

2012 ARRL International EME Contest Results

Have you been touched by a moonbeam?

by Rick Rosen, K1DS, rick1ds@hotmail.com

As many who are successful moonbounce neophytes can attest, there is a great thrill and sense of satisfaction in completing a VHF QSO via reflection off of the Moon. Three weekends of moonbounce make this contest an opportunity for all those capable of EME (Earth-Moon-Earth). The activities were held on the weekends of October 6-7 for bands 2.3 GHz and up, and on November 3-4 and December 1-2 for 50 MHz-1.2 GHz.

There were 107 logs submitted, down from the 130 entries last year but equal to the number of logs for 2010. Eighty-nine (83%) of the entries were single-operator and the other 18 (17%) were multioperator.

Of all the logs reviewed, 43 of the entrants were CW only and 38 were digital only. The remaining 26 logs showed use of both modes. With the first weekend devoted to 2.3 GHz and up, it was a challenge for participants with several bands available to decide which bands to operate and when. Unless you had multiple dishes, feeds and band scopes, you had to balance band and feed changes with operating time, Moon position and any pre-arranged schedules.

The table lists category winners while the expanded results (available at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles) show who won the top three places.

Stresses and Successes

There were many comments about the conditions and the troublesome effects of Moon libration. Jimmy, SV1BTR, had the problems of a damaged elevation encoder and PA flashover (both repaired). Gerald, K5GW, had his 2 meter amplifier fail on the last day of the contest but that gave him more time to operate on 432 MHz. Wolfgang, DL5MAE, reported an outdoor temperature of -10° C and everything full of ice. Cowles, K4EME, was busy rebuilding his station after a storm in July. Simon, ZL4PLM, lost his complete sys-



Zdenek Samek, OK1DFC homebrewed this 10 meter dish and feed. Zdenek made the top score on 1.2 GHz with 111 QSOs and 45 multipliers. [Zdenek Samek, OK1DFC, photo]

tem and came home to twisted metal on the last contest weekend. Herb, K2LNS, was readying the station at WA2FGK when Hurricane Sandy came along and broke the newly mounted dish right off its setting. At LU1C, Adrian reported that a tree fell and much to their advantage opened a greater Moon visibility window. Several European stations experienced problems with interfer-

ence from the terrestrial VHF/UHF contest that was scheduled for the same weekend.

Despite these difficulties, we had some outstanding results. In first place Single op, Multiband, CW Only, operator Jimmy, SV1BTR, repeated his success of top score for the past several years. Using five bands he scored 2.352 million points. He also made the top CW Only scores for a single op entry on four bands. The top honors for a Single op, Multiband, All Mode entry goes to Gerald, K5GW, who posted a super score of 4.536 million points on six bands.

In the Multioperator, Multiband, CW Only category, the top honors go to Krzysztof, SP7DCS, who with his son Maciek, SP7MC, scored 638K points on three bands. In first place in the Multioperator, Multiband, All Mode category with 6.045 million points was the K1JT team. They used six bands to keep up their winning streak of the past few years in this category.

If you have ever considered making a moonbounce contact, there is useful information on the web, a chapter in the *ARRL Handbook*, and web-based EME newsletters for both 144 MHz¹ and for 432 MHz and up². There is also an EME net each Saturday and Sunday morning on 14.345 MHz at 1500Z.

The three weekends scheduled for the ARRL EME contest in 2013 are September 28-29 (2.3 GHz and up), October 26-27 (50-1296 MHz) and November 16-17 (50-1296 MHz). Personally, I am waiting for warmer weather in order to get my portable EME gear on the air. I hope to be able to work you off the Moon soon!

¹www.df2zc.de/newsletter
²www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html

Top Scores by Category

B=144 MHz, D=432 MHz, E=1296 MHz, F=2.3 GHz, G=3.4 GHz, H=5.7 GHz

Single Operator	Station	Bands	QSOs	Mults	Score
All Mode	K5GW	BDEFGH	274	159	4,356,600
CW Only	SV1BTR	BDEFH	196	120	2,352,000
Multioperator					
All Mode	K1JT	BDEFGH	362	167	6,045,400
CW Only	SP7DCS	BDE	103	62	638,600
Single Operator	Station		QSOs	Mults	Score
All Mode 144 MHz	KB8RQ		213	76	1,618,800
CW only 144 MHz	SV1BTR		29	18	28,500
All Mode 432 MHz	LZ1DX		63	40	252,000
CW only 432 MHz	SV1BTR		36	23	82,800
All Mode 1.2 GHz	OK1DFC		111	45	499,500
CW only 1.2 GHz	I1NDP		99	42	415,800
All Mode 2.3 GHz	SV1BTR		39	30	117,000
All Mode 3.4 GHz	PY1KK		6	5	3,000
All Mode 5.7 GHz	SV1BTR		19	13	24,700
All Mode 10.3 GHz	OK1CA		2	2	400
Multioperator					
All Mode 144 MHz	RX1AS		231	76	1,755,600
CW only 144 MHz	SP7DCS		19	15	28,500
All Mode 432 MHz	OH2PO		86	34	2,924,000
CW only 432 MHz	SP7DCS		18	16	28,800
All Mode 1.2 GHz	K1JT		82	37	303,400
CW only 1.2 GHz	S59DCD		80	45	360,000
All Mode 2.3 GHz	SP6OPN		32	28	89,600
All Mode 3.4 GHz	K1JT		4	4	1,600
All Mode 5.7 GHz	OK1KIR		17	12	20,400