“ 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest 2018 “

MMMonVHF[1], in cooperation with the magazines DUBUS[2] and Funk-Telegramm[3], invites you to take part in the 11th edition of the “144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest” during the maximum of the Perseids meteor shower (PER). Based on predictions from IMO[4] (the International Meteor Organization), this maximum will occur on August 12, 2018, and August 13, 2018, between 20:00 GMT and 08:00 GMT.

RULES:

Contestperiod:

August 11, 2018, 22:00 GMT – August 13, 2018, 21:59:59 GMT (end time last completed QSO).

Participation:

Class 1: QRP (< 1.5 kW ERP)

Class 2: QRO (>1.5 kW ERP)

Stations can participate in one class only. No difference between single- or multioperator stations or modes.

Exchange:

Full callsigns, reports (e.g. 26 or R26 for FSK441 or in case of MSK144 +00 or R+00) and final rogers (RRRR)[5].

Scoring:

For each completed QSO you receive an amount of points that equals the **spheric** distance (111,2 km/degree) between you and the station you completed with. A worked station only counts once, so no duplicates allowed.

Final scoring:

The total score is the sum of all points you received for all completed QSO’s together.

Logs:

Logs can be send via E-mail or regular mail. Your log has to be received before September 15, 2018 23:59 UTC. In case you have send your log by regular mail, the postmark will count. Logs received after that date will be considered as checklogs.

Logs via E-mail can be sent to: mssprint@mmmonvhf.de ; Subject: MSSprint “Call”

Logs via regular post can be sent to: A.F. Veldhuijsen, PA4EME,

Westlandstraat 9,

6137 KE Sittard,

The Netherlands.

Be sure you log contains at least the following:

- Your call, name, adress and class you want to participate in. Stations in Class 1 (QRP) have to state details about the equipment they used in form of used output power and antennagain. If no data about your station is given, you will be placed in Class 2. The power used for the calculation of the Effective Radiated Power will be the power measured at the output of your transceiver or active amplifier(s);

- The QSO list. As there are many logging programs available nearly every format is possible[6]. But make sure that the log will show at least: date, time (to be specific: end time), call, report send, report received, locator and distance (equals points). As it seems that logbookprograms are using different methodes of calculating distance, please check if your program is using **spheric distance calculation**. If you have doubts what distance is calculated you can have a look at the distance calculating menu of the ON4KST-chat [7] which will show you WGS84 and spheric distances.

With sending your log you also declare to have operated within the limits of your chosen Class, licence and local regulations when performing any activity that could impact your submitted score. Unsportsmanlike conduct can be ground for disqualification. Also you agree to have the log open to the public which might result in publishing your log on MMMonVHF or in the magazines DUBUS and/or Funk-Telegramm.

Reception of a log will be confirmed in the same way it was received.

Stories and pictures are welcome for the soapbox.

Conditions to be observed:

The use of DX-clusters and chat-channels during the contest is only allowed in such way that there is no exchange of reports or other data from which the status of the QSO can be extracted. Limited information on the cluster (e.g. 12:00 DK5EW PA4EME JN48MB<MS>JO20WX) or chat (e.g. 12:00 PA2DW 144.355 CQ for MS Sprint) is allowed.

Acceptable examples for communications on chat-channels:

- "Shall we make a sked on 144.388 at 13.10 GMT, PA4EME 1st period";

- "I have QRM, lets QSY 5 kHz up and start again";

- "Let us continue for 15 minutes and start again";

- "Thank you for the nice QSO" after the QSO has been completed on the radio.

Unacceptable examples for communications on chat-channels:

- "I only need the final rogers..";

- "470/9";

- "I received a burst from you.";

- "I received a burst from you but no decode.".

Selfspotting exceeding more then once every 15 minutes will be considered as unsportsmanlike behaviour.

The distance calculation will be **spheric** as this format is used by most programs that calculates distances between locators. In case a station has claimed his scoring on WGS84, his scoring will be corrected. Calculating a distance by WGS84 will give a different result then calculating the spheric distance. Therefore the same formula need to be used for each participant.

Winner of the contest:

The winner of the contest is the station with the highest amount of points. There will be a winner in each class. If two stations have the same amount of points, the position will have to be shared.

Special scoring for outside Europe stations:

There will be a seperate listing for stations outside Europe.

Certificate:

All stations will receive a digital certificate showing the Class and ranking achieved.

Results:

The results of the MS Sprint Contest will be published on the foreseen date that DUBUS magazine no. 4, 2018 will be issued: December 7, 2018. Results will be online that day on MMMonVHF. Printed versions will be in DUBUS magazine no.4, 2018 and Funk-Telegramm no. 1, 2019. VHF-editors around the world are free to publish the list as well provided the source and organizers are mentioned.

Additional notes:

[1] MMMonVHF (Make More Miles on VHF): www.mmmonvhf.de

[2] DUBUS - the serious magazine for VHF and up amateur radio: www.dubus.org

[3] Funk-Telegramm - Magazin für Funkamateure: www.funk-telegramm.de

[4] IMO – International Meteor Organization: www.imo.net

[5] Operating Procedures for Meteor Scatter QSO's: http://www.vhfdx.de/ms_howto.pdf

[5] Проведение MS QSO в 1 районе IARU: http://www.vhfdx.ru/ms/provedenie-ms-qso-v-1-rayone-iaru

[6] The "144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest" is supported by at least three software programs:

- Arcom (Ham Office) : www.hamoffice.de
- Ucxlog : www.ucxlog.de
- VUSC contestlog : www.ok2kkw.com/programs.htm

Other logging programs are allowed as well.

[7] ON4KST-chat: www.on4kst.com/chat

Participants are **strongly advised** to check the QTH-locators from the stations they contacted before they send the log. Using the database of the logbook will not always give you the correct QTH-locator of the station you worked! Just checking all calls with the available databases and a quick search on the Internet for each worked call will help. A very **good source for actual locators** is the [**Users list**] which can be found in the menu of the wellknown **ON4KST-chat**. Special attention should be given to stations that are not working from their home-QTH. Please also check for duplicate QSO's.

Organisers are asking kindly to send a copy of this invitation to the VHF-editor of your country and ask him to publish this invitation in the magazine and on their website. In the past we have try to find and contact VHF-editors around the world but it has been proven to be an almost impossible task.

IMO observations found the timing of the mean or 'traditional' broad maximum varied between $\lambda\odot \approx 139.^{\circ}8$ to $140.^{\circ}3$, equivalent to 2018 August 12, 20h to August 13, 08h UT. The orbital period of the parent comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle is about 130 years. The Perseids produced strong activity from a primary maximum throughout the 1990s. Enhanced activity was last observed in 2016 with additional peaks due to passages through separated dust trails. Such peaks are not to be expected for the 2018 return. Instead, a possible encounter with a Perseid filament is announced for August 12 around 20h UT ($\lambda\odot \approx 139.^{\circ}79$) by Peter Jenniskens. The filament is thought to be an accumulation of meteoroids in a mean-motion resonance. Observations are needed to see what is detectable around this position which is right at the start of the given peak period. An additional potential enhancement due to a very old dust trail on August 13 at 01h37m UT, found in computations by J´er´emie Vaubaillon, may give only negligible rates anyway, thus could easily pass unnoticed within the normal main maximum period. Visual observers should break their reports into short intervals (no longer than 15 minutes for both rate and magnitude data) for the entire period, this way allowing to search for signatures of the trail and filament, respectively. New Moon on August 11 provides perfect conditions for all optical observations. Sites at midnorthern latitudes are more favourable for Perseid observing, as from here, the shower's radiant can be usefully observed from 22h–23h local time onwards, gaining altitude throughout the night. Regrettably, the shower cannot be properly viewed from most of the southern hemisphere.