

QUARTERLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Conventions and Conferences

May: The **Dayton HamVention®** will be held as usual at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, May 16–18. For more information, see their website at <<http://www.hamvention.org>>.

June: Al Katz, K2UYZ, has arranged for the first “Ham Social” at this year’s **IEEE/MTT International Microwave Symposium** to be held June 8–13 in Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. The reception is scheduled for Sunday, June 8 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the Convention Center, room 307 AB. This location is in the same building and not far from the RFIC Reception also scheduled for Sunday evening. For more information, contact Al at <a.katz@ieee.org>. For details on the symposium see <<http://www.ims2003.org/>>.

The annual **Ham-Com Hamfest** will be held June 20–22 in Arlington, TX. This year’s hamfest is also the site of the ARRL National Convention. As always, the North Texas Microwave Society will present a microwave forum. For more info see <<http://www.hamcom.org/>>.

July: This year’s **Central States VHF Society Conference** will be held in Tulsa, OK, July 25–27. For details, contact Charlie Calhoun, K5TTT, at <k5ttt@tulsa.com>.

August: This year’s **Eastern VHF-UHF Conference** will be held in Enfield, CT, August 22–24. For more information see the website: <<http://www.newsvhf.com/>>.

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. To date this year the following organizations or conference organizers have announced calls for papers for their forthcoming conferences:

Central States VHF Society (July 25–27): Contact Joe Lynch, N6CL, <n6cl@utulsa.edu>. Deadline for submitting papers is May 15, 2003.

Microwave Update (September 25–28): Contact Jim Christiansen, K7ND, <k7nd@att.net>. Deadline for submissions is July 1, 2003.

22nd Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference (September 19–21): Contact Maty Weinberg, <maty@arrol.org>. Deadline for submitting papers is August 5, 2003.

Contests

May: The **May Spring Sprints** include microwave and 6 meters. The Microwave Sprint is from 6 AM to 1 PM local time, Saturday May 3. The 6-meter Sprint is from 2300 UTC Saturday May 10 to 0300 UTC Sunday May 11. Complete rules are at <<http://www.etdxa.org/vhf.htm>>. Note that this information corrects and updates the information in the Winter issue of *CQ VHF* magazine.

The **Six Club WW Contest** is from 2300 UTC May 30 to 0200 UTC June 2. *Rules:* Each QSO is worth one point in your own country, two points for each contact out of your country, and one extra point for each Six Club member you make contact with and get his/her six club number in your log. Note all calls and numbers must be correct

Quarterly Calendar

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

May 1	New Moon and Moon apogee
May 4	Poor EME conditions
May 6	Highest Moon declination
May 9	First quarter Moon
May 11	Very Good EME conditions
May 15	Full Moon and Moon perigee
May 18	Very poor EME conditions
May 19	Lowest Moon declination
May 22	Last quarter Moon
May 25	Moderate EME conditions
May 30	New Moon
June 1	Very poor EME conditions
June 2	Highest Moon declination
June 7	First quarter Moon
June 8	Good EME conditions
June 12	Moon perigee.
June 14	Full Moon.
June 15	Lowest Moon declination; very poor EME conditions.
June 21	Last quarter Moon
June 22	Moderate EME conditions
June 25	Moon apogee
June 29	New Moon; very poor EME conditions
July 2	Highest Moon declination
July 6	First quarter Moon; good EME conditions
July 10	Moon perigee
July 12	Lowest Moon declination
July 13	Full Moon; very poor EME conditions
July 20	Moderate EME conditions
July 21	Last quarter Moon
July 22	Moon apogee
July 27	Highest Moon declination; poor EME conditions
July 29	New Moon
Aug. 3	Moderate EME conditions
Aug. 5	First quarter Moon
Aug. 6	Moon perigee
Aug. 9	Lowest Moon declination
Aug. 10	Very poor EME conditions
Aug. 11	Full Moon
Aug. 17	Moderate EME conditions
Aug. 19	Last quarter Moon and Moon apogee
Aug. 24	Poor EME conditions
Aug. 27	New Moon
Aug. 31	Moon perigee; moderate EME conditions

* *EME conditions courtesy W5LUU.*

and complete to count. *Scoring:* Multiply total QSO points by the total number of grids worked. All entries must be received by June 30, 2003. Website: <<http://6mt.com/contest.htm>>. mailing address: Six Club Contests, c/o Wayne Lewis, W4WRL, 3338 South Cashua Drive, Florence, SC 29501-6306 (e-mail: <w4wrl@aol.com>).

June: The ARRL June VHF QSO Party is June 14–16. 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>. This is by far the most popular VHF contest so join in.

The **SMIRK 2002 QSO Party**, sponsored by the Six Meter International Radio Klub, is from 0000 UTC June 21 to 2400 UTC June 22. 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, P.O. Box 393, Junction, TX 76849-0393. Send entries by August 1. For more information see <<http://www.smirk.org>>.

The ARRL’s classic, **Field Day**, is June 28–29. New this year is the Class F, for stations operating from emergency operations centers. Complete rules for this contest can also be found in *QST* and at <<http://www.arrl.org>>. In years past great European openings have occurred on 6 meters. Also, as happened in 1998, tremendous sporadic-E openings can occur.

July: This year’s **CQ WW VHF Contest** is 1800 UTC July 19 to 2100 UTC July 20. Rules can be found at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/VHF%20Contest%20Rules%202003%20216.pdf>>.

August: The **ARRL UHF and Above Contest** is scheduled for August 2–3. 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 16–17. The second weekend is September 20–21. Complete rules are in the July issue of *QST*.

Meteor Showers

May: A minor shower is the *eta-Aquarids* (predicted peak around 1130 UTC on May 6).

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 9. 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 0900 UTC. At its maximum it produces around 40 meteors per hour. On June 28 the *Delta Aquarids S* shower is expected to peak. The *Bootids* are 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 this 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: There are a number of minor showers this month. 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 28–29. 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 0440 UTC August 13. Visually, this year’s shower will be blocked by a near full Moon. There will be more extensive coverage of this shower in the Summer issue of *CQ VHF* magazine.