21el LY array, and has an excellent signal on CW and JT. More recently, FR/DL1RPL had a very successful 432 expedition to Reunion. Phil is also working on getting on 1296 with a 3.6 m dish. During March he QSO’d with JT6B DL8NUD and K2UHY among likely others.

FR/DL2NUD; Hermann had a very successful expedition to Reunion Island (LG7bud) despite multiple problems. The lady in the next door bungalow was going crazy and forced Hermann to relocate the dish to the back of his bungalow, which only permitted operation from 30 degs elevation on moonrise (MR) to 20 degs at moonset (MS). And then FR was hit by a tropical storm. High gusty winds and at times very heavy rain forced him to stop operation many times. Never he the less he put the FR DXCC on 23/13/9 cm on EME for the first time. He operated JT only. Here is the complete story began in the last NL. Hermann arrived at the island on 1 March and began build up the station. When he was installing the dish for 23 cm band, a lava rock wall collapsed and Hermann and the dish fell down. Hermann wasn’t harmed, but the dish’s system for horizontal adjustment was damaged. The first day of operation was 2 March on 23 cm. He worked HB9Q, OK1KIR, UA3PTW, OH2DG, YL2GD, PA3FXB, UA9YLU, YO3DDZ, PA3DZL, ON4AOI, OZ4MM, PA3CSG, DK3WG, 11NDP, IK3COJ, PY2BS, OZ6OL, G4RGK, RA3EC, PE1CHO, SP5GDM, DF3RU and VK4CDI.

The next day, 3 March, he added OK1DFC, OK1CA, ES6RQ, OK2DL, VK2JDS, VK2CU, YO2BCT, DJ9YW, OK1YK, PA0BAT, LX1DB, G4CCH, DL6SH, ESSPC and OK1IL. The number of worked station on 1296 was much larger compared to his earlier expeditions to XT and D4. On 4 March he moved to 13 cm and again made several nice contacts with OK1KIR, HB9Q, OF2DG, OZ4MM, OK1CA, UA3PTW, PA0BAT, OK1DFC, ZS6EME, OZ5Q, IK3COJ and YO2BCT. The next day the cyclone hit with strong winds that prevented him from aditional 13 cm activity. Hermann reported that 6-7 cm of water was flowing through his bungalow - so much that he had to walk without shoes. Despite the WX problems, Hermann stayed determined to start activity on the 9 cm band the next day (6 March). He worked on 3400 HB9Q, OF2DG, OK1KIR, OK1CA and PA0BAT. He ended on 7 March, on 1296 again adding QSOs with JA1WOF, PA7JB, PE1CHO and NC1I for over 40 initials on 23 cm, 13 initials on 13 cm and 5 stations on 9 cm. Hermann was completely on his own for this expedition. He had to carry 65 kg of luggage from his home to FR and back (by car to the railway-station, by train to the airport (Berlin), by plane to Paris CDG airport, by bus to Paris Orly airport, by plane to FR, by taxi to his QTH. All the setup and operation was done by him. He enjoyed very much FR5DN’s visit. QSL card please send direct to his home-address (QRZ.com) and include SAE and US$2 for stamp. Donations are of course very welcome and will be used for his next expedition. For donations by paypal, please use dan@hb9q.de. [TNX to HB9Q for relaying the reports from Hermann].

FR/DL2NUD’s bungalow (TNX OK1KIR for picture)
G3LTF: Peter g3ltf@btinternet.com writes on his Moon experience in March – On 3 March, I was on 23 cm and working using CW IZ1AEM, F6ETI and G4FUF to bring me to initial #435. I could just hear the FR dbpexution, but very much weaker than in E44. I had heard that Herman wasn’t going to try CW on this trip. On 8 March, I was on 13 cm for some pre-contest activity and worked Z6EME on CW and SSB, SP7DCS on CW, PY2BS on SSB and ON5RR on CW. I was on 13 cm for over a 1.9 m period and my smallest EME SSB station so far on any band. On 9 March, I completed with VE4MA7 (M/O) for initial #68 on 6 cm. During the 13 cm Dubus contest the WX was calm here until the last session, when the wind became quite strong. Thanks to IQ5SOLO for hanging in when my dish kept blowing off the moon! On 11 March I worked on 2320 L21DX, Z6EME, O2MM, OF2DG, PY2BS, UA3PTW, WAFWD and Z62GM. I used a better system to work a few times using JT65C QSO on Friday with OK1KIR. There were plenty of other signals that I missed. I operated for a few hours but was reminded later that the call was OK1KKD. My system is a 5.4 m dish, round K2UYH (XB), VE6BGT (XB) and WA6PY (XB), and during the last piece I spent most of the day of the contest and worked him quite easily on JT65C. I ran into a few problems making a total of 5x5. I also had a pre contest QSO using JT65C QSO on Friday with OK1KIR. There were plenty of other signals visible, but just too weak for CW copy. A get away was SP6OPN (549), who I called for about 15 minutes with just the "QRZ" as a reply. Considering the tree blockage and the high excess loss, I am happy with what my little system, 200 W to a 1.9 m dish, managed to pull in. I have plans to be QRV on 6 cm very soon, but just with QRP (20 W) to my small dish. So watch/listen carefully, if you want a new one on 6 cm.

G4CCH: Howard howard@g4cch.com sends news on his Dubus contest 13 cm activity – I spent most of the day of the contest swapping my system from 23 cm to 13 cm. I ran into a few problems including no 2304 RX at 2 am LT. It turned out to be a bad cable. The problem also affected 2301 RX, but I don’t think I missed much from VK. I was never able to get 2424 going this time – but was reminded later that the JAs are now on 2400! I need to work on a better system to switch back and forth between 13 and 23 cm. I was using my low loss to have a strong signal. In the log for this weekend are CW contacts with SP6OPN, UA3PTW, ES5PC, OF2DG, L21DX, DF3RU, IK3CQJ, OK1DFC, OK1CA, HB9BCD, ON5RR, SM3BYA - best every copy from G3LTF once and only once after the noise floor has risen considerably. I was not able to get a good copy from G3LTF. I heard G3LTF once and only once after the noise floor rose – sorry. Pete, WX permitting I should be QRV for the Dubus 23 cm weekend.

N4PZ: Steve n4pz@xilive.com writes about the 13 cm contest – I spent a good part of the weekend trying to tame my preamp, which decided to oscillate. Despite my stability problems, I managed to work a few, but primarily big signals. I QSO’d SP6OPN, OK1CA, WAFWD, OK1KIR and KG5W for a score of only 5x5. I am sending my preamp back to WAFWD for some work. I have been encouraged when the Moon cleared the house as I started to see signals on the panadapter, but as the Moon continued to rise, I could see the noise floor rising. I thought the problem might be with the hardware. I put the FT100D back in line, but could tell the noise floor had risen considerably. Guess either WiFi or Sirus was the problem. I heard G3LTF once and only once after the noise floor rose – sorry. Peter, WX permitting I should be QRV for the Dubus 23 cm weekend.

K8ZR: Tony (ex WA8RUF) temanuele@ebulent.com was QRV for both月亮 phases during the Dubus 13 cm contest – My results were a bit disappointing compared to previous years, but it was fun to be on the Moon with a better system. I worked many DXCC on 13 cm SSPA and DDK 0.45 dB NF preamp. My activity since my last report was on 1296 and 5760. On 6 cm, on 7 Feb, I worked K2UYH on CW (O/O) for initial #43 after many trials. After, I worked JA6XED (559/559) and JF3HUC (559/559). On 3 March I worked JA6AHB (O/O) #44, JA8ID (559/559) and JF3HUC (559/559). JA6AHB is using a 3 m TVRO dish and Kuhne 100 W SSPA. On 21 March, I worked JA6XED (559/559) after he finished covering his dish with finer mesh (2.5 mm). Hisao is now much stronger. On 1296 I worked on 1 March OH2DG (569/579), and on 4 March tried a test transmission with JA3SGB. I heard him (M) on every transmission, but he could not hear me. JA3SGB has a 2 m dish and a 450 W SSPA.

N5BF: Courtney courtney.duncan@xiee.com continues to improve his 1296 siganl – I had the tower down last weekend to repair and update my TX cable and to change the relay in front of my preamp from a ToTsu CX-520D to a much higher quality, lower loss, and higher isolation Relcom relay. This meant adding a 24 V switched line up to the new relay. I also re-wiring my switching control box to activate the relay on RX rather than TX. Unfortunately, I did not get the chance to blame out my G4DDK preamp! I knew immediately what had happened, but it took a couple of hours to reverse engineer to fix the problem. The tower is now back up with my "backup" DB6NT preamp inline. The NF of the DB6NT is not as good as the G4DDK, but the relay in front of it is so much better that overall performance on my first “apogee echoes” test was 2.5 dB better. I plan a Sun noise test this weekend. TX power to the feed was not as high as I would like, but the water-in-coax and related mechanical problems should be solved. I replaced the connector on the end of a run of 7/8 inch Andrews Helixax using their special tool. This was an adventure but seems to have been quite successful. A new G4DDK preamp is on order and a re-build of the switching box, followed by careful testing, is planned. I plan to be on for the Dubus 23 cm event. My windows to EU starts at about 1900 both days. I have noticed that I’m far from where it’s near the end of the EU pass when I have MR and many
stations go QRT before I can see them. I am making some schedules in advance and also plan some non-contest digital activity during the weekend. I’ll also be available during my own westward window, particularly around 0400-0500 Saturday. I’m in DM04 and open for skeds.

NC11: Frank, frank@NC11.COM wrote in his report -- I am still not back on 432; all my March activity was on 1296. I incorrectly reported last month that Frank was back in operation on 432. It will take a couple of long days on the tower to get the 432 array back in service. Regarding the failure, the only conclusion I can come to, is that when we reinstalled the polarly pop-pitch on my tower, we failed to soak down the hardware. Hopefully the spline on the mast is OK. I can see some wear on the spline from rubbing on the dangling pop-pitch, but not as much as there is on the missing output gear of the pop-pitch. My goal is to have everything repaired for the end of April. I also expect to be back to full power by then. I’ve only been running about 650 W since getting back on 432 in Nov. On 1296, all QSOs were using JT65C with the exception of IZ1AEM on CW. We worked on 3 March at 1731 DKOSF (24DB/8DB) -- Slawek was running 35 W, 1749 OE9GLV (16DB/O), 1916 I1IAEM (559/559), 1938 ON4AOI (20DB/190DB), 1955 LA3EQ (19DB/12DB) and 2125 N5BF (14DB/9DB), on 4 March at 0027 K4EME (13DB/12DB), 1743 EA5DOM (28DB/20DB), 1812 HB9Q (2DB/4DB) and 2152 PA3FXB (12DB/5DB), on 5 March at 1723 I0IIAR/5 (18DB/O), 1737 EA3HJU (16DB/11DB), 1828 SP5GDM (1D/5DB) and 2256 LU1CGB (21DB/11DB), on 7 March at 1918 FR/DL1NUN (O/O), and on 11 March at 0300 N5BF (15DB/10DB). The highlight of the month was working Herman in FRI. I managed to snap him on 1296 on the last day of his expedition to a hotel room. I was able to work him just before I had to leave to get back to the office. Signals were way down from his past operations. I was shooting through trees and 10-minutes after our QSO, Hermann posted that his feedline and amp were full of water and that he was QRT - (I believe for the entire expedition). He peaked at (28DB). In past expeditions I have copied him anywhere from (18DB to 26DB). I believe I was his only NA QSO. I am planning on being active on CW for the 1296 Dubus EME contest. This will not be a major effort, but I will try and be on for at least a couple of hours each day. If the WX is good, we will be working on the 432 array so that will affect the amount of time spent in the contest. My priority will be to get the repairs to the 432 array completed. If we don’t run into unexpected problems up on the tower, we may be able to complete those repairs in one day. W1QA and I are still considering a late spring expedition for 432 and/or 1296. Right now we are leaning towards 1296. I need to focus on getting my 432 array repaired first, but once it is done, we will start trying to pull things together to activate another State.

OK1CA: Franta strihayka@upcmail.cz writes on his 13 cm contest operation -- I was QRV in the Dubus EME Contest for only 8 hours for the second Saturday/Sunday moonpass. The conditions were not good with wide angle fading of the signals. I ended with a total score of 81325. Initials were JA6AHB, ZS6EME, KB8RZ and SP2HMR to bring me initial to #143. I was also QRV during the activity by DL2NUN from Reunion Island. I worked FR/DL2NUN on 3 March on 23 cm, on 4 March on 13 cm, and 9 March on 3.4 GHz. The QSO on 3.4 GHz gave me my first WPX on 3.4 GHz! Very much thanks to Hermann for the good work..

OK1DFC: Zdenek ok1dfc@seznam.cz sent the following report about his recent activity including completing 13 cm WAC -- I was traveling a long time for QRL and return back just for the Reunion Island EME expedition. I tested my system, and all worked OK. But, on 2 March, we had a wind storm with gusts peaking to 95 km/h. I was not able operate my dish and decide wait until 3 March. The WX was then much friendly and I was able to work FR/DL2NUN (20DB/O) using JT65C for digital initial (#276) and DXCC 10th on 23 cm. Later I QSO’d F6ETI (559/559) on 24w, II0IIAR/5 (12DB/O) JT65C (#277). On 13 March on 4 March FR/DL2NUN (20DB/O) on JT65C for digital initial (#30) and DXCC 47w, ZS6EME (559/549) CW for initial #98, DXCC 48w and WAC CW, PA0BAT (12DB/O) JT65C (#31), ZS6EME (13DB/O) JT65C (#32), PA7JB (15DB/O) JT65C (#33), OK1CA (15DB/O) JT65C (#34), G4BAO (22DB/O) JT65C, IKSQLO (24DB/O) JT65C (#35) and KD3UY (27DB/O) JT65C. But after the Dubus contest, I measured points for the JT65C and found it was only 8 db now. I checked all connections and did not find any fault. During my first contest moonpass, I worked only 4 stations and missed the US window. Signals were very weak and I had problems copying stations. On Saturday I checked my feed, LNA relay and all the parts together. The N/F with the input relay and LNA was 0.45 dB; so no problem there. I then measured the SWR of the feed, -10 dB; so not so

OK1DFC’s feed with SSPA for 13 cm EME

After cleaning with propyl alcohol, I measured again the SWR and it was -30 dB. I reassembled and install feed horn back in the dish. Measured sunnoise was then 17.8 dB. I was ready to follow up in the second moonpass. I worked many stations and all the activity brought me some initial on 13 cm CW. Out of the contest, I worked on JT JA6AHB QSO’d during the contest on 2320, on 11 March were SP6OPN (559/569), ESSPC (579/569), UA3PTW (559/579), HB9Q (559/549), OK1CA (579/579), G4CCH (569/594), OF2DG (569/569), G3LTF (569/569), ONSRR (559/559) #99, OK2ULQ (559/559), OK1KKD (559/559), DF3RU (559/559), LZ1DX (559/559), IK3COJ (559/569), HB9BCD (559/559) #100, PY2BS (569/569), SP3XBO (559/559), G4RK (O/O) #101, F5HRY (559/449) #102 and IK2RTI (579/579), and on 12 March QZ4MM (579/579), OK1KR (579/579), OK1YK (559/559) #103, JA6AHB (20DB/O) on JT65C (#37) – no contest QSO, PA3DZL (559/559), LX1DB (579/559), S59CD (559/559) and SM3BYA (559/549) for a total of 27x23.

OK1DFC dish with 13 cm feed in place

OK1LI: Ivan ivakmn@qmail.com fills us in on his recent EME activity -- I wasn't QRV on 23 cm during Jan and Feb because of continuous frost. After the WX improved in March, I found that my sunnoise had degraded. I checked after an initial CW QSO with SM2CEW. It took a longer time than expected to copy both caligns. Peter also had frozen rotors for several months and wasn’t QRV earlier in the year. He was also not anxious to run his PA to full power. I spent several days trying to find the reasons for my low sunnoise. I didn’t find anything wrong. In the end, I discovered that Murphy was active again. I had without knowing activated my AGC. Upon correction, my sunnoise immediately jumped up to the nearly theoretical value corresponding to the SFI. My big signal with 800 W PA behind the dish is not well matched to my RX capabilities with 3 m dish and most stations running lower power. I plan to distribute points in the coming Dubus 23 cm contest, but with decreased TX power, to better balance my TX/RX capabilities.
OK1KIR: Vlada (OK1DAK) vlada.masek@volny.cz reports on his club's (www.ok1kir.cz) activity in March – in addition to QSOs report in the last NL. we worked on 3400, on 6 March at 1246 FR/DL2NJD (24DB/26DB) for digital, to rival 70 cm EME with JE1NL [ Also JS3C1O]. A few more Hermann on all three bands. In the 13 cm part of CW DUBUS EME Contest we made on Saturday, 11 March at 0001 OZ4MM (559/569), 0008 WA9FWD (559/569), 0025 SP6PON (569/569), 0029 PY2BS (569/569), 0038 SM3BYA (559/579), 0047 OK1KKD (559/569), 0110 K8ZR (O/O) #154, 0121 VE44A/K7 (O/O) for initial #155, 0134 N4PZ (569/579), 0140 ESSPC (579/579), 0146 OF2DG (579/589), 0151 G3LTF (579/579), 0158 LZ1DX (569/579), 0206 DF3RU (569/579), 0209 UA3PTW (579/589), 0244 WA6PY (569/579), 0304 VE6BG (569/579), and 0326 1FPYR (569/579) before MS. Unfortunately later on Saturday at MR our TX power had dropped by about 10 DB. Searching for the cause took almost 7 hours. We finally discovered a bad contact in a TX mixer diode. We missed a JT sked with VA3ELE. After the repair, we experienced a “pile up” and made 7 QSOs in 40 minutes. We QSO’d at 2308 F5HRY (559/569) #56, 2313 OH1RLY (559/589), 2320 ZS6EME (579/559), 2325 IW2FZ (569/559), 2334 SP2HMR (545/559) #157, 2341 OK2ULO (559/589) and 2349 SP3XBO (569/569). On Sunday 12 Oct we added at 0005 OK1KY (O/569), 0018 OK1CA (579/579), 0025 OK1DUC (569/579), 0050 G4CCH (589/589), 0059 SS9DCC (559/579), 0124 K2UYH (559/559), 0247 WD5AGO (559/559), 0303 N4PZ (559/569) DUP, 0328 VE6TA (579/589), 1827 JA6AHB (559/569) #158 on 2400.1 (RX/TX), 1852 YO2BCT (569/579), 1957 PA3DZL (569/569), 2002 IK3CJL (569/569), 2012 G4RGK (569/559), 2013 R5F5W (569/559), 2028 HB9BCD (569/579), 2105 IK5SOO (O/O) and 2123 LX1DB (589/589) - QRT at 2135 to catch the last city train. Hi. Our total score was 42x36. Potentially there appeared at least 49 stations according to reports on Moon-net. Unfortunately some only appeared to make a new initial. Off the contest using JT6SC we worked on 10 March at 2309 G4BAO (22DB/14DB) and on 12 March at 1818 JA6AHB (15DB/12DB) [#47] on 2400.1 (RX/TX) for our 1st JA with JT on 13 cm.

OK1TEH: Matej ok1teh@seznam.cz writes that I'm currently not as active as I would like – I have less time because of QRRL. I am trying to gather info on active stations in Japan on 432 for possible skeds with my small station. JH1KRC told me the currently the only “big gun” active on 432 is JA6AHB, but J1N1UJ should be back before end of the year and it's still possible to QSO on 70 cm EME with JE1NL. Also JS3C1O. A few more stations are going to try 70 cm EME but only with 50 W due to JA's license class, so they are reachable just by big guns stations such as DL7APV, UA3PTW or OK1DCF. Anyway if you have 4 x 15 el yagis and 400 W or similar, don't be shy to ask me for a JT65 EME sked. I'm available for CW with BIG Guns too.

OK1YK: Mira ok1yk@VOLNY.cz posts at http://ok1yk.blogspot.com info about her recent activity -- The FR expedition “heated” up 23 and 13 cm after the long cold winter. I decided to see how my EME equipment survived the winter. Hermann announced his activity for Thursday and Friday on 23 cm, so I decided to try Friday. On Thursday I checked my LNA and septum feed and everything worked well. On Friday, after lunch, I tuned 1296.100 and Hermann was there! I didn't have to wait too long write the QSO in my log. Signal were not booming with my 4.5 m dish, but the QSO was basically a piece of cake. I add 4 more QSOs and 2 initials before I went QRT. On Saturday, I moved to 13 cm. I wasn't sure a QSO was possible as I had some problems with LNA. There was plenty of activity on HB9Q, but there were only very few stations on the moon. Unlucky Hermann had problems with the weather, so no QSOs were completed. I was happy that local interference was gone, so my RX is 100% again. Finally I worked 4 QSOs and 3 initials using JT65C with PY2BS (16DB) and OK1CA (12DB). I am currently active with my 4.5 m dish on 70, 23 and 13 cm. [Translation by OK1TEH - TNX].

OK1YK: 4.5 m dish & 13 cm feed [source ok1yk.blogspot.com]

OK2ULQ: Peter ok2ulq@seznam.cz reported on his blog http://ok2ulq.blogspot.com -- I have a new 13 cm transverter with G4 module from DB6NT that I wanted to evaluate during the 13 cm DUBUS EME Contest. I was QRV during second window from Saturday to Sunday and I had 14 CW QSOs in the contest and a JT65C QSO with OK1YK. I'm happy to report that I worked 4 OK1 stations. Unfortunately I haven't heard anybody from JA, maybe it's because of my LNA. I haven't tested if it's working in the JA subband. In US subband, I had QSOs only with K2UYH as nobody else was heard. A highlight was a QSO with PY2BS. I did not make so many QSOs but I'm happy anyway! I'm looking toward finishing my 13 cm PA. [Translation by OK1TEH - TNX].

OZ4MM: Stig gsvestergaard@gmail.com has a new email address [PSE note] and reports on the Dubus 13 cm EME contest -- Prior the contest, I worked using JT65C FR/DL2NJD for a digital initial (#) and DXCC, ZS6EME (#) and OK1YK (#). DF3RU is testing my 13 cm transverter after rebuilding it. Its quite old from SK OZC9R and consists of 35 year old SSB Electronic modules. I has rebuild it several times, trying to keep the modules running, despite heavy oscillator drift from the 3 different old oscillators. Now I am thinking of adding a preprogrammed PLL-VCO with 4 outputs to satisfy the need for 4 EME activity frequencies, and still keep the RX and TX modules running. Another solution is a new DB6NT 4 band 13 cm transverter. During the Dubus 13 cm contest the transverter worked fine. I QSO’d OK1KIR, SP6PON, OF2DG, WA9FWD, LZ1DX, G3LTF, ESSPC, UA3PTW, PY2BS, F5HRY, SP2HMR for an initial (#), IW2FZ, SS9DCC, OK2ULQ, OH1RLY, G4CCH, G4RGK, SS9DCC DUP, OK1KY, OK1CA, OK1DUC, HB9BCD (#), SP3XBO, YO2BCT, OK1KKD and SM3BYA for a score of 26x21, all worked on CW. I heard HB9Q and PA3DZL. During daytime, I had family commitments that limited my activity time to less than I had planned.

PA0SSB: Jan janottens@xiezelandnet.nl EME pioneer writes to let us know that his dish is still there -- I may be QRV again this summer. I will do some tests to see if it still works. My best wishes to the EME community. [Can we get Jan to speak at EME2018?]
SP2HMR's new 13 cm feed & PA used for Dubus Contest [from mikrofale.net]

SP6OPN: Andrzej (SP6JLW) [sp6jlw@wp.pl] reports his group was active in the Dubus 13 cm Contest at http://emejio80ik.cba.pl -- We took part as SP6OPN with our 6.5 m dish and QRO. We scored 39x32, making contacts with OZ4MM, OK1DFC, OK1KIR, OK1KKD, OK1CA, OK2ULQ, OK1YK, ES5PC, ZS6EME, SP3XBO, SP2HMR, PY2MS, L2Z1DX, UA3PTW, OQ1IR, OQ1LBX, W5LUA, VE6G7T, VE6TA, F1PYR, FSJW, GL3TF, VE6CH, IK5COJ, IW2FZR, IK2RTI, HB9Q, HB9BDC, YO2BCT, DF3RU, SM3BYA, ON5RR, SS9CDC, LX1DB and PA3DZL. Thank all to for the great contacts.

SP7DCS: Chris [sp7dcs@wp.pl] writes that during 13 cm EME Contest he was QRV for only 20 minutes -- I completed 2 CW QSOs with ES5PC and UA3PTW with good reports. Then sadly I lost my SSPA and was out of business. I hope to see you during the 23 cm contest.

UA3PTW: Dmitry [ua3ptw@inbox.ru] reports QSOs in March on 432 using JT65B with CT1CG and 425CP, on 220 using JT65C with FR/DL2NUD, and on 2320 using JT65C with FR/DL2NUD. [TNX DK3WG for forwarding this report].

UR3EE: Arthur [ur3ee@ua] is relatively new on 432 EME. In March he QSO’d using JT65B with YL2GD, UX4JJ, DD0NM, W7EMM, N7NW, FR5DN and I5CTE. [TNX DK3WG for forwarding this report].

VE6BG: Skip [macaulay.skip@gmail.com] almost missed the 13 cm Dubus contest -- A few days leading up to the weekend, I was testing and making a few contacts when one of the RF boards in my water cooled Spectrian Amp failed. I noticed that the output was about 50 or 60 W less than the normal 300 W. After looking into the situation, I found one of the amplifier boards had a big burn hole in the board itself. I went looking on line for the the fellow who sold all these Spectrian amps and parts and was surprised to see that his listing now had nothing to sell. So I managed to swap the bad board with one of the boards in a driver chassis I had built. This fixed the main PA circuit. I cleaned and cut away all the burnt parts from the bad board, and it still had plenty of drive to use as a predriver in the driver chassis. So I was back in action and made a few contacts during the contest weekend. Contacted were SP6OPN, WA9FVY, WA6PY, F1PYR, OK1KIR, OF2DG, PY2BS, ES5PC, GL3TF (XB), KU2YH, G4CH (XB), WD5AGO on both CW and SSB and VE6TA. So it turned into a good fun weekend.

W7EMM: Mark [w7mem@juno.com] is looking for 222 EME skeds using JT65B. He has 4 x 7 w yagis on 222 that can tilt. He can try with horizon stations.

WA6PY: Paul [pchominski@maxlinear.com] sent his report for 432 in Feb and 2300 in March -- I was QRV for the 70 cm Dubus Contest on 11/12 Feb and QSO’d G3LTF, KU2YH, OK1CA, UA3PTW, VE6TA and W5LUA; and heard N8Q. I ended with a score of 6x6. On Sunday, I experienced fast polarization shifts. Most of the time I am hearing good echoes and I should be able to QSO any good 4 yagi station. On 11/12 March I was QRV for the 13 cm Dubus Contest, and QSO’d ES5PC, G3LTF, G4CH, L1DXD, OF2DG, OK1CA, OK1KIR, PY2BS, SP6OPN, VE6BG, VE6TA and WA9FWD; and heard N4PZ. I ended with a score of 12x12. During the first JA window, I didn’t find any stations. I called CO for 1.5 hours and gave up. On Sunday, I experienced some interference at the beginning of my window at 0255. I was called by someone, but at that time I had still had 30% dish blocked and signals were too weak to copy. I plan to be QRV in the last 1296 part of the contest, but probably only during the first day.

KU2YH: I [aklaz2@tcnj.edu] did not have a great month. No matter how hard I tried, I could not make it with FR/DL2NUR on any band. I was on for Hermann’s moonset every day except the last day when I had to be away on business and it was not clear which band he would be on. Our windows just missed. The Dubus 13 cm contest was a great frustration. Just be for the start of the contest the mother board of my main station computer died. No tracking, CW, control, etc. After several hours of frantic effort, I had a back up computer in operation (only one monitor). By then the EU window was effectively over, but worse my echoes and
moonnoise were terrible. We gave up for the night. The next day I found that my calibration was off by almost 2 degrees. I started on 12 March with the Moon still in the trees and QSO'd at 0125 OK1KIR (559/559), 0133 OK1CA, 0140 SP6OPN (589/579), 0146 WA9FWD (569/569), 0201 G3LTF (579/579) X8, 0208 ESSPG (579/579), 0223 SP2MRH (O/559), 0234 VE6BGT (569/559), 0246 G4CHH (559/569) X8, 0252 PY2BS (559/569) 1X204, 0307 QN5AU (559/569) VE6TA (569/579), for a total of 13x12. NE2U joined me about the time the Moon started to clear the trees. As the Moon rose, signals improved, but after around 0300 the noise became bad again. It was so bad that we gave up again. I am not sure if the problem was due to WiFi or the Sirius satellite. I checked the Moon again at 0500 and found the noise was gone. I worked Grant at this time, but no one else was around. I started up again at 0530 and listened on both 2304 and 2400 UTC, but never identified another station. My only other QSO was on 4 March at 0432 FR5DSN (20DB/25DB) using JT65B. I plan to be QRV for the 23 cm Dubus contest.

TECHNICAL ISSUES: 70 cm LNA by K4EME is now doing some tests about inserting a pin diode on the input for extra protection. OK1TEH sends his notes regarding the K4EME LNA's input robustness to static as K4EME's LNA is similar to ATF LNA from OZ1PIF. Matej suggested checking out article at http://www.ok2kw.com/00003016/lna_oz1pf/en where is published info about a 70 cm HAT LNA made by OK1VPZ and used by him for 70 cm EME for last 5 years with single yagi EME. Another interesting article related to this topic is at http://www.ok2kw.com/00003016/lna_oz1pf_en.html. More articles written by OK1VPZ can be seen at http://www.ok2kw.com/qro_en.htm.

Encoder: An interesting and not expensive K4EME's LNA is similar to ATF LNA from OZ1PIF. Matej suggested you will find my detection as so bad that we gave up for the night. I started again at 0830 and listened on both 2304 and 2400 UTC, but never identified another station. My only other QSO was on 4 March at 0342 FR5DSN (20DB/25DB) using JT65B. I plan to be QRV for the 23 cm Dubus contest.


Another interesting radio astronomy presentations at http://www.dmrdas.co.uk/Downloads.html http://www.qsl.net/c7tdkm/emee_ra2.pdf

PULSAR HUNTING: IONAA, Mario writes that thanks to a software conversion routine, now we are able to analyze Pulsars data with PRESTOP and validate you will find my detection @ 409 and 1297 MHz. The detection was accepted from NSG and now I am proud on the list of hams that were able to detect Pulsars! See http://neutronstar.joataman.net/sites/0nna/index.html. PRESTOP is a pretty difficult package to master. I feel that I am now on the right track! Pulsar hunting is a very exciting activity as you are obliged to squeeze the maximum from your equipment.

The B0329+54 pulsar at two observation frequencies at IONAA.


EME 35 & 25 YEARS AGO BY PETER, G3LTF: 35 years back on Jan-March 1982, the 432 expedition to HB0, HB0OQ, in early Jany struggling with the WX, but they managed to work 8 stations despite deep snow and ice storms. K2UYH was planning an expedition to Kentucky, KA0Y was QRV with a 42 dish, OZ9CR had shipped his 40th ring amplifier using 6 x 7289s for 1296 and 255JZ had visited the UK (G3LTF & G3GWD). Lots of states were active on 432 that we don't hear now (GA, TN, AL, FL, NV) and the 35th-anniversary station list had over 100 active calls. There was a technical report from W2MJ on the basics of offset dishes and a description of the Clavin feed for very deep dishes, 1 lambda dia. 25 years back on Jan-March 1992, 20 Years of the NLR was noted. The top stations in the standings list were on 432 K2UYH 478/54 DXCC, 1296 OE9XHI 99/27 and 2304 OE9XJ 19x10. It is interesting to note that in the 1296 list 44 stations were running >200 W, 20 x 400 W and > 700 W, which was a big change from 1982. POWERS on 2304 were 30-300 W. Reports on the Nov ARRL Contest had top scores on 432 - SM4IVE 136x43 and 1296 - SM6CKU 50x22. The top US score was WDSAGO 41x21. W4HHK made the first QSO on 2304 with OE9ERC. The first indications of the demands for large chunks, hundreds of MHz of microwave spectrum by Apple and Motorola were reported by K1FO. In the annual ARRL January VHF contest, Steve made 34 random CW contacts with full 4 character grid exchanges. - (with no side channel!)

FOR SALE: KL6M is making and selling 23 cm feeds, details are at http://pdt-ak.com/SeptumFeed/Septum.html. DB6ENT has introduced a MKU LO 8-13 PLL, Oscillator, 8400-13600 MHz - Output frequency fully programmable via interface. See https://shop.kuhne-electronic.de/kuhne/en/shop/new/MKU_LO+813-PLL+Oscillator?card=1714. SVTOAA has for sale a PA for 23cm made by Marco LZZUS, using TH257. PA is practically unused and has never transmitted. It was part of my project of setting up a 23 cm EME station at my summer QTH but I have no time to be there but 1 week per year, so it was never completed. It is not worth having it there and never using it, so I decided to give it away. Here are the specs: RF DECK, Tube: TH-327, Freq: 1296, Output: >2000 W, Gain App.: 9dB, Efficiency App.: 32% linear Mode, Voltage: 220-240 Volt 50/60Hz. Weight: 45 Kg. POWER SUPPLY: Voltage: -3 phase 380-405 VAC, Size: 48x4x22cm, Weight: 60 Kg. All will be delivered in a wooden box. I am asking Euro 1,000 + shipping from Athens to anywhere you like, preferably within EU. If there is a good home for this nice PA, please email me direct. Pictures are available upon request. Contact Costas at svtoaat@xhotmaill.com. PA3CMC has 70 cm SSPA and 2 m PA. They are broadcast SSPA running on 70 cm. PA's are modified for 432. 1) One with input 2.5 W output of 450 W needs only too add fan. Module and power supply include mods. Price and
pictures on request. 2) One SSPA ex broadcast with in 3 W out 1250 W out, exclude PSU - Need 30 V 85A and fans. Price and pictures on request. I am coming too Berghem Fleamarket and HAM radio Friedrichshafen. Contact by Lins info@pa3cmc.nl.

**FINAL:** You should start to see the impact of OK1TEH joining the NL staff with new material and a different look. I am sure Matej will help rejuvenate and enliven the NL.

What is happening the 70 cm CW Activity Time Period (ATP)? With all the contesting the ATP is suffering. The conflict this month with the 13 cm contest did not help. In April the 70 cm ATPs are on 2 April 1000-1200 and 1900-2100 (conflicting with 1296 contest) and again on 30 April 0800-1000 and 1800-2000 (conflicting with the 9 cm contest).

Pat, AA6EG apolloemexigmail.com invites EMEers to Yuri’s EME night on 8 April (1296 MHz band) in remembrance of the 56th anniversary of the first man in space. Operation will be dedicated to SSB and the 1296 band. This event will be a great opportunity for demonstration of our hobby to public. Patrick claimed "The sun is in good position with high declination, and I want to test before the event, Facebook LIVE, which can provide live internet audio and video on both ends of an EME circuit. I will post EME planning charts that show exactly when the moon is intervisible between two specified points. Questions? Call me (530) 878 7056 Pacific Time... " . Patrick reminds participants of the operation of automatic EME beacon, ON1EME, http://www.on0eme.org/ with 400 W into a 4 m dish, which can be great help for locating the exact frequency and for RX check.

**EME/SHF MEETINGS/CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2017:**

The EME/SHF meeting at Tri Studne was held on 25/26 March. This year the conference attracted more than 80 hams with their XYLs from OK/OM/SP/DL/SM/OE/H. The technical program included presentations on a Modular spectrum analyzer by OK1DXD, a 50 W SSPA for 10 GHz (with a single transistor) by OK2AQ, a 1 kW SSPA for 1296 by OK1DFC. Construction of large diameter parabolic antenna by SM4IVE, QRO LPF by OK1VUM, and Cooling system for SSPA by OK1DCI/OK1KIR (with pictures of SSPA's hot parts taken by IR camera), and a 3 cm transverter by OK1AY. Some of the presentations can be downloaded at http://www.vhf.cz/seminar2017-eng/

The SM EME Conference in April is getting close. There is only 1 month to deadline for payment and registration (19 April). The web has a misprint - it says 27 April. Check http://sm4ive.com/participants.html and http://sm4ive.com/agenda.html. In the conference fee are included the hotel and all meals. You don’t need to reserve a room at the hotel. All rooms for participants are 2 nights (Friday and Saturday) and already booked. (Single rooms are 850 sek and double 950 sek/night).


Friedrichshafen www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en, the biggest EU Ham Radio meeting with a local meeting of EME/VHF hams will be on 14-16 July.

19th SHF/EME PK UKF Conference organized by SP6GWB and SP6JLW is on 18-20 Aug. For more info see http://pk-ukf.org.pl. Both SP6 meetings are very popular in Central EU with over 80 hams and visitors from nearby countries, nice technical presentations and live EME installations, http://ok1teh.rajce.idnes.cz/17th_Technical_VHF_Meeting__Zielanioc_15-16-08-2015/.