

QRP Hours Contest April 2023 – 80m CW, Digital and SSB

This contest again competed with the QRN from thunderstorms somewhere, which caused trouble for most operators.

The use of FT4 for digital contacts worked well for the previous contest but this time there was only one log claiming digital contacts.

Results

Category	Callsign	Score	Placement
SSB	VK5LJ	15	1st
SSB	VK3GK	11	2nd
SSB	VK2IO	11	2nd
SSB	VK3YE	8	3rd
SSB	VK2HRX	7	4th
SSB	VK7KPC	6	5th
SSB	VK7IAN	5	6th
SSB	VK2KI	3	7th
SSB	VK1AO	2	8th
CW	VK5LJ	13	1st
CW	VK3BYD	12	2nd
CW	VK2CCC	11	3rd
CW	VK3YE	9	4th
CW	VK2KJJ	9	4th
CW	VK2KI	9	4th
CW	VK1CT	7	5th
CW	VK3GK	7	5th
CW	VK2IO	7	5th
CW	VK7KPC	5	6th
CW	VK6PZT	3	7th
CW	VK6XU	2	8th
CW	VK1AO	1	9th
Digital	VK1AO	1	1st

Contest manager's comments

15 logs were received.

Several logs lost points due to the received number being logged incorrectly.

Contacts with stations who did not submit logs cannot be checked, and unique callsigns only worked by one contestant cannot be checked. Some international contests disqualify contacts with uniques, as they assume they are logging errors. However, most of the uniques in the logs were callsigns that I recognised. All uniques were accepted as valid contacts.

One log recorded a digital mode contact in the midst of several CW contacts, the station worked logged it as a CW contact on a CW frequency in a log of only CW and SSB contacts so this was assessed as an error in the Digital log entry.

As several operators had trouble creating the Cabrillo format log required by vklogchecker.com, and one operator was travelling during the 10 days after the contest, the log submission deadline was extended by a week. Only the traveller's log was submitted during the second week, though I issued a message via several mailing groups to let people know of the extension. About 12 logs were submitted within a day of the contest.

I will include some additional guidance on using FLE and N1MM loggers in future as the header section requires some specific entries for the log to be accepted. This will be included as a separate file on the website to help those using these loggers. In reality it isn't necessary to use computer logging for a dozen or so contacts, but it is good practice for using those loggers in longer events.

Again the vklogchecker.com website run by Alan VK4SN was invaluable for its ease of use and cross-checking facilities. Thanks to everyone who used it successfully. Only a few entrants needed assistance in preparing and submitting logs, which I was happy to give them.

Thanks to all who operated in the contest, and who submitted logs. The logs are the only way we can judge support for the event. Notable new entries were from VK6, glad you joined in.

If contestants have suggestions or requests for alternative events, times, dates, modes etc they can be sent to contests@vkqrpclub.org. Rules for October's 40m event will be in September Lokey and published on the website.

CERTIFICATES

Certificates will be issued to first and second placegetters for each mode. I have a backlog of certificates to issue. I have been working on a new certificate design. I plan to bring this up to date in the next few months. Apologies to those with gaps in their certificate collection.

73 Andrew vk1da/vk2da

SOAPBOX

OP	Comment
VK1CT	QRP Labs QCX+ radio (kit-built), 4 watts to end fed antenna. Mini camelback hand key. A fun event.
VK2CCC	Operated from home using KX3 @ 5W end fed 42m wire 22m UP. Heavy noise on the band from the recent storm made it very difficult to hear others - each QSO was a struggle, and a sense of achievement at the same time. Well done all. I wish the start next time could be 1 hour later as conditions were only improving. [often we notice conditions getting noisier in the 2 nd hour – I don't think we can get that right!]
VK2IO/P	Operated portable at Providence Ponds Flora and Fauna Reserve VKFF-2425. Antenna was a ZS6BKW doublet at 9m. Radio used was an ICOM IC7300 with 5W output.
VK2KI	Thanks for organising once again Andrew. Great fun - lots of stations on CW - but [fewer stations heard in SSB segment]. I operated portable in my backyard - battery powered FT-817 and ZS6BKW doublet up about 7m.
VK2KJJ/P	Nice contest again, was /p to get away from my 80m QRM in my QTH. Worked from my car and end fed LW 2m above ground, a 5 minutes setup. QF34QV
VK3BYD	Another great QRP hour event. Band conditions a little better this time with all bar one station with good signals. Rig was a QCX mini running around 4w into the home station's dipole. Thanks to Andrew for his efforts behind the scene putting this contest together.
VK3YE	A fun contest
VK5LJ	Very challenging noisy conditions tonight. Running 5W into OCF Dipole. Thanks for running the contest Andrew.