

Radio Weather Summary for February 2009

Emphatically longer and deeper than average, this solar minimum has broken no records, but has undoubtedly tried the patience of many – and has made these commentaries more repetitive than one would wish. For February once again gave us more of the same. Certainly there were day-to-day variations but their impact on propagation was negligible. Thus, as the table below chronicles, the solar flux varied between 68 and 71 – but who could discern the difference on the bands between the 9th, which was ‘high’ at 71 and the 10th, which was ‘low’ at 68. An old-cycle spot appeared around the 12th but soon faded, as did a new-cycle group towards the end of the month, boosting the SSN only slightly in both cases. The solar disc was blank on the other 22 days. Flare activity was very low, though three small B-class flares were reported around the 12th. The X-ray flux remained at A0 for the entire month.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
SSN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	14	12	0	0	
Sflux	70	69	69	69	70	70	71	71	71	68	70	70	70	70	70	70	71	70	69	69	71	70	71	71	71	70	69	71

The geomagnetic field was rarely more than a bit unsettled; once again there were no 3-hour periods when any of the UK observatories reported a Kp of 5 or more, and few when the figure even reached 4. Notwithstanding this VHF aurora was reported on 50 or 144MHz on no fewer than 7 days (3,4,5,13,14,15,20), with signals occasionally reaching 9A in the course of a relatively long session that ran through much of the day. Almost all reports on these openings were from Europe and all related to high latitudes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
LER	2	0	4	12	8	2	1	0	2	0	1	2	2	18	16	5	0	4	1	4	1	3	9	7	3	2	14	8
ESK	1	1	5	18	9	3	1	1	5	3	2	4	3	20	18	7	2	7	1	8	4	6	11	11	5	5	17	8
HART	6	2	8	20	12	3	4	3	5	3	4	6	4	22	19	7	2	10	2	11	6	9	12	13	10	7	19	13
Ap	3	2	4	16	7	2	3	4	4	3	5	4	3	14	10	3	1	2	1	3	3	3	5	6	3	2	8	5

The relatively disturbed days were associated, as is customary at this stage of the cycle, with high-speed coronal streams arising from coronal hole activity. Solar wind speeds ranged between 270km/sec on the 9th and 10th and 683km/sec on the 27th. Particle densities reached a high of 35cm³ on the 3rd and 4th but were mostly in low single figures. Bz tended to vary no more than between plus and minus 4 nanoTeslas on quiet days but ranged between minus 15 and plus 13 nanoTeslas on the 14th.

50MHz

Propagation to and from Britain

Aurora

Unsurprisingly, there were no reports of auroral working to or from the UK on either 50 or 144MHz this month

Meteor scatter

In the absence of any major meteor shower (or any substantial sporadic-E), MS with JT6M (and mostly random) continued to be the default mode for the valiant band that are sticking with Six through the lean times. The same callsigns recur repeatedly. Contacts were spread right across the month, though the largest number reported on a single day was only 7. Countries worked were CT, EA, I, LA, LZ, OE, OK, OZ, PA, S5, SM, SP, UR, YU. The earliest reported contact was at 0730, the latest at 2246.

Feb 1 0904 LA 0917 OK1 0921 SM7 0949 OK1 1009 OK1 1019 PA 1121 UZ5

Feb 2 0932 OE5 1745 SP9 1829 EA3

Feb 3 0953 SM7

Feb 4 0944 S5 1036 SM7

Feb 5 0908 SM7 0934 SM7 1305 EA5 1348 CT

Feb 6 0730 EA3 0731 EA3 1551 SM7

Feb 7 0918 SM7 1531 I0

Feb 8 1250 SP9 2246 SM0

Feb 9 1347 SM7 1417 LA 2129 SM5

Feb 10 1933 YT1 2134 PA(jt)

Feb 12 2025 LA

Feb 13 1035 EA3 1535 OE1 1603 OE1

Feb 14 0944 SP9

Feb 15 0849 EB1 1149 YT1 1239 EA6 1403 SM0

Feb 17 0756 HB 1028 EA7

Feb 19 1001 SP9 1240 I5

Feb 20 0819 SM7

Feb 21 0946 SP9 1633 S5

Feb 22 1014 LA

Feb 24 0950 LZ1 1951 OE1 1952 OZ 2103 SM7 2129 SM7 2141 SM7

Feb 27 1405 S5

Feb 28 1006 SP9 1519 EA7 1549 S5

EME

Feb 7 1527 JR6EXN>G4IGO(-22db)

Feb 10 2023 G4IGO>OY3JE(-23db)

Feb 24 1235 G4IGO>HR9BFS

Tropo

Not a great month for tropo. Nobody offered a report of distances achieved, but these listed below seem to have reached the greatest range.

Feb 10 2052 GI4DPE>ON(529 JO10)

Feb 12 1725 GB3BUX>DH6JL(JO31 419)1827 LA4LN>G3KZR

Feb 21 1145-7 LX0SIX>M1DUD(JO02) ON0SIX>M1DUD(JO02)

Feb 24 1026 GB3MCB>F1NZR(JO01 strong

Sporadic-E

No UK reports referred to sporadic-e this month, unlike February 2008, when Es into the UK was reported on four days.

Continental Europe, Africa and the Middle East

Auroral-related Propagation

While no auroral propagation was reported in the UK, the continent – or rather the more northerly parts of it – was more favoured, though the bulk of reported contacts were on 144.

Feb 3 (from 2043 on 2m) 2157 JW9SIX>OY(559 aurora)

Feb 4 (from 1349 to 2139 on 2m)15-1600 SK3SIX>SM2(57a) OH3>OZ(55a) SM2>OH2(57a) OH3>OZ(55a) SK3SIX>OZ(53a) OH0SIX>OZ(53a) SM2>OZ(52a) OH3>DL(55a) 16-1700 OH3>OZ(53a) OH1,OH3>SM1 SM3(JP82)>SM1 OH6>SM6(58a) OH6>OZ(55a) 18-1900 OH3(KP20)>LA(JO59 57a) 20-2100 OH9SIX>OY(599 mode?) 21-2200 JW9SIX>OZ(599 mode?) LA7SIX>LA(JO59 559 mode?) LA7SIX>OZ(559 mode?) JW9SIX>LA(579 JO59 mode?) OH9SIX>OZ(579mode?) JW9SIX>OH1(55a) LA7SIX>LA

Feb 13 spot report at 1952 on 2m

Feb 14 reports between 1346 and 1445 on 2m

Feb 15 spot report at 1234 on 2m

Feb 20 spot report at 2019 on 2m

Other Modes

“Another very poor month”, says Costas, SV1DH, in words echoed by other reporters. Of course, by no means every contact is reported and set down here; this makes no claim to be a definitive record. Nevertheless, a small number of unremarkable tropo reports, a couple by Es (at best), a handful of contacts by eme and the rest, as far as one can gauge, by ms: all this adds up to a lean time for those operators who did try to work with the band. There were four days for which there were no reports at all. February 2008 was a poor month, but February 2009 seems to have been poorer still.

Feb 1 0755 LZ1>S5(jt) 0823 UA6>LZ1(jt) 0937 EA3>EA1(ms) 10-11 UZ5>OZ(jt) 11-1200 I4>EA5(jt) 12-1300 SO9>OM5(jt) EA6>F(Es) 1415 HB9SIX>S5 PA>ON

Feb 2 0947 EB1>OE5(jt)

Feb 3 1030 S5>PA(ms) 20-2100 OZ>I0(ms) ES3>SP9(ms) ES3>OZ(jt) I0>OZ(jt)

Feb 4 1458 9A>I5 1653 EA7>EA1(ms) 2035 9A>OZ(jt) I3>OZ(jt) 21-2200 aurora OH1>OZ(jt) OH9SIX>OZ(tr)

Feb 5 13-1400 CT>EA3(jt) 1445 PA>EA5(jt) 1558 OZ>SM7(tr) 1943 SO5>OZ(jt)

Feb 6 0821 EA3>SM7(ms) 0844 PA>EA3(jt) 1828 PA>EA3(jt) 1909 S5>EA3(jt)

Feb 7 07-0800 OE5,OK1>SM7(ms) 08-0900 S5>SM7(ms) EA7>EA3(jt) SM7>I4(jt) EA7>EB1(ms) HB>SM7(ms) 10-1100 I4>EB1(ms) 11-1200 I4>SM7(ms) 17-1800 IT9X>EA5 ED3YAD>IT9 1957 I4>S5(tr)

Feb 8 07-0800 OK1>OZ(jt) EA6>EA3(jt) EA6>OZ(jt) OK1>EA6(ms) 08-0900 DL>EA6(ms) OE5<>EA6(ms) OE5>EA6(ms) SM7>EA6(ms) S5>EA6(ms) OE5>EA3(jt) HB>EA6(ms) 09-1000 SP9>EA6(ms) PA>EA6(ms) ON>SM2(ms) 1433 HB9SIX>DL(tr) 1911 ED7YAD>EA4 21-2200 SO9>OH1(ms) SO5>SM7(ms) 22-2300 SP9>SM0(ms) 23-2400 SM0>SO5(ht)

Feb 9 18-1900 ZS6WAB>OY3JE(eme -23db) OZ7IGY>I3(ms) 2055 SM5>SP9(ms)

Feb 10 1526 HB>SM7(ms) 1749 PA>OE3(jt) 19-2000 YT1AR>OZ(ms) LX1FX>OY3JE(eme -18db)

Feb 11 1051 ED7YAD>ZB 1537 EA5>PA(jt) 1923 S5>9A(jt)

Feb 12 0841 HB>SM7(ms) 1438 EA5>CT(ms) 18-1900 S5>LA I4>OZ(jt) S5>9A SM4>OZ OH0>PA(iono) 19-2000 SM3>PA(jt) OH0>S5 SM3>OZ(jt) SK6>S5 JWbeacons>>SM2(KP07) 20-2100 SM3>S5 OH2>LA(jt) SM3>OZ(ms)(jt) SM2>OZ 21-2200 SP9>LA(jt) ON>OZ(jt) 21-2200(jt) OZ>LA 8S5>OZ(jt) 22-2300 OH6>OZ(jt) ON>SP9(jt)

Feb 13 1058 EA3>S5(jt) 1509 OZ>OE1(ms) 22-2300 SO5>S5(ms)

Feb 14 10-1100 SP9>OE3 16-1700 I2>I5,I4 22-2300 SP9>SM0(jt) PA>SM0(ms) OH0SIX>SM0

Feb 15 08-0900 EB1>S5(ms) EA3>EB7(ms) 09-1000 I0>EA3(jt) 11-1200 YT1>OE1(jt)
CT1ART>EA8 OE1>SM0(ms) 12-1300 UZ5>OE1(jt) UZ5>YT1(tr) 13-1400 F>EA6(jt) 1931
EA6>S5(jt) 2025 OH8>SP9(jt)

Feb 16 10-1100 EA6>PA(ms) 1108 HB>EA6(jt) EA6>DL(jt) 1903 I0JX>9A 2145 LA>SP9(jt)

Feb 17, Feb 18 no reports

Feb 19 1000 CT1ART>ZB 1101 ON>PA 2059 SA5>SP9(ms) 2153 PA>SM0(jt)

Feb 20 2205 SA5>OH8(jt) 2227 PA>OH8(jt)

Feb 21 0948 EB1>EA7(jt) 10-1100 HB>IS0(jt) ZS6WAB>IW5DHN(eme -25db)
HR9BFS>IW5DHN(eme -26db) 1155 OE3XLB>SP6 21-2200 OH8>SP9(jt) 23-2400
PA>EA6(ms)

Feb 22 0938 I4>EA6(jt) 1058 IS0,EA6>CT(jt) 1209 EA7>CT(jt) 1307 CT1ART>EA8

Feb 23 1633 PA>EA6(ms) 20-2100 SM7>OZ(tr) 1846 OZ>OZ

Feb 24 19-2100 DL>OZ(tr) OZ>SP5 21-2200 OZ>OE1(ms) SM7>OE1(ms)

Feb 25, Feb 26 no reports

Feb 27 0829 EA6>EA7(jt) 09-1000 EA6>OE5(ms/es) EA6>EB1(ms) 1117 EA6>F(jt)
EA6>EA5(jt) 13-1400 HB>EA6(ms)

Feb 28 08-0900 EA3>S5(jt) 09-1000 EA4>EA3(jt) EA4>EA7(tr./jt) HB9SIX>S5(tr) 1057
OG2>LA(ms) 1147 EI0SIX>EA7 1219 EI0SIX>EA7 15-1600 HB9SIX>DL(tr)
ZS6WAB>PE1BTX(eme -23) 1638 S5>OE4

50MHz PROPAGATION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009 BY SV1DH

1. Data for all days (28)
2. Relatively good days on: NIL
3. 48 MHz AF video (9L+3C) on: NIL
4. 55 MHz AF video (5N) on: NIL
5. Special events on:
 - 11-13 (SSN up 11, SFI up 70)
 - 24-26 (SSN up 14, SFI up 71)
 - 28 (0145 VK4 to W4 on 10m F2)

Another very poor month!

73 COSTAS

The Americas

Auroral-related Modes

What aurora did occur seems to have more or less avoided North America

Feb 5 0058 VE3(FN04)>VO1(GN29) 2345 VE2(FN07)>K2EK(EL88) very doubtful!

Other Modes

The principal excitement this month lay with the K5D Desecheo island dxpedition. We will doubtless have a full account of the expedition before long, but it is known that the team made 97 contacts on 50MHz. What is not yet known is why the total was so modest. It would appear that the team were not blessed by good propagation. They were not favoured with substantial sporadic-e along the lines of January's event, nor do they seem to have enjoyed any extended tropo. As the table below shows, there were several days when tep extending to points in the Caribbean (though not demonstrably to Desecheo). The DX-Summit page carried numerous messages flagging this but the operators apparently had no internet access. Much of the internet traffic came from stations who were not hearing K5D. A geographical breakdown of contacts is not as yet available, but reports that appeared genuine came mainly from W4 or nearby KP4, with the occasional W5. (An irritating aspect was the number of stations operating outside their original call area who neither signed /current area nor gave a locator.) Even relatively near stations mostly reported weak scatter or deep fading; only a handful gave strong signal reports. It has been suggested that the 6-metre station was not equipped for digital operation. If that was indeed the case it was a curious omission that must have cost many contacts.

Trans-equatorial propagation was reported on 15 days, compared with 12 in January and 15 in February 2008. However, this year the propagation appears to have been more geographically restricted: PY was , as usual, dominant, but the focus was very much on PY2 and PP5 at the southern end and the V44KAI in the north.

Trans-Equatorial Propagation

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Tep		+		+		+	+	+				+	+			+			+	+	+	+		+		+		+

Countries Worked by Tep

PY 13 days 2(V4) 4(V4) 6(V4) 7(V4) 8(V4) 12(V4) 16(V4) 19(FM,V4,YV,9Y) 20(FM,V4,YV,9Y) 21(V4) 22(V4,8P) 24(FM,V4) 26(V4)

ZP 4 days 13(YV) 16(YV) 26(V4,YV) 28(YV)

Within South America, the southern hemisphere summer sporadic-E season was on the wane. The detailed listings below include substantial CE<>LU activity and LU<>PY as well as contacts within LU. However, it is not feasible to identify which are attributable to Es.

Further north, sporadic-E looks probable on a number of days, though it cannot be finally identified as such. The most common were openings between southern US states and the Caribbean or Central America. There was increased activity from Panama and Mexico, particularly the latter. There were also contacts between Caribbean islands. The dates when Es openings are thought to have occurred are February 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 28 - when a double-hop event was also claimed. However, none of these events was on a scale comparable with late January.

Worth noting that the number of reports citing ms as propagation mode continues to increase.

Feb 1 00-0100 TI2NA>XE3 W5>W4 HP1AVS>XE3 XE2>W4 TI2ALF>XE1,XE3,NQ5X,KD5PBR XE1>HP1AVS KP4,W4,XE3>W4 TI2KI>KD5PBR,K4WS,K8WK/4,XE1 XE3>W8 01-0200 XE3>W4,W8,W5 XE2>W4 TI2ALF>K4JPD,K4ESA TI2KI>K4UI,WA5LFD,K4JPD,K4WS,N3LL/4,KY5N,K4ESA,N5GB N8WK/4,NQ5X>PJ4NX W4,W5>W4 W5>W5 TI2NA>KY5N 02-0300 TI2NA>KD4ESV TI2KI>KI4FCQ,WD5K XE3>W4,W5 0414 HR9BFS>W7GJ(eme -24dB) 13-1400 PR8ZIX>PV8 1434 W8>W4(ms) W0>W0(sc) 1548 XE2>W6 16-1700 W0>W0(gw 370 miles) W0>W4 17-1800 W4>W4 LU1MPK>LU1DMA LU7JTW>LU8MB 18-1900 W8>W3 CE3ASD,LU6DLB>LU1DMA LU5EGY>CE3SAD W4>W3 LU7FTF>CE3SAD 2155 C6AFP>W8 2302 W3>W8

Feb 2 00-0100 V44KAJ>PY5EW 01-0200 NM7D,XE2K>W5 W5GPM>W7 02-0300 W5RP>W7 W5>W6 N6NB,NM7D,XE2K>W4 XE1,W4>W7 XE1>W5 03-0400 W5,W7>W4 W5>W6,W5,W7 04-0500 C6AFP>W4 W5>W7 18-1900 V44KAJ>FM5AA W1JJ>W7GJ(eme -15db) 1928 K6MYC>W7GJ(eme -22db) 2042 ZS6NK(eme 26db) 22-2300 W3>W4(ms)

Feb 3 02-0300 XE1>W4,W5 XE2>W6 02-0300 XE2>W6 0950 W0>W0 1424 W4>W4

Feb 4 0044 VE1SMU>W3(Es) 1605 48.3(CE)>LW3EX 22-2300 W3>W3 W1>W0 K1MS>W8 23-2400 W8,W9,W0>VE1 W3>W9,W0 VE3,W3,W5>W3(Es) K0KP,W8,K9MU>W1 W2,W3>W0(Es) VE3>VE1 PR8ZIX,V44KAJ>PY5EW good sporadic W4>VE2

Feb 5 continues 00-0100 W2,W3,W1,W4(Es)>W0 K4TQR,W9DR/4,W5GPM,W0,W9>VE2 VE1,W1,W3APL,W3DOG,W5>W9 YV4>YV5 W2>W2 W3>W5 VE3>W4(Es) VE3>VO1 01-0200 VE3>VO1 W4>W0 W0>W3,W8 W5>W8,VE2,W9 W4>W4(Es),W8 02-0300 W0>W4,W3 W2,W5>W9 W5RP>W7(Es) 1651 C6AFP>W8 48.2,48.3(CE)>LW3EX 17-1800 W5,W9>W8 VE2>W8 18-1900 W0>W0 19-2000 W6,W7>W7 20-2100 W7>W7 WB0RMO,NOLL>W3 23-2400 K4TQR,W5,W8>VE2 W3,VE2,VE3>W4(Es) W5GPM>W3

Feb 6 00-0100 W4>VE2 V44KAJ>PP5XX 0132 HC2GF>W3EDA(?) W4>W4

Feb 7 00-0100 W8>VE2 W4>W8 W2>W4 01-0200 N6NB>XE2 V44KAJ>PY5EW TI2NA>W6 XE2>W7 02-0300 W3HH>W7 XE2>W6 12-1300 W8,W4>W4 13-1400 W9>W3(ms) KA7BGR>W6 W7>VE6(ms) 14-1500 W7>VE6(ms) W6>VE6(ms) W5,W0>W3 W3>W8 15-1600 W3>W0 48.3(CE)>LW3EX W4>W3 16-1700 W4>W8 NM7D>W6 17-1800 W3>W9 1946 C6AFP>W4 2043 LU6EGY>PY2MAJ 2158 W5>W3 22-2300 YV4>YV5 XE1>W6,XE2 23-2400 W4>W3,W6 XE1>W5,W7(Es) W6,XE1,XE2>W5

Feb 8 good Es 00-0100 XE1>W5,W7 V44KAJ>PY5EW,PP5BI XE2>W5,W6,W7 TI2NA>AC7XP,K7JA/6 01-0200 XE2>W4,W6 XE1>W7(Es),W4 W0>W5 TI2NA>WN4VCH,W6XI XE2N>K7JA/6,AC6DX,N5SJS,WT6J,XE2TH 02-0300 XE1NK>YN2N XE2>W7,W6 XE1>W4,W5 03-0400 XE2,W6>W6 XE1>W6 13-1400 W8>W4(ms) W3>W4(ms) 14-1500 VE2>W3(ms) C6AFP>W1 15-1600 W5>W3 W1>W9(ms) W3>W1(jt) 47-49(CE)>LW3EX

LU1MA,LU8WAT,LU7YS>LW3EX W7>VE6(ms) W0>W9(ms) CE6RC>LU1DMA W5>XE2(jt) 16-1700 CE7RY/7>LU1DMA,LW3EX W0>W3(ms) LU7FTF>CE6RC W7>XE2 VE1>W3(sc) CX8DS>CE6RC LU2WC>LW3EX 17-1800 LU6HTR,47-49(CE)>LW3EX 18-1900 LU7FTF>CE6RC 19-2000 LU1MA,LU5EGY,LU6HTR>CE6RC 20-2100 CE3ASD>ZP6CW 48.2(CE)>LW3EX 21-2200 HI8LAM>KP4 W7>W7 W6>W6 22-2300 TI2NA>KE4WBO,KD4ESV,KD5PBR 23-2400 TI7/N5BEK>XE3ARV,W4TAA,XE3N TI2ALF, TI7WAM>XE3ARV KD4AOZ,W9DR/4W9,W0>XE3 YN2N>N3LL/4,K0KKO(Es) W5RP>W4

Feb 9 00-0100 W5>W5 XE3>W4,W0 W3>W3 01-0200 KP4>W8 V44KAI>KE4WBO 02-0300 KP4>W4 03-0400 KP4>W4(Es) 1235 KP4>W4 1627 47.9(CE)>LW3EX 18-1900 CE1RP,LU5EGY,CX1CCC>PY2MAJ 19-2000 PY2MAJ>LW3EX C6AFP, TI2NA>KE4WBO LU8EML,LU6DRO,CX1RP>PY2MAJ PU2XEA,LU1MA>LW3EX W3DOG,TI2NA>M3LL/4 K1MS>W4 20-2100 VE3UBL>VE2 LU8EMH>PY2MAJ CE3ASD>LW3EX 21-2200 CA3SOC,CE4WJK>LW3EX K4MHZ>VE1 VE1SMU>W3 22-2300 W4,W8,W3>VE1 K4MHZ>VE2 C6AGN>VE3 VE9>W8 23-2400 W4>W3 C6AGN>W8,W2 W4>VE1 W3>VE3 W8,W1>W4 WA3TTS>W5

Feb 10 00-0100 W8,K1MS>W4 0209 NL7XM/W3>W3 1156 N3CXV>W7GJ(eme -20db) 12-1300 KP4>W4 TI2NA>N3LL/4,KD4ESV 13-1400 TI7/N5BEK>W9DR/4 TI2NA>N9HF/4 W4>W4 16-1700 V44KAI, C6AFP>KE4WBO K4MHZ>W4 23-2400 TI2NA>KD4ESV,W4SO

Feb 11 00-0100 TI2NA>KD4ESV,XE2HWB 01-0200 TI2NA>W4SO C6AFP>W3,W4 0555 OH2BC>N6RMJ(eme) 12-1300 W8>W4 W1JJ>W7GJ(eme -18) 1329 W9DR/4,K4MHZ>W4 1439 48.2(CE)>LW3EX 16-1700 LW3EX,LU5EGY,CX1CCC,LU1DMA,LU6DRO,LU8DIO, LU8EMH,LU5CAB>PY2MAJ PY2MAJ>CA3SOC 17-1800 LU7FTF>PY2MAJ LU7YS,PY2MAJ>LW3EX 19-2000 LU1MA,47-49(CE)>LW3EX CX5CR>CA3SOC 2258 W4>W8

Feb 12 0036 W4>W4 01-0200 W4>W4 02-0300 W2>W2 W4>W5 WP3NZ>HI8JSG 1254 K4RX>W7GJ(eme -19db) 13-1400 JR6EXN>W7GJ(eme -20) V44KAI>KE4WBO 1826 CX5CR>CA3SOC 23-2400 V44KAI>PP5XX TI2NA>N3LL/4

Feb 13 0028 TI2NA>XE2HWB 0155 YV4AB>ZP6CW 0307 C6AFP>W4 12-1300 W5,KP4>W4 13-1400 W3APL>W4 K4RX>W7GJ(eme -15db) 21-2200 C6AFP>W4 22-2300 XE1>W4, TI7/N5BEK HK3O>KP4 2307 PY2>PY2

Feb 14 02-0300 W6>W6 TI6KD>XE2 11-1200 W3>W8 1255 W4>W3(ms) 1342-4 W0>W0(sc) W1>W1 16-1700 W4>W4 W0>W0 17-1800 K5D(Desecheo)>KP4,W4 18-1900 K5D>W4 19-2000 LU7YS>LW3EX 20-2100 XQ3SIX>LU4EFC LU7YS>LU1EXU LU6FCM,LU7YS>CA3SOC K5D>W4 21-2200 LU7YS>CE3SOC 22-2300 K5D>W4 2340 W1>W1

Feb 15 0212 PY3>PY3 0313 C6AFP>W8(ms) 12-1300 W4>W3(ms) 13-1400 W9>W4(ms) W4>W3(ms) K5D>W4 14-1500 K2ZD>W7GJ(eme) K5D>W4 15-1600 K5D>W4 16-1700 K5D>KP4,W4,W5 17-1800 K5D>W4 21-2200 K5D>W4 48.3(CE)>LW3EX 22-2300 LU7YS>CE3SAD

Feb 16 0156 V44KAI>PP5XX 0206 YV4AB>ZP6CW 0208 V44KAI>PP5XX 12-1300 W4>W3(ms) K5D>W4 TI2NA>K4MM 13-1400 TI2NA>KK4XO,KD4ESV K5D>KP4,W4 1745 W0>W4 18-1900 K4D>W4,W1 1931 TI2NA>W4 K5D>W4 2056 TI2NA>KK4XO(Es) 21-2200 TI5KD, TI8II>N3LL/4 23-2400 TI2NA>TG9AJR K4TQR>VE2 K5D>HI3TEJ

Feb 17 00-0100 K4TQR>VE2 K5D>HI3TEJ,YV4DYJ 02-0300 W4>W5 0335 K5D>KP4 11-1200 K5D>HI3TEJ,W2(ms) 12-1300 K5D>HI3TEJ,W4 17-1800 LU5EGY,CX1CCC,LU7FTF>CA3SOC 20-2100 K5D>W8,W4 2348 K5D>W4

Feb 18 11-1200 K5D>W4(ms),W3(ms) 12-1300 W4>W3(ms) 1428 K5D>W2,W1 15-1600 K5D>W4 W4>W4 1845 K5D>W8 19-2000 K5D>W8 W3>W3 20-2100 W4,W3>W4 K5D>W4,W0 2230 K5D>W4 23-2400 K5D>W4,KP4 YV4AB>HK3O

Feb 19 00-0100 YV4AB,V44KAI>PP5XX YV4AB>LU5FCI 9Y4D>PP5XX KP4>PP5XX FM1FV>PP5XX 1210-34 K5D>W4,W5 1351 K5D>KP4,W4 1437 K5D>W4 15-1600 K4MHZ>W4 1754 K5D>W4 1804-25 K5D>KP4,W4 2118 {Y2MAJ>LU5CAB 22-2300 YN2LJ>KP4 WB0RMO>XE2 W5>W0(Es) 23-2400 XE2>W0 W7>W5 V44KAI>PY5EW,PP5XX

Feb 20 00-0100 V44KAI>PY2MAJ W5>W7(Es) W5>W0,W5,W4 K5D>PP5XX W5>W4 W5>W0(Es) K5D>XE3 01-0200 YV5IAL>PP5XX W0,W7,W5>W4 K5D>XE3 W7>W5 XE2>W0,W4,W5 9Y4D>PY5EW K5D>PY2XB,W5 VP2LJ>YN2DD V44KAI>PY2XB,PY5XX FM5AA>PP5XX 02-0300 W5>W0,W5 1154 K5D>W4 12-1300 W4>W3 KL7GLK/W3>W3 K5D>W4,VE2 1637 LU7YS>LU1DMA 1838 W3,W2>W4 19-2000 K5D>VE2 2146 K5D>VE2 22-2300 K5D>KP4 2340 K5D>W4 KP4>W4

Feb 21 00-0100 K5D>HI8JSG XE2>W5 01-0200 V44KAI>PP5XX XE2,XE1>W5 02-0300 XE2>W5 V44KAI>PY5HOT 12-1300 W4>W3(ms),W4 K5D>W4 13-1400 W4>W5(ms) 13-1400 W0>W0(sc) W3>W0(sc) 1436 K5D>W4 1637 W7>VE6(ms) 1943 W0>VE4(Es) 2223 K5D>KP4 2332 K5D>KP4

Feb 22 00-0100 8P6DV>PP5JD V44KAI>PY5EW,PP5XX,PU5AAD 01-0200 K5D>KP4 PU5>PP5 0203 W3>W3 0413 PY2>PY1 1126 IW5DHN>K2ZD(eme -24db) 12-1300 K5D>W4 14-1500 W8IF>W5,W0 W4>W0,W4 W5>W5 15-1600 W2>W3 1545 K5D>W4 1555 K5D>W4 17-1800 W0>W0 W0>W5(ms) K5D>W4 18-1900 K5D>W4 W3>W4 2028 K5D>W7GJ(eme -22)

Feb 23 0118 K5D>KP4 0218 K5D>KP4,W4 1104 K5D>W4 1258 K5D>W4 1440 K5D>W4 1642 K5D>W4 1825 K5D>W4 2252 K5D>KP4 K5D>YV4AB

Feb 24 00-0100 TI5KD>KP4 FM5BH>PP5XX V44KAI>PY5EW,PP5XX,PP5BI TI8II>KP4 W4IT>W4 1124 K5D>W4 16-1700 K5D>W4 1942 K5D>KP4 20-2100 LU5EGY>PY2MAJ 21-2200 LU2DEK>CE3SAD N3CJM>W3 22-2300 HP1AVS,HP3TA>YV1DIG,YV4AB YV4AB>HP1AVS TI2NA>YV1DIG K5D>W4 23-2400 LU2WC>CE3SAD K5D>KP4

Feb 25 0001 K5D>KP4 0123 K5D>W5 0225 LU7YS>CE3RR 12-1300 K4MHZ,W9DR/4>W4 20-2100 CX,LU1DMA,LW2ETU>CA3SOC CE3RR>LU1DMA 23-2400 YV4DDK>KP4 KP4>YV1DIG,YV4DDK

Feb 26 00-0100 V44KAI>PY5HOT,PP5XX W4>W4 01-0200 YV4AB,V44KAI>ZP6CW V44KAI>PY2HN 19-2000 W3>W4 22-2300 W4>W4 YV4AB,V44KAI>KE4WBO

Feb 27 00-0100 W8,V44KAI>KE4WBO 03-0400 TI2NA>XE1 13-1400 WZ8D,K4MHZ>W4 17-1800 LU5EGY,LU1DMA,LU8DIO>PY2MAJ 18-1900 LU8EEM>PY2MAJ CX5CR>CE3SAD 19-2000 LU1DMA,LU8EMH,LU6DRO>PY2MAJ 20-2100 LU5FCI>CE3SAD CX6JF>CE3SAD LU7FTF>CE3RR 2356-7 N6NB,K0EC>W5

Feb 28 00-0100 WZ8D,KA0CDN,N6NB>W5 W5>W7(Es) W6>W5(Es) 01-0200 W7,W0>W5 W0>W4,W6 W7>W0,W4,W5 XE2>W7 TI2NA>W0OGH W5>W9 02-0300 TI2NA>K7JA/6 W5>W9,W7,W6,W0 W0>W0,W7 XE2K,TI2NA>XE1 XE2>W7,W6 W0>W9(tr)

W5GPM,KA0CDN>W7 W7>W4 YV4AB>ZP6CW W8>W7(2xEs) 03-0400 N6NB,W7>W5
W7>W0 XE2>W6 W4>W6(2xEs) 04-0500 XE3>XE1 17-1800 W2>W2 1919 C6AFP>W4
W9>VE2(ms)

Asia and the Pacific

Asia

After months when Asia scarcely featured February brought a more substantial crop of reports, a substantial proportion of them featuring the BV2NT beacon. Apparent tep on television signals (albeit below the 6m band) noted on the 14th. An increasing number of Chinese reports but none of human activity from Singapore, Malaysia or Hong Kong and only one report from South Korea. The only sign of life in the Philippines comes from PA0HIP operating /DU7. The re-awakening of Asia still has some way to go.

Feb 1 1046 G4IGO>JR6EXN(eme -24db) G5WQ(eme -24db)

Feb 4 0455 BV2NT>JA3 0501 BV2NT>JA1 1303 BV2NT>JA3

Feb 5 0201 BV2NT>JA3 0402 BV2NT>JA2 09-1000 VR2SIX>JA6 BV2NT>JA1 10-1100
BV2NT>JA6 JA6YBR>BG4 BV4PK>JA6 BG4TRF>JA4

Feb 9 0951 BV2NT>JA6 1132 VR2SIX>JA6

Feb 12 1157 BV2NT>JA2

Feb 13 0332 DS1PDF>JA3

Feb 14 0358 45239.6(ZL RF72)>DU7 0505 46240(QF35)>DU7

Feb 15 1109 BV2NT>JA2 1312 BV2NT>JA2

Feb 17 0538 BV2NT>JA3 08-0900 VR2SIX>JA1,JA3 JD1>JA3

Feb 18 09-1000 BV2NT,VR2SIX>DU7 55250(DU PK04)>JA7

Feb 19 06-0700 BV2NT>JA2 07-0800 VR2SIX>JA6 BV2NT>JA2 55250(DU PK04)>JA7 08-
0900 VR2SIX>JA7 BG4QIA>JA3,JA7 BD4CZX>JA1 0908 JA>BG4

Feb 20 1436 BV2NT>JA2

Feb 21 0510 BV2NT>BX3AH 0731 BV2NT>JA2

Feb 22 0138 BV2NT>BX4AP 0629 BV2NT>JA4 0719 BV2NT>JA2 1021 BV2NT>DU7

Australia and New Zealand

This is the month when sporadic-e is prone to weaken and fade away. And so it proved. Activity never quite reached January's level and from the 15th onwards openings were markedly fewer and briefer, mostly over relatively optimal distances, though there were still some contacts at distances exceeding 2300km and Chinese television at just below the 6m band was received on the 2nd, 5th, 15th and 16th.

Feb 1 00-0100 VK4RGG,FK8SIX,VK7RST>A35RK FK8SIX>VK4 0819 VK8RAS>VK6 2328 VK4RGG>VK4

Feb 2 00-0100 VK6RSX>VK6 49750(OM34)>VK6 01-0200 FK8SIX>VK2,VK4 VK4RTL,VK5RBV>VK2 02-0300 VK8RAS>VK4 VK4>VK5 03-0400 VK5RBV>VK4 0649 VK6RSX>VK6 07-0800 49750(OM34)>VK6 VK4>VK4 23-2400 VK5RBV,VK3RMH>VK4 VK6RBU>VK6

Feb 3 0236 VK5RBV>VK4 0535 FK8SIX>A35 06-0700 51740(QF35)>ZL2 0701 VK2RHV>ZL3 2155-6 VK2RHV,51740(QF35)>ZL2 2247 VK3>VK5 23-2400 VK4>P29NB VK5,ZL2>VK4

Feb 4 01-0200 ZL3SIX>VK4 VK2RHV>ZL3 02-0300 FK8SIX>VK4 VK2RHV>ZL3 0305 VK4RGG>VK3 04-0500 51740(QF35),VK2>ZL3 0500 ZL3>VK2

Feb 5 00-0100 FK8SIX,VK7RAE,VK5RBV>VK4 FK8SIX>VK7 VK2>VK5 VK3>VK4 VK2RHV>VK7 01-0200 VK8RAS>VK4 VK2RSY>VK7 VK4RGG>VK5 FK8SIX>VK2 VK5RBV>VK4,VK2 03-0400 FK8SIX>ZL1 VK4RGG>VK5 04-0500 VK2>VK5 0550 FK8SIX>ZL2,ZL3 06-0700 VK4RTL>ZL2 FK8SIX>ZL2,ZL3 07-0800 VK6RSX>VK6 VK4RGG>VK7 VK4>ZL2 08-0900 VK4RGG>ZL2,ZL3 49750(BY)>ZL2 49750.4(BY)>ZL2 VK2RHV>VK3,ZL2 VK8RAS,VK4>ZL2 VK8RAS,FK8SIX>VK2 VK7>VK4 09-1000 VK2RHV,VK8RAS,VK4RGG>ZL2 VK5RBV>VK7 VK4>VK3 VK7>VK4 VK2RSY,VK2RHV>VK7 FK8SIX>VK2 10-1100 VK7>VK4,VK5 VK5RBV>ZL2

Feb 6 00-0100 ZL3,FK8SIX>VK2 VK8RAS>VK6 FK8SIX>ZL2 VK4>VK3,ZL2 01-0200 VK5RBV>ZL2 FK8SIX>VK4 VK4>ZL3,VK7 02-0300 VK4,VK8RAS>VK4 VK4RGG>VK5 VK3RMH>VK4 VK4>VK1 ZL3SIX,VK5RBV>VK4 03-0400 VK6RSX,VK8RAS>VK6 04-0500 VK4>VK5 49750(PN11)>VK3 05-0600 49750(BY)>ZL2 VK2RHV,VK4RGG>ZL2 2351 VK2RHV>ZL2

Feb 7 00-0100 51740(QF35)>ZL2 VK2RHV>ZL3 01-0200 VK2>ZL302-0300 VK4RGG>VK7 50750(RF64)>VK4 03-0400 VK7RAE>VK4 VK5RBV>VK7 VK5>VK5 ZL4>VK4 62239.6(RF72)>VK2 05-0600 VK2RHV>ZL3 2258 ZL3SIX>VX4 50760(RF64)>VK4 2308 ZL2MHF>VK4

Feb 8 01-0200 VK4>VK5 VK2RHV>ZL2,ZL3 51670(QG53)>ZL2 02-0300 VK7RAE>VK4

Feb 9 VK4>VK3 22-2300 VK4RGG>VK3 VK5RBV>VK2 23-2400 FK8SIX>ZL2 VK2RHV>VK5 VK8RAS>VK4

Feb 10 00-0100 VK7,VK2,VK5RBV,VK8RAS>W4 VK4>VK3 01-0200 VK7RAE>VK4 VK4RGG>VK3 VK4>VK5 02-0300 51740(QF35)>ZL3 VK4>VK3 VK2RHV>ZL3 ZL3>VK4 VK4RGG>VK5 0308 VK2>ZL3 2259 VK7RAE>VK4 VK7RST>VK4

Feb 11 00-0100 VK2>VK5 0207 VK7RAE>ZL3 09-1000 FK8SIX>ZL2 23-2400 FK8SIX>VK4 VK7RST>ZL3

Feb 12 95-0600 VK4>VK5 VK6RSX>VK6 1139 VK5RBV>VK4

Feb 13 00-0100 VK4>VK5,VK2 VK3RMH>VK4 01-0200 VK8RAS>VK2 VK5RBV>VK4 02-0300 VK5,VK3>VK4 VK8RAS,VK2RHV>VK5 03-0400 VK4,VK3>VK3 VK7>VK4 0446 VK2>VK5 0544 VK4>VK3 06-0700 VK4>VK3,VK5

Feb 14 0551 VK6RSX>VK6 2147 FK8SIX>VK4

Feb 15 00-0100 VK2,VK4>VK4 02-0300 49750(OM34)>VK6 VK6RSX>VK6 05-0600 VK5RBV,VK6RSX>VK6 0620 FK8SIX,VK8RAS>VK4 08-0900 VK8RAS,VK5RBV>VK6 1242 49750.1(KP50)>VK4 2335 51740(QF35)>ZL2

Feb 16 02-0300 VK4RGG>VK7 03-0400 49750(OM34)>VK6

Feb 17 0059 FK8SIX>ZL2 2338 ZL3SIX>VK3

Feb 21 0548 VK5RBV>VK4

Feb 25 2203-6 VK6RSX,VK6RBU>VK6

Feb 27 0810 VK6RSX>VK6

Feb 28 2033 VK2RHV>VK4

28MHz

28 MHz in the UK

What can one say? Most monitors reported an eloquently blank sheet. Beacons were reported on only one day – the 17th. In addition to the three beacons reported (compared with 19 in 2008), only W and J2 are known to have worked into the UK during the month: in February 2008 a total of 15 DXCC ‘entities’ were logged. Incidentally, the US contact was between AG4EX and GB50BH at 1759 on the 3rd. There is, literally, nothing more to say because – apart from a tiny number of intra-G spots – there were no other reports of UK activity on DX Summit.

	06-09	09-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24
DK0TEN				+		
DM0ING	+					
LA4TEN				+		

From a wider European perspective, the picture looks more encouraging, with intra-European reports on 23 days. However, appearances can be deceptive, and the healthy figures reflect a substantial number of continental meteor scatter beacon reports, for which there is no UK parallel. By contrast, the REF contest attracted good support from French operators but (as in 2008) the great majority of reports were for inter-F contacts. As with the UK, no substantial sporadic-e events were reported but OY3JE reported the OH9TEN beacon auroral at 1759 on the 4th; later that evening it was 559, presumably not auroral, and possibly by Es.

Contacts between Europe and other continents seem to have been occasional and brief. Only Africa produced anything approaching regular openings, with propagation at one time or another on 11 days. North/Central America was reported worked on five days, but at this point in the cycle one has to approach such reports with care. A GM thanked the K5D expedition for a contact that was ‘not in log’, as did an SV and a CT operator. These things happen in the scramble for a ‘new one’ during expeditions. To date, we have no word whether any of the 229 contacts in the log for 10m were with Europe. Nor whether CT1UE worked K5JX as claimed at 0500 on the 19th. Contacts between Europe and both Asia and South America were reported on only three days, while Oceania is not known to have been worked at all.

Contacts within North and Central America are known to have occurred on every day except the 13th, which was blank for no obvious reason (it was magnetically quiet). Operators in the

southern states appear to have had significantly more propagation than those closer to the Canadian border. However, most of the country shared in the good (local) evening propagation, presumably by Es, on the 4th and 5th. The most productive inter-continental path was the one between North/Central and South America, open on at least 25 days. Other intercontinental paths opened at best spasmodically and, in the case, of North America to Africa, apparently not at all. That was already the case in 2008.

Es propagation within Oceania (mainly intra-VK) continued regularly until the middle of the month but, as on 6m, rapidly petered out thereafter. Contacts with Asia held up well, assisted by activity from E51JD in the South Cook group. However, days when contacts were reported between Oceania and North American slumped from 24 in 2008 to 5. The explanation?: In 2008 the VP6 expedition was under way. Interesting how the appearance or non-appearance of a 'rare one' can affect perceptions of 'conditions'.

Reliability (Days) Within and Between Continents

	OC	AS	EU	AF	NA	SA
OC	18	19	0	0	6	0
AS	19	6	3	0	2	0
EU	0	3	23	11	4	4
AF	0	0	11	0	0	5
NA	7	2	5	0	27	24
SA	0	0	4	5	24	16

Daily Reliability by Time period

	OC				AS				EU				AF				NA				SA			
	%				%				%				%				%				%			
	M	N	A	E	M	N	A	E	M	N	A	E	M	N	A	E	M	N	A	E	M	N	A	E
OC	39	50	18	11	07	46	18	29	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	11	07	04	11	00	00	00	00
AS	43	29	14	04	04	14	11	07	00	04	04	04	00	00	00	00	07	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
EU	00	00	00	00	04	00	04	04	75	71	50	46	14	32	00	07	04	00	04	11	00	00	04	11
AF	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	32	14	07	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	18
NA	00	00	00	25	00	00	07	04	04	07	04	04	00	00	00	00	46	64	71	71	14	43	64	54
SA	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	97	00	00	00	11	00	07	07	29	61	68	07	21	29	39

% days path opened for morning, noon, afternoon, evening periods

