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| **Subject** | Monthly Digital Mode Activity Contests on Wednesday evenings |
| **Society** | VERON | **Country:** | Netherlands |
| **Committee:** | C5 | **Paper number:** | NS20\_C5\_21 |
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**Summary**

We have to attract new stations to the VHF and higher bands. Digital weak signal modes provide a new experience and possibilities for more activity on the VHF and higher frequencies.

Each MS organizes montly digital weak signal mode activity contests according to this schedule:

* the 1st Wednesday of the month from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on the 144 MHz band.
* the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on the 432 MHz band.

**Introduction**

It turns out that the digital weak signal modes are attracting new stations to the VHF and higher bands. The digital weak signal modes show a different experience of making QSOs and DX-ing. Increased propagation is observed much earlier and QSO are made that we never thought possible.

A number of countries are already organizing monthly low barrier-free participation activity contests specifically aimed at these weak signal modes. For example, I mention the “VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest” in Romania or the “Digital Dutch Activity Contest” in the Netherlands both on Wednesday evenings. Given the number of participants, these contests seem to meet a need. We also see in the logs a significant number of callsigns that do not recur in the well-known SSB / CW contests.

In addition to the random activity on the frequency bands, there appears to be a need for an organized time frame in which several stations are active at the same time and can find each other, spread over a large area. This increases the fun factor. The contest element also stimulates experiments to improve the station and thereby improve the score in the list.

**Key points**

Harmonized digital mode activity contests in Region 1 by organizing it at the same time. Each MS organizes montly digital weak signal mode activity contests according to the time schedule in the proposal.

Low barrier-free participation:

* In the QSO’s only exchange both callsigns, report and locator (4 characters).
* There is no need to use the software contestmodes because only standard qsos are made.
* Scoring: Each QSO 1 point. The number worked locatorsquares ( 4 characters) is multiplier.
* All MGM weaksignal modes are allowed.
* Export logs directly from MGM software in ADIF format and upload to the contestrobot.

**Proposal**

Each MS organizes montly digital weak signal mode activity contests as described above according to this schedule:

* the 1st Wednesday of the month from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on the 144 MHz band.
* the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on the 432 MHz band.

The contestmanagers share the QSOrecords in the logs for cross checking.

If it is not possible for an MS to organize this activity contests herself, she will at least advertise this activity in her publications.

**Financial Implications:** none