

QRP HOURS 40m contest/sprint

This event was run in October 2016 after being announced in September.

Conditions were OK but there was no NVIS propagation, which caused some QRM problems.

Activity: We received entries from 18 operators. 9 of those recorded contacts on both CW and SSB, 4 logged only CW and 5 logged only SSB contacts. The portable/battery power concept also received good support, 6 of the logs coming from portables.

From the logs it appears there were another approx 20 operators, mainly home stations, who gave the QRP operators their extra contacts. (SOTA summit-to-summit contacts are also usually QRP-QRP. Want more? Go SOTA)

In at least two cases operators logged contacts with callsign X, but callsign Y claimed the other side of the contact including the sequence number! (Should we announce our callsigns more frequently in contests?).

The scores

CW results	Score	Remarks
VK4FW	18*	
VK7CW/1	12*	
VK5LJ	11*	
VK2IG	10	
VK2JDR	10*	portable with LIPO battery
VK3YE	9 *	
VK4JAZ	7*	Sota summit
VK1CT	6	
VK3ARH	6	
VK2KJJ	5	
VK2ZB	5	
VK3ANP	5	
VK3BYD	5	

SSB Results	Score	Remarks
VK2IG	20*	
VK3TUN	13*	QRP Portable in a National Park
VK5LJ	10*	
VK5WTF	9	
VK4FE	7*	portable, battery power
VK3YE	5*	Beach portable
VK2KJJ	4	
VK4FAAJ	4*	Portable
VK2JDR	3*	Portable
VK3ANP	3	
VK3BYD	3	
VK5ATQ	3	
VK3ZB	2	
VK3ARH	2	

* Certificates awarded:

1st to 3rd place in CW and SSB

VK4FAAJ for Foundation licence entry

VK3TUN operating in a National Park at 5W SSB

Grant VK4JAZ Portable operation at a SOTA summit, using 1.5w from a KX1.

Summary

I think this event has demonstrated that operators are certainly interested in events where they will make QRP-QRP contacts on 40m. Also the portable QRP concept was very well supported, as without those entries the list would have been much shorter! Some operated in National Parks and others from SOTA summits, some were eligible for points under both schemes.

Logging

The popular logging program VKCL did not cater for this event. Several operators devised workarounds for that problem. The quickest way to type up 10 contacts is using a plain text editor with spaces between the time, mode, callsign etc.

Repeating the event?

It seems to be worth running this event again next year. I'm open to suggestions about bands and timing in terms of the month and the day (Saturday or Sunday?).

Could the event run for 2 hours, with freedom to use whichever mode you like (within licence conditions) at any time during the event? In poor conditions it could be a very slow event, but if contacts are available on ssb when nobody is answering your CW CQ, maybe some flexibility would help.

Please email comments about bands and dates/days to contests@vkqrpclub.org.

A more detailed version of this report with entrants' comments will be published on the website under Contests. (Thanks Garry).

73

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