

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS OCTOBER 2008 VOL 36 #11

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CONDITIONS: I cannot say that Aug was a particularly outstanding month EME wise. There was surprisingly good activity during the 70 cm CW Activity Time Period (ATP) on 22/23 Aug although Faraday was a problem for some fixed polarization stations. The portable EME test by HB9D – see their report, even with short notice caused a rise in 1296 activity, but was of limited success because of a near synchronized moon and sun. New DXCC stations to look for are KG6DX on 70 cm – see HB9Q's report and LZ1DX, who is just about ready for tests on 23 cm. This month's activity will be dominated by the ARRL's Microwave EME Contest on 20/21 Sept (13 cm and up bands). It is also the ARI's EME CW/SSB Contest weekend – not very good planning. There is no Sept 70 cm ATP because of the contests. The weekend is the official Sept activity weekend (AW), which does make sense because of its high declination and low loss.



OE5JFL's beacon station – see story near enf of this NL

DJ3JJ: Andreas dj3jj@gmx.net reports on his new 70 cm EME antenna – I have build and tested the first of my new 70 cm yagis. It's YU7EF 7015 design with 15 dBd gain and a 3.4 m boom (4.9 Lambda). I did some sun noise testing and could get 4 dB at SFI 67 with a single antenna. G/T of a single antenna is 2.7. The great DJ9BV opt 7026 yagi with a 6 m boom has a G/T of 2.95. The side Lobe suppression is very impressive! This antenna is really low noise. On the 432 I tested RX performance with HB9Q and could copy his WSJT Signal at -10 dB. The WSJT audio file is available on my homepage <http://www.do9bc.de> (link on left side, EME DJ3JJ). So I am really enthusiastic about Pop's great antenna design. It is a ideal antenna for people who can only use small EME antennas and should help to improve 432 MHz EME activity.

G3LTF: Peter's g3ltf@btinternet.com report for Aug -- The Florence conference was really excellent. It was good to meet old friends and newcomers

and the visit to the Marconi Villa, the Radio Telescopes, and IQ4DF's 3 cm station was fascinating and full of interest. N2UOs paper describing his 5 step Septum polarizer based on the IMU horn design was very welcome and I'm sure will now provide the basis for scaling to the higher frequencies. I also made some interesting contacts this month with activity on all bands from 432 to 3400. On 24 July on 432 I worked CT1HZE for initial #416 and on 26 July I was on 3400 and worked VE6TA and RW1AW for initial #16 on CW and SSB. Both were random QSOs. On 27 July I was on 2320 at moonrise and was able to tailend G4CCH working VK7MO (crossband to 2301 MHz) for initial #61 and a new distance record of 17497 km. Rex puts out an extraordinarily good signal from his small dish. Later that day I also worked SM2CEW on 2320 and heard SM3AKW. After the conference I was active during the 432 CW ATP on 23/24 August. Conditions were good with some really strong signals and polarization was sharply defined (my rotary dipole feed shows this very clearly), which is always a sign of good signal levels. VK3UM's SSB was solid Q5 copy. I worked VK3UM, UA3PTW, LZ1DX #417, KL6M, SV3AAF, K1RQG, FR5DN, K2UYH, OZ4MM, DJ7GK for initial #418, W8XTX, PA3CSG, SM2CEW, N4GJV, DG1KJG, OE3JPC, and DF3RU. Later on 24 July I was back on 2320 to work G4CCH, SM3AKW and DF9QX #62. On 30 Aug I was in the crowd looking for HB9D. He was a reasonable signal, but his 2.5 m portable dish was "flooded" with sun noise and he couldn't copy my signal. I did work SM2CEW, SK0UX, IW2FZR, K2UYH, HB9SV and heard PA3CSG, ON4BCB and DK7LJ. On the technical side I am getting a lot of value from my simple Softrock V6.2 SDR working off my 14 MHz final IF. Seeing 50 KHz of EME band at once is a big advantage. I also came back from Florence fired up to get my 2.5 m solid dish mounted up for 3 cm and the steel work has already been welded up. I continue to work on the 6 cm system as well.

G4CCH: Howard howard@g4cch.com was QRV on 13 cm again in Aug – I worked on 2320 SP6GWN and GW3XYW for an initial and new DXCC. GW3XYW was easy copy and has a new 120 W SSPA. At the moment his output is limited by his PSU, but he is working on that. I believe his dish size is about 2.4 m. It is much smaller than the one he uses for 23 cm. If anyone wants to sked me, please e-mail or look for me on the ON4KST EME chat, <http://www.on4kst.info/chat> or HB9Q's 2304 EME logger <http://www.hb9q.ch/>. My 13 cm station is my 5.4 m dish with a round septum feed, 120 W at feed and G4DDK 0.36 dB NF LNA.

G4NNS: Brian brian-coleman@tiscali.co.uk reports that he and G3LTF were interviewed about EME for the BBC Radio 4 program "Questions Questions." See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/questionsquestions.shtml>. The presenter, Stewart Henderson and producer, Kevin Dawson visited Brian's shack while Peter and he did their best to answer the questions. This program was scheduled for 11 Sept at around 1500 and can also be heard on line live or after the radio broadcast for about a 1 week at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/progs/listenagain.shtml#q>. EME is one of three topics to be covered in the 25 minute program. Brian and Peter hope that they showed this aspect of our hobby in a good light.

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@btinternet.com was QRV on 432 during the DUBUS ATP, but had problems that were eventually traced to a fractured open wire feeder – I had a difficult time during the Aug ATP due to an antenna problem, but still worked UA3PTW, HB9Q, K7XQ, F1NWZ and OZ4MM. The faulty phasing line has now been repaired. My dish has now been resurfaced and I am hoping to have 13 cm RX running by the Sept Microwave EME Contest weekend.

HB9D: Fred, HB9BHU reports on the results of his effort to activate his portable EME station for a public demonstration of moonbounce during a ham radio event in Richterswil, Switzerland (JN47 square) on Saturday, 30 Aug. Operation was for only 5 hours (0900 – 1400) on 23 cm EME -- The big problem was a near sync'd sun and moon. I ran barely 400 W (due to a 150' power line run), 1.8 m dish with a VE4MA feed and a BBD preamp. I recognized actually at least 2 stations calling. One may have been K2UYH (I

picked up fragments his callsign, but the sun noise was never less than 6 ~ 9 dB. The only station which came significantly out of the noise was HB9SV. I could copy him even by loudspeaker, so that the visitors could hear our QSO. This happened in the morning when the offset between the moon and the sun was largest. Later in the afternoon I heard Enrico again, but by then his signal was harder to copy. Despite the sun noise problem, the event was a success and our EME station got a lot of attention. I am sorry that I was not able to work more stations. Since the rig is now ready, we will try again EME-mobile soon, and I will let everyone know with more advanced notice.



HB9D mobile EME demo in Richterswil, Switzerland

HB9Q: Dan, HB9CRQ dan@hb9q.ch reports that he added a new country (DXCC 96) on 432 in Aug -- I worked KG6DX (24 dB) in Guam on JT65B. This was Joe's first 70 cm EME QSO, but he has been active in a bigger way on 144 EME for some time. He has a 1 x 19 el yagi and 100 W on 70 cm and is interested in working more stations. Joe can be reached by e-mail at KG6DX@aol.com.

KL6UW: Ed k17uw@acsalaska.net reports on his EME plans -- KL6M's open-house EME Demo was very nice. It was my first visit to his home though we have been friends for over ten years. When the planning began for the Ham conference, I suggested some VHF+ sessions, and some shack visits. Immediately KL6M's 28 footer came to mind and the organizers enthusiastically agreed. My small contribution was a presentation titled "VHF and above in Alaska" at the conference. Possibly as a result of my visit, it is finally going to happen. I'm breaking ground today for the mount for my 16' (4.9 m) aluminum skin dish (old commercial TVRO). After pondering approaches for assembling an AZ-EL system, I am opting to using two linear actuators due to the fine movement and ease of assembly. I was considering two Thompson-Saginaw units with 3000-lb static load rating. This will give me -10 to +90 elevation and about 120-deg of azimuth travel. A unique custom setup will permit the azimuth actuator to be rotated in 120-degree steps to provide full moon tracking. Most of my viewing will be AZ = 40 to 160 degrees as this covers EU and the lower 48 moon times. Then I can shift the azimuth actuator to 160 to 280 for Pacific, Asia and the EU moonrise. I already have a septum feed, WD5AGO 2-stage preamp with 0.30 dB NF, DEM 1296/144 (pending delivery of a apollo-32 http://www.n5ac.com/blog/?page_id=19&category=1&product_id=6 drop-in LO from N5AC for the DEMI xvtr; uses 10-MHz ref, which I will provide from a Jupiter-GPS), 70 W brick at the dish to start. I have two amps: GI-7b and TH-328 for eventual QRO. I have had much trouble securing N-connectors for my

old-style 1-5/8 inch Andrews coax (type that has spiral corrugations). So hopefully we can beat the oncoming winter WX (about two months).

N4GJV: Ron's qstdehb@yahoo.com 70 cm EME activity report -- I (hopefully) have resolved my elevation indicator problem just in time to be QRV for the Aug CW ATP/AW. Conditions seemed to be good. My echoes were quite good, especially considering the small size of my array. I was pleased to enjoy QSOs with K1RQG, FR5DN, UA3PTW, DL9KR, W8TXT, SM2CEW (Peter reported that my signal was vertically polarized at his QTH), OZ4MM, G3LTF and KL6M. DF3RU and DJ7GK were both heard with excellent signals, but neither responded to my persistent replies to their CQs. This was probably due to the non-reciprocal polarization situation. SV3AAF and PA3CSG were also heard. I listened, later, during my badly obstructed JA/VK window and heard no JAs or VKs, but did hear K1RQG. Joe was calling CQ and not receiving any replies at the time, so I responded, and had another QSO with Joe. Unfortunately, I discovered that a strong birdie had suddenly appeared on approximately 432.015, the frequency that FR5DN was using. Fortunately, FR5DN's signal was quite strong and the bird was in a null in the pattern of my antenna array. At other times this bird was probably strong enough to obliterate the strongest of EME signals. The bird peaks on a beam heading that corresponds with my neighbor's house. Has anyone experienced birdie problems from a burglar alarm system? I hope to CU on 70 cm EME in Sept.

OK1TEH: Matej ok1tehlist@seznam.cz writes -- I have not been active the past month as I'm working to rebuild my EME station with new thicker lower loss coax. I think this change will help my EME signal, especially on 23 cm. I should be ready for new 70/23 cm operation very soon. I have also been working on an article about the first amateur EME experiments. It can be now found at <http://www.ok2kkw.com/eme1960/eme1960eng.htm> - [Very interesting and well done].

OZ4MM: Stig vestergaard@os.dk sends news of his Aug activity -- During the AW on 23/24 Aug, I was QRV Saturday morning on 1296 and worked WB2BYP, N2UO and SM5LE. No other was heard in the hour I was on. On Sunday I switched to 432 and joined the second leg of the DUBUS ATP. Very good activity and condx were found this time. Stations worked on 432 were K1RQG, DJ7GK, SV3AAF, G3LTF, FR5DN, K2UYH, DL9KR, DG1KJG, IK6EIW, W8TXT, KL6M and after ATP window SM2CEW, N4GJV, DF3RU, K7XQ and G4RGK. I plan to be active on 13 cm in ARRL Microwave EME Contest in Sept.

PE1RDP: Arno arno.bollen@chello.nl completed his third 70 cm EME QSO on JT65B with K2UYH in Aug -- I presently have 2 yagis and 50 W, but recently purchased a surplus TV SSPA capable of 1.5 kW on 70 cm, which I hope to have QRV very soon. My main problem is a lot of local noise. When I turn my antenna only a few degrees, the noise can decrease (or increase) 5 dB or more as seen on the SpecJT "meter". There seems to be nothing I can do about it. I also plan to improve my RX with a better preamp and switch to open wire with more yagis.



PE1RDP's 2 yagi 432 EME array

SM5LE: Sven SM5LE@telia.com reports on the Aug AW -- My weekend on 23 cm was fine; both the WX and activity even if some did 13 cm. I was very pleased to work SV3AAF on random CW. This QSO was a 3.6 to 2.2 m dish QSO! Petro has a fine station. I also received some answers to my own CQs,

which always makes me feel good. I had one initial on CW and one on JT. I worked on CW SV3AAF, G4CCH, OZ4MM, ON7UN, OE5JFL for an initial (#) and SM2CEW. I worked on JT65C RD3DA, RK3WWF (2.1m dish and 100 W), HB9Q (8DB!). I am also making progress on more power. I have *cloned* my 250 W PA and the only thing remaining to be done is to combine the two. This is not an easy task as they are not exacts alike and may have a significant phase difference. I have purchased a combiner from RF HAMDESIGN that should work well - see <http://web.telio.com/~u14901544/>.

SV1BTR: Jimmy jimmyv@hol.gr sends the following guest editorial -- Hello to my 70 cm & above CW EME friends from HK! I am here on QRL until the end of Sept. I took part in almost all EME Contests since 1994. Seeing the disgraceful ARRL Contest rules once more, and witnessing no effort by those having an influence on ARRL to accommodate fairness and restore credibility in this contest, I will NOT disrespect myself by taking any part in this year's *JT65 Deep Search & loggers assisted internet party*. SV1BTR will NOT be QRV at all for 2008 ARRL EME Contest. The ARRL EME Contest *soup* is the same old *JT* style. Despite the discussions at EME Conferences, reflectors, forums, etc. over STRICT separation between CW/WSJT in the Contest, ELIMINATION of Assisted class etc., the rules for 2008 are identical to 2007. No matter what credible QRV EME stations express, the ARRL has been heavily lobbied by the very same people (person) for many years, and no real change has ever takes place. ARRL and its friend's non-responsive, *deaf* behavior is really threatening EME and Amateur Radio. I am also a 2 m EME station and one of the top 2 m stations considering my antenna size vs. my results. I can not forget 2 m and what is happening on this band due to co-existence of JT65 and CW in the same Contest, and because of the Assisted Class activity. Also, I can not forget what has been happening in this Contest for many years despite the vast majority of CW stations' voices, comments, complaints and inputs to the ARRL that have always been totally ignored. I am also a multiband EME station. When the 2008 European WW EME Contest 2008 results come out, please see my score for my modest station. All QSOs were on random and unassisted as always. In the ARRL Contest I have been winning 1st or 2nd place in the 50 - 1296 MHz class over many years. If I participated in 2008 (with the addition of my new 23 cm system), I should be #1 again easily. But, I prefer to sacrifice this; sacrifice not being QRV at all in this Contest, as much as this deeply saddens and disappoints me. I am really fed up with what is happening. Until the ARRL gives CW stations what they rightfully ask for (the strict separation of CW and WSJT contest sections and the abolishing of the Assisted Class), I will not be active in the contest. [I disagree with Jimmy and have asked him to consider operating, but not submit his log. At the very least, I asked him to consider only operating on 70 and 23 cm where the assisted class and JT operation has minimal impact on activity, and his presence is needed to help grow activity on these bands. G3LTF will not be submitting a log, but will supporting increased CW activity on EME bands.].

SV3AAF: Petros sv3aaf@yahoo.com reports on his 70 and 23 cm activity -- Traffic seems to have picked up again on 70 cm, and the presence of DL9KR and VK3UM apparently turn the band very lively. Conditions during the Aug ATPs at my location were good and stable with some Faraday during my western window. Stations worked were VK3UM, UA3PTW, KL6M, G3LTF, DL9KR, OZ4MM and K2UYH. Heard were PA3CSG, DF3RU and FR5DN. I also operated on 23 cm for a while. It was a bit early in the morning on Saturday and I was very lonely on the band. I was ready to give up when I heard SM5LE responding to my CQ calls. There was still little, but definitely more traffic on Sunday. Condx were good. Stations worked were SM5LE, ON7UN, IK3COJ and HB9SV.

W0DRL: Al al.tyler@sbcglobal.net has been having problems with his 70 cm EME system. His sun noise was non-existent. After much work, it now appears that the problem with his preamp. He now getting sun noise again and appears back in operation with his 8 yagis array and 500W. He is interested in trying skeds at first with bigger stations to prove his system is working.

ZL1WN: Ross rbiggat@extra.co.nz is coming on 23 cm EME and also thinking of switching from 2 m to 70 cm EME -- I am having a bit of difficulty keeping my 2 m array in place due to our weather conditions. My 432 set up is sitting doing nothing, so I am considering the possibility of replacing my 2 m array with a 432 array. It would be 4 M² 13 w1 yagis. The windage should be less than the big 2 m antennas. I have an LZ2US amp to drive it, so power will not be a problem. However, is there much activity on 432? My plans for 1296 EME are moving along. My 4.5 m dish should be operational before Xmas, (hopefully this Xmas!!) with marvellous help from VE1ALQ and VK4AFL and others. It has been a learning curve and I still have a long way to go.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org still have not fully recovered from my lightning damage in July. US Digital has stopped repairing sealed readouts, but I must say

they were quite helpful with information useful for their repair. I have the EL readout now working and hope to have the AZ working before the Microwave EME Contest (that I will be operating in conjunction with K1JT and using his call). Because of computer problem resulting from the lightning, I neglected to report 70 cm QSOs with on 20 July at 0350 LZ1DX (19DB/O) on JT65B and (O/O) CW for initial #704 on CW and #748* mixed mode, 0520 ZS6OB (25DB/O) on JT65B and 0525 CWNZ ZS6WAB (15DB/-) on JT65B. On 23 Aug also on 432 I added at 0630 PE1RDP (24DB/24DB) on JT65B #750*. I found activity on 23 Aug during the 70 cm CW ATP good despite the early hour and worked at 0610 W8TXT (559/579), 0620 FR5DN (569/559), 0645 G3LTF (559/559), 0658 K1RQG (579/579), 0707 OZ4MM (579/569), 0722 SV3AAF (449/549), 0742 SM2CEW (569/569), 0758 DJ7GK (O/O) #705 and 751* and 0812 KL6M (559/559). I was on 1296 on 30 Aug looking for HB9D (O/-) and heard him once but no reply because of the close sun, but did QSO G3LTF (559/559). During the Sept AW I will be on 13 cm and possibly 3 cm using the call K1JT. In between I will be looking for skeds on 70 and 23 cm.



SV1BTR's new 70 cm 24 yagi EME array

NEW 23 CM EME BEACON BY OE5JFL j.fasching@eduhi.at -- In the technical school where I work as a teacher, we built last year a complete EME system for 23 cm. It consists of a 5 m dish and a 100 W SSPA at the feed. As it is possible to turn the antenna and activate the transmitter at a desired power level via internet, the system can serve as an EME beacon. It is not a beacon in the usual sense because the transmission sequence lasts for only one minute and must be initiated via the Internet. To get another transmission, you have to reactivate it. The intention was to give everybody the possibility to make comparisons with their own equipment. The 100 W signal should be easily received by stations with a 2 m dish. I plan to make the beacon available during weekends and on demand during the week via email to me. To activate the beacon via Internet you need a login name, which you can get from me via email. You will find a very detailed description of the beacon at <http://member.eduhi.at/OE5JFL>. Recently I installed Skype at the system, so it is now possible to call the beacon by phone and listen to the audio output of its receiver. If you transmit into the receive channel (SSB bandwidth), you can listen via Skype to how your own signal sounds as received by a 5 m dish. Until now the beacon was successfully tested by G3LTF, OZ4MM, HB9Q, SM5LE,

G4CCH and I. I can remote the transceiver as well, and just for fun I worked G4CCH, SM5LE, SK0UX and SM2CEW using the beacon station. So if you hear me with a relatively small signal, it is with the beacon system. If it is bigger than I have successfully repaired my big dish, which was partly damaged in a big wind storm in March. Good luck with testing!

NETNEWS BY G4RGK: DJ8MS is back from the Scandinavian polar region where he was working for SM2BYA. Tor should be available for 70 (and single yagi 23 cm) EME skeds beginning in Oct. **N2UN** is making good progress on his new 20' dish – see picture of his mount at the end of this NL. Marc hope to be QRV with it for the ARRL EME Contest.

FOR SALE: W6PQL is selling 1296 SSPA kits, 75 W for \$US155 and 150 W for \$US325. The kits use XRF286 LDMOS parts harvested from Spectrian commercial SSPAs. See http://www.w6pql.com/xrf-286_amplifiers_for_23cm.htm for more details. The amp boards can be phased together for higher power. See his 600 W SSPA at: http://www.w6pql.com/600w_23cm_LDMOS_amplifier.htm. Order info is at: http://www.w6pql.com/parts_i_can_provide.htm. **NA4N** have several 13 cm 50+ W class "A", 12 VDC SSPAs for sale. Each SSPA assembly is made up of 3 separate amps. A 2 W input driver, a 16 W intermediate stage and the 50 W final PA. The 2 W and 16 W amps share the same housing and both require only 1 to 1.2 mW of drive power. All 3 amps are mounted on a 5" x 3" x 17" heatsink and are designed for continuous service. The amps were taken out of working TV transmitters. The amps are really nice and cost someone a fortune to build. They include a bias protection board and all stages are fused. The amps all have sampled forward and reflected power at SMA connectors, so it is easy to monitor output power and SWR. Replacement RF devices are still available for these amps. Greg used a Downeast transverter to checkout and run the amps and all work well. He is asking \$300.00 for one complete assembly plus actual shipping costs. If interested e-mail Greg at na4n@hughes.net. Pictures are at <http://www.customcpu.com/ptt/NA4N/13cmAMP.html>.

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager sent on 27 Aug: "DXCC is pleased to announce the issuance of award number 1 on 70 cm EME (432 MHz) to Jan Bruinier, DL9KR! First licensed in 1951 and a career in civil aviation, Jan retired from the cockpit 1991, then worked as a consulting engineer until 2003. His 70 cm station consists of 16 long yagis (24 el, 8.5 wl booms) of his own design with open wire feeder, a preamp ATF58143 cavity into 23 dBm mixer into TS870, TX 1500 W. With the guidance of his elmer, Charlie O'Brien W2EQS, Jan achieved 160 Meter DXCC in 1985 endorsing it to 152 entities. Jan was also helpful to Stewart Perry, W1BB, who as you may remember achieved 160 meter DXCC number one in 1976! Congratulations to Jan, and, who will be next?"

FINAL: Good news, we have heard that K1RQG will be running the 20 m net again during the fall, but must go out west again soon and will be away for a while.

432 EMEer, FR5DN on Reunion Island made big news on tropo on 14 Aug when he successfully QSO'd ZS2GK in South Africa on 2 m. This contact is reported to be one of the longest if not the longest 2 m QSO via tropospheric propagation. Congratulations to Phil.

HB9BBD has plots (NF vs. frequency) of the LNAs tested during the Florence Conference. If you would like to receive a plot by e-mail, send a request to Dominique at dfaessler@bluewin.ch referencing "NF plot".

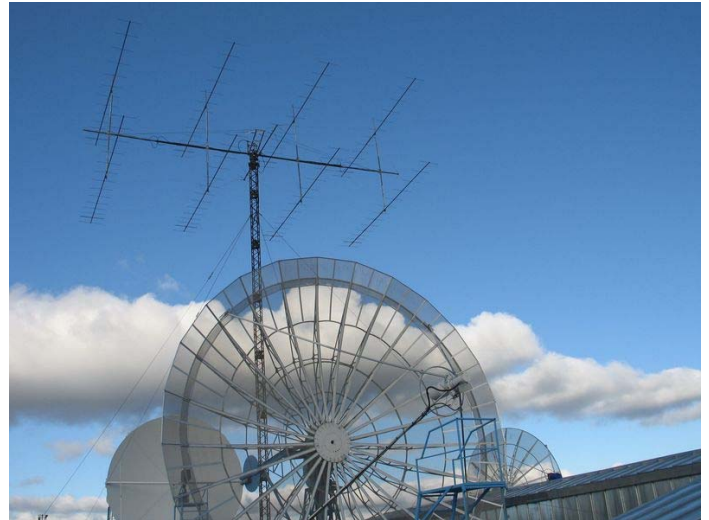
At <http://www.ch73.net/player.php?id=175&table=1> you will find an interesting interview with Jan, PA0SSB about his moonbounce activities. It's in Dutch but he's talking about his homemade dish and 70 and 23 cm EME station. Tnx to PE1RDP this info.

Besides the very interesting information on the start of amateur EME – see OK1TEH's report, work has started on a new web page for people interested in 70 cm EME – particularly new comers. The page will be hosted by Rein and supported by DL7APV, DL9KR, HB9CRQ, K2UYH, OK1DFC, PA3CSG and others as it develops. It will also include a start of the EME Hall of Fame.

If you are in the north eastern part of the US around 27/28 Sept, you may consider attending the Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference (Saturday) and Hamarama flea market (Sunday), near Philadelphia – see <http://www.packratvhf.com/VHF%20Conf/vhf%20conf.html>. Many local EMEers will be there.

Please keep the news and activity reports coming no matter what you views on 70 cm & Up EME... They will be heard here, although I personal believe in

moderation. I also hope to hear many, if not all of you on 13 cm and up for the ARRL Microwave EME Contest and will be looking for you (under K1JT's call on 2.3 and hopefully 10 GHz). 73, AI – K2UYH



A view of RW1AW's many EME antenna's -- expect to see Alex on in a big way for the EME Microwave Contest.



ON4UN's dish while working on the 1296 feed – look for John in the EME contest.



N2UO's mount for his new 20' dish