Let's bounce! New frontiers at PI9CAM



DJ5AR & PA3FXB



Restoration was completed in 2013 Reopening was done by Joe Taylor in 2014 Many nice things were done.

To mention a few:

- A moonbounce wedding







EME SSTV art projects with Daniela de Paulis

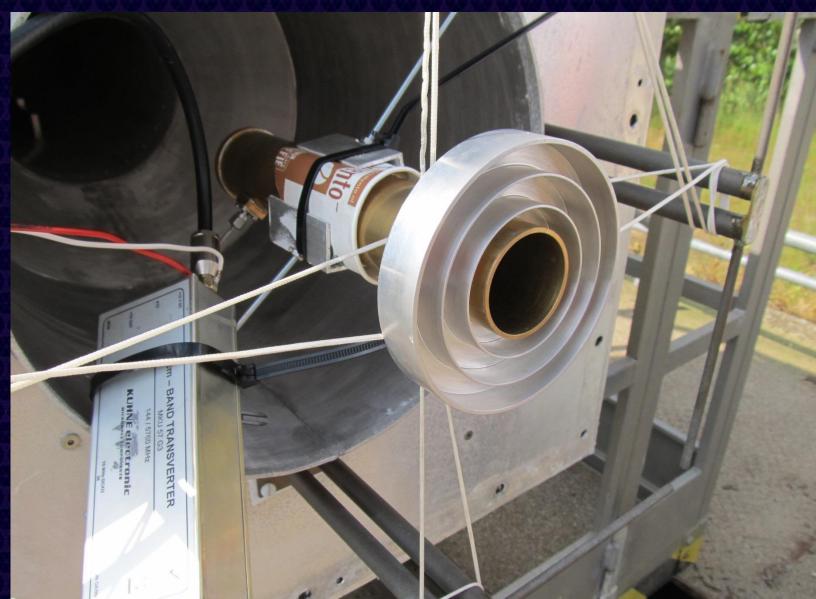








Test on 6 cm





Where to go next?

- A new challenge
- Satellite bounce!
- How it started



DJ5AR & PA3FXB

ISS bounce on 23 cm











- ISS is big (52 x 93 m)
- Our (DJ5AR & PA3FXB) dishes are small (3 m)
- Yet, it worked very nicely!
- Not easy…
- Fast tracking
- Huge and fast changing Doppler shift (60 kHz)
- Surprisingly strong signals

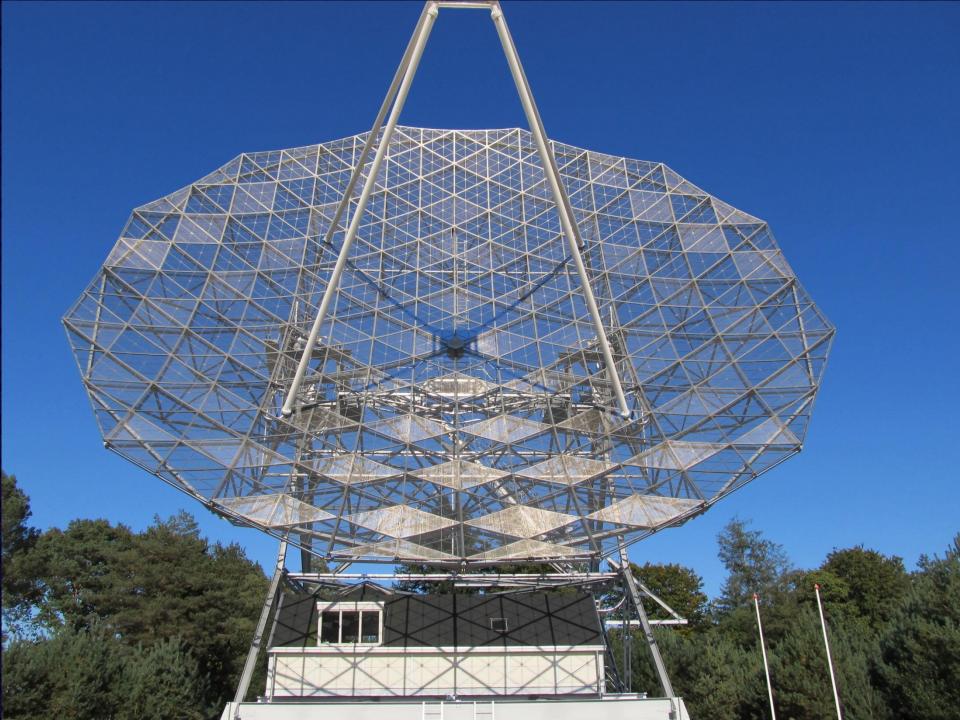


Example of ISS bounced 23 cm signal without Doppler correction





- After several tests we succeeded in 2013 on May 23
- Now let's go to the next level of this bouncing game
- Using 'normal' small satellites to bounce off signals
- Our own dishes are too small
- So let's use a bigger one....
- PI9CAM





But....

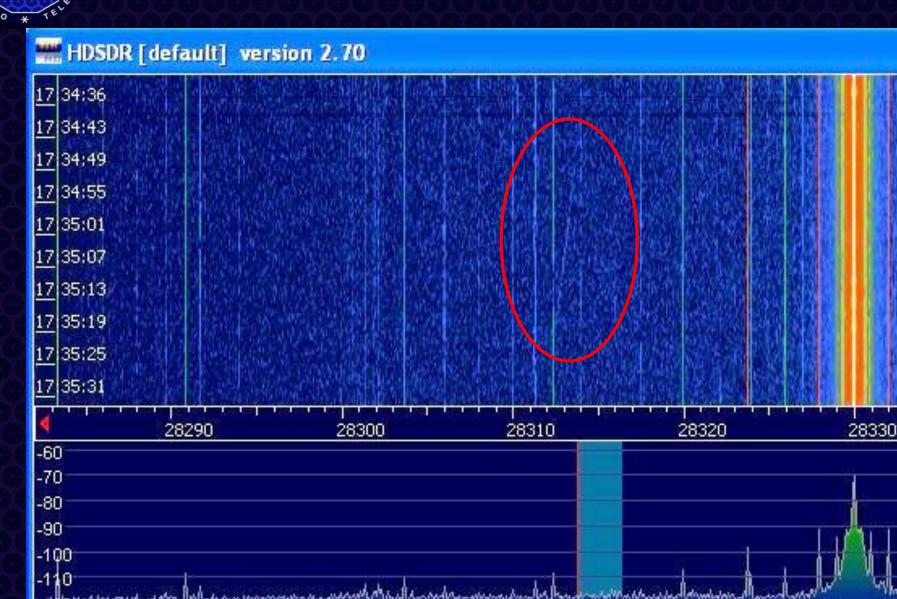
- Can this old lady move fast enough?
- She weighs 120 tons...
- Yes!
- Is the pointing accurate enough?
- Beamwidth is only 0.5 degree on 23 cm...
- That we had to test
- We first tried an ISS bounce QSO
- It worked!



Now for the smaller satellites!

- First test in February 2014
- Several big stations listened for our sat bounced signal
- HB9Q, G4CCH, I1NDP, OE5JFL, PA3DZL, DJ5AR
- Only Hannes saw something...

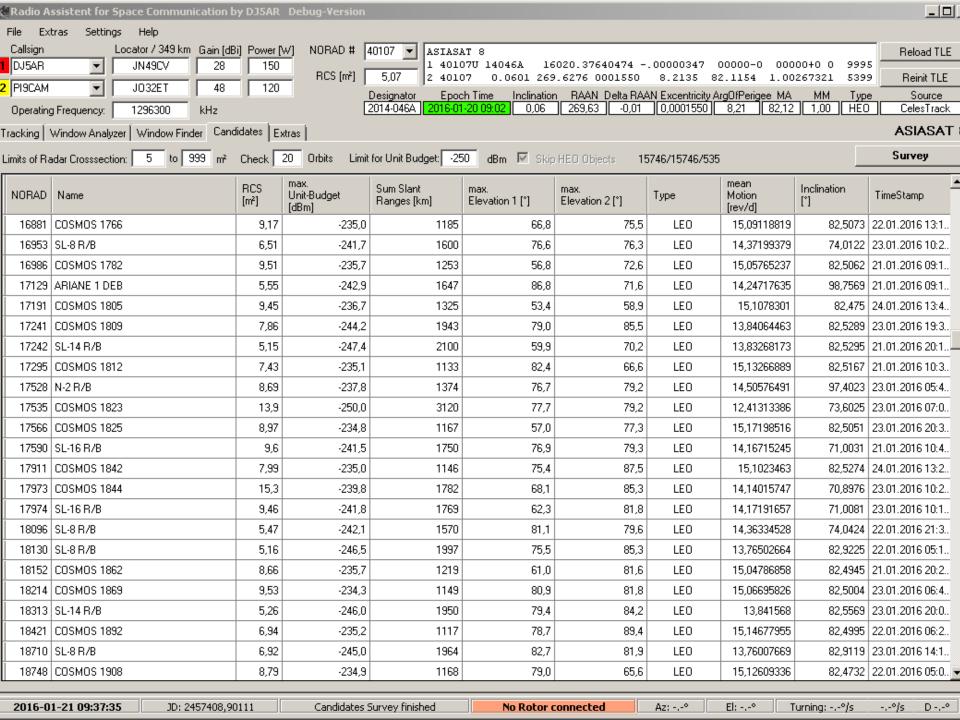


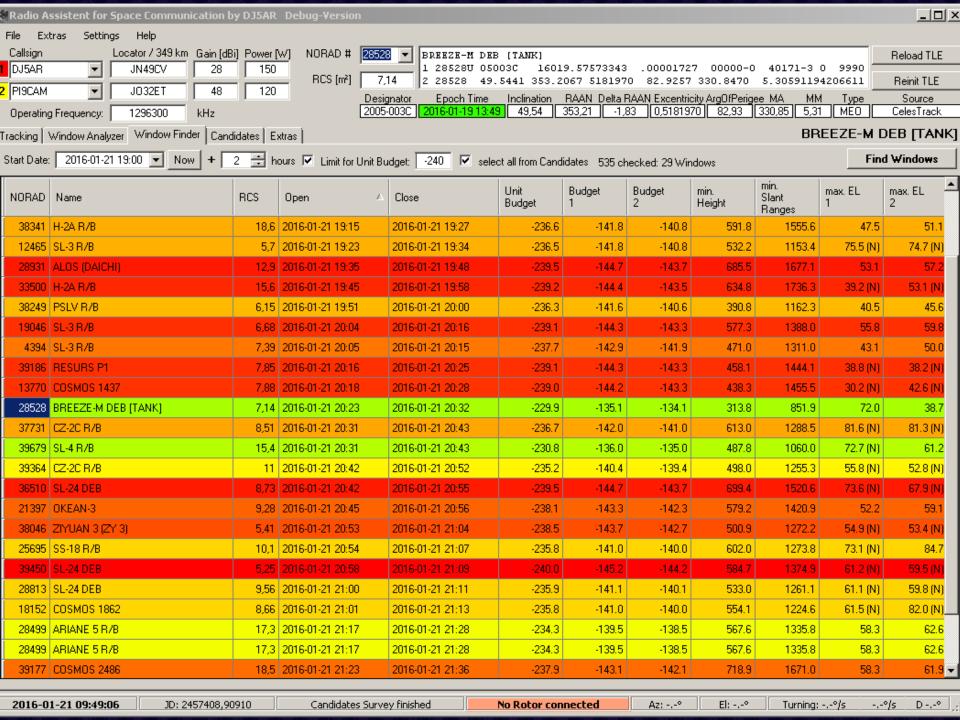


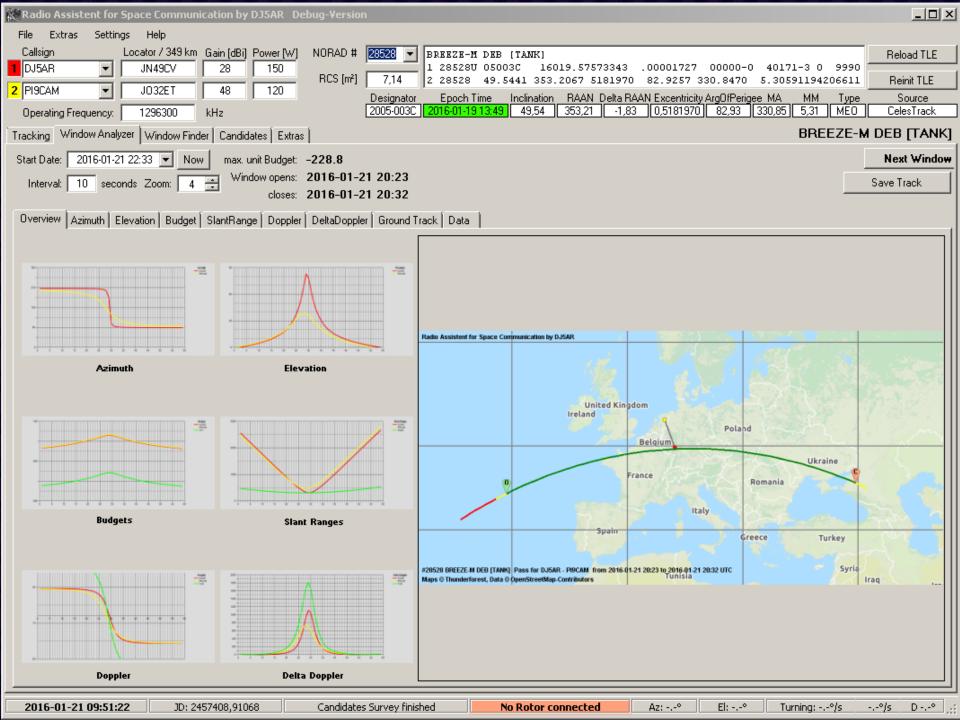


So, it's possible!

- Next steps
- Finding the best 'small' satellite
- Radar cross section
- Best common window given all constraints
- DJ5AR wrote a special software for this!









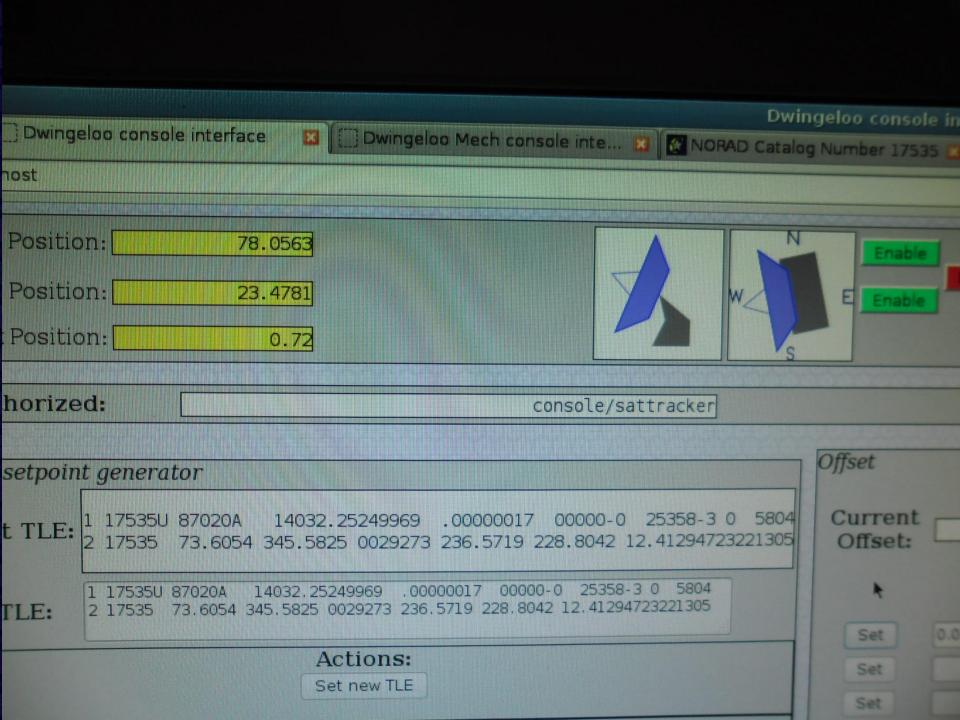
More software

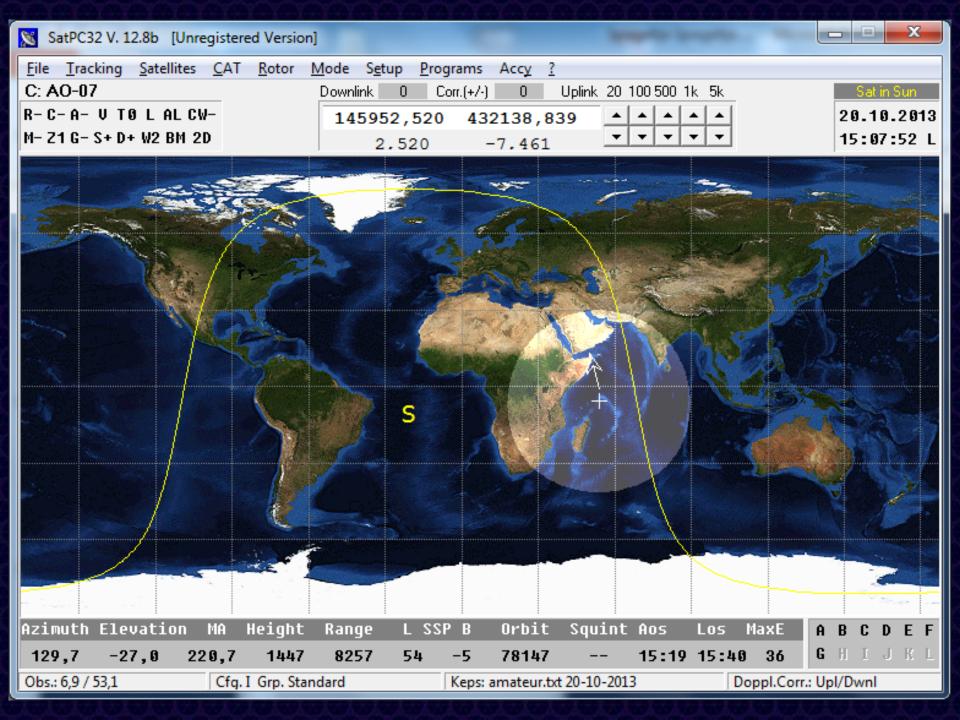
Tracking

- DJ5AR: home made by Andreas
- PI9CAM: home made by PE1RXQ

Doppler control

- DJ5AR: home made by Andreas
- PI9CAM: SatPC32 controlled TS2000X







The long road to a QSO

We started trying and we learned a lot...

- Some sats give nice reflections some don't
- Some sats tumble
- The same sat sometimes reflects fine, sometimes not
- PI9CAM can track up to approx. 45 deg. elevation
- Fading is too deep for random timing
- Signals are often too weak for CW
- Time window is too short for 1 min or 30 sec periods
- How to solve the problems?



What can be changed?

- Not the sats...
- Not the speed of PI9CAM...
- We need timed RX/TX periods
- We need short RX/TX periods
- WSJT-X is the solution!
- JT9H using 10 second RX/TX periods

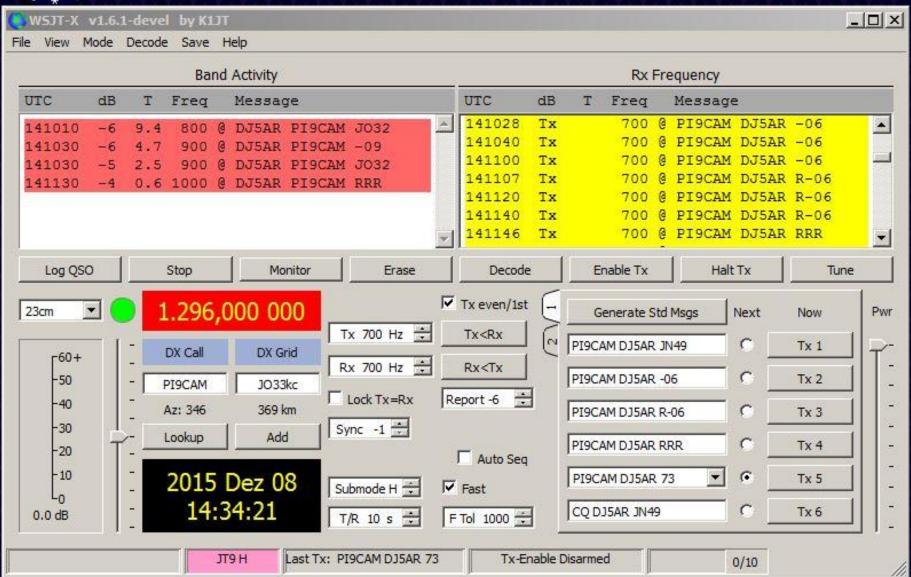


All tests between DJ5AR and PI9CAM

2	February	2014
22	March	2015
7	April	2015
25	April	2015
30	April	2015
9	June	2015
28	July	2015
27	October	2015
17	November	2015
8	December	2015



8 December 2015: QSO completed!!!

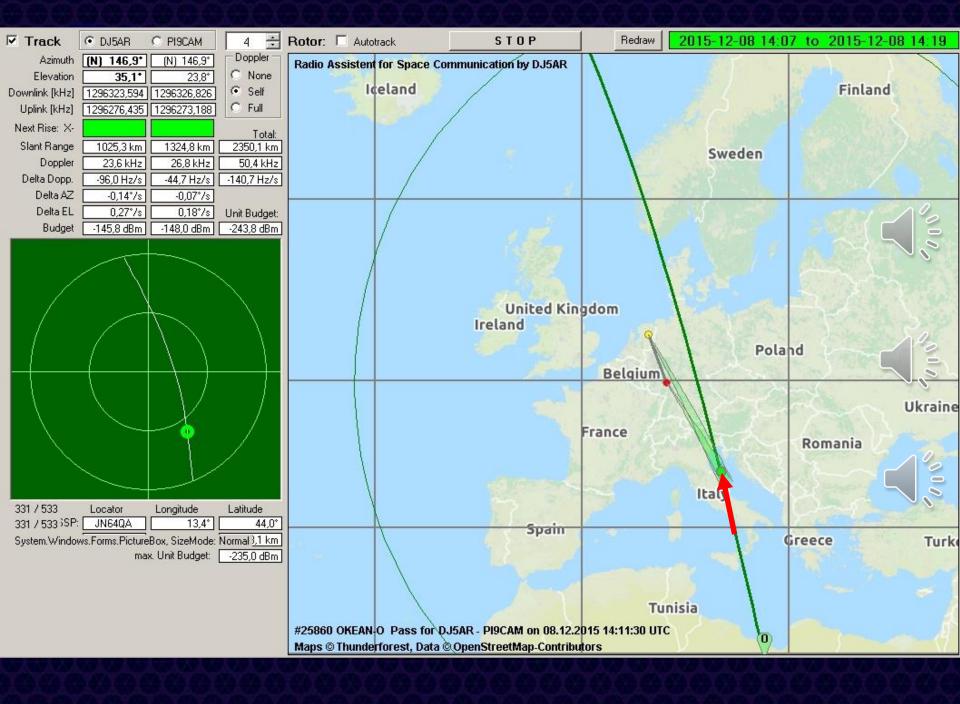




And the winner is.....



OKEAN-O





Mission accomplished!

- What will be our next challenge?
- We hope to tell you in 2018 ©

