

PRIOR TO 2012

Since I (Peter VK4OD) proposed changes to the 2006 "Remembrance Day Contest" I have received several suggestions, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to explain the minor changes to the rules for this year.

We want to emphasise the traditional values in this contest to honour our diggers. This article presents the formal rules for the 2010 "Remembrance Day Contest". which appear in the contest section of the WIA website and in the AR magazine for July.

The RD Contest is then most important event on the Australian amateur calendar, with heavy participation by individual operators and serious competition between states. As it was for 2006 we have carried on with the rule to formally make ineligible contacts which may use an Internet connection. Therefore, the use of such things as IRLP or ECHOLINK are now specifically banned. From this year we have opened the "Receiving Only" category to any Licensed stations. HOWEVER, if they participate in this category they CANNOT take part in any of the Transmitting sections. With the introduction of the Foundation and changes to all licence structures, the 2006 " Remembrance Day Contest" saw a number of the new "F" calls participating. We look forward to more taking part this year.

This year's changes are aimed at restoring the drive and renewing the enthusiasm in the grand old lady. We specifically wanted to strengthen the RD without confusion and hope the new rules will help the " Remembrance Day Contest" retain its rightful place as the premier Australian contest event. The "Remembrance Day Contest" for

#### will be held for the 24 hours commencing at 0800 UTC on Saturday on the designated date August #### finishing at 0800 UTC on Sunday, in essence, what won't change is the spirit of the thing. We haven't meddled with the basics which make the "Remembrance Day Contest" so very special. The winning state will be the one which stands head and shoulders over the rest. Those things won't ever change. Other things will.

Due to the complexity and in order to simplify the points tabulations, I have simplified the bonus points for the HF operators. Reason is that we have bonus points for HF in 160 and 10 metres, CW, VK0, and also in the midnight to yawn shift. We have also kept as a non requirement the necessity to show the RST. However if it is sent

then, if you wish, you can reflect it in the log and if a operator requests an RST and it is sent, it should represent a true assessment of the received signal. Logs should still show sequential numbers starting at 001, with bonus points tallied at the end of the contest and added to the claimed score. SSB and CW will continue to be considered separate modes on HF and from this year, subject to licence privileges, any operator who works stations using 10 metres FM above 29MHz will also have

the opportunity to immediately re-log the same station using SSB or CW below 29 MHz. On VHF, we also encourage increased operation by allowing you to work a station on FM and immediately rework them on SSB or CW, or, indeed, both. This provision was inadvertently changed several years ago when the then manager moved to ban completely automated exchanges between packet stations.

The effect it had, other than to remove the packet robots, of course, was to almost totally eradicate CW and SSB contest operation on the VHF and higher bands in one fell swoop. This year we redress the situation. Although your VHF log can include stations worked on CW, FM or SSB, will continue to need separate logs for HF and VHF

categories, due to the different rules applying to the two categories. Many operators concentrate exclusively on VHF and higher band operation, and many of them will have seen that stations which might be very strong on six or two metres could be substantially weaker on 70cm, and probably all but inaudible on higher bands. From 2005 we sought to address this imbalance by offering reward-based incentives for putting the work into higher band operation. So all contacts on bands from and including 23cm and above attract double points, irrespective of and in addition to any other incentives already offered. 160 metre band HF operators also receive double points, as do all CW operators.

HF operators using either 10 or 160 metres are able to work stations within their own state boundaries, although interstate operation only applies 80-15m. Once again due to limited band space is restricted we have not considered allowing WARC band operation, and have decided to restrict HF operation to the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands only.

When polled for comment on a recent VK1WIA broadcast, a number of people asked about multiple contacts. Until 2006, dupes were not allowed on HF but were allowed on VHF after only two hours. The VHF arrangements will not change this year. However, repeat HF contacts are allowed after two hours. This will encourage both more and longer operation, and real participation in the fun. What's more, there's a special time for all operators still on the air between 1am and 6am local time. All points scored during those wee hours are doubled. If you work a station whose time zone means they are outside the 1am to 6am point, only your points will be doubled.

Although the contest runs during UTC times, the special "night owl" loading is determined strictly by your time zone.

Until the 1970s ushered in substantial VHF operations, a very convoluted point-scoring system was in place for HF, in which more points were allocated for contacts spanning multiple call areas than

ones to neighbouring states. Even with computer technology, scoring such a thing could be a time-consuming process indeed, and very confusing for entrants.

In the year 2009 a new section was added to the contest for operators who wish to use WWII manufactured Service equipment.

This was approved providing they supplied a Photo of the equipment in use and a Certified document stating that they operated said gear in the RD Contest For scoring purposes, too, determining the overall winner is a different affair. The "Remembrance Day Contest" has always been State against State, but determining the winner was a confusing process involving overall "improvement factors". These days, who wins is a simple question of how many people take part from each state and actually submit logs. More than ever before, then, for your state to win, submitting your log is vital. Electronic Logging is preferred but by no means mandatory.

Those entrants with a suitable PC may wish to consider it for this year's contest log. By using one of these programs, the file that is Emailed to me can be imported easily into the scoring database program. Links for these programs are listed below. I have tried and tested them all and with the assistance of all the creators,

parts of their program have been rewritten to assist scoring. That's a basic summary of the changes. Every one of them is designed to boost your scores without making the scoring too messy for either the competitor or the manager. Good luck, and good contesting!