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1997 ARRL International EME Competition Results

Can this contest get any better? It's grown from a handful of contacts among a few experimenters to a contest that is drawing in more mainstream hams every year. Folks are finding that EME QSOs are becoming more plentiful and easier to complete than they were about five to 10 years ago. Of course, this is largely due to improved technology, but another leading factor is the growing popularity of EME. With more people in the contest, it is easier to find someone you can work.

For the 1997 EME Competition, we received 231 entries—an 18% increase from last year. Every year we hear stories about people completing their first EME contacts. Give it a try. You'll probably be surprised at how easy it may be. In this year's contest alone, we had entries from 11 stations that completed only one contact, and 32 stations reported making up to three contacts off the Moon. It doesn't take a lot of equipment or a monster antenna array if you are working one of the "big stations." Let their antennas do all the work.

Pins

EMEers at the 1996 EME Convention in Bowie, Maryland, asked if we could add a pin program to their favorite contest—ARRL International EME Competition. We started working on the forms and procedures and then—voila!—it became a reality for the 1997 contest. To be perfectly honest, we weren't expecting such an impressive response. Pin orders exceeded our most conservative expectations. If you

didn't get one of these beautiful EME pins, we still have a few available for those who qualified (completed at least one EME QSO during the contest). Contact ARRL HQ for more information.

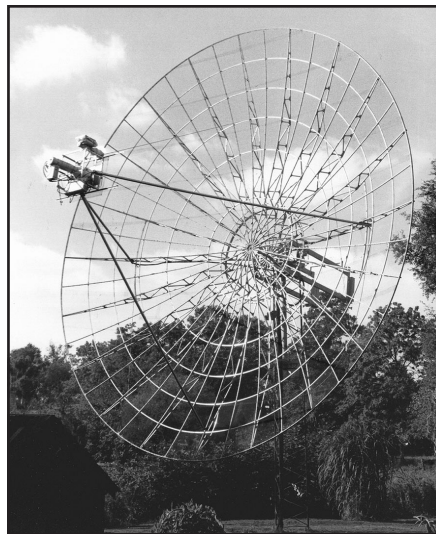
Who Won

Perennial winner, Hannes, OE5JFL was blessed with no equipment problems this year and had good weather to boot. Hannes secured the top spot in the single operator

multiband category with an impressive 3.1 million points. Mori, KN6M, tried multiband this year, and finished second place world, and first in North America with 1.3 million points. Stig, OZ4MM, was third.

In the single operator, single band classes, Torbjorn, SM5FRH, using a massive antenna array, took top honors in the 144 MHz category with 1.7 million points. Dave, W5UN, finished in second place, and first in North America. Dave uses an array of 48 17-element Yagis. Leif, SM5BSZ, was close behind in third place with 1.1 million points. Leif uses a rather modest antenna array consisting of 4×14 cross-element Yagis. On 432 MHz, Jan, DL9KR, feeding his antenna array consisting of 16 24-element Yagis, won first place with 575,000 points. Mark, N2IQU, was in second place with 501,000 points. The race for the top spots in the 1296 MHz category was quite tight. Peter, OE9XXI, took first place, completing 72 QSOs and 36 multipliers. Louis, F6CGJ worked 35 multipliers, and contacted 70 stations putting him in second place. Frank, W2UHL, completed 61 QSOs, and 34 multipliers for third place and first in North America.

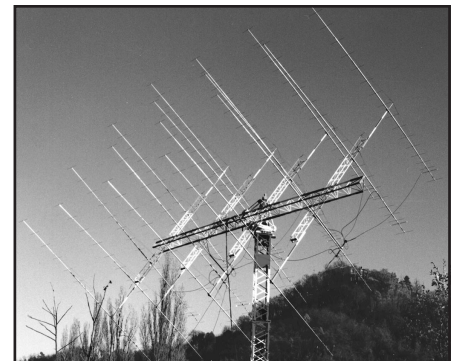
In the multioperator category, the ops at JL1ZCG topped the list with 2 million points. WD5AGO and crew finished in second place with 422,000 points. F3VS and ops out score the rest of the 2 meter multipliers with 1.1 million points. The group at I2FAK was close behind with 1 million points finishing in second place. The crew at OH2PO finished first among a field of five in the multiop 432 MHz category.



OZ4MM's homebrew 10-meter dish helped him to earn 3rd place in the single-operator multiband category.



John, W7OE, in Washington, didn't need a giant antenna to participate in this year's EME competition. He operated from his Toyota pickup truck in an open field about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from his house.



I2FAK's impressive antenna array helped his crew attain 2nd place in the multiop, single band 144-MHz category.

