2009 — A Slightly Different Event
The 31st annual ARRL International EME Competition scores are in. The first weekend of the competition was October 10-11 for participants in the 50 through 1296 MHz categories. The second weekend was November 7-8 for the serious and technical operator involved in 2304 MHz and up EME contesting. The final segment of the competition was the 5-6 of December, the second weekend for 50 through 1296 MHz operation.

There were just four entry categories this year: Single or Multioperator category operating either as CW-only or All Mode. You could enter as All Band or a Single Band. The Assisted categories of years past were deleted in 2009.

Top Score Winners
The overall highest score of the ARRL International EME Competition for 2009 and the first place winner of the Multioperator, All Mode, All Band category went to Team K1JT with a total of 5,376,000 points. The first place winner of the Single Operator, All Mode, All Band was Kozlov, UA3PTW, who also produced the second highest overall score at 2,216,100 contest points. EME contesting was conducted with only the use of one's creative system design ability and stamina. The 2009 competition offered the more substantial stations and the experienced operators an opportunity to compete without the intervention of real time Internet correspondence between participants.

EME Contesting Without Intervention
Participants in the 2009 competition were the familiar savvy bunch who could once be found in the pre-2005 ARRL EME International Competitions. Most every station that submitted a log in 2009 is known for their ability to capture a weak signal for contact points. EME contesting was conducted with only the use of one’s creative system design ability and stamina. The 2009 competition offered the more substantial stations and the experienced operators an opportunity to compete without the intervention of real time Internet correspondence between participants.

EME from a Small Station? Yes!
EME contesting can be frustrating for the small station. To promote your operation before the contest start is a great way to ensure a higher random contact point count in an EME contest. This is done through the normal e-mail reflectors, posting on the chat rooms in days leading up to the contest and the use of advance e-mails. This will alert others that the small station will be on the air at a certain place and time. It is not the same as saying so in real time as one has no way of really knowing if the station is really on the air without going there, listening and calling.

What Will 2010 Offer?
The ARRL VUAC is once again taking input on refinement of the ARRL International EME Competition. Everyone who enjoys this contest, or would like to, is encouraged to submit input. Please keep your emotions out of your correspondence. State the reasons why you feel the event should or should not continue as it is. Whatever your feelings about Assisted EME competition should not change the way you feel about EME. Join the contest, have fun!