

MICROWAVE CONTESTS

Aims and comments:

The calendar is fairly similar to 2006, with the same format for the combined 5.7GHz and 10GHz cumulatives, the combined 24GHz and 47GHz cumulatives, and combined 1.3GHz/2.3GHz/3.4GHz events. The majority of operators have agreed these combination work well, and have helped encourage new activity on some of the less popular bands. 76GHz is not included as an event in the calendar – operation on this band tends to be more individual tests, arranged to suit the weather and individual operators, rather than a specific contest date.

In addition, at the request of a number of operators, we are introducing a short series of combined 10GHz / 24GHz winter contests (in January / February), and a series of evening 1.3 to 5.7GHz short duration evening autumn cumulatives (in November / December). The timings are chosen mainly to suit fixed stations, but portable participants are also most welcome; the events are a trial, and their success or otherwise will be reviewed prior to setting the 2008 calendar.

In planning the year's contests we have tried to avoid clashes and adjacent weekends with major VHF contests and events such as rallies and microwave meetings but, inevitably, this has not been possible in all cases.

There have been various requests for specific sections, but in view of the limited number of entries for some events, rather than split the table up into several short tables, entries will continue to be listed in the one table, but leading entries in certain categories marked, with certificates awarded where appropriate. These categories include Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry, and Wideband only. The exception is that there will continue to be a separate Restricted section for the 10GHz cumulatives.

Microwavers in Europe are most welcome to join in our UK contests. There is already a core of French, Dutch and Belgian stations who appear regularly in our summer contests. We would like many more to do the same!

THE RULES listed below are final and binding for 2007 (there are some changes from 2006). The following contests are scheduled for 2007:

- 10GHz / 24GHz winter contests (3 contest days) – **new events**.
- Low Microwave Bands - 1.3GHz/2.3GHz/3.4GHz (3 contest days).
- 3.4GHz Contest (1 contest day) – **new event**.
- 5.7GHz Cumulatives (5 contest days with 3 to count for scoring purposes), on the same days as the 10GHz Cumulatives.
- 10GHz Cumulatives (5 contest days with 3 to count for scoring purposes), on the same days as the 5.7GHz Cumulatives.
- 24GHz Cumulatives (4 contest days with 2 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 47GHz Cumulatives.
- 47GHz Cumulatives (4 contest days with 2 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 24GHz Cumulatives.
- 1.3 to 5.7 Autumn Cumulatives (5 contest days with 3 to count for scoring purposes) – **new events**.
- In addition there are three non-competitive winter activity days.

The full contest program and rules are published in the January 2007 issue of the Scatterpoint Microwave Newsletter and are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.g3pho.org.uk/> and on the UKuG website at <http://www.microwavers.org/>.

General Rules (applicable to all events)

The Contests organized by the UK Microwave Group are open to all comers - you do not have to be a UK Microwave Group or RSGB member. Stations located outside of the UK (G, GW, GM, GI, GD, GU, GJ) may enter a contest, and will be tabulated within the overall results tables, but will only be eligible for their own awards.

Contestants are expected to enter in the true spirit of the event and to adhere strictly to any equipment or power restrictions that apply to the particular contest.

Operators may enter as home station or portable (either mixed or separately); in multi-band contests, single-band entries are always acceptable.

Stations: Entrants must not change their location or callsign during the contest, unless the Rover rule is invoked. In multi-band events, all stations forming one entry must be located within a circle of 1km radius.

Contacts: Only one scoring contact may be made with a given station on each band, regardless of suffix (/P, /M, etc) during an individual contest or cumulative activity period, unless the Rover rule is invoked. Contacts made using repeaters, satellites or moonbounce will not count for points. Contacts with callsigns appearing as operators on any of the cover sheets forming an entry will not count for points or multipliers.

Scoring: Contacts are scored on the basis of 1 point per kilometre for full, two-way microwave contacts and at half points for one-way (ie crossband) contacts.

Exchanges: Contest exchanges on the microwave bands consist of RS(T) + serial number (starting at 001). In addition, the six (or eight) figure QTH Locator must be exchanged either via the microwave band or on the talkback frequency. Where the Locator is not known, a full six-figure National Grid Reference (UK only) must be provided. In multiband contests, the serial number will start at 001 for each band (ie a common sequence across the bands is NOT to be used). No points will be lost if a non-competing station cannot provide an IARU locator, serial number, or any other information that may be required. However, the receiving operator must receive and record sufficient information to be able to calculate the score.

Talkback: Talkback can be used to assist in setting up a QSO, but note that the contest exchange must be made via the microwave band. It is not permissible to use the talkback as a means of checking the report or serial number – they must be copied via microwaves – and after the QSO is complete, care should be taken to avoid accidentally repeating the exchange via talkback. There is no restriction on the talkback methods that can be used – other amateur band, internet, phone, etc. In setting up the QSO, it is also permissible to send back received audio to the other station, for example to help with antenna alignment. An exception is that our contests do allow one way (cross-band) QSOs for half points, and in this case, the talkback band can be used by one of the stations for the contest exchange.

Paperwork/Entries: Contestants are asked to make sure their entries have been scored correctly and that all relevant bonus points and multipliers have been claimed.

All entries must be prefaced with a summary / cover sheet showing: Title of contest, name(s) of operator(s), location(s) of station, section entered, callsign used, band score(s), multipliers or bonus points, final claimed score. The sheet should also detail equipment used, particularly the power output, antenna and receiver for the microwave band(s). This is very important if the logs are entered in one of the restricted sections. Where the contest has a 'rover' facility, it is essential that each location used is clearly stated.

To be eligible for a certificate as the leading station in any of the categories that are applicable for the contest (e.g. fixed, portable, low-power, radio-only talkback, new entrant, single session entry) then it should be clearly stated on the entry which categories it falls into.

Where Locator squares and / or countries are used as multipliers for bonus points, a summary list of the squares and / or countries worked must be attached to the contest cover (summary) sheet. This list should include the callsign and date of the first contact for each square / country.

Log entries may be submitted directly on paper, using standard or self-prepared contest sheets, or electronically via e-mail. For electronic entries, the format should be one of the following: ASCII text, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, or the G4JNT contest software format. E-mail entries will be acknowledged to confirm receipt.

All logs should be sent to the Contest Adjudicator, G4KNZ, *within 16 days of the end of the contest*. G4KNZ's address is: 17 Haywood, Bracknell, Berks RG12 7WG, UK; or e-mail: steve.davies@nokia.com

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to overall contest winners and individual section leaders and their runners up. Additional Certificates of Merit will be awarded to stations in certain categories, as indicated in the rules for each event. With these, as with the logs, the adjudicator's decision is final.

Special Rules: Applicable if called up for the specific contest:

Rover Concept: The 'Rover' concept is to encourage lightweight, low power portable activity. This allows the location of the station to be moved as many times as desired and by a minimum of 16 linear kilometres, at any time during the contest period. From each new location, stations worked from any of the previous locations during the event may be worked again, both stations involved in the contact gaining points. The serial number, however, will not revert to 001 each time a move is made but will carry on consecutively from the previous contact.

Low Band Microwave Contest Rules

First introduced in 2004, these contests aim to encourage operation on the three lowest bands in the amateur microwave allocation, particularly as there is growing UK interest in 3.4GHz equipment and tri-band antenna feeds for these three bands. For 2007, there are three of these events, in March, April and June. The March event is a shorter duration event, timed to overlap with the last 4 hours of UHF/SHF events in other IARU Region 1 countries, and it aimed more at home stations, though portable operators are, of course, welcome to enter. The April and June events are more likely to suit portable operators, and the June event is also timed to overlap with UHF/SHF events in other IARU Region 1 countries.

1. The General Rules listed above apply.

2. There are three contests, one in March, one in April, and one in June. The March event runs from 1000 to 1500 UTC, and the April and June events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC.

3. There is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).

4. Each band will be scored and tabulated separately. The total points for each band will then be normalised by the adjudicator to 1000 and the normalised band totals added up and tabulated.

5. Each event will be scored separately - there are no cumulative scores.

- For each session, certificates will be awarded to the leading entry plus runner-up on each band, the overall leading entry and runner-up across the three bands, plus for each band the leading stations in each of the following categories: home station, portable station, and new entrant.
- All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of each of the four contests.

3.4GHz May Contest Rules

For 2007, a 3.4GHz only event will be run, timed to overlap with the first part of UHF/SHF events in IARU region 1 (and also concurrent with the 10GHz Trophy, organized by the RGSB VHFCC).

- The General Rules listed above apply.
- There is one event, in May, from 1400 to 2000 UTC on a Saturday.
- There is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).
- Certificates will be awarded to the leading entry and runner-up, plus the leading stations in each of the following categories: home station, portable station, and new entrant.
- All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of each of the four contests.

5.7GHz Cumulatives Rules

The 5.7GHz and 10GHz cumulatives have been run concurrently because of the growth in activity on 5.7GHz, and the ease of combining the two bands on the same dish. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Either band or both bands can be used on any of the 5 days, and any three days submitted for either band.

- The general rules shown above apply.
- There are five, monthly, events, from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC on a Sunday.
- Any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
- There is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).
- Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.
- The final, total kilometre score for the best three cumulative sessions will be multiplied by the total number of different Locator Squares ("grids"), for example IO92, IO81, etc) contacted over the entire cumulative (ie up to the five events maximum). To claim this bonus it is therefore essential to submit logs for all events entered, not just the best three. Please include a separate check list of the squares worked with your cover sheet. A one-way contact to a new locator square can be counted as a square for the purposes of the multiplier.
- Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up, plus leading stations in each of the following categories: home station, portable station, low-power (1W or less), radio-only talkback, new entrant, and single session entry. The G3KEU Memorial Trophy will also be awarded to the leading entry.
- All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of the final session of the contest.

10GHz Cumulatives Rules

The 5.7GHz and 10GHz cumulatives have been run concurrently because of the growth in activity on 5.7GHz, and the ease of combining the two bands on the same dish. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Either band or both bands can be used on any of the 5 days, and any three days submitted for either band.

- The general rules shown above apply.
- There are five, monthly, events, from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC on a Sunday.
- Any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
- Contestants may submit logs for either of the following sections:

Open

No power or antenna restrictions (other than those laid down in the amateur licence) on either 10GHz or on the talkback band. The 'Rover' concept does not apply to this section.

Restricted

10GHz transmit output not to exceed 1.0 watt to the antenna. No power restrictions on the talkback band. No antenna restrictions. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.

In addition, for both sections, stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).

- The final, total kilometre score for the best three cumulative sessions will be multiplied by the total number of different Locator Squares ("grids"), for example IO92, IO81, etc) contacted over the entire cumulative (ie up to the five events maximum). To claim this bonus it is therefore essential to submit logs for all events entered, not just the best three. Please include a separate check list of the squares worked with your cover sheet. This multiplier is applicable to both sections. A one-way contact to a new locator square can be counted as a square for the purposes of the multiplier.
- The final results table will show entries in rank order for each section. In addition to the usual leader/runner-up certificates for each section, the following certificates/trophies will be awarded:
 - leading entry in the Open section - The G3RPE Memorial Trophy
 - leading entry in the Restricted section - The G3JMB Memorial Trophy
 - certificates to the leading home station, portable station, radio-only talkback station, new entrant, single session entry, and wideband only station in each section.
- All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of the final session of the contest.

24GHz Cumulatives Rules

For the last three years, the 24GHz and 47GHz cumulatives have been run concurrently, and this format is repeated for 2007. Often the same dish used for both bands, and 24GHz is often used to align the dish before a 47GHz contact is attempted, so a number of operators expressed the wish that this be continued. The activity is primarily portable, and the dates mainly fall in the summer months; the exception is October, where the date is chosen to overlap with the IARU Region 1 UHF/SHF Contest. Although they are on the same days, the 24GHz and 47GHz events are completely separate contests. Either band or both bands can be used on any of the four days, and any two days submitted for either band.

- The General Rules listed above apply.
- There are four sessions to the 24GHz cumulative in July, August, September and October, and the events run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday. The best two sessions out of four will be used for scoring purposes.
- There is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).
- Operation may be from portable sites or home stations.
- Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.
- The 24GHz Trophy will be awarded to the leading station and certificates to the runner-up for the two sessions combined, plus certificates to the leading home station, portable station, new entrant, and single session entry.
- All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of the final session of the contest.

47GHz Cumulatives Rules

For the last three years, the 24GHz and 47GHz cumulatives have been run concurrently, and this format is repeated for 2007. Often the same dish used for both bands, and 24GHz is often used to align the dish before a 47GHz contact is attempted, so a number of operators expressed the wish that this be continued. The activity is primarily portable, and the dates mainly fall in the summer months; the exception is October, where the date is chosen to overlap with the IARU Region 1 UHF/SHF Contest. Although they are on the same days, the 24GHz and 47GHz events are completely separate contests. Either band or both bands can be used on any of the four days, and any two days submitted for either band.

- The General Rules listed above apply.
- There are four sessions to the 47GHz cumulative in July, August, September and October, and the events run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday. The best two sessions out of four will be used for scoring purposes.
- There is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).
- Operation may be from portable sites or home stations.
- Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.
- The 47GHz Trophy will be awarded to the leading station and certificates to the runner-up for the two sessions combined, plus certificates to the leading home station, portable station, new entrant, and single session entry.
- All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of the final session of the contest.

10/24GHz Winter Contests Rules

At the request of a number of operators, we are introducing a short series of combined 10GHz / 24GHz winter contests (in January / February). Although at this time of the year, home stations are more likely to participate, the timing is such that portable operation is feasible, and the events are short duration to concentrate the activity into the afternoon. The events are a trial, and their success or otherwise will be reviewed prior to setting the 2008 calendar.

1. The General Rules listed above apply.
2. There are three separate events in January and early February, and the events run from 1300 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday. Each event is scored individually.
3. There is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).
4. Operation may be from portable sites or home stations.
5. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.
6. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up for the two sessions combined, plus the leading home station and portable station.
7. All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of the final session of the contest.

1.3 to 5.7GHz Autumn Cumulative Rules

These are new events, introduced as the request of a number of operators, and success or otherwise will be reviewed prior to setting the 2008 calendar. The timings are chosen mainly to suit fixed stations, but portable participants are also most welcome. The Tuesday session is timed to coincide with a VHFCC 1.3/2.3GHz contest.

1. The general rules shown above apply.
2. There are five events, spaced 8 days apart, during November and early December, and the events run from 2000 to 2230 UTC on various days of the week.
3. Each band will be scored separately, and for each band, any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. The scores will be normalized for each session, and the normalized scores are added to determine overall rankings. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
4. For each band, there is one section, but the leading stations in a number of categories will be marked in the results table, with certificates awarded (see below).
5. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up, plus leading stations in each of the following categories: home station, portable station, and single session entry.
6. All logs should be sent to the contest adjudicator, Steve Davies, G4KNZ, within 16 days of the end of the final session of the contest.

Other Microwave Contests

The first weekend of May sees the RSGB 432MHz -248GHz Multiband Contest staged in parallel with the Region 1 IARU UHF/SHF Contest. The 10GHz Trophy is run in parallel by the VHF Contest Committee on the same weekend, and the rules can be found in the VHF contest rules.

The first weekend of October sees the RSGB 432MHz -248GHz Multiband Contest staged in parallel with the Region 1 IARU UHF/SHF Contest. The 1.3GHz Trophy and the 2.3GHz Trophy are run in parallel by the VHF Contest Committee on the same weekend, and the rules can also be found in the VHF contest rules.

In addition there are many other Continental UHF/SHF Contests held over the summer months and interested UK microwavers are urged to be active during these. Their details may be found on the Internet.

MICROWAVE CONTEST CALENDAR 2007

Dates, 2007	Time UTC	Contest name	Certificates
14 Jan	1300 - 1700	10/24GHz Winter Contest 1	Fixed, Portable
28 Jan	1300 - 1700	10/24GHz Winter Contest 2	Fixed, Portable
11 Feb	1300 - 1700	10/24GHz Winter Contest 3	Fixed, Portable
04 Mar	1000 - 1500	1.3GHz/2.3GHz/3.4GHz	Fixed, Portable, New entrant
18 Mar	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
01 Apr	0900 - 2000	1.3GHz/2.3GHz/3.4GHz	Fixed, Portable, New entrant
22 Apr	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
05 May	1400 - 2000	3.4GHz	Fixed, Portable, New entrant
20 May	0900 - 2000	1st 5.7GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry
20 May only	0900 - 2000	1st 10GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry, Wideband
03 Jun	0900 - 2000	1.3GHz/2.3GHz/3.4GHz	Fixed, Portable, New entrant
17 Jun	0900 - 2000	2nd 5.7GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry
17 Jun only	0900 - 2000	2nd 10GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry, Wideband
01 Jul	0900 - 1700	1st 24GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
01 Jul	0900 - 1700	1st 47GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
22 Jul	0900 - 2000	3rd 5.7GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry
22 Jul only	0900 - 2000	3rd 10GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry, Wideband
05 Aug	0900 - 1700	2nd 24GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
05 Aug	0900 - 1700	2nd 47GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
19 Aug	0900 - 2000	4th 5.7GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry
19 Aug only	0900 - 2000	4th 10GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry, Wideband
09 Sep	0900 - 1700	3rd 24GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
09 Sep	0900 - 1700	3rd 47GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
23 Sep	0900 - 2000	5th 5.7GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry
23 Sep only	0900 - 2000	5th 10GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, New entrant, Single session entry, Wideband
07 Oct	0900 - 1700	4th 24GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
07 Oct	0900 - 1700	4th 47GHz Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, New entrant, Single session entry
04 Nov	2000 - 2230	1.3 to 5.7 Autumn Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Single session entry
12 Nov	2000 - 2230	1.3 to 5.7 Autumn Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Single session entry
20 Nov	2000 - 2230	1.3 to 5.7 Autumn Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Single session entry
28 Nov	2000 - 2230	1.3 to 5.7 Autumn Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Single session entry
06 Dec	2000 - 2230	1.3 to 5.7 Autumn Cumulative	Fixed, Portable, Single session entry
30 Dec	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive