

Why is there so much UHF/SHF activity in carinthia (OE8)?

There were **several factors** contributing to a great local cooperation among amateurs and good activity here Kärnten (Carinthia), the southernmost province of Austria:

1st: the 9cm Band (3400-3402 Mhz) was made available for radio amateurs in 2015.

2nd: Carinthia has many high-tech companies. Some experts joined the radio amateur community, which led to a great exchange of knowledge and experience.

3rd: Carinthia is a wide valley but within the European Alps, **making DX impossible** (mountains all around), leaving "**local activity**" as the only option on microwaves.

4th: Scoring in the activity contest is now by the number of QSOs, not by distance. Since 2016, primarily the number of QSOs is counted for the score, and the fact that now even a QSO over short (or very short) distance counts as well, also means that activities within the local amateur radio group suddenly play a major role, not only "DX"-Contacts.

Beginning with the very first QSOs with El Cuatro, Amateurs were very **surprised** by the fact, that a few milliwatts of power work so well (over a line-of-sight path).

Yet More Equipment.

At this point a lot of OMs:

- started using the El Cuatro (with QRP and small Antennas, or
- helped with testing of and development with El Cuatro
- developed their own supplement equipment (Vivaldi antennas, FT-817 ext. displays)
- bought "real" Equipment e.g. the DB6NT Transverters with separate PA, LNA and Antenna
- bought or repaired commercial transceivers e.g. like Alinco G7 and FT-736
- repaired their old or dormant equipment, or started again with activities.
- participated in portable activities and in local microwave workshops
- made their first contacts und UHF and SHF.

1st year (2016) trophies:

Subsequently, with the creation 7 more El Cuatro devices in Nov. and Dec. 2016, many OMs were excited to participate, so enough QSOs were made on 13cm, 9cm and 6cm to bring a total of 3 trophies to Carinthia.

1nd year Trophies:

In 2017 more El Cuatro equipment was distributed to the microwave activists in Carinthia, Styria and Upper Austria, and the activities increased further. This was also the year, when OMs bought new transverters (especially the state of the art transverter by DB6NT for 3cm, 6cm, 24ghz, etc.) and built microwave stations with really state of the art performance. So in 2017, the participants in Carinthia received 7 winners trophies.

Through these monthly activity Sundays we have gained a lot of experience, which has been incorporated into the development of the El Cuatro design, so the device has been continuously improved and tested. Meanwhile, we are in version 21 (EC21) and planning for the next 10 PCBs to be named EC22.



Illustration 1: OE4WOG and OE8FNK at the award ceremony

Mikrowellentag - (Microwave Day) in Villach:



Mikrowellentag (Joined Carinthia - OE8 and Styria - OE6):

