

UK Microwave Group report to RSGB Spectrum Forum



Introduction to UKuG

The UK Microwave Group represents the interests of amateur microwave radio enthusiasts in the UK. Its Committee is an elected body representing the interests of UK amateur microwave enthusiasts. The UKuG is open to membership for both UK and overseas microwavers.

UKuG is now 11 years old, having been formed at the Martlesham Microwave Roundtable in November 1999 and it is affiliated to the RSGB. It currently has 365 members and has recruited 38 new members since January 2010.

Events organised during 2010

Rutherford Appleton Laboratories Microwave Roundtable with Antenna test range - April
Finningley Microwave Roundtable and 7th Beginners Workshop - July
Crawley Microwave Roundtable with Construction contest - September
Martlesham Microwave Roundtable with UKuG AGM - November
Exhibited at RSGB Convention - October

Martlesham MRT will move to April from 2011 by popular request. RAL will move to sometime in the Autumn.

EME Conference 2012

The Group is sponsoring the 2012 International EME Conference. Our bid at the Dallas meeting, in August, beat a rival bid from Japan.

Details of the Conference will be published on the EME2012 web page,
<http://www.eme2012.com>

It will be held in Cambridge between the 15th and the 19th August 2012.

Much of the organising infrastructure has been put in place already.

The RSGB is supporting the event as one of the largest and most important international events for some time.

Newsletter

Scatterpoint, the Newsletter of the Group, is published 10 times a year. It continues to attract top-line technical articles as well as providing a comprehensive report of activity during the previous period.

Scatterpoint is available in both paper and electronic form. It is expected that most Group members will elect to download an electronic version of the newsletter from the Yahoo site by the beginning of 2011.

Beacons

"Beaconspot.EU is the most up to date source of realtime VHF/Microwave beacon data currently available and is fully integrated with the DX Cluster VHF bands are now included in addition to the microwave bands. As of early November it has over 900 registered users in 51 countries.

Several new beacons have been sponsored with financial aid and donation of parts from the Group.

Two beacons have recently been built by Committee members.

Several antennas built and supplied to other groups.

Proposals have been received for bands to 134GHz during 2010.

Reverse DDS (RDDS) control kits, made available through the Group, allow current and future beacons to be locked to high stability 10MHz or other sources. The Reverse DDS solution provides for MGM modulation facilities, if required. Odd frequency offsets, used by many beacons, can be accommodated.

On the downside there has been a distinct lack of progress on beacon clearance during 2010.

Spectrum news

The first amateur 76GHz EME echoes are imminent. Sun noise and moon noise are now being measured using the new WA1MBA LNA. VE4MA has a 50W TWT for the band.

UK Microwave Group Contests.

The UK Microwave group arranges contests on all bands from 1.3GHz to 76GHz each year. Participation and entries in the low band events have increased so far in 2010, and held steady on the higher bands. The UK Microwave Group events complement those run by the RSGB Contest Committee, and provide more opportunities for contacts on the higher bands. The UK Microwave Group awards the G3KEU, G3RPE, G0RRJ and 24GHz Trophies to the winners of the various cumulative contests that run through the summer months. The RSGB award the 10GHz Trophy, the G6ZR Trophy (2.3GHz) and the VHF Contests Committee Cup (1.3GHz), we should consider a jointly owned programme for contest trophies for the microwave bands with all the operating trophies presented at one event.

UK Microwave Group Awards

The UK Microwave Group continues to run an awards programme for "Firsts" on the bands above 1GHz. Three awards were made during the past 12 months, all to GM3WIL/P for 24GHz contacts. The UK Microwave Group Awards Manager maintains a set of published tables of firsts for all the UK countries for the bands from 1.3GHz to 76GHz. Many new additions have been made this year, primarily EME contacts, although new tropo firsts are also being added, eg G-LY on 1.3GHz, G-GJ on 3.4GHz.

Plans are well advanced to re-launch the Squares awards for the Microwave bands. The awards manager now has all of the RSGB's stock of stickers and the records of awards issued (other than for 3.4GHz, which appear to have been lost). A new certificate design is being finalised and re-launch is planned for January 2011. Existing RSGB awards holders will be able to apply for further stickers for existing certificates, or can receive a new

certificate and sticker. A small number of sticker awards have also been processed to date.

Submitted by G4DDK on behalf of the UK Microwave Group, November 2010