

2012 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest Results

Get outdoors with ham radio – be a microwaver!

Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, w9fz@w9fz.com

The ARRL 10 GHz and Up contest took place August 18-19 and September 15-16, 2012. Amateur Radio operators active on the microwave bands look forward to these two weekends each year. Most make treks to scenic locations across North America to make contacts. While the locations are a joy to view, the long horizons of mountaintops or shorelines are particularly good for launching microwave signals. While weather sometimes brings operating challenges, microwavers know the joys of mixing their ham radio interests with the beautiful out-of-doors.

2012 Contest Highlights

This year, the longest distance 10 GHz contact was 652 km by both Rex, KK6MK and Ron, K6GZA. But on the East Coast, Dale, AF1T; Joe, WA3PTV; and John, W3HMS achieved a similar distance at 650 km. Ron, K6GZA, and Rex, KK6MK, were on Mt Vaca (CM88wj) between California's Bay Area and Sacramento. They worked Robin, WA6CDR and Mel, WA6JBD, who were on Mt Potosi (DM25gw) in southern Nevada. Midway between the two peaks lies the impediment of the Sierra Nevada mountain range (e.g. Yosemite), but signals were Q5 on SSB and contacts completed in short order.

10 GHz Only Category

For the second year in a row, Gary, WB0LJC led all 78 operators in this class with a score of 75,333. The husband/wife duo of Chris, N0UK and Holly, K0HAC came in 2nd and 3rd. The Top Ten scores in this category were split between 6-land and 0-land. Activity levels remain healthy in both areas. Many 0-land operators took part, along with some VE and 8-landers, in an expedition to Lake Superior.



Mt. Washington (FN44ig) can be a crowded place during a microwave contest! Trying for maximum distance are (L-R) W1EX, W1FKF, N1JEZ, W1AIM, K1LPS, and KA1ZD (with K1ZZ). [Grant Taylor, W1AIM, photo]

Nationwide, average distances per contact were above 200 km! In the northeast US, (1, 2 and 3-land), the average was higher, trending above 250 km per contact.

10 GHz and Up Category

Jon, W0ZQ took top honors this year with 76,506 points. Lars, AA6IW and Ron, K6GZA came in 2nd and 3rd. The Top Ten scores reflect activity across the nation. Almost all of the 37 logs in this category showed activity on 24 GHz. Only four logs showed activity on 47 GHz. Surprisingly, no submitted logs showed operations on 78 GHz. One submitted log showed "light" activity above 300 GHz. Looner rigs are starting to be available for 24 GHz —

More to See and Do!

Want to take your 10GHz fun even higher? Try operating from a new location! Also, be sure to read the 10 GHz Contest Expanded Results online at www.arrl.org/contests for more analysis and information.

see if some are available in your area to use for your first steps on your next new band.

Humidity has a detrimental impact on 24 GHz signals and up. Despite this, several operators worked multiple 180 km shots across Lake Superior. Out in California with dry valley air, Ron, K6GZA, completed the longest DX on 24 GHz this year at 360 km. Mike, N1JEZ, completed the longest 47 GHz QSO at 88 km. Ron, K7RJ, completed the longest "light" contact at 156 km using a modulated LED transmitter.

Looking Ahead

Put this event on your calendar for August 17-18, 2013 and September 21-22, 2013. I propose a nationwide goal of 125 submitted logs. Reach out to new operators and make sure that all looner rigs get on the air!

Participation by Call Area

| Call Area | # of Entries |
|-----------|--------------|
| 6 | 31 |
| 1 | 19 |
| 8 | 14 |
| 0 | 13 |
| VE | 10 |
| 4 | 10 |
| 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 5 | 0 |
| DX | 0 |

Top 10 QSOs Completed

| 10 GHz Only | QSOs | 10GHz and Up | QSOs |
|-------------|------|--------------|------|
| WB0LJC | 351 | W0ZQ | 336 |
| N0UK | 305 | AA6IW | 308 |
| K0HAC | 282 | K6GZA | 254 |
| KD6W | 262 | K9PW | 235 |
| N0AKC | 256 | N6RMJ | 202 |
| K0CQ | 239 | WB8TGY | 162 |
| KC0P | 232 | AF1T | 143 |
| N6NU | 231 | W1MKY | 132 |
| WA2VOI | 226 | WA8VPD | 129 |
| K0MHC | 222 | KC6QHP | 121 |

Top 10 Scores

| 10 GHz Only | Score | 10 GHz and Up | Score |
|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| WB0LJC | 78233 | W0ZQ | 76506 |
| N0UK | 71078 | AA6IW | 68446 |
| K0HAC | 64168 | K6GZA | 62992 |
| KD6W | 62505 | K9PW | 47477 |
| N0AKC | 58931 | N6RMJ | 38551 |
| K6ML | 55490 | AF1T | 35712 |
| N6NU | 55438 | WB8TGY | 35102 |
| K0CQ | 54801 | W1MKY | 31021 |
| WA2VOI | 51167 | WA8VPD | 26593 |
| KK6MK | 50196 | W6QIW | 25349 |