

Results of the 2016 Low Band Contest – 2/3 April

VHF-UHF-SHF-EHF Contests, as administered by the Auckland VHF Group Inc;



ZL2AB contest station from the Stratford Plateau carpark

Operators Kyle ZL2KGF, Brett ZL2VZ, and Jonny ZL2JBK

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| Overall Winner | Station | Points |
|----------------|---------|--------|
| | ZL2AB | 597 * |
| | ZL1SWW | 549 |

Check log: ZL2IH ZL2TAL ZL3TKI

| Top Home Station winner | Station | Points |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|
| | ZL1SWW | 549 * |

| Band winner | Station | Points |
|--------------|---------|--------|
| 6 m (50 MHz) | ZL2AB | 53 * |
| | ZL1SWW | 10 |

| Band winner | Station | Points |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| 2 m (144 MHz) | ZL1SWW | 404 * |
| | ZL2AB | 370 |

| Band winner | Station | Points |
|-----------------|---------|--------|
| 70 cm (432 MHz) | ZL2AB | 174 * |
| | ZL1SWW | 135 |

| Greatest DX | Station | Distance |
|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 6 m | ZL2AB-ZL2IY | 179 km |
| 2 m | ZL2AB-ZL3TKI | 489 km |
| 70 cm | ZL2AB-ZL1IU | 450 km |

Certificate *

Active Stations 22 in total

ZL1AKW ZL1IU ZL1SWW ZLITPH ZL1TWR ZL1VH
ZL2AB ZL2ALW ZL2IH ZL2IY ZL2JBK ZL2KG ZL2KGF ZL2VZ ZL2TAL ZL2TLF ZL2TLS ZL2WHO
ZL3DC ZL3NW ZL3RC ZL3TKI

Operator comments

- Timing is UTC as we changed to NZDT in the middle of the contest, thought UTC less confusing. At least UTC doesn't move.
- Only came up on the Sun morn when had the thought to check out a 2M yagi I'd built.
- 6 m Station Yaesu FT857D with a homebuilt 4 element yagi built a week before the contest just for it as the first yagi ZL2KGF had ever built
- 2 m SSB station Icom 290h with mirage 80w amp into a 6 element yagi
- 2 m FM Icom 260a into a Halo antenna - also used for 360 listening on 2 m SSB
- 70 cm station Icom ic490a with tono 70w amp into a 15 element yagi

- 2M beacon from ZL2WHO/b and 1296 beacon from ZL2WHO/B were coming through quite well into CHCH
- No signals on 432, or on 6M.
- Very little activity in this part of the country
- 6 m total 5 QSO, 2m total 26 QSO, 70 cm total 7 QSO
- ZL2AB rained off East Egmont

VHF managers' comments

Club station ZL2AB, the New Plymouth amateur radio club activated the Stratford Plateau mount Tarinaki. Operators were Kyle ZL2KGF, Brett ZL2VZ and Jonny ZL2JBK. This site has an excellent take off towards the South Island. The view to north is slightly obstructed but they did very well to work up into the Bay of Islands to Nick ZL1IU at 450 km on 70 cm and as far south to Mark ZL3TKI in Christchurch at 489 km on 2 m.

Looking at the 70 cm and 2 m scoring the 70 cm band is double point scoring. The 70 cm band using 70 to 100 watts is considered a very good band to attain extra points in scoring and well worth the effort. Stations active on 70 cm were ZL2AB, ZL2TAL, ZL2TLF, ZL2KG, ZL1SWW, ZL1VH, ZL1AKW and ZL1IU.

The 6 m band this time of year is without E propagation so local contacts were in order and generally circa 160 km. Best DX was given to ZL2IY who worked station ZL2AB at 179 km.

The 2 m band it is regarded as the main stay of contest operation and mostly with SSB. FM contacts are also encouraged and get used extensively by some stations. Stations from the far south of ZL are also known to operate CW. WSJT with FSK441 for meteor scatter propagation and JT65 for terrestrial is allowed.

Overall the activity was down; but at the same time saw a few new stations appeared which is encouraging.

To note; I would like to thank the many contesters over the last three years for being active, supporting others to be active, and enjoying the contests. Thanks also to Simon ZL1SWW who places the results in VHF Scene in *Break-In* along with the NZART webmaster Alan ZL1AMW who places VHF contest results up on the NZART website.

Thanks also for the propagation beacons from Waipuna. These 6 m, 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm beacons are placed on air by Mark ZL2WHO as invaluable propagation indicators.

Stephen Hayman - ZL1TPH

The rules for VHF-UHF-SHF-EHF Contests, as administered by the Auckland VHF Group; on behalf of all VHF groups are available on the NZART website:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contest-rules/rules-vhf-and-above/>

All contest logs should be sent, to arrive within two weeks, to: VHFcontest@nzart.org.nz

Or by mail to: Contest Manager, PO Box 10138, Dominion Road, Auckland 1446.