



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
Section A Portable, Single Operator, 24 Hours							
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
Section B Portable, Single Operator, 6 Hours							
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
Section C Portable, Multi Operator							
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
Section D Home Station							
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
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
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SECTION A - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 24 HOURS

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

SECTION B - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 6 HOURS

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

SECTION C - PORTABLE, MULTI OPERATOR, 24 HOURS

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
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SECTION D - HOME STATION, 24 HOURS

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
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 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
SECTION A - PORTABLE, SINGLE OPERATOR, 24 HOURS											
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
VK4QE	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