## Small Dish Portable EME

By Rex Moncur VK7MO


## OK1KIR 10 \& 24 GHz <br> Digital Grids in VK/ZL



10 GHz


24 GHz

## How do small portable stations work EME?

- Use digital modes \& work big home stations.
$10 \mathrm{GHz} 2^{\prime} 6^{\prime \prime}$
Dish \& 60 watts

24 GHz 4 foot
Dish \& 20 watts


## HB9Q 32 foot Solid Dish 60 watts



## OK1KIR 16 foot solid Dish 50 watts



## OK1CA, 14 foot dish 50 watts



## G3WDG 10 foot dish, 75 watts



## OZ1LPR 8 foot offset,650 Watts



W5LUA 16 foot dish, 50 or 160 Watts


## OK2AQ 4 foot dish and 40 watts



## EME Propagation Loss

- Increases by 20 dB for every 10 times increase in frequency
- 144 MHz 253 dB
- 1296 MHz 271 dB
- 10,368 MHz 290 dB

37 dB additional loss from 144 MHz to 10 GHz

## Antenna Gain for same Aperture

- Increases by 20 dB for each 10 times increase in frequency and so fully compensates for propagation loss.
- But the antenna gain applies both ends so you gain 20 dB for each 10 times increase in frequency.
- The penalty is that you must point accurately


## System Noise

- Generally lower at 10 GHz compared to say 144 MHz were external noise, particularly in city areas, dominates.
- Moon Noise produces around 2 dB loss with high gain dishes ( 10 foot plus at 10 GHz )


## Atmospheric Attenuation and Noise



Precipitable Water, Grey 5 mm Yellow 60 mm

## Lunar Degradation

- The Moon moves around the Earth in an elliptical orbit which cases a variation of around 2.3 dB .
- For QRP choose a time when lunar degradation is low


## Doppler Shift (10 GHz)



## Doppler Spreading



## Doppler Spreading

## 10 GHz Spreading 160 Hz to 2 Hz



## Variation of Spreading at 10 GHz



## Program and Modes

- WSJT Program developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT and Development Team.
- Modes for EME -- JT65, JT4 and QRA64.
- QRA64 is best for spreading up to 160 Hz , does not require a callsign list but takes advantage of information built up during a QSO.
- QRA64 is virtually immune from false decodes
- QRA64D has become the standard for both 10 and 24 GHz EME.


## QRA64: Doppler Spreading Loss



## Variation of Propagation Loss with Conditions

- 5 Hz to 150 Hz spreading costs about 6dB
- Lunar degradation varies up to 2.3 dB
- Moon noise on a 10 foot dish costs about 2 dB compared to a 2'6" dish

Best case to worst case costs about 10 dB

## Options

|  | Best <br> Conditions | Worst <br> Conditions |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $2^{\prime} 6^{\prime \prime}$ to 10 foot | 2 Watts | 20 Watts |
| $2^{\prime} 6^{\prime \prime}$ to 4 foot | 15 Watts | too much |
| 4 foot to 10 foot | 1 Watt | 10 Watts |
| 4 foot to 4 foot | 6 Watts | 60 Watts |

## Small Horns

| 0958-23 | 2.51002 | * VK7MO HB9Q JN47 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0959-23 | 2.61005 | * VK7MO G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| $1000-23$ | 2.51003 | * VK7M0 HB9Q JN47 | 0 |
| 1001 -23 | 2.5999 | * VK7MO G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| $1002-22$ | 2.5997 | * VK7M0 HB9Q JN47 | 0 |
| 1003 -22 | 2.21000 | : HI REX | 0 |
| 1004-23 | 2.51002 | : VK7M0 HB9Q JN47 | 0 |
| $1005-24$ | 2.2998 | : ${ }^{\text {* REX RX 25DB H }}$ | 0 |
| 1006-22 | 2.51005 | * VK7MO HB9Q JN47 | 0 |
| 1007 -24 | 2.21005 | : R REX RX 25DB H | 0 |
| 1008 -25 | 2.5997 | * |  |
| 1009-23 | 2.51001 | * VK7MO G3WDG -15 | 0 |
| $1010-25$ | 2.51002 | :* GE DEAR REX | 0 |
| 1011-25 | 2.61002 | : VK7MO G3WDG -15 | 0 |
| 1012 -21 | 2.5998 | :* |  |
| 1013 -23 | 2.51002 | : VK7MO G3WDG -15 | 0 |
| 1014-24 | 2.51000 | :* 12345 | 0 |
| 1015 -21 | 2.51001 | * QWERTYUIOP | 0 |
| 1016 -21 | 2.51002 | * |  |
| 1017 -23 | 2.51000 | * VK7M0 G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| 1018 -25 | 2.61002 | : EXCELLENT REX | 0 |
| 1019-25 | 2.51002 | * VK7MO G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| $1020-21$ | 2.51003 | * |  |
| 1021-24 | 2.51000 | * VK7MO G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| 1022 -25 | 2.51005 | : EXCELLENT REX | 0 |
| 1023-22 | 2.51002 | * VK7MO G3WDG IO92 | 0 |
| 1024-24 | 2.51004 | * VK7MO HB90 R-15 | 0 |
| $1025-21$ | 2.61001 | * VK7MO G3WDG IO92 | 0 |
| 1026 -24 | 2.61003 | * VK7MO HB9Q R-15 | 0 |
| 1027 -22 | 2.61003 | * VK7M0 G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| 1028 -25 | 2.51001 | * VK7M0 HB9Q RRR | 0 |
| 1029-24 | 2.2997 | * VK7M0 G3WDG I092 | 0 |
| $1030-24$ | 2.51002 | : GN REX 73 | 0 |

## Monitoring G3WDG and HB9Q on a 25 dBi Horn

 7x9 inch Aperture

## Small Horns \& DLOSHF Beacon



## Rxing DLOSHF Beacon on a Yagi



| 0642-27 2.4 998:* CQ DL0SHF JO54 | 9 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0644-23 2.5 998 :* |  |
| 0646-25 1.9 1001: |  |
| 0648-28 2.5 996 :* CQ DLOSHF JO54 | 1 |
| 0650-26 2.3 995 :* CQ DL0SHF JO54 | 1 |
| 0652-26 2.51003 :* CQ DL0SHF JO54 | 11 |
| 0654-23 2.6 999 :* |  |
| 0656-23 2.0 1007 :* |  |
| 0658-26 2.5 998 :* CQ DL0SHF JO54 | 11 |
| 0700-24 0.5 1005 :* |  |
| 0702-26 2.4 997 :* CQ DL0SHF JO54 | 11 |
| 0704-28 2.41001 :* CQ DLOSHF JO54 | 11 |
| 0706-26 0.61010: |  |
| 0708-23 1.0 1010:* |  |
| 0710-25 3.3 1010:* |  |
| 0712-28 2.4 999 :* CQ DLOSHF JO54 | 9 |
| 0714-29 2.3 996 :*CQ DLOSHF JO54 | 11 |

# QSO on Longer 4X5 inch Horn with 90 watt PA 

Spreading 23 Hz and Lunar Degradation 0.5 dB



Received by G3WDG


## Critical Factors for Small Station 10 GHz EME

- Accurate pointing in all conditions.
- Frequency-GPS locking \& Doppler correction.
- System Performance - Sun noise
- Reliability - equipment and operators.


## Pointing



Alignment of
Riflescope and Dish



## Azimuth References



## Elevation



## POLARISATION



## Sun Noise on 2'6"dish



## Moon Noise on 2'6"dish



## 24 GHz World Record G3WDG 17405 km



## Reducing Water Vapour Losses


~ 2 dB improvement

## System Loss with Atmospheric Att.



## Extending 24 GHz Record to 17464 km (G3WDG)



## World Record 10 GHz EME 18949 km (WA3LBI)



## Take-offs



## VK7MO 4 foot Dish at Meelup



WA3LBI 2.4 meter dish \& Take-off


## Operating Position



WA3LBI


VK7MO

## WR Decodes (18951 km)



## Extending 10 GHz EME World Record



## Getting a Dish to ZL



## Compact, Light-weight Design

Eclipse Composites Engineering has teamed with Optim Microwave to produce an affordable 'off-theshelf antenna system. Designed for use in military, emergency, exploratory and SNG applications requiring easy transport and rapid deployment.

- 50\% lighter than aluminum
- Less than 2 minute reflector assembly time
- Multiband reflector (X, Ku, Ka-band)
- Removeable Feed
- Identical, Interchangeable petals

- No particular order of assembly
- Mil-Std 810G Environmental Compliance
- $45 \mathrm{Km} / \mathrm{h}$ Wind Load
- Painted / Cerakote Options available
- Patented Design


## Another Option




## Cabin Bag



## Extending 10 GHz EME World Record



## While Height allows a lower angle atmospheric attenuation increases



## Low angle Loss on RX



## Absorption and Sea Noise with Polarization



## Knights Point, ZL



## G3WDG at Start Point IO80ef



## Decodes at ZL/VK7MO

```
1801 -21 2.8 1010 :*
1803 -27 2.9 1016 :
1805-22 2.9 1015 :* ZL/VK7MO G3WDG 0
1807-21 2.9 1014 : * VK7MO G3WDG R-24 0
1809-21 2.9 1014 :* VK7MO G3WDG -23 0
1811-23 2.9 1013 :* VK7MO G3WDG 73 0
1813 -27 2.9 1012 :
1815-23 2.8 1015 :* TNX SO HAPPY 0
1817 -20 2.9 1013 :* TNX SO HAPPY 0
1819-20 2.9 1015 :* TT FB 19105 0
1821 -20 2.9 1015 :* TNX WR 73 0
1823 -25 2.9 1013 :*
1825-22 2.9 1013 :* VK7MO G3WDG -20 0
1827-22 2.9 1015 :* VK7MO G3WDG -21 0
1829-23 2.9 1014 :* VK7MO G3WDG IO80 0
1831-21 2.9 1012 : * VK7MO G3WDG RRR 0
1833-23 2.9 1014 :* VK7MO G3WDG 73 6
1835 -29 2.9 1016 :
1837 -29 1.2 1011 :
1839 -29 1.5 1019 :
1841 -29 2.0 1003 :
1843 -29 0.7 1003 :
```


## Single tone 73 at -1.0 degrees



## Success -- 19106 km



