

# VP9 and HC8 6M Activities

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# VP9/NØJK



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- Two trips to Bermuda, the ARRL June and Sept. VHF QSO Party contests in 2003.
- Focus of the trips was the contests, but a serious effort was made during the June trip to work Europe.
- Stayed at Ed Kelly, VP9GE's home.



# June 2003 VP9

- Was QRV from June 13 – 16, 2003.
- Made 610 contacts on 6 Meters.
- QSOs with Europe: 18.
- QSOs with W6, W7: 18.

Countries worked: CO, CT, EA, FM, FP, G, GW, HI, KP2, KP4, ON, PJ7, TI, V2, VE, VP9, W/K.

- Station was IC-706MII, 6M5X 5 el yagi at 20 feet.

# Longest Distance worked.

- ON4KST JO20 5,898 km  
G8BCG/p IO70 5,242 km  
AJ6T CM87 5,184 km
- CT1EPC IN68 5,045 km.
- Note W6 and CT/G about the same distance from VP9.

# European Openings

- June 13 1350 and 1740 utc
  - June 15 2015 utc
  - June 16 1200 utc.
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- The June 13 openings were to CT and EH.
  - June 15 to PA, ON, G, and GW.
  - June 16 to G only.

# June 13 European Openings

- Used a 2 element yagi while putting the 6M5X together.  
(WB2AMU “tree beam.”)
- CT1EEB worked at 1352 utc, later at 1740 utc EH7KW then CT1EPC logged.
- Did not monitor the whole day due to working on the 6M5X.





# The 6M5X Yagi at VP9.

- Excellent performer.
- Was able to null out local noise sources with it.
- Worked West Coast USA – N6KK DM14 while running 10 watts.





# 6 Meter VP9 “First”

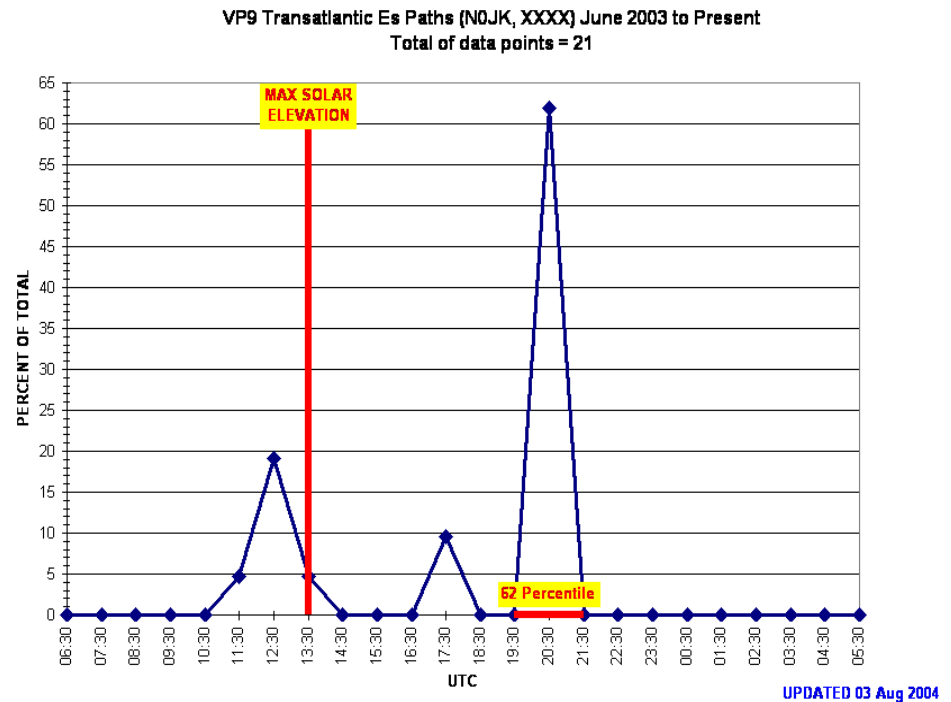
- **First Wales to Bermuda 6M QSO.**
- **GW3LEW** at 2032 utc June 15.
- MW1MFY was “second” at 2035 utc!
- Opening June 15 lasted from 2020 – 2045 utc.
- Signals were not strong, but this was my only opening to ON and PA. No other European countries heard.

# June 16 European Opening

- Early – G4FUF logged at 1154 utc.
- Would have missed it, but left 6M5X up for Ed to use. Allowed me to work this opening before going to airport.
- Signals were strong, G3ZYY and G8BCG/p were 20 over 9 on SSB.
- G8BCG has sound files of this opening on his web site.

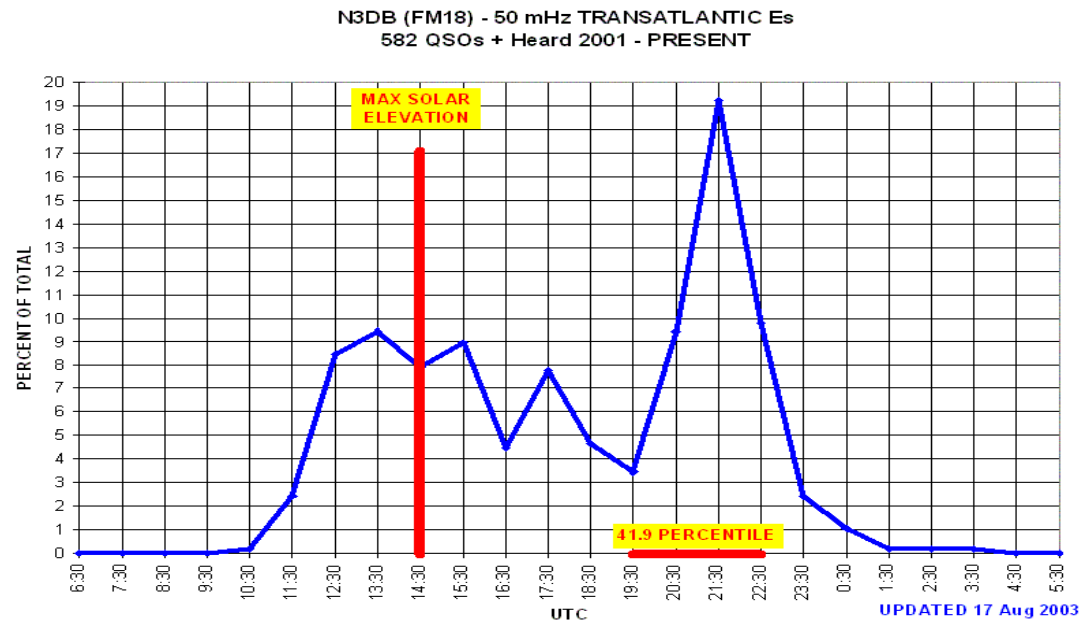
# Diurnal Es patterns

- My data from VP9 limited, but two distinct peaks observed. Early around 1200 utc and mid-afternoon around 2030 utc. The later peak has been observed by other VP9 6 Meter operators.



# Diurnal Es for N3DB

- A comparison with N3DB.

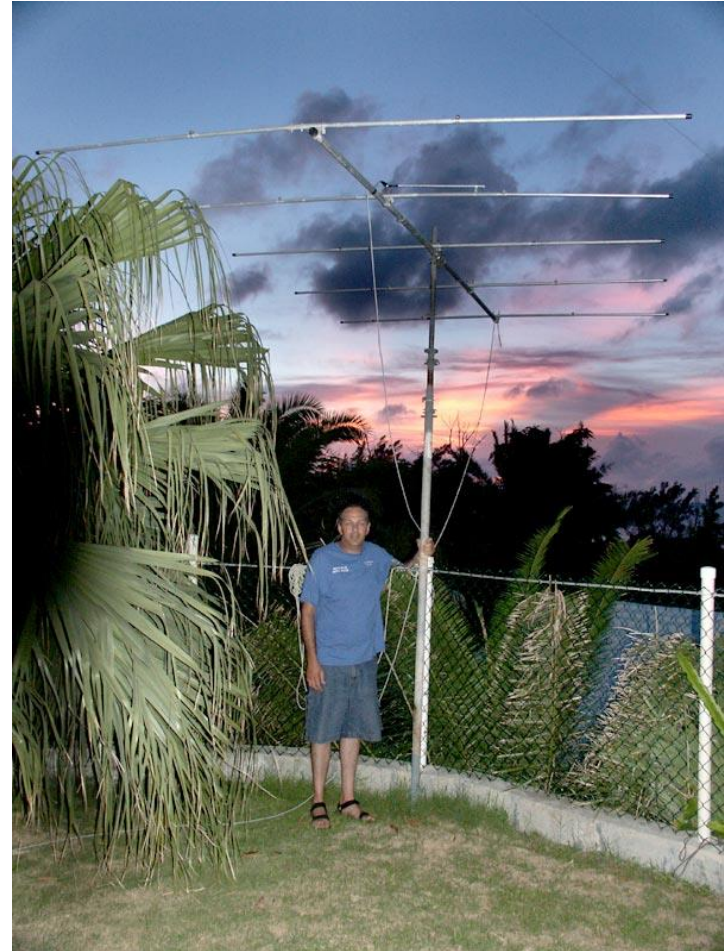


# Other benefits of a 6M “DXpedition.”

- Encourage “locals” to become active.
- Ed, VP9GE has become a “regular” on the 6 Meter band. He worked many more W/VE and Europeans in 2003.
- PE1MCD 50121.0 VP9GE **tnx new one** 1243 08 Jul 2003
- GM4PLM 50121.0 VP9GE Ed - **tns new one!** 1249 08 Jul 2003
- G4FVP 50121.0 VP9GE **tnx new one** 1250 08 Jul 2003
- PA0HIP 50121.0 VP9GE 55 in JO21 **new one** 1258 08 Jul 2003
- GD0TEP 50161.0 VP9GE CQ EU 1804 08 Jul 2003
- PA0ZH 50090.0 VP9GE weak but in the log ! 1325 09 Jul 2003
- OK1FM 50141.0 VP9GE 56 1704 09 Jul 2003

# VP9/WA4PGM

- Ed, in turn, encouraged Kyle, WA4PGM to operate 6 Meters on during his visit to Bermuda in July, 2004.
- Kyle worked many midwest US stations. This is a difficult distance between single and double hop Es from VP9.
- Kyle used Ed's old CC 5 el yagi on a short mast.
- **NOJK** 50125.0 VP9/WA4PGM FM72 > em18 worked 1715 11 Jul 2004



# Other VP9 Activities

- Chris, W3CMP operated from Bermuda in July 2003 and July 2004. He had good success working into central Europe. On his last visit, he gave DL7AV and other German's "a new one."
- The last week of June/first week of July seems to be the optimum time frame for long haul Caribbean and Bermuda to Europe via 6 Meter Es.



# VP9DUB Beacon

- During his 2003 visit, W3CMP helped place the VP9DUB Beacon.
- It was heard regularly on the east coast via meteor scatter, and often on Es.
- It has been “QRT” due to interference problems with commercial services.



# September in Bermuda

- Operated the September VHF QSO Party.
- Made 7 QSOs on 6M in the contest. Meteor scatter/iono-scatter.
- June/July much better for Es. Ed made over 400 6M QSOs in the Jan. 2003 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes.



# HC8N 6 Meter Activity

- HC8 active by HC8MD back in early 1980s during Solar Cycle 21.
- Solar Cycle 22 by HC8K and HC8GR.
- Solar Cycle 23 by HC8N, HC8/XE1KK, HC8/LU8ADX and HC8GR.
- First HC8N 6M activity May 1999.

# HC8N Station

- Kenwood TS-690 at 50 watts.
- M2 6M7JHV at 15 meters.



# November 2001 F2

- F2 and TEP are main 6M DX propagation modes from HC8.
- Over 3,000 QSOs on 6 Meters.
- On Nov. 18 an op in Holland called Trey, N5KO at HC8N saying “*I am hearing the HC8GR/b.*”
- HC8GR/b – 30 w to M2 Loop.

# N0JK and K1KI at 6M position





# HC8N Antennas





# Seals on beach



# Analysis of 2001 F2 results

- **Final HC8N 50MHz totals (November 18th – 27th 2001)**
- **CW**
- North America 667
- South America 4
- Europe 232
- Asia 547
- Africa 1 on TEP
- Oceania 2 No ZL or VK... why? (I never heard the HC8GR/b while in KH8)
- **Total CW 1453**
  
- **SSB**
- North America 1057
- South America 25
- Europe 39
- Asia 425
- Africa 4
- Oceania 8
- **Total SSB 1558 = 2,625 Uniques**

# HC8GR Antennas



Future HC8 6M Activity?

# HC8GR/b Es Spots

- KD4ESV 50035.0 HC8GR/B 539 1352 09 Jun 2003
- KE4WBO 50035.0 HC8GR/B 519 1338 15 Jun 2003
- HP2CWB 50035.0 HC8GR/B EI59->FJ09 2351 19 Jun 2003
  
- N5JHV 50035.0 HC8GR/B EI59 > DM62OF 2213 11 Jun 2001
- HP2CWB 50035.0 HC8GR/B INTO FJ09 2332 11 Jul 2001
- W4UDH 50035.0 HC8GR/B EI59 > EM52AG HC82353 11 Jul 2001
- N4GN 50035.2 HC8GR/B EI59>EM78fc Only thing I hear! 0032 12 Jul 2001
  
- No EU HC8GR/b Es spots in DX Summit Database. TI and HK have worked EU via Es.
  
- CT1HZE 50120.0 HK4SAN 59 now 1735 30 Jul 2006

# Meteor Scatter, Es

- TI5KD and HP3XUG worked via 6 Meter meteor scatter from HC8N. Single hop Es range.
- HC8GR/b heard via 2x Es May 10, 2010.
- Single hop Es worked by Steve, K6AW at HC8N June 29, 2006 to TI and TG.
- **TG9ANF** 50110.0 **HC8N** Galapagos Island 5/9+ 2159 29 Jun 2006

# Solar Cycle 24, 25

HC8N now QRT. Occasional single hop F2, double hop Es and EME now main propagation modes from North America to HC8. HC8/G8OFQ worked F2 from Isabela Sept. 2015 to Gulf Coast states on 6.

- HC8LU scheduled from San Cristobal Nov. 29 – Dec. 8, 2017. While announcement says 160 – 10, several on Dxpedition including LU8YD, LU5FF, and LU7YS are 6 meter operators.
- Many in Europe and Japan still need HC8 on 6.



