

The 2003 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest continues to grow! There were 141 entries for the 2003 running of this cutting-edge event, held on the weekends of August 16-17 and September 20-21. This is more than 5% above last year's record total.

Even more remarkable are the scoring trends. At the top of the heap is Gary Lauterbach, AD6FP, who made the long trek from Los Altos down to Baja California (XE2) on both weekends to take advantage of the coastal 10 GHz propagation. His single 24 GHz QSO with XE2/W6DTA puts him in the multiband category. Close behind, and first in the 10 GHz only category, is Mike Ramirez, XE2/W6YLZ, followed closely by XE2/W6DTA (multiband) and XE2/K6DYD (10 GHz only). Gary logged the best DX of this Baja quartet, reaching AA6IW, W6QI, WA6CGR, and a non-entrant over a 1040 km path from DL27rs to CM95xv. These were the longest QSOs of this year's competition and just 60 km short of last year's.

On the California end of the coastal path the highest score was turned in by Glenn Allen, KE6HPZ, followed by Larry Frakes, KG6EG, both in the single-band category. The advantage of the longer paths spanned by the Baja boys is shown by the fact that it took Glenn 330 QSOs with 54 stations to make just over half the score accumulated by XE2/AD6FP from 337 QSOs with 60 stations. Jack Henry, N6XQ, worked the most different call signs, 61, by splitting his time between Mexico and California.

It's a different contest in the rest of the country (not forgetting our loyal VE2s and VE3s).

The top score in Colorado was earned by Ron Hranac, NØIVN. Ron operated from the top of Mt Evans the first weekend and Pikes Peak the second while a loyal band of 15 other operators fed him 416 10-GHz QSOs over distances of up to 261 km. Ron noted that participation was down somewhat in his area because some of the regulars had schedule conflicts.

The most impressive group effort of

Best DX (km)—10 GHz Only

XE2/K6DYD	910
XE2/N6WKS	910
W6QIW	910
XE2/W6YLZ	910
WB6DNX	884

Best DX (km)—10 GHz and Up

10 GHz		47 GHz	
AA6IW	1040	W4SW	86
WA6CGR	1040	KA1OJ	41
W6QI	1040	W1FKF	36
XE2/AD6FP	1040	KB8VAO	34
XE2/W6DTA	910	N2EZS	34

24 GHz		300+ GHz	
KØRZ	164	K1DS	1
NØUGY	164	N6IZW	1
KA1OJ	150	WA3GFZ	1
W1GHZ	150	WB6IGP	1
W6HCC	140		

Entries by Call Area

1	24	7	1
2	5	8	7
3	5	9	2
4	4	0	27
5	7	VE	8
6	44	XE	7

the year was mounted by the Northern Lights Radio Society of Minneapolis-St Paul, Minnesota, who put 18 stations on the air around Lake Superior for the August weekend. Gary Danelius, WBØLJC, turned in their best multiband score with Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, close behind in the 10 GHz only category. There are 307 QSOs with 25 different call signs in the WBØLJC log—quite a testimony to the Twin Cities microwavers, who provided a nice boost in the number of entries from the 10th call area! With typical equipment of 1 W and an 18 inch dish on 10 GHz, they spanned paths up to 333 km.

In the Northeast the high score was submitted by Chip Taylor, W1AIM. Chip operated from six different locations, making 143 QSOs with 53 different call signs on 10 GHz. There's a reason for the lower ratio of QSOs to call signs than in the other regions: trees! The rules permit two stations to make a new QSO every time one of them moves 10 km, but clear shots to the horizon are few and far between in foliage-laden New England. Not

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	Call Area
10 GHz Only		
XE2/W6YLZ	196,859	DX
XE2/K6DYD	161,813	DX
KE6HPZ	105,127	6
XE2/N6XQ	89,158	DX
XE2/WB6TFC	82,886	DX
N6CA	77,093	6
N6EQ	68,966	6
N6RMJ	66,622	6
NØIVN	63,537	0
XE2/N6WKS	58,667	DX
10 GHz and Up		
XE2/AD6FP	210,124	DX
XE2/W6DTA	182,175	DX
AA6IW	76,640	6
W6QI	75,106	6
WA6CGR	70,544	6
WA6QYR	55,226	6
WBØLJC	55,101	8
WA6NIA	51,578	6
K6JEY	45,941	6
W6OYJ	33,230	6

far behind Chip in the single-band category was Dale Clement, AF1T (and yes, they're known as Chip 'n' Dale), who spent the first weekend on Block Island, Rhode Island, and the second on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Dale notes rain scatter QSOs with W2KV, K1RZ and KB8VAO, and an aircraft scatter QSO with K2AXX as highlights of the first weekend. The best DX in the Northeast was 610 km from the K1RZ home station in Maryland to AF1T and WIMKY (operating her first 10 GHz Contest with 750 mW and a 1 foot dish) on the Vineyard, but there were many close contenders. The top multiband score in the Northeast came from Mike Seguin, N1JEZ.

On the higher bands, the best DX was achieved on 24 GHz by NØUGY and KØRZ (164 km), and on 47 GHz by W4SW with a non-entrant (86 km). These distances are down a bit from the previous year. Four entrants reported QSOs above 300 GHz.

The 2004 running of the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest will take place on the weekends of August 21-22 and September 18-19. With all of the equipment improvements that were made over the winter and the new operators cropping up all over the country, it should be another record-setting year!

