**X-FACTOR GAME PLAN**

* Friday evening Aug. 19,18:00 CDT - Meet/eat/ & greet at the Valley Hill Country Club (EM64rp47tr)in S.E. Huntsville. Group into 5 +1 teams to negate interference, both spectral and physical. Collect maps to operating sites and go over details.
* Saturday Aug. 20, 12:00 CDT – At the Von Braun Center, depart the forum room for the VHF/UHF/microwave forums and travel to designated operating sites. One set of operators has stated their desire to operate from Brindley Mtn. and not rotate from site to site, and this is o.k. Therefore, the other teams will rotate around the other 5 sites.
* Saturday Aug. 20, 12:30 CDT – Begin transmissions from designated sites which have been validated for microwave paths. Sites have been selected to meet the contest rules of at least 10 miles between sites to qualify as a new contact. Plan to spend one hour at each site and 30 min. to travel to the next site.
* To minimize mass QRM and assuming 3 stations for each team, each of the sites will be assigned a designated primary frequency. The Orthopedic Center (QTH-A) 10,368.1 MHz, First Flint River Baptist Church (QTH-B) 10,368.2 MHz, UAH parking deck (QTH-C) 10,368.3 MHz, Indian Springs Rd. cement factory (QTH-D) 10,368.4 MHz, Peach Orchard Ln. in Priceville (QTH-E) 10,368.5 MHz, and Brindley Mtn. (QTH-F) 10,368.6 MHz. This permits multiple simultaneous QSO’s with stations operating either on their primary frequency or the primary frequency of another site.
* Beam headings and distances are provided for each site. If stations cannot get antennas aligned, both stations should point at the TV transmitting towers on Monte Sano, the ridge to the East of The Orthopedic Center. Both stations from any of the operating sites should be able to easily work from reradiation from these towers.
* Safety is of primary concern, and each operator needs to be keenly aware of this. First, when approaching The First Flint River Baptist Church from the South as traveling North on Moore’s Mill Rd., DO NOT take the first left turn into the church parking lot. The hill where the church sits is a distinctive hump blocking view of south bound traffic. Go slightly past the church over the top of the hill and then turn left into the church parking lot. Also, be mindfully aware that the typical microwave rover station is a portable microwave oven. Your +33 dBm feeding an 18 inch DSS dish, 32 dB gain, results +65 dBm effective radiated power (ERP) which is 3.16 kW. Since stations will be in close proximity, DO NOT transmit pointing your antenna at nearby team member. The two most sensitive parts of the body to High Power Microwave (HPM) energy are the eyes and the testicles, and we don’t want to damage either. Be mindful of the safety of your fellow team members. The microwave operators are somewhat of a rarity, so we need to do all we can to maximize their survival.
* Help your fellow team members aim their antennas, get on frequency, unload and set up, and reload to travel to the next site. Most of all, have fun, make lots of QSO’s, and plan to join some of us at the end of the day to share a meal at one of the local German restaurants. This will be an excellent opportunity to swap stories and discuss the X-FACTOR and how it may be improved. After all, this is our first attempt at this, other than the impromptu effort a year ago, so we are all in the learning mode and welcome suggestions.

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