

MICROWAVE CONTESTS

Aims and comments:

The UKuG committee will be reviewing the contest programme during the early part of 2010, with a view to consulting on proposed changes at Round Tables over the rest of the year and introducing a new programme in 2011. For 2010 the contest calendar and rules will be similar to 2010, with a few minor changes.

There will continue to be two sets of 24GHz events this year, the 24/47/76GHz events will be more attuned to rover style operation, while many stations taking part in the 5.7/10/24GHz events will stay at one location for each contest period.

The squares multiplier in the 5.7/10/24GHz events has been removed as analysis indicated that it didn't change the results tables significantly, and was felt to be disadvantageous to stations in the North West. No multipliers will be used in the Low Band events this year, for similar reasons.

As usual 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.

Entries will continue to be listed in one table, but leading entries in certain categories marked, with certificates awarded where appropriate. These categories include Portable, Low-power, Radio-only talkback, and New entrant. 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 2010 (there are some changes from 2009). The following contests are scheduled for 2010:

- Low Microwave Bands - 1.3GHz/2.3GHz/3.4GHz (4 contest days).
- 5.7GHz Cumulatives (5 contest days with 3 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 10GHz/24GHz Cumulatives.
- 10GHz Cumulatives (5 contest days with 3 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 5.7GHz/24GHz Cumulatives.
- 24GHz G0RRJ Cumulatives (5 contest days with 3 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 5.7GHz/10GHz Cumulatives.
- 24GHz Trophy Cumulatives (3 contest days with 2 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 47/76GHz Cumulatives.
- 47GHz Cumulatives (3 contest days with 2 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 24/76GHz Cumulatives.
- 76GHz Cumulatives (3 contest days with 2 to count for scoring), on the same days as the 24/47GHz Cumulatives..
- In addition there are non-competitive activity days on the last Sunday in the month.

The full contest program and rules are published in the January 2010 issue of the Scatterpoint Microwave Newsletter and are also available on the Internet on the UKuG website at <http://www.microwavers.org>

General Rules (applicable to all events)

The Contests are open to all comers (you do not have to be an RSGB or UK Microwave Group 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 500m radius. An operator may reside outside the station's area ("remote station"), connected to the station via a "remote control terminal". In such a case, the Locator for the contest is the Locator of the station's position. An operator may only operate one single station, regardless if it is locally or remotely operated, during the same event.

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 other band can be used by one of the stations.

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 both the microwave band and the talkback. 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.

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 are preferred to be received by email, but may also be submitted on paper. For electronic entries, the format should be one of the following: ASCII text, Microsoft Excel (no Macros to be included), Microsoft Word, or the G4JNT contest software format, IARU REG1TEST format. E-mail entries will be acknowledged to confirm receipt.

All logs should be sent to the Contest Adjudicator, G3XDY, *within 16 days of the end of the contest*. G3XDY's email address is: g3xdy@btinternet.com. Postal entries should be sent to 12 Chestnut Close, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich, IP5 1ED, UK

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 triband antenna feeds for these three bands. For 2010, there are four of these events, in March, April and June and November. 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 some other IARU Region 1 countries.

1. The General Rules listed above apply.
2. There are four contests, one in March, one in April, one in June and one in November. The March event runs from 1000 to 1500 UTC, and the April, June and November 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.
6. 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.

5.7GHz Cumulatives Rules

The 5.7GHz, 10GHz and 24GHz cumulatives are being run concurrently to take advantage of the growth in activity on 5.7GHz and 24GHz. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Any band or all bands can be used on any of the 5 days, and any three days submitted for any band.

1. The general rules shown above apply.
2. There are five, monthly, events, from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC on a Sunday.
3. Any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
4. 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. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.
6. 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. The G3KEU Memorial Trophy will also be awarded to the leading entry.

10GHz Cumulatives Rules

The 5.7GHz, 10GHz and 24GHz cumulatives are being run concurrently to take advantage of the growth in activity on 5.7GHz and 24GHz. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Any band or all bands can be used on any of the 5 days, and any three days submitted for any band.

1. The general rules shown above apply.
2. There are five, monthly, events, from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC on a Sunday.
3. Any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
4. 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.

5. 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, and new entrant in each section.

24GHz G0RRJ Cumulatives Rules

The 5.7GHz, 10GHz and 24GHz cumulatives are being run concurrently to take advantage of the growth in activity on 5.7GHz and 24GHz. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Any band or all bands can be used on any of the 5 days, and any three days submitted for any band.

1. The general rules shown above apply.
2. There are five, monthly, events, from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC on a Sunday.
3. Any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
4. 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. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.
6. 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. The leading station will receive the G0RRJ Memorial Trophy.

24GHz Trophy Cumulatives Rules

24GHz, 47 and 76GHz make up a set of Millimetre Wave Cumulatives. 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, 47GHz and 76GHz events are completely separate contests. Any band can be used on any of the three days, and any two days submitted for any band.

1. The general rules shown above apply.
2. There are five, monthly, events, from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 2000 UTC on a Sunday.
3. Any three of the five events may be used for final scoring purposes. Logs for all events entered should be submitted.
4. 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. 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, and to entrants making their first appearance on either band..

47GHz Cumulatives Rules

24GHz, 47 and 76GHz make up a set of Millimetre Wave Cumulatives. 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, 47GHz and 76GHz events are completely separate contests. Any band can be used on any of the three days, and any two days submitted for any band.

1. The General Rules listed above apply.
2. There are three sessions to the 47GHz cumulative in May, July, and October, and the events run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday. The best two sessions out of three will be used for scoring purposes.
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, and to entrants making their first appearance on either band.

76GHz Cumulatives Rules

24GHz, 47 and 76GHz make up a set of Millimetre Wave Cumulatives. 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, 47GHz and 76GHz events are completely separate contests. Any band can be used on any of the three days, and any two days submitted for any band.

1. The General Rules listed above apply.
2. There are three sessions to the 76GHz cumulative in May, July, and October, and the events run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday. The best two sessions out of three will be used for scoring purposes.
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, and to entrants making their first appearance on either band.

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 Saturday of that weekend, and the rules can be found in the RSGB VHF contest rules.

The first weekend in July is VHF National Field Day which includes 1.3GHz as one of the bands.

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 Saturday, and the rules can also be found in the RSGB VHF contest rules.

The RSGB also runs a cumulative UK Activity Contest on 1.3GHz and 2.3GHz on the third Tuesday of every month, from 2000 – 2230 local time.

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

UKUG MICROWAVE CONTEST CALENDAR 2010

Dates, 2010	Time UTC	Contest name	Certificates
31-Jan	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
28-Feb	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
7-Mar	0900 - 1400	Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz 1	F, P, N
28-Mar	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
11-Apr	0900 - 2000	Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz 2	F, P, N
18-Apr		(RAL Round Table)	
25-Apr	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
2-May	0900 - 1700	1st 24/ 47 / 76 GHz Cumulative N	
30-May	0900 - 2000	1st 5.7GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
30-May	0900 - 2000	1st 10GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
30-May	0900 - 2000	1st 24GHz Cumulative	F, P
6-Jun	0900 - 2000	Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz 3	F, P, N
27-Jun	0900 - 2000	2nd 5.7GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
27-Jun	0900 - 2000	2nd 10GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
27-Jun	0900 - 2000	2nd 24GHz Cumulative	F, P
11-Jul		(Finningley Round Table)	
18-Jul	0900 - 1700	2nd 24/ 47 / 76 GHz Cumulative	N
25-Jul	0900 - 2000	3rd 5.7GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
25-Jul	0900 - 2000	3rd 10GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
25-Jul	0900 - 2000	3rd 24GHz Cumulative	F, P
22-Aug	0900 - 2000	4th 5.7GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
22-Aug	0900 - 2000	4th 10GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
22-Aug	0900 - 2000	4th 24GHz Cumulative	F, P
12-Sep		(Crawley Round Table)	
26-Sep	0900 - 2000	5th 5.7GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
26-Sep	0900 - 2000	5th 10GHz Cumulative	F, P, L, R, N
26-Sep	0900 - 2000	5th 24GHz Cumulative	F, P
3-Oct	0900 - 1700	3rd 24/ 47 / 76 GHz Cumulative N	
31-Oct	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive
14-Nov		(Martlesham Round Table)	
28-Nov	0900 - 2000	Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz 4	F, P, N
26-Dec	0900 - 2000	All-band Activity Day	Non competitive

Key:	F	Fixed / home station
	P	Portable
	L	Low-power <1W TX
	R	Amateur radio only talkback (no KST or telephone)
	N	New band user (not logged in previous years events)