

The Latest

Microwave Contest May 2023

Up

Posted by AG6QV Frank

Tags:

The PNW Microwave group was out in the field, operating microwave equipment from 902MHz to 122GHz. This is a summary of the events. There are two contests today. The Microwave Spring from 8am to 2PM pacific time and the SBMS 2GHz & Up contest on both Saturday and Sunday. The day started with W7FY, John showing up at my QTH just after 8am. I was not quite ready and started out by making coffee and bringing out equipment. John traveled to a location 1.6 km south of my location to attempt 10 GHz and 122 GHz contacts. The 10 GHz contact was made quite easily with the short distance. The 122 GHz contact was not possible because of leaves on the trees in the path. A week ago the leaves was not as far along and it was possible to find a path trough the trees. John returned to my back yard and W7GLF, Ray showed up as well. WA4OSH, Konrad was on his way to Vashon to attempt a repeat of the test we did last weekend. It was an easy contact so John and Ray wanted to test their rigs with horn antennas and was able to connect with Konrad without any problems. We also mad contact between the 3 of us in the back yard on both 10GHz and 122GHz. These contacts does not give any distance points but in the SBMS contest we each get 100 points for the fist contact with each station on each band :-)

WA4OSH mad his way back to the ferry terminal where we tried another contact on 10 GHz. As shown on the image below we did not have a clear line of sight:

Vashon Burien 10 GHz

I noticed the ferry was leaving the terminal so I asked Konrad to point his antenna in that direction and we were able to work each other with 59 signals in both directions. Ferry scatter is a thing. They do not move as fast as airplanes :-)

Konrad moved on to the Olympic peninsula where we made a final contact from Manchester to Burien ~16km distance. We are slowly increasing the distances while getting used to the new equipment and how to operate on the microwave bands. W7GLF, Ray had moved to the south beach to operate to lower frequency bands with bounces off of Mt. Rainer. I was listening from my shack on an indoor antenna and was able to hear Ray on the back of his beam. It was only 1.6 km away and I'm only running 10W on 1296 MHz but we gave it a try and was able to complete a QSO on SSB, using the home made ZigZag antenna shown below.

1296 MHz Zig Zag antenna

Finally I moved to the south beach where Ray was setting up his 10 GHz station. My station is very portable and after a few minutes I was ready to try a contact with KD7UO, Dale. He started out by sending CW beacon towards Mt. Rainer and I was able to find his signal and point my antenna towards maximum signal strength. We then switched to SSB and was able to hear each other with 55 signals in both directions. The mountain was not visible today, but 10GHz radio wave did not have any issues coming through.

10GHz contact via Mt. Rainer

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