432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS JULY 2011 VOL 39 #6

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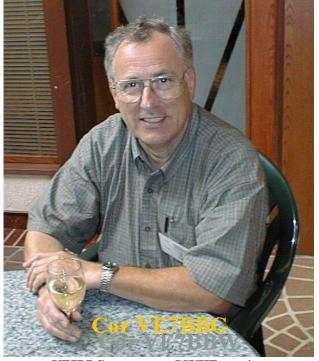
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CONDITIONS: Despite a fantastic finish to the 2011 DUBUS EME Contest on 23 cm, this month has turned into one of the blackest months that I can remember. During the past month we lost two EME greats (K1RQG and VE7BBG), and I lost two close friends - see below. It is difficult to write positively after these losses, but the level of activity and condition during the contest weekend were truly exceptional. This was a contest you did not want to miss. 1296 sounded more like 20 m than a microwave band. I do not have the full picture, but F2TU appears in the lead with 91 QSOs. In looking at the results of the various contest weekends, it is quite clear that there were many more QSOs reports for 13 cm than for 70 cm. I believe this is the first time that 13 cm has been so clearly ahead of 70 cm. Some years ago 1296 leaped ahead of 432 in EME activity levels, and it now seems that the same is happening at 2300. Those of us who love 432 EME, we need to make an even a greater effort to keep activity up. Try not to miss the next 70 cm CW activity time period (ATP) on 3 July from 800 to 1000 and 1500 to 1700. July also has two microwave activity weekends (AWs), on 2/3 July for 9 cm and on 30/31 July for 6 cm.

VE7BBG, Cor died of colorectal cancer this pass month. He was active on EME for more than 40 years and was my second EME QSO back in 1971. We collaborated to start up this EME Newsletter (NL). I gather the reports of recent EME activity (there was no Internet back then), while Cor made up the monthly skeds list that was published in the NL. Cor remained Skeds Coordinator for nearly 10 years, when the job was picked up by G3WDG. Cor was very innovative. He was among the first to have a dual band feed in his dish and could operate 70 and 23 cm cross band on EME. I exchanged some of the first EME SSB on 432 and later on 1296. He remained QRV up to the end. He recent years he used a small dish on 23 cm primarily on JT65. We will miss Cor – may he rest in peace.



VE7BBG at a recent CSVHF meeting

K1RQG, Joe also died this month at age 65. His death was a great shock as it was totally unexpected. He had just returned as Net Control of the 20 m 432 Up EME Net. Joe's wife Peal was away visiting their daughter. When she could not reach him, she asked a friend to check on him. He was found sitting in a chair and may have passed away quite peacefully. Joe has been described as "the glue that held the EME community together". He was the net control of the EME Net for more than 20 years, and the last of the NL's Skeds Coordinators. Joe seemed to be the only one who could make the 20 m net work and strived to promote EME. He was always offering his assistance, equipment or whatever was needed; not just to EMEers and radio amateurs, but to his community at large. Joe leaves a huge void that cannot be filled. The best we can do is all work together to fill in some of the pieces. He will be greatly missed.



K1RQG in front of the mount for his 10.5 m dish

DL0SHF: Carsten (DL6LAU) carsten.esch(x)appello.de writes about his operating DL0SHF -- I started operating the 23 cm contest on Saturday at 1500 and worked YO8BCF, DJ8FR, F5SE/p, OK2DL, LY/DL1YMK, NA4N, OK2ULQ, F2TU, UA3PTW, OK1DFC, SP6GWN, W9IIX, IK3GHY, ES5PC, S59DCD, G4RGK, SM3JQU, ON7UN, F5KUG, SP7DCS, WA6PY, UR5LX, W4AF, WA8RJF, VE4MA, VA7MM, IK5QLO, SP3XBO, DL6SH, DJ3FI, F5JWF, N2UO, SV1BTR, SD3F, PI9CAM, G4CCH, SM7FWZ, SP6JLW, ON4BCB, OK1YK, OH2DG, OK1KIR, G4DDK, DF3RU, OK1CA, K2UYH, RA3AUB for 47 stations in 4.5 hours. I was again at the station at moonrise Sunday at 0645 and worked VK3UM, JA6AHB, JA8ERE, JA4HZN, JA4BLC, LZ2US, I5MPK, VK4CDI, HB9BBD, KL6M, JA8IAD, SV1DNU, F2TU (DUP), LZ1DX, OZ4MM, IW2FZR, PA3DZL, OZ6OL, IK6EIW, JF3HUC, 9A5AA, HB9BCD, OE5JFL and JA1WQF for another 23 stations in 4 hours of operation. I am quite satisfied with the 70 QSOs in 8.5 hours. TNX for calling. I also have to thank DK7LJ, owner of DL0SHF, who worked very hard the weeks prior to the contest to make the station even better from both an operating and an ergonomic point of view.

<u>F2TU:</u> Philippe <u>f2tu.philippe(x)orange.fr</u> found very good activity during the 23 cm DUBUS EME Contest -- I made 91 QSOs in contest despite problems with my audio filter that caused me to miss several calls by weak stations - sorry.

During the month I also worked the LY/DL1YMK dxpedition on 70, 23 and 13 $\,$ cm $\,$

F5SE/p: Franck kozton(x)free.fr reports on his spring operation from his portable location with his 10.5 m dish -- Since Feb to before the DUBUS 1296 contest, I made 51 QSOs. All on random and CW. The new stations are JA1WQF (52/52) #71, IK5QLO (539/539) #72, SM7FWZ(529/559) #73, OK1YK (529/549), VE3KRP (419/539), #75, DH2SAV(53/53) #76, ON4BCB(569/579) #77, PAØBAT (559/569) #78, LA9NEA (559/569) #79, G4RGK (529/569) #80, KL6M (549/569) #81 and ON7UN (55/54) #82. In May, I was visited by K2UYH. We were active off the moon on 14 May and worked I5MPK and DF3RU. Unfortunately, we could not stay too long. It was great to have Al visit. We had plenty of time to discuss "EME", but not as much as we would have liked. [Franck was QRV for the contest. I hope to have his contest report soon].

G3LTF: Peter g3ltf(x)btinternet.com reports that he is doing well after his back operation and on the recovery path. He says -- It will still be some time before I can be back to normal activity, but I am getting bits together for some easy projects, like getting my Oncore GPS to run and locking a 10 MHz standard for the counter.

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk(x)btinternet.com was active for a small amount of time in the 23 cm DDUBUS Contest – I worked 33 stations in a total of around 6 hours of operating time. My last QSO was with K1RQG, in what was to be our final QSO. Joe's death came as a big shock to me as I'm sure to everyone else. Over the 25 years that I knew Joe, he was always willing to help anyone to get going on EME and we had countless QSOs on the 20 m net and on 70 and 23 cm EME. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was not afraid to discuss controversial things on the net. I have fond memories of the last time we met in person. He related stories of his time in England, not far from where I live. His loss is a real blow to us all, RIP Joe.

JA4BLC: Yoshiro ja4blc(x)web-sanin.co.jp writes -- In Eur 1296 contest, I worked 45 stations including initials (#) with VK4CDI, RA3AUB and JA1WQF. I worked on 23 cm on 29 May LY/DL1YMK (#) and on 30 May N4PZ and K1RQG. I am pleased to know that many of my friends are trying to listen on 2424. As reported last month, I worked WA6PY on 2304/2424 on 14 May. The Moon was at low declination (-8 deg) to avoid QRM. The sked started at my el of 5 degs. Paul's signal was heard (T) at the last few seconds of his first transmission. As time passed, his signal became better and better; we changed (449/549). At the end when my el was 11 degs, Paul was a solid (549)! Usually I need minimum 20 degs el to the east, but in this direction (AZ 105-109), luckily the blockage is low. I also worked on 13 cm LY/DL1YMK for #48 on 2 June. Michael told me he had less QRM on 2424.475. We worked on 2320.100/2424.475. On 2 June G4CCH was OSO'd (559) for #49. I sent my spare 13 cm converter to SM3BYA to help his plans for 13 cm operation in June. This converter of course contains 2424. On 24,048 GHz, I am now seeing 11.4 dB of Sun, 1.1 dB of Moon and 3.2 dB of G/CS noise using cascaded Kuhne WG preamps and a 3 m Cassegrain solid dish with W2IMU long horn feed. In mid May, I visited JA6CZD. Shichiro has a 2.7 m offset dish that he is using for 24 GHz, but does not know the location of the focal point. We repeated Sun noise measurements many times trying to find the focus, but we still had not found the best by the time evening arrived and we lost the Sun. The sun is too fast!



JA4BLC has two dishes (dish brothers) for use on L to K-band; L and S-band are on the 6 m dish, and an X band feed on the 3 m dish.

K5QE: Marshall k5qe(x)sabinenet.com was active on 432 EME from EM31cj during the ARRL June VHF Contest on 11/12 June. He operated mainly JT65B (on 070), but also was looking for CW QSOs. Marshall reports that activity was not very good. He ended up making 6 or 7 contacts and sends his thanks for the additional contest QSOs and grid multipliers. He also asks if anyone has had experience using MAP65-IQ on 70 cm. He has it working on 144, but for some reason cannot make it play properly on 432.

LU1C: Adrián (LU1CGB) <u>adrian.sinclair(x)multiradio.com.ar</u> in GF05om operated the 1296 contest with LU1AEE. They used 100 W (2 x 2C39) with a 3.6 m dish, RA3AQ feed and 0.3 dB NF preamplifier and a line loss of 1.5 dB. They also had a TS2000 with IF output to an SDR (YU1LM design) and Winrad software. QSO'd on 4 June were at 2036 F2TU (O/O), 2117 K2UYH (O/O), 2011 OK1CA (559/O), 2024 G4CCH (O/O). Heard but not worked on CW were K1RQG and OK2DL. We also contacted on JT65 PI9CAM (8DB/O) and OK1KIR (11DB/O). Conditions were very good. The SDR offered a great improvement in RX; for more details see http://www.lu1c.com.ar. I am working in a 100 W SSPA from a surplus cellular power amplifier and hope to have more power at the feed soon.



LU1C's 3.6 m dish with RA3Q feed

N2UO: Marc, n2uo(x)arrl.net writes -- I am writing this report the same day I received the sad news of the passing of long time EMEer K1RQG. He was a great person and passionate about moonbounce. He served the EME community for decades running the 20 m net. This is a big loss that caught me by surprise. I am really glad that the guys in Dallas gave him a plaque for his dedicated service during the EME conference. It is hard to fully thank Joe for his time and effort running the 20 m net and helping fellow EMEers. I think that at least on that night he got a small sample of how much we all appreciated him. I worked him (579/579) during the 23 cm DUBUS contest in June. During the contest, I had some power amplifier problems that kept me off the air for some time, but I still managed to work 69 stations on 1296 CW running about 250 W at the feed of my 20' dish. QSO'd were VK3UM, JA6AHB, JA8IAD, JA4BLC, VE6TA, JA4LJB, OH2DG, SV1BTR, PI9CAM, F5SE/P, UA3PTW, G4CCH, SP6JLW, LZ1DX, N0OY, F2TU, LZ2US, OE5JFL, ON7UN, S59DCD, OK1DFC, PA3DZL, OK1CA, OK2DL, WA6PY, SD3F, SP7DCS, OK1KIR, NA4N, W9IIX, HB9BCD, DF3RU, DL0SHF, OZ6OL, DJ3FI, VA7MM, OK2ULQ, DL6SH, RA3AUB, ES5PC, K2UYH, SM7FWZ, F5KUG, N4PZ, I5MPK, VE4MA, G4RGK, JA8ERE, KL6M, VK4CDI, JA6CZD, LY/DL1YMK, 9A5AA, YO8BCF, G3LQR, PY2BS, UR5LX, SV3AAF, W4AF, WB2BYP, OZ4MM, LX1DB, W5LUA, WA8RJF, VE3KRP, IK2MMB, SM2CEW and PA3FXB. There are several initials on the list that I have to verify as well as LY as a new country. Overall, it was a fine event with plenty of activity and good conditions. I also had the chance to stop by Greg's NA4N on my way up to Baltimore to attend the IEEE microwave symposium. We chatted for a couple of hours and had a great time discussing EME stuff. I also met with K2UYH, WA6PY and G3WDG in Baltimore during the ham radio social held during the IEEE conference.

N4GJV: Ron qstdemb(x)yahoo.com reports on his recent 432 activity -- I was QRV during the 29 May ATP and enjoyed CW QSOs with I1NDP, OZ6OL, DL7APV, and K2UYH. I also heard and briefly called PA3DZL, but a prior commitment prevented me from persisting longer. I found conditions to be rather strange, with extremely erratic and deep QSB. My echoes would be

relatively strong, one minute, but absent or extremely weak, a few minutes afterwards. Many thanks to all for the activity!

N4PZ: Steve n4pz(x)live.com sends his 23 cm DUBUS Contest results – I was working on antennas, and as a result didn't spend much time on 23 cm, but I did work a few. I boosted my initial count up to #123. Contacted were ES5PC (579), F5SE/P (579), UA3PTW (559), SV1BTR (579), VE4MA (449), OK2DL (589), DL1YMK (559), HB9BBD (579), OE7JFL (579), I5MPK (579), K2UYH (589), OK2DFC (589), WA6PY (569), LU1US (579), N2OU (579), ON4UN (579), SP9JLW (579), VE6TA (579), JA6AHB (579), JA8ERE (579), NA4N (549), VK4CDI (449), JA4BLC (549), SD3F (579), OH2DG (589), LZ1DX (579), F2TU (589), K1RQG (589), F5KUG (559), SM3JQU (559), W5LUA (589), 9A5AA (449) and PA3DZL (559). I made a total of 36 QSOs with 31 multipliers for 111,600 points. Of course all Operation was 100% CW.

N6RMJ: Pat n6rmj(x)sbcglobal.net in DM14cp is now QRV on 1296 EME again — My station consists of 4 x 55 el loop yagis using LMR-400 cables to a power divider, and 10' of LMR-600uf from the divider to a TR switch and a 38DBG 0.28 NF preamp on the tower. On TX, I have 40' of LMR-600uf and an additional 20' of LMR600 to a W6PQL 160 W SSPA in shack. I am available for schedules most anytime.



N6RMJ 4 loop yagi array for 23 cm

NA4N: Greg na4n(x)comcast.net sends his results for the DUBUS 23 cm Contest – I worked the following stations on 4 June SV1BTR, F2TU, OK1KIR, DL0SHF, OZ4MM, RA3AUB, ES5PC, N2UO, OK1CA, OK1DFC, OK2DL, G4CCH, PI9CAM, SP6JLW, VE6TA, WA6PY, OZ6OL, K2UYH, N0OY, N4PZ and VK3UM, and on 5 June I5MPK, LZ2US, ON7UN, F5VHX, UA3PTW, OH2DG, PY2BS, W5LUA, KL6M and K1RQG. TNX for all the contacts. I am looking forward to getting on 3.4 and 10 GHz soon. I had a nice visit with N2UO just after the contests.

NCII: Frank frank(x)ncli.com reports that he survived the tornadoes in MA – I wanted to let the EME community know that we sustained no damage from the tornadoes that ravaged our area. There was substantial damage just 2 miles from our home, so it was real close. At least 4 fatalities have been reported and many homes have been destroyed. At 4:25 ET on 1 June while leaving my office in Agawam, MA, I watched the first tornado as it moved east through Springfield. At the time that I was watching it, the tornado was just 1-1/2 mile north of my office. This first tornado developed just 2 miles from our home. Neither my house or antennas were damaged. Needless to say it got very scary at times. I have never seen first-hand skies like these! Tornadoes of this magnitude are obviously quite rare here in the northeast. I assume everything is still in working order here, although everything has been disconnected since early March. As in the past, family activities keep me away from ham radio from the end of March until late Oct. I expect to return to EME by early Nov. My daughter (K1EEP) passed her General exam in Jan and might just show up on EME at some point.

OK1CA: Franta strihavka(x)upcmail.cz did very well in the DUBUS 23 cm contest -- I worked 85 QSOs. Initials were LY/DL1YMK, JA1WQF, F5SE/P, DJ8FR, RA3AUB, PA7JB, OK2ULQ, PE1LWT, W4AF, SM7FWZ, VK2DJS, OK1YK, WA8RJF, HB9BCD, PY2BS, LU1C and VE2ZAZ. There was Very good activity during the whole contest time period with especial good condition to NA was on Sunday after sunset.

OZ4MM: Stig vestergaard(x)os.dk reports on his latest EME activity -- Monika and Michael's LY expedition was really great. I must say, as usual, they did a fantastic job! In the first part of May, I worked 31 stations in the DUBUS 13 cm contest. I found great activity, but had limited time. Initials were CT1DMK, S50C and SM4IVE. After the contest I added initials with LY/DL1YMK and SM3BYA. I also had limited time in the 23 cm leg, but it seemed better to work some stations than none. In 7.5 hours of operating, I put 71 stations in the log! Signals were fantastic and the band very crowded. Initials were DJ8FR,

OK2ULQ, SV1DNU, SM6CSO and of course LY/DL1YMK. I also worked LY/DL1YMK on 70 cm. Unfortunately, I will again miss the 70 cm ATP weekend in July, but should back in the mid of July after vacation.

PA3DZL: Jac PA3DZL(x)planet.nl updates us on his recent EME activity - I found great activity during the 23 cm contest weekend. I made 28 QSOs, all on CW, and was very pleased to add 5 initials. The strongest signals heard were from ON7UN, DLOSHF, K1RQG and G4CCH. I QSO'd SV1BTR, OK1DFC, G4CCH, OK2DL, F2TU, OK1KIR, F5SE/P, N2UO for mixed initial #136*, SP6JLW, OZ4MM, VK3UM, I5MPK #137*, DL0SHF, RA3AUB, SP7DCS #138*, G4CCH, OH2DG, LY/DL1YMK #139*, LZ2US, K1RQG, UA3PTW, OK1CA, K2UYH, ON7UN #140*, ES5PC, WA6PY, DF3RU, SD3F and N4PZ. My rig is 2.5 m dish (f/d 0.372), VE4MA feed, G4DDK preamp <0.3 dB NF and 500 W SSPA. Before the contest, I worked on 1296 with JT65C on 13 April PA3FXB (20DB/18DB), on 17 April IK3COJ (13DB/O), IQ0RM (22DB/20DB), IZ4MAO (24DB/O) #134* and OZ6OL (16DB/13DB) #135*. I worked on 432 on 10 April SV1BTR (449/539) and OZ4MM (559/559), on 13 April I1PIK (26DB/O) on JT65B for mixed initial #189*, on 29 May DL7APV (449/549), and on 6 June LY/DL1YMK (27DB/O) JT65B #190*. I was also on 13 cm for the DUBUS Contest [reported in the June NL] and added since on 11 May SM3AKW (449/449) CW for mixed initial #39*, and on 2 June LY/DL1YMK (24DB/O) #40* and DXCC 26 and OK1KIR (15DB/O) JT65C.

SD3F: Carl sm3akw(x)spray.se found very good activity and many countries on during the 23 cm contest -- I lost 5 hours of operating time because of a failure in my 28 V power supply, but still worked on Saturday UA3PTW, VK3UM, SV1BTR, HB9BBD, F5SE/P, SP6JLW, RA3AUB for an initial (#), OK1DFC, ON7UN, OK2DL, LZ1DX, SM6FHZ, ES5PC, IW2FZR, YO8BCF, OK1CA, JA4BLC, F2TU, N2UO, LY/DL1YMK, WA6PY, K2YUH, DL0SHF, DF3RU, P19CAM, F5JWF, OK1KIR, LZ2US, OZ4MM, DL6SH, SP7DCS, OH2DG and VE6TA, and on Sunday KL6M, I5MPK, OE5JFL, SV3AAF, G4CCH, 9A5AA, SM3JQU, JA6AHB, GW3XYW, OZ6OL, S59DCD, OK2ULQ (#), G4RGK (#), PA7JB, HB9BCD, F5KUG, K1RQG, LA8LF, PY2BS, N4PZ, PA3FXB, IK2MMB and PA3DZL. Heard were JA8ERE, JA8IAD, SM7FWZ, PY5ZBU, VE3KRP, WB2BYP and NA4N, among others.

SP7DCS: Chris sp7dcs(x)wp.pl after my first weekend with the new dish on 70 cm, it was time to try it on 23cm. It was a great fun and thanks everyone for QSOs. I am sorry for the stations that I was not able to dig out from noise - my station is not optimized yet. I was happy to be QRV. When SSPA was installed at the back of my new dish, I discovered a problem with RF feedback, and had to decrease my output power to 100-150 W. After few hours, SP7MC (my son) found a way to shield the transverter and we were able to increase our power to about 200 W. This is still 3 dB less than we should have. We had not time to optimize the feed, just mounted it and prayed it would work. Surprisingly I could measure 17-18 dB of Sun noise, so it was not too bad. Our contest score was very satisfying. We ended up with 64 QSOs (+2 DUPs) and a lot of initials. Now we know all the weak point of the station and have a lot of ideas on how to optimize our RX and get the TX back to the old power level. The bad news is that 2 hours before the end of the contest my transverter died - just after N4PZ came back to my call. Sorry, but I was not able to complete. Apologies also to a DJ3 station that I could not complete with. Please note my new web page address http://sp7dcs.vgj.pl. More information can be found there.

SV1BTR: Jimmy's jimmyv(x)hol.gr input on the DUBUS EME Contest — The 1296 part was great. With my 4.9 m dish, I found excellent CW random activity from old friends as well as many new initials. Unfortunately my operating time on Sunday was less than 5 hours due to other commitments. Excluding DUPs, I worked overall a total 184 QSOs on CW in the contest, which is 8% higher than last year. In more than 90% of the QSOs, RST signal reports were exchanged both ways. Comparing 2011 to 2010 shows that on 23 cm (83 QSOs) was up 32%, 13 cm (43 QSOs) was up 23%, 70 cm (27 QSOs was down 11% due primarily to QRM, and 2 m (31 QSOs) was down 39% but I was QRV for 60% less Moon time due to TX problems. On 6 cm I was only a happy SWL - no TX as an unidentified malfunction showed up at the last minute. Thank you to the organizers and each and everyone who participated in this fantastic, true moonbounce, radio experience.

SVIDNU: Filip filip svldnu(x)yahoo.gr is a new station on 1296 EME -- I participated in this year's DUBUS 23 cm Contest on 4/5 June. This was my first ever EME contest and I had great fun. My antenna is a 3 m solid dish with 60 W at a VE4MA feed. I was QRV on both Saturday and Sunday, but for only for a couple of hours each day. I managed to work PI9CAM, OK2DL, DL0SHF and OZ4MM. I also called several times HB9BBD, OK1DFC, SV1BTR and F2TU without success. I know I got their attention as they were replying to my calls with QRZ. I know I can improve both my RX and TX and I hope to do so in the next coming months.

VA7MM: Mark (VA7MM/VE7CMK) and Toby VE7CNF va7mm(x)telus.net report on their group's 23 cm band operation in the EWW EME Contest in June -- We operated for about 6 hours on Saturday 4 June and worked 18 stations: OH2DG, OK1DFC, SV1BTR, DL0SHF, VE6TA, G4CCH, WA6PY, N2UO, OK2DL, PI9CAM, OK1CA, OZ4MM, DL6SH, K1RQG, OK1KIR, F2TU, K2UYH and KL6M. We take special note of our contact with K1RQG, who we were sad to learn has passed away. We never met Joe, but have worked him many times over the years and had e-mail exchanges. We recognize an enthusiastic and talented person in the field of EME communication. We are also saddened by the passing of VE7BBG. We consulted with Cor for the setup of the VA7MM EME station and became friends over the years.

<u>VE4MA:</u> Barry <u>ve4ma(x)shaw.ca</u> is planning on being in AZ from Nov to April and plans to set up a modest station for opewration on 1296, 10 GHz and 24 GHz. He will probably be on with a 6 ft offset dish and several hundred watts on 23 cm

<u>VE6TA:</u> Grant <u>ve6ta(x)clearwave.ca</u> reports his results for the 23 cm DUBUS weekend – There was great activity. But unfortunately I had plenty of work to do around the house and wind to contend with on Sunday. I made the mistake on Sunday moonrise of getting on too early and not being able to hear several stations call through my tree noise. It also seemed as if a strong aurora was attenuating signals as my own echoes were quite weak for the first few degrees of elevation after clearing the trees. My apologies to SP6GWN, who called several times during this period. It seemed as if many in Eur had switched off after the first few hours of common window with NA on Sunday. I was pleasantly surprised to be called by LY/DL1YMK on Saturday for a new country - a very professional job again by Michael and Monika. Stations worked were JA4BLC, JA6AHB, N2UO, JA8IAD, VK3UM, KL6M, JA8ERE, OH2DG, I5MPK, N0OY, SP6JLW, Y08BCF, F5SE/P, OE5JFL, LY/DL1YMK for an initial (#), OK2DL, VA7MM, ES5PC, LZ2US, DF3RU, OK1CA, PI9CAM, SV1BTR, RA3AUB, DL6SH, OZ4MM, G4CCH, NA4N, K1RQG, SD3F, OK1DFC, W9IIX, WA6PY, G4RGK (#), OZ6OL, VE4MA, OK1KIR, F5KUG (#), F2TU, K2UYH, N4PZ, SP7DCS, LZ1DX, 9A5AA (#), UA3PTW, IK2MMB, ON7UN, LX1DB, SM2CEW, PY2BS and WB2BYP. The strongest signal awards go to DL0SHF (even though I missed working him), LX1DB, and K1RQG. Honorable mention goes to ON7UN and G4CCH.

VK3UM: Doug tikaluna(x)bigpond.com writes on his DUBUS 23 cm Contest results – I worked on 4 June at OOOO N2UO, OOO4 JA8IAD, OO11 JA4LJB, OO21 JA6AHB, OO26 JA4BLC, OO32 VE6TA, OO46 KL6M, O100 VK4CDI, O505 UA3PTW, O518 ES5PC, O524 UR5LX, O531 OK1KIR, O549 OK1CA, O555 OK1DFC, O559 OK2DL, O602 SP6JLW, O606 OH2DG, O613 Y08BCF, O648 IK3COJ, O657 SV1BTR, O719 SM7FWZ, O727 PI9CAM, O732 OE5JFL, O736 DF3RU, O740 SP7DCS, O805 RA3AUB,

O811 SD3F, O821 F2TU, O836 F5JWF and O850 I5MPK, and on 5 June at OO27 WA6PY, OO35 VK2JDS, OO38 K2UYH, OO42 NA4N, OO52 JA1QWF, OO58 JA6CZD, O629 VK3NX, O643 LY/DL1YMK, O655 DL0SHF, O709 SP6GWN, O742 OZ6OL, O818 LZ1DX, O823, LZ2US, O827 OZ4MM, O830 ON7UN, O835 F5KUG, O844 F5VHX, O848 PA3DZL, O854 JF3HUC, O903 G4CCH, O914 LA8LF and O920 F5SE/p. Conditions were stable throughout the Contest with little fading. The libration was worse at zenith and best at moonrise. I was Rubidium locked on 1296.018 (within milli Hz) for most of the time for those that are interested in a frequency check. The severe WX conditions predicted here did not eventuate, for once! Earlier on 1 June at 0512 I worked LY/DL1YMK from Latvia on 23 cm (random) with excellent signals, and then again on 3 June at 0505 on 70 cm with the strongest signal I have ever heard from Michael on this band from all his dxpeditions. Polarity was aligned at the time with mutual -40° spatial. Sincere thanks to Monica and Michael DL1YMK for providing, yet another country for most of us, and to their skill and operating proficiency that is second to none. Loved the photos of their air conditioned lean to shack! Having no obstruction to VK was a first as well! No challenge this time! Thanks to all those that are not regulars to CW that came on. I hope you enjoyed the experience and found that we 'regulars' matched your speed of choice to your liking and that it will spur you on to further activity.

W1GHZ: Paul w1ghz(x)arrl.net had the opportunity to visit DJ3FI over the Easter holidays and reports -- My wife, Beth, was quite impressed with Hubert's big flower petal painted 3 m dish. She said it looked much better than the ugly dish in our backyard. If a little paint makes dishes more welcome, we can all be EME artists! I hope to CU off the Moon on 1296 soon. [See picture in the Aug. 2010 NL].

K2UYH: I a.katz(x)ieee.org had a very good month on EME, but find it hard to get very enthusiastic with the loss of two very close friends. I QSO'd on 23 cm on 28 May at 1030 NA4N (559/559), 1104 WA6PY (559/559), 1137 SM7FWZ (559/559) for initial #319, 1316 IK3COJ (9DB/6DB) on JT65C, 1326 N6RMJ

(21/dB/24dB) on JT65C and 1410 K8EB (8DB/O) JT65C. The next day (29 May) I put the my 2304 feed in place to catch the M&M dxpedition at 1055 LY/DL1YMK (559/569) X-band for initial #56 and a new DXCC, I then switched to 432 for the CW ATP and worked at 1131 I1NDP (569/569), 1144 OK1DFC (569/579), 1150 OZ6OL (559/549), then back to 2304 to worked at 1200 SM3BYA (569/549)on sked #57, then back to 432 to continue the ATP at 1236 N4GJV (559/669), 1247 OZ6OL (559/559) again, 1258 SM2CEW (559/569) and after the ATP at 1330 TI2AEB (21DB/19DB) on JT65B. This was the first time I tried operating these bands together. Both 13 cm contacts were during the ATP, of course hi. On 30 May I added at 1130 LY/DL1YMK (O/O) CW for initial #724. On 4/5 June I was active in the DUBUS contest, which was fantastic! Unfortunately my operating time was limited by family commitments, but I still OSO'd at 1525 S59DCD (559/579), 1542 OH2DG (559/569), 1553 PI9CAM (599/559), 1600 IK5QLO (559/559), 1606 I5MPK (559/559), 1611 SP6JLW (569/569), 1615 ON6UN (569/579), 1620 F5SE/P (569/579), 1627 LZ1DX (569/579), 1638 UA3PTW (559/579), 1646 UR5LX (O/O), 1652 YO8BCF (549/599), 1658 OK2DL (569/579), 1702 F5KUG (559/559) #320, 1710 SD3F (559/569), 1713 ES5PC (569/579) 1717 OK2ULQ (559/559), 1724 DL6SH (569/579), 1737 OK1KIR (579/569), 1747 F5JWF (559/579), 1755 PA7JB (549/569), 1819 OK1DFC (589/589), 1825 OE5JFL (559/569), 1830 N4PZ (569/589), 1834 N2UO (569/569), 1841 F2TU (579/579), 1846 SP7DCS (569/579), 1851 LZ2US (569/579), 1855 W4AF (559/589), 1903 DF3FI (569/559) #322, 1909 G4CCH (579/579), 1914 DL0SHF (579/589), 1924 SP6GWN(449/559) #323, 1928 VE4MA (559/569), 1956 NA4N (559/559), 2012 WA6PY (559/579), 2047 W9IIX (559/569), 2051 VE6TA (569/579), 2100 KL6M (559/569), 2108 VA7MM (559/579), 2115 LU1CGB (O/O), 2120 WA8RJF (449/559), 2131 SM7FZW (549/549), 2314 JA8ERE (559/559), 2346 NOOY (559/559) and 2352 JA6AHB (559/579), and on 5 June at 0038 VK3UM (559/559), 1624 LY/DL1YMK (559/559) #324, 1634 9A5AA (559/569), 1645 RA3AUB (559/589), 1651 IK3GHY (559/559), 1706 PY5ZBU (559/559), 1715 DJ8FR (559/559) #325, 1722 HB9BCD (559/559) #326, 1728 DF3RU (569/559), 1732 IK2MMB (559/579), 1744 PA3DZL (559/559), 1759 SV1BTR (569/579) and 1805 PY2BS (559/589) for a total of 59x55. I also worked in the ARRL's VHF contest on 12 June on 432 at 0129 K5QE (19DB/O) on JT65B.

NETNEWS: 9M2ESM: Syamsul syamsulbahri(x)pmm.edu.my is interested in getting on 1296 EME and looking for advice on equipment. In the DUBUS 1296 EME contest JF3HUC worked 10, JA6CZD worked 23, JA4HZN worked 4 stations, JA6AHB worked 53 stations, JA4LJB worked 15 stations, JA8ERE worked 24 Stations and JA8IAD worked 18 stations – [TNX to JA4BLC for these reports]. N8CQ say his big dish will be transported to his mountain clocation in the next few weeks and that construction of his shack is moving along. WB2BYP worked 14 stations in the DUBUS contest on 1296 including LX1DB on SSB. WA8RJF was QRV for 23 cm contest and worked 11 stations including an initial with KL6M. Tony will be in Alaska in few weeks and plans to visit Mike.

FOR SALE: K2UBC is moving and needs to give up a collection of amateur radio/space communications related literature, some of which should be of interest to EME operators. Many of the books are signed by the authors and may be of interest to libraries and museums. He also has some ham equipment and parts. You can reach Marty at MDAVIDOFF(x)ccbcmd.edu. He is located in Catonsville, MD 21228, and is not so much interested in selling as seeing this material ends up in a good home. N8CQ is looking for an Eimac 8877 anode clip. K1RQG reports there are at least 4 dishes available in Eastern Maine. 10.5', 11.8', 12.5'and a 22' dish. All are solid dishes. [Does anyone have info on these dishes, now that Joe is gone]?

SWEDISH EME CONFERENCE: Last month I got myself in big trouble for not adequately reporting on this excellent conference. Here is the full report of the EME forum at the meeting in Orebro, Sweden written by SM2CEW, the discussion session moderator -- To promote EME, and CW EME in particular, it is important that we advertise our activities and hand out appetizers as much and as often as we can. Appetizers in the form of putting the Arecibo dish (or similar large arrays) on the Moon are of great value, but we can also do a lot by announcing different activities in a common meeting place. Today such information is scattered around a number of websites, so if we could agree on one common URL where people could go to find out more about EME things, it would be easier for newcomers. Such a website should also host general information about EME; receivers, transmitters, antennas, procedures etc. Plenty of material is certainly available on the web today, but again, on many different URL's. If some of this material could be used, with permission from the authors, setting up a generic EME website full of excellent information would not be a big challenge. Adding an EME Calendar where events, activities and expeditions could easily be found, will help VHF/UHF columnists around the world to spread the news in their magazines. This is an important factor when promoting EME to a wider audience. We cannot simply rely on email reflectors

like Moon or Moon-Net, these channels are too narrow banded as they are mainly for people who are already well established in EME. Another important factor when opening a general website promoting EME is to keep it free from different opinions about operating that have been splitting the community in recent years. The information presented should be bias free, and the website should not be a forum for discussions. As a start and a suggestion, a domain name has been booked and the website has been opened. (Please fill in the web URL to moonbouncers.org, some sort of SPAM-filter is preventing me from sending the email when I add the URL...). Acquiring this domain could be the starting point towards a generic website for promoting EME. Of course, there are a number of issues to deal with before this goal is achieved. Hopefully this topic could be part of the agenda at the EME Conference 2012 in Cambridge. At the meeting in Orebro the representatives from the UK were very enthusiastic

about this proposal. [I know this sound like an excuse, but the truth is that this summary was attached to end of one of G4RGK's e-mails and not saved with the NL material. For unknown reasons I never received a copy directly from Peter. I was aware of the conference and wrote my summary from memory without searching for Dave's e-mail. Later I did receive from Peter information on the Saturday sessions, which included presentations by G4DDK (preamps), G4BAO (solid state amplifiers), DL1YMK Michael & Monica (R2 Kaliningrad expedition) and SM3JQU (auto-tracking using generic A/D boards). To make matters worse, I added a picture that someone sent in showing on a crane with Moon in the background. I mistakenly attributed the picture to Dave. I do not know who actually sent in this picture].



Group at Orebro EME gathering in Sweden

TECHNICAL NF MEASUREMENT: One of the issues raised at the Orebro EME meeting was the inaccuracy of NF measurement using a HP346B or C Noise head with a 10 dB pad in front of it. It was reported that using a 10 dB pad in front of a 15 dB noise head such as the HP346B/C is incorrect and the correct value should be 8 dB. I do not consider myself an expert on NF measurement, but I cannot see why using an 8 dB or 10 dB pad should make a big difference. The reason for using a pad (10 dB) in front of a high ENR noise head is to "pad" the impedance change when the source is turned ON and OFF. Typical UHF LNA gain is very sensitive to source impedance. The gain change cannot be separated from noise change and can cause a significant error in the NF measurement. The larger the value of the attenuator, the lower the impedance change seen by the LNA. But also the ENR becomes smaller, and too small an ENR, the more chance for error in the Y-factor. I have not seen an analysis of error. But, I would not be surprised, if an 8 dB pad might be optimum. But as I already said, I would be more surprised if a 2 dB change makes a significant difference. There are other errors that are probably much more important. An accurate measurement of the loss of the pad is very important, for example.

FINAL: We most also send our farewell to another outstanding VHFer and EME operator, HB9QQ. Pierre was a silent key in June. He was a 2 m EME operator, but also a mentor of HB9CRQ and key member of the 8Q7QQ EME dxpedition. We must add Pierre to the too long list of friends that who we will deeply miss.

NETNOTES HELP NEEDED – G4RGK has been providing a summary material from various Internet EME reflectors and K1RQG's netnotes for many years to supplement the reports that I receive directly. Dave help is greatly appreciated and has been invaluable in getting out this NL. Unfortunately, Dave work load and family commitments has been growing. Is there anyone who would be willing to take over this task from Dave? Dave plans to continue compiling the CW Initial Listings.

IMS – one of the highlights for hams of the IEEE/MTT's annual International Microwave Symposium is the Ham Social. This event usually attracts a huge turnout. We had a mini EME Conference this year (myself, WA6PY, G3WGD, N2UO, WA6KBL, W1GHZ and possibly others).

Thanks for the reports and technical, please keep this material coming. I know the summer is a busy time and Moon conditions (alignment of perigee, declination, etc.) are not the best this summer, but let's try to keep the activity going. I hope to be looking for all of you during the June 70 cm CW ATP, on 23 cm random and 9 cm AW. 73, Al – K2UYH



IMS mini EME conference (L-R N2UO, K2UYH, G3WDG and WA6PY)