

UKuG MICROWAVE CONTESTS - 2023

Aims and comments:

For 2023 events on 122GHz and above will continue to be run on a flexible basis where entrants organise activity in their own groups (publishing their plans) and operate on up to six days during the year, with the results adjudicated at the end of June and end of December. This is intended to allow operators to choose days when conditions are favourable for mm-wave contacts.

As in 2022 there will be four 24/47/76GHz events during the year, in May, July, September and October, with the GORRJ Memorial Trophy awarded to the overall winner on 24GHz, the 47GHz Trophy awarded to the overall winner on 47GHz, and the 24GHz Trophy awarded to the leading station in the September event. The overall positions will be based on the best three scores from the four possible events.

The low band event dates will be similar to last year, with the March, May and June sessions running on IARU coordinated dates. Stations wishing to take part on 2300MHz are reminded that they must be in possession of the relevant Notice of Variation, and to take part on 2320MHz that they should register their station with Ofcom by emailing pssramateurs@ofcom.org.uk to provide the following information:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Call sign
4. Location of use
5. Frequency range used
6. Type of use
7. Regularity of use (e.g. evenings and weekends; 24/7; occasional)
8. Transmit power (ie. EIRP) .

The high band events will continue on 5.7 and 10GHz, the dates will continue to be on the last Sunday of May, June, July, August and September. The sessions will run between 0600 to 1800 UTC, with operators able to choose any 8 hour slot (or two slots with at least a 1 hour gap). As in previous years the overall table and trophies will be determined using the best three scores made by each station across the five events. The high band events usually coincide with the French Journée d'activité dates.

Microwavers outside the UK are most welcome to join in our contests. There is already a core of French, Dutch and Belgian stations that appear regularly in our summer contests. We would like many more to do the same!

THE RULES listed below are final and binding for 2023.

The following contests are scheduled for 2023:

- Low Microwave Bands - 1.3GHz/2.30GHz/2.32GHz/3.4GHz (5 contest days). An overall championship will be decided on the best three scores out of five.
- 5.7GHz (5 contest days with 3 to count for the championship), on the same days as the 10GHz contests.
- 10GHz (5 contest days with 3 to count for the championship), on the same days as the 5.7GHz contests.
- 24GHz GORRJ Memorial Trophy Contests (4 contest days with 3 to count for the championship).
- 24GHz Trophy awarded to the leading station on 24GHz in the event in September.
- 47GHz Trophy (4 contest days with 3 to count for the championship)
- 76GHz (4 contest days with 3 to count for the championship)
- 122GHz and up held on up to 6 days per year with at least 2 weeks elapsed between activity dates for any individual station. Logs to be submitted by email at the end of June and end of December.

The full contest program and rules are published in the January 2023 issue of the Scatterpoint Microwave Newsletter and are also available on the Internet on the UKuG website at <http://www.microwavers.org>

General Rules (applicable to all events)

The Contests are open to all comers (you do not have to be an RSGB or UK Microwave Group member). Stations located outside the UK (G, GW, GM, GI, GD, GU, GJ) may enter a contest, and will be tabulated within the overall results tables, but will not be eligible for UK Microwave Group awards.

Contestants are expected to enter in the true spirit of the event and to adhere strictly to any equipment or power restrictions that apply to the particular contest.

Operators may enter as home station or portable (either mixed or separately in the championships) unless specified in the rules for a specific event. In multi-band contests, single-band entries are always acceptable.

Stations: Entrants must not change their location or callsign during the contest, unless the Rover rule is invoked. In multi-band events, all stations forming one entry must be located within a circle of 1000m radius. An operator may reside outside the station's area ("remote station"), connected to the station via a "remote control terminal". In such a case, the Locator for the contest is the Locator of the station's position. An operator may only operate one single station, regardless if it is locally or remotely operated, during the same event.

Contacts: Only one scoring contact may be made with a given station on each band, regardless of suffix (/P, /M, etc) during an individual contest or cumulative activity period, unless the station worked is a Rover when each QSO from a different location may be counted. When operating as a Rover, a maximum of one scoring QSO can be made with any given station from each location

visited. Contacts made using repeaters or satellites will not count for points. Contacts with call signs appearing as operators on any of the cover sheets forming an entry will not count for points or multipliers.

Scoring: Contacts are scored on the basis of 1 point per kilometre (rounded up to the nearest kilometre) for full, two-way microwave contacts and at half points for one-way (ie crossband) contacts. Any contacts made by EME are scored at 1 point per kilometer up to 1000km, and will be scored at 1000 points above that distance.

Exchanges: Contest exchanges on the microwave bands consist of RS(T) + serial number (starting at 001). In addition, the six (or eight) figure QTH Locator must be exchanged either via the microwave band or on the talkback medium. In multiband contests, the serial number will start at 001 for each band (ie a common sequence across the bands is NOT to be used). No points will be lost if a non-competing station cannot provide an IARU locator, serial number, or any other information that may be required. However, the receiving operator must receive and record sufficient information to be able to calculate the score.

Talkback: Talkback can be used to assist in setting up a QSO, but note that the contest exchange must be made via the microwave band. It is not permissible to use the talkback as a means of checking the report or serial number – they must be copied via microwaves – and after the QSO is complete, care should be taken to avoid accidentally repeating the exchange via talkback. There is no restriction on the talkback methods that can be used – other amateur band, internet, phone, etc. In setting up the QSO, it is also permissible to send back received audio to the other station, for example to help with antenna alignment. An exception is that our contests do allow one way (cross-band) QSOs for half points, and in this case, the other band can be used by one of the stations.

Log entries must be submitted via the online log portal at <http://microwave.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/vhfenter.pl>. When uploading electronic logs, the format should be one of the following: ASCII text, RSGB Standard Format, Cabrillo, SDV and G0GJV log outputs, and IARU REG1TEST format (preferred). Paper logs may be entered using the online log editor at <http://microwave.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/cover.pl>. Entries must be submitted no later than 7 days after the conclusion of the contest session. Rover stations should list which contacts were made from each location in their logs.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to overall contest winners and individual section leaders and their runners up. Additional Certificates of Merit will be awarded to stations in certain categories, as indicated in the rules for each event. With these, as with the logs, the adjudicator's decision is final.

Special Rules: Applicable if called up for the specific contest:

Rover Concept: The 'Rover' concept is to encourage lightweight, low power portable activity. This allows the location of the station to be moved as many times as desired and by a minimum of 5 linear kilometres, at any time during the contest period. From each new location, stations worked from any of the previous locations during the event may be worked again, both stations involved in the contact gaining points. The serial number, however, will not revert to 001 each time a move is made but will carry on consecutively from the previous contact.

Low Band Microwave Contest Rules

First introduced in 2004, these contests aim to encourage operation on the lower microwave bands. There are five of these events, in March, April, May, June, and November. The March, May and June events are timed to overlap with UHF/SHF events in some other IARU Region 1 countries. The times for the November event are shortened to make portable operation more practical.

1. The General Rules listed above apply except as modified by these rules.
2. There are five contests, one each in March, April, May, June and November. The March, April and June events run from 1000 to 1600 UTC. The May event runs from 0800 to 1400 UTC to coincide with the RSGB UHF Contest. The November event is from 1000 to 1400 UTC.
3. Entrants in the May event need not start serial numbers from 001 if they are also participating in the RSGB UHF Contest.
4. Operation may take place on the following bands: 1240-1325MHz, 2300 – 2302MHz, 2310 – 2350MHz, 3400 – 3410MHz. The same station may be contacted for points on each of the four bands.
5. Each event will be scored and tabulated separately. There is an annual championship determined by taking the best three normalized scores from each entrant across the five events for each band. The overall champion will be declared based on the normalized championship scores from each band.
6. For each session, certificates will be awarded to the leading entry plus runner-up on each band, the overall leading entry and runner-up across the four bands, plus for each band the leading stations in each of the following categories: home station, portable station, station running less than 10 watts output. Championship certificates will be awarded to the winners and runners up for each band, and to the overall championship winner and runner up.

5.7GHz Contest Rules

The 5.7GHz and 10GHz contests are being run concurrently to grow activity on 5.7GHz. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Any band or both bands can be used on any of the 5 days.

1. The general rules shown above apply.
2. There are five, monthly, events from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0600 to 1800 UTC on a Sunday. Entrants can operate for a period of up to eight hours during each event, either as a single period or two separate periods with a minimum off time of 1 hour between.
3. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.

4. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up, and to the leading fixed, portable and low power (<1W) stations.

5. The G3KEU Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the leading entry in the championship, determined from the best three normalized scores during the series of events.

10GHz Contest Rules

The 5.7GHz and 10GHz contests are being run concurrently to grow activity on 5.7GHz. Although they are on the same days, they are completely separate contests. Any band or both bands can be used on any of the 5 days.

1. The general rules shown above apply.

2. There are five, monthly, events from May to September inclusive, and the events run from 0600 to 1800 UTC on a Sunday. Entrants can operate for a period of up to eight hours during each event, either as a single period or two separate periods with a minimum off time of 1 hour between.

3. Contestants may submit logs for any one of the following sections:

Open

No power or antenna restrictions (other than those laid down in the amateur licence).

The 'Rover' concept does not apply to this section.

Restricted

10GHz transmit output not to exceed 1.0 watt to the antenna.

Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable.

4. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up in each section, and to the leading portable and fixed stations.

5. The 10GHz championship will be determined based on the best three normalized scores from each entrant over the five sessions. In addition to winners and runners-up certificates for each section, the following certificates/trophies will be awarded:

- Leading entry in the Open section - The G3RPE Memorial Trophy
- Leading entry in the Restricted section - The G3JMB Memorial Trophy
- Certificates to the leading home station and portable station in each section.

24GHz GORRJ Contest Rules

The 24GHz GORRJ Contest will take place over four sessions, coincident with 47/76GHz events.

1. The general rules shown above apply. Eight character locators must be used in this contest.

2. There are four events from May to October inclusive, and the events run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday.

3. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable. Please provide a list of which contacts took place from each locator used (this can be in the soapbox area of the log).
4. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up in each section, plus the leading home and portable stations.
5. The GORRJ Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the leading entry in the championship, determined from the best three normalized scores during the series of events.

24GHz Trophy Rules

1. The general rules shown above apply. Eight character locators must be used in this contest.
2. The contest will run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday in September.
3. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable. Please provide a list of which contacts took place from each locator used (this can be in the soapbox area of the log).
4. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up, and the winner will receive the 24GHz Trophy.

47GHz Contest Rules

The 47GHz contest will take place over four sessions, coincident with 24/76GHz events.

1. The General Rules listed above apply. Eight character locators must be used in this contest.
2. The contest will run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday.
3. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable. Please provide a list of which contacts took place from each locator used (this can be in the soapbox area of the log).
4. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up.
5. The 47GHz Trophy will be awarded to the leading entry in the championship, determined from the best three normalized scores during the series of events.

76GHz Contest Rules

The 76GHz contest will take place over four sessions, coincident with 24/47GHz events.

1. The General Rules listed above apply. Eight character locators must be used in this contest.
2. The contest will run from 0900 to 1700 UTC on a Sunday.
3. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable. Please provide a list of which contacts took place from each locator used (this can be in the soapbox area of the log).
4. Certificates will be awarded to the leading station and runner-up.

122GHz – 248GHz Contest Rules

The 122GHz – 248GHz contest will take place in two phases, one in the period January to June, the second from July to December. Entrants can choose up to three dates in each half year to operate, coordinating with others to find common dates to take advantage of good conditions. Each day used must be separated by at least two weeks from preceding or following activity dates.

1. The General Rules listed above apply. Eight character locators must be used in this contest.
2. Moving location during the contest is allowed - the Rover concept is applicable. Please provide a list of which contacts took place from each locator used (this can be in the soapbox area of the log).
3. The overall score will be determined by adding together the normalized scores from all bands entered.
4. Entrants should publish details of planned activity in time for others to join in. Posting in the UKMicrowaves io group is recommended.
5. Entries should be submitted by email to g3xdy@btinternet.com by 8th July for the January – June period, and by 8th January for the July – December period
6. Certificates will be awarded to the leading stations in each period, and to runners-up if there are more than five entrants.

Other Microwave Contests

The first weekend of May sees the RSGB 432MHz -248GHz Multiband Contest staged in parallel with the RSGB UHF/SHF Contest. The 10GHz Trophy is run in parallel by the RSGB VHF Contest Committee on the Sunday of that weekend.

BATC run the UK section of the IARU ATV contest on the second weekend in June, plus other ATV events, see http://www.batc.org.uk/contests/contest_news.html

The first weekend in July is RSGB VHF National Field Day which includes 1.3GHz as one of the bands.

The first weekend of October sees the RSGB 432MHz -248GHz Multiband Contest staged in parallel with the Region 1 IARU UHF/SHF Contest. The 1.3GHz Trophy and the 2.3GHz Trophy are run in parallel by the RSGB VHF Contest Committee on the Saturday.

The RSGB runs cumulative UK Activity Contests on 1.3GHz on the third Tuesday from 2000-2230 local time, and on 2.3GHz – 10GHz on the fourth Tuesday of every month, from 1930 – 2230 local time.

In addition there are other Continental UHF/SHF Contests held during the year and interested UK microwavers are urged to be active during these. Their details may be found on the Internet.

UKuG MICROWAVE CONTEST CALENDAR 2023

Dates, 2023	Time UTC	Contest name
5-Mar	1000 - 1600	1st Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz
2-Apr	1000 - 1600	2nd Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz
7-May	0800 - 1400	3rd Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz
14-May	0900 - 1700	1st 24GHz Contest
14-May	0900 - 1700	1st 47GHz Contest
14-May	0900 - 1700	1st 76GHz Contest
28-May	0600 - 1800	1st 5.7GHz Contest
28-May	0600 - 1800	1st 10GHz Contest
4-Jun	1000 - 1600	4th Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz
25-Jun	0600 - 1800	2nd 5.7GHz Contest
25-Jun	0600 - 1800	2nd 10GHz Contest
9-Jul	0900 - 1700	2nd 24GHz Contest
9-Jul	0900 - 1700	2nd 47GHz Contest
9-Jul	0900 - 1700	2nd 76GHz Contest
30-Jul	0600 - 1800	3rd 5.7GHz Contest
30-Jul	0600 - 1800	3rd 10GHz Contest
27-Aug	0600 - 1800	4th 5.7GHz Contest
27-Aug	0600 - 1800	4th 10GHz Contest
10-Sep	0900 - 1700	3rd 24GHz Contest & 24GHz Trophy
10-Sep	0900 - 1700	3rd 47GHz Contest
10-Sep	0900 - 1700	3rd 76GHz Contest
24-Sep	0600 - 1800	5th 5.7GHz Contest
24-Sep	0600 - 1800	5th 10GHz Contest
15-Oct	0900 - 1700	4th 24GHz Contest
15-Oct	0900 - 1700	4th 47GHz Contest
15-Oct	0900 - 1700	4th 76GHz Contest
12-Nov	1000 - 1400	5th Low band 1.3/2.3/3.4GHz