

## **Jock White Field Day 2015 Report**

Thank you to all for a good turn out this year.

Almost the entire country enjoyed good weather this year, I say almost as Wellington branch 50 unfortunately were unable to participate due to high winds and the Tauranga emergency communications group (89) had to cease operation due to weather.

Propagation on 80 metres seemed to be good this year with 40 metres perhaps being pretty average.

The ZL1XH Te Aroha team appeared this year and caused an upset in the Northern region with an excellent score. Sadly Northland was absent this year, I have heard they will be back in 2016.

The Napier ZL2G team were back after an absence last year taking out the central region just ahead of the 'two queen fox' team from South Taranaki.

Hibiscus Coast branch 80 entered this year which was great to see making a great effort for a two man team.

Te Puke improved their standing this year racing up the score board but Papakura still took first place in 80 metres only.

Manawatu swapped places with Franklin from 2014 to take out the phone only section.

Paul VK5PAS operating portable in the Porter Scrub conservation park in the Adelaide Hills submitted an entry joining regular Chris VK2ACD.

There was a lot more interest in the QRP section this year with two stations (Marton and Nelson) operating kitset equipment. The Nelson team made 338 phone contacts on 40 metres which is up there among the 100 Watt stations.

### Comments from teams

Note: I do enjoy reading comments but there seemed to be fewer submitted with entries this year. I received some interesting photos from the Auckland team, VK5PAS and ZL1LS.

The 703 (Icom) retired hurt and will have to go to the vet.

We were so exhausted putting up a 3 el Yagi on an 80 ft tower we were too exhausted to operate!

My XYL brought a Chinese takeaway meal and we had dinner at the picnic table provided for visitors to the beach

The station was situated near the small provincial tower of Paeroa (L & P Bottle)

Missed some of the regulars this year

Good weather

Our band of helpers included prospective amateurs

80 good 40 average

### Improving Field Day Operating Technique

It is best for all if numbers can be exchanged as efficiently as possible.

It is becoming commonplace for the number received to be repeated back "thank you for your 59 121 branch 99 my number to you is ...."

If you are happy that you have received the number from the other station accurately there is no need to read the number back. Think of that QRP station that is always at the end of the queue, or other stations that have to wait due to being weaker for whatever reason. The wait is much longer if unnecessary read-backs are occurring. The quicker exchanges take place the more contacts everyone can make per hour.

An example of an efficient QSO:

CQ call by ZL2YZ

Answered by ZL1ZZ

Acknowledged by ZL2YZ: "ZL1ZZ 59001/95"

Reply by ZL1ZZ: "59003/99"

Acknowledged by ZL2YZ: "Thank you CQ ZL2YZ.."

By all means if conditions are deteriorating and there is uncertainty ask for the number again.

### Late entries and entries not submitted

This year many entries were well beyond the one month cut-off. It makes my life easier if you are prompt and allows me to get the results out sooner.

Two field stations did not submit logs: ZL2AA Gisborne and ZL1BHD Kawerau.

There are many jobs to do in setting up a field station, the first job that should be allocated is scoring and entering the log when it's over.

### Electronic Logs

The last section of the rules states that you *post* the entry to my address. It says nowhere to e-mail them. I am getting quite tired of unpleasant comments from some when I point this out. Yes, its snail mail but that's how the JWFD operates for now. It is not much of an effort to print an electronic log and complete the summary sheets and post them. More than 2/3 of field stations use pen and paper for log keeping.

### Contact Numbers

It is great to see that the message seems to have got through that field stations need to make a minimum of 50 phone and/or 20 CW contacts on a particular band to reach valid multiplier status. This year only one submitted field station entry failed to meet this (only 8 CW contacts on 80).

When an entry is received like this I delete those contacts. Why? If there is no disincentive to this practice then what would stop a whole lot more field stations from 'making a few CW contacts' or 'let's make one or two phone contacts on 40' etc. The

result would be a mess with many invalid multipliers claimed that I would have to delete from many of the entries.

This was the practice of Stan White and Jock White before me. One branch has been quite 'direct' in its protests about this, I can only say I would have loved to have read a Jock White response to this, have a look through old Break-Ins some time and read his 'pet peeves' comments.

### Statistics

35 Field stations with 210 team members.

Ten field station logs were electronic.

Twelve home stations submitted logs.

### Valid Multiplier List

A total of 95 active, the maximum for field stations was 91 as you cannot claim your own.

**80 Phone (35):** 02 03 05 08 10 11 12 18 20 22 25 26 27 29 30 32 37 42 48 44 53 56 58 59 60 65 67 68 69 77 80 84 86 87 89

**80 CW (18):** 03 05 12 16 22 25 30 32 27 37 42 53 56 65 69 77 84 87

**40 Phone (29):** 02 03 05 08 10 11 12 18 20 22 23 25 26 29 30 32 37 44 56 58 59 60 67 68 77 80 84 87 89

**40 CW (13):** 03 05 12 22 25 30 32 37 56 67 77 84 87

Non Valid Multipliers: 13 28 43 88

### Check logs

Received with thanks from the following home stations:

ZL1AW, ZL1BQA, ZL1DAC, ZL3TE and ZL4KA.

Stuart Watchman

ZL2TW

Jock White Field Day Manager