

The 2002 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

Why in the world would some hams rack their brains and spend their time, money or energy to operate on 10 GHz and higher frequencies?

The challenges of being successful on the microwave amateur bands pretty much speak for themselves. There are no high hourly QSO rates. The thrills come from being able to complete a QSO in a world where tenths of a dB make a real difference. Personal satisfaction comes from being able to squeeze an additional kilometer of distance out of your equipment.

Though small in number there was record participation during the 2002 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest. Held during the weekends of August 17-18 and September 21-22, a record 134 entries were received. In fact participation in this event has grown an outstanding 76% over the past five years.

A First Time Experience

Mark, KI7N, was a first-time participant and really exhibits the sense of adventure seen among the microwave crowd. Mark stressed that participation didn't begin at the start of the event. Rather, "For me, the start of the 10 GHz and Up Contest is marked by my attendance at a North Texas Microwave Society meeting in the spring of 2002, several months before the contest began. I had always been interested in operating at 10 GHz and above, but I



Dennis, WA6NIA, working 24 GHz in the Santa Ynez Valley, CM94wo, while Doug, K6JEY, looks on.

contest proved to me that one can get on 10 GHz with simple equipment, and a great deal can be learned along the way," he said. "Much was learned about microwave circuit topology, assembly techniques, and 10 GHz propagation." Sounds like a challenge accepted and well met.

Visit the ARRL On-line Soapbox for the contest at www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox where you will find interesting comments from other neophyte and seasoned competitors.

Results

Leading the pack in the 10 GHz-only category was Michael, W6YLZ, operating portable in XE2 and surviving some equipment problems, was able to break the 100 k point barrier and take top honors with a score of 112,975. He worked 44 different stations and completed the best distance QSO on 10 GHz with Dave, WA6CGR, at 1100 km. A photo finish for second place involved Rex, KK6MK, who edged out Ron, NØIVN, by a mere 184 points. Rex parlayed his West Coast advantage to work 33 different call signs and had a best distance QSO of 915 km while Ron used his Colorado QTH altitude to work 17 different stations with a best distance of 277.

In the 10 GHz and Up category, another tight race developed between a Colorado and California station combo, this time with the altitude topping the population density. Bill, KØRZ, and Gary, AD6FP, both topped the 100 k point level. Gary worked the highest total of different call signs between these two competitors, but Bill was able to take first place on the basis of about 8 k more distance points. This was helped by Bill's top 24 GHz distance QSOs with John, WD4MUO, and Don, NØUGY.

The 2003 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest will be held the weekends of August 16-17 and September 20-21. Perhaps you will find yourself like Dennis, WA6NIA, another first-time participant. Dennis summed up his experience this way: "What an introduction to microwave contesting! This was my first 10 GHz and Up contest and I spent both weekends on 10 GHz NB and managed to make several QSOs on 24 GHz SSB as well. What a thrill!" **QST**

Expanded Results, Line-Score Printout Available

For complete contest results on-line please visit www.arrl.org/contests/results.

ARRL members without Internet access may obtain a printout of the complete line scores by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL Contest Results, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please be sure to include the contest name and year.

Best DX by Bands

10 GHz Only Category

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-------|-----|
| WAJ6CGR | 1100 | AD6A | 891 |
| XE2/W6YLZ | 1100 | N6LL | 891 |
| KE6HPZ | 941 | AA6IW | 891 |
| KK6MK | 915 | N6XQ | 817 |
| W6QIW | 896 | N6CA | 792 |

10 GHz and Up Category

| 10 GHz | | 47 GHz | |
|--------|-----|----------|-----|
| WA6JBD | 986 | W6HCC | 244 |
| WA6NIA | 960 | WA1MBA | 205 |
| W6OYJ | 916 | N1JEZ | 205 |
| WA6QYR | 900 | W1FKF | 205 |
| AD6FP | 819 | W1RIL | 205 |
| W6QI | 609 | W6QI | 204 |
| N1JEZ | 522 | AD6FP | 204 |
| K4EFD | 442 | W4SW | 100 |
| AB5SS | 419 | | |
| W5LUA | 418 | | |
| 24 GHz | | 300+ GHz | |
| KØRZ | 246 | N6IZW | 8 |
| NØUGY | 246 | WB6IGP | 8 |
| WD4MUO | 246 | | |

Top 10 Scores

| Call Sign | Score | Call Area | Call Sign | Score | Call Area |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 10 GHz only | | | | | |
| XE2/W6YLZ | 112,975 | DX | KØRZ | 105,666 | 0 |
| KK6MK | 66,515 | 6 | AD6FP | 100,654 | 6 |
| NØIVN | 66,331 | 0 | W6QI | 74,018 | 6 |
| AA6IW | 59,701 | 6 | WD4MUO | 66,810 | 0 |
| AD6IW | 59,134 | 6 | NØUGY | 62,049 | 0 |
| KR7O | 49,929 | 6 | W6OYJ | 32,471 | 6 |
| AD6A | 47,610 | 6 | N1JEZ | 25,564 | 1 |
| N9JIM | 43,623 | 6 | WA6NIA | 22,438 | 6 |
| N6XQ | 41,573 | 6 | KA1OJ | 22,098 | 1 |
| KE6HPZ | 41,506 | 6 | W1FKF | 20,554 | 1 |

Entries by Call Area

| Call Area | Entries | Call Area | Entries |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 0 | 18 | 6 | 41 |
| 1 | 25 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| 3 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 4 | 7 | VE | 10 |
| 5 | 9 | DX | 4 |

never quite got there."

With some fine Elmering, he was able to make his first foray into a new aspect of our hobby. Mark's comments also sound a universal tone in assessing his adventure. "Getting on the air for this

