Certificate photo for top score in each category of entry in BC and S/P/DX:
Trawler returning to dock at Garry Point, Steveston area of Richmond, BC

British Columbia QSO Party 2022

Inside

Sponsor Information

Orca DX and Contest Club
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Behind the Scenes

By Rebecca VA7BEC, Contest Coordinator BCQP

Looking back

You know how when you travel to some far-off land and, in experiencing the local culture and history, you come to understand more about your own country and background? Well, the concept applies to QSO parties, too. I've had the chance to participate in more QSO parties recently, and from the dual perspective of participant and coordinator, I can say no party is without issues to address.

With this in mind, I thought I'd go back a decade or so to see how BCQP has evolved since coming under the Orca DX & Contest Club banner to deal with perceived issues that affect participation.

But first, before growth, there must be a foundation. For BCQP, this foundation is the contesting expertise and solid on-air support of Orca DXCC members. Enthusiasm and commitment have driven BCQP's profile higher, attracting and fueling participation within BC and beyond. Gradually, BCQP has become a gateway for new ticketholders in BC to enter the realm of contesting and improve on-air skills while providing the rest of us oldtimers (?!) a regular opportunity to enjoy some serious pileup activity.

Now, factors of growth...

Growth Factor 1: Wider participation

In the last few years, participation in BCQP has increased exponentially, substantiated by the number of logs received—42 BC logs and 299 outside-BC logs in 2022, up from 27 and 38, respectively, in 2012—and also the number of Qs in submitted logs.

Back in 2012, an in-province log of around 300 Qs was considered pretty darn good. These days, many BC operators aim for a thousand—well within reach, it seems, for operators who dabble in two modes and love CQing.

Meanwhile, a commendable goal for outside-BC stations used to be 10 Qs, and now, more stations are passing the 50+ mark, and some even top 100.

In 2012, the first BCQP under the Orca banner saw a dramatic upward shift in the number of BC stations on the air—93—compared with 37 in 2011. The number jumped to 109 in 2013. The station count has fluctuated over the years—once dropping to a low of 69 (2018) then rebounding to 78 the following year—but overall, the number of BC stations on the air has grown, with the station count reaching an all-time high of 135 in 2021, at the height of the pandemic. If you're stuck at home, why not do radio, right? ☺ The station count dropped in 2022, to 105, but is still an indicator of sound participation. The number of operators has more often than not been above 100, either single-op or as part of a multi-op team.

Just FYI, the number of BC logs received is far lower than the number of BC stations on the air. Why? For whatever reason, some people simply don't submit a log even when, by back-analysis of submitted log content, I think some of these operators must surely have built big logs.

As a matter of interest—actually, curiosity—I searched lists of logs received in other, albeit larger, contests that typically have some VE7/VA7 participation and compared the number of logs submitted by BC stations to each with the number of logs received from BC stations (42) in BCQP 2022. NAQP had six in the SSB portion (Jan 2022) and nine in the CW portion (Feb 2022). There were 20 logs submitted by BC stations in WPX SSB 2021 and 21 in the CW portion. CQ WW showed 35 BC logs in the SSB portion and 31 in the CW portion. RAC Canada Day 2021 had 24 BC logs, while RAC Winter 2021 had 41. Note that the RAC contests are not split by mode.

Seems BCQP has secured the active and log-submitting participation of the majority of contest-inclined BC operators.

Growth Factor 2: Increased active operating time

It may not be obvious from a participant's perspective, but from a behind-the-scenes log-checking perspective, it's clear. Active operating time continues to rise. Not just a couple of hours here and there. It's BIC (butt in chair) and a concerted CQ emphasis. Even when CONDX is dreadful, and the run rate slows, there's always a dedicated core of pileup-loving BC operators who persevere, and their solid on-air presence is substantiated by submitted logs that show Qs with stations near and far on multiple bands and, typically, two modes.

Add in a sizable base of casual BC operators who do a little CQ, a little S&P, take a break, come back, call CQ again, try S&P again, maybe focus on a different mode or a different band, take a break… Repeat.

Why don't these part-time BIC operators stay on the air like the full-time group? Maybe family commitments or work interrupts radio time. Or the radio/antenna setup restricts operation to certain bands at certain times. Also, for some operators, enthusiasm wanes if CONDX or other factors prevent even a slow but at least sustainable run.

Nevertheless, what's important to note is that these part-time BIC operators **are** on the air, often giving out a lucrative multiplier, and finding them is a little bit like searching for lost treasure.

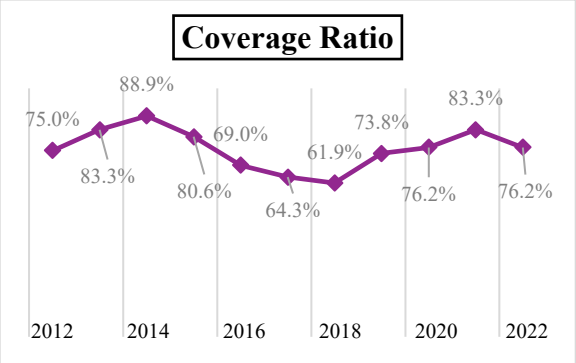
In combination, these two groups of in-province participants keep the BCQP profile high and the bands buzzing, depending of course on a wide range of factors affecting who hears whom when and on which band and/or mode.

Growth Factor 3: Greater YL participation

A lovely development in the composition of participation over the last 11 years is the YL component. I count 16 this year. Might be more. Can't always tell from the name in the submitted log. Back in 2012, there were three, including me.

Growth Factor 4: Stable level of district activation

Geographically, the number of districts activated has ranged between 64% and 89% of total federal electoral districts. Until BCQP 2016, there were 36 districts; then the map was redrawn, with BC gaining six new ridings, for a total of 42.



*Note: Percentages based on 36 districts from 2012 to 2015, and 42 districts from 2016 onward

But that "Where were you BC?" perception persists—Why?

"I worked all I heard but I didn't hear many." Given stable participation at a relatively high level, I am left to wonder, why do some participants feel there weren't many BC stations on the air?

Is it simply due to bad timing, such as missed band openings or the misfortune to look for BC stations on SSB just as a lot of the two-mode single ops switch to CW? Is it geographical, a product of CONDX? Is it local or more widespread? Is it prevalent only among stations outside BC, who are limited to Qs with VE7/VA7s and for whom an apparent lack of stations to contact is more noticeable, or do stations within the province also see minimal BC content in their logs? And, if so, is it specific to certain bands and/or modes? Is it hardware-related, that is, antenna type (vertical, dipole or tower?), antenna direction, amp-driven or barefoot? Is it BCQP-specific? (I'll address the last musing first, from personal experience—No.)

Because 1: Two-mode single-op stations & one-mode, district "onlies"

Callsigns sometimes disappear. Actually, they don't, at least not completely. But when two-mode operators, particularly at single-op stations, switch from one mode to the other, the callsigns disappear temporarily from CW or PH. These two-mode operators are definitely BIC but not necessarily on PH all the time or CW all the time.

That said, some BC operators do indeed stick to one mode so if participants searching for BC stations don't dabble in CW as well as SSB, they will miss Q opportunities and, potentially, lucrative multipliers not available on the mode not traveled.

Also, in some years, certain districts have been activated by only one station, turning that station into the BCQP equivalent of a rare DX entity. In such situations, logging rare onlies will depend on such factors as timing, CONDX and mode choice.

Because 2: CONDX, QTH

Factors that affect the perceived depth of BC participation aren't necessarily consistent from year to year or station to station, and range from specific issues, like QTH and local noise, to broader issues, like CONDX.

QTH and skip. On 20m, signals from stations in Metro Vancouver tend to bounce right over Vancouver Island to the northwest and WA and OR to the south. Consequently, stations on Vancouver Island and just south of the border have trouble hearing—and being heard by—stations in Metro Vancouver, where the majority of operators and multipliers are concentrated. East of Vancouver—not so much of an issue. Not for hearing or for being heard. 80m offers better results.

Obviously, unproductive radio time is no fun. But no one knows for sure when CONDX will improve and/or how long the opening will last, and if operators—in BC or outside BC—happen to take a break that coincides with a surprise band opening or generally better CONDX, they are likely to miss out on a potential pileup opportunity or a rare multiplier.

Because 3: QRM

Man-made interference can be localized, from within a station's QTH—maybe an old refrigerator or a laptop power supply—or it can be from equipment—industrial power supply?—in the neighborhood. It can also be from stations parked too close to another station calling CQ. Whatever the cause, QRM can turn fairly good signals into whispers in the wind, or as my CW op laments, "lost in a sandstorm." Battling a high noise floor can be frustrating, and some operators have to step away for a while.

Because 4: QSB

QSB is perhaps more frustrating on PH than CW since PH Qs tend to be more verbose. Even on "again again," the question mark remains a question mark. Not every QSO party participant knows how to deal with QSB or even realizes that the signal is being affected this way. My suggestion is, on PH, to ask the operator to repeat the question mark letter only. Phonetically. Several times. In the end, it's faster than repeated back-and-forth of the full callsign and exchange which often messes up correct letters in the process. Phonetics also minimizes the chance of the same unknown letter from being lost in the deep.

But more to the point of how QSB might impact the perception of BC stations on the air—fading signals, compounded by QRM, can mask the presence of CQing BC operators or lead to a situation where two or more stations are CQing on the same frequency or just too close to each other and responding stations can't figure out who is calling and/or responding. This dueling CQ situation may go on for a while until someone else says to one or the other CQing operator, "Hey, did you know you're getting clobbered by XXXX?"

Because 5: Operator ears

Some operators have an almost ESP-like ability to discern callsigns and exchanges when CONDX or

other factors create that sandstorm effect. For the rest, discerning callsigns and exchange info amid QRM and QSB may prove to be a challenge too great to overcome, and despite persistent efforts to be heard… Not.

Because 6: Timing

Beyond the uncontrollable timing of band openings, there are personal schedules. If an operator, in-province or outside BC, allocates, let's say, two hours on Saturday morning for some SSB activity and the bulk of the BC two-moders happen to be focusing on CW at that time, well, there goes the deep pool of SSB operators.

Because 7: Packet clusters, spotting networks

Relying solely on cluster spots to find BC stations is perhaps a hit-and-miss strategy. I won't get into the issue of self-spotting, which has merits as well as demerits, but suffice to say, there are many BC stations that don't get spotted or cannot maintain a pileup long enough to **stay** spotted. My suggestion is, for stations in-province and outside BC, to tune through the bands every so often and listen for BC stations that might not be spotted yet or have lost the spot they had.

Also, increasingly, BC stations try to find a frequency close to a VE7/VA7 already spotted in the hopes of capturing attention as S&P operators tune to the spotted frequency. This approach has pros and cons. Even unintended QRM can dampen CQing intentions and force an operator to move, and if moving up or down 5 isn't possible when the band is crowded or relocating doesn't lead to a productive run, the operator may opt for S&P and return to CQing later. This can create the impression that the pool of BC operators has gone shallow.

Because 8: BC is a big province geographically but population relatively small.

Map source: BCRobyn (based on MAPfrappe online tool)

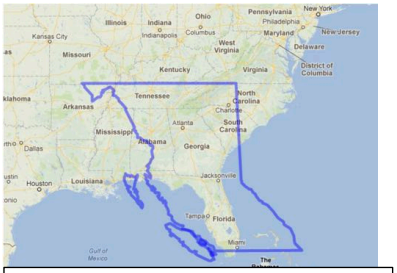
Map source: Elections Canada

Putting BC into geographical perspective, the province stretches 1,200km (730 miles) north-to-south and 1,050km (640 miles) east-to-west. Comparing the area of BC to the U.S. west coast, California would fit into BC along with parts of Oregon, Nevada and Arizona. On the east coast, the BC overlay extends from the the Florida Panhandle up into Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina and includes some water area as well.

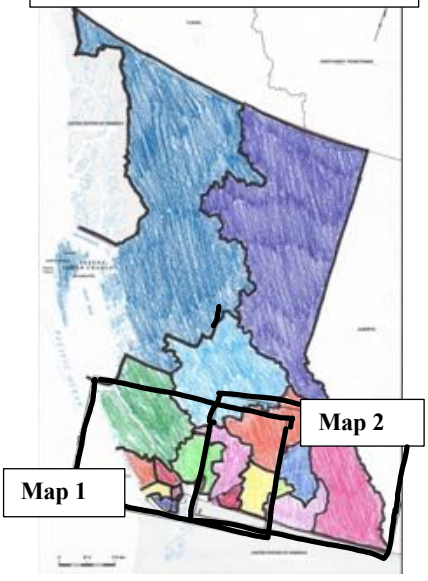
The population of BC is about five million, with most people living in the southwest corner of the province, in and around the cities of Vancouver and Victoria. Reflecting this population density, federal electoral districts—our multipliers in BCQP since we don't have counties—are concentrated in the Metro Vancouver and Metro Victoria regions. The further north you go, the larger and more sparsely populated the districts become.

The Elections Canada map, on left, shows districts outlined in rusty-red, but a coastline dotted by myriad islands as well as lines indicating rivers, highways, provincial regions, etc., make it hard to visualize individual federal electoral districts, especially the smaller ones in high-density areas. The colored map, on right, might help.

A more detailed breakdown of districts in the metro regions is on the next page.



Map source: BCRobyn (based on MAPfrappe online tool)

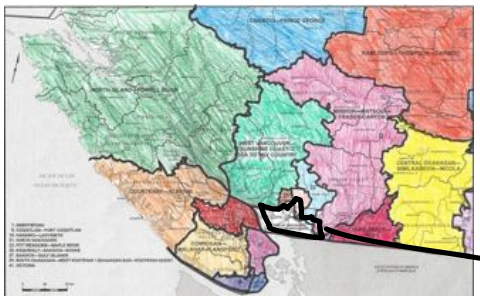


Based on Elections Canada map.

Notes: 1. There is overlap of southwest and southeast corners of BC in Map 1 and Map 2 below. Color-coding should help decipher overlap areas.

2. Districts are defined here by abbreviations used in BCQP. For full, official names, please visit the Multipliers page on the BCQP website.) Map sources: Elections Canada

Map 1: Southwest corner of BC

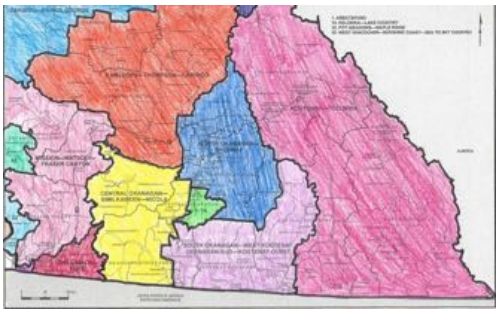


Looking at Map 1, left side, Vancouver Island is divided into seven federal electoral districts (CML COA ESQ NAL NPR SGI VIC), with a tighter concentration of districts in and around Victoria at the bottom tip of the island. NPR (dark green on Map 1: Southwest corner of BC) extends across the Strait of Georgia to the Powell River area on the mainland. All Vancouver Island districts were activated in BCQP 2022.

Detail: Metro Vancouver and Vicinity

The area in and around Metro Vancouver (Detail: Metro Vancouver and Vicinity) comprises 25 federal electoral districts (ABF BNS BUS CLC CPC DEL FPK LAA MMF NVA NWB PMC PMM RIC STR SUC SUN SWR VAC VAE VAG VAK VAQ VAS WVS), of which 18 were activated in BCQP 2022.

Map 2: Southeast corner of BC



The southeast corner of BC is vast geographically with a few key population hubs, notably, Kelowna and Kamloops. Districts here are CHP CSN KEL KOC KTC NOS SWK. In BCQP 2022, six of the seven districts were activated.

FYI, that middle area where Maps 1 & 2 overlap includes MMF, CHP and CSN, which are close enough to Vancouver to be within a commute, albeit 1.5-3 hours of highway driving.

Referring back to the all-BC colored map on page 4, the three remaining districts (CPG PNN SBV) are the largest, in light blue, purple and navy blue, respectively. Two of the three districts were activated in BCQP 2022.

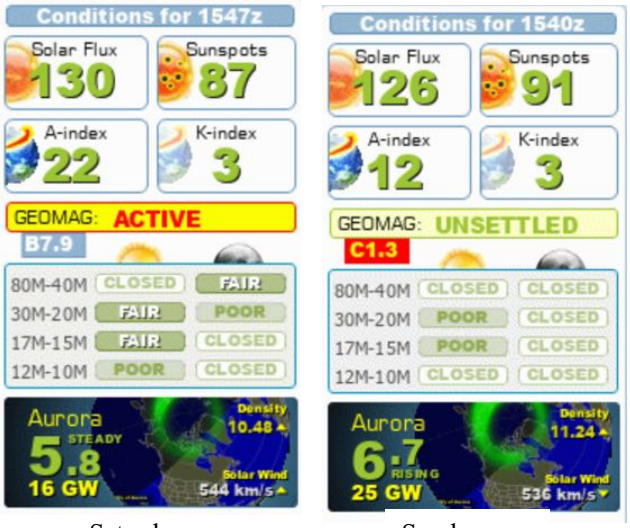
Mountains cover 75% of the province. If someone decided to go mobile for BCQP to activate districts where there are very few contest-oriented radio amateurs, more time would be spent driving than calling CQ. And there would be an awful lot of driving… in February… over winding, most likely snow-covered roads… possible blizzard conditions… definitely cold… maybe icy... much of the trip in darkness. And then there's the return trip. Not a particularly safe or efficient option. Portable operations, however, to activate a limited number of districts is certainly possible, with the right gear and backcountry knowledge. Weather-permitting, of course.

Ideally, we rely on operators at home or club stations to activate districts. It's a challenge to get every district activated on both modes throughout both segments of BCQP, but I don't think BCQP is the only QSO party to grapple with a coverage issue.

Overall, repeat involvement in BCQP has become the norm not the exception, and every year, new callsigns are added to the mix. Gradually, participants gain experience and confidence, and those who venture into contesting by search-and-pounce soon graduate to CQing. And isn't this evolution of participation exactly what QSO parties are meant to achieve?

So to recap, **where were the BC stations? All over BC, on both modes, all bands, both days. Whether they were heard or not depends on myriad factors, some unique to each CQing station or to the receiving S&P stations, some more pervasive. The challenges and opportunities participants face are as varied as the people who get on the air.**

BCQP 2022 Results



Saturday Sunday

We had sunspots! Yeah! Ranging in the high 80s to low 90s, compared with negligible last year. On Saturday morning, the A-index was 22; on Sunday, 12. The K-index hovered at 3. Looking at band-by-band propagation data, potential participants might have thought, "Why bother?," since the best outlook was "fair" and most were "poor" and "closed." The level of auroral activity was 5.8 on Saturday morning and 6.7 on Sunday morning. Given that BC operators typically go over the pole to Europe, auroral precipitation made that very challenging.

In BC, particularly in Metro Vancouver, we often struggle in a black hole. Lately, the effect has been very noticeable on 10m. For several years, very few of us enjoyed 10m activity even though stations to the east and south raved about great conditions. Lo and behold, in BCQP 2022 we saw a workable and extended opening on 10m.

CW ops are not affected by 10-10 Winter—they only have to deal with the impact of NA Sprint and FOC, mostly—so CW frequencies are available regardless. But because 10-10 Winter is very well attended, the 10-10 organizers maintain a quiet zone for operators not necessarily in that event so that non-10-10ers can use the band as well. BCQP PH ops thus had the opportunity for pileups in the quiet zone (28.490 - 28.510). I went there, threw out "CQ BCQP," and WOW what a pileup! Sure glad I paid no mind to the propagation predictions. ☺

Tangible Rewards

For operators seeking tangible rewards, BCQP has lovely BC scenery- or notable landmark-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 by state, province and DX entity. A certificate category recognizing top score, overall, in each BC district is maintained to spur greater participation from operators throughout BC since VE7/VA7s are quite literally the life of the party.

Note: The only requirement for certificate and plaque eligibility is that the submitted log have at least 10 valid QSOs.

District certificate photo (BC only): Garry Point Park, at sunset

Scores

To keep the size of this post-party report manageable, the results section has been abridged. Pages 15–16 show all BC results and pages 17–21 show results for certificate and/or plaque recipients outside BC.

For a complete list of logs received and a detailed breakdown of scores, please go to BC Results and Outside BC Results on the BCQP website.

Plaques

Plaques are awarded in sponsored categories. Thanks to the support of clubs and individuals, there were 10 plaques available in 2022: Top BC (single-op), Top BC (multi-op), Top Canada outside BC, Top YL, Top US, Most Federal Electoral Districts Contacted, Top DX, Top Mixed Mode, Top CW and Top BC Club.

Given the small number of BC stations sending in logs, certain stations tend to place highest in several plaque categories. But the rule is one plaque per

station, with priority given to geographically based categories.

Team VE7RAC qualified for the top BC (multi-op) plaque as well as top mixed mode, with a record-breaking score of 3,070,990. As per the Plaque Allocation Policy*, the team will receive the geographically based plaque, which opens up the mixed mode plaque to the next highest result, by Team VE7WJ, with a score of 1,784,310, and the plaque will be renamed “Excellent Achievement: Mixed Mode.” The top BC (single-op) plaque goes to Mike VE7ACN, with a score of 1,391,940. Ray K9RS takes the top US plaque, with a record-breaking score of 35,800. The top Canada outside BC plaque is awarded to first-time recipient Bob VE3WG, with a score of 7,562. Guy VA7GI captures the top CW plaque, with a score of 194,604. The top YL plaque goes to first-time recipient Carole VA7QCE, using the Richmond ARC club call VE7GOG, with a score of 58,832. Aki JH2RMU retakes the top DX plaque, with a score of 1,972. Regarding the top district plaque, Team VE7WJ found 28 districts, VE7RAC, 26, and K9RS, 25, but all three stations are getting plaques in other categories, leaving the district plaque for Neil VA7DX, with 23 districts. The plaque will be renamed “Excellent Achievement: Districts Contacted.” Orca DXCC maintains top club status with a score of 8,395,258, based on 23 submitted logs (excludes sponsor station VA7ODX).

See you again. February 4 & 5, 2023.

*Edited for clarity

A sampling of comments received...

I enjoyed the contest but hoped to contact more BC stations. Next time, pse turn ANT to Asia, too. JH2RMU

Always like to operate QSO parties when I can. Always submit a score even if it’s only one contact. I like that BC stations stayed around 50Khz up from bottom of band. Good spotting networks. K8LF

Fun contest. Thanks for having it. KA0PQW

Thank you for this fun event! KA3E

KX3, 5w to a dipole. Might have done a little better if I had operated longer. Worked about ¾ of the BC stations I heard. Most of y'all got me on the first try. KI4MZC

First time playing in this QP. Didn't have a lot of time, but had fun! Thanks to Chris at the mic of VE7WJ for hanging in there on 15m SSB to get my call and report. N9TF

Nice to have 3 QSO parties going on at the same time. BC strong into Colorado. NO2D

Thanks once again for the BC contacts! VA3RKM

Just had a little bit of time to operate but still fun. VE3TW

Good contest again! VE9BEL

It was really enjoyable to participate in this contest once again. VY1KX

Nice to be able to work 15M band again. W1END

Excited to find 10M wide open! W8IQ

It was tough but still fun! WA2CNV

VY poor propagation. I could only hear the strongest stations. Lots of fun anyway. Better score than last year. Thanks! WA5SWN

I had a lot of fun operating the BCQP with the new rig I treated myself to for my 70th birthday. Our BCQP is a lot of fun! VE7BGP

Hard going with suburban noise and poor propagation. Look forward to more contacts on 10 and 15 when condx improve. VE7JKZ

Tough conditions. Only heard 6 BC stations and just one station in the PNW area. No propagation for me anywhere east of my station. VE7RSV

Plaque Winners in 2022

Team VE7RAC (VE7DX VE7JH VE7MR VE7UF) totally crushed the the old Top BC (multi-op) record with a score of 3,070,990.

Mike VE7ACN captures the Top BC (single-op) plaque with a score of 1,391,940.

VE7GOG (OP: VA7QCE) takes the Top YL plaque with a score of 58,832.

Team VE7WJ (+ VA7NF VA7QD VA7TU VE7IO VE7TI) receives the mixed mode plaque, with a score of 1,784,310. Note: Plaque category renamed "Excellent Achievement: Mixed Mode."

Ray K9RS demolished the old US record with a score of 35,800 to take the Top US plaque.

Bob VE3WG wins the Top Canada outside BC plaque with a record-breaking score of 7,562.

Guy VA7GI takes the top CW plaque, with a score of 194,604.

Aki JH2RMU retakes the top DX plaque, with a score of 1,972.

Neil VA7DX receives the plaque for districts contacted (23), renamed "Excellent Achievement: Districts Contacted."

Orca DXCC maintains top club status with a score of 8,395,258, based on 23 submitted logs. Note: Excludes results by sponsor station VA7ODX.

Plaque photo: Steveston Fishermen's Memorial at Garry Point Park, in Richmond, BC. In remembrance of fishermen of the Steveston community who lost their lives in pursuit of their profession. Features giant version of needle used to mend fishing nets.

*** 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 the applicable sponsored plaque categories, which may be top scores in specific categories of entry and will be acknowledged as such.

Thank you to the following 2022 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)

Elizabeth VE7YL (Top CW)

Coquitlam Amateur Radio Emergency Services Society (Top BC – Multi-Op)

Delta Amateur Radio Society (Top BC Club)

VA7BEC & VA7KO

VE7YL

Crunching the Numbers

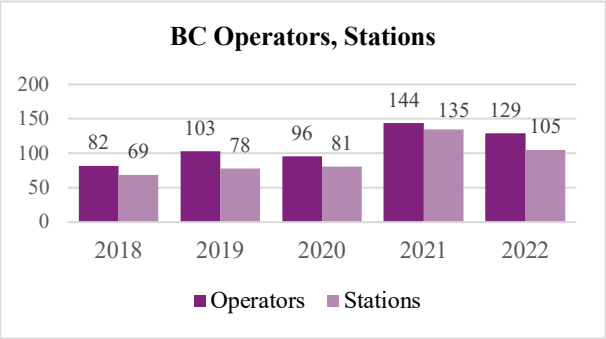
Indicators of success come from many sources. Pre-event emails, for example, could be a sign that the promotion bandwagon has kindled active interest, and post-event comments—positive as well as negative—often mean that some aspect of the event was important enough from a participant's perspective to 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.

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

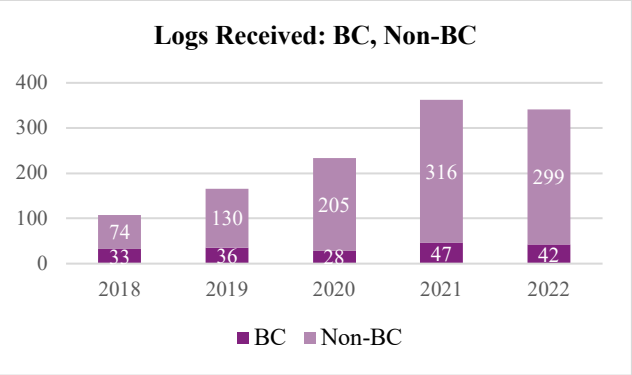
BC Stations/Operators on the Air

Based on the content of submitted logs, the number of in-province stations on the air slipped to 105, down 10 from a year ago. The number of operators involved in BCQP 2022, at single-op stations or in multi-op teams, also declined, settling at 129, down 15 year on year.



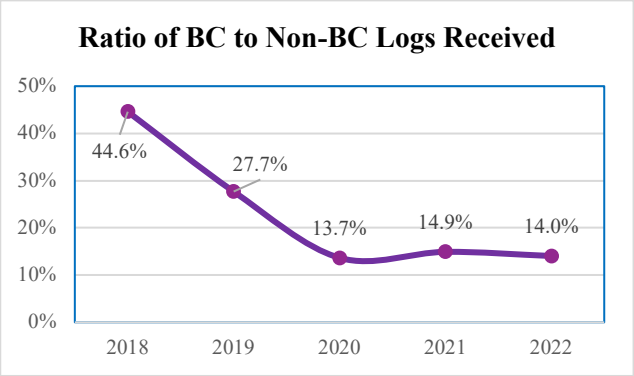
Logs Received

The number of logs received reached 341, down 22, with slight decreases in the number of logs received from BC stations as well as stations outside BC. As usual, the number of logs received from outside BC comprised a significant percentage of the total—87.7%—up slightly from 87.1%.



The low number of logs received from BC stations, despite the large number of BC stations apparently on the air and giving out their callsigns in QSOs, is not necessarily indicative of participation level. The vast majority of operators in BC simply do not submit logs. Possible reasons include a feeling that a log of less than a certain number of QSOs is somehow not worth the effort of submission or falls too short of expectations to go beyond shack walls. Also, quite a few BC operators get on the air to give their pals some points or happen to be tuning through a band, hear a CQing operator and throw out their callsign. They didn't necessarily intend to participate and probably weren't prepared to log the QSO data or scribbled info on a scrap of paper that never made it into a .log file.

Meanwhile, operators outside BC tend to send in logs regardless of how many QSOs are made to ensure that the other stations in the QSOs don't lose points.



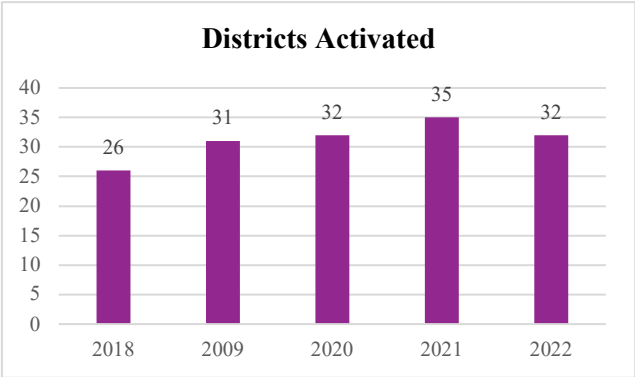
The BC-to-outside-BC ratio dipped, to 14.0%, from 14.9% a year ago. The number of logs from other parts of Canada increased to 38, from 25. The outside-BC list of logs includes DX participation from Germany, Japan and Portugal (a first!).

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—dropped by three, to 32[note], and the coverage ratio fell back into the 76% range.

A look at log content shows that in-province stations and out-of-province stations found many of the same districts, but not all, which underscores the impact of location and a little bit of luck in catching the attention of accidental participants. Sometimes, accidental participants provide a lovely rare multiplier. But there is risk as well. Accidental participants are often not aware of the required exchange and may not know their federal electoral district or get it mixed up with their provincial riding. The CQing operator can help figure out the necessary information by asking for the operator's postal code, plug it into the elections.ca website, and find the corresponding three-letter code in the BCQP Multiplier List. As in any contest, info should be confirmed BEFORE the QSO ends. Looking up a busted callsign on QRZ to extrapolate district later may lead to an incorrect multiplier, which will be evident in the log-checking process.

Unique callsigns are common in contest logs, either due to an unfortunate typing error or, when CONDX is bad and phonetics aren't used, the consequence of operators not being able to correctly distinguish callsign letters. The same holds true for district multipliers. A careful check of logs turned up numerous three-letter entries that do not correspond to any districts in the BCQP Multiplier List as well as busted districts. The number of activated districts excludes invalid entries.



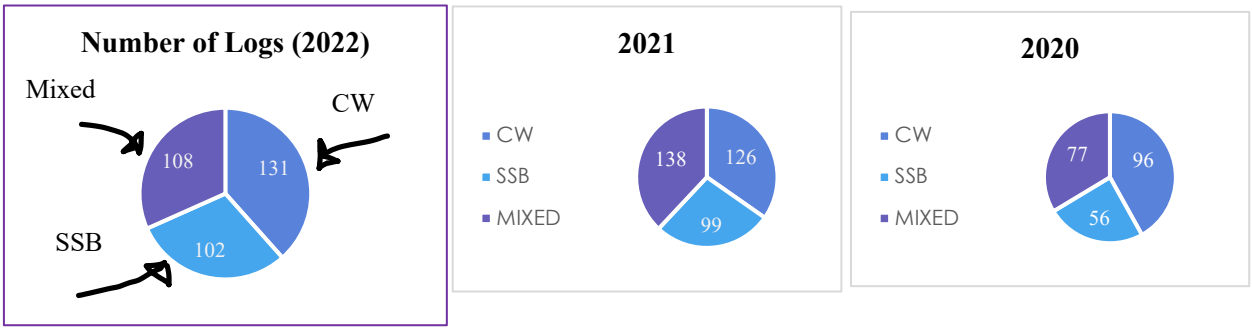
Coverage in 2022: 32 out of 42 (76.1%)

ABF BNS BUS CHP CLC CML COA CPC DEL ESQ KEL KOC KTC NAL NOS NPR NVA PMC PMM PPN RIC SBV SGI STR SUC SUN SWK SWR VAG VAK VAQ VIC

Coverage in 2021: 35 out of 42 (83.3%)

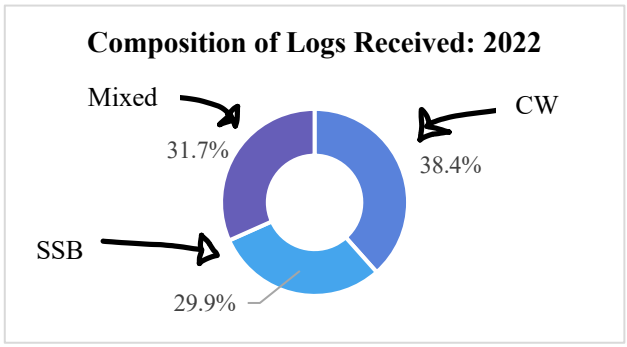
ABF BNS BUS CHP CML COA CPC CPG CSN DEL ESQ KEL KOC KTC MMF NAL NOS NPR NWB PMC PMM PPN RIC SBV SGI STR SUC SUN SWR VAC VAG VAK VAQ VIC WVS

Breakdown of Logs by Class of Entry (Mode)

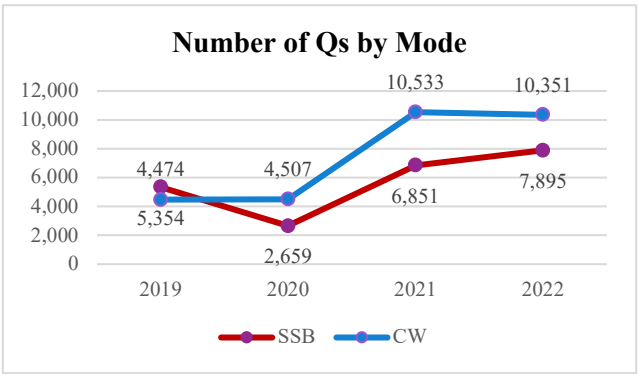


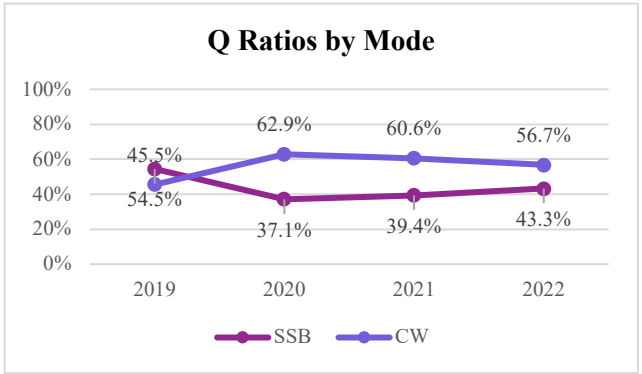
The breakdown of logs by class of entry reveals an upward trend in CW-only logs, up five, to 131, compared with 126 in 2021, and in SSB-only SSB logs, up three, from 99 in 2021. The MIXED log category saw a decrease, dropping 30, to 108 from 138 in 2021.

As percentages of total logs received, 38.4% were CW-only, up from 34.8% in 2021; 29.9% were SSB-only, edging up from 27.3% a year ago; and 31.7% were MIXED, down from 37.8%, in 2021.



Number of Qs and Q Ratios by Mode



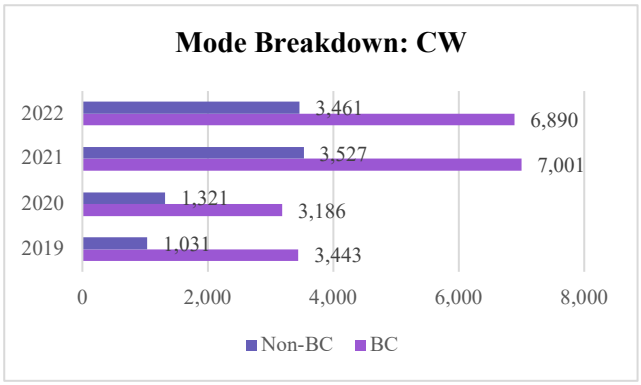


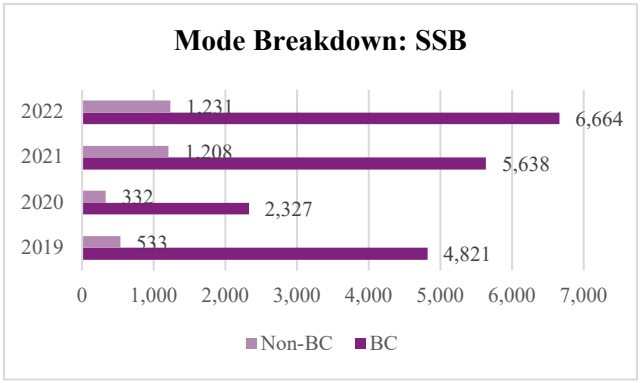
A breakdown of valid QSOs by mode, based on data in logs received, shows a slight decrease in CW Qs and a relatively large increase in SSB Qs. On CW, the Q count was 10,351, compared with 10,533 Qs in 2021, and on SSB, the Q counts reached 7,895 Qs, compared with 6,851 Qs in 2021.

The slight decrease in CW Qs in 2022 translated into a CW ratio (number of CW QSOs as a percentage of all QSOs in all submitted logs) of 56.7%, down 3.9 points year on year.

The increase in SSB Qs in 2022 resulted in a SSB ratio (number of SSB QSOs as a percentage of all Qs in submitted logs) of 43.3%, up 3.9 points year on year.

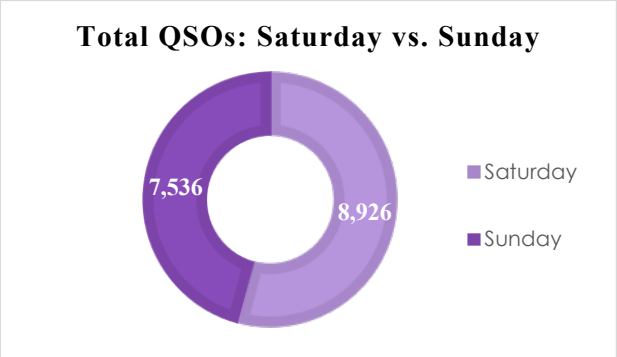
Breakdown by Mode (Inside and Outside BC)

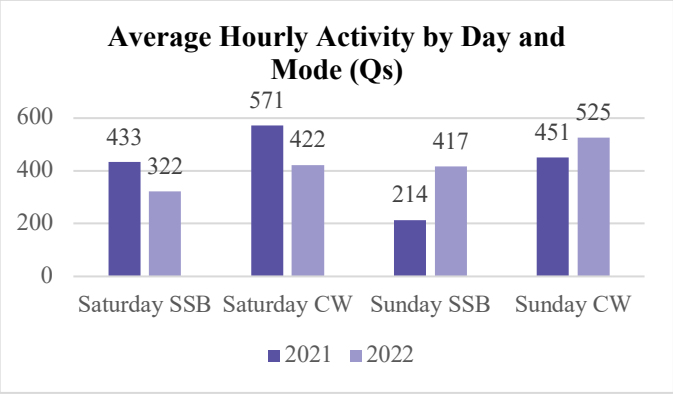




Saturday vs. Sunday

The addition of Sunday hours—a second segment—was added to BCQP in 2018. Initially intended to provide CW operators with a "second chance" to offset the frustration caused by NA Sprint on Saturday evening BC-time, the second segment has been well-received by all participants. The two-segment structure is more schedule-friendly, allowing operators to participate on one or both days and to design operating strategies to maximize activity by mode, if in the MIXED category.

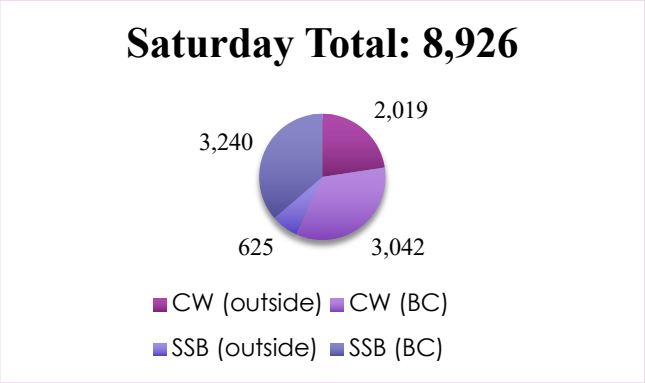


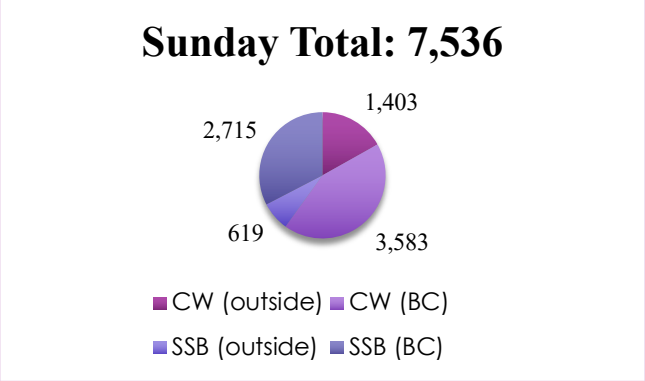


Not that every hour saw the same level of activity, but a breakdown of Q totals by segment duration—that is, 12 hours vs. eight hours—reveals that Sunday activity averaged higher than Saturday activity on both modes in 2022. The opposite of 2021.

Modes by Day 2022

Given that the Saturday segment is 12 hours and the Sunday segment is only eight hours, QSO activity per day would be expected to differ.





In 2022, total Qs on Saturday reached 8,926, while total Qs on Sunday came to 7,536. The Saturday count was considerably lower than the 12,039 Qs recorded on Saturday in 2021, and the Sunday count was much higher than the 5,318 Qs recorded on Sunday in 2021.

The two-day CW total was 9,263 Qs, with 5,061 on Saturday and 4,202 on Sunday. As percentages, Saturday CW Qs represented 56.7% of all Saturday Qs, and Sunday CW Qs represented 55.8% of all Sunday Qs.

Of the Saturday CW amount, 3,042 Qs were in BC logs and 2,019 Qs were in outside-BC logs. Of the Sunday amount, 3,583 Qs were in BC logs and 1,403 Qs were in outside-BC logs.

The two-day SSB total was 7,199 Qs, with 3,865 on Saturday and 3,334 on Sunday. As percentages, Saturday SSB Qs represented 43.3% of all Saturday Qs, and Sunday SSB Qs represented 44.2% of all Sunday Qs.

Of the Saturday SSB amount, 3,240 Qs were in BC logs and 625 Qs were in outside-BC logs. Of the Sunday amount, 2,715 Qs were in BC logs and 619 Qs were in outside-BC logs.

The takeaway from this data is that both Saturday and Sunday were well-attended.

*Note: Total number of QSOs is higher than the total QSOs by mode, as described on page 12, because the two-segment analysis draws on all QSOs, including invalid QSOs and QSOs in checklogs.

Outlook for BCQP 2023

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 2023 or how conditions will be interpreted by individual operators on event day.

The State QSO Party Challenge has continued to raise awareness of BCQP, and the addition of two new QSO parties in Canada may spur greater active interest in QSO parties going forward.

*For a more detailed breakdown of BC scores, please go to BC Results on the BCQP website.

BC STATIONS

Callsigns in **bold** = top-category certificate winners; *italics* = sponsored plaque winners; * = district certificate. Eligibility requirement: At least 10 valid QSOs

Callsign	Category	District	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
VE7RAC	MOHP MIXED	NPR	2,563	6,870	447	3,070,890	100	3,070,990	Orca DXCC
**VE7WJ*	MOHP MIXED	NVA	1,693	4,540	393	1,784,220	140	1,784,360	Orca DXCC
VA7ODX	MOHP MIXED	DEL	1,398	3,998	371	1,483,258		1,483,258	Orca DXCC
*VE7SAR	MOHP MIXED	SUN	950	2,976	256	761,856	80	761,936	Surrey ARC
***VE7DB**	MOLP MIXED	SWR	92	344	64	22,016	20	22,036	White Rock ARC
VE7NI	SO QRP CW	KTC	1	4	1	4		4	
VA7USD	SO QRP PH	SGI	18	36	17	612		612	Orca DXCC
VA7GI	SOHP CW	VAQ	386	1,544	126	194,544	60	194,604	Orca DXCC
*VE7JKZ	SOHP CW	SGI	290	1,160	139	161,240	40	161,280	Orca DXCC
VA7MM	SOHP CW	CPC	211	844	146	123,224		123,224	Orca DXCC
*VA7ST	SOHP CW	KEL	252	1,008	111	111,888	40	111,928	Orca DXCC
VE7CA	SOHP CW	NVA	199	796	127	101,092	60	101,152	
*VA7RN	SOHP CW	COA	180	720	97	69,840	20	69,860	Orca DXCC
*VA7VK	SOHP CW	ESQ	167	668	87	58,116		58,116	
*VE7VR	SOHP CW	BUS	55	220	47	10,340	20	10,360	Orca DXCC
VE7ACN	SOHP MIXED	CHP	1,323	3,866	360	1,391,760	180	1,391,940	Orca DXCC
**VA7DX*	SOHP MIXED	CPC	997	2,946	337	992,802	140	992,942	Orca DXCC
VE7XF	SOHP MIXED	NPR	179	714	104	74,256	20	74,276	Orca DXCC
*VE7SFW	SOHP MIXED	RIC	118	440	96	42,240	40	42,280	
VE7TK	SOHP MIXED	SGI	13	48	19	912	40	952	
***VE7AHT**	SOLP CW	DEL	336	1,344	122	163,968	60	164,028	
**VE7GOG*	SOLP CW	STR	144	576	102	58,752	80	58,832	
VE7ARN	SOLP CW	KTC	41	164	33	5,412		5,412	Kamloops ARC

Callsign	Category	District	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
*VE7AB	SOLP CW	VIC	15	60	14	840		840	
***VA7EU**	SOLP MIXED	BNS	251	916	168	153,888	100	153,988	Orca DXCC
*VA7VJ	SOLP MIXED	SUC	72	282	61	17,202	40	17,242	
*VE7BGP	SOLP MIXED	NAL	56	204	59	12,036	20	12,056	Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association
*VA7KBM	SOLP MIXED	VAG	32	124	37	4,588	40	4,628	Orca DXCC
VA7RPE	SOLP MIXED	RIC	23	84	31	2,604		2,604	Orca DXCC
VE7XFA	SOLP MIXED	NPR	15	50	21	1,050		1,050	Orca DXCC
*VE7CV	SOLP MIXED	KTC	378	1,130	200	226,000	120	226,120	Orca DXCC
***VE7JAR**	SOLP PH	NOS	556	1,112	93	103,416		103,416	North Okanagan Radio Amateur Club
*VA7DBJ	SOLP PH	PMM	404	808	58	46,864		46,864	Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club
*VA7YJJ	SOLP PH	CML	52	104	36	3,744	20	3,764	
VA7CTG	SOLP PH	COA	23	46	20	920		920	Orca DXCC
VE7RSV	SOLP PH	NPR	18	36	18	648	20	668	
VE7YAH	SOLP PH	COA	17	34	17	578		578	Orca DXCC
VA7VX	SOLP PH	PMM	16	32	14	448		448	Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club
VE7KX	SOLP PH	PMM	11	22	16	352		352	
VA7HC	SOLP PH	VIC	6	12	5	60		60	Orca DXCC
VA7VF	SOLP PH	COA	3	6	3	18		18	Orca DXCC
VA7HUM	SOLP PH	NPR						checklog	Campbell River ARS

*For a detailed breakdown of scores for all stations outside BC submitting a log in 2022, please go to Outside BC Results on the BCQP website.

CERTIFICATE/PLAQUE WINNERS — OUTSIDE BC

All stations listed below will receive certificates for top score by category of entry in respective US state, Canadian province other than BC, or DX entity.
Callsigns in *italics* are winners of a sponsored plaque.
Eligibility requirement: at least 10 valid QSOs

Callsign	Category	S/P/DX	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
N1SOH	MOHP MIXED	MA	23	80	21	1,680	100	1,780	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
NO2D	SO QRP CW	CO	10	40	8	320	20	340	Colorado QRP Club
W7LG	SO QRP MIXED	PA	12	44	11	484	40	524	
W1AJT	SOHP CW	NC	67	268	52	13,936	80	14,016	Contest Club Ontario
K4NMR	SOHP CW	FL	37	148	33	4,884	60	4,944	Florida Contest Group
N7EPD	SOHP CW	WA	31	124	30	3,720	100	3,820	Western Washington DX Club
N1CGP	SOHP CW	ME	30	120	26	3,120	40	3,160	
WI6X	SOHP CW	CA	27	108	26	2,808	40	2,848	Southern California Contest Club
AF5J	SOHP CW	TX	28	112	23	2,576	60	2,636	Texas DX Society
K3TN	SOHP CW	MD	28	112	23	2,576	40	2,616	Potomac Valley Radio Club
VE3KP	SOHP CW	ON	25	100	23	2,300	60	2,360	Contest Club Ontario
KR2AA	SOHP CW	NY	22	88	20	1,760	60	1,820	
VE9AA	SOHP CW	NB	20	80	18	1,440	60	1,500	Maritime Contest Club
N1NN	SOHP CW	MA	17	68	15	1,020	40	1,060	
AF4T	SOHP CW	TN	15	60	13	780	60	840	Tennessee Contest Group
K8LF	SOHP CW	VA	13	52	11	572	20	592	Potomac Valley Radio Club
AA1SU	SOHP CW	VT	12	48	11	528	40	568	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
K9RS	SOHP MIXED	DE	111	396	90	35,640	160	35,800	Frankford Radio Club
KA6BIM	SOHP MIXED	OR	82	284	73	20,732	140	20,872	Willamette Valley DX Club

Callsign	Category	S/P/DX	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
W3LL	SOHP MIXED	MD	79	290	67	19,430	140	19,570	Potomac Valley Radio Club
K5CM	SOHP MIXED	OK	79	276	69	19,044	140	19,184	
N6TQ	SOHP MIXED	CA	60	220	57	12,540	120	12,660	Redwood Empire DX Association
AA4TI	SOHP MIXED	FL	64	212	58	12,296	160	12,456	Florida Contest Group
NO2C	SOHP MIXED	NY	58	192	51	9,792	120	9,912	Great South Bay ARC
AA0FO	SOHP MIXED	KS	45	154	43	6,622	40	6,662	Kansas City Contest Club
K5XS	SOHP MIXED	AR	46	148	41	6,068	80	6,148	
K4BAI	SOHP MIXED	GA	36	138	32	4,416	60	4,476	South East Contest Club
KE0L	SOHP MIXED	TN	26	90	24	2,160	60	2,220	Tennessee Contest Group
JH2RMU	SOHP MIXED	DX	24	92	21	1,932	40	1,972	
K1JB	SOHP MIXED	ME	21	76	17	1,292	40	1,332	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
KF8MZ	SOHP MIXED	OH	18	64	18	1,152	20	1,172	
WA8KAN	SOHP MIXED	WV	16	52	15	780	20	800	
VE3TW	SOHP MIXED	ON	15	50	14	700	60	760	Contest Club Ontario
WB2PJH	SOHP MIXED	NJ	15	56	13	728	20	748	Frankford Radio Club
KB7PKC	SOHP MIXED	WA	15	52	14	728		728	
K3DNE	SOHP MIXED	SC	15	44	15	660	40	700	Swamp Fox Contest Group
N6DW	SOHP MIXED	VA	14	48	11	528	60	588	Potomac Valley Radio Club
KB0NES	SOHP MIXED	MN	12	42	11	462	40	502	Minnesota Wireless Assn
WA5LXS	SOHP MIXED	TX	10	34	10	340		340	DFW Contest Group
W1ARY	SOHP PH	CT	23	92	19	1,748	40	1,788	
W4KW	SOHP PH	TN	22	44	22	968	60	1,028	Tennessee Contest Group Part Timers
K4QQG	SOHP PH	SC	16	32	16	512	60	572	Swamp Fox Contest Group
KJ9B	SOHP PH	IN	12	24	12	288	60	348	Society of Midwest Contesters
K2KR	SOLP PH	CO	11	22	11	242	20	262	Grand Mesa Contesters
K4ORD	SOLP CW	VA	50	200	44	8,800	60	8,860	Potomac Valley Radio Club

Callsign	Category	S/P/DX	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
K9CW	SOLP CW	IL	48	192	40	7,680	60	7,740	Society of Midwest Contesters
K7ROG	SOLP CW	AZ	39	156	33	5,148	40	5,188	Tortolita Radio Club
N9NM	SOLP CW	TX	37	148	31	4,588	60	4,648	Central Texas DX and Contest Club
W4TJM	SOLP CW	FL	31	124	27	3,348	40	3,388	Florida Weak Signal Society
VE3VN	SOLP CW	ON	29	116	25	2,900	60	2,960	Contest Club Ontario
N6GP	SOLP CW	CA	29	116	25	2,900	40	2,940	Southern California Contest Club
KA0REN	SOLP CW	MO	27	108	22	2,376	40	2,416	Blue Springs Amateur Radio Club
K4GM	SOLP CW	VA	23	92	20	1,840	40	1,880	Potomac Valley Radio Club
VE9VIC	SOLP CW	NB	24	96	19	1,824	20	1,844	Maritime Contest Club
WB2FUV	SOLP CW	NY	22	88	20	1,760	40	1,800	Hudson Valley Contesters & DXers
W8IQ	SOLP CW	OH	22	88	19	1,672	40	1,712	
WA8ZNC	SOLP CW	WA	22	88	19	1,672	20	1,692	
K4KO	SOLP CW	TN	22	88	19	1,672		1,672	Tennessee Contest Group
W1END	SOLP CW	NH	21	84	17	1,428	40	1,468	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
W7GF	SOLP CW	OR	16	64	16	1,024	20	1,044	
K1VUT	SOLP CW	MA	15	60	14	840	40	880	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
KE9SA	SOLP CW	WI	15	60	14	840	40	880	
K3QP	SOLP CW	PA	14	56	13	728	40	768	Frankford Radio Club
K7ZYV	SOLP CW	MS	15	60	12	720		720	
WI0WA	SOLP CW	IA	13	52	13	676	40	716	Iowa DX and Contest Club
W6GMT	SOLP CW	MN	13	52	12	624		624	Minnesota Wireless Assn
AC5XK	SOLP CW	MD	13	52	11	572	20	592	Potomac Valley Radio Club
K4BDE	SOLP CW	SC	12	48	11	528	20	548	
JA6WFM	SOLP CW	DX	11	44	11	484	20	504	
K6RM	SOLP CW	NC	10	40	10	400	60	460	Carolina DX Association
WA8IWK	SOLP CW	MI	10	40	8	320		320	

Callsign	Category	S/P/DX	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
N7RO	SOLP MIXED	WA	67	240	61	14,640	120	14,760	Orca DXCC
N8II	SOLP MIXED	WV	64	222	55	12,210	80	12,290	Potomac Valley Radio Club
K4VBM	SOLP MIXED	GA	52	180	46	8,280	120	8,400	South East Contest Club
AC4G	SOLP MIXED	TN	50	170	45	7,650	140	7,790	Tennessee Contest Group
VE3WG	SOLP MIXED	ON	49	174	43	7,482	80	7,562	Contest Club Ontario
KV0I	SOLP MIXED	NE	48	168	43	7,224	80	7,304	Heartland DX Association
WA8ZBT	SOLP MIXED	TX	47	158	45	7,110	80	7,190	DFW Contest Group
N7ZZ	SOLP MIXED	WI	43	150	39	5,850	80	5,930	
W0YJT	SOLP MIXED	KS	43	140	38	5,320	80	5,400	
WB9HFK	SOLP MIXED	IL	38	132	36	4,752	80	4,832	Society of Midwest Contesters
W1QK	SOLP MIXED	CT	37	132	35	4,620	60	4,680	Candlewood ARA
K2AL	SOLP MIXED	NJ	38	136	33	4,488	80	4,568	New Providence ARC
KA0PQW	SOLP MIXED	MN	37	126	34	4,284	60	4,344	Minnesota Wireless Association
VY1KX	SOLP MIXED	YT	35	128	32	4,096	60	4,156	Orca DXCC
N3CKI	SOLP MIXED	NC	31	114	27	3,078	60	3,138	Potomac Valley Radio Club
W1PR	SOLP MIXED	CA	31	104	29	3,016	60	3,076	
WA5SOG	SOLP MIXED	AR	29	102	28	2,856	80	2,936	Fort Smith Area ARC
VA4HZ	SOLP MIXED	MB	30	102	28	2,856	40	2,896	RadioSport Manitoba
VE9ML	SOLP MIXED	NB	26	96	23	2,208	60	2,268	Maritime Contest Club
K0RJK	SOLP MIXED	CO	24	84	23	1,932	40	1,972	
W5RJJ	SOLP MIXED	NM	18	56	17	952	40	992	
KB4CG	SOLP MIXED	VA	17	64	14	896	40	936	
W1WBB	SOLP MIXED	RI	16	52	16	832	20	852	CTRI Contest Group
N4QI	SOLP MIXED	SC	15	54	15	810	40	850	Swamp Fox Contest Group
VE5SF	SOLP MIXED	SK	12	44	12	528		528	Saskatchewan Contest Club

Callsign	Category	S/P/DX	Total QSOs	Total Points	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
AI6O	SOLP MIXED	MO	10	38	10	380		380	
VA2KD	SOLP MIXED	QC	11	32	11	352	20	372	
KD9GY	SOLP PH	IL	16	32	16	512	40	552	Society of Midwest Contesters
WA9PND	SOLP PH	WI	16	32	16	512	40	552	Society of Midwest Contesters
WW5L	SOLP PH	LA	16	32	15	480	20	500	
W5HRP	SOLP PH	AR	15	30	15	450	40	490	
AA3C	SOLP PH	TX	14	28	14	392	40	432	
VA3GKO	SOLP PH	ON	13	26	13	338	40	378	Contest Club Ontario
N0HDR	SOLP PH	MN	13	26	13	338	20	358	
WA5SWN	SOLP PH	KS	12	24	12	288	40	328	
AD8WA	SOLP PH	MI	10	20	10	200		200	