

Radio Weather Summary for April 2009

Another month when key parameters varied little and the long-awaited word that cycle 23 had ended had yet to arrive. For NASA, this was now the deepest solar minimum for a century. The sun was spotless on all but three days and those spots that did appear were small and short-lived. The solar flux varied only between 68, on the 13th, and 71 on 7 days. The average for the month, 70, was the same as in March and the 90-day average was also an unchanged 70. There were no flares of C magnitude or above and particle densities were consistently low, apart from brief blips, and the X-ray flux was equally consistently below the minimum reporting threshold.

	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	29	30
SSN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	12
SFlux	71	71	70	70	70	69	70	70	70	69	69	69	68	69	69	70	70	70	70	70	71	71	71	70	69	69	68	69	70	69

The factor most favourable for propagation was the level of geomagnetic activity. As the table below shows, levels were fairly consistently low or very low, with the Ap index in single figures every day but the 9th, which was mildly unsettled. There were no 3-hour periods when the UK observatories recorded a K of 4 or more and, typically, Lerwick returned K0 for now fewer than 105 of the 240 monitoring periods in the month. The interplanetary magnetic field showed maximum variance between plus 10 and minus 7 nanoTeslas on the 17th, but mostly ranged between plus and minus 4 nanoTeslas. Coronal hole activity was recorded from the 8th to the 12th and the 16th to the 18th. Solar wind speeds were mostly below average, with minima of 272km/sec on the 3rd and 4th and a maximum of 590km/sec on the 12th. MUFs at equal latitude for the UK remained relatively steady around 18MHz in southern Britain and up to 3MHz less further north. High latitude visual aurora was seen on the 6th, 7th and 11th, but radio aurora was reported only on the 9th.

	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	29	30
LER	7	2	2	0	7	4	1	9	16	12	15	10	4	4	6	7	8	9	6	5	7	5	3	10	6	2	6	3	4	2
ESK	8	1	4	1	9	7	3	12	18	14	18	14	9	4	9	10	9	13	8	8	9	8	2	14	9	5	6	4	7	2
HART	7	1	4	3	9	5	4	14	23	16	18	14	7	3	11	9	11	15	10	9	9	9	3	12	10	5	6	4	7	3
Ap	4	3	2	2	4	3	3	5	12	8	9	7	4	2	3	6	5	8	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	4	2	2	3

All figures in this section are provisional and subject to confirmation.

50MHz

Propagation to and from Britain

In the listings that follow some callsigns are given in full. These either indicate beacons or might be considered DX – occasionally both.

April was an unexciting time for UK 6m operators. Many recorded no contacts of any consequence. Some drew a complete blank; G4UPS reported nil success for his attempts to work SM7AED, a far cry from the days when their morning exchanges a routine feature of 6m and seemed rarely to fail. However, there may have been more relatively good tropo days than in recent months and, for whatever reason, activity levels appear to have increased from the woefully low levels of the last few months, even if results did not.

Auroral

None

Sporadic-e

In the period leading up to the sporadic-E season it can be more than usually tricky to identify with confidence the propagation mode involved. In the listings below Es was suggested by one or both of the operators involved.

Ap 13 10-1100 CS1RLA,EA6SA(jt),EB1EHO(jt)>MW0HMOV

Ap 18 1340 G4KCT>S57RR 1437 IZ5EKV>M1DUD

Ap 22 2154 GB3RAL>9A5CW(wk)

Ap 26 1621 G0KSC>F5SXD(Es?) 2330 F5SXD>G0KSC(Es?)

Ap 29 1158 EA6SA>G3VYK(Es or ms)

Tropo

A welcome increase in tropo reports over the levels of recent months, though none appears to have been at any great distance. For the most part they come from stations in the eastern UK working the near-continent. The contest on the 12th produced a substantial number of reports at semi-local distances that have not been included here.

Ap 6 1049 G7RAU>ON4CLQ 1055 G7RAU>PA4VHF 1108 G0KSC>PA4VHF

Ap 12 (contest) G,GW,GM including 11-1200 MM0BQN<>G4DEZ G5WQ(IO91)>LX1FX(JN29)
G4DEZ>PE1MZS(JO21) G4RFR(IO90)>PE1MZS G4DEZ>F4ENK(JN06) M1DUD>PE1MZS
GM4ZUK>G7RAU

Ap 14 2032-8 PI4D(JO21)>G4ZFJ(JO01), PI4KGL(JO22)>G4ZFJ

Ap 15 1906 GI6ATZ>G0JHC

Ap 18 1425-1537 ON8DM>G0KSC + ON7YSB + ON5LGS 1523 ON8DM, ON7USB>G3JHM

Ap 19 0959 GB3MCB>EI2P

Ap 21 1726 GB3MCB>EI2P

Ao 28 1601 LX2LA(JN39)>G3VYF(JO01)

MS/jt6m

The tabulations below show a substantial increase in contacts attributed either to 'ms' or to JT6M in circumstances suggesting MS. (The few Es or tropo contacts crediting jt6m are excluded.). Since there were no major meteor showers during the month the improvement in results probably reflects increased activity rather than enhanced propagation.

Contacts were reported every day except the 1st to the 3rd and the 11th, during all 3-hour periods except 00-0300, with 06-1500 the most favoured periods. (Every '+' in the table indicates a single report; '2' indicates two reports and so on

	CT	DL	EA
UTC	15 20 21 23 24 25 26	8 12 16 21	6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 28
06-09		+	+ + 2 + +
09-12	+ + + +		2 + + + 3 3 +
12-15	+ +	+	++ + 3 + + 3 + 3 +
15-18	+ +	+ +	+ +
18-21			+ +
21-24			

	EA6	F	Inter-G	HA	I
UTC	16 19 22 23	13 14 16 18 20 21 22 24 28	14 19 20 23	21 22 25 27	8 10 12 17
03-06	+ 2			+	
06-09	+	+ + +	+	+	+
09-12			+ +	+ +	+
12-15		2 + + +	+ 3		+ +
15-18	+	+ +			
18-21			+		
21-24					

	IS0	LA	LX	OE	OH	OM	OY
UTC	5 8 13 15 22 25 26 27	4 7 12 13 15 18	28	15 20 23 29	20 23 29	19 21 24	18
03-06	2						
06-09	+ + +	+ +					
09-12	+ + +	+ +	+	+			
12-15	+			+	+		
15-18				+	+		
18-21		+ +		+	+	+	2
21-24		+ + +				+ +	

	OZ	PA	S5	SM	SP	TF	YT	UR	ZB
UTC	18 20 24 28	15 30	14 15 21 22 23 25 26 27 28	14 29	12 14 22 23	26	20	20	21
03-06									
06-09	+	+ +	+ +	+	+				+
09-12	+		+ +			+	+	+	
12-15			+ +	+					
15-18	+ +		+		+ +				
18-21		+	+		+				
21-24	+		+						

.Most countries within MS range were reached at some time or other, with the Iberian peninsula and France featuring most frequently. Scandinavia was under-represented (which is not invariably the case), while OK was not reported. 6m is, of course, not the first choice of band for many operators using MS. At a range of some 1,600 km the UR contact, while not exceptional, was the furthest reported in recent months, though falling well short of the notional maximum of about 2300km..

	9A	HB
UTC		
03-06		
06-09		
09-12		+
12-15		
15-18		
18-21		
21-24	+	

EME

50MHz is often not the first choice of band among the EME community, but as with other modes, the number of contacts was greater than in other recent months and includes some stations that have not featured here before. A curiosity: substantially more reports came from the overseas station rather than the operator at the UK end. Why would that be?

Ap 4 1342 G4IGO>JR6EXN(-25)

Ap 5 1511 GM4WJA>JR6EXN(-22),G4IGO(eme -22) 1604 G5WQ>JR6EXN(eme -21)
1617 MM0AMW>JR6EXN(eme-13) 2347 G5WQ>VE3CDX/W7

Ap 24 1633 G4IGO>W7GJ(-25)

Ap 26 1257 G4IGO>N8JX 1947 G5WQ>W7GJ(eme -19) 2142 MM0AMW>W7GJ(eme -25db)

Ap 27 2327 ZL3NW>MM0AMW

Uncertain

Ap 12 1054 OE5MPL>G8BCG 1114 G4DEZ>OE5MPL

Ap 13 1201 CS1RLA>G0LGS

Ap 18 1340 G4KCT>S57RR

Ap 27 1048 OZ7IGY>G0KSC

Ap 29 1056 OZ7IGY>GW3LEW

Continental Europe, Africa and the Middle East

Auroral-related Propagation

One commentator poetically reported 'a persistent shimmer of northern lights around the Arctic Circle' at the start of the month, but this was not translated into radio aurora contacts. The solitary event on the 9th was spread over some two hours but it was confined to Scandinavia.

Ap 9 16-1700 SK3(JP73)>OH5(KP41 57a) OH9SIX>OH5(KP41 55a) 1730 OH0>OH5(JP41 59) OH9(KP36)>OH5(KP41) OH7(KP53)>OH5(KP41) 18-1900 OH2>SM1(53a) OH2(KP31)>OH5(KP41)

Other Modes

As with the UK continental Europe experienced a (modest) increase in reported activity. Most contacts were credited to ms or to jt6m, which in the great majority of cases would have been by way ms. There was an interesting report of a JT contact between S5 and OH7 on the 21st at around 1800km, but most were over more routinely worked distances. The well-supported NAC contest was almost entirely conducted by way of JT6M, but almost entirely within Scandinavia.

There were reports of sporadic-E on the 18th, 22nd and 24th, which may well have been correctly credited, but as they were isolated loggings they have to be classed as moot or in the 'one swallow does not make a summer' category. The first day with a convincing batch of Es reports was the 28th. There were further reports on the 29th and the 30th, when SV1DH's long drought at last came to an end. Over Europe as a whole, however, it would be May 1 before the new Es season emphatically announced its arrival.

Ap 1 09-1000 LA>F(jt) F>EB1(ms) 1453 F>OZ(jt)

Ap 2 1104 IS0>EA5(jt)1356 IS0>CT(jt) 1434 F>CT(ms) 1942 PA>F(jt)

Ap 3 0518 SP5>HA1(tr)

Ap 4 0652 IS0>EA5(jt) 0652 EA3>IS0(jt) OZ>SP9(ms) 1025 EA3>EA5 I8>9H 12-1300 CQ3SIX>EA8 13-1400 OH7>SP9(jt) 18-1900 EB5>CT(ms) EB2>EH3(tr) 2046 LA>LA(jt) 2119 JW5SIX>SM3

Ap 5 0646 OE5>F(jt) 07-0800 F>SP9(ms) HB>F(jt) 0854 EA5>EA3 09-1000 EA2>OZ(jr) DL>LX EA3>DL CN>CT(jt) I6>DL 10-1100 OE5>DL EA2>EA3 CT>EA7(jt) OE4>9A 11-1200 S5>OZ 12-1300 OE4>HA3(tr) S5>I0 LA>SP9(ms) EA7>CN(jt)1511 EA3>I8(jt) 16-1700 LX0SIX,ON0SIX>DL(tr) EA5>EA1(jt) EA5>CT(jt) 20-2100 JW7SIX>SM3 21-2200 LA>OH7>(jt) PA>OH7(jt)

Ap 6 1632 OH3>SP9(ms) 1756 OH7>SP9(jt) 1843 HB9SIX>DL(tr) 20-2100 LX0SIX,ON0SIX>DL

Ap 7 0852 EA6>EA5(jt) 0952 F>CT(ms) 1328 S5>EA5(jt) 1350 EA3>IT9(ms) 14-1500 EA3>PA(jt) EA7>PA(jt)

Ap 8 08-0900 EB1>OE5(jt) LA>OE5(ms) 10-1100 EA6>IT9(ms) 11-1200 IT9>EA6 EA6>IS0(jt) EA6>I8(ms) 12-1300 EA6>CT(ms) LA>PA(jt) 1346 EA6>EA1(ms) 15-1600 SM2>LA(jt) I0JX>9A(tr) ON>SP2 16-1700 I3>9A 1709 OZ>OH3(ms) 1935 I5MXX>S5(tr) 2049 PA>LA(ms) 2119 SM7>PA(ms) LA>OH7(ms)

Ap 9 0839 EA7>EA1(ms) 1507 PA>LA(ms) OH8>LA(jt) OE5>LA(jt) 17-1800 S5>I1(tr) 18-1900 S5>I3 S5>I7 SA5>8S4 SM3>8S4 SP2>DL S5>I8 SK6>DL SM5>8S4 I4>I0 8S4>8S5,SM6 SM1>SM6 19-2000 OZ>DL OH0>S5 I4>I3 S5>SM3 OZ>S5 OH2>LA(ms) SM7>SM6 20-2100 S5>LA(jt) SM3>SM0 2128 SP9>HB(ms)

Ap 10 08-0900 OZ>DL EA3>DL(ms) EA3>OK1(ms/Es) EA3>EA1(tr) 09-1000 EA2>EA3 EA2>EA4 11-1200 F>SP9(jt) F>EA1(ms) 12-1300 F>LA(ms) F>EA7(jt) 13-1400 OM5>S5 EA7>EA1(ms) 15-1600 HB9SIX>DL(tr) OH0>OH3(jt) OH8>OH3(jt) I1>EA6(Ms) LX0SIX>DL(tr) 16-1700 EA6>F(ms) OH8>ON(jt) SM0>ON(ms)

Ap 11 97-0800 OH0>SP9(ms) EA3>EA7(jt) EA6>EA1(ms) EA6>HB(ms) EA3>EI(jt) ON>IS0(jt) OE5>EA6(iono) ON>EA7(jt) 08-0900 ON>EA2 I0>I8 1029 HB9SIX>DL(tr) 1144 IS0>EA7(jt) 12-1300 EB1>IS0(jt) EA7>IS0(jt) 1344 OZ>SP9(jt) 15-1600 OH0>SP9(jt) PA>YO2 16-1700 SM5>F(jt) 1848 EA6>EB1(ms) 20-100 OH8>SP9(jt) LA>SP9(ms)

Ap 12 0656 SP9>I8(ms) 07-0800 OE5>EB1(ms) S5>EB1(ms) 08-0900 EA7>OE5(ms) EA4>EA1(tr) 1052 FX4SIX>OK2 12-1300 LX>OE5,F 13-1400 SP9>LA(ms) HB9SIX>DL(tr) DL>LA(ms) EA7>EB1(ms) 1440 EA5>SP9(ms) 16-1700 EA7>EA1 YU1>SP9(ms) LX>OE5(tr) 1849 OH0>SP9(jt) 20-2100 LA>PA(jt) PA>LA(ms) 21-2200 I8>EA6

Ap 13 0628 OZ>SP9(jt) 07-0800 OZ7IGY>I4 DL>LA(ms) EA6>DL(ms) OZ7IGY>OE2 OE5>OZ(ms) EA6>S5(jt) 08-0800 S5>EB1(ms) EA6>OK2(ms) LX>DL OE5>DL DL>LA(jt) OE5>PA(jt) EA6>DL(jt) DL>LA(ms) EA6>HB(ms) F>DL OE5>DL EB1>EA6(jt) DL>PA(tr) 09-1000 PA>EB1(ms) PA>DL IS0>9A DL>PA S5>EB1(ms) LX>DL I0>9A OE3>OK1 IS0>OK2 EB1>S5(ms) OZ>DL 10-1100 OK2>OE4 LY2>DL OM3,LY2>OE4 12-1300 CS1RLA>PA EI>EA(Es) HA8>OE4 LZ1SJ>LZ3 EA2>CT(jt) HB>LA(jt) EA2>CT(jt) PA>CT(jt) 13-1400 OZ>F(ms) 14-1500 SP9>S5(jt) 1544 OZ>S5(ms) 16-1700 YO5>OZ(ms) 16-1700 F>LA(ms) 17-1800 F>EA3(tr) I8>OZ(jt) EA3>EA6(ms) EA6>EA5(ms) 19-2000 OH6>PA(jt) LA>SO5(jt) SO5>SM2(jt) PA>SO5(ms) 20-2100 OH0>OZ(jt)

Ap 14 0722 OH0>DL(ms) 13-1400 HA3>HA1 S5>EA3 1451 I8>EB1(ms) 15-1600 DL>OZ(tr) IS0>F F>CT(jt) 16-1700 OH0>OH3(ms) 18-1900 PA>DL OH7>SP9(jt) 19-2000 PA>ON 20-2100 OH7>S5(ms) SM2>LA(jt) PA>LA(jt)

Ap 15 0648 IS0>F(jt) 07-0800 EA7>F(jt) 08-0900 EA3>EA7(jt) F>PA(jt) 09-1000 F>EB1(ms) EB1>I4(ms) 1051 LX>EA3 1242 CT>EA7(jt) S5>F(jt) 13-1400 EA3>EA7 14-1500 HG1BVB>SP6 CT>EA7(jt) 15-1600 CT>EA1(jt) F>OZ(jt) 1729 S5>DL 1901 S5>OZ 20-2100 EA3>S5(jt)

Ap 16 0647 I0>EA6(ms) 08-0900 I2>EB1(ms) EA6>EB1(ms) EA7>EB1(ms) F>EB1(ms) 1208 S5>EA5(ms) 14-1500 EA7>EB1(jt) DL>PA HG1BVB>YT1(tr) 15-1600 YT1>YT2 17-1800 I5MXX>9A(tr) I4,IQ1SP,IW3FZQ,IK5ZUL>9A(tr)

Ap 17 0645-58 I0>OZ(jt) HG1BVB>OE5(tr) 07-0800 I0>F(jt) OE5>F(ms) 08-0900 I5>F(jt) I0>PA(ms) LA>F(ms) 09-1000 EB1>I5(ms) HG1BVB>HA1 CT>EA7(jt) OZ>LA(jt) 10-1100 CT>PA(jt) EA3>CT(jt) 12-1300 IS0>CT(jt) CS5BLA>CU3 EA3>IS0(jt) 15-1600 IT9>I8 18-1900 S5>DL S5>I1 1950 EA6>S5(ms)

Ap 18 06-0700 EB1>OE5(ms) OH7>OE5(ms) 07-0800 PA>EA6(ms) OZ>LA(ms) S5>OZ(ms) LA>OH3(ms) S5>ON(jt) EA7>EB1(ms) 08-0900 DL>OH1(ms) LA>LA(ms) ON>F(jt) F>EA3(tr) I0>ON(ms) DL>OH3(ms) IS0>OE1(ms) 09-1000 S5>OE1(jt) ON>OE1(ms) I>OZ(Es) PA>OE1(ms) 10-1100 S5>YO5(ms) 11-1200 S5>I0(tr) S5>EA3(ms) I3>E7 I4>EA3(ms/iono) 12-1300 S5>PA I2>9A S5,I0,I3>I8 OE3>OZ I0>EA3(ms) S5>I6 13-1400 HG1>YT1(tr) I5>I8 I0,I5>I6

I3>I4 S5>I5 I5,I0>ON YT1>Z3 I2>YO2 I3>EA3 S5>SM6 I5>I0 14-1500 I0>OE5(tr) EA7>EA5(jt)
I5>ON,I0 I4>I8,S5 OE4>HA3 15-1600 I4>I8(tr) I0,I5,I4>S5 I5,I4>I0 16-1700 SV3>I8(ms)
I4>EA3(ms) SV3>OE2 I0JX>CT S5>EA3(ms) CT>EA7 17-1800 EA7>S5(Es) EA3>DL
OY>PA(ms) 1855 E7>EA3(iono/ms) 19-2000 E7>EA6(ms) E7>9A,I4

Ap 19 0614 EA3>PA(ms) 07-0800 OH3>LA(jt) EA6>EA7(jt) F>I4(jt) EA7>EB1(ms)
EA7>EB1(ms) 08-0900 EA7>EA4(jt) EA4>EB1(ms) OE5>DL 09-1000 EA6>OZ(jt)
HB9SIX>DL(tr) EA6>OE1(ms) EA6>EB1(ms) 10-1100 1B>DL(ms) OE6>S5 S5>DL HA2>SP6
S5>HA3(tr) I1>YO5(ms) 11-1200 DL>F EA4>CT(jt) 1359 OH3>PA(ms) 14-1500 OH3>OE1(ms)
S5>IS0(jt) 15-1600 I0>OE1(ms) PA>OH3(ms) OE1>OH3(ms) 1851 OZ>OH3(ms) 2008
OM5>PA

Ap 20 0756 EA6>F(ms) 0927 I1>OZ(jt) 10-1100 PA.EB1(ms) 1226 HB9SIX>DL(TR) 13-1400
LX0SIX>F 17-1800 HG1BVB>DL(TR) 1919 SM2>DL(ms) 20-2100 OH3>PA(jt) 5C2>I8
C5AL>EA8

Ap 21 0754 F>EA7(jt) F>F(jt) 0956 HA2>PA(jt) F>CT(jt) 10-1100 F>CT(ms) DL>PA 1157
ON>OZ 12-1300 ON>OZ I1>LZ1(jt) 15-1600 E7>OZ(jt) HG1BVB>DL(tr) 1652 SV8>SV2 1803
I3>SP9(ms) 19-2000 I0JX>S5(tr) EB5>CT(jt) PA>EB5(ms) PA>EB5(ms) 20-2100 S5>LA(ms)
F>PA(jt) S5>F(jt) 21-2200 OM5>PA(jt) SV2>SP9(ms) S5>OH7(jt ~1800km) 22-2300
OM5>OH7(jt)

Ap 22 06-0700 SM2>LA(ms) I8>EB1(ms) 07-0800 HA2>F(jt) EA6>EB1(ms) LA>LA(jt) 0758
SQ7>LA(jt) 08-0900 EA6>ON(jt) DL>F 09-1000 OZ7IGY>OE5(Es)
HG1BVB>OE5,OE3XLB,DF0ANN,HB9SIX>OE5(tr) 10-1100 IT9>I8 DL>SM3 13-1400
HG1BVB>DL(tr) 1438 HG1BVB>DL(tr) 15-1600 S5>I8(ms) LX0SIX>DL(tr) 18-1900 S5>SO5(jt)
SP7>SO5(ms+tr) S5>OZ(jt) UR>UR LA>S5(jt) 19-2000 OH7>SP9(ms) OZ>9A(ms)
SO5>SQ7(tr) 19-2000 S5>OZ(jt) LA>OH7(jt) PA>9A(jt) S5>9A(jt) OZ>OH7(jt) 20-2100
S5>OZ(jt) SV8>9A(ms) OH7>PA(jt) SO5>LA(jt) S5>SV8(ms)

Ap 23 06-0700 OK1>LA(jt) HG1BVB,OE3XLB>SP6(tr) OH5RAC>SP6 07-0800 EA7>EB1(ms)
LA>LA(jt) 09-1000 EA1>CT HB9SIX>DL 11-1200 EB1>S5(jt) 14-1500 ON>SQ2 1735
PA>OM5(jt) SP7>SP5 18-1900 HG1BVB>DL 19-2000 PA>OM5(jt) SO5>I4(ms) LZ1>SO5 20-
2100 OM5>SO5(jt) SO5>SV8(jt) SO5>SV8(ms) OM3>OZ(jt) S5>SV8(ms) 21-2200
SV8>SP9(ms)

Ap 24 0523 HG1BVB>YT1(tr) 0630 EA3>F(ms) 0747 F>OE5(ms) 0855 F>CT(jt) ES0>OH7(tr)
13-1500 PA>EA7(ms) 15-1600 OE3XLB,HG1BVB PA>F(jt) OZ7IGY>DL(ms) EA3>PA(jt)
EA1>EA7 16-1700 YU1>IS0 CS5BLA>EI 1848 YT1>SO5(ms) 19-2000 S5>9A(tr) OH7>OH1(jt)
S5>PA(jt) YT1>9A(tr) 20-2100 I7>I9 OH!>OH7(sc/ms) SO5>OH3(ms) YT1>OH3(ms)
S5>SO5(jt) SV2>SO5(jt) OH8>LA(jt) OZ>OH3(jt) 21-2200 CS5BLA(Es) LZ1>SV8(ms)
S5>PA(ms) 22-2300 LA>LA(jt)

Ap 25 0545 HG1BVB>HA5 S5>SV8(jt) 06-0700 I8>EB1(ms) LA>DL(iono) HB>I8(ms) 07-0800
HA5>PA(tr) OK1>HA7 HA5>HA7 I8>EB1(ms) I0>DL(jt) EA4>EB1(ms) 9A>S5 I8>F(jt) F>I8(ms)
08-0900 LA>ON(JT) S5>IT9 S5>F IS0>I1 LA>ON(jt) EB1>ON(jt) ON>EA4(jt)
HG1BVB,OE3XLB>DL S5>ON(jt) 09-1000 OZ7IGY>ON(ms) LZ1>ON(jt) HB>EB1(ms)
SV2>IS0(jt) 10-1100 EA5>EA4 LA>OH3(ms) EA5>IT9(ms) EA5>S5(jt) EA3>CT(jt) 11-1200
PA>5Q1(ms) 13-1400 DL>OH3(ms) 14-1500 SV2>I5(jt) OK2>HA5 15-1600 LX>DL(tr) 1556
I7>DL EA4Q>I8 16-1700 S5>I3 OH7>OH5(tr) OZ>DL HA5>S5 CN8IG>I8 EA7>EA8
EA2B,EA3RCC>I8 EA2B>IT9 ED7YAD>I8 17-1800 ZB>I8 CS5BLA>IT9 IZ1EPM>S5(tr) 9A>I3
18-1900 EA7>I1 HA5>S5 CN8IG,CN8MC>IS0 19-2000 S5>SP4(jt) SP4>OZ(jt) mSP4>OH8(jt)
20-2100 ED7YAD>I8 2136 OH7>OZ(jt)

Ap 26 0518 OH5RAC>SP6(iono) HG1BVB>SP6(tr) HG1BVB>EA6 S5>F(jt) 06-0700 F>S5(ms) EB1>F(ms) F>OZ(jt) EA6>EB1(ms) F>OZ(jt) EA6>OZ(jt) DL>LA(jt) 07-0800 EA6>ON(jt) DL>EA2(jt) OZ>F(jt) IS0>EA7(jt) ON>EB1(ms) EA7>EA6(jt) F>ON EA2>DL(iono) F>EA3(tr) 08-0900 IS0>EA6(ms) EA3>F EA7>PA(Es) HB>EA2(jt) 9H>I8 LZ1>S5(bs) LA>LA(ms) F>PA(ms) HB>LX EA7>I1(ms) I1>EB1(ms) 09-1000 LX>PA(jt) PA>EA6(ms) PA>F(jt) LA>LA(ms) OZ>LA(jt) EA6>PA(ms) DL>ON LX>F SV2>SV8(jt) 10-1100 F>EA7(ms) OH7>PA(ms) OH5>LA(ms) F>CT(jt) HA5>S5(jt) 11-1200 HA5>EA3(ms+iono) F>CT(jt) HA5>I3 I1>HA5 S5>I3,HA5 F>EB1(ms) I0>EB1(ms) OE4>HA5 12-1300 OE4>HA3,S5 1346 LA>OZ(jt) 15-1600 ID9>I0,IT9,EB5,I8 16-1700 HA8>OE4 EA4UW>EA8 PA>DL(tr) 17-1800 EA8>EA1 EA5>EA8 EA4Q>EA8 EA8>EA3(Es) EA6>EA8 EA8>EA5 18-1900 EA8>EA7,EA4,EA5 EA6>EA3 19-2000 W7GJ>OH7PI(eme -18) 20-2100 W7GJ>CT1FJC(eme -20) S5>LA 2148 S6>LA(iono) S5>PA

Ap 27 0545 I0>F I0>EA5(jt) 06-0700 ES0SIX>YL2 LA>S5(ms) ID9N>I0 IW3FZQ>I3 12-1300 EI>EB1(ms) EI>LA(jt) EI>CT(jt) 13-1400 EA5?S5(ms) 17-1800 EA4>CU3 18-1900 CT>CT3(Es) CS5LAB>CT3 EA4>CU3 S5>9A 19-2000 CU1>CU3 CU3>CT W7GJ>9A5CW(eme -15) CN8IG>CU3 CU1>EC7 9A>F(ms)

Ap 28 07-0800 I0JX,IT9X,ID9N>EA3(ms+Es) 08-0900 S5>EA3(Es) HG1BVB>SP6(tr) CS5BLA>EI(ES) DL>PA 09-1000 OZ7IGY>DL(ms) EI>CT(jt) DL>PA I1>EA3(tr) 10-1100 LX>ON ID9N>S5 EA3>I8(Es) S5>PA(jt) ON>PA LA>PA(jt) 11-1200 ID9N>I0 DL>F(tr) ID9N>I2(ms) 12-1300 I3>PA(jt) 16-1700 LX>DL,ON 17-1800 SV3BSF,IT9X>EA5(Es) SV3>EA6 CS5BLA>IT9,EA3 EA2B>IT9(Es) 18-1900 OZLA(jt) ED7YAD>IT9 LX>DL CN8MC,CN8IG>F CS5BLA>EA6(Es) C S5BLA>IS0 19-2000 S5>DL,OE1,LX 20-2100 OZ>OE1(ms) S5>OE1(jt) SV2>OE1(ms) 2155 S5>OZ

Ap 29 0648 EB1>F(jt) OZ>F(jt) 0742 LA>LZ1(jt) 08-0900 OE5>EA6(jt) 09-1000 IS0>F(jt) OH0SIX>OH1 DL>HB 1048 3A>I5 1055 HG1BVB>DL(tr) 11-1200 ES0SIX>YL2 EA4Q>F 3A>F CN>LX(Es) EA7>PA(Es) CS5BLA>DL(Es) ED7YAD>F(Es) 3A>YO7(Es) 12-1300 EA6>EA5 13-1400 SM>LA(jt) RS7>IS0(jt) HA5>S5 14-1500 EA7>EA5(jt) SM>PA(jt) SM>OZ(jt) 15-1600 UT5>SP9(jt) 9A>I3 16-1700 I1>9A I7>I2 9A>I3 17-1800 CS5BLA>EI 9A>I5 OZ7IGY>DL(ms) PA>OH2(jt) SO5>UT(jt) 18-1900 I0JX>9A SO5>PA(jt) S5>PA(jt) SM7>PA(jt) SP3>OH3(jt) 20-2100 OY>LA(jt) S5>SP6(jt) 21-2200 S5>EA1(jt) EA3>9A(jt)

Ap 30 05-0600 I0JX,IT9X>EA3 06-0700 HG1BVB>EA3(ms) DF0ANN>EA3 06-0700 S5>EA3(iono+Es) IS0>EA3(Es) 9A>I1 07-0800 ON0SIX,LX0SIX>EA3(ms) F>SP9(jt) 08-0900 F>SP9(ms) ON0SIX>EA3(ms+Es) CT>CN CN>EB1(ms) 09-1000 IT9>SP9(jt). Data missing.

50MHz PROPAGATION REPORT FOR APRIL 2009 BY SV1DH

1. Data for all days (30)
2. Relatively good days on: 30
3. 48 MHz AF video (9L+3C) on: NIL
4. 55 MHz AF video (5N) on: NIL
5. Opening to EA3 on: 30 (1830 Es)
6. Special events on:
 - 15(0115 VK3 to W5 on 10m F2)
 - 23(0315 ZL1 to W5 on 10m F2)
 - 24(0800 JA/B to W7 on 6m NEs!! + 0930 9M to DL on 10m F2)
 - 25(VK7 to W6 on 10m F2)

29(SSN=15, SFI=70)
30(SSN=12, SSN=69)
First opening of Es season on 30th

73 COSTAS

The Americas

KB4BJB calling CQ DX EU on the 2nd showed a commendable enterprising optimism that deserved a better reward. For, sadly, no replies were reported and it would be some weeks before there would be a fair chance of such contacts. Yet, April did bring a measure of improvement in propagation in North America and an increase in activity.

Auroral-related Modes

nil

Other Modes

Without prejudice to what May may bring to light April appears to be the month when the t.e.p that has been such a feature of recent months finally ran out of steam, with reports pointing to this mode on only 9 days compared with 15 in March and 18 in February. None of the openings stretched as far north as the US. However, XE3ARV's report of the LU7YS beacon in Tierra del Fuego on the 9th went as far as one can go to the south, and probably required the assistance of another mode for a final hop.

Trans-Equatorial Propagation in the Americas

	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	29	30	31
Tep			+	+	+		+	+	+				+						+	+											

Trans-Equatorial Propagation

PY 6 days 4(V4) 5(KP4) 7(KP4,V4) 9(V4) 19(FY,KP4) 20(FY,V4)

LU 3 days 4(FJ,KP4) 9(XE) 13(FJ,KP4)

CE 2 days 3(XE) 5(HK,KP4)

CX 2 days 4(FJ) 5(KP4)

ZP 1 day 7(KP4,YV)

Every recent month has brought news of working between countries in North and Central America and the Caribbean, but there was a considerable increase this month, and while PY5 remains the main southern focus, to the north the mix includes more from YN, TI and XE than in earlier months. Was there a shift in propagation paths or simply a change in activity? The tally, which omits short-range contacts between neighbouring Caribbean islands (FJ<>FG and the like), is inevitably an approximation because almost no reports suggested the mode or modes was involved. (Such suggestions are of course not invariably correct.) On the face of it, given

that all the paths lay below 40N and most below 30 at their northern end, while being above the geomagnetic equator, tep was clearly not the agent. One surmises that the sporadic-E season may tend to come earlier in these lower latitudes. If the mode was indeed sporadic-E some of the ranges involved would require more than one hop – at best a rare event so early in the season. Another oddity is that, while the frequent occurrence of W4 and even W5 call signs is to be expected, W7 is not. Moreover, all but one of the reports from W7 is due to VE3CDX/W7. CDX gives his locator as DM26IC, which places him not all that far from Las Vegas.

Isolated sporadic-e was reported within the US on the 1st, 2nd and 5th, but substantial openings appear not to have begun until around the 22nd. With other openings on the 26th, 27th and 28th.

Central American and Caribbean Propagation

TI 7 days 18(W4,W5) 19(W4,W5,W8,XE1,XE3) 20(W5,W7,XE1,XE2) 22(W5,W7,W8)
23(W4,W7) 28(W7)
V4 5 days 18(W4,W7) 19(W4) 22(KP4) 23(W3,W4) 29(W4)
YV 4 days 18(W7) 20(W7) 22(W7) 23(W7)
HK 2 days 19(W4,W5,W7,KP4,YV) 20(FJ,KP4)
HP 3 days 18(KP4,W4) 19(KP4,W4,W8) 20(KP4,W4)
YN 2 days 18(W4,W5) 19(W4)
ZF 2 days 18(W5) 23(W4)
9Y 1 day 18(W7)
FY 1 day 18(W4,W7,XE3)
OA 1 day 19(XE3)
FJ 1 day 18(W4)
HI 1 day 19(HK)

The most surprising reports of the month also came via VE3CDX/W7, who reported two JA beacons between 0751 and 0812 on the 24th, approaching midnight in terms of his local standard time and around 1600 JA standard time. A substantial part of the path would be in darkness. The second beacon was also reported by KE7V (CN88) near Seattle (WA). The most likely propagation mode would be multihop Es; indeed it is hard to see what other possibilities there are. W3EP, WA2BMU, K9LA and G3TCT all remind me that, every summer, there are occasional openings between JA and the Western US – as indeed these reports have chronicled – and also that the region around Japan has the highest occurrence of Es critical frequencies in the world. Nevertheless, this is surprisingly early in the season for multihop. Perhaps this is why beacon reception was not followed up with reports of two-way contacts. W3EP further reminds us that great circle paths at extreme ranges such as these may pass through the normal polar oval. He says that it is difficult to say whether signals are refracted within the polar region or just cross over an edge. He notes the possibility that auroral-E may play a part for very high-latitude paths, say Es-Es-AuE-Es hops. These are interesting events and one hopes we may be able to gather further information.

Ap 1 1151 W4>W4(tr) 12-1300 WZ8D>W4(Es) W9DR/4>W3 15-1600 C6AFP>W4 KP2>W4
1730 W3DOG>W3 2351 W4>W3(Es) OA4B>HC3AP

Ap 2 0022 W1>W2 1150 W9DR/4>W8 1256 K4MHZ>W4(Es) 21-2200
PP2SIX,PP2RON>CE3SAD 22-2300 PP2RON>CA3SOC LU1MAF,CE3AA>PP2RON
PY9MP>CA3SOC 2317 KD4NMI>W4

Ap 3 W4>W8 KP2>KP4 0136 W8>W3 0205 W4>W4 0533 ZK1EME>K3WC(EME/JT) 1845
YV4AB>HC3AP 2033 K4TQR>VE2 22-2300 CA3SOC>XE3ARV W3>W3 2317
CE3SOC>XE3ARV W4>W4

Ap 4 0016 W2>W2 0219 V44KAI>PY5HOT 0321 K4TQR>VE2(ms) 10-1100 W4>W4 11-1200
W4>W4 12-1300 W8,W4>W4 VE1>VE1 13-1400 W1>W11758 VE3>W8 1910VE3UBL>VE2 20-
2100 LU5EGY,LU5FB,LU7FTF,LW2ETU>PY2MAJ 21-2200 KP4EIT>LU1EXJ
PP2SIX>CA3SOC CX3ET,LU6DLB,LU1EEP(2 watts),CX1AO,LU1EIA,LU4DMX>FJ5DX
CE2AA>PY2MAJ 49.2,48.3,48.23 47.83(CE)>PP2RON LU7FTF,CE3RR>PY2MAJ
CE3AA,CE3RR,PR8ZX,LU1MA>PP2RON NP4A>LW5EE CX3ET>NP3CW

Ap 5 0039 W3>W8 0259 PY1>OPY1 03-0400 HK3DES,HK3O>CE3SAD PP5>PY5
CE3RR>HK3DES 12-1300 W4>W8,W3(Es) 1145 W4>W3 12-1300 W8>VE3(ms) W4>W4
W0>W3(ms) W8,W4>W0(sc) 13-1400 W4>W8 1424 W0>VE6(sc) 15-1600 W5>W5
VE3UBL>VE2 W8>W4(tr) W5>W8(sc) 16-1700 W8>VE2 21-2200 PY2>PY2 22-2300
NP4A>CE3PG,PY5HOT

Ap 6 2311 PY1>PY1

Ap 7 0033 V44KAI>PY5HOT 0139 NP4A>CE3SAD 02-0300 NP4A,YV4AB>ZP6CW
NP4A>PP5XX KP2>KP4 1239 W4>W4(tr)

Ap 8 0029W5>W9(ms) 0108-19 W4>W3,W4 0250 V44KAI>PY5HOT

Ap 9 1257 W5>W5 1415-7 W5,W0>W7(ms) 1612 W4>W4 2054 LU7YS>XE3ARV(tep)

Ap 10 1129 W4>W4 12-1300 K0KP>VE2(ms) VA2ZFN,VO2FUN>VE2 VE4ARM>VE2(ms) 2337
W8>W9

Ap 11 0458 F6BKI>W7GJ(eme -22) 1300 W3>W1 W0>W3(ms) 1403 W1>W1 15-1600
W5>W7(jt 887miles) W7>W5(ms) VE1SMU>W3 1652 W4>W4 17-1800 K4TQR>VE2 K2ZD>W2
W5>W7 VE4ARM>VE2

Ap 12 0152 W7>W7 1135 W2>W1 13-1400 W4>W3 1434 W2>W1

Ap 13 0155 W5>W4(887 miles) 1124 W4>W4 20-2100 KP4EIT,FJ5DX>LU1DMA
KP4EIT,KP4BBJ,KP3AO,WP4CNU>LU2DEK 2211 CE, HK,YVfm/bc>W4

Ap 14 1254 W5>W4(jt 887miles) 13-1400 W4>W3 W7>W7(ms) W7>W5(ms) 1400 W7>W7(ms)
W6>W7(ms) W5>W5(ms) W3,W8>W4 15-1600 W1,W4,W0>W8 W3,W4>W0
2021 PP2SIX>CA3SOC 22-23 TI2NA>XE1AO XE1AO>TI7/N5BEK 23-2400 TI2NA>XE1AO
K0UO>W7

Ap 15 0017 W4>W4 1241 W5>W4 15-1600 W4>W4,W3 2127 W4>W5

Ap 16 00-0100 PY2>PY2 1344 W2>W4-6 1822-6 W7>W7 LU7YS>LU2DEK 2246 W6>W6 2323
CX1DDO>LU1DMA

Ap 17 02-0300 W2>W2 W6>W6 13-1400 W0>W7 1847 W7>W8 1950 W9>W9

Ap 18 0201 PY2>PY2 11-1200 W4>W3(sc) W4>W4 13-1400 W5>W8 W4>W4 14-1500 W6>W6
K4TQR>VE2(ms) 1636 PY2>PY2 19-2000 VE3>VE2 FY7THF,FY1FV>FJ5DX
V44KAI>KE4WBO 20-2100 FG/FR1AN,W4SO>FJ5DX FY1FV,C6AFP>KE4WBO

V44KAI>W4SO W4>W4 21-2200 TI2NA>W5FP,KE4WBO,WN4VCH.K4RX
FY7THF,FY1FV>KE4WBO V44KAI>W4PJ,VE3CDX/7 KP4>W4 XE3RCM>FY5LH KP4>W5
9Y4AT>VE3CDX/7 FG5GP,FG/FR1AN>FY5LH 22-2300 TI2NA>W6KY,N4ZQ KP4>W4
FJ5DX>FY5LH TI7/N5BEK>K4RX YN2N>K4RX,KD4ESV,AC5TM V44KAI,FY7THF>KE4WBO
YV4AB>VE3CDX/7 W0>W0 23-2400 W4>KP4 FY7THF>VE3CDX/7,W4SO ZF1EJ>KD5M 23-
2400 TI2NA>N4ZQ,K4WZ XE2>W4 W5,W4,W0>XE1 PY2>PY2 V44KAI>W4SO WB5LLI>W0

Ap 19 00-0100 W4,W5,W0,W7>XE1 YN2N>N4KE XE2,XE1>W5,W9 W0,XE1,XE2>W4
TI2NA>K4NAM W5>W5,W0,XE3 W0>XE1 W7>W5 01-0200 XE1>W0,W5 TI2NA>K5KDN
WB5LLI>W0 12-1300 W4>W8 TI2NA>K4MM,AC4TO,KD4ESV,KC8NZJ AC4TO>TI7/N5BEK
KD4ESV>HP3AK W8>W8(fsk441) 13-1400 TI7/N5BEK>KD4ESV,N4VHF W9,KP4>W4
V44KAI>N3LL/4 14-1500 W9>VE3(fsk441) NL7XM/3(ms)>VE2 TI2NA>KD4ESV 15-1600
TI2NA>N3LL/4 V44KAI>W4SO 17-1800 C6AFP>W8 W9DR/4>W8 K8LEE>W0 18-1900
FY7THF>FJ5DX 19-2000 HP1AVS>WP3UX,KD4ESV,N8PR,KP4EIT,W4RCC
TI2NA>AC4TO.KE4WBO TI7/N5BEK>XE1 PR8ZIX>FY1FV,KE4WBO(Es) TI2ALF>XE1FAS
W4>W4 PU8TEP>KP4EIT 20-2100 PR8ZIX>FY5LH HP1AVS>KE4WBO PU8YRP>FJ5DX
KP4EIT>9Y4D 21-2200 PY2>PY2 TI2NA>XE3ARV,XE3ARV TI2ALF>XE3ARV,N4QV
TI7/N5BEK>K4RX XE3ARV>OA4TT 22-2300 TI2NA>N2NL/4,XE1AO TI2ALF>N4QV,XE1AO
TI7/N5BEK>N5ZM,K5RK,AC4TO PY6>PY6 HK3O>HI3/LY3UM XE1AO W1>W1
HK6F>YV4DDK 23-2400 HK6F>KP4CAT HK3O>AC4TO,KD5M,,KP4CAT,VE3CDX/W7
PU8TEP>YV4DDK TI8MMM>KC8NZJ TI7/N5BEK>K4CVL HK6F>HI3/LY3UM P43A>9Y4D
PY6>PY6

Ap 20 00-0100 PY2>PY2 TI2NA>KP4TR,XE1FAS HK3O>FJ8DX 01-0200 HK3O>NP3CW
W3>W3 TI2NA>N5DG,KY5N W4>W8 02-0300 TI2NA>XE2HWB,XE1AO 1248 W6>W7 13-
1400 TI2NA>N9HF/4,KP4EIT W7>W7 W4>W5(tr) 15-1600 TI2NA>W9UCW/5, W7CNK/5 17-
1800 CX4CR>PY2HN CA3SOC,CX3AN>CX4XR TI2NA>XE1FAS,KD4ESV,KS7S
PY1PDF>CX4CR YV4AB>VE3CDX/W7 PP1PDF>LU1DMA CX4CR>PY5IF 18-1900
HK3O>KP4SQ,FJ5DX,WP3UX PY2HN>LU8EEM,LU1DMA LU8EEM>PY2EL
PY2UDX>LU1DMA ,LU8EEM,LU6DRO CX5CR>PY2HN 19-2000 LU2DEK>PY2HB W6>W6
HP1AC>N2NL/4,KP4CAT,N3LL/4 W9DR/4>HP1AC TI2NA>WP3UX 21-2200
FY7THF,V44KAI>PT7ZAP PR8SX,PT7ZAP,PR8ZIX>FY5LH HP1AVS>N2NL/4,N3LL/4
TI2NA>N3LL/4

Ap 21 1749 W4>W4 1923 W1>W1 1944 W6>W7 2039 PY2>PY2 2244 W4>W4 2344 W1>W1

Ap 22 00-0100 TI2NA>N5DG W8>W8(sc) YV4AB>VE3CDX/W7 01-0200 TI2NA>VE3CDX/W7
XE3>W5 0208 TI5MMB>K5RK 0422 W7>W9(jt) 0531 K2ZD>W2 1011 W1>W3 1042 W1>W1
11-1200 W4>W8(sc) K4TQR>VE2(Es) W3>W4(ms) 12-1300 W4>W8 W4>W4(tr) W0>VE2(ms)
VE3UBL>VE2 W3>W0 N3LL/4>TI7/N5BEK 13-1400 TI2NA>N3LL/4,KC8NZJ W3>W0 1648
W5>W6 17-1800 VO2FUN>VE2 K4MHZ,WZ8D>W4 1849 VE3>W8 W6>W5(Es) 1920
W5RP>W7 W6>W5 XE2K>W5(Es) W5HN>W7 20-2100 W3>VE7(Es)
W5>W6,W0,W8,VE3(Es),W5 W4>W5 W4>W9(Es) W5>W3(ES) W0>W4 W3>W3 21-2200
W8,W3>W5 W0,W9>W0 K4TQR>W9 W2>W2 C6AFP>W1,W3 W8>W8 W4>VE3(Es) 22-2300
VE3,VE2,W1,W2>W4 W0>W9 W2>W5 C6AFP>VE2,VE3 W3,W4>VE3 KP4>W1 23-2400
KP4>W2,W3,W8 VE3UBL,W2,W3,W8>W4 W4>W2,W3 C6AFP>W3 V44KAI>KE4WBO

Ap 23 00-0100 C6AFP>W4 V44KAI>N3DB,W4MOT TI2NA>VE3CDX/W7,W4MOT
YV4AB>VE3CDX/W7 W5>KP4 10-1100 W8>W4 1415 W5>W5 1521 TI2NA,TI5MMB>KD4ESV
1719 ZF5BI>W4 TI5MMB>KW4WBO 1837 VO2FUN>VE2(ms) 1950 K8EB>VE2 20-2100
N6NB>W5 W0>W9 NM7D>W5 W1>W2 W0>W8 2157 XE2>XE1 22-2300 XE1>W7 2342
W7>XE1

Ap 24 00-0100 XE1>W7 PY2>PY2 0138 W5>W4 PY2>PY2 W5>W4,W8 W4>W8 02-0300 XE1>W0,W7 XE2,XE1>W6 03-0400 PY1>PY1 XE2K>XE10549 W7KNT,NA7XX>W7 0751 JE7YNQ>VE3CDX/W7(DM26),KE7V 0812 JA6YBR>VE3CDX/W7 1129 W4>W1 W3>W8 W4>W4 1420 N6NB>W6 15-1600 WZ8D,W3>W4 PC7M>W7GJ(eme -25) 1747 W1>W1 18-1900 W1>W2 W1JJ>W7GJ(eme -16) SO5AS(KO02)>K8ZEE(FM14 mode?) 23-2400 W6>VE2 W4>W8

Ap 25 00-0100 VE3>VE3 0243 W7>W5 0415 W8>W8 0444 W3>W4 0545 S5>SV8(jt) 0633 PY2>PY2 1112 ON4IQ>N8TX(eme) W4>W3 12-1300 ON4IQ>K4RX(eme) W4>W0 W5>W7(ms) W0,W7>W7(ms) 13-1400 W4>W4,W8 1456 W4>W4 1553 W4>W416-1700 W4>W3 1838 S57RR>W7GJ(eme -20) 19434 VE2>VE1 2136 K0KP>W8 23-2400(W5>W5)

Ap 26 0126 W3>VE3 1100 W9DR/4>W8 1154 W0>W3 12-1300 W8>W0 W4>W4 W5>W4 W1>W3 13-1400 W9>W0(sc) K4MHZ>W4 W4>W3 15-1600 W2>W1 LU5EGY>PY4AQA 16-1700 LU1DMA,LU5DLB,LU5EGY,LU6DRO>PY4AQA W2>W2 LU1DMA,LU9HPO>PP5XX LW2ETU>PY4AQA LU5EGY,LU6DRO>PP5XX 17-1800 W8>W9(Es) 18-1900 W2>W2 EA3LL>W7GJ(eme -19db) W5>W6 1924 OH7PI>W7GJ(eme -19) 20-2100 W3>W4 W8>W8 W7>W5 W3>W8 EI2GLB>W7GJ(eme -28) 2348 CX1DDO>LW3EX

Ap 27 02-0300 K4MHZ>W4 03-0400 W4>W4 1154 W3>W4(tr) 1228 K4MHZ>W4 1315 W4>W4 17-1800 W3,W2>W4 18-1900 VE3UBL,VE3WCC>W4 W4>XE2 W3>W4 W4>W2(Es) 20-2100 W5>W0,W8 W0,W8>W9 W5RP>W9 21-2200 W5,W0>W0 2227 K4MHZ>W4 23-2400 W3>W3

Ap 28 00-0100 C6AFP>VE2 VE3,W8,W5>W3 W8>W5 01-0200 W7>W6 N6NB>XE2 W5>W3 W5>W2 XE1,W0,W7,XE2,W6>W6 W7>XE1 K6FV>W7 W7>W7(Es) VE3>W5 02-0300 W5>W3 W4>W0 NM7D>XE2 TI2NA>VE3CDX/W7 W0,W7,W5,XE2>W6 W7,W4>XE1 W8,W5>W5 03-0400 XE2>W6,W7 W4>W5 W6,W7,W0>W6 04-0500 XE2,W6,W7>W7 XE2>XE1 05-0600 XE1>XE2 W0,W7>W6 KA7BGR>W7 0720 KA7BGR>W7(Es) 1132 W4>W3 12-1300 W4>W4 W3>W4(Es) 13-1400 W3>W4 K4MHZ>W4 14-1500 W9DR/4,W8IF,K4TQR>VE2(Es) 18-1900 W5RP>W7 W0,W5>W6 W7>W5 19-2000 W0MTK>W5 W5>W6 W3>VE3 W5RP>W7 KF4AOZ>VE2 W9VW>W7 N5NB>W5 2309-46 W0IJR,N0LL>W7

Ap 29 00-0100 W4,XE2>W5 XE1>W6 W5>W4,W8,W3 W4>W7,W4 01-0200 W5>W3,W4 XE2>W5 W4>W0 WZ8D>W8,W9 W5>XE1 02-0300 W5,W8>XE1 0323 K0EC>W7 1313 W4>W4 1420 K4MHZ>W4 19-2000 VE2>VE2 W4>W4 22-2300 V44KAI>W4SO W4>W4 23-2400 PY2>PY2

Ap 30 00-0100 W4>W3,W4 PY2>PY2 03-0400 W6>W5 N0LL>W7 04-0500 W7>VE6 data for 1030 UTC onwards not retrieved.

Asia and the Pacific

Asia

The liveliest Asia report for a considerable time, with KG6, DU7, VR2, BV, HL/DS and JD1 all active in addition to the usual JAs. Here again, then, activity was on the increase. While, in propagation terms, most of this was fairly routine round-the-region stuff the reports do include reception of the K6FV beacon in Hawaii on the 29th. But where were the operators to follow this up?

Ap 5 0857 JE7YNQ>KG6DX 09-1000 JA2IGY>KG6DX KG6DX>JH1BZJ AH2G>JH1BZJ 10-1100 KG6DX>JR0AMD,JH4DYP DU7/PA0HIP>JA7XBG,JH1XUP,JH4DYP,JA7XBG

Ap 7 1059 BY,UA0tv>DU7 11-1200 JF2LFG,HL3IB>DU7

Ap 13 0833 JA6YBR>BV4VR 0910 BV2YA>JG3LEB 09-1000 BV2,BV4>JA6

Ap 18 0448-58 JA6YBR>BV4 BV2YA>JA2 05-0600 BV4>JA2 BV2NT>JA6,JA2 06-0700 BV2>JA4 0843 BV2YA>JA3 09-1000 BV1EK>JA1,JA6

Ap 19 0101 BV2>BV4 0319 BV2NT>BX4 0548 VR2SIX>JA4 08-0900 JR6YAG>VR2 JR6YAG>BD7NWF BG7IBS>VR2 1203 BV2YA>JA1

Ap 20 02-0300 BV2YA>JA3,JA6 09-1000 VK4ZFC,VK4ABW,VK4TL>JR6EXN VK4ZFC,VK4TL,VK4APE>JA2DDN

Ap 21 0214 BV2YA>JA2 0508 BV2YA>JA2 0602 JA6YGA>BD7 JA6YBR>BA5 0754 JR6YGA>BD7

Ap 22 09-1000 VR2SIX,BV2NT,JA8DOS>DU7 10-1100 JA8DMB>DU7 JF8GFB,JA8CAR,JA6RAH,BA7IO,JR6YAG>DU7 11-1200 DU7>BD7NWF,JL8GFB

Ap 23 0825 46172(QG53)>JG3LEB 0848 VK4RTL>JG3LEB

Ap 24 0143 BV2YA>7N4 0318 BV2YA>JA2 10-1100 JD1BMM>LA2,JA4,JA0,JM1 JE7YNQ,JA0,JA1>DU7 11-1200 JA7>PA DU7>JA1 1251 BV2YA>JA2

Ap 25 01-0200 BV2YA>JA2 JR6YAG>BD7 JA6YBR>BV4 BD7>JA6 02-0300 VR2SIX>JR6EXN BV2YA>JA2 BV4VR>HL4CEL BV2YA>BG4 BD7>JA4 VR2UW>BG4TRF X4>JA2 04-0500 BV2YA>BG4TRF BU2AQ>JA2,BG4 05-0600 BA5DX>JA2,JA3 BV4>JA3,JA2,JA0 JA6,JA5>BG4 BD7>JA8 06-0700 JA7>DS2 BG4>JA2 JO3>BG4 BD5>JA2 JA4,JA6>VR2XMT 09-1000 BA4>JA3 BG4>DS5 VR2XMT>JA1 BU2>JA2 07-0800 JA6>BG7 08-0900 BA4,VR2>JA2 BA4>DS1 VR2>BG4 BG7>JA2 VR2>JA3 09-1000 BG4>JA1,JA7 BA4>JA3 10-1100 BY/UA0tv>DU7 VR2XMT>JA6,JA2,JA1,DS4 BU4>DU7

Ap 26 07-0800 JD1BMM>JA2 1047 VR2SIX>KG6DX

Ap 27 0639 JA6YBR>BX4 08-0900 BD4>JA6 0932 BD4>JA1,JA0 10-1100 BD4>JA2,JA3,JA0 BV2YA>JA2 1154 BV2YA>DU7 JR6TAG>DU7 1245 VR2SIX>JA6

Ap 28 08-0900 JA2IGY>KG6DX AH2G>JL8GFB

Ap 29 0737 BV2YA>JA2 11-1200 BD4>JA2 12-1300 VR2SIX,BV2YA>JA6 BU2>JA3 JR6YGA>BD7BD4>JA6 2155 K6FV>KH7Y

Ap 30 00-0100 VR2SIX>JA6 01-0200 JR6YAG,BV2YA>VR2 02-0300 JD1BLY>JA2,JA6,BD7 BV2YA>JA4 03-0400 JD1BLK>BA4,JA5,BD7 04-0500 JA6>JA2 0547 JA2,8N3,JA4>BD4 0710 BA4>JA7 09-1000 BV2YA>JA2 09-1000 BD4>JA8 KH2JU>JA4,JA8,JA1 10-1100 AH2G>JA8

Oceania

A quiet month in the VK-ZL sector, with a strikingly large proportion of reports relating to the VK5RBV beacon at ranges between 1000 and 2000 kilometres. One contact was reported with Japan and there were several of South Asian tv reception, presumably by tep, in northern states

of Australia. The most interesting report was of reception of Armenian tv, also presumably thanks to tep, but more than one mode may have been involved.

Ap 2 21-2200 VK5RBV>VK3 VK7RAE>VK3

Ap 3 2055 VK5RBV>VK2 2131 VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 4 0129 VK5RBV>VK2 2117 VK5RBV>VK4 2218 VK5RBV>VK2

Ap 7 1019 49750(BY OM43)>VK4 1314 JR6YAG>VK8

Ap 9 1941 VK5RBV>VK4 21-2200 VK5RBV>VK2,VK3 VK3RMH>VK3 22-2300 VK2>VK3
VK5RBV>VK4 VK2>VK3

Ap 10 20236 VK5RBV>VK2 2246 VK5RBV>VK2

Ap 11 VK5RBV>VK2(ms) 2101 VK5RBV>VK4 2206 VK5>VK2

Ap 12 1338 VK5RBV>VK4 2058 VK5RBV>VK2(ms) 2319 VK5RBV>VK6(ms)

Ap 13 02-0300 VK4>VK3 VK7RAE>VK4 VJ2>VK3 VK3RMH>VK4 04-0500 VK5RBV>VK4
VK4RGG>VK5 VK5VF>VK4 2047 VK5RBV>VK4(ms) 2152 VK5RBV>VK6(ms) 2213
VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 14 0020 VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 15 22-2300 VK5RBV>VK6(ms) VK6RSX>VK6(ms)

Ap 16 2237 VK5RBV>VK6(ms)

Ap 17 2155 VK5RBV>VK6(ms/sc) 2323 VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 18 0314 FK8SIX>VK4 0452 49750(BY OM43)>VK4 0943 49750(BY OM34)>VK6 2146
VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 19 0150-6 FK8SIX>VK2 VK2RSY>VK5 0307 FK8SIX>VK4 0421 57250(PF96)>VK6 05-0600
VK5RBV>VK6 VK6RPH>VK5 06-0700 49750(OM34)>VK6 VK6RPH>VK5 0859

Ap 20 0859 49750(OK59)>VK6 1202 JA6TEW>VK8MS 2342 VK5RBV>VK6(ms/sc)

Ap 21 0617 49750(OK59)>VK6 0917 49750(LN20 Yerevan 12329km)>VK4ABW 0933
49750(BY OM43)>VK4ABW(tep)

Ap 22 0927 49750(OK59)>VK6 2227 VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 23 0547 VK4RTL>VK2

Ap 24 0050 ZL2MHF>VK2 0059 ZL3SIX>VK2 0106 ZL2MHF>VK3

Ap 25 00-0100 VK5RBV>VK6(ms) VK6RSX>VK6(ms) 2006 VK5RBV>VK4(ms) 2114
VK5RBV>VK4

Ap 26 0156 49750(BY OK59)>VK6 02-0300 50750(RE78),50760(RF81),55239.6(RF73)>VK4 03-0400 ZL2MHF>VK4 VK7>VK4,VK3 50760(RF81)>ZL3 VK2RHV>ZL3 05-0600 50760(RF81)>VK4 VK5RBV>VK4 2250-4 VK3RMH,VK5RBV>VK3

28MHz

28 MHz to and from the UK

Another bleak month, with many UK operators again drawing a blank, at least until the very end of the month, as our tabulation shows. It indicates signal strength where this was reported, with the conventional '+' where none was given. Countries reported into the UK - DL,EA,F,I,IS,IT,LA,OE,OK,PA,PY,TF – were slightly more numerous than in March, but only PY was outside Europe.

	DK0TEN	DL0IGI	DM0ING	EA4Q	IN3KLQ	IW3FZQ	IZ3LCJ	LA4TEN
	29	29	29	29	29	28 29	29	29
06-09	+		3					+
09-12				+		9		
12-15		7		+	+	6	+	
15-18								
18-21								

	OE3XAC	OK0EG
	29	29
06-09		
09-12		
12-15	+	+
15-18		+
18-21		

Continental Europe was, as usual, more favoured than the UK, though the superior results owe much to intensive beacon monitoring by DJ7KG, using Proplab, which picked up ms reflections that most operators would have missed. Georg also copied LA4TEN and LA5TEN, both 439 at the interesting hour of 0022 and 0207 respectively on the 13th. The relatively good Es conditions in the UK on the 29th were seen across most of the continent.

That said, April propagation was far from brilliant but showed a clear improvement on March. This was most noticeable on the South America path, open on 20 days, with evening reliability exceeding 50%. Propagation was particularly good on the 2nd and 5th. Africa was not as reliable but openings were spread over more of the day. Little was heard of Asia, even during contest weekends. North America was worked on two days, with a KP4<>EA1 contact on the evening of the 6th, a KP4<>PA0 RTTY QSO at 1952 on the 19th, followed by KP4<>EC1 at 2019 the same evening. There was a solitary reported contact with Australia: VK8VF<>UT7IL at 0710 on the 25th.

North America also benefited from improved propagation and greater activity, though there was still no path to Africa and Asia remained marginal and occasional. However, there was one interesting report: UA0IT (Magadan QO59JN) caught by AB9M (Bloomington,IL EN50NK) at 2351 on the 8th.

UTC days with propagation reported						
	OC	AS	EU	AF	NA	SA
OC	22	21	2	0	15	4
AS	23	18	4	11	1	1
EU	1	5	24	15	2	20
A F	0	10	15	1	0	8
NA	15	3	2	0	29	29
SA	4	1	20	8	29	21

Oceania was reported in the US on fifteen days, all but three of which were in the second half of the month. Among the better contacts, showing that the band was well on truly open on that occasion, ZL1IFB reported working N5AQM in Arizona with 2 watts to a vertical at 0055 on the 28th. Earlier, on the 22nd, West Coast beacons were heard in ZL2 during the California evening.

This was part of a wider improvement in propagation between North America and Oceania, but paths between Oceania and Asia were well down on March (21 days compared with 27). So, too, were contacts between Asian countries (23 days to 18). One exception was the 25th when a contest brought many HL, BG and 9M stations on to the band in exceptional numbers, in addition to the customary strings of JAs. South America<>Oceania contacts were few but included PY<>KH6 at 2245 on the 12th.

Daily Reliability Between and Within Continental

	OC				AS				EU				AF				NA				NA			
	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	30	50	23	36	06	23	36	53	00	00	00	06	00	00	00	00	30	40	33	10	06	06	00	00
AS	23	47	47	13	13	40	43	50	00	03	10	00	00	10	10	33	03	00	00	03	03	00	00	00
EU	03	00	00	00	10	06	00	00	67	77	63	50	00	20	23	40	00	00	00	06	00	00	17	57
AF	00	00	00	00	06	17	13	03	00	17	13	40	00	00	00	03	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	27
NA	06	10	30	33	03	03	00	03	00	00	03	03	00	00	00	00	57	57	57	77	17	70	73	70
SA	00	00	00	13	00	00	00	03	06	23	53	13	00	10	17	00	03	63	80	85	00	23	47	43

M= before 1130LMT; N=11130-1430; A= 1430-1700; E= After 1700

Compilation and Commentary by G3USF. Thanks to G0IHF, David Vitek (swl VK5), DX Summit, F5LEK, Jan Alvestad, BGS and G7KSE among others