

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS JULY 2006 VOL 34 #7

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CONDITIONS: Considering the conflict with all the other summertime activities and the lack of any really good weekend for EME during June or July, EME activity has done amazingly well. The real secret to high summer activity is of course expeditions. It is the expeditions that get antennas turned to the moon no matter what other activities may be taking place. Our TNX must go to Michael and Monika at CT3/DL1YMK, who turned the beginning of June into an EME event with 45 initials on 23 cm and 13 on 70 cm. What an accomplishment for just two people, and what pleasure to those that worked them! There was another 70 cm dxpedition in the middle June, but almost no one knew about and thus there was little or no activity generated by it – what a waste! The effectiveness of dxpeditions in getting *people off the beaches and on the moon* makes getting the information out that a dxpedition is taking place – 20 m EME Net, Newsletter, etc. – so important. Thus far I know of no dxpeditions in July – so don't miss the Activity Time Period on 70 cm on 15 July from 2330 to 0130 and 16 July from 0600 to 0800. For Aug, we have a 23 cm spectacular to the states of RI, CT, MA and VT. See WA5WCP/1's report below and get your skeds request into K1RQG. If you don't leave too early, you can work all 4 states and can still make it to EME2006 in Wurzburg – it is shaping up to be a record event.

CT3/DL3YMK: Michael and Monika's DL1YMK@aol.com have done it again! Here is their report on their Madeira 23 and 70 cm EME dxpedition -- We've arrived back home safely with us all equipment stuffed in 4 aluminum boxes and two plastic tubes. The total weight was 181 kg. We found wonderful conditions and even the WX was on our side this time with low winds and no storms. We arrived on Madeira on 1 June late in the afternoon. The next morning, we unpacked the rig and built up the dish. By early afternoon all systems were go. K1RQG had arranged 5 skeds for us in case we managed to get on the moon by 19000. As it was overcast, we arranged for DL6LAU to operate DL0SHF (by remote control) in order to provide a strong and stable signal for us to calibrate the moon tracking system. Thus our 1st QSO and the 1st ever from CT3 to DL on 23 cm was with DL0SHF. After this QSO, we had worked LX1DB, G4CCH, HB9Q, OE9ERC, DF3RU, OK1DFC, DJ9YW, PA3CSG, OK1CA, ON7UN, OZ4MM, F2TU, G3LTF, OZ6OL and K2UYH for 16 the first day – not too bad a start! The next day we did some modifications to the f/D of our stressed dish, which give us an improved illumination with the septum feed and improved our hearing. On Saturday, 3 June, we added initials with RW1AW, OH2DG, K5JL, OK1KIR, W5ORH, W5LUA, VE6TA, WW2R, and W7UPF, besides dups with OE9ERC, OK1KIR and F2TU. On Sunday we completed with KL6M on the very last second of our mutual window, followed by another 11 initials with LA8LF, ES5PC, SM2CEW, IK3COJ, IW2FZR, SM6CKU, K5GW, DF9QX, W2UHI, K0YW and K5PJR to bring us to #37 and dups with DF3RU, G4CCH and ON7UN. On the 5/6 June we managed to add another 5 with SM3AKW, IK2MMB, G3LQR, G4DDK (our first and only JT65 contact) and ES6RQ before we changed the feed to a 1wl loop with switchable polarization for 432 operation. On 7 June we worked SM2CEW the 1st ever CT3 and CT3/SM QSO on 70 cm. Peter was followed by OK1DFC, DK3WG, DL9KR, OZ4MM, G4RGK, F2TU and OE9ERC to bring us to initial #8. It took us 3 attempts to complete with VK3UM on 8 June resulting in an earth surface distance of 18354 km. We missed the distance record [K2UYH] by only 300 km. Doug was followed by HB9Q, OK1CA and DL9KR – a second time with his smashing signal. We added after a nil attempt, very early on 9 June K2UYH. I never got so little sleep in any of our other holidays, hi! On the 10th we changed back to 23 cm for easy #3 with WA6PY and #44 with VK3UM. On the evening of 12 June we made our last 23 cm QSO with HB9BBD #45 before changing back again to 70 cm. The switch took us less than 15 min – even at night. After 3 nil skeds, completed with DL7APV for #13 on 70 cm – TNX Bernd for hanging on. Our switchable feed made this QSO possible as Bernd's signal was vertical. The station was a 4.1 m preloaded/stressed dish with 0.43 f/d with on 1296 450 W at a septum feed from a DB6NT SSPA and a HB 3-stage 0.38 dB NF LNA, and on 432 500 W from MOSFET-HPA HLV 700 (courtesy B. Korte of BEKO – TNX to Bernhard) into 1 wl loop feed (H/V pol) and ATF54143 F5VHX 0.4 dB LNA, both to an IC 910-H (500 Hz filter, analogue

IF filter and HB sequencing unit). We want to thank the gang for giving us a wonderful African island adventure. We apologize to those whom we missed. More info on CT3/DL1YMK can be found at <http://www.ok1dfc.com/Peditions/ct3-dl1ymk/indexct3.html> - TNX to Zdenek. Also a big TNX to K1RQG for his sked coordination! Now to decide where do we go next time?



CT3/DL1YMK 4.1 m dish in Madeira

DL9KR: Jan Bruinier@t-online.de is closing in on the first 70 cm DXCC with all his QSOs on CW – On 7 June I caught CT3/DL1YMK from Madeira. The pol was neither V nor H, but a good random QSO resulted in DXCC 93 and initial #837. A dupe took place with (549/559) signals on 8 June. (This expedition was a resounding success and kudos go to Mike, Monika and DL7YS! OK1DFC has to be commended for his excellent Madeira web site). My first 3 skeds with 4S7CCG were plagued by adverse polarity, but the one on 2 June was complete and yielded initial #834 and DXCC 92. Bob has to be applauded for his persistence. He even removed 10 m of his xmit line to gain about 1 dB. Back on 5 April I made an easy QSO was made with GD0TEP #833. The Activity weekend (if one could call it that) brought contacts on 8 April with W8TXT, G4RGK and N9AB, and 9 April SP6JLW and OZ6OL. From the end of May through 5 June I had 3 skeds with LA0BY, which all were negative due to 90 deg offset pol during a southerly moon azimuth. As a "windfall" of the vertical pol situation DH8BQA was worked on 4 June for #835. Olli was preparing for his upcoming LY expedition, and was testing his rig with single yagi mounted vertically. I also had QSOs with VK4AFL (579/579) and OE5JFL (589/589) on 4 June. It was nice to have OE5JFL back after his long pause. On 6 June I expected nil from a sked with 9H1MRL/P, but surprisingly Faraday was aligned and enabled an easy contact for #836. The LY expedition arrived in KO23 on time and was worked as LY/DH8BQA on 18 June for #838 with respectable signals. Faraday was vertical again! Some time ago, Dan HB9Q asked me for a list of my DXCCs. His idea was to see if any of them could possibly be "rejuvenated". This caused me to have a look at DXCC rules, especially concerning so-called deleted entities. It turned out (and was confirmed by the ARRL DXCC board) that the "old" OK's (e.g. OK3CTP) and Y's (e.g. Y22ME) are given credit as the Czechoslovakia and German Democratic Republic. We also can expect YU7 as a new one soon, at least on paper.

G3LTF: Peter g3ltf@btinternet.com reports his 13 cm system is working really well and that he now has 250 W at the feed and getting excellent SSB echoes. I worked on 24 June PA3CSG for initial #36 and called WA6PY who had a good (569) signal but Paul did not reply. I also heard SM3AKW (559).

JH1KRC: Mike jh1krc@syd.odn.ne.jp sends news about the annual JA EME meeting, which this year was held in Tsuyama, Okayama on 27/28 May -- The attendants were JH3ERQ, JF3HUC, JA4LJB, JA0EIV, JR4AEP, JA6DZI,

JR3JLL, JS3SIM, JH4JLV, JH1KRC, JA4BLC and JA4HZN. Hata, JA4HZN, who is sometimes active on 1296, runs the guesthouse where the conference took place. An Agilent N8975A precision NF analyzer was used for NF measurements. All attendees received UHF/SHF isolators from the silent key JA1AUH's estate. JA1AUH, who passed away in April of last year, was a major contributor to the development of JA amateurs' technology. His precision NF meter design is still used by many JA EMEers. An Advantest R3767CH network analyzer was used to measure the isolators and hand-made filters. JA4BLC presented his feed-mount 20 W HPA/LNA/converter system for 5.7 GHz and discussed how he and JR4AEP (JR4ZZS owner) improved the azimuth control mechanism for their 9 m dish. JH1KRC showed the results of his experiments on 15 m EME and played recordings of his echoes. JA4DZI reported on the severe 23 cm noise generated from satellite TV converters, which are very common in Japan.



JA Conference: (L-R) in rare, JH3ERQ, JF3HUC, JA4LJB, JA0EIV, and JR4AEP, in front, JA6DZI, JR3JLL, JS3SIM, JH4JLV, JH1KRC, JA4BLC, and JA4HZN

K0DJV: Paul dswebmaster@deep-space.org will be listening on 1296 with a 60' dish. He is VP of a nonprofit group in Longmont, CO similar to OVRO that has control of two 60' dishes with a mission to use them for educational purposes - see www.dsos.org.

K3MF: Wayde k3mf@aol.com writes that the 432 4 x 19 RIW EME array loaned to 3Y0X is back in the states and available to any dxpedition that would like to set up a 432 EME station. He would like to see more 70 cm EME dxpeditions and the array used frequently. Contact Wayde to arrange for its loan.

K5JL: Jay plans to spend most of his moon time in July on 432. He has already worked K5SO, VE6TA (569/579), N9AB and KL6M (S7) and will be looking for any active stations on 70 cm EME preferably in West window due to a noise problem toward the East.

K5SO: Joe k5so@valornet.com has built several feeds for 70 cm for his 28' dish, which he has been using to receive Pulsars on 436 MHz. He is also using the feeds on 70 cm EME with 50 W and thus far has QSO'd K5JL, KL6M and SM2CEW. He has heard and called N9AB and VE6TA. N9AB did respond with a QRZ. Joe is putting on a bigger (8938) PA very soon and is available for skeds on 432.

K7XQ: Jeff writes -- On 432 I am modifying my 4 x 9 wl yagis for cross polarity (only 2 antennas for now and the other two later). I really think this is where the problem lies in my not hearing too well on 432. I believe that many would see a huge improvement in signals, if they had the ability to switch polarity. This may explain why activity is low. I have seen a overwhelming improvement on 144 where I have made a similar change. I am also QRV on 1296 and 2304/23202424. I will be hooking up a 180 W Spectrain SSPA to a 75 amp power supply very soon and hope to complete my first 13 cm contacts later this coming week.

KL6M: Mike kn6m@aol.com reports his 23 cm system seems to be working very well -- My feed is very close to optimum. I get 21.5 dB of sun noise and a solid 0.8 dB of moon noise. I am doing my measurements off the 10.7 MHz IF using a HP 3586B Selective voltmeter. Tree blockage is a problem this year, but fortunately at peak declination I still have a great view, nearly horizon to horizon. I just barely worked CT3/DL1YMK through about a 3 deg window in the trees. It was an exciting QSO. On 24 June I added RW1AW (569/569),

F2TU (589/569), IW2FZR (579/539), IK3COJ (549/529) and a partial SM5LE -- heard but not QSO. These contacts bring me to initial #40 while still running only 100 W. On 70 cm I added K5SO plus 3 others at low declination.

UX1DB: Willie wbauer@pt.lu made his first EME tests on 24 GHz in June with 20 W at the feed. He worked G4NNS, W5LUA and DF1IO.

NC1I: Frank frankp@gcq.net reports on his lack of recent activity -- The system is still up and working FB. Unfortunately this time of year I have no time for EME or ham radio. It is unlikely that I will be heard off the moon until late Oct. My interest is still there, but family and other commitments must come first. I have been receiving quite a few requests for skeds (which I do appreciate), however I'm just not able to take any right now. Once things settle down this fall there should be plenty of time for EME again. Due to my busy summer schedule I will not be able to make it to Germany in Aug. This was something I really wanted to do. W1QA (a frequent operator of my station) will be attending and is planning to propose a Western Mass as the location for EME2008. Bob is someone that can put together/organize a wonderful conference. Obviously the effort will take many others, but I'm sure Bob has this support including obviously me. I hope everyone attending EME2006 has a wonderful time.

OK1DFC: Zdenek ok1dfc@seznam.cz reports that full details of the CT3/DL1YMK dxpedition can be found on his web page at <http://www.ok1dfc.com/Peditions/ct3-dl1ymk/indexct3.html>, and that he is considering a dxpedition of his own -- I just returned from trip to T9, Z3, and potentially new DXCC locations in Monte Negro and Kosovo. I found good places and friends to help realize future EME dxpeditions for 432 and 1296 with QRO and a serious antenna setup.

SM4IVE: Lars sm4ive@telia.com reports on a mini SM EME meeting -- On 1 June we had a small meeting at SM4DHN's QTH to discuss the future of EME. We (SM6CKU, SM4DHN and I) were trying to motivate ourselves to become more active on EME. As for myself, I feel right now is the time to start assembling the dish. I have talked to my wife about this year vacation, and she accepted to stay at home. So if all goes well and my inspiration holds up, I will be back on EME with my dish later this year.



Swedish EME Group

SM5LE: Sven's sven.o.nordin@telia.com 1296 June activity -- Since my last report in May I have worked VE6TA for initial #25, VK4AFL #25* on JT, HB9Q #27, F6KHM #28, DL0SHF #29, SM3AKW #30, JA6AHB #31, SM6CKU #32, VK7MO #33* on JT, RA1AW #34, OK1KIR #35 and DL6LUA (not counted as I think it is the same as DL0SHF). My total is (#34 CW and #7* on JT). I was very sorry to miss CT3/DL1YMK as I need Africa for WAC, but it was to low a declination. I am getting many encouraging reports and am very pleased that my 2.2 m dish and 250 W seems to be working UFB! Inspired of Rex, VK7MO and others, I have added a choke ring to my feed. I gained 0.7 - 0.8 dB more sun noise and the best - less in band spurious because of better side lobes. I am "surrounded" of high speed PCs making spurious. The ring is made of 1.5 mm single clad epoxy laminate and 0.4 mm Cu sheet soft soldered together. All Cu material is sprayed with silicon to prevent oxidization. I have 2-3 mm space in between the septum (Al.) and the (Cu) laminate to avoid Al contact with the Cu.

VE1ALO: Darrell reports that he is finally making progress on his new dish -- I have the prop pitch gear box completely rebuilt with drive motor attached. This was a terrible job and also very costly obtain the bearing, etc. Anyone looking for a prop pitch gear box, I strongly recommend acquiring one that is fully

functional. The 10' 11" dish and tower is finally down and carted away. Charlotte and I lugged home approx 1/2 ton of angle iron and a 4.5" id mast pipe - 240 pounds of that alone. WX has been terrible, which has not helped. Please STOP sending us your rain. I am not sure if I will have the feeds installed before fall WX arrives. I still have a lot of welding to be done plus rising the dish to the 26' level of the mount. I plan to run 23 cm to 3 cm, including 13 cm, 5 cm and possibly other bands as time progresses. Most important will be the improved moon window to Australia and Japan.

VE4MA: Barry ve4ma@shaw.ca is setting back up for 24 GHz EME and is moving his operating freq to 24,048. He also needs to refocus his TWT back from 47 GHz. He has refurbished his 10 GHz gear and is back on 3 cm EME.

VK2SN: Sean sean@vk2sn.com in QF56oc is now QRV on 70 cm EME. He has 4 x 12 el M² yagis with 7/8" Helix feedline, 400 W PA, 0.38 dB LNA and TS2000. See www.vk2sn.com for more details about the complete system. He can operate both CW and JT65 and has worked on 27 June at 0149 W7AMI, 30 June 0336 N9AB, on 1 July at 0410 W7AMI again and 1011 HB9Q, on 2 July at 0756 W7AMI a 3rd time and 1006 OH4LA, on 3 July at 0326 K3MF, on 4 July at 1119 VK4AFL, and on 8 at 0624 N9AB.

VK4AFL: Trevor tbenon@bigpond.net.au reports on his EME activity -- I have had some good contacts in June. On 1296 I QSO'd with KL6M for an initial #55, VE6TA, G3LTF, OZ6OL, OK1KIR, LX1DB on CW followed by SSB, DL7YC #56, DF3RU, RW1AW #57, DL0SHF and JA6AHB. I also ran a few QRP tests with VK7MO on JT65C. We achieved reliable copy with 20 W at each end (3.7 m to 2.3 m dishes) and one way copy with just 10 W. We feel that we should be able to get a completed contact with both of us running 10w. I now have 57 initials from 135 contacts on 23 cm. On 70 cm, I came on for the activity period and worked SV1BTR, DL9KR and JA6AHB, but was unable to complete with another station as my moon was disappearing. Overall it was a productive month, especially the QRP and SSB contacts.

W1OA: Bob EME@W1OA.COM is an operator of NCII and will be going to Wurzburg for EME2006 where he will propose bring the conference to Western Massachusetts in 2008 -- I attended both conferences in Thorn when my call was PA3GCQ. Back at the Paris conference in 1998, NCII and I proposed having something in western Mass, but Brazil was selected. This year we will try again. Frank won't be able to make it to Germany, but I will bring with me a Power point presentation on his station and will try to make a bid for the next conference. I will suggest holding the conference at the Red Lion Inn <http://www.redlioninn.com> in the Berkshires. Over the years I've done a lot of work there. This is a couple of hundred year old inn that would be a nice place for EME people to visit. (You'll recognize it as the building on a number of Norman Rockwell paintings). There's plenty for non-hams to do nearby - see the Berkshires link on the aforementioned web site. I would work out arrangements with the Inn to setup a web site to handle international wire transfers. Possibly I may be able to arrange for an airline group discount.

W5LUA: Al al.ward@avagotech.com report contacting on 24 GHz on 23 June LX1DB for initial #4 and on 25 June G4NNS #5. He writes that 24 GHz EME activity in Europe has migrated from 24,192 down to 24,048 due to 24,048 being a primary allocation for amateurs, while 24192 MHz is a secondary allocation in Region 1. The same is true in NA, but moving weak signal terrestrial work from 24,192 down to 24,048 may be difficult. None the less, VE4MA and Al have moved our EME equipment down to 24,048. Anyone planning 24 GHz EME activity is encouraged to gear up for 24,048.1 MHz.

W6IFE: Doug, K6JEY doughhelen@moonlink.net sends news on OVRO EME activity in June -- We had a great outreach on 24 June. About 30 people showed up including about 15 students from fifth grade through high school. We also had three teachers attend and were hosted by Dr. Mark Hodges from OVRO. He gave the group a tour of the dish and did various experiments with sun noise and liquid Nitrogen. Students also got to echo their voices off of the moon. The newly refurbished transverter, TNX to Chuck, WA6EXV, worked perfectly on both bands. It was an exciting event that also featured about three hours of visual astronomy under some very dark skies. We are planning another outreach and EME event for later in the summer, possibly on 12 Aug to coincide with the Perseid meteor shower. We will let you know about the EME part of the event and what our operating schedule will be.

W8TXT: Mike (no e-mail) reports great time during 3/4 June AW -- I am looking for next activity weekends. I received a QSL from G4RGK, but needs FR5DN and SV1BTR. Please note my address is 401 West Bogart Road. It needs to be West Bogart Road as there is an East Bogart Road that can cause confusion. I am also been playing around with radio astronomy using a strip chart recorder and seeing Cas A very well.

W9IIX: Doug iix1@comcast.net is now QRV on 23 cm and 13 cm, and is now working towards 10 GHz -- I had a good run on 23 cm the last few weeks. I added initials with KL6M, DF3RU, RW1AW, W7BBM and VK4AFL to bring my initial count to #40. My GS-15 PA runs like a dream on 23 cm. On 24 June I QSO'd on 1296 G4CCH, W7BBM and RW1AW. I will be attending the CSVHF Conference and am looking forward to seeing fellow EMEers there.

WA5WCP/I: Al, W5LUA al.ward@avagotech.com announces that the team of W5LUA, K5GW, and WA5WCP are planning a dxpedition to the states of CT, RI, MA, and possibly VT on 1296 EME between 13 and 21 Aug. WA5WCP has been working on a portable EME system for the past year. Many of you may have already worked Paul using the same installation that is going portable next month. Paul's work schedule makes it tough for him to plan such an event months in advance, but it does look like Aug should work out OK. The trip from Texas to the states in the northeast is a 1700 mile (2700 km) that should take 3 days. Assuming a successful trip to W1 land, the tentative plan at the moment is to spend 2 days or 2 moon cycles at each location. 13/14 Aug will be spent in Rhode Island where the moon will rise after 0145 on the 13th (evening of the 12th local NA time). 15/16 Aug will be spent in CT, 18/19 Aug in Mass and if all goes well 20/21 Aug in VT. This is a tough schedule of 8 days of operation with a day break in the scheduled on 17 Aug, which can be used if the schedule slips for any reason. The exact locations along with grid squares will be announced shortly. The call of W1AW will be used in CT, while WA5WCP will be used at all other locations. K1RQG has volunteered to coordinate skeds for each location and will update them on a daily basis. Knowing that this is prime hurricane season and the fact that Murphy can strike means that we must remain somewhat flexible, while Paul attempts to put these states on the air. At his moon rise at each location, there will be a CQ period where Paul hopes to get as many stations worked as possible. If you are unsuccessful in working Paul on random or would like to be put on a sked list, please email K1RQG k1rqg@aol.com. CT3/DL1YMK worked 40 plus stations on his 1296 EME dxpedition. It would be virtually impossible to sked this many stations in a 2 day period, so it is hoped that most of the bigger stations will attempt random operation at least on the first day in each state. If you would like to be on a distribution list for last minute information and skeds, please drop Joe K1RQG an email and he will add you to the list. Equipment consists of a trailer mounted 10' dish with Septum feed and scalar ring, 300 W WD5AGO 4 tube 2C39 PA, W7CNK preamp and IC-910H. He will have autotracking with US Digital encoders and K5GW software. All operation will be on CW. Paul has already worked 33 initials with this equipment, so we are optimistic for a very successful expedition.

WA6PY: Paul pchominski@jaalaa.com has a short report for June -- I QSO'd on 1296 on 10 June CT3/DL1YMK - very easy QSO with surprisingly good signals for new DXCC and initial. On 24/25 June I was on 13 cm and worked cross band PA3CSG for initial #31 and G3LTF on CW and SSB. I also called G3LQR, but Simon probably did not look on the 2304 band.

WB2BYP: John wb2byp@arl.net is now QRV on 1296 with a 3 m dish, VE4MA feed and 200 W. He made his initial QSO with K5JL. John worked on 21 June K2UYH, K0YW and K5JL again.

WW2R: Dave ww2r_eme@g4fre.com writes on his June activity -- During the AW I worked PA3CSG for initial #29 on sked even though the dish was misaligned over 5 degs and SM3AKW #30 on random, CT3/DL1YMK #32, KL6M #33, VK3UM #34 and VE6TA on random. I also was called by and worked K5JL, OE9ERC #31, G3LTF and G4CCH. Heard were VK4TL (sounded auroral), VK3UM (sounded normal at the same time), W5ORH, OK1KIR and K0YW. It was a very successful weekend, but I didn't have time to deploy my new QRO PA!

ZS6AXT: Ivo zs6axt@telkomsa.net is making a good recovery after his heart operation and is planning to be at EME2006 -- I am still busy trying to repair all the damages to my EME equipment from thunderstorm some time ago. It goes too slow for my liking - Hi. Otherwise I am now very close to my previous body fitness; it takes a lot of my time and walking, etc. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in Germany in Aug.

ZS6WB: Hal zs6wb@telkomsa.net reports that there was no 70 cm EME activity from 7Q7JE. He does say there is a possibility of very limited 432 EME operation from C9 with a very small station. This activity will depend on Hannes' work schedule and also the arrival of some antenna hardware that is still needed. Hal promises to keep us informed of any new 432 EME possibilities.

K2UYH: I a.katz@ieee.org do not have a lot of activity to report for June. We had a great deal of rain and server thunderstorms that resulted in a lightning strike that took out my digital readout system. This calamity nearly caused me to

