

General Description for a Top Band DF, Multi Tx Event *(Oct 2009)*

1. This style of event uses attended and unattended Txs

Powerful Txs lead you to areas where less powerful Txs may be heard. The term parent is used below to indicate this action.

2. Types of Transmitter that may be used

Maxi Tx – manned, normal power, should be audible at the start; intended to bring you to a site where other types of Tx may be found.

A Maxi may act as a parent to several Minis or Micros.

Mini Tx – Lower power (*range just over a Km*), automatic Morse and timings.

Frequency 1.96 MHz (*the allocated frequency for an unattended station*).

A Mini may act as parent to a Micro.

Micro Tx – very low power (*range just over 200 metres*) not requiring licence, continuous ‘beeping’ signal.

3. Transmission Times

Each Maxi and Mini Tx will transmit for 1 minute in every 5 (*constant cycle throughout the competition*)

They will be synchronised to avoid doubling.

Any Micro Txs will be on continuously.

4. Location and Distances

A Mini Tx will be less than 1Km from its parent Maxi Tx

A Micro Tx will be less than 200m from its parent which could be either a Maxi or Mini Tx.

IF a **Maxi Tx** is located in a **car** or **property** then a green DF sticker will be placed in the bottom left of a window. Do not trouble an occupant unless you spot the sticker!

To avoid theft, Minis and Micro Txs will be extremely well hidden and no attempt should be made to uncover them. It is the tickets that are searched for, see below.

5. Scoring

This is achieved by numbered tickets located close to the transmitter. When a competitor finds the tickets the highest value left is taken. All tickets must be handed in to a Maxi Station Operator before the end of the competition. Points are also awarded at the Maxi but the operator keeps them for you. The winner is the person/team with the highest total score. (*In the event of a tie, the person who hands their last ticket in first wins. If a competitor finds Minis or Micros but no Maxi and thus can't hand in tickets, they are ranked after all those who do find a Maxi*). A much more detailed description with pictures is at <http://www.forjac.freeseve.co.uk/dfres/tickets/tickets.html>

6. Tx Identification and Transmission Format

Each station is identified by a single letter. For legal reasons each Maxi or Mini is also identified by the operator's callsign sent in fast Morse. Note that since an operator may have several Minis on his site, using the operator's callsign, it is of no value in the competition. Listen for the slow single letter.

A sample transmission for station J, operator G4ABC is below (**fast** **slow**)

TEST DF J DE G4ABC/P J J carrier until 30s J carrier to 40s J carrier to 50s J carrier to 60s

Txs may follow each other with no obvious gap. The fast Morse indicates the start of a new transmission.

A limited quality recording of a sequence of MiniTxs can be heard at <http://www.forjac.freeseve.co.uk/dfres/tickets/morse.mp3>

It will also be possible to identify a station by the time it is on within the 5 minute cycle.

An accurate watch is a big help!

7. The Object of an Event

The winner is the person with the highest total score. However, the tickets show which stations have been found, so event organisers can set up some easy stations and offer other prizes to encourage beginners and the less physically adventurous.