

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY CONTEST 2024

Presented by Denis Johnstone (VK4AE/VK3ZUX)

16 - 17 March, 2024

0100 UTC Sat - 0059 Sun

I wish all entrants good luck and look forward to hearing some of you on air during the contest!

N.B. new Email address: jmfd@wia.org.au will only be set up close to the event for entries and you can check out latest info at <http://www.wia.org.au/contests/> however, the older address jmfd2023@wia.org.au still seems to work.

Overview

1. The aim is to encourage and provide familiarisation with portable operation and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are therefore designed to encourage field and portable operation.
2. The contest takes place on the 3rd full weekend in March each year, and runs from 0100 UTC Saturday to 0059 UTC Sunday, 16 – 17 March 2024.
3. The contest is open to all VK, ZL and P2 stations. Other stations are welcome to participate, but can only claim points for contacts with VK, ZL and P2 stations.
4. Single operator portable entries shall consist of ONE choice from each of the following (e.g., 6 hours, portable, phone, VHF/UHF):
 - a. 24 or 6 hours;
 - b. Phone, CW, Digital or All modes;
 - c. HF, VHF/UHF or All Bands.
5. Multi-operator portable entries shall consist of ONE choice from each of the following (e.g., 24 hours, portable, phone, VHF/UHF):
 - a. 24 or 6 hours;
 - b. Phone, CW, Digital or All modes;
 - c. HF, VHF/UHF or All Bands.
6. Home and SWL entries shall consist of ONE choice from each of the following (e.g., 24 hours, portable, phone, VHF/UHF):
 - a. 24 or 6 hours;
 - b. All modes;
 - c. HF, VHF/UHF or All Bands.

Multi operator stations are NOT permitted in the Home Category.

If a Home Station works the same station regularly during the contest on any band or any mode, they should submit their log to verify those contacts. (See sect. 18 below.)

Scoring

7. Portable HF stations shall score 2 points per QSO. CW only contacts to score 4 points per QSO for contacts with either home or portable stations.

8. On VHF/UHF portable stations for Phone and Digital each contact scores 2 points per contact, and CW contacts score 4 points. In addition, the VHF/UHF Portable stations shall add a distance score of the following on (**50 MHz - 6 m**):
 - a. 0-49 km, 2 points per QSO.
 - b. 50-99 km, 5 points per QSO.
 - c. 100-149 km 10 points per QSO.
 - d. 150-299 km 20 points per QSO.
 - e. 300-499 km 30 points per QSO.
 - f. 500 km and greater, 2 points per QSO.
9. Portable stations shall add an additional distance score on **144 MHz and higher**:
 - a. 0 to 49 km, 2 points per QSO.
 - b. 50 to 99 km, 5 points per QSO.
 - c. 100 to 149 km, 10 points per QSO.
 - d. 150 to 299 km, 20 points per QSO.
 - e. 300 km and greater, 30 points per QSO.
10. For each VHF/UHF QSO where more than 2 points are claimed, both the latitude and longitude of the station contacted or other satisfactory proof of distance such as the 6-figure Maidenhead Locator must be supplied.
11. Home stations shall score:
 - a. Two points per QSO with each portable station.
 - b. One point per QSO with other home stations.
 - c. For VHF/UHF QSO Home stations shall add as a distance score on 50Mhz - **6 m**:
 - i. 0-49 km, 1 point per QSO.
 - ii. 50-99 km, 2 points per QSO.
 - iii. 100-149 km 5 points per QSO.
 - iv. 150-299 km 10 points per QSO.
 - v. 300-499 km 15 points per QSO.
 - vi. 500 km and greater, 2 per QSO.
 - d. Home stations shall add as a distance score on **144 MHz and higher**:
 - i. 0 to 49 km, 1 point per QSO.
 - ii. 50 to 99 km, 2 points per QSO.
 - iii. 100 to 149 km, 5 points per QSO.
 - iv. 150 to 299 km, 10 points per QSO.
 - v. 300 km and greater, 15 points per QSO.

Log Submission

12. For each contact: UTC time, frequency, station worked, RST/serial numbers sent/received and claimed score. (VHF and above location of other station and distance showing the Lat/Long or Maidenhead Locator to 6 figures for the station worked.)
13. All logs must be accompanied by a summary sheet showing: call sign, name, mailing address, section entered, number of contacts, claimed score, location of the station during the contest, and equipment used, and a signed declaration stating "*I hereby declare that this station was operated in accordance with the rules and spirit of the contest and that the contest manager's decision will be accepted as final*". **For multi-operator stations, the FULL names, and all call signs (legible) of all operators must be listed.**
14. The Email address for this year's JMMFD contest jmfd@wia.org.au should be setup a few days before the contest, and I would suggest to those who will be sending in your Logs electronically, to send in a test email with the words "TEST JMMFD 2024", in subject the line and also set the "REQUEST READ RECEIPT flag (if it is available on your e-mail system.). Your call sign can then be added into the database for this year's contest. **When submitting your log for the contest, if you do not receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of your log, then the log may not have been received and you should resubmit.**
15. Paper logs may be posted to "John Moyle Contest Manager, 27 Laguna Ave, Kirwan 4817 QLD". Alternatively, logs may be e-mailed jmfd@wia.org.au, or to the older address of jmfd2023@wia.org.au, or vk4ae@wia.org.au, or snail mailed via the WIA Contest Manager, JMMFD, P.O. Box 2042 Bayswater, VIC 3153. Club stations must forward in the first instance an electronic version of their log. Club Stations who submit only a paper log will have that log returned as unreadable, due to the very large amount of work involved in entering and checking large paper logs.
16. The following formats are acceptable: Microsoft Excel or Word, ASCII text or the print log output file from electronic log programs such as VK Contest Log (VKCL). Logs sent by disc or e-mail must include a summary sheet and declaration, but the operator's full name (legible) is acceptable in lieu of a signature. A PDF copy of a handwritten log is also not acceptable and will also be rejected as it is an image and hence computer unreadable.
17. Because of the publishing lead time of AR Magazine, Logs must be postmarked no later than 5th April 2024, and **as the post is now so slow and unreliable, logs despatched on the last day might not arrive in time.** Electronic versions of the log will be received until midnight 14th April 2024. Any logs received after this date will be returned as ineligible.
18. If any station works the same station multiple times on any band or on any mode, both stations should each enter a log to verify those contacts. This rule was introduced to overcome a problem experienced in previous contests where a portable station worked a significant number of home stations, but those home stations did not enter a log, so there were a very large number of unverifiable contacts.

Certificates and Trophy

19. At the discretion of the Contest Manager, certificates may be awarded to the winners of each portable section. Additional certificates may be awarded where operation merits it. Note that entrants in a 24-hour section are ineligible for awards in a 6-hour section.
20. The Australian WIA Affiliated club station, with the highest overall score will be awarded the President's Shield, a perpetual trophy held at the Executive Office, and will receive an individually inscribed wall plaque as permanent recognition.

Disqualification

21. General WIA contest disqualification criteria, as published in Amateur Radio from time to time, applies to entries in this contest. Logs which are illegible or excessively untidy are also liable to be disqualified.

Definitions

22. A portable station comprises field equipment operating only from a portable power source, e.g., batteries, portable generator, solar power, wind power, independent of any permanent facilities and which is not the normal location of any amateur station. ***Mains power supply is not to be used for any part of the portable installation, or lighting or even battery-charging.***
23. All equipment comprising the portable station must be located within an 800m diameter circle.
24. A single operator station is where one person performs all operating, logging, and spotting functions.
25. A single operator may only use a call-sign of which he/she is the official holder. A single operator may not use a call-sign belonging to any group, club, or organisation for which he/she is a member, except as part of a multi-operator entry.
26. A multi-operator station is where more than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log, performs spotting, etc.
27. A multi-operator station may use only one call sign during the contest.
28. Multi-operator stations may only use one transmitter on each band at any one time, regardless of the mode in use.
29. All multi-operator stations must submit a separate log for each band. Single operator stations should submit a separate log for each band.
30. Logs submitted electronically can use a separate Excel worksheet for each band linked to a summary sheet. A typical example is shown at <https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle> which can be copied and adapted for the individual use of either a single or multi operator station as required.

31. Any station operated by a club, group, or organisation will be considered to be multi-operator by default and must not use any of the permanent club facilities.
32. None of the portable field equipment may be erected on the site earlier than 28 hours before the beginning of the contest.
33. Single operator stations may receive moderate assistance prior to and during the contest, except for operating, logging, and spotting. The practice of clubs or groups providing massive logistic support to a single operator is, however, totally against the spirit of the contest. Offenders may be disqualified, and at the discretion of the Contest Committee, may be banned from further participation in the contest for a period of up to three years.
34. Phone includes SSB, AM, Simplex FM and Simplex D-Star.
35. CW includes CW hand or computer generated. Fully automatic CW operation is not permitted. CW contacts will score 4 points for HF and 4 points for VHF & UHF contacts plus the distance points.
36. Digital modes such as PSK31, RTTY, and packet may be used in the contest, but if they are, they shall be classed as Digital. Other modes such as ATV may be used and will be classed as Digital for scoring. Digital contacts will score points at the same rate as Phone.
37. The new fully automatic modes such as FT8/FT4 etc and others simply cannot transfer sufficient information to be eligible as a valid contact at present. Further they are rarely worked by other stations and so are not verifiable. This may be reviewed in the future.
38. All amateur bands may be used except 10, 18 and 24 MHz. VHF/UHF means all amateur bands above 30 MHz. Note: On 50 MHz, the region below 50.150 has been declared a contest free zone, and contest CQs and exchanges may only take place above this frequency. Stations violating this rule may be disqualified.
39. Cross-band, cross-mode and contacts made via repeaters or satellites are not permitted for contest credit. However, repeaters may be used to arrange a contact on another frequency where a repeater is not used for the actual contact.
40. Stations may make repeat contacts and claim full points for each one. For this purpose, the contest is divided into eight consecutive three-hour blocks: 0100-0359, 0400-0659, 0700-0959, 1000-1259, 1300-1559, 1600-1859, 1900-2159, 2200-0059 UTC. If you work a station at 0359 UTC a repeat contact may be made after the start of a new block providing, they are not consecutive, or are separated by at least five minutes from the previous valid contact with that station on the same band and mode.
41. Stations operating on Phone must exchange ciphers comprising RS plus a 3-digit number commencing at 001 for each band and incrementing by one for each contact.
42. Stations operating on CW must exchange ciphers comprising RST plus a 3-digit number commencing at 001 for each band and incrementing by one for each contact. Where the CW contact is with an overseas station that is unwilling or unable to give a valid serial number, the serial number for that station shall be assumed to be 001.
43. Portable stations shall add the letter "P" to their own cipher, e.g., 599001P.
44. Multi-operator stations are to commence numbering on each band with 001.
45. Receiving stations must record the ciphers sent by both stations being logged. QSO points will be on the same basis as for Home Stations, unless the receiving station is in fact portable.

46. The practice of commencing operation and later selecting the most profitable operational period within the allocated contest times is not in the spirit of the contest and may result in disqualification. The period of operation commences with the first contact on any band or mode and finishes either 6 or 24 hours later.

If anyone wishes to contact me privately to discuss rules etc, my home phone number is (07) 4723 4229, and my snail mail and e-mail address are as shown in the Log Submission section above.

Denis Johnstone (VK4AE/VK3ZUX)