

## ARRL Band Plans for 10 and 6 meters

### 10 Meters (28-29.7 MHz):

28.000-28.070	CW
28.070-28.150	RTTY
28.150-28.190	CW
28.200-28.300	Beacons
28.300-29.300	Phone
28.680	SSTV
29.000-29.200	AM
29.300-29.510	Satellite Downlinks
29.520-29.590	Repeater Inputs
29.600	FM Simplex
29.610-29.700	Repeater Outputs

Technician Sub segment 28.3-28.5 Mhz

### Comments from Frank Maynard, NF8M

On ten meters, you'll find CW centered around 28.050 and most SSB activity between 28.300 and 28.500 MHz. There are ten meter beacons also, and US beacons are found between 28.200 and 28.300. There is also the worldwide NCDXF beacon network on 28.200. There are eighteen beacons around the world that transmit for ten seconds each on a three-minute rotation.

(See <https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/> for more info.) A list of ten meter beacons is here:

<https://www.qsl.net/wj5o/bcn.htm>

There is FM activity on ten meters. It's found between 29.500 and 29.700 MHz. Channels are spaced 10 kHz, repeaters are 100 kHz low offset (repeaters listen between 29.52-29.59 and transmit 100 kHz higher) and the simplex frequency is 29.600. When 10 meters opens, listen on 29.600 and you're likely to hear clean, crisp audio from thousands of miles away. If not, call CQ and see what you get! Antenna polarization is unimportant for skywave, so a horizontal antenna would work fine.

## 6 Meters (50-54 MHz):

50.0-50.1	CW, beacons
50.060-50.080	beacon subband
50.1-50.3	SSB, CW
50.10-50.125	DX window
50.125	SSB calling
50.3-50.6	All modes
50.6-50.8	Nonvoice communications
50.62	Digital (packet) calling
50.8-51.0	Radio remote control (20-kHz channels)
51.0-51.1	Pacific DX window
51.12-51.48	Repeater inputs (19 channels)
51.12-51.18	Digital repeater inputs
51.62-51.98	Repeater outputs (19 channels)
51.62-51.68	Digital repeater outputs
52.0-52.48	Repeater inputs (except as noted; 23 channels)
52.02, 52.04	FM simplex
52.2	TEST PAIR (input)
52.5-52.98	Repeater output (except as noted; 23 channels)
52.525	Primary FM simplex
52.54	Secondary FM simplex
52.7	TEST PAIR (output)
53.0-53.48	Repeater inputs (except as noted; 19 channels)
53.0	Remote base FM simplex
53.02	Simplex
53.1, 53.2, 53.3, 53.4	Radio remote control
53.5-53.98	Repeater outputs (except as noted; 19 channels)
53.5, 53.6, 53.7, 53.8	Radio remote control
53.52, 53.9	Simplex

## Comments from Frank Maynard, NF8M

Six and two meters are the only two bands with a subband where only CW is permitted - no RTTY, digital or other narrowband data as in the HF bands. On six, that's from 50.000 to 50.100 MHz

In the CW subband, domestic beacons are found between 50.060 and 50.080 MHz. Beacons are automatically controlled stations operating at low power (100 watts maximum but typically 5-10 watts) that run 24/7/365 as indicators or propagation. Take a spin in that segment. You should hear my beacon at 50.0763 MHz, and if the band is open, you'll hear a couple or a few more. Florida is a typical sporadic-E opening, and some I've heard regularly are W3HH/B on 50.061 and KM4HAM/B 50.075. Often there are openings to the west, and N0LL/B is a frequent catch on 50.0776. Beacons in other countries typically operate below 50.060, so listen down there if there's a big opening. G3USF maintains a good list of 6 meter beacons at:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/50.htm>

Even though it's permitted, there's almost no non-beacon CW below 50.080. Most CW operation is concentrated between 50.080-50.100 MHz. Listen or call just below 50.100 - say, 50.098 or 50.095.

The segment from 50.100-50.125 is the DX window. If the band is open to Europe or the Caribbean, you'll hear them there, mainly on SSB.

SSB phone activity starts with the calling frequency, 50.125 MHz, and goes up from there. Monitor 50.125 or call CQ there, and if you make contact, move up to another frequency if you want to continue. It's not good practice to use 50.125 for calling CQ during a contest. Activity can go up above 50.200 if there's a lot of it, especially during a contest.

FM is generally found above 51 MHz. The national simplex calling frequency (the band's equivalent to 146.52) is 52.525 MHz. Other popular simplex frequencies are 52.540 or 52.400. Repeaters are found in a couple segments between 52 and 54 MHz, with low offset (repeater inputs lower than outputs). The offset (difference between input and output frequency) varies from state to state. In Michigan the norm is 500 kHz. In Ohio and Indiana it's typically 1 MHz but there are a few exceptions. And because of the potential for wide area propagation, nearly all repeaters use a PL tone, usually something other than 100 Hz.

Most activity on six meters today is FT8, and is found at 50.313 MHz with a secondary frequency of 50.310. JS8call is at 50.328 for longer QSOs, and the DX window for FT8 is 50.323. If you look at [dxmaps.com](https://dxmaps.com), most of the spots you'll see nowadays are FT8.

Another popular mode on six meters is meteor scatter, which usually employs MSK144 and can be found at 50.260 MHz. Try during the major meteor showers and you'll probably hear activity, but it can actually crop up any time.

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Bob Kiessel WA8MZX