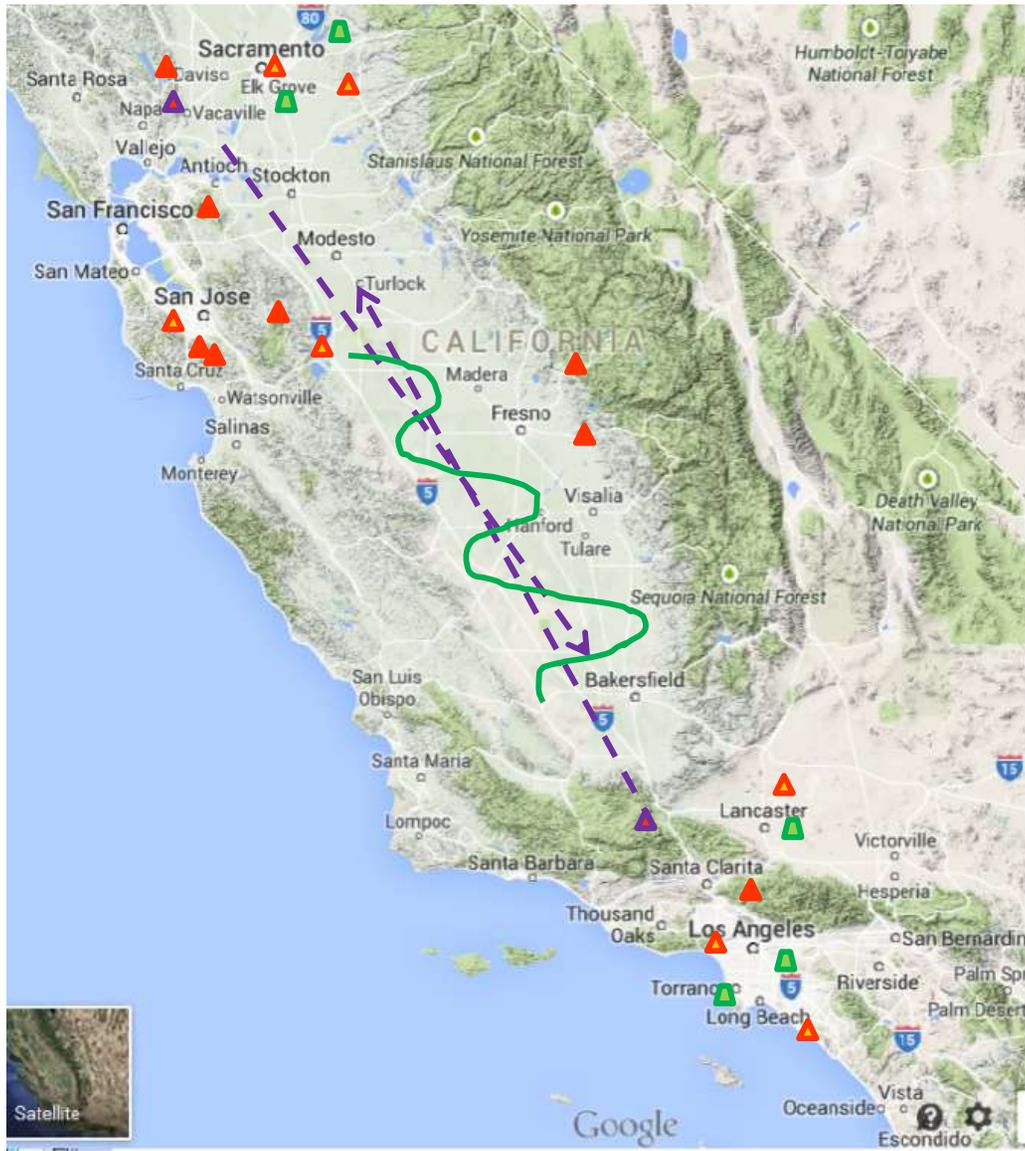


Microwave Contesting



A Microwave Activity Day on steroids... more stations... longer DX... a chance to explore CA mountains and valleys... a road rally... car camping... competition.

10GHz & Up: Aug & Sep weekends

2 GHz & Up: May weekend

VHF: Jan, Jun, Sep weekends

California's Central Valley runs NW-SE, surrounded by mountains. Some folks pick a high spot for the day(s), others rove the valley (each move of >10 miles makes you a "new you").

Microwave scoring: distance + uniques

VHF scoring: grids x contacts

Microwave Contesting

Have fun, make new friends, work new DX, explore, compete to win if you like.

You can operate just a few hours or all weekend (8am Sat to Midnite Sun, 24 hrs max. "ON" time), casual or serious effort. Maybe just a few hours OR "9 to 5" maybe PLUS nighttime, too (good prop. and cooler).

Repeaters used for coordination: Cactus 440 (when open) & NC9RS 900.

"I am at CM97MB... send me a carrier to peak on... reverse... let's go to sideband".

Most contacts on SSB, some FM (rainscatter/mobile), others CW (best distance).

Ideally, operate in a small group (2-3 is ideal). Share coordination and experience.

Choose location(s): home, nearby hill, mountaintop, roving (SJV best), hybrid.

Maybe mix it up --- different groups on different days and/or solo.

Microwave Contesting

Rovers need: a **robust** radio, **quick** setup/teardown, a full gas tank.

Rovers can stop every 10 miles (a “new you”)

A good spot has a clear horizon; doesn't need super height (a bump is OK).

Drive & park safely. Say hi to the deputy when he stops by.

Mountaintoppers need: **access** and a **commanding view of the valley**

(Vaca, Diablo, Frazier, etc), food, maybe a sleeping bag.

Everyone needs: hat, sunscreen, water, jacket,

power (battery/gen.), 440/900 radios,

grid square (smartphone) app (where am I? which way are you?)

pencil & paper, logsheets

Watch out for: wind, rain, ice, hot, cold, cars & trucks, bugs, bees, snakes, speed traps ...