

QUARTERLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Current Contests

November: The second weekend of the **ARRL 50 MHz to 1296 MHz EME Contest** is November 15–16, 2008.

January: The ARRL VHF Sweepstakes is scheduled for the weekend of January 17–19, 2009.

For ARRL contest rules, see the issue of *QST* prior to the month of the contest or the League's URL: <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

Current Meteor Showers

November: The *Leonids* shower is predicted to peak around 0900 UTC on November 17.

December: Two showers occur this month. The first, the *Geminids*, is predicted to peak on December 13. The actual peak can occur 2.5 hours before or after the predicted peak. It has a broad peak and is a good north-south shower producing an average of 100–120 meteors per hour at its peak.

The second, the *Ursids*, is predicted to peak around 0730 UTC on December 23. It is an east-west shower, producing an average of no more than 10 meteors per hour, with the rare possibility of upwards of 90 meteors at its peak.

January: The *Quadrantids*, or *Quads*, is a brief, but very active meteor shower. The expected peak is on January 3–4, with the best time being the morning of January 4 just after midnight and working through

Quarterly Calendar	
<i>The following is a list of important dates for EME enthusiasts:</i>	
Nov. 2	Moon Apogee. Very poor EME conditions.
Nov. 6	First Quarter Moon.
Nov. 9	Good EME conditions.
Nov. 13	Full Moon.
Nov. 14	Moon Perigee.
Nov. 16	Moderate EME conditions.
Nov. 17	<i>Leonids</i> Meteor Shower Peak.
Nov. 19	Last Quarter Moon.
Nov. 23	Moderate EME conditions.
Nov. 27	New Moon.
Nov. 29	Moon Apogee.
Nov. 30	Very poor EME conditions.
Dec. 5	First Quarter Moon.
Dec. 7	Good EME conditions.
Dec. 12	Full Moon, Moon Perigee and Full Moon.
Dec. 13	<i>Geminids</i> Meteor Shower Peak.
Dec. 14	Moderate EME conditions.
Dec. 19	Last Quarter Moon.
Dec. 21	Winter Solstice. Moderate EME conditions.
Dec. 27	New Moon.
Dec. 28	Very poor EME conditions.
Jan. 3	Moon Apogee.
Jan. 4	<i>Quadrantids</i> Meteor Shower Peak and First Quarter Moon. Moderate EME conditions.
Jan. 10	Moon Perigee.
Jan. 11	Full Moon. Good EME conditions.
Jan. 18	Last Quarter Moon. Moderate EME conditions.
Jan. 23	Moon Apogee.
Jan. 25	Very poor EME conditions.
Jan. 26	New Moon.
Feb. 1	Moderate EME conditions.
Feb. 2	First Quarter Moon.
Feb. 7	Moon Perigee.
Feb. 8	Very good EME conditions.
Feb. 9	Full Moon.
Feb. 15	Poor EME conditions.
Feb. 16	Last Quarter Moon.
Feb. 19	Moon Apogee.
Feb. 22	Poor EME conditions.
Feb. 25	New Moon.

—*EME conditions courtesy W5LUU.*

dawn, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. The actual peak can occur three hours before or after the predicted peak. The best paths are north-south. Long-duration meteors can be expected about one hour after the predicted peak.

For more information on the above meteor shower predictions see Tomas Hood, NW7US's "VHF Propagation" column starting on page 77. Also visit the International Meteor Organization's website: <<http://www.imo.net>>.