Subject	Synchronization in Region 1 of microwave activity periods		
Society	REF	**Country:**	France
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Synchronization in Region 1 of microwave activity periods

Introduction

Several European countries organize days or periods for microwave activity defined as a day or period during which microwave enthusiasts are encouraged to be active on the microwave bands (1,2 GHz and above). These periods of activity are organized to stimulate activity in microwave communication and are not contests!

The small number of active microwave operators (about 150 in France) and the essentially line-of-sight range of microwave signals mean that microwave enthusiasts who live in hilly or mountainous areas will often need to operate as a portable station from a high point in order to make contacts.

Background

These microwave activity periods are not currently synchronized between the various national organizations promoting them, and so the number of potential QSOs is low and the range of contacts limited. This often means poor or, at best, modest results as a reward for the hard work of transporting and installing the station at a portable location.

In France, Switzerland and Spain, the surrounding conditions are often the limiting factor for line-of-sight contacts and therefore, more than half of microwave activity is the result of portable operation. By its very nature, portable operation involves not only time spent operating the station, but also the time needed to travel to and from the portable location and the time needed to set up and dismantle the station. This is possible for most people only at week-ends.

Following inquiries among French microwave operators, it is clear that the majority do not want to see activity periods amalgamated with contests. Contests by their very nature do not allow leisurely contacts and technical tests. This means that activity periods need to be scheduled for weekends when there are no microwave contests scheduled - essentially the last weekend of the month.

Portable activities are difficult during the winter months, so the most suitable season for scheduling microwave activity periods is from March to October.

Key point and proposal

To increase the number of potential QSOs, it would help enormously if these periods

of activity were to be synchronised at Region 1 level.

It is proposed therefore that the last weekend of each month from March to October, from Saturday 15:00 UTC to Sunday 15:00 UTC, be allocated to microwave activity on the bands 1,2 GHz and above.

In France, to increase the number of potential contacts, QSOs are set up on 144,390 MHz, but can also be organised via the Internet.

In Spain and Switzerland, microwave specialists are trying now to synchronize their activity with the French calendar.

The attached table shows the activity periods from January to June 2014 in various countries in Region 1 (Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom).

In France, participants are encouraged to send their log of contacts as an Excel spreadsheet, with information like QSO details, QRA Locator, distances, ODX, etc... This provides useful information on the level of activity, bands used, propagation, activated areas, etc…

Recommendation

Microwave activity periods are to be synchronized at Region 1 level, typically 8 times a year, from March to October on the last weekend of the month, to run from Saturday 15:00 UTC to Sunday 15:00 UTC on 1,2 GHz and above: initial contact to be made on 144,390 MHz ± 10 kHz.

References

1 January		1 february	BBT 09H00/13H00	1 march		1 april		1 may		1 june
2		2	BBT 09H00/13H00	2		2		2		2
3		3		3		3		3		3
4		4		4		4		4		4
5		5		5		5		5		5
6		6		6		6		6		6
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13		13		13		13		13		13
14		14		14		14		14		14
15		15		15		15		15		15
16		16	OK 08H00/11H00	16	OK 08H00/11H00	16		16		16
17		17		17		17		17		17
18		18		18		18	OK 08H00/11H00	18	OK 08H00/11H00	18
19	OK 08H00/11H00	19		19		19		19		19
20		20		20		20		20		20
21		21		21		21		21		21
22		22	BBT 09H00/13H00	22		22	DK/SP 17H00/21H00	22		22
23		23	BBT 09H00/13H00	23		23		23		23
24		24		24		24		24	BBT 09H00/13H00	24
25		25	NRAU ACTIVITY17H00/21H00	25	NRAU ACTIVITY17H00/21H00	25		25	G 06H00/19H00_ F/EA 17H00/17H00 BBT 09H00/13H00	25
26		26		26		26		26		26
27		27		27		27	NRAU ACTIVITY17H00/21H00	27	NRAU ACTIVITY17H00/21H00	27
28	NRAU ACTIVITY17H00/21H00	28		28		28		28		28
29				29		29		29		29
30				30	F/EA 17H00/17H00	30		30		30
31				31				31		