

VKQRP Club QRP Hours contest

40m October 2017

Results and summary

This contest was conducted in quite difficult 40m conditions with thunderstorm activity making the band very noisy and propagation conditions being difficult, as they usually are at this time of the sunspot cycle.

In the CW section we had logs from 13 operators and for SSB there were six logs. And as a first this time, there was a log for the new digital mode FT8.

The results are:

	CW	SSB	FT8
VK1CT	3	2	
VK1FWBK	2		
VK2FENG		2	
VK2GAZ	2		
VK2IG	6		
VK2IO	5	1	
VK2JDR	5		
VK3AFW			2
VK3BYD	9		
VK3CAB	4		
VK4JAZ	6		
VK4TGL	3	3	
VK5LJ	9	4	
VK5WAT	6	3	
VK7CW	8		

The highest CW score was from VK5LJ and VK3BYD, both on 9 contacts and VK5LJ also had the highest SSB score of 4! The log from Ron VK3AFW was for the new FT8 digital mode.

Soapbox

Chris VK1CT:

Station: FT817, doublet, 12v 5Ah SLA battery, 5 watts output. Condx were poor. I was going to take part as a portable station from the local park, but the wx forecast was rain and the clouds were getting darker, so I stayed at home and used my FT817 with battery power.

Bill VK1FWBK:

My station was my Home QTH operating at a maximum 5Watt power output. HB-1B QRP Transceiver and then my IC-7300 set to 5 Watts. Sadly very difficult HF conditions for

everyone. Only two contacts, but I am going through this process for the experience! Thanks for a fun contest. Next time I hope to go Portable and away from so much suburban noise!!

Helen VK2FENG: Portable at Bango Nature Reserve VKFF-1884

Garry VK2GAZ:

I operated my FT-817 into a dipole but the band conditions were not good. A great deal of local QRM at my location. Gave up at 0544.

Mike VK2IG:

I operated portable from Bango Nature Reserve, VKFF-1884. Equipment was a FT-817 at 5W output feeding a 40m inverted vee with the feedpoint about 10m up. Power was provided by a LiPo battery.

There didn't seem to be many contest stations operating in the CW section. I could hear distant stations (which I worked) working other stations within the skip zone of my QTH, so there are a few entrants who I could not have worked anyway. One VK3 station heard CQing at various times during the CW hour couldn't hear any of my replies. The FT-817 isn't fitted with the optional CW filter, so I am looking forward to building the NESCAF and using it in the next contest.

Gerard VK2IO:

A late start for this contest as I only realised it was on when chasing VK3BYD/5 30 minutes in. Stayed to near the end of the CW hour.

There seemed to be another CW contest on as well with lots of fast, strong stations down the band. On SSB there were very few stations heard. VK5LJ was there but no response from him on SSB just like on CW. I stayed for the first 15 minutes on SSB.

Dave VK2JDR:

My station consisted of an FT-857D set at 5 watts, running off a LiFe battery to an End Fed Half Wave L shaped antenna operating portable from the suburban house front yard.

Weather in Sydney deteriorated prior to the competition start, with thunder storms and rain up to 05:00Z. I had planned on operating portable from nearby bush-land however the consistent rain changed plans to operating portable from the front yard undercover from the house porch.

Conditions were very poor and hard-going battling S7 noise and lack of propagation resulting in no near-by intra-state contacts. Scanning around during the SSB section of the competition, I could just hear VK5WAT however numerous attempts to make contact went unheard. I gave-up on the SSB comp.

Overall a fun easy-going local competition.

Ron vk3afw:

Interesting to see how the [FT8] mode went. There were two or three VK2 stations who I'm sure I could have worked but by the time I decided I had to chase they had gone. Heard a station from Fiji and another from Poland as the band opened to EU but could not work either.

Warren VK3BYD:

I believe I operated with in the spirit of the contest and my licence conditions.

I did however get spotted on Parks and Peaks which likely increased my score.

I am also not sure what is normal for contest etiquette when a station does not give you a number [I think in a "serious" contest a contact without a received number would not count. This one isn't that serious...].

As always a great contest and still the only one I regularly take part in.

This time I was portable in VK5 about 20km north of Coober Pedy in the Kanku Breakaways Conservation Park. Gear was the KX2 (4.5Watts) and the 14m end fed wire, 6m counterpoise and L match tuner.

I noted the comments on the Group page re conditions and time of day.

The CW section will always be my priority, and if portable I am unlikely to stay out for the two hours to also do SSB.

As for time of day, as long as we finish early enough so as to not be packing up in the dark, I don't mind.

Tony VK3CAB:

I was using an FT817 into an East-West running inverted V dipole. Half the time I was calling and half the time chasing. My local QRM/N was running at S5-7 and using 5Watts on 40mts right now is character building. But things can only get better.

Grant VK4JAZ:

Home station using an Elecraft KX1 and Buddistick antenna with power supplied by a 7a/h gel cell.

Gerard VK4TGL:

FT817 with internal battery pack for RX plus external 3.3AH lithium battery pack for TX.

Antenna End Fed Half Wave as an inverted L. QRP 5 or 2.5 watts depending on battery pack used for contact. Apologies to VK5LJ for the difficult LSB contact. I forget to switch in the external battery therefore was at 2.5 not 5 watts. Woops.

VK5WAT/3

was operated by Peter VK3YE portable at Chelsea Beach on Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne. 5 watts and a LIPO battery.

Steve VK7CW:

Thanks for another great contest. It is always a thrill to work QRP. I hope these contests continue on a regular basis and it would be nice to see increased participation levels in the future.

VK1DA/p:

I operated on battery power from the Muntoonen Nature Reserve near Yass. For the CW section I wanted to see if the MTR3b was a practical contest radio. I think the answer is that for me, I prefer a normal VFO control as tuning up and down the band is a bit cumbersome at 50 hz per press of the up or down button. However I made a few contacts including one with Grant 4JAZ, which I was happy about. The power level on cw was about 4 watts.

On SSB using the FT817it was very slow going. Heavy static crashes made it quite difficult. I made a few contacts but early in the SSB section, rain started on the sun shelter I was using, then became hail. The rain and hail having fallen on the ground uphill of my sun shelter, then ran down the hill under the edges of the shelter, drenching the ground, my seat and clothing. At that point I decided to close down. I recognise the point where persisting is plain silly.

Thanks to all participants who operated and sent in their logs.

Andrew vk1da/vk2uh