

2016 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest Results

Give the microwave bands a try — and expand your knowledge along the way.

Jeff Wadsworth, KI5WL, ki5wl@arrl.net

It was a pleasantly cool morning at 9,000 feet in the Santa Catalina Mountains of southern Arizona on August 20, the first day of the 2016 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest. Steve, KJ7OG; Henry, KB7NIE; Bob, WA3HRM, and John, W7JM, drove up to Steward Observatory's Mt. Lemmon site.

The group set up their rigs and looked forward to contacts with rovers in the desert below, as well as in the White Mountains. There was even a long-shot QSO scheduled with a New Mexico team. Not everything went as planned, but all made contacts as Steve and Henry went on to 1st and 2nd place for the seventh district.

Far to the north, in the spirit of increasing activity on our higher microwave bands, Barry, VE4MA; Dan, VE4DDZ, and Ronald, VE4MO, mounted a four-band expedition in Manitoba. Barry rebuilt one of his 47 GHz rigs using the new Kuhne transverter for higher power (www.kuhne-electronic.de). All of the radios were checked out before the contest. Operating took both weekends as they overcame mud, a failed mixer, antennas with less than one degree beamwidth, and water in waveguides in order to make contacts on 10, 47, and 78 GHz. Murphy's Law won the day on 24 GHz.

Arizona family team Kevin, AD7OI, and Tammy, KI7GVT, roved southern California from the Colorado River to the Pacific coast during the second weekend of the contest (September 17 – 18). They used a pickup truck

Top 10 Scores			
10 GHz Only	Score	10GHz and Up	Score
N6RMJ	71,348	N9JIM	67,409
WB0LJC	70,059	AA6IV	54,847
K0CQ	67,531	K6ML	54,389
N0UK	62,657	K9PW	53,293
K0HAC	61,372	W0ZQ	52,707
N0KP	57,345	W6QIW	48,120
KC0P	54,950	N6NU	47,420
N5BF	43,768	W6BY	41,179
K6NKC	40,829	K6GZA	39,535
WA2VOI	37,574	AF1T	29,417

Best DX by Band		
Call	Band	Distance (km)
K6NKC	10 GHz	801
K6ML	24 GHz	343
N1JEZ	47 GHz	108
WA1MBA	75 GHz	108
VE3EG	300 GHz	5



The family team of Tammy, KI7GVT, and Kevin, AD7OI, roving during the September weekend. [Kevin Jacobson, AD7OI, photo]

setup reminiscent of a short-range, surface-to-air missile radar, but much friendlier.

Activity and Category Winners

This year, 131 logs were turned in — up 7% from last year. Pat, N6RMJ, topped the list in the 10 GHz Only category, but

it was close. Gary, WB0LJC, ended up less than 2% behind. In the 10 GHz and Up category, Jim, N9JIM, finished first, with QSOs on both 10 and 24 GHz.

Michael, N1JEZ; Donald, W1FKF; Mark, KA1OJ, and Tom, WA1MBA, also excelled at microwave multi-band-

ing, making QSOs on all four bands — 10, 24, 47, and 75 GHz. Keith, VE3EG, reported the only 300 GHz+ contact. No one turned in a log with contacts on 119, 142, or 241 GHz. That’s a worthy challenge for 2017!

Planning and Publicity

One key to contest success on any band is planning. Multiple clubs sponsored tune-up parties. The San Bernardino Microwave Society (SBMS) devoted their August meeting to planning for the contest, and streamed the meeting on-line. The North Texas Microwave Society (NTMS) gave talks at ham meetings and encouraged new operators. Mel, WA6JBD, published a list of about 25 planned operations for California and Arizona. David, K1RZ, published a contest-wide planning list with more than 80 operators. Many amateurs spent time planning and checking out operating sites, including “confirmed New England Mountaintop addict” Dave, K2DH.

In his Soapbox comments, Pat, N6RJM,



Barry, VE4MA, attempting four-band QSOs in Manitoba. He was successful on three out of four. [Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, photo]

talked about wanting to do better in 2016 than he had before, by planning carefully and working everyone he could. He roved 300+ miles through the San Joaquin Valley and the High Desert. On the air, he was polite but focused. It paid off.

Give the microwaves a try next year! If you haven’t tried it before, volunteer to help with a team effort. The 10 GHz and Up Contest is waiting. Find your location, choose a date (August 19 – 20 and September 16 – 17, 2017), and see who you can work.

W1AW Schedule

W1AW’s schedule is at the same local time throughout the year. From the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, UTC = Eastern US Time + 4 hours. For the rest of the year, UTC = Eastern US Time + 5 hours.



PAC	MTN	CENT	EAST	UTC	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	1400		FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
7 AM-1 PM	8 AM-2 PM	9 AM-3 PM	10 AM-4 PM	1500-1700 1800-2045	VISITING OPERATOR TIME (12 PM-1 PM CLOSED FOR LUNCH)				
1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	2100	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	2200	CODE BULLETIN				
3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	2300	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	0000	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	0100	CODE BULLETIN				
6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	0200	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
6 ⁴⁵ PM	7 ⁴⁵ PM	8 ⁴⁵ PM	9 ⁴⁵ PM	0245	VOICE BULLETIN				
7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	0300	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	0400	CODE BULLETIN				

◆ Morse code transmissions: Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, and 147.555 MHz.
Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7½, 10, 13, and 15 WPM.
Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, and 10 WPM.
Code bulletins are sent at 18 WPM.

◆ W1AW Qualifying Runs are sent on the same frequencies as the Morse code transmissions. West Coast qualifying runs are transmitted by various West Coast stations on CW frequencies that are normally used by W1AW, in addition to 3.590 kHz, at various times. Underline 1 minute of the highest speed you copied, certify that your copy was made without aid, and send it to ARRL for grading. Please include your name, call sign (if any), and complete mailing address. Fees: \$10 for a certificate, \$7.50 for endorsements.

◆ Digital transmissions: Frequencies are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095, and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins are sent using 45.45-baud Baudot, PSK31 in BPSK mode, and MFSK16 on a daily revolving schedule.

Keplerian elements for many amateur satellites will be sent on the regular digital frequencies on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM Eastern Time using Baudot and PSK31.

◆ Voice transmissions: Frequencies are 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59, and 147.555 MHz.

◆ Notes: On Fridays, UTC, a DX bulletin replaces the regular bulletins. W1AW is open to visitors 10 AM to noon and 1 PM to 3:45 PM Monday through Friday. FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station during that time. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy. In a communication emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: voice on the hour, teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

W1AW code practice and CW/digital/phone bulletin transmission audio is also available real-time via the *EchoLink Conference Server* W1AWBDCT. The conference server runs concurrently with the regularly scheduled station transmissions. The W1AW Qualifying Run texts can also be copied via the EchoLink Conference Server.

During 2017, Headquarters and W1AW are closed on New Year’s Day, Presidents’ Day (February 20), Good Friday (April 14), Memorial Day (May 29), Independence Day and the day before (July 3 and 4), Labor Day (September 4), Thanksgiving and the following day (November 23 and 24), and Christmas (December 25). For more information, visit us at www.arrl.org/w1aw.