

QRP HOURS CONTEST APRIL 2018

Results

16 logs received for CW, 13 for SSB, one only for digital modes. Top score in the CW section went to Patrick VK2PN. Top score in the SSB section went to John VK2YW. On digital modes the one entry was from Wade VK1MIC, who had only received his standard call a week before the contest but was keen to operate on SSB and FT8 in this event.

Results and scores

CW	Contacts	SSB	Contacts
VK2PN	16	VK2YW	15
VK7CW	16	VK3MEG	13
VK5LJ	14	VK1MIC	11
VK2WP	13	VK4QH	11
VK2IG	12	VK5LJ	11
VK4SN	12	VK2IG	10
VK1CT	11	VK5FANA	10
VK3YE	10	VK4SN	8
VK2AKB	9	VK6POP	8
VK2GAZ	9	VK3YE	7
VK1FWBK	8	VK2AKB	6
VK2YW	8	VK1CT	5
VK3MEG	7	VK3BYD	2
VK3BYD	6	VK6BEK	2
VK3TP	6	VK2UH	15
VK4QH	3	Digital	
(VK2UH)	14	VK1MIC	2

General comments

In the logs there was a total of 310 contacts listed, of which 207 tallied perfectly with other logs. 13 contacts contained received numbers that did not agree with the Sent number in the other log. It is presumed that the sending station is likely to send the correct number as it is the next one in sequence. There were 90 contacts that were not confirmed as the stations worked did not submit their logs.

Alan VK4SN provided a template that could be used with N1MM logger for this contest. I used it and it seemed to work quite well. If everyone used that, I would also be able to use Alan's contest log validation software. As it was I used Excel again.

My observation of conditions was that during the first hour (CW/digital) conditions were reasonable and it seemed the contacts were plentiful. That continued for about the first half of the SSB hour after which conditions seemed poor. In southeast states conditions seemed good for most operators apart from plasma TVs next door, but in VK4 the QRN was huge. One VK4 emailed me after the event saying he heard no activity at all during the contest so made no contacts.

Comments from operators

I really enjoyed the contest. Unfortunately my neighbour has a plasma TV which causes huge QRM on 80m, so pulling QRP signals from the noise was a real challenge! (Chris VK1CT)

Used an IC-7300 with a Begali Blade key (Bill VK1FWBK now VK1MCW?)

Thanks for the fun (Patrick VK2PN)

Operated from a portable location in the Upper Turon River, a good clear aspect. Solar charging for the battery, used my SOTA linked dipole as a sloper the high end up about 9M in a tree. 5W QRP. Did not take part in the SSB section as a cold wind came up. Very good band conditions, quite a few 599 signals came in only a little QSB with some static crashes from a storm somewhere towards the end. Seemed to be a good number of participants, even logged a VK6 who was QRP. (Wal VK2WP)

Another great contest, very nice to hear so many operators taking part in the contest. (Garry VK2GAZ)

There seemed to be more CW stations around this year, which was pleasing to hear, and it kept me busy in "search and pounce" mode for much of the CW hour. The SSB hour was more difficult - many stations which I heard quite well during the CW hour seemed to be very low in received signal strength on SSB. Others had considerable difficulty copying QRP stations, and I think this may be because many stations have high local noise floors - one reported 30 dB over S9 noise! I heard a VK6 calling CQ Contest during the SSB hour, but they could not hear my replies. (Mike VK2IG)

I enjoyed the contest and thank you. (Karen VK2AKB)

Here it is (the log)...good fun yet again. (John VK2YW)

I was using a K3 turned down to 5 watts into an OCF dipole. Band was very noisy again with S7 for the CW segment then S9 for most of the SSB segment. Otherwise an enjoyable contest with a couple of VK6's joining in. (Lawrie VK5LJ)

Great contest it took ages but I got vk6pop ssb:) 73 (Steve VK3MEG)

Operated from home with the 817 on 5 watts and the home station antenna, 80/40 trap dipole. (Warren VK3BYD)

Log attached. A good contest. Many thanks, Peter (VK3YE)

Worked a station on cw who gave me a FISTS number, several times. (Tony VK3TP)

Wow, that was a hard contest under bad conditions... Equipment used; FT2000 with 80m Vertical and 80m loop combined on stackmatch with optional beverage Rx antenna when needed. S9 QRN the entire time. Very hard to pull out calls on CW and even worse on SSB no matter what antenna was used. Called lots on RTTY with no takers. Thanks to the managers for the contest (Alan VK4SN)

...have been trying to get N1MM [contest logger] to work but no luck on this computer so have to send this format, I enjoyed the challenge and with 30 over 9 noise floor was certainly a challenge but good fun all the same. Thanks to the organizers and look forward to future contests. (Adrian VK5FANA)

I was running 5 watts on IC7300 into an 80m dipole at 10m height. (Shaun VK6BEK)

Log attached... Conditions crap :(Computer misbehaved :(Had another beer :) (Bob VK6POP) ☺

These contests are always very enjoyable and very laid back. Nice to see a few more participants this time and good conditions on 80m. Thanks for a fun contest. (Steve VK7CW)

Summary

I'm pleased to see logs from some different operators this time, good to have you join in the event.

Next QRP Hours Contest!

To be announced in September Lo-Key. Probably October and 40m, like last year.

73 Andrew VK1DA/VK2UH

