

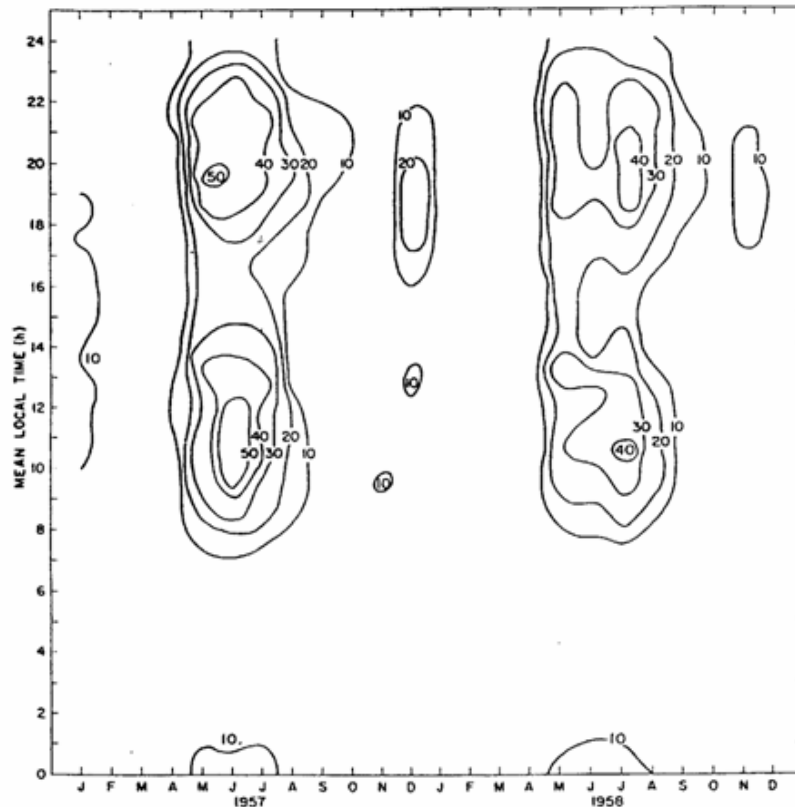
Sporadic E Probabilities for 6m

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

With the 6m sporadic E (Es) season in full swing, it would be helpful to know when the likelihood of these openings might occur. If you're a dedicated 6m aficionado, you probably know this off the top of your head.

But if you're new to 6m, a plot of probabilities versus month and local time would tell you when to listen. Fortunately, many studies have been done on sporadic E, and there are several that are specifically applicable to 6m.

One of the best presentations of this data that I've seen comes from an old study covering two full years – 1957 and 1958. The following plot shows this data (from an early edition of the USAF Handbook of Geophysics).



The horizontal axis is the month. The vertical axis is local time at the path mid point. The contour lines are probabilities in terms of days of the month.

For example, in July the probability of 6m being open via Es at 10:00 AM is around 40%. That means 6m should be open on 40% of the days in July (12 days) at 10:00 AM.

It's easy to see that Es peaks in the late morning and early evening hours during the summer months. And there's a secondary peak in December in the early evening hours.

With these guidelines, your 6m productivity should increase. Good luck, and have fun!