

QUARTERLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Current Contests

June: ARRL June VHF QSO Party. The dates for this contest are 13–14 June. Complete rules are in the May issue of *QST*. Rules can also be found on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org>). Many are making plans to activate rare grids. For the latest information on grid expeditions, check the VHF reflector (vhf@w6yx.stanford.edu) on the internet. For weeks in the run-up to the contest postings are made on the VHF reflector announcing rover operations and grid expeditions. It is a contest that will create for you plenty of opportunities to introduce the hobby to your friends who are not presently working the VHF plus bands or who are not hams.

SMIRK Contest. The SMIRK 2009 QSO Party, sponsored by the Six Meter International Radio Klub, will be held from 0000 UTC June 20 to 2400 UTC June 21. This is a 6-meter only contest. Exchange SMIRK number and grid square. Score 2 points per QSO with SMIRK members and 1 point per QSO with nonmembers. Multiply points times grid squares for final score. Awards are given for the top scorer in each ARRL section and country. Logs and log requests should be sent to: David Craig, N3DB, 4931 Mariners Drive, Shadyside, MD 20764 USA. Logs may also be submitted via electronic mail to davidhcraig@verizon.net and must be received no later than 1 August, 2009. For more information see the URL <http://www.smirk.org> and click on the SMIRK Contest link at the top of the page.

Field Day. ARRL's classic, Field Day, will be held on June 27–28. Complete rules for this contest can also be found in *QST* and on its website: <http://www.arrl.org>. In years past tremendous European openings have occurred on 6 meters. Also, as happened in 1998, very large sporadic-E openings can occur. Certainly, this is one of the best club-related events to involve new people in the hobby.

July: CQ WW VHF Contest. This year's CQ WW VHF Contest will be held from 1800 UTC July 18 to 2100 UTC July 19. The rules for this contest can be found in the June issue of *CQ* magazine and on the *CQ* website: www.cq-amateur-radio.com

August: There are two important contests this month: The **ARRL UHF and Above Contest** is scheduled for 1–2 August. Complete rules can be found in the July issue of *QST*. The first weekend of the **ARRL 10 GHz** and above cumulative contest is scheduled for August 15–16. The second weekend is September 12–13. Complete rules for this contest also can be found in the July issue of *QST*.

Current Conferences and Conventions

May, Dayton Hamvention®. The Dayton Hamvention® will be held as usual at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, May 15–17. For more information, go to: <http://www.hamvention.org>.

June. The annual **Ham-Com Hamfest** will be held June 12–13, 2009, in Plano, Texas. As always, the North Texas Microwave Society will present a microwave forum. For more information, see the Ham-Com website at <http://www.hamcom.org>.

July. This year's **Central States VHF Society Conference** will be held in Elk Grove, Illinois, July 23–25, at the Elk Grove Village Holiday Inn Hotel. For more information, please see the URL: <http://www.csvhfs.org>.

Quarterly Calendar

The following is a list of important dates for EME enthusiasts:

May 1	Moon first quarter
May 5	<i>Eta Aquarids</i> meteor shower
May 9	Full Moon
May 14	Moon apogee
May 17	Moon last quarter
May 24	New Moon
May 26	Moon perigee
May 31	Moon first quarter
June 7	Full Moon
June 10	Moon apogee
June 15	Moon last quarter
June 21	Summer solstice
June 22	New Moon
June 23	Moon perigee
June 29	Moon first quarter
July 7	Moon apogee
July 7	Full Moon
July 7	Lunar eclipse
July 15	Moon last quarter
July 21	Moon perigee
July 22	New Moon
July 22	Solar eclipse
July 28	<i>Southern Delta Aquarids</i> meteor shower
July 28	Moon first quarter
August 4	Moon apogee
August 6	Full Moon
August 6	Lunar eclipse
August 12	Perseids Meteor Shower
August 13	Moon last quarter
August 19	Moon perigee
August 20	New Moon
August 27	Moon first quarter
August 31	Moon apogee

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU

Calls for Papers

Calls for papers are issued in advance of forthcoming conferences either for presenters to be speakers, or for papers to be published in the conferences' *Proceedings*, or both. For more information, questions about format, media, hardcopy, e-mail, etc., please contact the person listed with the announcement. The following organization or conference organizer has announced a call for papers for its forthcoming conference:

Central States VHF Society Conference:

Technical papers are solicited for the 43rd annual Central States VHF Society Conference to be held in Elk Grove, Illinois on July 23–25, 2009. Papers, presentations, and posters on all aspects of weak-signal VHF and above amateur radio are requested. You do not need to attend the conference, nor present your paper, to have it published in the *Proceedings*. Posters will be displayed during the two days of the conference. Non-weak signal topics such as FM, repeaters, packet radio, etc., generally are not considered acceptable. However, there are always exceptions. Please contact the folks below if you have any questions about the suitability of a topic. Strong editorial preference will be given to those papers that are written and formatted specifically for publication, rather than as visual presentation aids. Submissions may be made via the following: electronic formats (preferred); via e-

mail; uploaded to a website for subsequent downloading; on media (3.5" floppy, CD, USB stick/thumb drive). Deadline for submissions: For the *Proceedings*, June 1; for presentations to be delivered at the conference, June 29; and for notifying them that you will have a poster to be displayed at the conference, June 29. Bring your poster with you on July 23 or 24. Contact information: Kermit Carlson, via e-mail: w9xa@yahoo.com, or snail mail: 1150 McKee St., Batavia, IL 60510.

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the **28th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference** to be held September 25–27 in Chicago, Illinois and publication in the conference *Proceedings*. Presentation at the conference is not required for publication. Submission of papers is due by July 31 and should be submitted to: Maty Weinberg, KB1EJB, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111, or via the internet to maty@arrl.org. For suitable topics and submission guidelines also contact Maty via e-mail; also check <http://www.arrl.org>.

Meteor Showers

May minor showers include the following and their possible radio peaks: *η-Aquarids*, May 6, 0000 UTC; *ε-Arietids*, May 9, 0800 UTC; *May Arietids*, May 16, 0900 UTC; and *o-Cetids*, May 20, 0800 UTC.

June: Between June 3 and 11, the *Arietids* meteor shower will once again be evident. This is a daytime shower with the peak predicted to occur on June 7, around 1100 UTC. Activity from this shower will be evident for around eight days, centered on the peak. At its peak, you can expect around 60 meteors per hour traveling at a velocity of around 37 km/sec (23 miles per second).

On June 9 the *Zeta Perseids* is expected to peak around 1100 UTC. At its maximum, it produces around 40 meteors per hour. The *Boötids* is expected to make a showing between June 27 and July 2, with a predicted peak on June 27, around 0830 UTC. On June 28 the *Beta Taurids* is expected to peak. Because it is a daytime shower, not much is known about the stream of activity. However, according to the book *Meteors* by Neil Bone, this and the *Arietids* are two of the more active *radio* showers of the year. Peak activity for this shower seems to favor a north-south path.

July: This month there are a number of minor showers. The *Piscis Austrinids* is expected to peak July 28. The *δ-Aquarids* is a southern latitude shower. It has produced in excess of 20 meteors per hour in the past. Its predicted peak is around July 27. The *Piscis Austrinids* is expected to peak around July 28. The *α-Capricornids* is expected to peak on July 30.

August: Beginning around July 17 and lasting until approximately August 24, you will see activity tied to the *Perseids* meteor shower. Its predicted peak is around 1730–2000 UTC on August 12. A possible tertiary peak may occur around 0900 UTC. The *κ-Cygnids* meteor shower is expected to peak on August 17. The visually-impossible *γ-Leonids* is expected to peak August 25, around 1000 UTC. The *α-Aurigids* is expected to peak on August 31.

For more information on the above meteor shower predictions see Tomas Hood, NW7US's propagation column. Also visit the International Meteor Organization's website: <http://www.imo.net/calendar/2009>.