

Jock White field Day Report 2024

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to get out into the great outdoors to set up field stations, many of you were in difficult conditions.

First, a couple of important points:

1. Every field team must appoint a person to take responsibility for scoring and sending in the entry to arrive on time: within a month of the event. This year was the worst I've had for late entries, I should not have to chase 9 teams well after the close date. If you are struggling with your entry, contact me, I'm here to help.
2. Make sure that you make the required 50 phone or 20 CW contacts on the bands you have chosen to operate on. Please don't let someone grab a microphone or a key 'for just a few contacts'. This is an annual problem, and was worse this year. If you are under the required number those contacts are disallowed and all stations claiming that multiplier lose it. Why? Because its unfair if a multiplier appears for just a few contacts, the stations who did not make the contact did not have a fair chance. Work out in advance what you want to do and allocate operating resources to make the required number of contacts. Its not that hard!

Back to the positive feedback: the weather was terrible in some places with high winds damaging tents and bringing antennas down but teams persisted, well down and thanks. It was great to the ZL6YOTA team back on again this year.

Several branches operated this time in some cases after a break of many years, lets hear you all back on in 2025.

There was a very close result in 80 metres only section with the Nelson team being just 2 points ahead of Kapiti, one more contact would have reversed the result.

Propagation

Forty metres was in great shape this year with conditions holding up over the whole weekend, just look at some of the numbers of phone contacts. Unfortunately 80 metres was probably the worst its been in quite a few years: slow to start and quickly fell off on Sunday with contact numbers being well down on last year.

Removal of DX stations

Overseas stations have been removed from the scoring. Oceania contacts are still valid as per rule 10, but no longer worth 10 points, they are 3 for phone and 5 for CW as for ZL contacts. Ten points is excessive and has skewed the results on occasions.

Branches in recess

Something that came up this year and has in the past, is who gives permission to use a branch in recess? The answer is no-one, there is no longer any administration structure for a branch in recess. It has worked very well having teams wanting to use a branch in recess number contact me to help coordinate things to prevent a clash. There is no intrinsic problem with two teams using the same branch number, but its best to have more multipliers on the air.

Using an existing branch number

Teams can use an active branch's number if they want to operate separate from an existing branch team, but it is essential that you get the permission of that branch. Again I have helped with acting as a go between here.

Certificates

Certificates are now getting a bit behind. Printing and posting has become expensive and time consuming. I intend to change to a PDF system where an electronic version is e mailed out for the winner to print.

Correct Multiplier lists pages 2 to 4

This is where you record the callsigns of branches that you are claiming as multipliers. A number of entrants this year just entered a tick here for each branch, please list the callsign of then branch.

Valid Multipliers

There were a total of 75 this year

(maximum possible total for field stations is four less as you cannot work yourself)

80 Phone (30) 01 08 10 11 13 16 20 22 26 27 28 29 30 37 38 42 53 55 58 61 62 63 65 68 69 71 73
87 89 90

80 CW (7) 22 26 28 30 68 69 87

40 Phone (30) 01 02 08 10 11 13 14 16 20 22 23 27 28 29 30 35 37 38 42 53 55 58 61 62 65 68 71
73 89 90

40 CW (8) 01 22 27 28 30 63 68 90

Invalid multipliers (insufficient contacts)

80 ph 02 18 23 61

80 cw 16 61 89

40 ph 84

40 CW 16 54

Equipment Used

I thought it would be interesting to list radios used, note the popularity of the IC-7300.

Elecraft KX3.

Icom: IC706 x2, 725, 746 x3, 751, 756, 7000, 7300 x17, 7600, 7610 x2.

Kenwood: TS120S, 440 x2, 480, 570, 680, 2000 x3.

Yaesu: FT857, 897, 950, FTDX101.

Xiegu X6100 x2.

Personnel

176 people at the 32 stations that sent in entries

Comments from teams

Where was Christchurch 05?

The participation in this contest was a first for our club for many years and something that I hope the club will hopefully repeat in the future.

The nor wester ripped out tent during set up.

Eighty metres was bad: my dipole broke in the wind.

By midnight monsoon rain and unbelievable wind, got little sleep due to noise.

I had to stop when I lost my voice.

All in all an interesting weekend alone (LOL).

North island had amazing band conditions.

80m was odd, one moment there, then gone.

80m was only fair, and I guess I must have missed a number of multipliers I just couldn't hear, anyway that's all part of the challenge I guess.

A few spits of rain but generally good weather

Forty metre conditions better than 80
CW alive and well
High winds during set up resulted in a minor tent rip
Great to contact ZL6YOTA

Stuart Watchman
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