



Wireless Institute of Australia

VHF - UHF FIELD DAY – January 1989

Contest manager: Frank Beech VK7BC

For the VHF/UHF operators who have been asking for For the VHF/UHF operators who have been asking for a VHF/UHF portable contest, January will be the month for you. In response to all of you who have written to me regarding the lack of a national field day type contest, I have compiled a set of rules that should accommodate your requests.

I have deliberately kept the rules simple (to make my life easier) and am using the Maidenhead locator square system as in the Ross Hull Memorial Contest. The scoring is biased towards the portable stations. Much thought was put into the date and time period, and the placing of the contest is between the Ross Hull and John Moyle contests when the weather is still summery and a good proportion of the contesters will be on holiday. The times chosen will give most of you time to set up the station at your favourite spot and get home again before nightfall. Good luck to you all. Please try and participate so we can see what the prospects for a 1990 repeat are like.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all the compliments of the season and a prosperous New Year.

73, Frank Beech VK7BC

RULES FOR A NATIONAL VHF/UHF FIELD DAY CONTEST 1989

OBJECTS: To promote the portable operation of amateur stations using VHF/UHF amateur bands, modes and techniques. Overseas stations are invited to participate.

PERIOD: January 28 to January 29, 1989. From 0200 UTC Saturday until 0159 UTC, Sunday.

SECTIONS:

Section A - any continuous 12 hour period.
Section B - full 24 hours operation.

CATEGORIES:

- Single operator, Single band - one person performs all station functions.
- Single operator, All band - one person performs all station function.
- Multi-operator - those stations using more than one person for operators, loggers, spotters, etc.
- Home station, All band - one person performs all station functions.

CONTEST EXCHANGE: Contest exchange is: Signal Report RS/T, Serial Number commencing at 001, Maidenhead Locator Square Number to fourth figure, ie QE38.

SCORING:

Two points per QSO on 50 and 144 MHz.
Four points per QSO on 432 MHz.
Six points per QSO on 1296 MHz.

QSOs between portable field day stations count for double points.

Home stations, half score; ie 1 point on 50 and 144 MHz, 2 for 432 and 3 for 1296 MHz.

MULTIPLIERS: The total number of different Grid Squares on *each* band; ie each different grid square counts as one multiplier on each band it is worked.

FINAL SCORE: Multiply the total number of QSO points by the total number of multipliers.

REPEATERS: The use of terrestrial repeaters is not allowed for scoring purposes.

REPEAT CONTACTS: To generate activity, repeat contacts are allowed after a period of four hours on each band.

LOCATION: A station must remain at one location; ie cannot change the locator grid number by being stationed on a grid square boundary.

POWER SUPPLIES: For Portable Field Day Stations - the use of mains bourne power is not allowed.

SCORING EXAMPLE:

BAND	QSOs	QSO POINTS	GRID SQUARES
50	26 x 2	52	10
144	70 x 2	140	17
432	12 x 4	48	4
1296	3 x 6	18	2
TOTAL	111	258	33

Final Score =
(QSO points) x (Total number of grid squares)
258 x 33 = 7514 points.

AWARDS: Highest scorer in each section of each Maidenhead Locator Field. Highest scoring club station.

ENTRIES: Post your entries to the Federal Contest Manager, C F Beech VK7BC, 37 Nobelius Drive, Legana, Tas. 7277. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 28, 1989.

FRONT SHEET: This must include a signed statement that the rules and spirit of the contest have been respected.

The claimed score must be set out as in the example shown.

DISQUALIFICATION: The contest disqualification criteria, as laid down from time to time in Amateur Radio will apply to this contest.

Trial national VHF/UHF field day contest January 1989: Results

Section (A)	12 hour period				
Category (a)	Single operator Single band.				
VK4NEF	QG61	936 points		2m	
VK2EMU	QF55	32 points		2m	
Category (d)	Home station.				
VK5NC	QF02	702 points	6/3.	144/8.	432/5
VK5NY	PF94	570 points	6/12.	144/14.	432/6.
VK4KZK	QG62	256 points		144/16.	432/8.
Section (B)	24 hours				
Category (a)	Single operator single band				
VK3BBB	QF31	1260 points		144/51	
VK3YSY	QF33	1080 points		144/	
VK2EZF	QF56	44 points		144/	
VK3ANP	QF33	10 points		144/	
Category (b)	Single operator all band.				
VK3XEX	QF12	5904 points	6/43.	144/26.	432/6
VK3ZJC	QF32	4880 points	6/8.	144/26.	432/13. 1296/9.
VK3XRS	QF31	3336 points			432/23. 1296/15.
VK4AIZ	QF53	310 points		144/17.	432/6.
Category (c)	Multi operator.				
VK3ATL	QF11	25,632 points	6/66.	144/68.	432/41.
VK5BW	PF94	13,884 points	6/44.	144/53.	432/27.
VK4IZ	QG63	5824 points	6/39.	144/96.	432/21.
Category (d)	Home station all band.				
VK5LP	PF94	450 points	6/10.	144/11.	432/12.
VK4IS	QG63	260 points		144/26.	432/13.

Please note, the Maidenhead locator indicators following the callsigns are those used during the period of the contest and may differ from the indicators normally used by the station concerned.

The response to the contest has been satisfactory when the lack of advanced publicity is taken into account, I must take the blame for this, if the contest is to continue the necessary advanced publicity will be arranged and with a little bit of luck should appear in at least three magazines. Now for some comments from those amateurs who participated.

I operated from Mt Baw Baw (north of Moe) on all four bands. Unfortunately, I made a late start and an early finish, and I didn't work very hard at it when I was on! But still a most enjoyable field day, although I did learn that I need to upgrade the sleeping comfort in my 7 seater van.

To the best of my knowledge, I was the only VK3 station to use all four bands. Six metres was very quiet - hardly worth the effort, with only one other portable station heard. The higher bands were quite active, especially

1296, with a total of about 10 stations active, of which 3 were portable. This was very encouraging, and hopefully will pave the way for 1296 to be reinstated in the Ross Hull contest.

The scoring system was good, even though it still used the locator squares. Having to work each square on each band created more activity and the band multipliers helped too. It was a definite improvement on the Ross Hull rules.

So all in all I feel it was most successful, and there should be at least one more of them. A good time would be Easter, although it would clash with the John Moyle field day. I just wonder though whether it would be better to convert the John Moyle field day to HF only (it's pretty close to that now), and run a VHF/UHF field day as well at the same time! It would also be good to keep it synchronized with the NZART field day as you've done this year.

Speaking of NZART, if they decide to run a field day again in December as they did last year, I'd very much like to see one of ours occurring at the same time.

Thanks again for an enjoyable field day...VK3ZJC.

It was suggested that the starting point might be within a period in which the best 24 hours score could be entered. This would save the VK6's starting at 10am AESST.

Because of the extreme temperature last weekend (42 in the tent) consideration might be given to holding the event in mid-December, which might also result in improved Es propagation.

We felt the system of calculating the multiplying factor might be improved if the multipliers were kept to the band in which they are worked, and not the overall score. Under the present rules if a grid square is worked on each band ie 6m, 2m, 70cm, 23 cm, then it effectively counts as 4 multipliers.

We included satellite operation during the weekend and secured a few contacts. We believe this is within the rules because they are not terrestrial repeaters, and not really cross band, as all operators use the same up link band.

We were unanimous in our belief that the contest was well worth participating in, and not only promoted the use of VHF/UHF bands but also fellowship between members of our club ...VK3YXK for Geelong ARC.

Many thanks for organizing the VHF/ UHF National Field Day. It was a real pleasure to operate at long last in a National VHF/UHF Field Day. Although temperatures around Adelaide were over 40°C on Saturday it did not deter us from the contest, although we believe it did deter others from the field.

Also, I was asked frequently "What field day?" or "is this the John Moyle?" or "Is the contest sponsored by the WIA?" This illustrates to me my thoughts over the past 10 years or so, noting the very low priority given to national WIA contests in both Amateur Radio Magazines as well as the WIA News Broadcasts. There is absolutely no differentiation between these and other Insignificant contests eg Bulgarian Contest.

It seems the days are long gone where a WIA contest, eg the John Moyle Field Day is proudly announced on a page devoted ENTIRELY to that contest, rather than being hidden amongst all sorts of odds and sods.

Sorry, but there will not be a log from me in this year's John Moyle, two field days within 6 weeks is simply beyond my capacity, and certainly that of the XYL...VK5BW.

It was unfortunate conditions were so poor due to the very hot weather. This particularly affected the 144 and 432 contacts. I did not hear any stations from VK3 although I tried. The following weekend there were good tropo conditions, so you can't win!

I hope you received the support you were looking for in the contest. There did not seem a great deal of enthusiasm in VK5 but then it was so hot one could not expect people to swelter in a caravan or tent. However, the heat did produce some Es contacts on six metres which was a help...VK5LP.

I expect my total claimed score will be one of the smallest submitted. However, I'm still submitting my entry because I believe that a VHF/UHF portable contest like this one is a great idea and will be better supported in future, when through publicity and growth of activity, more amateurs will find it interesting and challenging. At least that's what I hope!

The publicity shortage is added to a generally and disappointingly slack local VHF scene. VHF/ UHF DXing can be so much more than keying up distant repeaters, yet only a few seem to be interested in more than that.

The net channel mentality and commonly accepted emetic operating practice are quite deterrent to the serious type of operator. To me, it's all evidence of the slow ageing and deterioration of our hobby as a whole, and our society at the same time.

Thanks for initiating this new contest. You've got my future support, and I will be doing what I can to encourage other local amateurs to try this beautiful experience of VHF/UHF portable hill top operating for themselves...VK4AIZ.

Frank, just a few points that we thought might improve the contest.

1. Repeat contacts each hour as the contest tended to be very slow and to become boring.
2. Some clarification as to what modes are to be used and whether separate logs for each band and mode are wanted.
3. Multiplying for greater distance as per rules of John Moyle contest (FCM). Apart from that, it would have been good to see more field portable stations working the contest. We would like to thank VK4NEF and VK4AIZ who were about the only three stations, apart from ourselves working the contest....VK4YZ for Redcliff RC.

I enjoyed the contest very much, I had to work on Sunday so only operated in the 12 hour section, spent a couple of weeks manufacturing a hinged base plate for the mast and using a 3 to 1 pulley system to pivot the mast to vertical. My beam was at 10 metres and 2m vertical at 12 metres. Beam was 12 element on a 6 metre boom.

A few of us in SE Queensland reckon that FCM's and WICEN exercise planners organise activities on weekends that it rains, it's half the fun of setting up whilst it rains and also dropping the antennas and packing up whilst it rains. (Shhh! FCM.)

I did not hear any activity during the Ross Hull contest up here in Brisbane, it might be run over too many days. This national VHF/ UHF field day contest over 12/24 hours portable is a very good idea, but maybe not on a long weekend though. I hope to compete again next year ...VK4NEF.

Where was everyone? I hope the response from the rest of the country was better. Despite this I am looking forward to next year's VHF tie id day already...VK2EZF.

The top club station is the GEELONG ARC VK3ATIJP with 25,632 points.

Certificates will be forwarded to the remainder indicating score and Field Position.

I must thank all those who participated in the trial contest, your support and comments will be sufficient encouragement for me to endeavour to place this before federal council with the hope that it can become an annual event...FCM.



Wireless Institute of Australia

VHF - UHF FIELD DAY – January 1990

Contest manager: Frank Beech VK7BC

Rules For A National VHF/UHF Field Day Contest

Objects:

To promote the portable operation of amateur stations using the VHF and UHF bands.

Contest Period:

27th January 1990 - 28th January 1990.
Times 0200 UTC Saturday until 0159 UTC Sunday.

Mode:

Any mode within the terms of your licence.

Sections:

Section "A" Any continuous 12 hour period.
Section "B" Full 24 hours.

Categories:

(A) Single operator, single band
One person performs all station functions.
(B) Single operator, all band.
One person performs all station functions.
(C) Multi operator; those stations using more than one person for operators, loggers, spotters etc.
(D) Home station, all band, one person performs all station functions.

Contest Exchange:

Signal report RS/RST.
Serial number commencing with 001.
Maidenhead locator square number to fourth figure eg QE38.

Scoring:

Two points for 50/144 MHz contacts.
Four points per contact on 432MHz.
Six points per contact above 432MHz.
Contacts between portable field day stations count double points.
Home stations half score. ie One point on 50/144, two on 432 etc.

Multipliers:

The total number of different grid squares on each band.

Final Score:

Multiply the total number of contact points by the total number of multipliers.

Repeaters:

The use of repeaters is not allowed for scoring purposes.

Repeat Contacts:

To generate activity a station may be worked every four hours.

Location:

A station must remain at one location during the contest period except as previously specified.

Power Supplies:

Any type of power supply may be used including "Mains power".

Awards:

To the highest scorer in each section for each Maidenhead locator field.
To the highest scoring club station in each locator field.

Front Sheet:

This must contain, name of operator/s, callsign, location, section entered, equipment used. A signed statement that the rules and spirit of the contest have been observed.
If the operator requires a participation certificate, please include a large SASE for same.

Entries To:

F Beech VK7BC, Federal Contest Manager, 37 Nobelius Drive, Legana, Tasmania 7277. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 28th 1990.

Results Of The 1990 Trial VHF/UHF Field Day Contest

Section "B" 24 hr All band; Single op

VK3BBB/P	B Young	566 points	30 squares	16980 total
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Section "B" Cat "C" Multi op

VK3ATL/P	Geelong ARC.	596 points	40 squares	23840 total
VK5ZUC/P	VK5ZUC & VK5AJQ	296 points	24 squares	7104 total

Section "B" Cat "D" Home Stn

VK5NC	T Niven	101 points	35 squares	3535 total
VK3XRS	R Steedman	42 points	17 squares	714 total
VK5LP	E Jamieson	17 points	7 squares	119 total

Section "A" 12hrs Cat "A" single op single band.

VK4NEF	E Fittock	186 points	6 squares	1116 total
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Section "A" cat "B" All band single op

VK3DLM	L Mostert	340 points	26 squares	8840 total
VK3XEX	M Batt	142 points	17 squares	2414 total
VK4IY	R Mutzelburg	16 points	3 squares	48 total

Section "A" cat "D" Home stn

VK7JG	J Gelston	16 points	8 squares	128 total
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Certificates to the top station in each category should have arrived by the time you read the results. Comments received with your entries will be passed on to the Federal contest co-ordinator VK6NE with the hope that the contest can be improved upon and kept going. Lack of propagation seems to have been the main factor in the low participation this year, as was the case with the Ross Hull memorial contest, perhaps changing the dates of the VHF contests would help.

Your helpful comments on this and the Ross Hull contests will be passed on to the incoming contest organizers. As this will be my final column in "AR" may I wish you all GOOD CONTESTING. I will now get my station handbooks out and refresh myself on how to turn my rig on. 73 ... Frank Beech VK7BC.



Wireless Institute of Australia

VHF - UHF FIELD DAY 1991

Contest manager: John Martin VK3ZJC

This contest will run again over the Australia Day weekend, using similar rules to last year's. The Maidenhead locator system has been retained, although there have been minor changes in other rules.

There has been a great increase of interest in the higher bands during the past year and it is hoped that as many operators as possible will be able to take the opportunity to participate.

Duration:

0200 UTC Saturday 26 January to 0200 UTC Sunday 27 January

Sections:

A: portable station - single operator
B: portable station - multiple operator
C: home station

General:

All modes and bands above 30MHz may be used. Repeater and crossband contacts not allowed. Stations must remain within the one locator square for the duration of the contest. You may work stations within your own locator square.

Exchange:

A serial number beginning at 001, plus Maidenhead four-digit locator. RS or RST reports may be exchanged but are not required in the log.

Repeat contacts:

Stations may be worked again on each band after four hours.

Scoring:

One point per contact, two points if both stations are portable. Multiply the total score on each band by the number of locator squares worked on that band, then by the appropriate band multiplier:

50MHz: x 1.
144MHz: x 2.
432MHz: x 4.
Higher bands: x 6.

Logs:

For each contact, UTC time, band, station worked, serial numbers and locator numbers exchanged, points claimed. The front sheet should contain the name, address and callsign of the operator, section entered, and a scoring table as follows:

Band	Points	Squares	Total (points x squares)
6m	xxxx x	xxxx	= xxxx
2m	xxxx x	xxxx	= xxxx
etc			
Overall total		xxxx	

Awards:

The highest all-band scorer in Section A;
the highest scorer on each band in Section A;
the highest scorers in Sections B and C.

Entries:

Post logs to the Manager, VHFUHF Field Day, PO Box 300, Caulfield South Vic 3162. Logs must be received by Monday, 25 February 1991.

VHF-UHF Field Day 1991 - Results

This Field Day was not very well supported, possibly due to the lengthening of the Ross Hull Contest, and the fact that it was not well publicised. However this contest is a worthwhile activity that should continue. Next year it could also receive a boost from the new Grid Square Award.

Results

In this table, the first figure is the QSO points, including the band multiplier, and the second figure is the number of squares worked.

Section			6m	2m	70cm	23cm	Total	
A	VK3ALZ	I Berwick	-	138 x 11	-	-	1518	
A	VK3CY	D Clarke	-	108 x 10	-	-	1080	
A	VK4AIZ/2	D Friend	-	38 x 2	36 x 1	12 x 1	124	
A	VK4KZR	R Preston	-	8 x 2	12 x 2	12 x 2	64	
A	VK3TFE	H Szapirko	Check log					
B	VK3ATL	Geelong ARC (1)	90 x 20	178 x 10	204 x 14	-	6436	
B	VK5ZUC	(2)	19 x 7	58 x 9	44 x 5	-	875	
B	VK7ZHA	(3)	5 x 4	28 x 6	12 x 2	-	212	
C	No logs received.							
(1)	C Gnaccarini VK3BRZ, G Noss VK3HQ, B Abley VK3YXK, C. Leone YK3BGL, K. Asplin VK3DQW							
(2)	A. Russell VK5ZUC, J Brayley VK5AJQ, A Raftery VK5BW, A. Denton							
(3)	A Hay VK7ZHA, A Perkins VK7ZAP							

Congratulations therefore to the following winners, who will receive certificates shortly:

Section A	All bands	VK3ALZ
Section A	6m band	Nil
	2m band	VK3ALZ
	70cm band	VK4AIZ
	23cm band	VK4KZR

Section B	Multi operator	VK3ATL
Section C	Home stations	Nil

Some Comments

"Level of activity and awareness of the event indicates that much more publicity is required ... stations in Melbourne are advantaged by the well-known squares boundary line passing through the city."

"... many people have holiday commitments ... the easy way out is to have the Field Day coincide with the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest."

Next Year

As for dates, should we stick to the same weekend (especially if the Ross Hull Contest is shortened)? Alternatives could be the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest, Easter or the first weekend in December (which is when the ZL Field Day is held).

It is felt that scoring based on locator squares is appropriate for this kind of contest, especially- as Field Day contacts could be counted towards the new Grid Square Award. However, it is proposed to change the band multipliers so that they will be the same as those used in the Ross Hull Contest. Comments on these ideas, or any other suggestions, would be greatly appreciated.



Wireless Institute of Australia

VHF - UHF FIELD DAY 1992

Contest manager: John Martin VK3KWA

In the past, this Field Day has been held over the Australia Day weekend, which is the last weekend of the school holidays. Last year it was suggested this could clash with family commitments and an earlier date would be better. There is also a good chance of more amateurs being on holiday in mid January than there would be at the end of the month.

So the Field Day has been moved to **11-12 January 1992**. This coincides with the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest, and any Field Day contacts can also be counted for the Ross Hull Contest. This weekend will also be an ideal opportunity to add to your collection of locators for the new Grid Square Award. So there are three very good reasons to keep that weekend free, and go portable if you can!

Scoring for the Field Day will continue to be based on locator squares, but the band multipliers have been brought into line with those used for the Ross Hull Contest.

Duration

0200 UTC Saturday, 11 January to 0200 UTC Sunday, 12 January.

Sections

- A: Portable station, single operator
- B.: Portable station, multiple operator
- C: Home station

General Rules

All modes and bands above 30MHz may be used. Repeater and crossband contacts are not allowed. Entrants may not operate from more than one locator square. You may work stations within your own locator square.

Contest Exchange

A serial number beginning at 001, plus your Maidenhead locator. RS or RST reports may be exchanged but are not required in the log.

Repeat Contacts

Stations may be worked on each band once every four hours.

Scoring

Home stations one point per contact.
Portable stations two points per contact.
Three points if both stations are portable.

Band multipliers:

6m	2m	70cm	23cm	2.3GHz	Higher
x 1	x 4	x 7	x 10	x 13	x 16

For each band, multiply the points score by the number of locator squares worked on that band, then by the appropriate band multiplier. For example, on two metres, 20 contacts x 4 squares x 4 = 320 points. See the sample scoring table below.

Awards

The overall winner will be the highest allband scorer in Section A. Awards will also be made to the highest scorer on each band in Section A, and the highest scorers in Sections B and C.

Logs

For each contact, UTC time, band, station worked, serial numbers and locator numbers exchanged, points claimed. The front sheet should contain the name, address and callsign of the operator, section entered, and a scoring table as follows:

Band	Points	Squares	Total (points x squares)
6m	xxxx x	xxxx	= xxxx
2m	xxxx x	xxxx	= xxxx
etc			
Overall total		xxxx	

Entries:

Post logs to the Manager, VHFUHF Field Day, PO Box 300, Caulfield South Vic 3162. Logs must be received by Monday, 24 February 1992. Early logs would be appreciated.

VHF UHF Field Day 1992: Results

Call	Operator	Location	50	144	432	1296	2304	10368	Total
Section A: Portable station, single operator									
VK3BBB	B Young	Mt Skene	852	10980	9702	560	-	-	22094
VK5BW	A Rafferty	Kuitpo Forest	1122	6240	5229	-	-	-	12591
VK3AFW	R Cook	Mt Buller	-	2652	2590	20	-	-	5262
VK5AKK	P Helbig	Kangaroo Is	38	3400	1050	30	39	-	4557
VK40E	D Friend	Byron Bay	495	1320	546	220	-	-	2581
VK5NW	G McEwing	Black Hill	-	700	210	-	-	-	910
VK5NOT	I Northeast	Mt Oakden	-	180	-	-	-	-	180
VK3AJQ	A Elliott	Mitcham	-	-	-	-	-	128	128
VK3BBU	M Crew	Mitcham	-	-	-	-	-	128	128
VK3TAF	P Ford	Mitcham	-	-	-	-	-	128	128
VK3ZJC	J Martin	Mitcham	-	-	-	-	-	128	128
VK3KKW	D Dobrosak	Lorne	-	-	80	-	-	-	80
VK6BW1	P Parker	Perth	-	24	-	-	-	-	24
VK4KZR	R Preston	Maleny	-	10	3	-	-	-	13

Section B: Portable station, multiple operator

VK3ATL	Geelong ARC*	Mt Cowley	3480	5544	3024	-	-	-	12048
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Section C: Home station

VK3AUI	G Sones	Box Hill	30	924	665	40	-	-	1659
VK5LP	E Jamieson	Meningie	36	504	490	40	-	-	1070
VK7KAP	A Perkins	Devonport	56	35	-	-	-	-	91

* C Gnaccarini VK3BRZ, M Trickett VK3ASQ, P James VK3AWY, J Pile VK3ZPO, A Forster VK3AJF.

The Field Day was better supported this year than in 1991, and the change of date to the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest was well received. There was more 1296MHz activity than last year, but there was only one log for 2.3 GHz and four "stirrers" on 10 GHz.

The scores covered an enormous range and it was particularly good to receive the low scoring logs. Low scores do not reflect on the entrants who took the trouble to go portable - rather they reflect on the other stations who weren't around to work them! This was especially the case in VK6.

It was also good to receive a novice log - to my knowledge the first ever for any VHF/UHF contest.

Some logs contained repeat contacts made within the four-hour limit and their scores have been adjusted. Several logs contained no repeat contacts and I assume this was because the other stations were no longer around - otherwise there could possibly have been some confusion with the Ross Hull Contest rules.

The winner this year is Brian Young VK3BBB. With such a stupendous score he will obviously take a lot of beating next year. Brian also gained top score

on two metres, 70cm and 23cm, so he will receive a nice collection of certificates.

The top score on six metres goes to VK5BW, and on 13 cm to VK5AKK; VK3ATL wins the multi-operator section - a very good score, but no doubt they would have liked more competition! The home station prize goes to VK3AUI.

Congratulations to all!

Assuming that the next Field Day will run again over the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest, next year's dates will be 16-17 January.

There were quite a few comments on the need to bring the Field Day exchanges into line with those for the Ross Hull Contest. This will be done. No-one seemed keen on dropping the RST report from the Field Day logs so that will be restored too. The only difference now between the two contests will be the maidenhead locator exchange.

There was some dissatisfaction with the locator-based scoring, and it was suggested it should be replaced with distance-based scoring as in the Ross Hull Contest. It was also pointed out that multiplying contacts by locators on each band

favours the lower bands where more locators are worked – i.e. big scores get even bigger when they are multiplied by the locators.

I would like to keep the rules as simple as possible, but there is a good case for fixing these problems. Should we go to exactly the same scoring as the Ross Hull Contest? An alternative suggested by Brian VK3BBB is to use locators to get rough distance-based scores by adding the number of “across” and “down” squares between the two stations.

Most Field Day operators are also active in the Ross Hull Contest, so perhaps the first choice would be best. Many people still do not know their locators, so should we keep on encouraging “locator awareness” or give up on them? One reason for keeping the locator scoring was because of the new Grid Square Award, but VHF operators have shown very little interest in it so far.

There are also some problems with the timing and duration. Several entrants mentioned that they could not stay out overnight and would appreciate a one-day section - say six or eight hours. This will be done next year. The 0200 UTC start works well, but activity tapers off on Sunday morning and many entrants finish early. In Western Australia the 11 am finish on Sunday is an obvious problem.

I would appreciate comments on this idea for next year: a later finish on the Sunday ~ay 0600 UTC - but with two sections: a “day tripper” section based on one six-hour period, and a “full marathon” section based on any three six-hour periods. This would make it easier for those who can only go out for one day, and it would also allow the overnights to get some sleeping time.

Comments from the Logs

“Even though I have a low score I thought I would put in a log to support the change in date of the Field Day.”

“It really should be called a field night ... there was very little activity after 9am Sunday.”

“I went out again to have fun - not necessarily win the event - and have fun I did! A lone operator planning, setting up, operating and pulling down a four-band VHF-UHF station, with good antennas on each band, sounds like a lot of work, and it is. But the successes of getting it all going and having a variety of contacts are very satisfying. I would recommend that lots more people try it for themselves – get involved!”



Wireless Institute of Australia

VHF - UHF FIELD DAY 1993

Contest manager: John Martin VK3KWA

The Field Day will again be run over the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest - January 16/17, 1993. The locator based scoring has been reined in the hope of increasing interest in "grid collecting" for the WIA Grid Square Award. Times in the eastern states will be the same as last year, but for VK6 stations the Field Day will begin and end three hours later.

I hope this new timing will encourage more VK6 stations to participate, as the times will now correspond more closely to local time.

This time change will mean that for the first three hours of the Field Day it will be possible for a station in the east to score from a VK6 contact, but the VK6 station could not. However the same will occur in reverse at the end of the Field Day, so the effects should even out.

Field Day contacts can be counted for the Ross Hull Contest, and vice versa. Serial numbers do not have to be consecutive so there is no need to exchange two sets of numbers. The only points to remember are:

- You may score repeat contacts for the Field Day, but each station may only appear in your Ross Hull log once per band per day.
- Field Day exchanges must include Maidenhead locators.

The other main change is the introduction of a six-hour period as well as the normal 24-hour section. This will make it easier for those who can only go out for one day.

Duration

VK6 only: 0500 UTC Saturday 16 January to 0500 Sunday 17 January.

All other call areas: 0200 UTC Saturday to 0200 UTC Sunday.

Sections

- A: Portable station, single operator, 24 hours.
- B: Portable station, single operator, 6 hours.
- C: Portable station, multiple operator, 24 hours.
- D: Home station.

Single operator stations may enter for both Section A and Section B.

General Rules

All modes and bands above 30 MHz may be used. Contest exchanges should not be made on recognised DX calling frequencies. Repeater and crossband contacts are not allowed. Entrants may

not operate from more than one locator square. You may work stations within your own locator square.

Contest Exchange

RS or RST reports, a three-digit serial number (serial numbers need not be consecutive), and your Maidenhead locator.

Repeat Contacts

Stations may be worked again :on each band after four hours.

Scoring

1 point per contact, 2 points if both stations are portable. Band multipliers:

6m	2m	70cm	23cm	2.3GHz	Higher
x 1	x 4	x 7	x 10	x 13	x 16

For each band, multiply the points score (either 1 or 2 points per contact) by the number of locator squares worked on that band, then by the appropriate band multiplier.

For example, on two metres, 20 points x 4 squares x 4 = 320 points.

See the sample scoring table below.

Logs

For each contact, UTC time, band, station worked, serial numbers and locator numbers exchanged, points claimed. The front sheet should contain the name, address and callsign of the operator, section entered, and a scoring table as follows:

Band	Points	Squares	Multiplier	Total
6 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	= xxxx
2 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	= xxxx
70 cm	xxxx	x	xxxx	= xxxx
etc				
Overall total				xxxx

Entries

Post logs to the Manager, VHF-UHF Field Day, PO Box 300, Caulfield South, Vic 3162. Logs must be received by Monday, February 1, 1992. Early logs would be appreciated.

Awards

The overall winner will be the highest all-band scorer in Section A. Awards will also be made to the highest scorer on each band in Section A, and the highest scorers in Sections B and C.

VHF-UHF Field Day 1993: Results

John Martin (VK3KWA) VHF/UHF Field Day Contest Manager

Nothing went right with the Field Day this year. The rules should have been published in December rather than January, and deliveries of the January magazine were chaotic. Propagation crashed just before the Field Day, as did the weather in some areas. One hilltop station reported significant flooding of the tents! Nevertheless some notable contacts were made and much fun was had.

Most logs were extremely well presented, although some were hard work because they did not include an overall scoring table. As with the Ross Hull Contest, corrections have resulted in scores being increased.

Due to the late delivery of January "AR", I have extended the deadline for logs and will publish the scores of any logs received by the end of March. However I do not expect that any late logs will change the order of placegetters, so here are the results as they stand!

Results

The main prize this year has gone to Rob Ashlin, VK3DEM, for an excellent effort in his first VHF-UHF Field Day. The runner-up is Phil Helbig, VK5AKK. In the new six-hour section, first place goes to Doug Friend, VK40E. In the multi operator section, competition has increased but the Geelong Amateur Radio Club has regained the top place. The top scoring home station was Des Clarke, VK3CY. Congratulations to all.

Next Year

The comments and suggestions made by entrants were studied carefully and are much appreciated. I have tried to keep the rules simple, but there have been some requests for changes and clarifications, which I will do my best to put into effect next year.

One definition requested is that of a portable station. I would suggest:

"A station is portable if the equipment, including antennas, has been transported and set up at a location other than the home station(s) of the operator(s)."

The rules could be simplified by dropping the ban on crossband contacts, and allowing operation from more than one locator square. An entrant could then try two different locations on the two days. To dovetail better with the six-hour section, repeat contacts could be allowed after three hours rather than four. There is also support for a later finish on the Sunday.

There were some comments about the different scoring systems for the Ross Hull Contest and the Field Day. The rules could only be brought completely into line by using distance-based scoring for the Field Day - no major problem - and not allowing repeat contacts (which would be a problem).

Using locators for the Field Day simplifies the scoring and provides an opportunity to collect squares for the Grid Square Award. On the other hand, most people have no trouble estimating distances from a map, but many do not know what their locator is and do not care how many locators they work. I will give more thought to this and would appreciate any further comments.

There is still strong support for running the Field Day at the end of the Ross Hull Contest, so next year's dates should be the same as this year's.

VHF-UHF Field Day 1993: Results

Call	Name	6m	2 m	70cm	23cm	Total
Section A Single Operator, 24 Hours						
VK3DEM	R Ashlin	-	5220	3024	140	8384
VK5AKK	P Helbig	174	2928	2772	300	6174
VK3AFW	R Cook	-	1044	504	30	1578
VK40E	D Friend	20	768	189	240	1217
VK6BK	A Petch	-	288	-	-	288
VK6JRL	R Lamb	-	288	-	-	288
VK6NEB	E Zimmerman	-	288	-	-	288
VK4KZR	R Preston	-	220	-	60	280
VK6BWI	P Parker	-	152	-	-	152
Section B Single Operator, 6 Hours						
VK40E	D Friend	20	288	105	240	649
VK6BK	A Petch	-	288	-	-	288
VK6JRL	R Lamb	-	288	-	-	288
VK4KZR	R Preston	-	160	-	60	220
VK5ZTJ	T Lowe	-	56	104	14	174
VK6BWI	P Parker	-	152	-	-	152
Section C Multiple Operator						
VK3ATL	(1)	410	5600	4543	-	10553
VK1DO	(2)	108	584	2520	330	10553
VK5BW	(3)	400	3168	1134	220	4922
Section D Home Station						
VK3CY	D Clarke	-	2068	840	-	2908
VK5NY	R Bowman	60	700	714	156	1630
VK3AUI	G Sones	7	496	399	40	942
VK5LP	E Jamieson	3	40	35	30	226
VK2NJ	I Thomas	-	84	7	-	91

- (1) Geelong Amateur Radio Club: M Trickett VK3ASQ, K Asplin VK3DQW, B Abley VK3YXK, C Leone VK3BCL, L De Vries VK3PK, C Gnaccarini VK3BRZ, A Gnaccarini VK3TU.
- (2) C Davis VK1DO, G Rozenberg VK1CO, P Tams VK2CJ.
- (3) A Raftery VK5BW, A Russell VK5ZUC, J Brayley VK5AJQ, T Denton (SWL).