Categorically Speaking

by Jeremy Alexander W7EME

[A note from the editor, Ward Silver NØAX] The EME competition covers a large number of bands and in several different modes of operation. This means a lot of categories! 144 categories, to be exact. Only 28 categories had entries from a total of 184 entries, so perhaps this pie is being sliced a bit too narrowly? As a counter-example, the DUBUS EME competition (http://www.dubus.org) has six basic categories: QRP/QRO/PRO, SSB-CW/Digital, and Multi-Op. You might offer your thoughts on the appropriate number of entry categories for this event to contest@arrl.org.

Single-Operator Categories

Single-operator categories include multi-band and single-band operations, further divided into analog (CW and SSB modes) and digital (any data mode) sub-categories, plus a mixed category for stations using both analog and digital modes. Assisted sub-categories include operations that employed externally-obtained resources, such as Internet chat rooms or spotting networks.

Single-Operator Multi-Band categories:

- Stig, OZ4MM operated Single-Op Multi-Band 50 1296 Mcs Analog and wins this category with a huge score of 1,224,500 points. In second place is SV1BTR and in third, VK3UM.
- The Single-Op Multi-Band 50 1296 Mcs Digital was won by Vicente, EB5EEO with total score of 475,200 points. Vincente was followed by EB2FJN and RZ3AED.
- Alexander, UA4AQL puts away the Single-Op Multi-Band 50 1296 Mcs Mixed Mode (analog and digital) with a grand total of 82,800 points. Alex was closely followed by W8PAT at 81,000 points and by RK3WWF in third.
- The Single-Op Multi-Band 2304 Mcs And Up bracket goes to Philippe, F2TU finishing up with score of 193,800. ES5PC and SP6GWN were the following entrants in this category.
- In the Single-Op All Band Analog class yet another fine year for Boreisha, RW1AW pounding out his big signal across the bands for a final score of 1,513,200. He was closely followed by G3LTF with 1,424,000 points. DF3RU (972,400) and WA6PY (972,000) battled it out for third place separated by the slimmest of margins!

Single-Operator Single-Band categories:

- 50 Mcs
 - o Mixed Mode: Hideki, JR6EXN, won this category with 30,400 points
 - Digital category: Gerard, PE1BTX, made a great score of 48,000 points
- 144 Mcs
 - Analog: Marko, LZ2US scored 284,900 total points, ahead of F3VS (210,800) and OK1MS (189,000). There were 19 logs in this category.
 - Digital: Gary, KB8RQ, crushed the competition with 1,245,600 points, well ahead of EA3BB (236,800) and LU1CGB (236,000) who finished in a virtual tie in this 25-entry category!
 - Mixed Mode, Unassisted: Alex, RU1AA, pulled an amazing 2,618,700 points, thus owning this category. W3SZ scored 792,000 points and RA6DA 534,100 points to place second and third.
 - o Mixed Mode, Assisted: By far the most popular category with 34 contestants, first place score goes to John, K9DX, with a final score of 1,339,600. John was followed by RX1AS with 1,043,700 points and AO6VQ with 947,200.
- 432 Mcs
 - Analog: Johann, DL9KR finishes with a very sweet score of 230,400. UA3PTW (198,400) and I1NDP (122,500) were in second and third place of the 16 entries.
 - o Digital: Katsumi, JHØTOG, mustered a QSO as the only entrant in this category

- o Mixed Mode: Solo entries by Ken, KE2N, (52,800) and Matej, OK1TEH, (2000) filled out the Assisted category. There were no entrants in the Unassisted category.
- 1296 Mcs
 - Analog: This category had high participation (17 logs) and big scores. Placing first was Wayne, K9SLQ, with 356,000 points. The runner up in this category was Zdenek, OK1DFC, with a total of 334,400.
 - Mixed Mode, Assisted: Howard, G4CCH took top honors with a score of 514,800.
 - Mixed Mode, Unassisted: Van, PA3FXB, totaled 20,400 points as the only entrant in this category.
- 5.7 Gcs
 - Analog: OK1CA scored 3600 points as the only single-op entry on a band higher than 1296 Mcs.

Multi-Operator Categories

In the Multi Operator category participation there were and normally are the largest scores in the event.

• All Band, Mixed Mode: The partnership of two stations in two locations within the same state brought Joe, K1JT and Allen, K2UYH the highest overall score in the 2007 competition, a huge 4,253,400 points.

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[A Note From ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X: In the original scores posting in the April 2008 *QST*, HB9Q was listed as the winner of the Multi-Operator, Multi-Band, Mixed Mode category. Unfortunately, HB9Q used assistance, which is not permitted under EME contest rules for that entry class. HB9Q was contacted and presented with a list of acceptable entry categories, and HB9Q chose to enter as a multi-operator, single band 2.3 GHZ entrant. HB9Q was NOT disqualified, merely re-classified to an acceptable category.]

- 50 1296 Mcs, Analog: first-place goes to the team of SP6JLW amassing 460,600 points.
- 50 1296 Mcs, Mixed Mode: the K4EME team scored 428,400 points to take the category. The N9JIM team did score more points, but used commercial equipment in accomplishing their OSO's.
- 2.3 Gcs and Up, Mixed Mode: OK1KIR brought home 127,100 points.
- Single Band 144 Mcs, Mixed, Assisted: IK1UWL took 1,724,800 points for their participation, ahead of KA1VHF (319,800) and F5KCH (220,500).
- Single Band 144 Mcs, Mixed, Unassisted: team YO9FRJ scored 881,600 points.
- Single Band 432 Mcs, Mixed, Unassisted: OH2PO finished with a nice score of 360,400.
- Single Band 1296 Mcs, Analog: once again very high scores, with 5 of the 7 logs entered here in six figures. Team IZ1BPN took first place in this category with 207,700 points, followed by SM3LBN (195,300) and SK0UX (186,000).
- Single Band 1296 Mcs, Mixed, Assisted: RD3DA won with 183,000 points ahead of VA7MM with a total of 122,200 points.
- Single Band 2.3 Gcs, Analog: The team of HB9Q scored 37,800 points, just ahead of WD5AGO with 34,000. HB9Q also operated on several other bands and modes, but this was the only category matched by their entry.

2007 ARRL International EME Competition Category Winners

Category	Mode	Call	Score	Bands
Single-Operator				
50 MHz 50 MHz	Digital Mixed	PE1BTX JR6EXN	48,600 30,400	
144 MHz 144 MHz 144 MHz 144 MHz	Analog Digital Mixed Assisted	LZ2US KB8RQ RU1AA K9DX	284,900 1,245,600 2,618,700 1,339,600	
432 MHz 432 MHz 432 MHz 432 MHz	Analog Digital Mixed Assisted	DL9KR JH0TOG OK1TEH KE2N	230,400 100 2,000 52,800	
1296 MHz	Analog	K9SLQ	356,000	
1296 MHz 1296 MHz	Mixed As'd Mixed Unaso	G4CCH PA3FXB	514,800 20,400	
5.7 GHz		OK1CA	3,600	
50 - 1296 MHz 50 - 1296 MHz 50 - 1296 MHz	Analog Digital Mixed	OZ4MM EB5EEO UA4AQL	1,224,500 475,200 82,800	BDE BD BD
2.3 GHz and Up		F2TU	193,800	FHI
All band	Analog	RW1AW	1,513,200	BDEFI
Multi-Operator				
144 MHz 144 MHz	Mixed Assisted	YO9FRJ IK1UWL	881,600 1,724,800	
432 MHz	Mixed	OH2PO	360,400	
1296 MHz 1296 MHz	Analog Assisted	IZ1BPN RD3DA	207,700 183,000	
2.3 GHz		HB9Q	37,800	
50 - 1296 MHz 50 - 1296 MHz	Analog Mixed	SP6JLW K4EME	460,600 428,600	DE BD
2.3 GHz and Up		OK1KIR	127,100	FHI
All band	Mixed	K1JT	4,253,400	BDEF

Band Definitions: A = 50MHz, B = 144MHz, C = 222MHz, D = 432MHz, 9 = 902MHz, E=1.2GHz, F = 2.3GHz, G= 3.4GHz, H = 5.7GHz, I = 10GHz, J = 24GHz, K = 47GHz, L = 75GHz, M =

119GHz, N = 142 GHz, O = 241 GHz, P = Light.

2007 ARRL International EME Competition Line Scores by Class

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	Phone/CW	Digital	TotalMults	Band	Operators
Single Ope	rator, Mu	lti-Ban	d 50-1296 Aı	nalog			
OZ4MM	1224500	155	155	0	79	BDE	
SV1BTR	1048800	152	152	0	69	BD	
VK3UM	510000	102	102	0	50	DE	
SP7DCS	509600	91	91	0	56	BDE	
DL1YMK	367500	75	75	0	49	DE	
JA6AHB	347600	79	79	0	44	DE	
SV3AAF	132000	44	44	0	30	BD	
Single Ope	rator, Mu	lti-Ban	d 50-1296 Di	gital			
EB5EEO	475200	99	0	99	48	BD	
EB2FJN	104000	40	0	40	26	BD	
VK4CDI	20800	16	0	16	13	BD	
RZ3AED	4900	7	0	7	7	BD	
Single Ope	rator, Mu	lti-Ban	d 50-1296 M	ixed Mo	de		
UA4AQL	82800	36	8	28	23	BD	
W8PAT	81000	30	3	27	27	AB	
RK3WWF	32300	19	1	18	17	BDE	
UT3LL	5600	8	3	5	7	DE	
WB2SIH	2000	5	1	4	4	BD	
Single Ope	rator, Mu	lti-Ban	d 2.3 GHz A	nd Up	l	l	1
F2TU	193800	51	51	0	38	FHI	
	I	I		I		I	l

ES5PC	68200	31	31	0	22	FH
Single Ope	rator, All	Band A	nalog			
RW1AW	1513200	156	156	0	97	BDEFI
G3LTF	1424000	160	160	0	89	BDEFG
DF3RU	972400	143	143	0	68	DEF
WA6PY	972000	120	120	0	81	BDEFI
SM3AKW	810700	121	121	0	67	BDEF
DL4MEA	499800	102	102	0	49	EF
IW2FZR	330000	75	75	0	44	EF
F5JWF	198000	55	55	0	36	EFI
W5LUA	183300	47	47	0	39	EFGH
IQ4DF	180200	53	53	0	34	EI
NA4N	140800	44	44	0	32	EF
JA4BLC	101400	39	39	0	26	EF
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 50 MHz D	igital	1	
PE1BTX	48600	27	0	27	18	A
K1SG	1600	4	0	4	4	A
K7CW	100	1	0	1	1	A
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 50 MHz M	Iixed	ı	
JR6EXN	30400	19	1	18	16	A
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 144 MHz	Analog		
LZ2US	284900	77	77	0	37	В
1	1	1	1	1	1	<u> </u>

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F3VS	210800	68	68	0	31	В	
OK1MS	189000	63	63	0	30	В	
LA8YB	132300	49	49	0	27	В	
UR5LX	89100	33	33	0	27	В	
YO2AMU	88800	37	37	0	24	В	
IK2DDR	79800	38	38	0	21	В	
K6PF	42500	25	25	0	17	В	
JHØWJF	40600	29	29	0	14	В	
RA3EC	24700	19	19	0	13	В	
9A9B	12600	14	14	0	9	В	
DL8UCC	11000	11	11	0	10	В	
DG5CST	5600	8	8	0	7	В	
VA3TO	2500	5	5	0	5	В	
DF1VH	900	3	3	0	3	В	
SP3XBO	900	3	3	0	3	В	
SM1MUT	400	2	2	0	2	В	
KB2YCC	100	1	1	0	1	В	
HA8V	100	1	1	0	1	В	
Single Ope	 rator, Sin	l gle Ban	 d 144 MHz	 Digital		l	l
KB8RQ	1245600	173	0	173	72	В	
EA3BB	236800	64	0	64	37	В	
LU1CGB	236000	59	0	59	40	В	
OK1UGA	204000	60	0	60	34	В	
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RA3GES	153600	48	0	48	32	В	
НАЙНО	105000	35	0	35	30	В	
OK1KKD	96100	31	0	31	31	В	
EB1DNK	77000	35	0	35	22	В	
K5GMX	52500	25	0	25	21	В	
PA3ECU	36000	24	0	24	15	В	
W9JN	30400	19	0	19	16	В	
NF2V	28800	18	0	18	16	В	
YO3DMU	18000	18	0	18	10	В	
AF4JF	10000	10	0	10	10	В	
SP2NJI	7200	9	0	9	8	В	
WA4EWV	4900	7	0	7	7	В	
CT1DHM	4200	7	0	7	6	В	
CT1EKD	3600	6	0	6	6	В	
LZ1LP	3500	7	0	7	5	В	
K5AM	2000	5	0	5	4	В	
RA3LW	400	2	0	2	2	В	
W8UJX	100	1	0	1	1	В	
DJØMY	100	1	0	1	1	В	
SP6HED	100	1	0	1	1	В	
EA1FBU	100	1	0	1	1	В	
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 144 MHz I	Mixed M	lode Assisted	l	
K9DX	1339600	197	32	165	68	В	

RX1AS	1043700	147	12	135	71	В	
AO6VQ	947200	148	0	148	64	В	
7K3LGC	754600	154	3	151	49	В	
WQ5S	726000	121	6	115	60	В	
AO5SE	631300	107	0	107	59	В	
N5KDA	608400	117	12	105	52	В	
K4SV	577700	109	0	109	53	В	
SM5CUI	530100	93	5	88	57	В	
N6CW	400500	89	8	81	45	В	
WB9PNU	262200	69	0	69	38	В	
DC2MW	222000	60	0	60	37	В	
PY4OG	188700	51	1	50	37	В	
KØKP	184800	56	5	51	33	В	
WA3BZT	148800	48	0	48	31	В	
DL2FCN	128800	46	5	41	28	В	
PA3CWN	92000	46	32	14	20	В	
DL2LAH	85000	34	2	32	25	В	
KL7UW	76800	32	0	32	24	В	
I2RV	70400	32	3	29	22	В	
YU7XL	52700	31	4	27	17	В	
DK5WL	49400	26	1	25	19	В	
JS3CTQ	47500	25	0	25	19	В	
SM5CFS	21600	18	0	18	12	В	

RA3WDK	18700	17	0	17	11	В	
KASWDK	16700	17		17	11	D	
7Z1SJ	16500	15	0	15	11	В	
W2DBL	7000	10	0	10	7	В	
ЈЈЗЈНР	5600	8	0	8	7	В	
VE5UF	5600	8	0	8	7	В	
EA5ADH	2500	5	0	5	5	В	
K7XC	400	2	0	2	2	В	
JE1NTL	300	3	0	3	1	В	
EA5MT	100	1	0	1	1	В	
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 144 MHz l	Mixed M	lode Unassis	ted	l
RU1AA	2618700	301	60	241	87	В	
W3SZ	792000	132	14	118	60	В	
RA6DA	534100	109	13	96	49	В	
EA2AGZ	523200	109	7	102	48	В	
YU7AA	514800	117	114	3	44	В	
IK7EZN	415800	99	5	94	42	В	
I3EVK	409200	93	28	65	44	В	
K1CA	393600	82	6	76	48	В	
JM1GSH	173600	56	2	54	31	В	
UA4NX	45000	25	0	25	18	В	
RA4NAG	600	3	1	2	2	В	
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 432 MHz	Analog	ı		
DL9KR	230400	72	72	0	32	D	
		l	<u> </u>		L	L	l

UA3PTW	198400	64	64	0	31	D	
I1NDP	122500	49	49	0	25	D	
FR5DN	92000	40	40	0	23	D	
JJ1NNJ	85800	39	39	0	22	D	
RW3PX	77000	35	35	0	22	D	
KØRZ	70400	32	32	0	22	D	
W8TXT	65100	31	31	0	21	D	
K1FO	60800	32	32	0	19	D	
UT2EG	56000	28	28	0	20	D	
ЈА9ВОН	42500	25	25	0	17	D	
SM3JQU	27000	18	18	0	15	D	
DL7UDA	27000	18	18	0	15	D	
JH4JLV	22400	16	16	0	14	D	
KL7HFQ	14400	12	12	0	12	D	
YO2IS	8000	10	10	0	8	D	
Single Ope	rator, Sin	ıgle Ban	d 432 MHz	Digital	ı	1	
JHØTOG	100	1	0	1	1	D	
Single Ope	rator, Sin	ıgle Ban	d 432 MHz	Mixed M	Iode Assisted	l	
KE2N	52800	24	11	13	22	D	
OK1TEH	2000	5	2	3	4	D	
Single Ope	rator, Sin	gle Ban	d 1296 MHz	Analog	1		
K9SLQ	356000	89	89	0	40	Е	
OK1DFC	334400	88	88	0	38	Е	

LA9NEA	281200	76	76	0	37	Е	
K2DH	155000	50	50	0	31	Е	
IK3COJ	142800	51	51	0	28	E	
RA3AQ	135200	52	52	0	26	E	
JR4AEP	81900	39	39	0	21	E	
AL7RT	77700	37	37	0	21	E	
SM5LE	42500	25	25	0	17	E	1
JH5LUZ	39100	23	23	0	17	E	
JF3HUC	38400	24	24	0	16	E	
EA3UM	33300	37	37	0	9	E	
JH1KRC	27000	18	18	0	15	E	1
JA4LJB	23800	17	17	0	14	E	
W9IIX	100	1	1	0	1	E	
Single Ope	erator, Sin	ıgle Ban	d, 1296 MH	z, Mixed	Mode, Assis	ted	
G4CCH	514800	117	97	20	44	Е	
Single Ope	erator, Sin	ıgle Ban	d 1296 MHz	Mixed	Unassisted	I	
PA3FXB	20400	17	11	6	12	Е	
Single Ope	erator, Sir	ıgle Ban	d 2.3 GHz	1	1	l	
SP6GWN	900	3	3	0	3	F	
Single Ope	erator, Sin	ıgle Ban	d 5.7 GHz		1		
OK1CA	3600	6	6	0	6	Н	
Multi Ope	rator, Mu	ılti-Band	1 50-1296 An	alog	I	I	
SP6JLW	460600	94	94	0	49	DE	SP6JLW, SP6OPN

Multi Ope	rator, Mu	lti-Ban	d 50-1296 M	Iixed M	ode		
N9JIM*	1456000	182	92	90	80	ВЕ	N9JIM, W6BY, N5XSA, KK6MK, AD6IW, WD6CDE, WB8VAO, K6KLY
K4EME	428400	84	26	58	51	BD	K4EME, AD4TJ, KR4V
Multi Ope	rator, Mu	lti-Ban	d 2.3 GHz a	nd Up		<u>'</u>	1
OK1KIR	127100	41	41	0	31	FHI	OK1KIR, OK1DAI, OK1DAK, OK1VAO
Multi Ope	rator, All	Band N	Aixed Mode	<u> </u>	1	<u> </u>	1
K1JT	4253400	306	146	160	139	BDEF	K1JT, K2UYH, K2LNS, K1DS KC2TA, N4HY, AB2KT
Multi Ope	rator, Sing	l gle Ban	d 144 MHz	Mixed I	Mode Assi	sted	1
IK1UWL	1724800	224	20	204	77	В	IK1UWL, I1ANP
KA1VHF	319800	82	0	82	39	В	KA1VHF, KA8HOK
F5KCH	220500	63	4	59	35	В	F5KCH, F6HEO, F1UKQ, FØEUI, F4FPK
WW8M	81000	30	6	24	27	В	WW8M, KB8U, NE8I
Multi Ope	rator, Sing	gle Ban	d 144 MHz	Mixed I	Mode Una	ssisted	'
YO9FRJ	881600	152	31	121	58	В	YO7FRJ, YO9AFE
AA1YN	132000	44	2	42	30	В	AA1YN, NS1O
Multi Ope	rator, Sing	gle Ban	d 432 MHz	Mixed I	Mode Una	ssisted	'
ОН2РО	360400	106	70	36	34	D	OH2PO, OH2HYT, OH6DD
Multi Ope	rator, Sing	gle Ban	d 1296 MH	z Analo	g		1
IZ1BPN	207700	67	67	0	31	E	IZ1BPN, IK1MTZ
SM3LBN	195300	63	63	0	31	E	SM3LBN, SM3EVR
SKØUX	186000	60	60	0	31	Е	SMØMXO, SMØDFP, SMØEPO

ON4BCB	168200	58	58	0	29	E	ON4BCB, ON4CO, ON4CCM
LA2Z	131600	47	47	0	28	Е	LA2PKA, LA5SKA, LA6MV, LA7VH
N2UO	95000	38	38	0	25	Е	N2UO, W9EQ
UA3DJG	26600	19	19	0	14	Е	UA3DJG, UA3ATS, RA3WND
Multi One	rator Sin	gle Ba	nd 1296 N	IHz Mixed	d Mode Ass	sisted	
RD3DA	183000	61	55	6	30	Е	RD3DA, RU3ACE
		· · ·					RD3DA, RU3ACE VE7CMK, VE7CNF
RD3DA	183000	61	55 38	6	30	Е	<u>'</u>
RD3DA VA7MM	183000	61	55 38	6	30	Е	<u>'</u>

The Digital/Analog Divide

by H. Ward Silver, NOAX

What is all the fuss about digital and analog scores? There certainly is a lot of vigorous discussion about the relative merits of each mode, with each camp holding firm to its position and operating habits. (There are a number of operators and teams that use both digital and analog moonbounce techniques, of course.) To an EME newcomer or the casual reader, the reason for the differences of opinion may not be so obvious.

Analog, in the context of moonbounce, means the use of human hearing and brainpower as the means by which audio from the received echoes is translated into callsigns and messages. The two modulation techniques used are CW and SSB. Of the two, SSB requires the strongest signal strength. CW signals can be detected by a highly trained and sensitive pair of ears (certainly not the author's) down into the receiver noise floor and slightly beyond in exceptional cases and circumstances. The resulting EME station is very much an alloy of operator and machine.

Digital moonbounce is dominated by the use of signal processing in the form of special protocols and codes known as JT65, part of the WSJT software suite developed by Joe Taylor K1JT (http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT). In these modes, the received audio is translated into call signs and messages by signal processing software that uses a PC sound card to digitize the audio. JT65 can dig a lot farther into the noise to recover signals than can even the best human ear. This extra ability to recover a signal is known as "processing gain."

By using JT65 codes, a much more modest station can successfully complete moonbounce contacts than is required for analog modes.

As a result, many more stations are now making moonbounce contacts.

Somewhat justifiably, this rankles some analog operators who feel their operations are distinct from those of the software-driven systems. Digital techniques continue to evolve and so more stations are likely to try their hand at moonbounce in the future. To accommodate both views and techniques, different categories have been established in the ARRL EME Contest.

Another point of divergence between groups is the use of the Internet to coordinate contacts in nearly real-time. On-line "chat rooms", such as http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php are often used to set up or schedule EME contacts. Stations are sometimes observed "talking each other in" until they are able to complete a contact. This is a big change from "random"

QSO's, in which one station calls CQ off the moon and then listens for replies without knowing who may be calling or when. Random QSO's are definitely more difficult to complete, but as with digital mode contacts, smaller stations can complete contacts with this form on on-line assistance.

As you might imagine, random QSO proponents consider contacts made with the aid of the Internet much less difficult and thus less worthy of note.

As long as one is clear about the techniques used to make QSO's, there are plenty of stations to work, big and small, on both sides of the digital/analog fence. Although the traditional analog mode dominance is being eroded, its practitioners can take some solace from the fact that as digital mode operators become more proficient, they may want to add CW and even SSB to their capabilities. The moon is big and does not care what type of signal it reflects - there is room for all.

Getting Started In Moonbounce

by H. Ward Silver, NOAX

Moonbounce is an awesome achievement and fairly intimidating to the average ham, but it has never been more accessible than it is today. As you'll discover, the special digital sigital processing algorithms and protocols of WSJT by Joe Taylor K1JT (see the sidebar "The Digital/Analog Divide") put moonbounce within reach of even modest stations, leveraging the power of the microprocessor to copy extremely weak signals.

If the idea of making a QSO over a half-million mile path sounds like fun, you need to start by learning the terminology and fundamentals of EME operation. There is an HF Moonbounce Net at 1500Z on 14.345 MHz for EME operations on 432 MHz and the higher bands. It is followed by the 2 meter EME net on the same frequency at 1600Z or 1700Z. This is a good place to meet hams that will answer questions (probably off-line and not during the net).

To learn more about the basics of EME, try the ARRL Technical Information Service EME pages at http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/moon.html

where you'll find some QST articles and links to other moonbounce sites.

N1BUG publishes a good how-to guide for the EME beginner at www.n1bug.net/operate/emebasic.html. A good US site is maintained by K7XQ at http://www.elite.net/~k7xq/k7xq.html and a good European site by DK5YA at http://www.vhfdx.de/eme.html.

Suffice it to say that you won't need a NASA-sized steerable dish. A couple of long-boom Yagi's will get you "on the moon" on either 144 or 432 MHz, the two most popular bands for EME operation. There may even be a moonbouncer in your town or region that wouldn't mind showing you the ropes.

You can also find moonbounce operators through the regional VHF/UHF contest clubs and those can be located those via the ARRL Club Search Web page at http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml.

With all of these resources and the excellent VHF/UHF all-band all-mode radios so widely available, the barriers to moonbounce have never been lower. Why not make it a group or club project? The moon is closer than you think!

From The Participants

G4CCH:

At times, the bottom 35 KHz of 23cm was crammed with stations, and some of them were VERY loud... like HB9SV, HB9BBD, K5SO, HB9Q, OZ4MM and OK1DFC.

SV3AAF:

Dear All,

I have been QRV for the most of my moon-time during ARRL EME contest '07 on 70cm & 2m. Was happy to hear the bands alive although there were extended periods with the CQ callers receiving no replies, mostly during second leg.

I completed with the following stations working unassisted on CW mode:

144Mhz

SV1BTR, IK3MAC, RN6BN, RA6DA, F1FLA, OK1MS, F0CXO, SP7DCS, LZ2US, F3VS, K9MRI, IK2DDR, OK1VVP, K9DX, Y02AMU, OZ1HNE, RU1AA, LA8YB, OK1KKD.

432Mhz:

DL9KR, HB9Q, K1FO, OH2PO, UA3PTW, I1NDP, K1RQG, OE5JFL, KL6M, SV1BTR, DF3RU, DL7APV, G4RGK, RW3PX, K0RZ, VK3UM, OZ4MM, JA6AHB, JA9BOH, SP6JLW, JJ1NNJ, G3LTF, DK3WG, FR5DN, YO2IS.

Conditions at this end:

Thankfully WX cooperated during the two weekends while some days before or after it could have spelt disaster with high winds and rain.

Equipment/antenna system worked seamlessly throughout the long hours of operation. EME propagation was from good to excellent with some faraday and extra attenuation during second leg mostly effecting 2m while long libration periods made operation on 70cm more enjoyable both weekends.

Best

Regards,

73 de Petros sv3aaf [km17ko]

SV1BTR:

Lunar Reflection Fans

Here are my results for ARRL EME Competition 2007, Single Operator Multiband 50-1296MHz , ANALOG.

All QSOs in CW mode, all QSOs on Random (no passive / active internet use, no skeds, no external help).

Total: 152 stations, 157 QSOs

2m: 100 stations, 104 QSOs (4 dupe)

70cm: 52 stations, 53 QSOs (1 dupe)

I would like to take the opportunity and thank all the 2m & 70cm dedicated and occasional EME ops, regardless of mode. Those I worked and those not completed due to partial copy or merely qrz. Know that I tried hard and hope next time I will not miss you. Especially I would like to thank the 2m new to EME, newcomers to CW and QRP mixed operators. It has been a real pleasure to me to work again down to single yagi and 250w stations on random, as well as being the 1st or 2nd ever CW QSO to previously only digital, ops. The EME old timers always wisely said for CW: "if you can't hear them you can't work them". Therefore copying and working QRP stations in CQ EME has been once more a real pleasure to me, since my 2m array has similar gain to 4*11m long yagis.

Activity on 70cm was good. I am glad because this band has long time lasting, dedicated, excellent CW ops.

Conditions

WX was perfect. I was vy lucky in this respect. In 2nd leg, propagation conditions on 2m featured deep QSB in all 3 passes for both polarities. On 70cm there were periods with good signals without problems of Faraday, and extended periods with signals in both polarities being steady, but down by 2db.Echoes on both bands indicated the same findings as above, all over the weekend.

Murphy visits 2nd leg:

I faced problems with 70cm new azimuth, pointing errors (fortunately there was full moon so i tracked it by going out of the shack every now and then:-)) On both bands I had lesser elevation errors this time due to some improvements, of up to 2.5 degrees which varied non-stop according to the readout wishes...not the best in narrow main lobe, arrays. On 70cm continuous PA flashovers forced me to decrease power by 1.5db to be able to remain QRV.

But as they say....no pain, no gain!

Below are the stations worked in each band, per leg:

2m - 2nd leg: ON4DPX (dup) WA4NJP F8DO OK1VVP (dup) WW8M DL2FCN W3SZ OZ1HNE K9MRI LA8YB AD4TJ K6AAW N6CW SM3AKW OK1KKD (dup) VA3TO YU7AA (dup) SM5TSP ON7EH RU1AA I5WBE G4PCS PA3CEE DF0BV G3LTF W8PAT DK3T HB9Q DK5WL YU7XL RN6MT JH0WJF OK2POI JH5FOQ EA2AGZ F5KCH YU1IO DF9YF SM5CUI OZ1LPR

2m - 1st les

RN6BN IK2DDR K9DX DL8UCC SV3AAF RA3EC RX1AS IK1UWL I3EVK LZ2US WA8CLT 9A9B YO9FRJ UA4AQL DK5YA PA3CWN OK1MS OK1KKD IK3MAC W0PT OK1VVP SP7DCS W5UN 4X1IF RW1AW K9JI YO2AMU OZ4MM K6PF F9HS SM7GVF K1CA SM2CKR F3VS DK3BU IV3GBO JN1CSO F1FLA HA6NQ RZ3BA/1 F0CXO VE2JWH ON4DPX SK0UX RA6DA LZ1DP AA1YN K1JT N5KDA WA6PY DL5MAE W7MEM WQ5S JH0MHE YU7AA PA2DW UT2XQ DG5CST CT1HZE OK1TEH JH2COZ EI4DQ DF2ZC DL7FF

70cm - 2nd leg:

VK3UM JJ1NNJ SM3BYA OE5JFL UT5JCW DK8VS YO2IS JS3SIM S53RM DL5FN (dup) K4EME F3VS WE2Y UA6LGH KE2N RW1AW K3MF

70cm - 1st leg:

FR5DN UA3PTW SV3AAF RW3PX UT2EG VK4AFL KL6M DL9KR DF3RU DL5FN OH2PO DL1YMK G3LQR I1NDP OZ4MM DL7APV SM3JQU JH4JLV HB9Q SM2A PE1ITR K1FO K1RQG DL7UDA W8TXT G3LTF K0RZ KL7HFQ SP6JLW I5CTE JA9BOH JA5NNS G4RGK JA6AHB JA0TJU SM3AKW

Thank you all & 73

Jimmy SV1BTR

2m: 16*6el. xpol 21.5dbd

70cm: 8*26el. H pol & 8*20el. V pol

KM18no

DL8EBW:

Hi there LUNAticks...I was QRV a lot during December and as well during the secondpart of contest for some hours as well and found condition very nice Saturday. Sunday it was very noisy here, and lots of QSB on the sign! Was happy for a lot of new Initials and as well 2 fine CW QSOs... (sorry Jimmy, did call you 2x30min and maximum was a QRZ from you...)Did work as follows in Nov (only C QSOs - the list of NC is much longer, hi):

DATUM Z BEMERKUNG QR	EITRUFZEICHEN B	LOCATO	 R TX	RX	ART
 17/11/2007 13:2	9 OHE TW	KP12AJ	RO	0	JT65 best
-20db 1530	o Onouw	KP1ZAU	RO	O	ulos pest
18/11/2007 19:5	0 RZ4HF	LO43	RO	0	JT65 best
-23db 2815+- 21/11/2007 00:1	E V7MT	CN73TC	RO	0	JT65 best
-23db 8528	O K/MI	CN/31C	RO	O	Jios Dest
21/11/2007 17:0	1 RW3WR	KO71IM	RO	0	JT65 best
-24db 1903 21/11/2007 17:2	2 OM2DC	TNIOOTIC	0	RO	JT65 best
-24db 966	Z OMSBC	JN98VG	O	RO	Jios Dest
21/11/2007 18:4	6 EA3BB	JN01VS	RO	0	JT65 best

-21db 1127	IIA CNO	TNT () () (1/17)		DO	TMC F	b = = +			
21/11/2007 19:00 -20db 983	HA6NQ	JN98WA	0	RO	0.1.6.5	best			
21/11/2007 23:29	S52LM	JN65TX	0	RO	JT65	best			
-19db 754 22/11/2007 17:30	LZ1DP	KN22TR	RO	0	JT65	best			
-24db 1684 22/11/2007 17:40	OE5MPL	JN78CJ	0	RO	JT65	best			
-24db 597 23/11/2007 00:19		IN83QE	RO	0	.TT65	best			
-25db 1156									
23/11/2007 00:35 -26db 111		JO32MF	0	RO		best			
23/11/2007 22:14 -27db 6714	W9JN	EN54DN	0	RO	JT65	best			
23/11/2007 23:27 -22db 1175+-	AN3JT	JN01	0	RO	JT65	best			
24/11/2007 01:33 -21db 6927	WOHP	EN34IJ	RO	0	JT65	best			
24/11/2007 02:49	N6KK	DM03	0	RO	JT65	best			
-20db 9218+- 24/11/2007 03:35	KA1VHF	EM89	RO	0	JT65	best			
-20db 6703+- 24/11/2007 19:55	RN6BN	KN95LC	0	RO	JT65	best			
-12db 2435 25/11/2007 00:10	CN3A	IM52JJ	RO	0	JT65	best			
-29db 2480 25/11/2007 00:39		JN33VT	0	RO		best			
-20db 826									
25/11/2007 01:56 -19db 1339+-	AO6VQ	JM19	0	RO	JT65	best			
25/11/2007 03:00 419	OK1MS	J070SL	0	RO	CW	best			
596 25/11/2007 04:00	K6AAW	CN80TE	RO	0	CW	best			
319 8730									
26/11/2007 19:02 -21db 1187	SM5CFS	J099IQ	RO	0	JT65	best			
26/11/2007 19:15 -26db 16798	VK7JG	QE38NN	RO	0	JT65	best			
28/11/2007 01:10	3X5A	IJ39JJ	RO	0	JT65	best			
-27db 5007 28/11/2007 05:00	RV9UV	NO34GA	0	RO	JT65	best			
-26db 5079 28/11/2007 05:44	K6MYC	DM07DB	0	RO	JT65	best			
-18db 8914 29/11/2007 02:50	WA2ODO	EM94NX	0	RO	JT65	best			
-21db 6925 29/11/2007 03:15		FN04GG	RO	0		best			
-24db 6134			•						
Special thanks to K6AAW for his patience with me in CW and ofcourse to CN3A and 3X5A for their									
expeditions!	•								
12.1									

kind	regards,								sincerely		
73	de	D	L	8	E	В	W	Guido	(Guy)		
qrv	from	JO:	31NF	for		VHF-DX:	MS	&	EME		
RIG: IC275H 2*12elM2 750W ATF-Preamp											
A	Team	-Member		of		MMMonVHF		DX	Portal		
look: http://www.MMMonVHF.de/											

Email: <u>dl8ebw@MMMonVHF.de</u>

K7XO:

I had a great time operating all three weekends of the contest. Conditions were extremely unusual on 144 MHz where signals would very from 20 dB out of the noise, even moving the S meter at times, to NIL in a matter of seconds but with no faraday changes. This was why I didn't do too well on 144 but 1296 was stable as a rock with unusually stronger signals. I did much better on 2304 after the contest after I found a blown/shorted regulator in the preamp causing a overvoltage condition to the front end device creating excessive gain and a very high noise figure.

I will be submitting as single operator, CW only, random unassisted, mixed band entry (all call signs included below).

Any assisted contacts will not be included in the ARRL submitted log but are located on my webpage logbook.

First Contest Weekend:

2304: OK1MS#, KL6M#

 Second
 Contest
 weekend:

 144:
 F3VS,
 IK3MAC,
 OK1MS#

 1296; SM4DHN#, K9SLQ, N9JIM, K4QI#, OK1DFC, G3LTF, LA9NEA, HB9Q, OZ6OL, RW1AW,
 K1JT,
 G4CCH,
 N9JIM,
 WA6PY

 JA4BLC#, JA6CZD#, JR4AEP#, OK1CA, OE5JFL#, RW1AW#, IW2FZR#, OZ4MM, DL4MEA#,
 OH2DG#, AL7RT#, N0OY#

Third Contest Weekend: 432: G3LTF#

1296: DF3RU#, K2DH#, K5SO, K5JL, VK3UM#, VE6TA#, VK4AFL#, W2DRZ#, JR4ZZS#, VA7MM# The 432 array is only partially built as 2 X 9 W.L. XPOL @ 20 dBd total gain but was pleased that the GS35b amp stayed stable with very little power drift on this band at a full 1500 watts.

Next contest will alternate the bands more often and try not to stay on any one band too long. Could have picked up more on 144 although as K6PF described recently, it is not as populated on CW like it used to be.

Congrats to K2TXB on his only contact during the contest :)))

K7XO Jeff

Atwater , CA. Grid: CM97qi EME, Satellites, Meteor Scatter CW, JT-65 , SSB 50 MHz: 2 X M2 6M7 1000 watts 2 X 3-500 144 MHz: 4 X XPOL M2 2MPX28 XPOL 1500 Watts Single GS35b 222 MHz: 1 X M2 5 W.L. 350 watts Single 8930 432 MHz: 4 X M2 9 W.L. Modified for XPOL 1500 Watts single GS35b 1296 MHz: 3.0 meter dish VE4MA circular feed 350 Watts single GS15 water-cooled 2304 MHz/2320 MHz/2424 MHz: 3.0 meter dish VE4MA circular feed 200 watts Spectrian SSPA 10 GHz: early 2008 K7XQ Webpage: http://www.elite.net/~k7xq/k7xq.html

SP7DCS:

Hello!

During the first weekend I was QRV only on 2m and 23cm, but during second weekend I added also 70cm band. I was QRV on CW random only, without assistance, internet etc... and I managed to work 98qsos (6 duplicates). In my opinion conditions were good on all bands, even for single polarized stations. On 2m I used big system and QRO so I had good echo almost all the time, up to 25dB over the noise.

On 70cm I was totally QRP, but I was very happy to put 7 big gun stations into my log. 23cm was nice surprise once again, even with so small station I was able to hear a lot - band was sometimes like on HF. Unfortunately many stations were not able to hear my small signal, so maybe I just need to increase my power before next time. So, I was my first contest on 3 bands and I very liked it. Multiband work is totally different thing and is very interesting.

During first weekend I spent about half of QRV time on 2m and on 23cm. During second, I was only short time QRV on 2m and I decided to concentrate on 23cm and 70cm. Of course it decreased my total QSO count as I am QRP on those bands, but I had great time and a lot of fun!

The only exception from random work was sked with P43L on 23cm. Unfortunately I did not have luck. Pity, because I could hear them ok the day before. Anyway congrats for great expedition! Congratulations goes also to OZ1HNE and LA8YB for getting back to 2m eme!!!

144MHz, CW, 60 QSOs (4dupe)

Equipment: 16x8elH-polYagi/GS35b/LNA-FHX35/IC746/DSP MFJ784b/WINRAD/

27.10.2007

RA3EC# RN6BN IK2DDR PA3CWN I3EVK OK1MS RX1AS LZ2US IK1UWL IK3MAC N9JIM# OK1KKD OK1TEH SV1BTR Y09FRJ W5UN F3VS SM7GVF OZ4MM JN1CSO DL5MAE Y03FFF OK1IA 9A9B F0CXO SK0UX

28.10.2007

SV3AAF SP3XBO# K6PF K9MRI K1JT WA6PY JH0WJF F1FLA UT2XQ# HA6NQ DG5CST RA6DA VE1ZJ EI4DQ RU1AA YO2AMU

24.11.2007

OZ1HNE JH0MHE LA8YB#300 OK1KKD F0CXO(dupe) IK1UWL(dupe) G4PCS#

SV3AAF(dupe) WA8CLT W0EKZ#302

25.11.2007

ON4DPX W0PT G4DHF DK3T(station DK3EE) RN6MT JH0WJF(dupe) OK1VVP YU1IO

432MHz, CW, 7qso

Equipment: 4x25el.H-polYagi/250W at shack/LNA-FHX35/MMT432-144/IC746/DSP

MFJ784b/WINRAD/

24.11.2007

DL9KR OH2PO UA3PTW# OZ4MM VK3UM# OE5JFL# DF3RU#10

1296MHz, CW, 31qso(2dupe)

Equipment: 3m dish/150W at feed RA3AQ/LNA-ATF54143/TCVR23cm by

SP9WY/IC746/DSP-MFJ784b/WINRAD/

27.10.2007

OE5JFL G3LTF N9JIM# K1JT(station K2UYH) SP6JLW K9SLQ# HB9Q# G4CCH OK1CA

RW1AW# SK0UX# OK1KIR# OZ4MM# N9JIM(dupe) W5LUA# WA6PY# OK1DFC

28.10.2007

DF3RU# RA3AO# OZ6OL

24.11.2007

LA9NEA VE6TA# K5JL# DL1YMK# DL4MEA# OE5JFL(dupe) ON7UN#

25.11.2007

K2DH# HB9BBD# ES5PC IZ1BPN#35

Some signals are already on my page and I hope to add more soon.

My next activity is planned for 21-22 December during Dubus Event:

 $\underline{http://www.sm2cew.com/dubus-aw.html} \quad \underline{http://web.telia.com/\sim\!u37031777/}$

GL 73 de Chris SP7DCS

--

Chris SP7DCS

email - <u>sp7dcs@wp.pl</u>, <u>sp7dcs@o2.pl</u>, <u>sp7dcs@smrw.lodz.pl</u>

EME PAGE - http://sp7dcs.webpark.pl

OZ1HNE:

Hi EME'ers-

I was QRV in the second part of the ARRL EME contest on 144 MHz CW and worked 27 stations in about eight hours. I was calling CQ all the time just to test and play with the new antenna. Weather was very bad with rain and strong wind, so I had to close down. Thanks to all for the QSO's and sorry for the stations I not could dig out of the noise. I am very glad to be back on EME and I will be QRV on CW in the future.

Here are the stations I worked:

IK2DDR

I3EVK

WA4NJP

W3SZ

F8DO

F1FLA

F0CXO

SV1BTR

LA8YB

YO2AMU

OK1KKD #

OK1VVP # YO9FRJ K1JT # OK1MS K6AAW # LZ2US WA8CLT SV3AAF # K6PF WA6PY JH0MHE SP7DCS OZ4MM WO5S # IK1UWL DK3T # Best 73, OZ1HNE Jorgen.

8 x 8 elm. Crossyagi's and 8877.

OK1DFC:

Everything what happened here in ARRL EME 07 you can find and download here: http://www.ok1dfc.com/EME/arrl07/arrl07.html

More info about my station here: http://www.ok1dfc.com/EME/emeweb.htm All is available and free download for you.

Zdenek OK1DFC www.ok1dfc.com http://www.ok1dfc.com **EME** 144-432-1296MHz QRV WAC 432 1296 MHz ORO 10m dish ICQ-397994501

SM2CEW:

Pretty much everything has been either not possible to use, or has been running in "limp mode" during this years ARRL contest. During the first leg we had very strong winds that prevented operation except for a few hours when I could be QRV on 144 MHz. This resulted in 11 contacts.

The second leg was no different.. The 144 MHz array was totally iced up, and SWR very high -> "unusable" My dish elevation was frozen solid in the park position, and while trying to get it going on Friday I managed to damage the elevation mount. Early Sunday morning I could get the dish going, but only at very limited elevation angles. The problem was not the snow, but the thick layer of ice under the snow.

http://www.sm2cew.com/sm2cew_dish_nov_07.jpg

At 0630 GMT on Sunday I heard P43L working N2UO on 1296 MHz, and Al (K2UYH, guest at P43L) had a really good signal. Unfortunately P43L had to stop operation right then and there as torrential rain was making the /portable operation under a tarp impossible.

I worked 18 stations in an hour and a half on 23cm, new initial was AL7RT. On 432 managed to get on for an hour as the moon came above the trees on moonrise, and worked 8 stations. Conditions on 432 sounded really good, despite heavy aurora. Due to the earlier problems, my elevation drive jammed at 29 deg elevation, so I had to stop with many hours of good moon still available on Sunday evening.

Sorry for missing those treasured CW QSO's with a lot of you guys, but this is life at the Arctic circle. 37 QSO's only in this years contest, snow and ice last weekend, and strong winds that kept me off for most of the time during the first leg.

But best of all, all QSO's were done on CW, without the help of loggers...hi!

The new rules that allow chat board communications and self spotting by using Internet communications really bother me. This has absolutely no place in a radio contest. As the rules were written this time, the assisted category was supposed to be for small stations, and newcomers to EME. But the outcome was, that all station, big or small, were doing the same thing. They constantly self spotted, and used the internet chatboards to talk themselves through their so called contest QSO's.

Because of this, I choose not to submit a contest log this year, except for a checklog to help the organizers determine that QSO's listed with me were ok. A contest really is about skills and tactics on the air, not how many stations one can line up via internet chatboards. That looks more like using a telephone listing to make contact with your friends.

Having operated every year in this fine event since 1985, my suggestions to the organizers are the following:

- do not mix modes, run separate weekends for analog/digital.
- do not allow self spotting, or chatboard communications during the event.
- allow operators to enter different categories, depending on how they desire to do so, for instance enter Single band/Single Op on 432, 1296 and 2304 MHz respectively.
- please find a contest format that will survive >12 months, and not be changed every year because some people think it is too difficult to make random contacts on the radio!

As I know it, the ARRL were the first to organize an EME contest, handing out awards to everyone who made at least one EME-contact. This has been a TREMENDOUS source of inspiration through the years. It would be terribly sad to see good moonbouncers let the opportunity to compete and have

EME fun pass them by, just because the rules reflect more on internet-based communications rather than radio communications.

73 de Peter SM2CEW www.sm2cew.com http://blog.sm2cew.com

WA6PY:

This year it was again very good activity on 3, 13 and 23 cm. Great signals. On 70 cm I was using dual dipole feed extended with 8 WL of directors. This antenna is like cross yagi, but noise temperature is quite high. I was surprised to hear echoes with this antenna. This was probably thanks to the perigee. I managed to make 11 QSO on this band.

TNX 73 Paul

SM5LE:

I did focal adjustments just before ARRL contest and it paid off. I did better that the contest before. 73 Sven SM5LE

DL5MAE:

I am not surprised about too low number of input. ARRL EME Contest rules just became too complicated and too much internet orientated. This is not what radio contesters looking for.

And there are still categories completely forgotten (i.e. single OP, assisted, analog).

blog.sm2cew.com may give you more reasons for the lack of contest logs and comments from big guns. vy 73 de dl5mae Wolfgang

OZ1HNE:

I was active in the ARRL EME contest 2007 just like the last 18 years, but this time I decide not to send the log because of the very unfair rules comparing digital and CW. In my view Digital and CW is two very different modes and have to be split up like in the European EME contest. I really hope ARRL will listen and split up Digital and CW in two separate modes, and it will again be interesting to send in the log and we will again enjoy to work the ARRL EME contest.

Best 73, OZ1HNE Jorgen.

HB9Q:

The main target at HB9Q is to work QRPP stations on 144, 432 and 1296MHz. We enjoy giving newcomers

a chance to work EME. For many of them it is their very first experience and the first QSO off the moon. Many got started that way and are now QRV with bigger antennas and/or more power. Several of them start to become QRV on CW as well. In an effort to help newcomers we chose to use self-spotting on the loggers. The effort did pay-out well, we worked on 432 14 stations (for 7 it was their very 1st EME QSO) with 1 yagi and 100W or less. Some of the smaller ones are VE2DSB (1x22y 30W), IT9CJC (1x13y 40W), ZS6TW (50W into a 3ft long yagi) and WD6DBM (1x18y 33W).

vy 73

Dan, HB9CRQ/KT6Q

head of HB9Q

K1JT:

The EME stations of K1JT and K2UYH, just six miles apart, were combined into a multi-operator effort under the competition's "neighborhood provision." We used the callsign K1JT. Our operating strategy aimed to take best advantage of prevailing activity patterns on the 144, 432, 1296, and 2304 MHz bands, using both CW and JT65. We used no internet or other liaison assistance during the contest.

Our team grew progressively through the three contest weekends, starting with the home-station operators Joe and Al in September. We operated on the 2.3 GHz band using the K2UYH 8.5 m dish, with circular polarization, an 80 Watt solid state amplifier, and separate IF radios covering the 2304 and 2320 MHz band segments simultaneously. All operation during this weekend was on CW.

In October Al operated his station on 432 and 1296 MHz, this time aided by KC2TA. Feeds on the 8.5 m dish provided rotatable linear polarization on 432 and circular on 1296 MHz; transmitter power was 1000W and 500 W, respectively. We used mostly CW, but did make one digital QSO on 1296 MHz.

Meanwhile Joe was operating the K1JT station on 144 MHz. His station hardware includes four dual-polarization 14-element yagis with separate receive preamplifiers for the two polarizations. The two resulting signals are converted to baseband and then digitized under control of the Linrad software package. For CW operation, Linrad was configured to display a 60 kHz range on a slow, high-sensitivity waterfall. Tuning a CW signal is a point-and click operation on the waterfall. A few additional clicks serve to match the received linear polarization angle to that of the incoming signal, and once the received polarization angle is known, the best transmit polarization (H or V) is determined. For JT65 operation a full 90 kHz passband is sent in digital form from Linrad to a second software program, MAP65. This program searches a specified frequency range for JT65 signals, optimizes the received polarization angles separately for each one, and decodes them. We normally set the range to 144.100--144.160 MHz (or 144.070--144.130 when the Moon was up in Japan). Selection of a particular EME signal is again a point-and-click operation, and the program advises the operator on the optimum Tx polarization angle. On 144 MHz we operated almost exclusively in search-and-pounce mode, because with this hardware/software setup it is easy to find stations calling CQ or to tail-end on other QSOs in both CW and JT65 modes. The transmitter at K1JT provides about 1100 W to the antenna.

In the November contest weekend Al operated as P43L, putting Aruba on the moon for a few days on both 432 and 1296 MHz while enjoying the Caribbean sunshine. This time the K2UYH station was manned by K2LNS and K1DS, and again most of the effort on these bands was on CW. However, when the going got slow a number of JT65 QSOs were made as well. Operations on 144 MHz were aided this time by N4HY and AB2BK. Both JT65 and CW were used on 144, according to the perceived activity levels in each mode.

WD5AGO:

We were on 13cm with our 8 foot extended to 9ft dish and had our best score ever on 13cm EME. Heard over 25 stations and worked most of them, students had interest when it is speaker copy!

The following month we designed a new scalar feed for 23cm and put it in with only 100watts. Worked 10 stations but heard 30! As this was just for fun and not to compete we did not turn a log in for this band, maybe next year.

73

Tommy WD5AGO

N6CW:

My first EME contest since 1988. Conditions were good during both weekends for me. I entered mixed mode and worked 8 CW and 81 digital contacts with my modest 4x9 antenna system. While JT65B is an easy way to get on EME, I find it to be a very frustrating contest mode. It can be a mighty long minute to find out is someone has answered you or someone else.

Terry Baxter/N6CW