

# QUARTERLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Contests

**Spring Sprints:** These short-duration (usually four hours) VHF+ contests are held on various dates (for each band) during the months of April and May. May's dates and times are as follows: Microwave, May 1, 6 AM to 1 PM local time; and 50 MHz, May 8, 2300 UTC Saturday to 0300 UTC Sunday. Sponsored by the East Tennessee Valley DX Association, information on these contests can be found on their website at <<http://www.etdxa.org>>. Click on the VHF/UHF link to get to the contest information.

**The 2 GHz and Up World Wide Club Contest:** Sponsored by the San Bernardino Microwave Society, this contest runs from 6 AM on May 1 to 12 midnight on May 2 (36 hours). The object is for worldwide club groups of amateurs to work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in the world on bands from 2 GHz through Light. Rules are available at: <[http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/club\\_contest/2GHzUp.pdf](http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/club_contest/2GHzUp.pdf)>.

The **Six Meters Marathon 2004** is open to all amateur radio operators worldwide. The objective is to work as many DXCC entities as possible on 6 meters between 8 May (0000 UTC) and 8 August (2400 UTC). The results will be updated continuously at <<http://www.50mc.tk>>. For further information, contact Hannu Saila, OH3WW, e-mail: <[marathon@saila.org](mailto:marathon@saila.org)>.

**Six Club Contest:** The Major Six Club Contest will be the first weekend in June, from 2300 UTC, June 4 to 0200 UTC, June 7. All logs are due 30 days from ending date of the contest and they go to <[w4wrl@aol.com](mailto:w4wrl@aol.com)>. For further information see: <<http://6mt.com/contest.htm>>.

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party:** The dates for this contest are June 12–14. 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](mailto:vhf@w6yx.stanford.edu)) on the internet. For weeks in the run-up to the con-

## Quarterly Calendar

May 2	Moderate EME conditions
May 4	Full Moon
May 6	Moon Perigee
May 9	Very Poor EME conditions
May 11	Last Quarter Moon
May 16	Moderate EME conditions
May 19	New Moon
May 21	Moon Apogee
May 23	Poor EME conditions
May 27	First Quarter Moon
May 30	Moderate EME conditions
June 3	Moon Perigee and Full Moon
June 6	Moderate EME conditions
June 9	Last Quarter Moon
June 13	Poor EME conditions
June 17	Moon Apogee and New Moon
June 20	Moderate EME conditions
June 25	First Quarter Moon
June 27	Moderate EME conditions
July 1	Moon Perigee
July 2	Full Moon
July 4	Moderate EME conditions
July 9	Last Quarter Moon
July 11	Poor EME conditions
July 14	Moon Apogee
July 17	New Moon
July 18	Moderate EME conditions
July 25	First Quarter Moon. Moderate EME conditions
July 30	Moon Perigee
July 31	Full Moon
Aug. 1	Moderate EME conditions
Aug. 7	Last Quarter Moon
Aug. 8	Poor EME conditions
Aug. 11	Moon Apogee
Aug. 15	Good EME conditions
Aug. 16	New Moon
Aug. 22	Moderate EME conditions
Aug. 23	First Quarter Moon
Aug. 27	Moon Perigee
Aug. 29	Moderate EME conditions
Aug. 30	Full Moon

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU

test 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 are not hams.

**SMIRK Contest:** The SMIRK 2002 QSO Party, sponsored by the Six Meter International Radio Klub, will be held from 0000 UTC June 19 until 2400 UTC June 20. This is a 6-meter only contest. All phone contacts within the lower 48 states and Canada must be made above 50.150 MHz; only DX QSOs may be made between 50.100 and 50.150. 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. Send a legal-sized SASE for a copy of the log forms. Log requests and logs should be sent to Pat Rose, W5OZI. Send entries by August 1 to Pat, P.O. Box 393, Junction, TX 76849-0393. For more information see: <<http://www.smirk.org>>.

**Field Day:** ARRL's classic, Field Day, will be held on June 26–27. Complete rules for this contest can also be found in *QST* and at: <<http://www.arrl.org>>. In years past tremendous European openings have occurred on 6 meters. Also, as happened in 1998, great sporadic-E openings can occur. Certainly, this is one of the best club-related events to involve new people in the hobby.

**CQ WW VHF Contest:** This year's CQ WW VHF Contest will be held from 1800 UTC July 17 to 2100 UTC July 18. Complete rules can be found elsewhere in this issue.

**The Mid Summer Six Club Contest** will be held between 2300 UTC, July 16 and 0300 UTC, July 18. All logs are due 30 days from ending date of the contest and they go to <[w4wrl@aol.com](mailto:w4wrl@aol.com)>. For more information go to: <<http://6mt.com/contest.htm>>.

There are two important contests in August: The **ARRL UHF and Above**

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**Contest** is scheduled for 7–8 August. The first weekend of the **ARRL 10 GHz** and above cumulative contest is scheduled for August 21–22. The second weekend is September 18–19. Complete rules for these contests can be found in the July issue of *QST*, or on the web: <www.arrl.org>.

## Conventions and Conferences

**Dayton Hamvention®**: This year's Dayton Hamvention® will be held as usual at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, May 14–16. For more information, go to <http://www.hamvention.org>. N6CL is scheduled to be one of the speakers for the VHF forums.

**Ham-Com**: The annual Ham-Com Hamfest will be held June 18–19, in Arlington, TX. 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>.

This year's **Central States VHF Society Conference** will be held in Mississauga (Toronto), Ontario, Canada, July 22–25, at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre. For more information, go to: <http://www.csvhfs.org>.

The 11th **International EME Conference** will be held on the campus of the College of New Jersey, in Ewing, NJ, August 6–8. For more information, see: <http://www.qsl.net/eme2004/>.

The 2004 **TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference** will be held September 10–12 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. You'll find more conference information on the web at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>.

## 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, email, etc., please contact the person listed with the announcement. To date this year the following organizations or conference organizers have announced calls for papers for their forthcoming conferences:

The 38th annual **Central States VHF**

**Society Conference** will be held July 22–25 at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre in Mississauga (Toronto), Ontario, Canada. The deadline for submitting final papers is May 1. Submit your proposal as soon as possible to Bob Morton, Technical Chairman and V.P., at <ve3bfm@csvhfs.org>.

The 11th **International EME Conference** will be held on the campus of the College of New Jersey, in Ewing, NJ, August 6–8. Submit your proposed paper/talk topic as soon as possible to Marc Franco, N2UO, at <eme2004@qsl.net>.

The 2004 **TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference** will be held September 10–12 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, IA. More conference information is at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>. Send submissions by August 10 to: Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, or <maty@arrl.org>.

The Microwave Update conference dates are October 15–16, in the Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX area. If you wish to present a paper, contact Al Ward, W5LUA, at <w5lua@arrl.net>. Proceedings will be published by the ARRL, and you do not have to be a speaker to have your material presented in the Proceedings. To have material published, submit your paper to Kent Britain, WA5VJB (wa5vjb@flash.net) no later than August 16. More information, the North Texas Microwave Society: <http://www.ntms.org>.

## Meteor Showers

**May**: A minor shower is the eta-Aquarids (predicted peak on May 5). Visually, this shower will be obscured by a full Moon.

**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 at 0400 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 at around 0100 UTC. At its maximum, it produces around 40 mete-

ors per hour. On June 28 the Delta Aquarids S shower is expected to peak. The Bootids is expected to make a showing between June 26 and July 2, with a predicted peak on June 27 at 1930 UTC. On June 29 the Beta Taurids is expected to peak at around 0800 UTC. 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 most intense, the delta-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 only northern latitude shower is the alpha Cygnids. It is supposed to peak around July 20, but with a rate of only five meteors per hour.

**August**: Beginning around July 17 and lasting until approximately August 14, you will see activity tied to the Perseids meteor shower. Its predicted peak is around 1100–1320 UTC August 12. There will be more extensive coverage of this shower in the summer issue of *CQ VHF*.

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