

QRP HOURS CONTEST 2015

I offered to conduct the contest this year when there was a request in the March magazine for a volunteer to substitute for Mike VK2IG. Not having ever checked a set of logs before there were a few surprises and I got some very helpful support from Mike on his methods. So with apologies for the extended delay, here are the results.

Results

First place in the CW/PSK section went to Gerard VK2IO who operated his KX3 from a portable location with a dipole mounted on a 10m squid pole. First place in the SSB section went to Ian VK5CZ in the Clare Valley of South Australia.

Overall we had 16 logs submitted for the CW and PSK section, with another 4 callsigns being worked, total participation 20. For the SSB section we received 24 logs with another 16 callsigns being worked who did not submit logs, making total participation of 40. Some of the logs not submitted may have been QRO stations who did not think it appropriate to submit a log, however their participation was appreciated.

A reminders that points are deducted where the callsign logged or the serial number logged from the station worked was clearly incorrect. Where any doubt existed, entrants were given the benefit of the doubt, as advised by Mike.

CW and PSK section

Logs received: 16 with 131 contacts claimed. 119 on CW and 12 on PSK.

CALLSIGN	Mode	Points awarded	Place
VK2IO	CW	14	1
VK5LJ	CW	13	2
VK5CZ	CW	12	3
VK2AFA	CW	11	
VK2AOH	CW	11	
VK3YE	CW	10	
VK2YW	CW	7	
VK3BYD	CW	6	
VK3HRA	CW	6	
VK3WE	CW	6	
VK2JDR	CW	5	
VK2ACD	PSK	4	
VK3MIX	PSK	4	
VK1ATP	PSK	3	
VK6QK	PSK	1	
VK2UH	CW	14	

SSB section

Logs received: 24, containing 363 contacts.

CALLSIGN	Mode	Points awarded	Place
VK5CZ	SSB	31	1
VK2IO	SSB	30	2
VK5FANA	SSB	25	3
VK5EE	SSB	24	
VK2YW	SSB	22	
VK5LJ	SSB	20	
VK3DAC	SSB	18	
VK2BEN	SSB	17	
VK1ATP	SSB	16	
VK1MDP	SSB	15	
VK2HRX	SSB	14	
VK3HRA	SSB	14	
VK3YE	SSB	14	
VK2ACD	SSB	12	
VK2AOH	SSB	12	
VK5ATQ	SSB	11	
VK7HKN	SSB	11	
VK3MIX	SSB	10	
VK5BB	SSB	8	
VK2JDR	SSB	5	
VK2AFA	SSB	4	
VK6QK	SSB	4	
VK6FLAB	SSB	1	
VK2UH	SSB	25	

General comments

Several points were lost by some logs due to either the logged callsign or the cipher received from the other station not matching the callsign or number sent by the station worked. In keeping with normal contest rules, the sender is assumed to have sent the correct sequence number provided it is in sequence, and where errors occur it is presumed that the receiver did not log it correctly.

Log formats received varied widely in format and content. Times were not only inconsistent in format but were wildly variable, by up to 10 minutes between the two ends of the contacts. One log listed only the callsigns worked, no times or numbers sent or received. Two logs received had swapped the "number sent" and "number received" columns. Computer logs are fairly standard these days so it is worth being familiar with how to produce a log in a suitable format.

All contests require a minimum logging standard of date, time, band, mode, call worked, cipher sent and cipher received. Entrants should log and report at least those data for each contact.

Many entrants included signal reports in their logs. They were not required in the contest and were not required in logs. Processing the logs required removal of the RST part of the numbers exchanged to make it feasible to compare the numbers sent and received.

Several logs were sent but went missing in the Yahoo mail system. One was found in the spam folder and the other was not found. One log (from Bob VK5FO) sent to my gmail address went missing. Sorry Bob, it never turned up despite searching the usual places. I have added the logs received into this updated set of results.

Results

Great to see VK5FANA's result. Keeping us old timers on our toes!

I know there were several CW entries from operators who have only recently taken up CW and would never have thought of participating in a CW contest before this year. From comments received the contest was long enough, short enough, at about the right speed and had almost enough activity to satisfy most. The way we will expand the event is to tell more people about it.

In keeping with Mike's policy I have excluded my results from the awards. I used my IC703 in this event intending to use 2w on CW and 5W on SSB. As it turned out I used about 0.5W for the first 10 contacts on CW and it really didn't seem to make any difference to my contact rate.

Publicity: I published notices about the event on the VKZLQRP list, the SOTA mailing list (Yahoo groups SOTA_Australia), on the vk1 mailing list (vk1-reflect@crarc.ampr.org) and on the VKlogger forum site under contests and field events. I think the SOTA list had the most apparent impact but it is hard to tell. Perhaps the QRP Club should have its own internet mailing list?

Thanks to all who entered and we hope you will participate again next year. I think all who I talked to have said they enjoyed it greatly. Tell a friend about this rather unique event.

Andrew VK2UH

QRP Hours contest manager for 2015.