



## 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 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 borne 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

<b>Section (A)</b>	<b>12 hour period</b>				
<b>Category (a)</b>	<b>Single operator Single band</b>				
VK4NEF	QG61	936 points		2m	
VK2EMU	QF55	32 points		2m	
<b>Category (d)</b>	<b>Home station</b>				
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.
<b>Section (B)</b>	<b>24 hours</b>				
<b>Category (a)</b>	<b>Single operator single band</b>				
VK3BBB	QF31	1260 points		144/51	
VK3YSY	QF33	1080 points		144/	
VK2EZF	QF56	44 points		144/	
VK3ANP	QF33	10 points		144/	
<b>Category (b)</b>	<b>Single operator all band</b>				
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.
<b>Category (c)</b>	<b>Multi operator</b>				
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.
<b>Category (d)</b>	<b>Home station all band</b>				
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 VK3ATL 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, VHF/UHF 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 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.

### 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
<b>Section A: Portable station, single operator</b>									
VK3BBB	B Young	Mt Skene	852	10980	9702	560	-	-	22094
VK5BW	A Raftery	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
VK6BWI	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 - say 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
<b>Section A Single Operator, 24 Hours</b>						
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).



# Wireless Institute of Australia

## VHF - UHF FIELD DAY 1994

Contest manager: John Martin VK3KWA

The Field Day will again be run over the last weekend of the Ross Hull Contest – 15/16 January 1994. The time differential between VK6 and the eastern states has been retained.

Field Day contacts can be counted for the Ross Hull Contest, and vice versa. Separate exchanges for the two are NOT required. The only difference in the exchange is that the Field Day exchange must include your Maidenhead locator. The other thing to remember is that you can make repeat contacts for the Field Day, but not for the Ross Hull Contest.

The duration of the Field Day has been extended, although scoring will still be based on a 24-hour or 6-hour operating period. This allows entrants to choose the operating periods that suit them best, and it will also make it easier for those who can only operate on the Sunday. The repeat contact time has been reduced from four hours to three.

The only other change has been to drop the requirement for all operation to be from the one locator square. Entrants can now if they wish activate different squares on the two days of the Field Day, and help others to collect new squares for the WIA Grid Square Award.

### Duration:

VK6 only: 0200 UTC Saturday 15 January to 0600 UTC Sunday, 16 January.

All other call areas: 0000 UTC Saturday to 0400 UTC Sunday (in Eastern Summer Time this is from 11 am Saturday to 3 pm Sunday).

### Sections:

A: Portable station, single operator, any 24 consecutive hours.

B: Portable station, single operator, any 6 consecutive hours.

C: Portable station, multiple operator, any 24 consecutive hours.

D: Home station, any 24 consecutive hours.

Single operator stations may enter 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, satellite and crossband contacts are not allowed. Operation may be from any location. You may work stations within your own locator square.

### Contest Exchange:

RS(T) plus a 3-digit serial number (serial numbers need not be consecutive), plus your Maidenhead locator.

### Repeat Contacts:

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

### Scoring:

Home stations 1 point per contact, portable stations 2 points per contact.

Band multipliers: 6 m (1), 2 m (4), 70 cm (7), 23 cm (10), 13 cm (13), Higher (16).

For each band, multiply the total points (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 2 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 name, address, callsign, section entered, the period of operation to be scored (either 24 or 6 consecutive hours, starting on the hour), and a scoring table as shown below. If you enter both the 24 and 6 hour sections, a separate scoring table should be supplied for each.

The scoring table should be as follows:

Band	Points	Squares	Multiplier	Total
6 m	xxxx x	xxxx x	1	= xxxx
2 m	xxxx x	xxxx x	4	= xxxx
70 cm	xxxx x	xxxx x	7	= xxxx
etc				
Overall total				xxxx

### Entries:

Post logs to: John Martin VK3KWA, VHF-UHF Field Day Contest Manager, PO Box 300, Caulfield South, Vic 3162. Logs must be received by Monday, 7 February 1994. 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, C and D.

# VHF-UHF Field Day 1994: Results

The level of activity this year was generally good, although the bands went dead silent in my area after the first 24 hours. The south-eastern states again had the lion's share of activity. The highest activity per capita was in VK1, and the lowest was in VK4, where there were no portable stations at all. Shame and scandal!

Logs were generally well presented, but most had to be re-scored. Many thousands of points were added to the logs and no log finished up with fewer points than were claimed.

Some entrants claimed contacts with a home station, followed shortly after by the same station signing /P or /M. The ruling is that the station is the same even if the location is changed.

Some entrants also claimed points for multiple contacts with the same station under different callsigns. This is possible if there are multiple operators who give out numbers using their own callsigns with a "/P". These contacts were allowed this year, but next year the rule will be that a station is only portable if its equipment - not its operator - has changed location.

It was pointed out that home stations are in a different section from portable stations, therefore there is no point in giving double points to portable stations. I admit to woolly thinking on this, and next year the scoring for all sections will be the same.

One entrant pointed out that it is unfair to allow 24 hour stations to enter the six hour section, because they do not have to do all the work within the one day, and can pick their best six hours. The point is taken and this will be changed. However, it will be noted that the winner of the six hour section this year was not a 24 hour entrant.

There were several entries from "partnerships" of two operators. According to the rules, these are multiple operator stations, even though they may not have the same resources as a big club station. Should there be a separate section for these "partner" stations? Or should they be allowed to enter as two separate single-operator stations who just happened to be at the same location?

One entrant objected to the locator based scoring system. One reason for using this system is to stimulate interest in the WIA Grid Square Award, and another is to simplify log keeping. I am inclined to retain locators, since that seems to be what the majority want.

For next year, I assume a mid-January date would still be the most suitable - say January 14/15. Any comments or other suggestions would be much appreciated.

## Results

All that said, at last we come to the results! For the second time, Rob Ashlin VK3DEM has poked a major hole in the troposphere and thus obtained a stupendous score in Section A. Congratulations Rob, I hope you will recuperate in time for the next one. Phil Helbig VK5AKK came second with an excellent score, and in Section B the prize went to Ron Cook VK3AFW, closely followed by Doug Friend VK40E.

In the multi-operator section, the Geelong Amateur Radio Club won again with a very high score, followed by a neartie between VK1 DO and VK5BW. The top score for a home station went to Des Clarke VK3CY. My thanks and congratulations to all those who made the Field Day a success, and I hope you will all be back next year.

## Some Comments from the Logs

"The thought of setting up a multiband VHF station in time for a 6 am start is rather daunting..."

"An excellent contest and great fun..."

"Would have done better but the tent was blown down by gale force winds..."

"I did all the operating and the others went through five slabs of beer..."

"Many operators did not know the contest was on..."

"Apart from poor conditions, heavy winds, rain, thunder and lightning, we had a really good time..."

## VHF-UHF Field Day 1994: Results

CALL	NAME	6 m	2 m	70 cm	23 cm	3 cm	TOTAL
<b>Section A Portable, Single Operator, 24 Hours</b>							
VK3DEM	R. Ashlin	150	9776	7616	1280	96	18918
VK5AKK	P. Helbig	224	9360	2842	120	-	12546
VK40E/2	D. Friend	90	1680	1610	880	-	4260
VK3XEX	M. Batt	28	1536	952	-	-	2516
VK5XE	I. Northeast	-	1536	-	-	-	1536
VK6BWI	P. Parker	-	1520	-	-	-	1520
<b>Section B Portable, Single Operator, 6 Hours</b>							
VK3AFW	R. Cook	-	1904	1050	-	-	2954
VK40E/2	D. Friend	70	760	1050	300	-	2180
VK3XEX	M. Batt	16	576	448	-	-	1040
VK5XE	I. Northeast	-	704	-	-	-	704
VK2DXV	W. Jirgens	-	504	126	-	-	630
<b>Section C Portable, Multi Operator</b>							
VK3ATL	(1)	1778	13624	16296	1620	-	33318
VK1DO	(2)	192	7392	5488	1080	-	14152
VK5BW	(3)	700	9680	2604	200	-	13184
VK1TRT	(4)	200	5456	3234	520	-	9410
VK1DA	(5)	312	2496	1218	280	-	4306
VK7XR	(6)	40	440	448	-	-	928
<b>Section D Home Station</b>							
VK3CY	D. Clarke	-	2112	1372	-	-	3484
VK3AUI	G. Sones	48	980	1260	170	-	2458
VK3KWA	J. Martin	3	288	1260	170	-	1163
VK5NY	R. Bowman	12	96	105	20	-	233
VK5BD	J. Haseldine Check Log						

- (1): K. Asplin VK3DQW, L. de Vries VK3PK, A. Forster VK3AJF, C. Leone VK3BCL, C. Gnaccarini VK3BRZ, A. Gnaccarini VK3TU, M. de Vries (SWL)
- (2): C. Davis VK1 DO, G. Rozenberg VK 1 CO
- (3): A. Raftery VK5BW, A. Russell VK5ZUC, J. Brayley VK5AJQ
- (4): T. Roulston VK1TRT, W. McIntyre VK21FR (5): A. Davis VK1 DA, R. Apathy VK1 KRA
- (6): A. Hay VK7XR, A. Perkins VK7KAP





*Wireless Institute of Australia*  
**VHF-UHF FIELD DAY 1995**

John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager

The annual VHF/UHF Field Day will be run on the weekend of January 14/15, 1995. The Ross Hull Contest will be in progress at this time and any contacts made for one can be counted for the other.

Please remember that the Field Day exchange must include your Maidenhead locator, and that repeat contacts are allowed for the Field Day but not the Ross Hull Contest.

Several minor rule changes have been made in response to comments made by entrants last year. The timing of the Field Day has been changed to correspond as closely as possible to midday local time (within the constraints imposed by our annual mixture of standard and daylight savings times).

The flexible 24-hour period has been dropped because last year most stations packed up 24 hours after the start of the Field Day and there were few contacts to be had on the Sunday afternoon.

The rules have also been changed to exclude 24-hour entrants from also submitting six-hour logs.

There have also been minor changes to the general rules.

### **Duration**

VK6 only: 0400 UTC Saturday 14 January to 0400 UTC Sunday 15 January.

All other call areas: 0100 UTC Saturday to 0100 UTC Sunday.

In local time, the starting time is therefore 11 am in Queensland, 12 noon in other eastern states, 11.30 am in SA, and 12 noon in WA.

### **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, 24 hours.

Entrants may submit logs for only one section. Six-hour operation must be for six consecutive hours, starting on the hour.

### **General Rules**

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

Operation may be from any location. You may work stations within your own locator square. Each station may use only one callsign. A station is portable only if its equipment is portable.

### **Contest Exchange**

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

### **Repeat Contacts**

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

## Scoring

One point per contact. The band multipliers are:

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

For each band, multiply the number of contacts by the number of locator squares worked on that band, then by the appropriate band multiplier.

For example, on 2 metres, 20 contacts 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 name, address and callsign, section entered, the period of operation to be scored (if entering the six hour section), and a scoring table.

The scoring table should be as follows:

Band	Contacts		Squares		Multiplier		Total
6 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	1	=	xxxx
2 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	4	=	xxxx
70 cm	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	7	=	xxxx
etc.							
Overall Total							xxxx

## Entries

Post logs to the Manager, VHF-UHF Field Day, PO Box 2175, Caulfield Junction Vic 3161. Logs must be received by Monday, January 30, 1995. 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, C and D.



*Wireless Institute of Australia*

## VHF-UHF FIELD DAY 1995: RESULTS

John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager

Call	Name	Loc	6m	2m	70 cm	23 cm	TOTAL
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### SECTION A - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 24 HOURS

VK2TWR	R. Collman	QF43	240	2464	672	-	3376
VK4OE/2	D. Friend	QF59	12	864	210	80	1166
VK5XY	C. Luke	PF95	-	48	42	10	100
VK2XCI	N. McMillan	QF27	-	96	-	-	96
VK6BWI	P. Parker	OF77	-	96	-	-	96

### SECTION B - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 6 HOURS

VK3AFW	R. Cook	QF32	-	1488	1386	-	2874
VK3DLM	L. Mostert	QF21	9	864	714	-	1587
VK3ATQ	J. Patterson	QF21	435	576	-	-	1011
VK4NEF	E. Fittock	QG63	-	432	-	-	432

### SECTION C - PORTABLE, MULTI OPERATOR, 24 HOURS

VK3ATL	GARC (1)	QF22	4386	6440	5964	460	17250
VK5ARC	SCARC (2)	PF94	4142	7436	1988	320	13886
VK1DO	C. Davis	QF44	2001	7828	2632	728	13189

### SECTION D - HOME STATION, 24 HOURS

VK3DEM	R. Ashlin	QF32	204	1656	1904	845	4609
VK3CY	D. Clarke	QF13	-	2256	154	-	2410
VK5NY	R. Bowman	PF94	459	756	245	-	1460
VK3AUI	G. Sones	QF22	66	608	560	160	1394
VK3AL	A. Elliott	QF22	54	128	252	220	654
VK7XR	A. Hay	QE38	286	128	147	-	561
VK7KAP	A. Perkins	QE38	1	144	168	30	343
VK5LP	E. Jamieson	PF94	81	160	35	30	306

- (1) Geelong Amateur Radio Club  
(2) South Coast Amateur Radio Club

The level of activity this year was higher on 6 metres due to some very good sporadic E, and rather flat on higher bands with very little in the way of tropo openings. Once again the main activity was in the south-eastern states, with only two portable stations operating in NSW, and one each in Queensland and WA.

An interesting feature of the results is that most six-hour stations did better than most 24-hour ones. The reason seems to be that the six-hour stations were in areas where there were more stations to work.

Several stations worked VK0IX on 6 metres, and there were a number of interstate contacts on 2 metres and above. The most notable contact was a new VK1 record between VK1DO and VK4OE/2 on 1296 MHz.

There were far too many contest exchanges on DX calling frequencies, especially 50.110 MHz, which should never be used for contest operation.

Some entrants felt that the incentive to go portable was reduced by dropping the double scoring for portable stations. In fact it makes no difference because home and portable stations are in different sections. However I have no problems with changing it back if that is what entrants want. One valid point is that contacts between two portable stations should score more than a portable to home station contact.

It was also pointed out that the scoring system favours the lower bands in spite of the band multipliers. The reason is that the number of contacts on each band is multiplied by the number of grid squares worked. If an operator has a large score on 2 metres and then works an extra grid square, this extra square is multiplied by all of the contacts he has made on the band. On higher bands such as 1296 MHz, there are fewer contacts in the log and an extra grid square does not boost the points score by anywhere near as much.

I agree that this is a problem and it is certainly not the aim of the Field Day to discourage people from using higher bands - quite the opposite. So some change is needed. The best option could be to add the QSO and grid square points rather than multiplying them.

## **Results**

The winner in the 24-hour section was Rod Collman, VK2TWR, and the top 6-hour scorer was Ron Cook, VK3AFW. In the multi-operator section, the Geelong Amateur Radio Club wins again. Rob Ashlin, VK3DEM, entered as a home station this year and took out first place. Special congratulations are due to Rob VK2TWR for coming out a clear winner in his first ever Field Day, just as Rob VK3DEM did in 1993. Congratulations also to all other entrants.

## **Some Comments from the Logs**

"The boys had a terrific time ... All call areas of VK worked except VK9 ... Maybe the 35 degree temperature discouraged many ... The number of contacts was disappointing but most of the locals were busy driving tractors ... It was great to work VK0IX ... Would have preferred 12 noon finish here in VK4 ... Six metres yielded 34 grid squares and contacts into all states ..."

Most entrants reported fine weather this year. However in the interests of balanced reporting, here are some excerpts from a letter sent by Alan Raftery, VK5BW, whose absence was noted this year.

"I could see a dust storm coming toward me. Two minutes later the tent was down, the metal poles bent by over 90 degrees. For the next fourteen hours it hailed and rained continuously and the heavy winds never abated. Next morning I awoke to see one of my masts leaning at 30 degrees from the vertical. As I approached the mast it toppled over in front of me.

"Still not worried, I awaited the arrival of John VK5AJQ. Try as he could, John was only able to come within 3 km of the site. The rain had made the track a quagmire. I faced the reality of the situation and left just before the Field Day commenced. Over 50 mm of rain fell and it took me six hours to return to Adelaide exhausted.

"I hope to try Mt. Bryan again for the John Moyle Field Day in March."

What more needs to be said? What a hobby! See you all next year - weather permitting, of course.



## *Wireless Institute of Australia*

# **VHF-UHF FIELD DAY 1996**

John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager

The annual VHF/UHF Field Day will be run on the weekend of January 13/14, 1996. The Ross Hull Contest will be in progress at this time and any contacts made for one can be counted for the other. Please remember that the Field Day exchange must include your Maidenhead locator, and that repeat contacts are allowed for the Field Day but not the Ross Hull Contest.

There have been two changes to the scoring system. As requested by a number of entrants, contacts between portable stations will score higher points than home to portable contacts. The other change is that the QSO points and locator scores for each band will now be added rather than multiplied. The previous system of multiplying QSO points by grid squares tended to encourage entrants to concentrate only on high-scoring bands like 2 metres. By adding the QSO and locator square points rather than multiplying them, the scoring potential of each band will agree more closely with the band multipliers.

The other change is in the rules related to the use of DX calling frequencies.

### **Duration**

Starting time: 12 noon local time on Saturday January 13. In UTC the starting times are therefore: VK5/8 0130, VK4 0200, VK6 0400, all other call areas 0100.

Finishing time: 26 hours later in each call area.

### **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, 24 hours.

Entrants may submit logs for only one section. Operation must be for any 6 or 24 consecutive hours within the contest period, starting on the hour.

### **General Rules**

All modes and bands above 30 MHz may be used. Repeater, satellite and crossband contacts are not allowed. Operation may be from any location. You may work stations within your own locator square. Each station may use only one callsign. A station is portable only if its equipment is portable. A frequency of .150 on each band is recommended for contest calling. Persistent use of recognised DX calling frequencies for contest exchanges will result in disqualification.

### **Contest Exchange**

RS or RST reports, a three-digit serial number, and your Maidenhead locator.

### **Repeat Contacts**

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

### **Scoring**

QSO Points: Portable stations score 3 points for each contact with other portable stations, or 2 points for contacts with home stations. Home stations will score 1 point for each contact with portable stations, no score for working other home stations.

Locator Points: All stations score 10 points per locator square worked.

Band multipliers:

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

For each band, add the QSO points to the locator points, then multiply by the appropriate band multiplier. For example, on 2 metres, 40 contacts and 12 locator squares = 40 + 120 = 160 times 4 = 640 points.

See the sample scoring table below.

### Logs

For each contact: UTC time, frequency, station worked, serial numbers and locator numbers exchanged, points claimed.

The front sheet should contain name, address and callsign, station location and its Maidenhead locator, section entered, the period of operation to be scored, and a scoring table.

The scoring table should be as follows:

Band	Contacts		Squares		Multiplier		Total
6 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	1	=	xxxx
2 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	4	=	xxxx
70 cm	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	7	=	xxxx
etc.							
Overall Total							xxxx

### Entries

Post logs to the Manager, VHF-UHF Field Day, PO Box 2175, Caulfield Junction Vic 3161. Logs must be received by Monday, February 5, 1996. 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, C and D.



*Wireless Institute of Australia*

## VHF-UHF FIELD DAY 1996: RESULTS

John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager

This year most entrants reported good weather but fairly ordinary propagation. Activity was good and the number of portable stations in the logs was surprisingly high. The number of logs was only slightly higher than last year, but of special interest is the fact that half of this year's entrants were new to the contest.

### Activity

The centre of activity was again in the south-east, although there was a large increase in activity in VK4. Above 6 metres, most interstate contacts were within the VK1/2/3/5/7 area. No logs were received from VK6, and no VK6 stations were worked above 6 metres.

The most notable contact was a new VK4 record (still to be confirmed) for the 13 cm band, between VK4OE and VK2FZ/4. On other bands, the "notable contacts" list includes the following interstate contacts:

2 metres:

VK2BIT - VK4OE;  
VK3ATL - VK1BG VK1DO VK2ZAB VK5AV VK5NC VK5AKK;  
VK3BBB - VK2TWR VK5AKK VK5DK VK5LP VK5NC VK5ZMC;  
VK3XLD - VK1DO VK1VP VK1BG VK5NC VK2TWR VK2XKE VK2ZRE VK7KY;  
VK4IF - VK2BRG VK2ZAB VK2EJ;  
VK7XR - VK3ATL VK3BBB VK3XLD VK3ER;  
VK5BW - VK2EFA 2YVG

70 cm:

VK3ATL - VK1BG VK5NC VK5DK;  
VK7XR - VK3BBB VK3DEM VK3ATL

23 cm:

VK5AV - VK3KWA

### Scoring

The scoring system was changed this year to encourage the use of as many bands as possible. The previous system gave advantage to those bands where the greatest number of grid squares can be worked. Unfortunately the changes made this year had the same effect! The only solution seems to be to give locator squares a fixed points value and to add the QSO and locator points rather than multiplying them. I would appreciate any comments or suggestions on this.

Several other changes are suggested for next year. The scoring difference between home and portable stations should be dropped, as it serves no purpose and just complicates the scoring. The times should be more flexible and the requirement to start and end on the hour can be dropped.

Another change proposed for next year is to drop 6 metres from the list of Field Day bands. Many entrants did not use 6 metres; others use it but would prefer to concentrate on the higher bands. There was also a problem again this year with QRM from Field Day stations around 50.110 MHz. DX operation must have priority in the 50 MHz window and it seems that there is only one way of achieving this.

There should be more incentive for entrants to activate rare grid squares, and to operate from more than one grid square if they wish to. Next year all entrants will be able to claim the square they are operating from, even if they do not work any stations within that square. If a station moves to a new locator square, the three hour time limit should be "reset" and repeat contacts allowed straight away.

I would appreciate any comments or suggestions on the above - the sooner the better please! The Field Day rules have normally been published in December each year, but next time I would like to publish them no later than November.

## Results

Now, at last, on to the results. The winner in the 24-hour section was Brian Young, VK3BBB, who operated from Mt Skene and achieved a stupendous score that measured up well against the top multi-operator station. Congratulations Brian; I hope your voicebox will recover soon.

Second place goes to Rob Ashlin, VK3DEM, who operated again from Mt. Nowa Nowa. Third place goes to Doug Friend, VK4OE, who operated in the Herries Range north of Stanthorpe.

In the six hour section, the top score goes to Ron Cook, VK3AFW, on Mt Buller, followed by Doug Friend, VK4OE and Chris Davis, VK1DO.

In the multi-operator section, first place goes yet again to VK3ATL, the Geelong Amateur Radio Club, operating from Blue Mountain. There was a close tussle for second place between VK3ER (Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club at Mt Cowley) and VK4IF (Brisbane VHF Group at Mt. Mee), both of whom submitted logs for the first time this year.

The top scoring home station was Andrew Hay, VK7XR, followed by Des Clarke, VK3CY, and Max Pickering, VK3TMP, who made his first entry this year.

Last year I awarded a special certificate to VK5BW for surviving the wild weather that blew his station apart. This year I make another special award: an "Iron Man Certificate". It goes to David Learmonth, VK3XLD, who carried his whole station 12 km to his operating position on Mt Feathertop.

The scores are given below for each band with the QSO points first, followed by the locator squares worked.

Call	Name	Loc	6m	2m	70 cm	23 cm	13 cm	TOTAL
<b>SECTION A - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 24 HOURS</b>								
VK3BBB	B. Young	QF32	82/15	528/14	476/10	470/6	-	70020
VK3DEM	R. Ashlin	QF32	44/12	484/15	455/8	290/4	-	49647
VK4OE	D. Friend	QG51	19/8	228/11	245/7	280/4	13/1	24335
VK3XLD	D. Learmonth	QF33	36/7	504/18	28/1	-	-	14664
VK5XY	C. Luke	PF95	34/4	408/4	434/3	150/2	-	13338
VK3AFW	R. Cook	QF32	-	244/14	217 9	-	-	10603
VK4KZR	R. Preston	QG53	-	160/6	175/4	130/3	-	6045
VK3DQW	K. Asplin	QF12	-	272/8	-	-	-	2176
VK5ZJP	J. Malusa	PF95	-	64/3	-	-	-	192
<b>SECTION B - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 6 HOURS</b>								
VK3AFW	R. Cook	QF32	-	244/14	217/9	-	-	10603
VK4OE	D. Friend	QG51	9/6	112/8	98/7	130/4	13/1	9050
VK1DO	C. Davis	QF44	5/2	240/7	266/5	-	-	7154
VK5XY	C. Luke	PF95	13/4	108/4	154/3	20/1	-	3540
VK4KZR	R. Preston	QG53	-	60/6	63/4	70/3	-	2509
VK2BIT	P. Woods	QF55	-	160/15	-	-	-	2400
VK2ANK	N. Kefford	QF45	-	112/6	28/1	-	-	980
VK3KTD	T. Doyle	QF11	-	132/7	-	-	-	924
VK5AV	T. Hann	QF02	-	36/4	-	30/3	-	462
VK1PK	P. Parker	QF44	-	100/4	-	-	-	400
<b>SECTION C - PORTABLE, MULTI OPERATOR, 24 HOURS</b>								
VK3ATL	(1)	QF22	136/26	652/16	609/11	460/7	-	111240
VK3ER	(2)	QF11	125/23	644/11	623/9	130/3	-	70012
VK4IF	(3)	QG62	117/20	492/10	588/7	260/5	-	61194
VK5BW	(4)	PF96	31/7	392/10	322/6	20/1	-	18360
VK5ARC	(5)	PF94	41/5	648/5	525/5	-	-	18210



Call	Name	Loc	6m	2m	70 cm	23 cm	13 cm	TOTAL
<b>SECTION D - HOME STATION, 24 HOURS</b>								
VK7XR	A. Hay	QE38	47/12	308/8	336/6	60/2	-	21208
VK3CY	D. Clarke	QF13	-	332/18	203/7	-	-	13375
VK3TMP	M. Pickering	QF21	-	344/13	266/7	-	-	12200
VK3KWA	J. Martin	QF22	17/4	144/6	168/4	270/4	-	10782
VK4EJ	B. McIvor	QG62	48/12	92/2	105/1	-	-	3675
VK5LP	E. Jamieson	PF94	9/2	52/5	70/3	10/1	-	1551

- (1) Geelong Amateur Radio Club:  
J. Barrand VK3DFL, G. Day VK3XGD, L. de Vries VK3PK, A. Forster VK3AJF, C. Gnaccarini VK3BRZ, K. Jewell VK3AKK, C. Leone VK3BCL, G. Noss VK3HQ, L. Sim VK3HLS, M. Trickett VK3ASQ.
- (2) Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club:  
B. Ackerly VK3YNG, J. Bramham VK3WWW, M. Chadwick VK3WT, J. Longayroux VK3ZJH, C. Platt VK3KCP, D. Williams VK3KAB.
- (3) Brisbane VHF Group:  
G. Ryan VK4AR, M. McIntosh VK4ZMM, E. Fittock VK4NEF, S. Watson VK4JSR.
- (4) A. Raftery VK5BW, J. Brayley VK5AJQ, A. Russell VK5ZUC.
- (5) South Coast Amateur Radio Club:  
B. Bates VK5UBJ, M. Cook VK5ZMC, G. Willis VK5ZWI, J. Rowley VK5ZIP.

### Some Comments from the Logs

- VK4OE: "Much better activity in our part of the country (VK4) this year."  
VK3ER: "We all agreed that the weekend was most rewarding."  
VK5BW: "Poor propagation, gale force winds and 45 degree C temperatures forced an early closure of the station."  
VK7XR: "Only one VK7 contact was made, the rest were from across the water."



## *Wireless Institute of Australia*

# **VHF-UHF FIELD DAY 1997**

John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager

The annual VHF/UHF Field Day will be run on the weekend of January 11/12, 1996. The Ross Hull Contest will be in progress at this time and any contacts made for one can be counted for the other. Please remember that the Field Day exchange must include your Maidenhead locator, and that repeat contacts are allowed for the Field Day but not the Ross Hull Contest.

There been several changes as a result of comments received on last year's Field Day. One is to drop the scoring distinction between home and portable stations, which serves no purpose and just makes scoring more complicated. The change made last year to the scoring formula did not achieve its purpose, so a different approach has been taken this year.

The 6 metre band has been dropped. This will eliminate the QRM problems experienced in the past on and around 50.110 MHz, and will allow portable stations to concentrate on the higher bands with their smaller antennas.

The rules have also been changed to provide incentives for stations activating rare grid squares, and "rover stations" operating from more than one square. Provision has also been made for small "team stations" using shared equipment.

Finally, the rule relating to misuse of calling frequencies has been rewritten again, in an attempt to eliminate the interference problems that have occurred in the past.

### **Duration**

VK6 only: 0300 UTC Saturday January 11 to 0700 UTC Sunday January 12.

All other call areas: 0000 UTC Saturday to 0400 UTC Sunday.

### **Sections**

Entrants may submit logs for one of the following 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, 24 hours.

### **General Rules**

All modes and bands above 144 MHz may be used. Repeater, satellite and crossband contacts are not allowed. Contacts between home stations are disallowed.

Operation may be from any location, or from more than one location. Operation must be for any 6 or 24 consecutive hours. You may work stations within your own locator square.

A station is portable only if its equipment, including antennas, is transported to a location other than the normal home location(s) of its operator(s). Each station must use only one callsign, and each operator may operate only one station.

If two operators set up a station using shared equipment, they may enter as a multi-operator station or as separate single operator stations. Stations with more than two operators must enter section C.

Persistent use of recognised DX calling frequencies for contest exchanges or liaison will result in disqualification. A frequency of .150 on each band is recommended for contest calling.

## Contest Exchange

RS or RST reports, a three-digit serial number, and your Maidenhead locator.

## Repeat Contacts

Stations may be worked again on each band after three hours. If a station is dismantled and moved to a new locator square, repeat contacts may be made immediately. If the station moves back into the previous locator square, the three hour limit still applies to stations worked from that square.

## Scoring

For each band, score 20 points for each square in which your station operates, plus 10 points for each locator square worked, plus 1 point per contact. Multiply the total by the band multiplier as follows:

2 m	70 cm	23 cm	13 cm	Higher
x 4	x 7	x 10	x 13	x 16

Then total the scores for all bands.

## Logs

For each contact: UTC time, frequency, station worked, serial numbers and locator numbers exchanged, points claimed.

The front sheet should contain names and callsigns of all operators; the postal address which applies to the callsign used; station location and Maidenhead locator; section entered, the period of operation to be scored; a scoring table; and a signed declaration that the contest manager's decision will be accepted as final.

## Sample Scoring Table

Band	QSO Points		Locator Points		Multiplier		Total
2 m	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	4	=	xxxx
70 cm	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	7	=	xxxx
etc.							
Overall Total							xxxx

## Entries

Post logs to the Manager, VHF-UHF Field Day, PO Box 2175, Caulfield Junction Vic 3161. Logs must be received by Monday, February 10, 1997. 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, C and D.



## *Wireless Institute of Australia*

# VHF-UHF FIELD DAY 1997: RESULTS

**John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager**

The number of logs received this year was less than in 1996. There was only one log each from VK1 and VK2, 11 from VK3, three each from VK4 and VK5, and one from VK7. Once again, VK6 was conspicuous by its absence.

In spite of the high level of activity in Victoria, it will come as a shock to the VK3s that the winners in two of the four sections came from other states! The main reason is the increasing use of higher bands. For the first time ever, log entries were received for all bands up to and including 24 GHz - eight bands in all.

In the single operator section, the winner this year is Trevor Niven, VK5NC, who operated from three different locations over the weekend and activated a total of seven different bands. No doubt some of the other entrants will be looking very closely at transverter designs for 2.4 GHz and above during the coming year!

Last year's second placegetter, Rob Ashlin, VK3DEM, has come in second, and last year's winner, Brian Young, VK3BBB, came in third this time.

In the six hour section, the winner is again Ron Cook, VK3AFW, who operated from Mt Buller in northeast Victoria.

In the multi-operator section, the prize goes to VK4IF, the station of the Brisbane VHF Group - an excellent effort. VK3ATL came second this time and no doubt will be trying even harder next year. VK3ER and VK5ARC also did very well, and there could be quite a battle between the club stations next year. Check those scores and see the advantage of having an extra band!

The top scoring home station was Max Pickering, VK3TMP, followed by VK3CY and VK3BDL.

Congratulations to all entrants, especially to those who have won their sections for the first time this year. Congratulations also to those who entered this year for the first time.

### **Next Year**

At this time last year I foreshadowed the dropping of 6 metres from the Field Day, because the majority view seemed to lean that way. I also posted a copy of the proposed 1997 rules to all entrants with a request for comments. No-one objected to the dropping of 6 metres, so it was done. When the 1997 Field Day came around, a number of people expressed surprise and disappointment that 6 metres had been dropped! Now the majority would like to see it reinstated.

This can be done, but with the proviso that there will have to be a very clear restriction on the frequencies used. At the time of writing, 6 metre operators in many countries are moving towards a new band plan with a dividing line around 50.150 MHz. The idea is that frequencies below 50.150 MHz should be kept clear for weak signal work and international DX, and local or contest operation should be only above 50.150 MHz.

I would therefore suggest that 6 metres should be back next year, but with contest operation only on 50.150 MHz and above.

The other area which needs looking at is the relative scoring value of grid squares versus individual contacts. The current system makes it well worthwhile to activate the higher bands in spite of the smaller number of stations that can be worked. I think this should be retained, but with a close eye on the band multipliers to make sure that there is still a fair scoring balance across the spectrum.

As usual, any comments would be much appreciated! The rules for the next Field Day will be finalised at the start of November, so that allows seven months for anyone who wishes to make any suggestions.

### **Results**

The scores are given below for each band with the QSO points first, followed by the locator squares worked.

## VHF-UHF Field Day 1997: results

Call	Name	Loc	144 MHz	432 MHz	1.2 GHz	2.4 GHz	3.4 GHz	5.7 GHz	10 GHz	24 GHz	TOTAL
<b>SECTION A - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 24 HOURS</b>											
VK5NC	T. Niven	QF01/02	556/8	518/3	740/3	-	992/2	992/2	992/2	992/2	5782
VK3DEM	R. Ashlin	QF42	744/10	987/8	1120/6	616/1	-	-	496/1	-	3963
VK3BBB	B. Young	QF32	1184/17	1407/12	1300/7	-	-	-	-	-	3891
VK5BW	A. Raftery	PF94	1400/23	875/7	580/3	-	-	-	-	-	2855
VK4OE	D. Friend	QG51	832/13	616/4	760/4	-	-	-	-	-	2208
VK3DQW	K. Asplin	QF12	744/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	744

### SECTION B - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 6 HOURS

VK3AFW	R. Cook	QF32	640/11	896/9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1536
VK3KTO	M. Ide	QF21	480/7	350/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	830
VK2ANK	N. Kefford	QF35/45	400/5	217/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	617
VK1PK	P. Parker	QF44	304/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	304

### SECTION C - PORTABLE, MULTI OPERATOR, 24 HOURS

VK4IF	(1)	QG62	1284/10	1183/5	960/4	468/1	-	-	-	-	4155
VK3ATL	(2)	QF22	1400/20	1596/12	1140/6	-	-	-	-	-	4136
VK3ER	(3)	QF31	1196/19	1281/12	890/5	-	-	-	-	-	3367
VK5ARC	(4)	?	1004/9	1127/8	560/2	-	-	-	-	-	2691

### SECTION D - HOME STATION, 24 HOURS

VK3TMP	M. Pickering	QF21	660/10	735/6	790/4	-	-	-	-	-	2182
VK3CY	D. Clarke	QF13	572/9	609/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1181
VK3BDL	M. Goode	QF22	592/10	504/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1096
VK7XR	A. Hay	QE38	332/5	315/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	647
VK4PJ	P. Brown	QG62	180/2	315/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	495
VK3AIE	B. Gardiner	QF22	172/2	224/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	396

- (1) Brisbane VHF Group:  
J. Morris VK4YOL, G. Ryan VK4AR, M. McIntosh VK4ZMM, E. Fittock VK4NEF
- (2) Geelong Amateur Radio Club:  
M. Trickett VK3ASQ, K. Jewell VK3AKK, J. Barrand VK3DFL, L. Sim VK3ZLS,  
C. Gnaccarini VK3BRZ, A. Gnaccarini VK3TU, L. de Vries VK3PK,  
C. Leone VK3BCL, D. Learmonth VK3XLD, S. Ludvig VK4HSL/3
- (3) Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club:  
B. Ackerly VK3YNG, J. Bramham VK3WWW, J. Longayroux VK3ZJH,  
S. Fontana VK3VCL, A. Tubb VK3BF
- (4) South Coast Amateur Radio Club:  
B. Bates VK5UBJ, S. Callow VK5HAP