

2013 ARRL EME Contest Results

Equipment and endurance were factors for participants.

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Big Guns and Little Pistols blazed at the Moon for three weekends in September, October, and November 2013. The September weekend, reserved for bands at 2.3 GHz and up, had 16 entries with over 570 QSOs completed through 10 GHz. The second and third weekends saw activity on bands at 1296 MHz and below, with more than 7750 QSOs reported. And for a little DX spice, the team of Michael & Monica operated as GJ/DL1YMK from Jersey Island to provide many with a new DX entity on 2.3 and 3.4 GHz.

Future EME

If you have never experienced the thrill of moonbounce communication, and want to see what it's about, search the list of stations that entered logs in this year's contest and contact one of your nearby operators. The full set of results and additional material is available online at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles. Inquire if they can give you a demonstration or provide some assistance in getting your own signals bouncing off the Moon. That's how I was drawn into this operating mode. There is so much EME information available through the moonbounce websites and e-mail reflectors that you'll always have resources, if not an Elmer.

This August, the international community of moonbounce enthusiasts will be meeting in Lannion, France (details at www.eme2014.fr). These biannual conferences share the unique experiences of EME activities and some of the newest technologies and ideas that enhance both communication and experimentation.

Over-the-Moon Scores

Jimmy, SV1BTR, reminded us of the needed Doppler corrections when changing bands. He had an exasperating experience of not hearing his own echoes on 2.3 GHz and checking his

station, until he noticed his Doppler setting was 6 kHz off! Despite the time spent searching for his echoes, he managed to continue his string of being number one in the Single Op, Multiband, CW-Only category with a score of 2.031 million points. He also captured the top CW-Only scores for a Single Op entry on 432 MHz, 2.3, and 3.4 GHz, as he did last year.

There were many other EME stations that were active but did not submit logs. For example, Single-Band, All-Mode top-scorer 3Z4EME, who did submit a log, worked 242 such stations on 144 MHz! Two meters was clearly the busiest band, followed by 1.2 GHz.

Dmitry, UA3PTW, turned in an All-Band, All-Mode score of 4.136 million points with activity on 144, 432, and 1296 MHz to capture first place in this category. He was also the Single-Band top scorer in his category on 432 MHz.

There were 19 logs submitted for the Multiop, All-Mode categories, 13 were Single-Band entries and the other six were All-Band. Only five of the entries were Multiop, CW-Only for which the team of Chris, SP7DCS, with his son Marius, SP7MC, captured top honors with their three-band (144, 432,

1296 MHz) score total of 833K. The PI9CM Contest Group had top honors in the All-Mode, All-Band category with a score of 2.097 million points.

Several stations have capability on seven bands, so knowing on which to operate and when is a challenge. Being on the right band and mode at the right time was a key to higher contact rates. Ingolf, SM6FHZ, and others found their software defined radio (SDR) very useful for monitoring band activity.

Stations with multiple feeds, dishes and other directional antennas and a system for rapid band-switching are at an advantage. Peter, G3LTF, reported the round trip from his shack to the dish is 100 meters and he walked that distance at least 20 times, changing feeds!

Keeping the equipment functional with big dishes and high winds proved a challenge for those on the West Coast. KL6M lost his dish off the mount and many in northern Europe experienced fierce gusts and rain on the first and second weekends. The W6YX station suffered major mechanical failure with the Cassegrain reflector breaking off, falling down, and causing much damage. I was excited to have my own small station functional on 1296 MHz and 432 MHz after a 10-year

quest to participate as a Single Operator, CW-Only entry. It was a thrill to point my antennas to the Moon and tune in stations all around the globe — and to have some of my own CQs answered!

This Year's EME Contest

The 2014 ARRL EME Contest weekends are October 11 – 12 for 2.3 GHz and Up, followed by November 8 – 9 and December 6 – 7 for 50 MHz through 1296 MHz. I'm betting that there will continue to be growth in this fascinating activity!

Top Three Scores in each Category

A=50 MHz, B=144 MHz, D=432 MHz, E=1296 MHz, F= 2.3 GHz, G=3.4 GHz, H=5.7 GHz, I=10 GHz

Call Sign	Bands	QSOs	Mults	Score
Single Operator, All-Mode, All-Band				
UA3PTW	BDE	311	133	4,136,300
RN3A	BE	149	73	1,087,700
DF3RU	DE	131	63	825,300
Single Operator, CW-Only All-Band				
SV1BTR	BDEFH	183	111	2,031,300
G3LTF	DEFGH	118	83	979,400
OK1CA	EFGHI	121	67	810,700
Multioperator, All-Mode, All-Band				
PI9CM (PA2CHR, PE1LWT, PA3FPQ, ops)	BDE	214	98	2,097,200
UR7D (UT5DL, UZ5DX, UZ5DZ, ops)	ABI	210	83	1,743,000
W6YX (K2YY, KG4UHM, KJ6SDF, AD6FP, W6TCP, K6KLY, KG6NUB, AA6XV, ops)	BDE	149	85	1,266,500
Multioperator, CW-Only, All-Band				
SP7DCS (+SP7MC)	BDE	119	70	833,000
SP6JLW (+SP6OPN, SQ6OPG)	FG	121	66	798,600
WD5AGO (+KF5SYP, LOGGERS)	EF	86	58	498,800