2010 Remembrance Day Contest

- Introduced by VK4OD, Peter Harding.

The RD Contest is an important event on the Australian amateur calendar, with heavy participation by some of the Clubs and individual operators, with serious competition between states.

The Remembrance Day Contest for 2010 will be held on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th August 2010, for 24 hours commencing 0800 hrs UTC on the Saturday evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the main changes to the rules.

In 2009 a section to allow operators of WW2 Ex-Service Radio equipment. This has been allowed. There are NO extra points allocated, however there is a separate certificate to cover this new section. We request AM operators to use a section of the band so as not to cause interference with SSB operation. This will be the higher portions of 80 and 40 metres. There is lots more room now on 40 between 7.100 to 7.200

Distance Bonus Points were complex to the point that many entrants were hopelessly confused by the bonuses. How did one get precise distances on the boundaries without wasting a lot of time on extra exchanges? Many operators simply gave up trying to work the points out.

Similarly, bonus points offered for working stations in VK8, 9, 0 or P2 and ZL needlessly confused things and many stations even within those zones were unaware that they, could double all their points.

Therefore the bonus points for Distance, and location in VK9. VK0, P29, ZL are removed.

We hope you will find the revised rules make it easier for you to submit your logs,

Last year, as in the past few contests, we actually ended up with some CW contacts on 160mtrs CW in the early hours of the Sunday morning worth a great deal of points.

As in the past we have included a rule to formally make ineligible contacts which may use an Internet connection. Therefore, the use of such things as IRLP or ECHOLINK are not acceptable. Similarly contacts via repeaters do not attract a score.

There is no necessity to show the RST. However if it is sent then it should represent a true assessment of the received signal and be recorded in the log. If an operator requests an RST it should be sent in the normal way of a contact similarly with your name and location.

Log entries do need sequential numbers starting at 001, with bonus points tallied at the end of the contest and added to the claimed score.

SSB and CW will continue to be considered separate modes on HF, and subject to licence privileges, on ten metres an operator who works stations using FM above 29MHz will also have the opportunity to immediately work the same station using SSB or CW below 29 MHz.

On VHF, you may work a station on FM and immediately rework them on SSB, CW, or both.

Your VHF log can include stations worked on CW, FM or SSB. You do not need to separate the logs according to mode

You are required to provide separate logs for HF and VHF, due to the different rules applying to the two categories.

Many operators concentrate exclusively on VHF and higher band operation, and many of them will have seen that stations which might be very strong on six or two metres could be substantially weaker on 70cm, and probably all but inaudible on higher bands. From the 2005 RD we seek to address this imbalance by offering reward-based incentives for putting the work into higher band operation.

All contacts on bands from and including 23cm and above will attract double points, irrespective of and in addition to any other incentives already offered. They join 160 metre HF operators who have enjoyed double points for some years, as have all CW operators.

HF operators using either 10 or 160 metres are able to work stations within their own state boundaries.

We do not use WARC bands. This allows non-contesters a place to operate.

When polled for comment on a recent VK1WIA broadcast, a number of people asked about multiple contacts. Until now, duplicate contacts or "dupes" were not allowed on HF but were allowed on VHF after only two hours. The VHF arrangements remain, and repeat HF contacts will also be allowed after *two* hours. This is to encourage more and longer operation for operators to participate in the fun.

What's more, there's a special time for all operators still on the air between 1am and 6am local time. All points scored during those wee hours will be doubled. If you work a station whose time zone means they are outside the 1am to 6am point, only your points will be doubled. Although the contest runs during UTC times, the special "night owl" loading is determined strictly by your time zone.

What won't change is the spirit of the contest. The winning state will be the one which stands head and shoulders over the rest, calculated by the total score of each state divided by the number of licences in that state.

Electronic Logging is preferred but by no means mandatory. Those entrants with a suitable PC may wish to consider it this year. By using one of these programs, the file that is Emailed to me can be imported easily into the scoring database program. Links for these programs are listed below. I have tried and tested them all and the creators have rewritten parts of their program to assist scoring.

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

Links to Computerised Logging Programs

NOTE:-- Please check your favourite website for current versions, as most of the programmers are now doing a rewrite, to allow for this year's rule changes.
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From Mike Subocz VK3AVV, the VK Contest Log (*VKCL*) can be found at the following URL:
http://web.aanet.com.au/mnds/
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From John Drew VK5DJ RD logging program can be found at the following URL
http://vk5dj.mountgambier.org/Amateur_radio.html
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From James McBride VK6FJA WinRD+ logging program can be found at the following URL
http://www.rjmb.net/rd/index.htm
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From Paul O'Kane from Ireland, his SD logging program can be found at the following URL
http://www.ei5di.com/