

QRP Hours Contest October 2018

The contest found very poor conditions and most operators struggled to find contacts. The expansion of the time and the dual band format was a relaxation of time pressure but also a source of frustration due to not knowing which bands others were using. The 80m band was included as my own experience on SOTA and parks activations in the last year had shown that 80m was providing most of the medium distance contacts that 40m normally does in better conditions. 40m was a very poor band for QRP operations.

Scores

CW

1. VK1MCW and VK3YE 4 contacts each
2. VK5LJ 3 contacts
3. VK3BYD and VK1CT 2 contacts each

SSB

1. VK1CT 8 contacts
2. VK3YE 4 contacts
3. VK1MIC 7 contacts
4. VK2FENG 6 contacts
5. VK5LJ and VK5DG 4 contacts each.

JS8

- VK1MIC 1 contact

All operators deserve our congratulations for their perseverance and patience in very trying conditions.

The comments in these 6 logs indicated that the two band format was of limited use. Some didn't have 80m antennas so were counting on 40m to provide the contacts.

For example a SSB contact was reported between Gerard VK2IO and Chris VK1CT on 80m between the Canberra and Sydney areas, about 300km, which was impossible on 40m.

Thanks to the participants and to those who submitted logs.

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