

Contest Soapbox

2002 ARRL UHF Contest

9 Soapbox entries available

N3EMF -- Mar 15, 2003 18:07 ET



N3EMF Extreme Micrometal Farm 903 through 10Ghz in action



The N3EMF team (Gerry, K3MKZ, Jim, N3PBH, Dan, KA3ZHT and Russ, N3EMF) operated the August 2002 UHF Contest from South Mountain, FM19Hhx, near Shippensburg, PA. The team had an enjoyable time, despite a slow start due to flat band conditions, while making this contest one of its most successful UHF contests to date. In general things went very well in comparison to last year's multiple guest appearances by Mr. Murphy before, during and after the contest (Which has since been titled: The Hill almost too far.) We had no major equipment failures and the uW equipment performed particularly well. Our success would not have been possible if it were not for the hard work and support of all the operators and dedicated rovers who participated this August. Many thanks to all. We'll be looking forward to working you again next year. -- *N3EMF*

Micrometal Operating Position



OLD GLORY FLIES !!!



The Black Max Array Transport



Array at dusk - until next time.....

WA3GFZ -- Aug 27, 2002 23:28 ET



This was my first August UHF contest and I really enjoyed it. The lack of intense activity made it possible to hear the "weak ones" which are tromped during the big contests. This started out as a casual participation for me, but soon turned into a serious effort. I like the 24 hour length. A special thanks to Bill W3IY/R who made the contest very exciting for myself and many others. With no sleep and much perseverance he made time for everyone, regardless of the difficulty. My score would have been half without his efforts. All of the rovers really made this contest! See you next year. 73s Paul -- WA3GFZ



It aint 200 feet, but it's OK. The new tower should help.

N0DQS/R -- Aug 20, 2002 23:01 ET



Never touched down

Off to a good start but severe storms moved in Saturday about 2330z and everyone had pulled the plug and left the shack due to lots of lightning etc.,so I scrapped my plans and headed back home for the night. Stormed all night but hit the road again @ 1345z Sunday after the storms had moved out and activated a couple more grids. Still had a good time watching all the bad WX. Activated EN12,13,14,22,23,24,32,33 had planned on 10 grids. Not much activity from EN14,24 do to the storms. Hope to see you in September.

73 Gene N0DQS/R -- *N0DQS*



W3IY/R -- Aug 14, 2002 23:14 ET

The beginning of the UHF contest was scary...didn't hear any signals for the 1st 12 minutes. Finally K4QI showed up, and broke the silence in FM15. Activity was still poor, as were condx for most of Saturday. Then, Sunday morning, things got interesting, and we were hearing good signals from all over, particularly to the south from FM28. It was great fun working W4VHH



W3IY/R Wave Launcher for 432-3456MHz

(EM95) thru 3.4GHz. Bill, AA2UK, gave me great company from almost all my grids (FM15,25,26,16,17,27,28,18,29,19) on all bands thru 10GHz. It's great to have guys like him, K2SMN, K1TEO, and N3EMF to keep things going into all hours of the night. Thanks guys...we really appreciate the activity! Keep up the good work. The Packrats were also all over the bands, which was a nice treat...we always miss lots of stations in June, with the multiop efforts of the clubs. The UHF contest is always a little less active than the big 3 contests, but the dedication of this UHF amateur radio group makes me proud to be a high-band enthusiast.

The QSOs are more challenging, and less frequent than in the VHF contests, but the satisfaction of working guys on 10 GHz is hard to describe. It's amazing how well things can work on this band with a little effort and perseverance. My hat's off to all these FB operators! CU on the bands in September. Tnx es 73, Bill W3IY/R -- *W3IY*

W4OZK -- Aug 9, 2002 15:56 ET



I did not notice these clouds while on the tower.

Activity was a little slow in the Southeast, EM74, Mentone Alabama. But had fun working the few people that was on the air. 222 is a new band and enjoyed seeing how it works. Got some great pictures if the antenna install. Had problems with the 1296 preamp then two tower climbs later I was limited to one contact on that band. I enjoyed the contest and look forward to seeing the results when they come out.

73 Greg -- *W4OZK*



More awesome clouds.



220 antenna nearly finished

NØURW -- Aug 8, 2002 17:46 ET

August UHF Contest

This was my 1st time in this UHF contest. What a blast. I was flat out Amazed how Fantastic this contest is . In the past not having any equipment for this contest left me out of the loop. I now have 222 & 432 mhz . Big thanks to all the rovers ! You made it really, really fun & Challenging :). Its amazing how well low power works on these higher bands.Must be cause its so quiet... I figured with only running 222 & 432 mhz. bands with low power , (under 100 watts) a score of 3000 to 5000 points would be fantastic in my area of the country, (Iowa).



2-M² 222 5WL & 2-M² 432 9WL @ 55 ft

When I broke the 10,000 point mark , I started hootin & hollering which brought the whole family into the radio shack. I plan on adding 1 more band each year. Next I think I'll add 1296 over the summer of 2003. I'll be listening 4 U in the September VHF Contest. (Ö;Ø) NØURW EN41GO (who would of thought running just 2 bands on low power & I still finished 9th place over all. :)>) just goes to show its worth sending in those logs. -- NØURW

AA2UK -- Aug 7, 2002 19:21 ET



The "shack" an old FM broadcast transmitter building hidden in the Jersey Pine Barrens.

What a contest I don't know where to start! I more than doubled my highest score in 1998. After a long rest from contesting the new station is really working well. Here is a short list of great contacts and operators I had the pleasure of working. W3IY/R my hat's off to Bill he is a top notch operator and a tireless rover, I worked him all the way through 10ghz while he was in FM15 and in every one of the ten grids he activated! W2FU, Jeff provided contacts all the way through 3456 from FN13 Western NY, W4FSO in FM14 provided contacts through 1296, W3HMS/R John provided an new grid for me when he was in FN00 in Western PA on 10ghz, as well as working W4VHH in EM95 through 2304, great job Tom always a pleasure. Conditions were pretty flat Saturday until Sunday morning when we had a nice coastal to the south stations up to 500 miles were very strong, k4QI pinning my meter on 432 but Russ always has big signals. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. I look forward to doing it all again in the September contest. 73 and tnx to all from Bill AA2UK FM29pn. -- AA2UK



Inside the "equipment"



Microwave antennas



Side view all.

W4FAL -- Aug 5, 2002 07:52 ET



W4FAL's FT847

This was my fourth year in the ARRL August UHF contest. I was only able to work from 1100UTC to 1300UTC on Sunday Aug, 4. 70cm was my only band. We did have a nice tropo opening.

I worked several new grids on 70cm and broke my previous distance record on 70cm. The contest activity in FM05 was very low, with me only working a couple of locals on 70cm FM around Raleigh.

I only made 15 QSO's during the two hour period, but managed to work 9 grids (405

points). This was my best ever score:

1999 144 2000 240 2001 255 2002 405 (Big improvement)

Next year I hope to have the 100 foot tower up with some really BIG beams and tower top preamps.

I had a great time on Sunday morning, thanks to all the participated in this fun event.

73,

Frank A. Lynch, W4FAL -- W4FAL

K7MDL/R -- Aug 5, 2002 02:04 ET



**On Green Mountain (CN98) at 2800ft.
looking south to Seattle.**

Activity was a little slow in the Pacific Northwest, many of the usual suspects were out fishing or something! I was only on 432 this time out so that did not help. Hit 4 high spots in 4 grids in about 8 hours for 31 QSOs. KD7OJP performed logging duties. Finally got past the snow and reached the top of Green Mountain for once. Looking forward to September. -- K7MDL

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