The Radio Weather in March 2008

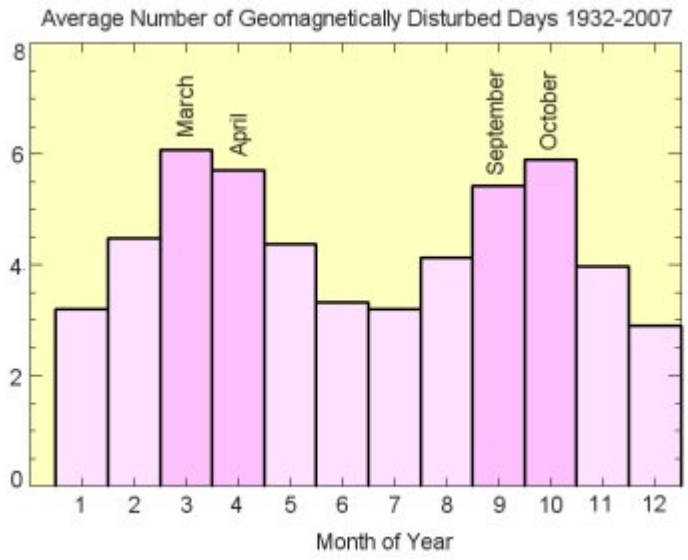
Cycle 24, we are assured, is now under way, provisionally estimated to peak in 2011 – although how high that peak is likely to be remains uncertain. This has not, of course, prevented space physicists from searching for signs and portents. Meanwhile, it seems that most of the factors that condition space weather will jog along at something reasonably closwe to present levels for the remainder pf 2008 – doubtless with the occasional surprise.

One small surprise arrived on the 25th in the shape of an M1.7 flare – the first M-class flare since early June 2007. However, an associated CME was not Earth-directed. Another minor surprise was the unexpected appearance of three old-cycle spots, also on the 24th. These rapidly raised the solar flux from 72 on the 23rd to 89 on the 25th, its highest point since December. The low was 68 on the 3rd and 4th. The average over the month was 73. The X-ray flux, minimal since early January, rose to A8.1 on the 25th and remained above the minimum threshold value for the rest of the month.

At HF the main influence on propagation was geomagnetic activity. The table shows the daily sum of 3-hour Kp values on the planetary scale and at the three UK universities. There were only four days when any of the observations reached K5 or higher (the solitary 3-hour Kp6 being registered at 00-0300 on the 27th). These periods, invariably associated with high-speed coronal wind streams, raised geomagnetic levels sufficiently to depress MUFs, but insufficient to trigger substantial auroral events in Europe, though North America appears to be have somewhat more favoured.

	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
LER	21	13	7	4	13	5	3	9	27	20	16	15	14	21	14	12	6	9	13	13	10	8	15	2	5	**25**	**28**	24	15	14	7
ESK	23	16	10	5	15	6	3	14	**29**	21	19	21	18	23	17	12	8	11	14	15	12	8	16	3	8	**27**	**29**	27	16	16	9
HART	24	16	13	6	15	6	5	16	**30**	25	21	21	18	23	16	14	9	12	14	15	12	8	18	6	8	26	**31**	28	17	16	10
Kp			11	10	15	4	7	14	**28**	26	20	20	23	22	18	10	8	12	12	15	11	9	15	7	8	**28**	**32**	**30**	17	16	9

Most readers of this report will be familiar with the proposition that auroras are more frequent around the equinoxes. So the chart below, compiled by NASA solar physicist, David Hathaway, contains no surprises. However, it is nice to see the data brought up to date. March 2008 was clearly below average, but we are, of course approaching magnetic minimum.



Quite why there is this seasonal pattern has not as yet been fully explicated, but it is thought that the THEMIS fleet of spacecraft may shed more light on this before long.

50MHz

Propagation to and from Britain

Whatever mode of propagation we look at this was, by common consent, a dismal month for UK 50MHz operators. All credit, then, to those who stuck with what is currently, by no stretch of the imagination, 'the magic band'

Aurora

It is scarcely surprising that the month brought only one UK auroral report – or that that report came from the ever-vigilant MM0AMW. What is a shade surprising is that his report of 53a for reception of OY6BEC at 1751 on the 27th, when the Kp was only 2. However, two of the UK observatories were recording 5 at the time and brief bursts of activity frequently occur within any 3-hour time-frame.

Meteor Scatter (Probably)

A modest collection of reports from what may reasonably be termed the usual suspects – to whom all credit for maintaining activity during a period when there was no major meteor shower. While it is unlikely that all contacts were reported it seems clear enough that activity stayed at a very low level, but that opportunities for random MS working were by no means always followed up. The great majority of the reports tabled below specifically credited 'ms', but a small number of JT6M contacts not so credited have been included when the context strongly indicates this to have been the mode.

Day	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
QSOs	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	7	1	1	0	0	3	8	3	2

Countries known to have been contacted from the UK were more or less the usual suspects: DL,EA,HA,I,IS,LA,OE,OY,OZ,PA,SP,S5,UR,9A

In the absence of a substantial meteor shower the time-spread of contacts was as shown below. More or less all contacts appear to have been random.

UTC	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
QSOs	4	2	5	8	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	5	5	2	0	1

EME

Just one EME report from the UK, with G4IGO making it with OY3JE at 2223 on the 2nd and receiving a 'best' report of -22dB

Sporadic-E

There was a very brief sporadic-E opening, as far as the UK was concerned, with G3VYF, G0CHE and G7RAU spotting the HG1BVB beacon at 1708-9 on the 1st, with G7RAU giving a 589 report

Tropo

50MHz did not benefit from the excellent extended tropo over at least a week in the second hal;f of the month. A handful of tropo contacts were reported, within the UK or with Belgium, but all appear to have been over regularly workable ranges.

Continental Europe, Africa and the Middle East

Auroral-related Propagation

Geomagnetic disturbances were no more than moderate. Consequently, aurora was reported on only five days, compared with eleven in February, and there were no reports from south of Baltic latitudes. Reception of the JW5,7 and 9 beacons is tentatively attributed to auroral E rather than regular Es on the basis that it occurred during an auroral event. Obviously presumptive rather than conclusive.

Mar 9 2234-46 OH3>SM7(57a) OH9SIX>SM2(58a) LA>SM2(55a)

Mar 14 1644 OY6BEC>OZ(52a)

Mar 26 1640-4 Au>OH7

Mar 27 1246 OH9SIX>SM2(54a) 1521 OH9SIX>OH7 1726-51 JW7SIX>OH7(mode?) JW9SIX>OH7(mode?) 1806-55 OH1>OH7 ES1>OH7 OY6BEC>OZ(57a) 2118-9 OY6BEC>LA(52a) 2259 OY6BEC>OZ(57a) 2308 OZ>LA(55a)

Mar 28 1443 OH9SIX>OH7 1617 OY6BEC>OZ(51a) 1726-53 JW7SIX>SM2(599 AuE?) JW7SIX>OH7 JW5SIX>OH7(559) JW9SIX>SM2(559 AuE?) LA>SM6 18-1900 OH9SIX>OH7 SM2>OH7 JW7SIX>OH7 2038 JW5SIX>OH7

Other Modes

Continental operators, like their British colleagues, had a thin month and activity levels were very low. The few crumbs of comfort were reception of 9Q1D by way of afternoon-type tep on the 4th and a report of the S9SIX beacon by TR8CA. While unremarkable in propagation terms it was good to have these signs of life from two West African countries which, one may reasonably hope, will be workable once the upturn arrives. SV1DH also notes TV from the same region on the 29th, in what otherwise was an unproductive month for Costas. TV from Cameroon, slightly below our band, was reported from Portugal. .

These scraps apart, most reports relate to either ms/jt6m contacts, routine tropo reception or eme working. As in the UK sporadic-E was noted only on the 1st.

Mar 1 10-1100 HG1BVB>DL(tr/ms) SV1SIX,SV9SIX>DL(Es) 16-1700 OH8>LA(ms) OH8>SP9(ms) EA3>EA5 17-1800 S5>I3 S5>DL(tr) 1917 SV9SIX>SV8 21-2200 OH6>OZ(ms)

Mar 2 0744 SV1>SV8 0852 YO2>YO7 0920 YO2>YO7 1209 F>DL 1424 HB>SM7(ms) 19-2000 HG1BVB>OE1 JW5SIX,JW7SIX>OH6 20-2100 OH8>LA(jt) JW5SIX,JW7SIX>SM2 OH8>LA(jt) JW5SIX>OH8 LX>SM7(ms)

Mar 3 1051-8 HG1BVB,DF0ANN,HB9SIX>OE5(tr) 1106-13 OKtv,LX0SIX>OE5(tr) 12-1300 HB9SIX>DL(tr) 1702 OH8>LA

Mar 4 1633 9Q1D>CT1FFU (529 tep)

Mar 5 nil

Mar 6 1036 HB>SP9(ms) 2105 OH8>LA(jt)

Mar 7 1027 HB>SP9(ms) 11-1200 CT1ART,CQ3SIX>EA8 2135 CS1RLA>CT(tr) 22-2300 OZ>LZ CS1RLA>EA8

Mar 8 11-1200 UZ8>LA(jt) CS1RLA>CT HB9SIX>DL(tr) 11213 UZ8>LA(jt) 14-1500 PA>LA(jt) S5>DL(tr) 1509 S5>DL(tr) 1509 I0JX>S5(tr) W7GJ>OZ1DJJ(eme -21dB)

Mar 9 1132 PA>SP9(ms) 15-1600 SM0>LA(jt) PA>SM0)jt) SP9>SM0(jt) 1756 YO9>I3 2013 SM4>SP9(ms)

Mar 10 0811-23 HB9SIX>DL(tr) UT3>SP9(ms)

Mar 11 2149 W7GJ>OZ1DJJ(eme) 2254 VP8NO>OZ1DJJ(eme)

Mar 12 2001 CQ3SIX>EA8

Mar 13 0053 K6MYC>OY3JE(eme -23dB) 1013 CT1ART>ZB3 1407-57 SM7>F(jt) DL>PA(jt) DF0ANN>DL 1812 LA>LA 19-2000 LA>LA(jt) OE5>LA(ms) OH8>SP9(ms) 20-2100 OE5>SM0(jt) OH8>OZ(jt) SP9>LA(ms) OZ>OH8(jt) OH6>SK2 OH8>SM0(jt) SM0>SP9(jt) 21-2200 UZ5>LA(ms) OZ>SM0(jt) OH0>OZ SM7>SM0(jt) OH0>LA(ms)

Mar 14 1755 JW7SIX>OH7 2205-30 CT1ART>EA8 OH8>LA(jt)

Mar 15 10-1100 JH0MHE>OY3JE(eme -24dB) HG1BVB>DL(tr+ms) SM0>UT3(jt) 11-1200 UT3>SP9(jt) JH2COZ>OY3(-23dB) 1318 OZ>UT3(jt) 1439-43 OH7>SM7(ms) HG1BVB>SP6(tr) 1519 SP9>OH7(jt) 1643-59 SM0>DL(jt) OH8>LA(jt) 17-1800 OH7>LA(jt) OH8>SM0(jt) OH7>LA(ms) 18-1900 LA>OH7(jt) OH8>OH7 OZ>OH8(jt) 1913 OH8>OZ(jt) 2128 OH8>LA(jt)

Mar 16 0317 K6QXY>OY3JE(eme -29dB) 0658 UZ5>OH7(jt) 08-0900 ON>PA SP9>LA(jt) ON>OZ OH8>LA(jt) 09-1000 ON>PA LA>UZ5(jt) ON>S5 ON>DL S5>ON S5>OZ(ms) 10-1100 HB>SP9(jt) ON>S5 F>ON ON>DL(tr) 11-1200 OY>OZ(eme -22dB) DL>OH7(jt) 1251-3 CQ3SIX>EA8 I5>OY(eme) CT1ART>EA8 1407 S9SIX>TR8CA 16-1700 EA7>EA1(ms) OH7>SM7(ms) 17-1800 OH7>LA(jt) 1836 CT1ART>ZB3 20-2100 LA>OH8(jt) PA>OZ(jt) 22-2300 CQ3SIX,CT1ART,CT1RLA>EA8

Mar 17 nil

Mar 18 1942 CT1ART>CU3EQ

Mar 19 1119 HG1BVB>DL(tr) 1430 HB9SIX>DL(tr) 1628 EA2>DL(jt) 1953 ES3>OH7(ms)

Mar 20 0845 PA>OH7(jt) 0916 OZ>OH7(jt) 1224 OH7>OZ(jt) 1435 HG1BVB>DL(tr) 1512 HG1BVB>SP6(tr) 1605 HG7BVA>HA5 18-1900 OH7>OY(jt) DL>OY(jt)

Mar 21 11-1200 HB>SM0(jt) OE5>SM0(ms) OE5>LA(ms) 1535-57 48259.7(AF)>CT 48248.65(9L)>DL 1705 DL>OH8(jt) 2020 SP9>OH8(jt)

Mar 22 0754-7 OZ>OH7(jt) SM3>OE5(ms) 0839-55 EA3>OE5(ms) SP9>OH7(jt) 0926 EA7>IS0(jt) 1049 OZ>HA2(jt) 1335 I1>I4 1641 AFtv>CT 1716 I0JX>S5

Mar 23 0935 UT3>OE5(ms)1350 YU1>SP6(ms) PA>S5(ms) ES3>UT3(jt) 2044 OE5>OH7(jt)(1936km)

Mar 24 1042 CT1ART>ZB3 12-1300 LX0SIX>DL(tr/sc) HB9SIX>DL(tr) HG1BVB>DL(tr/ms) 1406 G>PA 15-1600 PA>LA(jt) YU1>SP6(tr/ms) HG1BVB>SP6 17-1800 OH3>OH7 2210 OH3>SP9(ms)

Mar 25 19-2000 9A>OZ(ms) OH7>OZ(ms)

Mar 26 11-1200 HG1BVB>DL(tr) 5T5DC>ON6NL(?) 1318 HG1BVB>SP6(tr) 1647 I6>PA(ms)

Mar 27 1424 HB1BVB>SP6(tr) 2015 S5>9A 2119-28 OH8>OE5*ms) OH8>LA(jt)

Mar 28 0837-49 HG1BVB>9A S55ZRS>I3 1056 SM7>HA2(ms) 1236 HB9SIX>DL(tr) 1456 CN8MC>CT(bs) 2134-54 OH8>LA(jt) UT3>YO2(jt) 2229 CT1ART>EA8

Mar 29 0749 SM3>SP9(ms) 0814-5 OH8,OH7>OZ(jt) 0945-7 HG1BVB,DFANN>OE5(tr) 10-1100 YO3>LZ4 IS0>EB1(ms) HG1BVB>SP6(tr) 2243 LA>OH8(jt)

Mar 30 0726 DL>OH3 0803-32 DL>DL OH7>LA(jt) 0922-58 UT3>SM7(ms) EA7>EA5 10-1100 I2>I7 I1>IS0 1610 CameroonTV>CT(tep) 17-1800 SP9>OH8(jt) IK5ZUL>S5(tr) S5>OE5 1804 I4>S5 1938 OH8>LA(jt)

Mar 31 08-0900 HB9SIX,DF0ANN,HG1BVB>IE5(tr) 1631 28250.8(Iran)>CT 1602 CS1RLA>CT

50MHz PROPAGATION REPORT FOR MARCH 2008 BY SV1DH

1. Data for all days (31)
2. Relatively good days on: 1
3. 48 MHz AF video (9L+3C) on: 29
4. 55 MHz AF video (5N) on: NIL

5. Opening to SV9 on: 2,3,4,6(T)
6. " DL on: 1(E)

7. Special events on:
   1(2330 JA to PY+LU on 10m F2)
   4(1630 9Q/B to CT TEP)
   5(2345 JA to LU+PY on 10m F2)
   6(1000 VK8/B to DL on 10m+2215 ZD8/B to EA8 F2)
   9(0830 VK4,6+YB+EA8 on 10m F2 strong)
  10(0745 VK8/B to F F2)
  23(2200 VK4 to W4 on 10m F2)
  24(1000 VR/B to HZ on 10m F2 LP!!)
  25(1836 M1.7 flare! + SFI=89 + Xray=A8.1)
  28(1130 YB to 4X+ZD7+PY to VR on 10m F2)
  29(0630 PY to BY+VK3 to ZS1 on 10m F2+1430 PY+ZD7 on 10m F2+
     1545 9L 48 Mhz video TEP weak)
  30(1500 LU+PY on 10m F2 strong)
  31(1215 5Z/B to BY+1745 D4 on 10m F2)

8. DXCC entities heard/worked during March 2008: 2 on 1 cont.
9. DXCC entities heard/worked during 1st Mar 2008: 1 on 1 cont. 73 COSTAS

The Americas

Auroral-related Modes

The month's geomagnetic disturbances, relatively modest though they were, stimulated the most substantial crop of reports from North America for some time. Few signals were particularly strong, apart from the

occasional auroral-E report and openings were apparently confined to Canada and the most northerly swathe of the US – EN22 and EN52 appear to have marked roughly the southern boundary.
Mar 9 02-0300 VE6EMU>W7(CN88 52a) VE7FG>W7(CN88 52a) K0KP>W8(EN84)52a) 0316 VE6(DO33)>W7(CN88)(52a) 05-0600 VE3>VE2 VE4VHF>W8(EM89 53a) W1(FN44)>W8(EM89 53a) K0KP>VE2(FN35 59+a) W1>W1 W1(EN44)>W9(EN51) K0KP>W9(EN51) VE4VHF>W9(EN51) VE4VHF>VE2(FN35 599 AuE) 06-0700 K0KP>W1(55a) VE8BY>W1(599+) 07-0800 VE7(CO88)>W8(EN84 559) W9(EN63)>W8(EN84 529) W9(EM67)>W8(EN84 559) VE6EMU>W7(CN88 53a)

Mar 26 0638 VE6EMU>W7(CN88 51a) 09-1000 VE2YAT>VE2(FO40 41a) K0KP>VE2(FO40 41a) 1619 VE2YAT>VE2(FO40 41a) 2154 K0KP>VE2(FN07 51a) 22-2300 W8(EN64)>VE2(FN07 55a) VE3(FN15)>W8(EN64) W1(FN55)>VE2(FN07 52a) W8(EN64)>VE3(FN15 55a)

Mar 27 00-0100 K0KP>VE2(FN07 51a) VE4ARM>W8 VE6EMU>W7(CN88 61a) VE8BY>VE2(FN07 55a) VE4VHF>VE2(FN07 41a) VE4ARM>VE2(FN0741) 0101 VE6(DO33)>W7(CN8855a) 02-0300 VE8BY>VE2(FN07 57a) K0KP>VE2(FN07 51a) VE6(DO22)>W7(CN88 55a) VE6(DO22)>W7(CN87 57) VE6(DO33)>W7(CN88 57a) VE4VHF>VE2(FN07 41a) VE4ARM>VE2(FN07 52AuE) W9(EN43)>VE2(FN07 51a) 03-0400 W1(FN42)>VE2(FN07 41a) K0KP>VE2(FN07 53AuE) VE4VHF>VE2(FN07 55 AuE) 1539 K0KP>VE2(FN07 41a) 1923 K0KP>W8 21-2200 VE2(FN45)>W8 K0KP>VE2(FN07 51a) VE3(FN13)>VE2(FN07 55a) VE2>W8 VE3(EN76)>VE2(FN07 52a) VE2(FN08)>VE2(FN07 51a) VE3>W8 W0(EN35)>W8 22-2300 W8(EN76)>VE2(FN07 57a) W2(FN14)>VE2(FN07 55a) VE2(FN46)>VE2(FN07 55a) W8(EN76)>W8(EM89 55a) K0KP>W8(55a) W0(EN76)>VE3(FN03 57a) VE2>W1 W8(EN83)>VE2(FN07 55a) W9(EM89)>W8(EN54 55a) 23-2400 W1(FN34)>VE2(FN07 51) W9(EN54)>W0(EN22) W1(FN55)>VE3(FN15)

Mar 28 0000 K0KP>VE2(FN07 51a) 0139-52 K0KP>W9(EN44 55a) VE4ARM>W9(EN44 53a) K0KP>W9(EN52) W9(EN44)>VE2(FN07 55a) VE6EMU>W7(CN88 55a) VE2(FN07)>W9(EN44 52a) VE8BY>VE2(FN07 au in/out) VE6(DO20)>W7(CN88 55a)

Other Modes

When it comes to trans-equatorial propagation the Americas would seem to be the most favoured continent – not for reasons relating to ionospheric physics but because, unlike Europe/Africa and Asia/Oceania, there is a reasonable number of amateur operators (and beacons) in the optimum northern and southern zones. For this commentator, discovering the extent of tep working is the most interesting feature of an otherwise bleak solar minimum period. There were 17 UTC days when what appeared to have been tep – invariably evening type – was reported (compared with 15 in February). As in February, paths between the Caribbean and Brazil (especially PY2 and PY5) were most favoured. However, LU was more prominent this month (activity or propagation?), and Central America (XE3 and TI) made a better showing. As far as is known, no tep openings reached the continental United States, though a contact was claimed between HC8 and W4 on the 3rd.

Date	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	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+		+		+	+			+	+		+	+						+		+		

V4<>PY 10 days 1 4 5 6 13 14 17 18 20 21
YV<>PY 5 days 1 4 5 13 17
FJ<>PY 4 days 1 3 4 5
TI<>PY 3 days 2 13 17
FM<>PY 1 day 3
9Y<>PY 4 days 4 5 13 14
FY<>PY 2 days 11 14
XE<>PY 1 day 27

V4<>LU 2 days 9 17
YV<>LU 3 days 1 5 8
HP<>LU 1 day 2
KP4<>LU 2 days 2 9
TI<>LU 1 day 9
XE<>LU 2 days 27 29
V4<>ZP 1 day 17

March also brought a wider range of contacts outside the TEP zones. The detailed listings below record contacts between Patagonia(LU7Y) and VP8 and Buenos Aires and LU working PY, CE and OA. OA also worked into PY and CE worked both CX and PY. Propagation modes were not always obvious.

The experiences of US operators were, occasional exceptions apart, much more mundane. Apart from the HC8 contact, if confirmed, and an iffy-looking suggestion of a contact between YV5TA and N3SRR, the only other reports outside the US were of TO5RZ (St Barthelemy), 8P, HQ, TI and XE3. Within the US activity was low and contacts unremarkable. Unfortunately the Clipperton DXpedition, TX5C, did not run 6m.

Mar 1 00-0100 V44KAI,PY2WFG>PY2REK 01-0200 YV5IAL,YV5ESN,FJ5DX>PY2REK 02-0300 FJ5DX>LU6HTR 02-0300 YV5IAL>LU6HTR 1150 W3>W8(ms) 13-1400 VE3>W8 K4TQR>W9 1537 CE3AA>LU3EE 1644 LU7YS(Patagonia)>LW3EX 1838-57 ZP5AA>LW1DZ PY5EW>LU3EE 19-2000 LW2EX,LU1HKO>PY5EW 2005 LU7YS>LU3EE

Mar 2 00-0100 TI5XP>PY5HOT LU3EE>HP3XUG 0145-54 TI2ALF>KE4WBO WP4AZT>LU6HTR 02-0300 OA4B>LU3EE TI5XP>PY5HOT 2032 N3CJM>8P1A

Mar 3 00-0100 FM1FV>PY2REK,PY5EW,PY5HOT FJ5DX>>PY5HOT 0155 PR8>PY5 0227 HC8N>N4CBS 9593 W7>W7 1721 C6AFP>N3DB 2227 5J0E>PY2

Mar 4 00-0100 V44KAI,FJ5DX,9Y4AT,YV5IAL,YV4AB>PY5EW YV5IAL,YV5ESN,YV4AB>PY2REK 01-0200 YV5IAL,9Z4AMA>PY5EW 1650 W3DOG>W4

Mar 5 00-0100 OA4B,9Y4AT,YV4AB,V44KAI>PY5HOT 01-0200 9Z4AMA,FJ5DX,YV5IAL>PY5HOT LW1DZ>YY4ACU 02-0300 9Y4AT,V44KAI >PY5HOT

Mar 6 0148 V44KAI>PY2REK

Mar 7 1656 MM0AMW>W7GJ(eme -26dB)

Mar 8 02-0300 W8>VE3 LU7FPA>YY4ACU W3DOG>W3 1214 W0,W5>W8 1433 W4>W8 1744 OY3JE>W7GJ(-25dB) 1825 GM4WJA>W7GJ(eme -21dB) 20-2100 VP8ALJ>LW1DZ N0LL>W8 21-2200 CE7/K2LZQ>LW6DC,LU3EE 2340 W4>W8

Mar 9 aurora 0403 W5>W8 05-0600 W5>W9(fl) 1138 W4>W1 1423 W4>W8 19-2000 OY3JE>W7GJ(eme -25dB) W8IF,W4CHA<W4 22-2300 WP4AZT,TI2ALF>LU6HTR V44KAI,TI2ALF>LW1DZ 2306 TI7/N5BEK>LW1DZ

Mar 10 0017 W4>W8 0836 N6NB>W6 2139 VP8NO>W7GJ(eme -22dB)

Mar 11 0302 FY7THF>PY8MP 11-1200 W4>W4,W8 2214 PA7FA>W7GJ(eme -22dB)

Mar 12 2208 W4>W8(ms)

Mar 13 02-0300 9Y4AT,YV4AB,V44KAI,TI2NA>PY5EW 1037 W4CHA>W4

Mar 14 00-0100 V44KAI>PY5EW 9Y4AT,FY7THF,V44KAI>PY5HOT 02-0300 V44KAI>PY2REK PY2WFG>PY5

Mar 15 14-1500 W4>W8

Mar 16 1249 W9>W3 1644 W1>W3

Mar 17 00-0100 V44KAI>PY5EW,PY2REK,ZP6CW YV4AB>PY5EW,PY2REK OA4B,9Y4AT>PY5EW 01-0200 TI2NA,TI5XP>PY5EW TI2NA>PY2REK 2307 VE3>W3

Mar 18 0143 V44KAI>PY2MTV 1538 WA3VXJ>W4 2104 K1MS>W8 2246 W8>W9

Mar 19 1601 HQ8R(EK66)>KE4WBO(Es) 1954 W3PIE>W8 2128 VE3WCC>W8

Mar 20 00-0100 W3PIE,VE3WCC>W8 11-1200 W4,W5>W8 13-1400 WZ8D,W8IF>VE2(ms) 14-1500 VE3WCC>VE2(ms/gw) W9>W4(ms) 2228 LU1FA>PY5HOT 2300 LU7FTF>LU6HTR V44KAI>PY5HOT

Mar 21 0130 V44KAI>PY2REK 1150 W4>W8 1622 W1>w1 1718-53 XE1>XE2 18-1900 LU7FTFT,LU8WF>LU6QI 2004-5 XQ3SIX,CE4WJK>CX2AQ CE3SBQ>PY5HOT

Mar 22 1141 W4>W1 1244 W4>W8 1325 W5>W8(ms) 1534 W4>W8 1742 W0>W8(ms) 18-1900 W8>VE2(sc) LU7YS>LU8MB 2038 W4>W9(sc) W3>W3 23-2400 W8>VE3,W3 VE3WCC>W8(ms)

Mar 23 12-1300 W0,W4>W8 VE3WCC>W8(ms) 13-1400 VE2>W8 W9>W4(ms/es) VE3>W8 W5>VE2 1502 W9>W9 18-1900 W3DOG>W4(Es) 2102 VA2FZN>VE2(gw) 2338-46 W3>VE3 VE3>VE3

Mar 24 21-2200 C6AFP>KE4WBO W9>W8

Mar 25 nil

Mar 26 0215 W7>W9 0344 W7>W9 aurora 1136 W4>W8(ms) 16-1700 W4CHA>W4 C6AFP>KE4WBO WZ8D>VE2(sc)

Mar 27 aurora 1543 K0KP>WE8 VA2FZN>W8(tr) 20-2100 W4>W4(sc) LU7YS>XE3ARV 47.3-48.3,49.2)>W4 21-2200 LW3EX>XE3ARV aurora XE1RP>PP5AR 49.2(CE?)>XE3 22-2300 W9DR/4>W8 VE2>VE2 W8>W9 TO5RZ>XE3 W8>W4(ms) 23-2400 W9DR>W8(Es) W9>W8 K4MHZ>W3

Mar 28 0100 W3DOG>W4(Es) aurora 0137 W7>W9(mode?) 1146 W1>W1 1239 W4>W8 21-2200 W9DR/4>W8 47.4-49.2(CEbc)>XE3

Mar 29 0101 W9DR/4>W8 0230 W7>W9 0319-24 W3VD>W4(Es) KD4NMI>W4(Es) 1128 W1>W8(ms) 1545-6 W9>W3(jt) 1655 WZ8D>W1 2026 47.4-48.3(CEbc) 21-2200 LW2ETU,LU7YS,LW3EX,LU3DDH>XE3ARV 2322 W9DR/4>W8

Mar 30 0009 VE3>W8 01-0200 W8>W8 W9DR/4>W8(Es) V31FB>W5 1215-33 W4>W8 13-1400 W4>W3,W8(ms) 1620 W9>VE2(jt) 18-1900 WP4AA>KE4WBO 1909 YV5TA>N3SRR(?)

Mar 31 1153-6 W4>W8(ms) VE3>VE3 12-1300 VE1>VE3 W8IF>W4(Es) VE3>VE3 W9DR/4>VE3 K4MHZ,WB4WOR>W4(Es) 1310-47 K4MHZ>W4(Es) 1801 W7>W9 1920 K4MHZ>VE2 2009 K4MHZ>W4(Es)

Asia and the Pacific

Asia

Japanese postings increased substantially, notably with VK contacts on March 12, 27, 28, 29 and 31. Most were with VK4 but there were two reports of VK6. In addition, Australian television – mostly from VK4 - at frequencies below 50 MHz was copied on March 4, 5, 23, 24, 26 and 30, with ZLtv on the 28th. DU, T8,YB,V7 and FK8 also made an appearance.

Mar 4 0437 46172(VK)>JA3

Mar 5 0400 46172(VK4)>JA1

Mar 12 0550 46172(VK4)>JA2 0721 VK6RSX>JA3(599 first 2008)

Mar 21 1159 K2DRH>JR6EXN(eme -20dB)

Mar 22 0814 YD0NTF>JA1

Mar 23 0323 VK4tv>JA2

Mar 24 0359 46172(VK4)>JA2

Mar 26 0416 VK4tv>JA2

Mar 27 06-0700 VK4TL>JA6,JA1 VK6RSX>JA6 VK4BEG>JA2 07-800 VK4FNQ,VK4BEJ>JA1 VK4RF,VK4BLK>JA2 VK4TL,VK4FNQ,VK4BEG>JA6 08-0900 VK6RSX>JA2

Mar 28 03-0400 VK4tv,45250(ZL)>JA1 46172(VK4)>JA2 0532 46172>JA2 0642 VK6RSX>JA2 0545 VK4FNQ>JA1 06-0700 VK4SIX>JA! VK4TL>JA2

Mar 29 06-0700 VK4FNQ>JA2,JA4,JA6 VK4BEG>JA2,JA6 VK4SIX>JA6 VK4TL>JA2 0714 VK6RSX>JA2,JA6 09-1000 VK4TL,VK4FNQ,DU7/PA0HIP>JA6 08-0900 SakhalinTV>DU7 VK6RSX,T88EM>JA6 JA2,HL2>DU7 0931 DU7>JA5 1007 VK4TL>JA7

Mar 30 0347 FK8SIX>JA2 0650 V73SIX>JA1 0613 VKtv>JA1

Mar 31 04-0500 VK4QB,VK4BLK>JA1 VK4QB>JA2 VK4BLK>JA7 VK4FNQ>JA3 05-600 VK4QB>JH7NST VK4FNQ>JR6EXN VK4RTL>JA7 DU7>JA3 0944 BYtv>DU7

VK/NZ and Pacific

The sporadic-E season now more or less ended. However, taking the reports above with those from VK, JA-VK paths showed a marked improvement, as one might expect around the equinox, with propagation markedly better during the second half of the month. As noted earlier, VK4 and, to a lesser extent VK6 were most favoured.

Mar 1 0231 VK6RSX>VK6

Mar 9 0327 49750(PN53)>VK4(7416km) 0408 AH2G>VK4(3873km)

Mar 11 0443 JE7YNQ>VK4(6569km)

Mar 15 0732 49750>VK6

Mar 26 0506 49750(PN53,BY)>VK4(7416km) 0552 JA2IGY>VK4(6310km) 0610 JR2HCB>VK4(6390km)

Mar 27 0645 JR6EXN>VK4(6362km) 0713 JA1RJU>VK4(6381km) 0714 JE7YNQ>VK4(6569km) JA2IGY>VK4(6310km) 0732 JA6YBR>VK4(6176km)

Mar 28 0450 49750(PN53)>VK4 0635 49750(BY)>VK4

Mar 29 0501 V73SIX>VK4(3931km) 0548 JA2IGY>VK4 0610 JH3LBD>VK4(5858km) 0624 JA6YBR>VK4 49750.1(BY)>VK4(8382km)

Mar 30 0137 VK2RHV>ZL2

Mar 31 0455 JR6EXN>VK4 0522 VK4RTL>JE7IDA 0941 49750>VK6 1029 49752.5,49749.69,49745.4(MidEast QTF)>VK6

Addenda

The reports came to hand after publication of the relevant monthly reports. They come from SWL David Vitek in Adelaide (35S, 138E (VK5)). What appears is a digest of his 50MHz reports, concentrating on beacons, excluding reports of TV between ZL and VK at frequencies below 50MHZ. They fill out documentation on the Es season down under. More of David's reports are included in the March tabulation above.

Dec. 22 01-0200 VK7RAE,ZL3SIX,ZL2MHF>VK5 02-0300 66239.6(ZL)55260(ZL),55250(ZL),60760(ZL),VK7RST>VK5 0304 VK7RST>VK5 21-2200 VK7RST,VK7RAE>VK5 22-2300 ZL2MHF,55250(ZL),ZL3SIX,VK2FHN>VK5 23-2400 VK4RTL,ZL3SIX,55260(ZL),62239(ZL)>VK5

Dec. 27 0956 VK8RAS>VK5

Dec. 28 00-0100 ZL3SIX,VK2RSY,ZL2MHF>VK5 01-0200 ZL3SIX,VK7RAE>VK5 02-0300 ZL2MHF,ZL3SIX>VK5 23-2400 VK8RAS,VK4RGG,VK2RHV,VK2RSY,VK4ABP>VK5

Dec 29 00-0100 VK4RGG,VK4RTL,VK4ABP>VK5 01-0200 VK4RTL,Vk4ABP>VK5 03-0400 VK4RTL,VK4ABP,VK8RAS>VK5 04-0500 VK4ABP,VK4RTL,VK8RAS>VK5 06-0700 VK4ABP,VK4RTL,VK8RAS>VK5 0906 VK4RTL,VK8RAS>VK5 1015 VK4ABP,VK4RTL>VK5 2337 VK4RGG,VK4RTL,VK4ABP>VK5

Feb 23 09-1000 VK2RHV>VK5 10-1100 VK4RGG>VK5

Feb 26 07-0800 VK8RAS>VK5 0814 VK4RTL>VK5

Feb 27 0045 VK4RGG>VK5 2359 VK4>VK5

28MHz

United Kingdom

As the table of beacon reception below shows, this was a very lean month indeed for UK beacon monitors. Some heard nothing all month except the sound of silence. The few openings that occurred were mainly brief, not very strong and concentrated in the late morning and afternoon.

UTC BCN	06-09	09-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24	BCN	06-09	09-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24
DK0TEN				1			I8EMG		2		1		
DM0AAB				1			LA5TEN		1				
EA4Q			1				SM5HUA			1			
IQ1SP		1	1				SK0CT			1			
IS0GSR			1				YO2X			1			
IY4M				1									

Yet Ten was not a dead band all the time. Aided by the ARRL contest on the 1st and 2nd, NAC and BARTG on the 6th, Beru on the 8th and 9th and WPX on the 28-29th, at one time or other UK operators are known to have worked CX,C9,DL,D4, HA,HZ,I,IS, LU,PY,SP, S5,TR,VP8,W,YO,ZC4,YT,ZD7,5T,5X,7Q,9A,9J and 9X. Not wildly exciting, but better than many would have guessed. Es or ms was probably responsible for the European contacts, but there must have been some F2 around for the more distant contacts. No reports were received of UK contacts with the Clipperton TX5C expedition, though some are understood to have been made on Twelve.

28 MHz worldwide

The relatively northerly situation of even the southern UK was a major influence on the meager results just noted (and even more so for Scandinavians, of course). However, central and southern European fared rather better. Africa was reported worked on no fewer than 29 days (the 3rd and 17th being the exceptions), with the Z21ANB beacon a fairly regular visitor to southern Italy. The continent was worked during the noon period on all but six days. Propagation over the more difficult paths to South America was reported on 19 days, chiefly during the European evening. Central and North America were worked on 10 days, again chiefly in evening openings. Earlier in the day, Asian contacts were reported on twelve days and Australia on four. Contacts were made within Europe itself on 28 days by a mixture of Es and MS (tropo being excluded). Operators suggested Es on 13 days – though this cannot be verified.

Among notable reports were TX5C<>IZ6GSP at the unusual hour of 1223 on the 7th; there was a strong opening around 2200 on the 12th. 9X0R was heard working CT1EEB on the interesting bearing of 210 at 1838 on the 20th, and EA7IBK reported HC7AE at the relatively late hour of 1951 on the 26th. Auroral contacts were few but SK2AT reported SM3EAE 51a at 1908 on the 6th, with OH9TEN into OH5CH 55a at 2146 on the 28th.

North American operators were pretty downbeat about the month, with some reporting that they had not heard a single signal for weeks. Yet others were more fortunate, principally in the southern states and Puerto Rico – though even there experiences were quite patchy. Reception within the North/Central American region is known to have occurred on no fewer than 29 days, with TX5C bringing many additional operators to the band and generating more contacts than would otherwise have occurred. Contacts with South America, by a mixture of Es, tep and F2, were scarce at the start of the month but became more consistent as it went on and were reported on 27 days, with particularly strong openings during the WPX contest on the afternoon of the 29th. There was also a good propagation to VK/ZL and the Pacific during the (local) evening of the 27th. The improvement over February was also noticeable over paths to Africa, with contacts on 13 days (1 in February). These included a number of QSOs during the ionospheric disturbance on the 26th (when US stations and KP3FT also worked EAs). Asia was worked on four days, compared with only one in February. With the VP6DX expedition ended here were fewer contacts between North Americas and Oceania; even so there were reports on eleven days, with a marked concentration on the 26th-30th.

With conditions slowly improving as the month went on, Asia-Oceania contacts were reported on no fewer than 21 days, with particularly good JA<>VK propagation during the WPX contest – surely, in some measure because people were trying harder. There were even contacts between Asia and South America on nine days, mostly during South American evenings.

Intercontinental Propagation on 28MHz

	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	16 29 16 03	29 29 26 42	00 00 06 06	00 00 00 06	32 26 00 00	03 06 06 00
AS	42 32 26 06	13 32 42 35	00 06 29 23	03 06 23 39	13 00 00 03	16 00 03 19
EU	10 03 00 00	13 26 06 00	74 77 61 55	42 81 65 39	00 00 03 29	00 06 19 58
AF	03 03 00 00	13 35 26 06	26 71 74 35	00 19 13 31	00 00 10 39	00 10 19 23
NA	00 29 23 10	00 03 06 06	03 16 10 00	16 32 26 00	39 71 77 48	42 81 74 58
SA	00 00 00 14	13 10 00 06	10 45 39 00	23 29 23 06	26 81 84 71	13 35 48 45

Results show reported openings in per cent of days for each time period: M= pre-1130, N= 1130-1430 A= 1430-1700 E= after 1700LT

Compilation and commentary by G3USF. Thanks to G4UPS, SV1DH,G0IHF,David SWL/VK5,G2ADR and G7KSE