

British Columbia QSO Party 2016



2016 certificate photo: Winter morning, Boundary Bay, Tsawwassen Area is part of Fraser River Estuary and included in Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

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Behind the Scenes

By Rebecca VA7BEC, Contest Coordinator BCQP

Say again?

I thought I might get away with a simple cut-and-paste of last year's behind-the-scenes summary because, at first glance anyway, many of the challenges that characterized BCQP 2015 impacted BCQP 2016 as well. But as I delved into the number-crunching aspect of the report, I discovered some interesting differences.

It was again a long weekend in British Columbia—Family Day on Feb 8—in addition to Chinese New Year, so a day at the radio might have been superseded by other activities. And instead of K1N as a major draw for operator time near and far, it was VP8SGI. Nevertheless, as last year, the long weekend might also have enabled people who wouldn't normally have time on a weekend for radio to allocate at least a few hours of Saturday to BCQP and leave the honey-do list for Sunday or Monday, while the draw of VP8SGI might have put people in the chair when they might have otherwise been out and about.

Since the above factors essentially cancelled each other out, like last year, the most challenging factor had to be related to band conditions. And, by and large, it was. Really quite disappointing. Again.

I tip my contest coordinator's hat to everyone who got on the air and/or helped others get on the air for BCQP 2016, wherever the QTH may be. I handle promotion and administrative details behind-the-scenes, but it is all of you who call CQ BCQP and/or answer CQs who continue to make this an increasingly enjoyable event. Thank you.

Rebecca VA7BEC



Band Conditions

On Feb 7, conditions at 1600z were rather foreboding: solar flux at 120, sunspots at 113, the A-index at 8 and the K-index at 2. Propagation was dismal, according to the data, with “closed,” “fair” and “poor” for all bands. This improved slightly during the day—20m, at least, became “normal”—but the going certainly was tough. BCQP opened with an auroral level at 4.8, which peaked above 7 around 0000z and ended around 6 at 0400z.



But just because the data indicates a band is closed or has poor propagation doesn't necessarily mean QSOs are impossible. It just means hearing and being heard will probably be more difficult. *Probably*. Key word. Location makes a difference. Equipment makes a difference. Operator ears make a difference. Antenna direction makes a difference. And a band may suddenly open, as if a magic wand has zapped the noise away. So even if the data indicates rotten conditions and, in fact, you can't hear anything but noise, it's always worthwhile to check a “closed” band every so often, gradually swinging the beam around and calling CQ, at least for a few minutes. If the tree doesn't turn, then maximize opportunities in the direction you are set up for. Your diligence may pay off with responses on a skewed path or off the back of the beam or you get spotted and you find yourself in a pileup.

At the Sponsor Station

From the sponsor station perspective, many QSOs were a real struggle, like whispers in a storm. On SSB, 10m was quite impossible despite several attempts. RTTY—a challenge, too. The CW op fared better. Meanwhile, 15m and 20m provided steady pileups, particularly on SSB, booming eastward, apparently, with pretty good coverage to the Maritimes and all along the eastern seaboard, and even further south to Brazil.

VA7ODX SSB and CW operators shifted to the low bands as the sun was setting but encountered very high noise levels. Nevertheless, Qs were added to the log. Yes, it was exceedingly difficult to pick callsigns out of the mud and each QSO took longer than when the bands are quieter, but with patience on both sides, the required information was exchanged.

Undoubtedly, operators near and far might have heard VA7ODX and tried valiantly to catch operator attention without success. SRI. We weren't ignoring you. We just didn't hear you. There are many reasons for this, from antenna direction to band conditions to local QRM. The same might have been true for other stations, as the VA7ODX log has QSOs with stations not heard by other BC stations. The ol' location, location, location refrain comes to mind.

BCQP always generates some surprise DX, and 2016 was no different. More JA than usual as well as some EU, ZS, XE, SA and the Caribbean. And a VE8! Strictly speaking, VE8 is not DX, but it's a good distance away from the West Coast and a prefix not often found in logs when the auroral oval creeps southward.

Some signals were incredibly good given how terrible band conditions were, which was a relief, at least to me—the inability to hear and be heard was NOT an equipment problem! The logs of most BC operators who spent a good chunk of their day at the radio mirrored the results at VA7ODX.

..-.-.- ..-.-.- ..-.-.- ..-.-.-

From a CW perspective, BCQP is more reflective of the event's early name—BC QSO Challenge. Not only is the pool of CW stations smaller, which seems to be a common downside of QSO parties, but Q-trading, which utilizes same-day events to reciprocally build bigger logs, is not as easy on CW



as it is on PH and, in fact, some same-day events, notably NA Sprint, make CQing nearly impossible. (I say “nearly,” because Don VE7DDG really stood his ground amid the mayhem.)

In BCQP 2015, we tried out alternate suggested frequencies for CW on 80m, 40m and 20m—the NA Sprint bands—after 0000z to help participants make more QSOs above NA Sprint activity. This strategy seemed to help, so alternate suggested frequencies were promoted again in 2016. We’ll do the same in 2017.

From post-BCQP chit-chat, I assumed that CW participation was down over last year, that band conditions had eroded enthusiasm, conflicting events had proved too maddening and that interested participants worked the limited number of CW operators calling “CQ BCQP” and then abandoned the key. Interestingly, however, the number of CW QSOs was up, based on submitted logs, including the sponsor log—and up by a considerable amount—despite perceived challenges. CW operators, congratulations on a very FB effort.

It was a lovely surprise to see that the number of CW QSOs grew in 2016, a direction fueled by the very commendable CW-only results (100+ Qs) of Don VE7DDG and Brian VE7JKZ and similarly solid contribution by CW operators at VE7IO and VA7ODX. Perseverance does pay off.

CW Challenges

It’s quite true that CW operators face a different set of challenges than SSB operators, who appear to have a great time in BCQP. It would be nice to find a way to make BCQP more enjoyable on all modes, including digital which is a very distant third. But let’s focus on CW challenges.

Two obvious solutions would be to change the date of BCQP to a more CW-friendly time and to encourage more CW operators to get on the air. The former is problematic; the latter is wholly dependent on the whim of potential participants, namely, their availability and their persistence amid perceived challenges, and no amount of PR or incentives could possibly win over every potential CW operator.

Solution 1:

Regarding a different date, the timing of a QSO party is subject to many considerations, including coinciding events. No date is going to be completely free of other on-air activity somewhere in the world, and it could also be said that the convergence of events presents QSO opportunities because operators in those other events are already at the radio, and if the target event isn’t providing enough activity, they may dabble a little in BCQP.

BCQP has definitely acquired a higher profile in recent years, and the event increasingly attracts participation—sometimes accidentally—from operators near and far. But BCQP is not WPX, ARRL 10m or even Field Day. Would a single, small-scale, rather localized event like BCQP garner sufficient and sustained interest if it took place on a date or over a block of time when no other event was on the air?

In deciding on the first Saturday of February, the original BCQP organizers decided to schedule around major international contests that focus on North America, such as those under CQ and ARRL banners, primarily because most contesters in BC give preference to a big contest over a QSO party, and BCQP would, in effect, lose participants and also because weekend marathons with worldwide appeal are fast-paced, fiercely competitive

BCQP gets promotion from all kinds of sources!

New HF Operators — Things to Do

On most weekends it’s a given there can be multiple contests sharing the same mode. If you’re operating in one contest, it’s helpful to at least know the exchanges you might be asked for by participants in the other contests — a nice way to boost both parties’ scores.

[...]

A similar situation with “three QSO parties at once!” occurs the weekend of February 6 with Vermont, Minnesota, and British Columbia parties. The weekend of May 7-8, there are FOUR simultaneous QSO parties.

(from ARRL contest update, Jan 31, 2016)



events and few participants if any—even if they are aware that BCQP is taking place—would jeopardize high run rates to trade Qs in a QSO party.

From a North American perspective, the only event that has a truly disastrous effect on BCQP is NA Sprint, and a date change just to accommodate a conflict with NA Sprint in the last four hours of BCQP seems rather extreme. Besides, there's no guarantee that changing the date would attract more CW operators, and even if it did, the increase may come at a cost—reduced participation on SSB, which currently generates the most activity.

Maybe a separate CW segment on the Sunday after the main event on Saturday? Sounds like a great idea, in theory anyway. But as noted above, a single-mode event might not attract the desired level of participation, and anyone who currently participates in the mixed mode category might not play at all because they can't allocate two days to the QSO party. From a behind-the-scenes perspective, a two-part BCQP would be hugely time-consuming, impacting everything from promotion to sponsor station operation to log-checking.

Solution 2:

As for getting more CW operators on the air, every effort has been made to promote BCQP as widely as possible in BC and to the rest of Canada, throughout the U.S., and overseas. It has been tweeted, liked and blogged about. It appears in contest calendars and amateur radio magazines and newsletters, some with worldwide readership. But let's be honest. The number of VE7/VA7s who are proficient enough in CW to run with ease is dwindling, partly a consequence of the CW requirement being dropped as the gateway to operate on HF bands. So if those very rare individuals who are adept at CW have other plans on the first Saturday of February, don't like radiosport or, conversely, love radiosport but loathe the slow pace of QSO parties, or decide to split their on-air time between CW and another mode or another event on or off the air...the CW presence will shrink.

So realistically, what can be done?

The fact that CW is less popular than SSB and

thus attracts fewer participants may be endemic of a larger problem, one that a change in the date of BCQP is unlikely to remedy. In this age of the smartphone, Skype and other on-demand communication tools, amateur radio has lost its luster, and the incentive to get a license today is often public service oriented.

Consequently, many newcomers to the hobby don't have access to the right setup to participate in BCQP on PH let alone CW. Or they aren't sure of actual on-air operation—that is, how to call CQ, how to S&P, or how to log contacts. Or they don't have logging software and/or install a BCQP-supported program too late to become familiar with it and then encounter data-entry problems on game day and give up.

What to do? At the local level, clubs could kick off meetings with "CW moments" to help train ears to on-air exchange content, or organize presentations on how to execute QSOs and utilize logging software in contest situations, or create in-club competitions or weekly nets where CW is the focus. In self-directed learning, newcomers, as well as old-timers who have let their CW skills get rusty, could practice for a few minutes each day—there are so many practice programs out there!—and then test their skills when BCQP rolls around. Elmers could team up with interested individuals in a few low-stress contests, like RAC Canada Day or Field Day, to gain experience and confidence. Then come out to play in BCQP.

Rewards for Perseverance

BCQP offers many incentives for getting on the air, from the camaraderie of team operation and the chance to polish skills or help others learn about HF operation to potential pileups and surprise DX.

For operators seeking tangible rewards, BCQP has lovely BC scenery-inspired certificates and plaques, different every year and therefore collectible.



Certificates recognize top scores by stations in BC and outside BC in all categories of entry, and special certificates are awarded for particularly noteworthy results even if these results aren't top scores.



Canada's federal electoral map was redrawn, effective from the October 2015 election, and BC gained six new ridings, which are the multipliers in BCQP because the province does not have counties. In an effort to spur greater participation from operators throughout BC but particularly in areas not often activated, a special certificate category was tested out in 2016: the district award. Stations achieving the highest score in their respective riding of operation receive a special photo certificate.



Photo for certificate recognizing top score in each BC federal electoral district

Only 10 QSOs were required to qualify. The incentive of an easy-to-capture award appears to have prompted an increase in the number of logs received from BC stations, up three, to 29. Interestingly, these 29 logs represent only 15 districts even though an analysis of submitted logs indicates that 29 districts were activated. So there were 14 people who might have earned a lovely district certificate had they submitted a log. ☺

Plaques are awarded in sponsored categories. Thanks to the support of clubs and individuals, there were nine plaques up for grabs: Top BC (single-op), Top Canada outside BC, Top YL, Top US, Most Federal Electoral Districts Contacted, Top DX, Top Mixed Mode, Top BC (multi-op) (new) and Top BC Club (new).

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Coquitlam Amateur Radio Club for sponsoring a plaque to recognize top score by a BC station in the multi-op category. This complements the existing Top BC plaque, sponsored by Fleetwood Digital Products, which can now be applied to single-op results.

Also new this year is a plaque for top club in BC, sponsored by the Delta Amateur Radio Society, the originator of BCQP. Participants need only enter their club affiliation in the Cabrillo header of their respective logs, and we tally up scores to determine the top club. By strange coincidence, the first plaque in this new category goes to Orca DXCC. Please note, the VA7ODX (sponsor station) score was excluded from the overall Orca DXCC aggregate club score to ensure fairness.

With regard to plaque allocation, the team at VE7IO qualified in two categories—Top BC (multi-op) and top mixed mode—and will receive the geographically based plaque, as per the Plaque Allocation Policy*. Jeff WB8WKQ also qualified

in two categories—Top US and most federal electoral districts contacted—and, in accordance with the aforementioned priority structure, will receive the Top US plaque. The plaques for top mixed mode and most federal electoral districts contacted are thus awarded to the stations with the next-highest results, which happen to be top scores in the multi-operator low-power mixed and single-operator low-power mixed categories of entry. The plaques have been renamed accordingly.

BCQP 2017

Mark your calendars. BCQP 2017 will run from 1600z February 4 to 0400z February 5.

The objectives remain the same:

Stations in BC, contact anyone anywhere, and stations outside BC, contact as many VE7/VA7s as you can during the 12-hour event.

Hope to see you in BCQP 2017.

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Plaque Winners in 2016

Team VE7IO (MOHP MIXED) extended its reign at the top for a third consecutive year, albeit under a different callsign and in a new plaque category. Christine VA7NLF, Stan VA7NF and Fred VE7IO, along with Marcy VE7JT, were on the winning team (VA7NLF) in 2015, and Christine and Stan were a dynamic duo (VA7NF) in 2014. Team VE7IO turned in a score of 576,924.

Don VE7DDG (SOLP CW) captured the Top BC (single-op) plaque with a score of 94,976. This is the first time a CW-only entry has reached top spot (single-op) in BC. Well done!

Jeff WB8WKQ (SOHP MIXED) worked diligently and not only retained his hold on the Top US plaque but set a new US record in the process with a score of 17,956.

Marcel VE9ML (SOLP MIXED) took the Top Canada outside BC plaque with a score of 1,926.

Margaret VA7VF (SOLP SSB) threpeated as Top YL, with a score of 40,116, this time under her two-letter callsign. FB!

Aki JH2RMU (SOHP MIXED) scooped up his second Top DX plaque, with a score of 796.

Team VE7CVA (MOLP MIXED) is awarded a plaque for top score in the BC multi-op low-power mixed mode category, with a score of 181,500.

Dick N7RO (SOLP MIXED) secured a plaque in the single-op low-power mixed category. A repeat performance. Nicely done!

ORCA DXCC takes the first Top BC Club plaque, with an aggregate score of 904,642 from 13 submitted logs. Note, this does not include sponsor call VA7ODX results.

Plaque photo: Frosty winter morning in Boundary Bay Regional Park, Tsawwassen, a popular spot for walks, bike rides and bird-watching.



*Note: Plaque Allocation Policy

Under BCQP rules, only one plaque is awarded per station.

The BCQP Contest Committee believes that in the event a station qualifies in multiple plaque categories, including top score in BC, the US or other geographical location, the priority should be placed on the top score geographically, as applicable. Special plaques are awarded to stations with the next highest scores in affected sponsored plaque categories, which may be top scores in specific categories of entry and will be acknowledged as such.



Thank you to the following 2016 plaque sponsors:

- Fleetwood Digital Products** (Top BC — Single-Op)
- Burnaby Amateur Radio Club** (Top YL)
- Orca DXCC** (Top US)
- Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society** (Top Canada outside BC)
- Surrey Amateur Radio Club** (Most Federal Electoral Districts Contacted)*
- Rebecca VA7BEC and Koji VA7KO** (Top DX)
- North Shore Amateur Radio Club** (Top Mixed Mode)*
- Coquitlam Amateur Radio Club** (Top BC — Multi-Op)
- Delta Amateur Radio Society** — Top BC Club



Note: In 2016, due to the one plaque per station rule, the top mixed mode and most electoral districts contacted plaques were renamed to specific categories of entry, as the next-highest overall scores in the two plaque categories were top scores in the multi-operator low power mixed category and the single-operator low power mixed category, respectively.

Soapbox

I enjoyed the contest. JA2BDR

I enjoyed the contest. I wanted to QSO with many BC stations. Please look for JAs in the contest! JH2RMU

Enjoyed my first BC QSO Party - great fun! K4VBM

Intermittent activity while chasing VP8SGI. Hero's award goes to Don, VE7DDG, who braved the combined onslaught of the FOC elite and NA Sprint to hold his ground on the lower bands. No other VE7 heard or worked on 40M or 80M CW. Highlight: Contacting VE7YL and VE7OM right after one another! Thanks for the QSOs and entertainment. Score includes 40 points for working VA7ODX twice. K5LH

Always a fun contest! NW5Q

I had a lot of fun participating in the BC QSO Party. I had a few Qs with my vintage Icom-720A then used my recent FT-897D with CAT control. BC stations were very difficult on 15. VE7BGP

Hard going for us CW guys in the last 2 or 3 hours....Not only was sprint a pain in the rear end, although the suggested alternate freqs were usefull (for those who read the rules!) but FOC was also very active on all bands and all day....All in all a tough environment Had a listen on 160 just before the end but only heard FOC types cq'ing.... Suggestion for next year is that 160 operators meet on 1815 at, say, 30 minutes before the contest is over. VE7JKZ

We did it! Last year we were snowed out and had to stay home. VE7NWZ Team

Poor conditions here but fun nonetheless. VE8NSD

Enjoyed hunting for BC stations again. Lots of good signals and ops. Rig was FTdx5000 and Butternut HF6V all-band vertical. W1END

CONDX at my station were awful! I went outside to check the aerials! VA7GAP

I fought an 59 noise level for the entire contest period; hence, not a good showing. Just wait until next year! WA5SWN

I enjoyed your QSO party and wish I could have made more QSOs. W4ZPR

Opening didn't last long but it was great while it lasted. Heard more than I could work. (From email: I enjoyed

the BCQP. It's always challenging to operate in a QSO Party from the other side of the continent, especially on low power. Didn't make a lot of contacts but I had a good time (and learned a lot about the geography of British Columbia)) KB1IRB

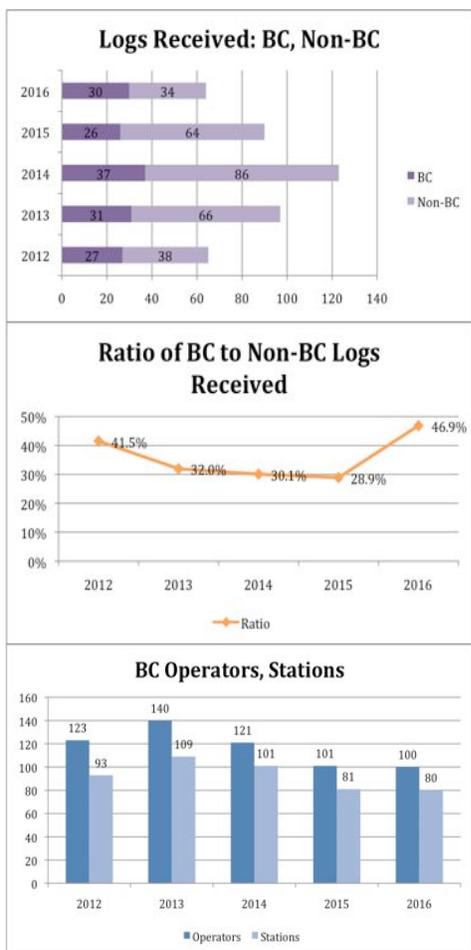


Crunching the Numbers

An analysis of log content can reveal trends that might otherwise be missed.

Indicators of success come from many sources. Pre-event emails, for example, could be a sign that the promotion bandwagon has kindled active interest, and post-event comments—positive as well as negative—often mean that some aspect of the event was important enough from a participant’s perspective to warrant special mention. But it’s logs—and their content—that provide concrete data for analyzing results and tracking progress from year to year.

Log submission is not a requirement of participation, but the more logs received, the more accurate the analysis will be.



Number of Logs

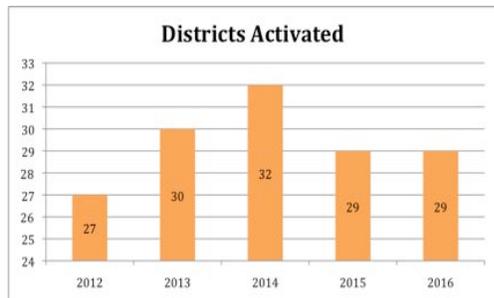
A total of 63 logs were received, down 27 from a year earlier, with 29 logs from BC stations and 34 logs from stations outside BC, up three and down 30, respectively. The huge decrease in logs from outside BC is odd—there’s no obvious reason except that operators outside BC chose not to submit a log—but it evened out the BC-to-outside-BC ratio, which hit 46.0%, up 17.1 percentage points from a year ago.

Number of BC Stations on the Air

Based on the content of submitted logs, the number of in-province stations on the air reached 80, just one less than in 2015, and the number of operators also edged down one, to 100.



Districts Activated



The number of activated federal electoral districts—the multipliers in BCQP since the province does not have the typical QSO party county exchange—was on a par with the previous year, at 29^{note}, but this was out of a possible 42 not the previous 36, causing a drop in the coverage ratio. The multiplier base expanded in 2016, following a change in the federal electoral map, which gave BC five new districts in the Lower Mainland and one on Vancouver Island.

Jeff WB8WKQ found the most districts—23—just one short of the record he set in 2015. Dick N7RO picked up 19 districts.

Given that noise levels made it hard to hear and be heard, leading many participants to assume fewer stations were on the air, Jeff and Dick were relatively successful in their hunt for multipliers. Even in-province participants did not fare as well. The discrepancy may be due to location or varying degrees of success in the multiplier-hunting strategies of in-province and out-of-province operators..

Note: Coverage in 2016: 29 out of 42 (69%)
 BNS BUS CML COA CPC DEL ESQ KEL KTC LAA MMF NAL NOS NVA NWB PMC
 PMM PPN RIC SBV SGI SUC SUN SWK SWR VAC VAQ VIC WVS

Coverage in 2015: 29 out of 36 (81%)
 ABF BNW BSI BUD CPG DRE EJF FPK KEL KOC KTC LAN NAA NAC NND NVA
 NWC OKC PGP PMM RMD SBV SWC SYN VAE VAQ VIC VIN WVS

Noteworthy BC Results

Many of the regular BCQP participants turned in commendable results given perceived difficulties. But some operators managed to beat their previous bests, which deserves a big round of applause.

The top BC single-op result in 2016, regardless of category, was by Don VE7DDG, with a score of 94,956—nearly three times higher than in 2015—in the low-power CW category. A tremendous result for CW-only. The BC single-op record (268,272) set by Marcy VE7JT—SSB only—in 2013 continues to stand.

Also in the CW category, Bud VA7ST turned in a score of 20,640, more than quadrupling his result from 2015. It must be noted, however, that he operated high-power in 2016 and stuck to CW only, while he ran with low power and dabbled in both SSB and CW in 2015. CW-only seems to deliver better results.

Don VE7AX also more than quadrupled his previous year's score, hitting 5,200 in the single-op high-power mixed category.

Radio can be compared to many things: real estate (location, location, location), fishing (don't drop a line, won't catch a fish)... and maybe even like learning to drive in the snow. If you can drive in bad conditions, you'll have no trouble when conditions are good. :) In radio, when band conditions are terrible, you have to use a different set of listening/operating skills. But the learning experience is very worthwhile. And a low-stress QSO party is definitely better than a high-pressure contest or emergency situation.



In the multi-op class, sponsor station VA7ODX edged above its previous high—942,020—with a score of 957,744 through a sustained presence on three modes.

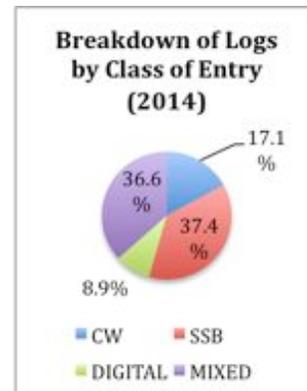
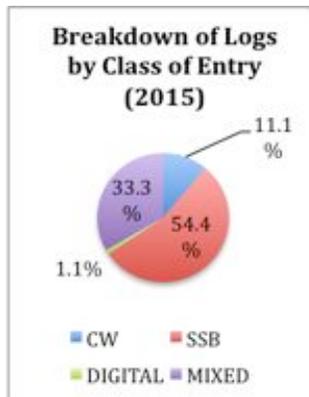
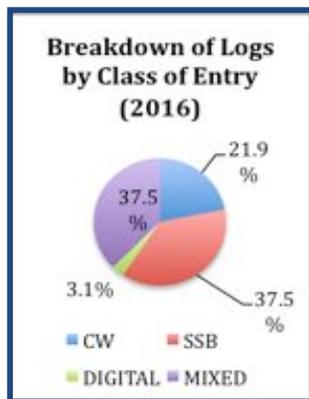
Of the 29 logs received from BC stations, 16 show more than 50 Qs. Of these 16 logs, five have more than 50 Qs but less than 100 Qs, nine have more than 100 Qs but less than 500 Qs, and two have more than 500 Qs.

Commendable Results Outside BC

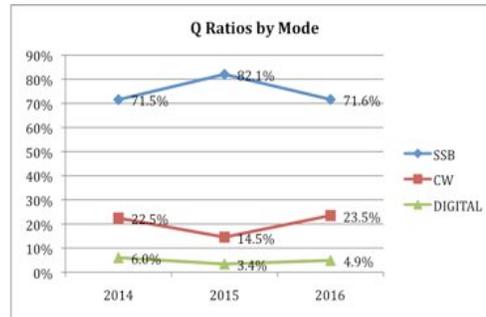
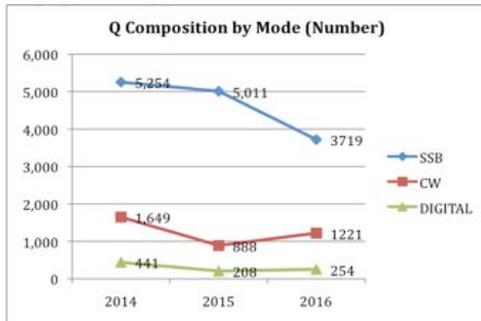
Despite the challenging band conditions, which created the impression of a shallower reservoir of BC stations to tap, Jeff WB8WKQ and Dick N7RO again worked tirelessly to find VE7/VA7s. They achieved terrific results in mixed mode, high power and low power, respectively, and both surpassed their previous personal bests. Jeff broke the U.S. record he set in 2015, with a new high of 17,956. Garth VE8NSD set a new NT record, with a score of 392.

Of the 34 out-of-province logs received, six show 20 or more Qs.

Breakdown of Logs by Class of Entry (Mode)



In what has become the norm, SSB and MIXED logs accounted for the bulk of entries, with SSB a key component in nearly every MIXED log. As a percentage, the combined number of logs in these two categories backtracked year-on-year, moving from 87.7% of total logs received in 2015 to 75.0% in 2016. The change is largely due to a huge decrease in SSB-only logs as a percentage of total logs received, which represented 37.5% in 2016, compared with 54.4% in 2015, while MIXED logs inched upward to an equal share of 37.5%, from 33.3% a year ago. There were two DIGITAL-only logs submitted in 2016, up from the lonely one in 2015, which, given the lower total log starting point, translated into 3.1% of the total, but still a major decline from the 8.9% share recorded in 2014. The number of CW-only logs rebounded, climbing to 21.9% from 11.1% a year ago..



Based on data in logs received, the number of CW Qs reached 1,221 in 2016, rebounding 37.5% from the year-on-year tumble recorded in 2015, and the CW ratio (number of CW Qs as a percentage of all Qs in submitted logs) improved, rising to 23.5% from 14.5% in 2015.

Although SSB was still the most productive and popular mode for stations inside and outside BC, the number of Qs in this mode dropped 27.8%, to 3,719, and the SSB ratio (number of SSB QSOs as a percentage of all Qs in submitted logs) skidded to 71.6%, down 10.5 percentage points year-on-year.

The number of DIGITAL Qs jumped 21.0%, to 254, buoyed by a smidgen of activity—just a couple of Qs here and there from mixed mode operators—beyond the usual two main contributors, Barry VA7GEM on PSK and the VA7ODX RTTY operator. As a result, the DIGITAL ratio (number of DIGITAL Qs as a percentage of all Qs in submitted logs) improved to 4.9%, compared with 3.4% in 2015, halting two years of downward movement.

Outlook for BCQP 2017

Band conditions are often a determining factor in an operator's decision to participate, and it's impossible to accurately predict now what band conditions will be like for BCQP 2017 or how conditions will be interpreted by individual operators on event day. However, given the huge impact that band conditions have played over the past few years, it's likely that operators will have to adjust their strategies to effectively turn challenges into opportunities and maximize potential.

It's always the organizing committee's goal to encourage greater participation from operators throughout British Columbia—because the party just doesn't happen without BC operators—so the special certificates for top score in each electoral district of BC will be offered again in 2017, along with certificates for top scores for BC and non-BC stations in each regular category of entry. These tangible rewards will, of course, be complemented by the plaque program, which grows stronger each year with the support of plaque sponsors.



For a detailed breakdown of scores, please visit the Results page in the BCQP section of the Orca DXCC website.

* indicates YL,
Callsigns in **bold** are certificate winners; italics indicate sponsored plaque winners

Results: BC

Call	Category	District	Total Qs	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
VE7OM	SO QRP CW	SWR	26	26	2,704	20	2,724	White Rock ARC
VE7JNH	SO QRP CW	DEL	1	2	8		8	Delta ARS
VE7OK	SO QRP CW	DEL	1	2	8		8	Delta ARS
<i>VE7DDG</i>	SOLP CW	RIC	193	123	94,956	20	94,976	Orca DX and Contest Club
<i>VE7JKZ</i>	SOLP CW	RIC	115	95	43,700	20	43,720	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7CV	SOLP CW	KTC	38	40	6,080	80	6,160	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7YL*	SOLP CW	RIC	34	31	4,216	40	4,256	Orca DX and Contest Club
<i>VA7VF*</i>	SOLP SSB	DEL	233	86	40,076	40	40,116	Orca DX and Contest Club
VA7JW	SOLP SSB	PMC	136	47	12,784	20	12,804	Orca DX and Contest Club
VA7YJJ	SOLP SSB	CML	77	50	7,700		7,700	
VA7BBG	SOLP SSB	SBV	22	22	968	40	1,008	Bulkley Valley ARS
VA7MPG	SOLP SSB	NAL	24	21	1,008		1,008	
VA7GAP	SOLP SSB	NVA	13	12	312	40	352	
VE7DID	SOLP SSB	DEL	10	10	200	40	240	Delta ARS
VE7ZZV	SOLP SSB	NWB	8	7	112		112	
VA7GEM	SOLP DIGI	NVA	43	26	4,472		4,472	
VE7SGW	SOLP MIXED	LAA	160	110	46,420	40	46,460	Delta ARS
VE7BGP	SOLP MIXED	NAL	98	70	15,260	20	15,280	Nanaimo Amateur Radio Assn
VE7AHT	SOLP MIXED	DEL	107	50	12,500	100	12,600	
VE7TK	SOHP SSB	SGI	263	87	45,762	20	45,782	Orca DX and Contest Club
VA7ST	SOHP CW	KEL	86	60	20,640		20,640	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7VR	SOHP MIXED	BUS	99	86	26,660	100	26,760	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7ACN	SOHP MIXED	BNS	116	44	10,736	20	10,756	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7AX	SOHP MIXED	COA	55	35	5,180	20	5,200	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7SP	SOHP MIXED	DEL	12	15	390	60	450	
VE7SAR	MOLP SSB	SWR	447	117	104,598	20	104,618	Surrey ARC
<i>VE7CVA</i>	MOLP MIXED	CML	426	189	181,440	60	181,500	Cowichan Valley ARS
VE7DB	MOLP MIXED	SWR	46	23	2,852		2,852	White Rock ARC
VE7NWZ	MOLP MIXED	SBV	36	18	1,404		1,404	Terrace ARC
VA7ODX	MOHP MIXED	NWB	1,136	324	957,744		957,744	Orca DX and Contest Club
VE7IO	MOHP MIXED	SWR	798	289	576,844	80	576,924	Orca DX and Contest Club



Multi-Ops	Operators
VE7SAR	VA7XB VA7XNL VE7CZV VA7ELA VA7YEE
VE7IO	VA7NLF* VA7NF VE7IO
VE7NWZ	VE7ECK VE7SXS VE7EDT VA7MNV + Donavin White
VA7ODX	VA7AM VA7BEC* VA7KO
VE7DB	VE7OM VE7CRT VE7WNO VE7KC VA7RWM
VE7CVA	VA7EEB VA7MCE VE7JH VE7JHE

Note: * indicates YL op

Update (September 4, 2016): Log lost in cyberspace found! VE7SGW score data added to Results: BC

****Number-crunching analysis has NOT been updated.***

District Awards 2016

District	Station	# of Qs	Score	District	Station	# of Qs	Score
BNS	VE7ACN	116	10,756	NVA	VA7GEM	43	4,472
BUS	VE7VR	99	26,760	NWB	VE7ZZV	8	12
CLM	VA7YJJ	77	7,700 (SINGLE)	PMC	VA7JW	136	12,804
CLM	VE7CVA	462	181,500 (MULTI)	RIC	VE7DDG	193	94,976
COA	VE7AX	55	5,200	SBV	VA7BBG	22	1,008 (SINGLE)
DEL	VA7VF	233	40,116	SBV	VE7NWZ	36	1,404 (MULTI)
KEL	VA7ST	86	20,640	SGI	VE7TK	263	45,782
KTC	VE7CV	38	6,160	SWR	VE7OM	26	2,724 (SINGLE)
NAL	VE7BGP	98	15,280	SWR	VE7IO	798	576,942 (MULTI)
LAA	VE7SGW	160	46,460				



Callsigns in **bold** are certificate winners; italics indicate sponsored plaque winners

Results: Outside BC

Call	Category	District	Total Qs	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
JM2RUV	SO QRP DIGI	DX	1	1	4	20	24	
VA3PCJ	SO QRP MIXED	ON	7	6	144	40	184	
VE9BEL	SO QRP CW	NB	6	5	120	40	160	
W4UT	SO QRP MIXED	TN	5	5	80	40	120	Tennessee Contest Group
K5LH	SOLP CW	TX	26	19	1,976	40	2,016	Heart of Texas DX Society
W1END	SOLP CW	NH	9	8	288	20	308	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
W4ZPR	SOLP CW	VA	4	4	64	20	84	
VA3FN	SOLP CW	ON	4	3	48	20	68	
NW5Q	SOLP SSB	TX	23	20	920	60	980	DFW Contest Group
VA3GKO	SOLP SSB	ON	19	16	608	40	648	Contest Club Ontario
N6ENO	SOLP SSB	CA	15	11	330	40	370	
WZ6ZZ	SOLP SSB	CA	11	9	198	20	218	
VE3CX	SOLP SSB	ON	8	6	96	20	116	Contest Club Ontario
K4VBM	SOLP SSB	GA	5	5	50	40	90	Georgia Contest Group
W7KAM	SOLP SSB	MO	7	5	70	20	90	Society of Midwest Contesters
K0HNC	SOLP SSB	KS	5	4	40	20	60	
VE1TWM	SOLP SSB	NS	5	5	50	20	70	
KB1IRB	SOLP SSB	CT	3	3	18	20	38	
K0VG	SOLP SSB	MN	3	2	12	20	32	Minnesota Wireless Assn
N0ZTO	SOLP SSB	CO	2	2	8	20	28	
WA5SWN	SOLP SSB	KS	3	2	12		12	



Call	Category	District	Total Qs	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
<i>N7RO</i>	SOLP MIXED	WA	81	66	16,368	180	16,548	Orca DX and Contest Club
<i>VE9ML</i>	SOLP MIXED	NB	25	23	1,886	40	1,926	Maritime Contest Club
W9AEM	SOLP MIXED	WI	21	19	1,216	80	1,296	
KI6NGN	SOLP MIXED	CA	18	18	1,044	60	1,104	
VE9OA	SOLP MIXED	NB	21	16	1,024	80	1,104	Maritime Contest Club
VE8NSD	SOLP MIXED	NT	14	11	352	40	392	
N4ARO	SOLP MIXED	TN	12	10	320	20	340	Tennessee Contest Group
K4BAI	SOHP CW	GA	7	6	168	40	208	South East Contest Club
JA2BDR	SOHP CW	DX	2	2	16		16	
VE2GT	SOHP SSB	QC	5	4	40	40	80	Contest Group du Quebec
<i>WB8WKQ</i>	SOHP MIXED	MI	90	68	17,816	140	17,956	
<i>JH2RMU</i>	SOHP MIXED	DX	16	16	736	60	796	
K0IP	SOHP MIXED	ID	12	11	308	40	348	
DL8UI	SOHP MIXED	DX	5	5	90	40	130	

Special certificates:

- Number of SOLP SSB logs submitted warrants presentation of a second place certificate to Greg VA3GKO
- Garth VE8NSD set a new record for Northwest Territories



Sponsor Information

Orca DX and Contest Club

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