

# British Columbia QSO Party 2017



2017 certificate photo:  
English Bay, Vancouver

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### Behind the Scenes

By Rebecca VA7BEC, Contest Coordinator BCQP

#### Propagation on holiday?

I played in NAQP SSB in mid-January to get an idea of what BC operators might be facing during BCQP 2017. CONDX was awful—deep QSB—but Qs were still possible, particularly when antennas were pointed in my direction, so I cautiously hoped that BCQP would draw sufficient attention to make CQing productive for VE7/VA7s.

Alas, it was a struggle. The results for the VA7ODX team are not at all what we have posted in past years. A look at submitted logs indicates a similar trend among stations that regularly turn in high scores.

Every station will have different reasons for whatever results were achieved. Some factors, such as CONDX and weather-related problems, are out of anyone's control and may influence participation at many stations, while other factors, such as location and equipment setup, are unique to each station.

### Band Conditions

On Feb 4, conditions at 1600z were daunting: solar flux at 75, sunspots at 39, the A-index at 11 and the K-index at 2. Propagation was dismal, according to the data, with “closed,” for all bands in the sunshine, except 20m, which got “fair”. This did not improve at all during BCQP. The auroral level hovered around 7 the whole day.



But, as I mentioned last year, just because the statistics indicate a band is closed, Qs are not necessarily impossible. It’s just going to be harder to hear and be heard.

That said, so many variables are involved, from QTH to equipment to antenna direction and, of course, operator ears. And a band may suddenly open, as if a magic wand has zapped the noise away. 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.

### Other Factors

In recent years, other factors with the potential to affect participation, in favorable and unfavorable ways, have included the BC Day long weekend, Chinese New Year and major DXpeditions being on the air, as well as the usual impact of NA Sprint CW. But in 2017, the BC Day long weekend fell on the following weekend, and Chinese New Year festivities rolled out the weekend before. BCQP 2017 did not coincide with any major DXpeditions. NA Sprint CW, which collides with BCQP in the last four hours of the party, will always have a detrimental effect, hence the suggestion to **make Qs BEFORE the sprint starts OR try the alternate suggested frequencies.**

### The Weather...

Along with disappointing band conditions came an unexpected amount of snow on the southern coast of BC. In this area of the province, the snow tends to be wet and heavy, and the resulting ice that forms as temperatures drop in not an antenna’s best friend.



Ice formed between uninsulated poles of dipole

### At the Sponsor Station

At VA7ODX, we were disappointed. Our score was not even half the level achieved last year, with a significant drop in QSOs on PH. However, we were one radio short this year. For various reasons, including CONDX and weather, the CW op and I decided to share one radio and alternate between SSB and CW rather than set up separate stations for each mode. As a result, SSB runs were cut short a couple of times as I reluctantly relinquished the chair. So while CONDX was truly





occurs in the last four hours of BCQP. Changing the date of BCQP to make four hours of a 12-hour even easier for one mode would be a rather overboard response. Moreover, the CW pool is shallow, and there's no guarantee that a different date would be ideal for these few participants or attract more CW activity overall. In addition, a change in date might cause a drop in mainstay SSB support.

Unfortunately, alternate suggested frequencies haven't had as positive an affect as I had hoped. So, the next step, without a full-scale change in date, is to extend the hours of BCQP.

Many QSO parties run for a whole weekend or over two blocks of time. We will try the latter in 2018.

BCQP 2018 will comprise two blocks: the existing 12 hours on Saturday **as well as eight hours on Sunday**.

The days WILL NOT be split by mode, and there WILL NOT be any required off-time. All operators will be able work as many of the 20 hours as they want and dabble in whichever mode(s) they want.

It's possible that CW operators, particularly in the CW-only category, will choose to focus on Sunday when there is no FOC or NA Sprint CW to cause headaches. Perhaps being one of only a very limited number of events on Sunday will be enticing.

RTTY operators may also prefer Sunday, as the XE International RTTY Contest will be over.

Operators who like mixed mode will have the option of doing SSB on Saturday to capitalize on the activity generated by other same-day events—a boon on SSB but a bane on the other modes—and CW/RTTY on Sunday, if they so wish. Or, if they can only devote one day to BCQP, they can muddle through FOC- and NA Sprint CW-related mayhem on Saturday or a possibly thinner pool of SSB contacts on Sunday.

### BCQP 2018

Mark your calendars. BCQP 2018 will run from 1600z February 3 to 0400z February 4 AND 1600z February 4 to 0000z February 5.

**A total of 20 hours: 12 on Saturday and 8 on Sunday.**

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 **20-hour** event.

Hope to see you in BCQP 2018.

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	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

### Plaque Winners in 2017

**Team VA7QD (MOHP MIXED)** captured the Top BC (multi-op) plaque. This was the fourth consecutive year that a team effort from the VE7IO station, albeit under different callsigns, led to a plaque. Jeanne VA7QD, Christine VA7NLF, Stan VA7NF and Fred VE7IO were on the winning team in 2017, delivering a score of 388,348.

**Gabor VE7JH (SOLP MIXED)** captured the Top BC (single-op) plaque with a score of 73,888.

**Jeff WB8WKQ (SOHP MIXED)** worked diligently amid trying conditions and retained his hold on the Top US plaque with a score of 8,290.

**Andre VE2ZT (SOLP MIXED)** took the Top Canada outside BC plaque with a score of 1,408.

**Elizabeth VE7YL (SOLP CW)** is awarded the Top YL: CW plaque, with a score of 1,520.

**Aki JH2RMU (SOHP MIXED)** held onto the Top DX plaque, for a third year, with a score of 12.

**Team VA7SRY (MOHP MIXED)** is awarded a plaque for excellent achievement in the mixed-mode category, with a score of 141,856.

The district-hunting results of **Team VE7SCC (MOHP MIXED)** are recognized with the Most Districts Contacted plaque. The team found 19 of the activated 27 districts.

**ORCA DXCC** takes the Top BC Club plaque, with an aggregate score of 535,506 from 13 submitted logs with Orca DXCC as the participant's affiliated club. Note, this does not include sponsor call VA7ODX results.

**Plaque photo:** This year's plaque photo was taken by Doug VE7WLF/VE7TP (SK). When Orca DXCC assumed sponsorship of BCQP, the role of photographer for the certificates and plaques fell to VA7BEC. But in tribute to Doug, an excellent photographer and the initial BCQP certificate photo-taker when the event debuted under the Delta ARS banner, a stunning photo he took of the Burrard Street Bridge at "golden hour" has been used for the 2017 plaque photo. Doug's wife, Irene, graciously allowed us to use this beautiful photo.



#### 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 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 2017 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 Emergency Services Society** (Top BC — Multi-Op)

**Delta Amateur Radio Society** — Top BC Club



Note: In 2017, due to the one plaque per station rule, the top mixed mode plaque was renamed “Excellent Achievement: Mixed Mode” because the stations with top score and second-highest score were awarded plaques in other categories, and “Excellent Achievement” sounds much nicer than “Third Place”.



## Worth Repeating. Again.

**BCQP is an entry-level, friendly affair. It's supposed to be fun. Enough fun that participants will join the party again and maybe bring some friends along.**

While QSO parties may attract experienced operators who want to check out conditions or get acquainted with new software or equipment before the big contesting season starts, many operators who get involved in a QSO party are new to amateur radio and/or new to contesting. They may not be comfortable calling CQ. They may not know how to execute a contest QSO to get the required exchange and/or get flustered by calls from operators who want to trade a Q. Maybe logging requirements are confusing, or unfamiliarity with logging software—or lack of computer interface—causes problems that seem too overwhelming.

People need a helping hand, not more mountains to climb.

The approach has therefore been to provide materials—emails with tons of resource links and helpful hints, FAQs, and a downloadable schedule of same-day events and respective exchanges to expedite Q-trading if/when necessary—to facilitate preparation, which is half the battle. If anyone has specific questions, a concerted effort is made to provide the answers. Post-event, a detailed report such as the one you are reading now helps put the event into perspective and enables participants to plan strategies for the next year



### **In-province participants MUST**

- **Read the rules!**
- **Know own federal electoral district!**

With regard to logs, if a submitted log doesn't conform to the required Cabrillo format, it's not automatically relegated to the checklog folder. Every effort is made to salvage the log, and the operator will get a chance to resubmit. In most

cases, the operator has actually given the correct information on air but something went amiss in the logging process.

We take a certain degree of leniency that the cut-throat contests do not precisely because BCQP—and QSO parties in general—are opportunities to teach and to learn. The light-handed approach typically does not put others at a disadvantage re: certificates and plaques, and the experience gained by correcting minor issues has future value.

### **Why go the extra mile?**

**Because the behind-the-scenes objective of BCQP is to encourage more BC operators to get on HF and be comfortable running in contests or going on a DXpedition or handling a shift during a special event.**

BCQP is a gateway—a starting point, a stepping stone, a springboard—to more in the amateur radio world. It's an event that allows operators new to HF to gain some experience at the mic or the key or the keyboard in a relaxed setting. As such, BCQP, like any QSO party, has to be as inviting and fun as possible, and participants have to feel that the time they spend at the radio is worthwhile.

BCQP often attracts newly licensed operators and operators who haven't participated in contests much or haven't ever submitted a log before. It's possible that BCQP might be enough fun to spark an interest in contesting. But if an operator who didn't quite know how to create and submit a log participates in some other contest in the future, say, NAQP or a big international contest, and sends in a log riddled with basic errors, that log will be tossed because it falls outside the parameters of the log-checking software. How demoralizing! The claim that such a log was OK for BCQP holds no weight whatsoever.

To preclude such situations, we go the extra mile.



### What about actual logging? Only electronic? Is paper OK?

**Any log that shows the required information and ONLY the required information will be accepted.**

BCQP is fully supported by N1MM Logger+, N3FJP State QSO Party Logging Software and CQ/X GPS-enabled software for mobile contesting. These programs work perfectly, but do require radio and computer to be interfaced. Other programs, such as SD by EI5DI, DXlog and GenLog can also be used, but may require operators to know and input specifics, like multipliers and bonus points.

If logging by BCQP-supported programs causes cursing with every log entry, it's okay to use the logging software that the individual operator is more comfortable with.

Paper logs are not the preferred log submission format but are accepted if the number of Qs is 50 or less. Alternatively, paper-loggers can use a webform ([http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/bcqp\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/bcqp_cab.php)) to create a Cabrillo file for submission. It's convenient if there are fewer than 50 Qs; otherwise, the inputting is very time-consuming.

### Like leading a horse to water?

My invitation and reminder emails are full of helpful hints and resource links. The BCQP homepage has links to rules, multipliers and FAQ as well as past results and past reports, which provide extremely in-depth analysis of each year's event and usually touch on issues of importance for the future.

But no amount of information is going to address every single question/problem/issue that might arise because each operator has a different level of experience and comes to the party with a different set of skills. That's why we have a contact person—me—to tailor responses to comments if the get-ready-for-BCQP emails and FAQs and past analyses do not sufficiently cover something that someone wants in more detail.

That said, it doesn't matter how much information is put together, the content thereof or how it is distributed, if it isn't read or isn't used as intended.

In addition, there will always be people who remain unaware of BCQP and/or the required exchange no matter how high the event profile rises.

Every effort is made to guide and assist and encourage, but BCQP is still a contest with rules. In the end, it's the responsibility of participants to be prepared, not only from a hardware/software point of view but also from a simple administrative point of view.

Experienced testers already know the basics of logging and executing QSOs, but even they have to be prepared. At the very least, they have to read the rules and know the required exchange in BCQP.

Beginners, however, may not even know what questions to ask. It is for them that most of the resources have been prepared. Links to all downloadable information are included in emailed invitations to clubs, organizations, forums and past participants.

### Trading Qs

It seems the purpose and process of trading Qs aren't well understood. In fact, confusion seems to reign.

**In BCQP, trading Qs is a tool. It is NOT the objective. Nor is it a requirement.**

In BCQP, stations in BC can contact anyone anywhere. This is the only regularly scheduled on-air event that puts BC in the spotlight. But there are other events taking place as well, including a few QSO parties, the 10-10 International SSB Contest and XE International RTTY Contest.

For example-sake, let me use the Minnesota QSO Party and the Vermont QSO Party to explain the process of trading Qs and why it's reciprocally beneficial.

In-state participants in these QSO parties—that is, Minnesota stations in MN, and Vermont stations in VT—would love to have "BC" in their respective logs. Just as BC operators in BCQP can contact anyone anywhere, so too can in-state participants in MNQP and VTQP. Trading Qs is a way for both sides in the QSO to build respective logs.

If a BC operator keeps track of the info from the other stations, s/he can submit a log to the respective QSO party organizers. Similarly, in-state operators in the other QSO parties who make a few trades can save the BCQP exchange details given by BC operators and send a BCQP log to me. And many do.





**It's extremely important to remember that each QSO party has its own rules and required QSO exchange.**

BCQP requires RS(T) + federal electoral district (for BC stations) OR province (for rest of Canada) OR state (for US stations) OR "DX" (for stations outside Canada and the U.S.)

Meanwhile, a log submitted to the MNQP or VTQP organizers, respectively, should *not* have a BC operator's federal electoral district in it. MNQP requires name + province (from Canadian stations), and VTQP requires RS(T) + province (from Canadian stations).

The information received from in-state participants is also different between QSO parties. A Minnesota station will give name + county and a Vermont station will give RS(T) + county. This information is NOT required in a BCQP log.

**No one is obligated to trade Qs.**

But it's reciprocally beneficial. Notwithstanding, if someone responds to a BC station calling CQ, s/he is for all intents and purposes entering BCQP and should execute the exchange required of this contest. If that operator wants information for a different contest, such as MNQP, the CQing operator can provide that information AFTER completing the BCQP QSO. Similarly, if a BC operator hears a Minnesota station calling CQ, s/he can "enter" MNQP, exchange required info, and then ask to trade a Q for her/his BCQP log.

**Trades can only be executed between BC stations and in-state MN and VT stations (or other events where trades between a BC station and another station reciprocally build logs).**

An operator in California who is dabbling in MNQP is an out-of-state participant and CANNOT trade a Q with a BC station. However, that station can certainly execute a BCQP QSO and give/receive the BCQP exchange.

### How are traded Qs logged?

First of all, no one is required to log traded Qs. In fact, many operators don't. Why? Because they are focused on their own QSO party and simply want the QSO points and a multiplier.

But... collecting enough Qs in other events and having the details available to create a log for the other event can sometimes be enough to turn into a certificate. If that is a secondary objective for BC operators, then...

**Use the handy multi-party logsheet OR the Note (Cntrl+N) function in N1MM OR scraps of paper to keep track of information from other station(s).**

Trading Qs can become mentally tiring—all the different counties!—and physically cumbersome—too many scraps of paper!—so various materials have been prepared for downloading from the BCQP homepage to facilitate the process: an at-a-glance schedule of same-day events and respective exchange data, and a multi-party log sheet. The schedule allows BC operators to prepare the necessary exchange info and be ready if/when asked to trade a Q.

**The multi-party log sheet IS NOT TO BE SUBMITTED.**

It was created in response to requests from participants who didn't know how to handle traded QSO information. They were overwhelmed with info and often scribbled notes on scraps of paper, which inevitably got lost. A single sheet is so much easier to handle than scraps of paper, and can be used to create separate logs for submission to the respective organizers, if the operator so chooses.

### The BCQP exchange

"Why use federal electoral districts?" "What are they anyway?"

Of all the possible components of an exchange, why did we choose federal electoral districts?

Because BC doesn't have counties, which are the typical component of a QSO party exchange. The province has 42 federal electoral districts. Not too many. Not too few. Easy enough to allow a clean-sweep, one day. Great as a plaque category.

"But, but, but," say the exasperated and unconvinced, "there are no federal electoral lines. No demarcations on a map. No road signs. And, obviously, some people don't vote in the federal election, 'cause they don't know their district."

Yes. All true. But there is a search tool on the elections.ca website, using postal codes to confirm federal electoral district. Very easy.

That said, it is, of course, NOT the responsibility of the operator receiving an "I don't know my district" to figure it out, but knowing might provide a lucrative multiplier. And maybe, if you are on the receiving end of the "I don't know" and help that



operator with the info, you will be encouraging him/her to make more QSOs in BCQP.

The issue of BC operators who don't know their districts or get confused between federal and provincial districts is probably limited to individuals who didn't plan to participate in BCQP. They didn't read the rules. They don't know what the exchange is. They just hear someone calling CQ and want to help with some points. They figure the other operator will know what is required.

As an aside, such situations are not exclusive to BCQP. I have been in contests where the exchange is CQ zone, and I get operators giving me a "2" when they are most definitely in "5". They have mixed up CQ zone and call area of the U.S. So be kind. Be patient. Be prepared with a map or, in the case of BCQP, the Canada Elections URL. ☺

Every year, I receive suggestions about the exchange and well-meaning suggestions for alternatives. "Get rid of 59. It's meaningless." "Use postal codes." "Use age or name." "Use year of licensing." And the list of suggestions does go on. I love the feedback. It's good food for thought. But ...

Using "59" even when the signal is really a 46... yes, meaningless. However, it's contestese. And there's no rule that prevents anyone from giving a true signal report, if "59" really goes against the grain.

Postal codes? There are 190 in BC. So... no.

Age? Name? Year of licensing? Sequential number? Possible, of course, but what would the multiplier be? In contests where a number other than RS(T) is used, the multiplier is based on callsign prefix, and BC stations are typically VA7 or VE7 with the occasion special event callsign. Slim pickings, eh?

Lots of possibilities, but are they practical? That's the deal-maker.

'Nuff said.

#### **Soapbox and Selection of Emailed Comments**

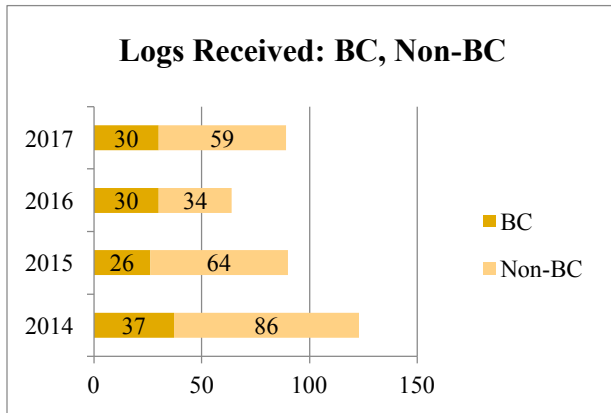
Thanks for the contacts and good luck to everybody.—AA8TA First time for me to work this contest. Had a great time.—VA3QWW Three closely spaced 40m CW contacts at the start of the contest had me very hopeful that I would have many more as the contest proceeded but that was not to be! Off to see the start of the Yukon Quest dogsled race and back to BCQP. A very nice day. —VY1KX Did you match logs with me on eQSL, LoTW, and/or QRZ? Great contest! —W4LID Enjoyed my 2nd BC QSO Party — great fun! —K4VBM The coax at the beam broke off. Had to use my 160m dipole, up 17', oriented E-W. Still had fun! —W8KNO This BC QSO Party was kinda trying, with the poor band conditions and the weather outside. I managed to get 10 QSOs and did not do as well as last year. —VE7BGP Did the ionosphere go on vacation? Absolutely atrocious condx.—VE7JKZ A good training exercise for the club despite crippled Quads. —VE7SCC Very poor conditions, but the 15m opening was a surprise. Always a fun contest. —NW5Q CONDX very poor. Hoped to QSO with many BC stations. Please look for JAs in BCQP.—JH2RMU Canadian ops are always friendly and a pleasure to work! Time for the sunspots to return from vacation.—N9WL We were mobile in the Minnesota QSO Party from four counties.—K0ARF Got lucky, 5 of 6 QSOs within 10 minutes near end of QP. Whew! —WIEND



## Crunching the Numbers

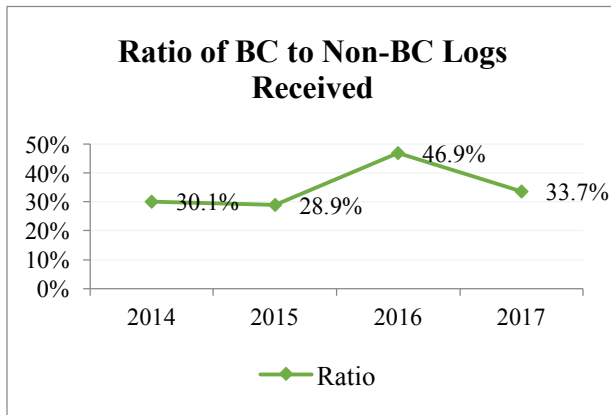
**An analysis of log content can reveal trends that might otherwise be missed.**

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.

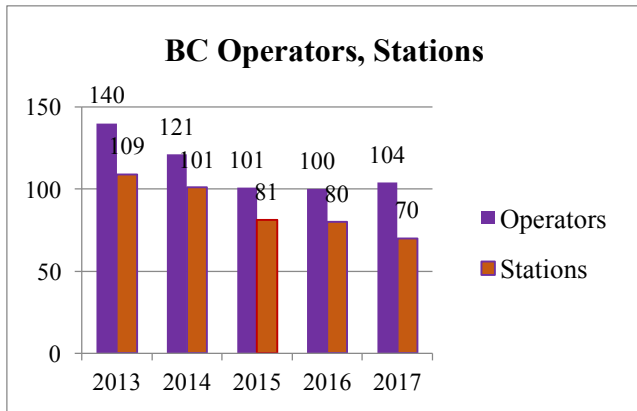


### *Number of Logs*

A total of 89 logs were received, up 25 from a year earlier. This increase is entirely due to more logs received from outside BC, as the number of in-province logs remained flat at 30, while the number of out-of-province logs rose to 59, from 34 in 2016.

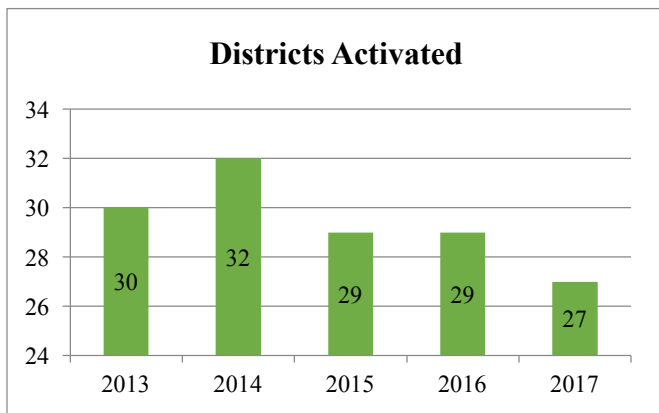


As a result, the BC-to-outside-BC ratio dropped to 33.7%, returning to what appears to be the normal level. In 2016, this ratio evened out at 46.0%, reflecting a huge decrease in out-of-province logs against a stable number of logs from BC stations.



#### **Number of BC Stations on the Air**

Based on the content of submitted logs, the number of in-province stations on the air reached 70, down from 80 a year ago. However, the number of operators rose to 104, from 100 a year ago. This reflects an increase in the number of teams involved in BCQP. A wonderful by-product of team activity was a more pervasive presence on more than one mode.



#### **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—slipped from the previous year, to 27<sup>note</sup>, and the coverage ratio followed suit.

A look at log content shows that in-province stations and out-of-province stations found many of the same districts, but not all — a prime example of how location plays a part in reaching different areas of BC.

Team VE7SCC picked up the most districts— 19— followed closely by Jeff WB8WKQ, with 18. A pervasive presence, maximizing all modes, helps operators catch districts that may only be activated by a limited number of stations and only on one mode.

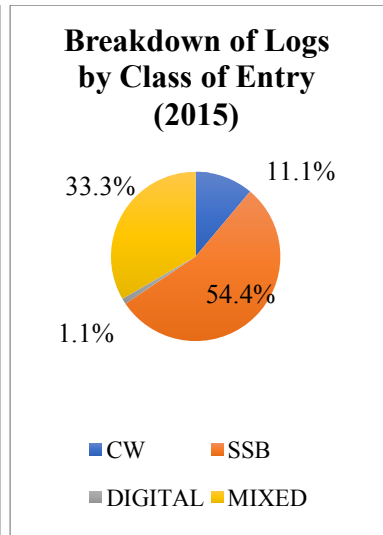
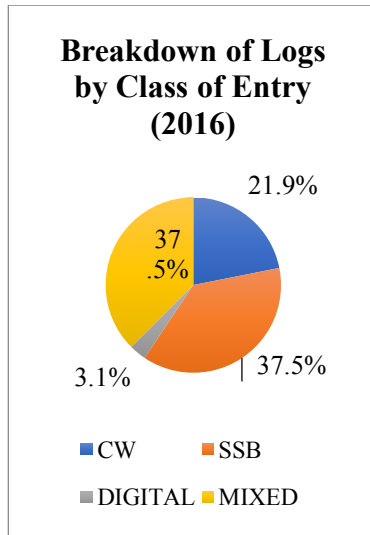
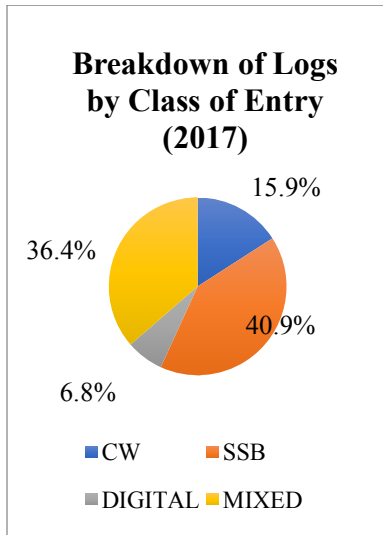
Note: Coverage in 2017: 27 out of 42 (64%)  
 ABF BNS BUS CML COA CPC CPG CSN DEL KEL KTC LAA MMF NAL NPR NVA  
 NWB PMM RIC SBV SGI SUC SUN SWR VAE VAQ WVS

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

#### **Breakdown of Logs by Class of Entry (Mode)**

The breakdown of logs by class of entry reveals 14 CW-only logs—the same number as in 2016; 36 SSB logs, up 12 year-on-year; six DIGITAL-only logs, up four; and 32 MIXED logs, up eight.

SSB and MIXED logs accounted for the majority of entries, with SSB a key component in nearly every MIXED log. As a percentage, the combined number of logs in the SSB and MIXED categories reached 77.3% of total logs received, in 2017, up from 75.0% of the total in 2016. This reflects a 3.4-point increase in SSB-only logs, to 40.9%, of the total against 37.5% a year earlier, which offset a 1.1-point drop in MIXED logs, which accounted for 36.5% of the total in 2017, compared with 37.5% in 2016. DIGITAL-only logs comprised 6.8% of total logs received, compared with 3.1% a year ago, while CW-only logs represented 15.9% of total logs received, down from 21.9%.

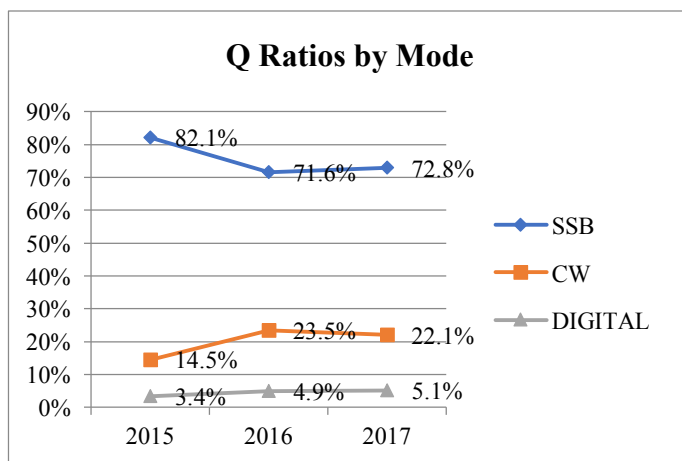


#### Q Ratios

Based on data gleaned from logs received, the number of CW Qs reached 978 in 2017, down from 1,221 in 2016, and the CW ratio (number of CW Qs as a percentage of all Qs in all submitted logs) slipped to 22.1%, from 23.5% a year ago.

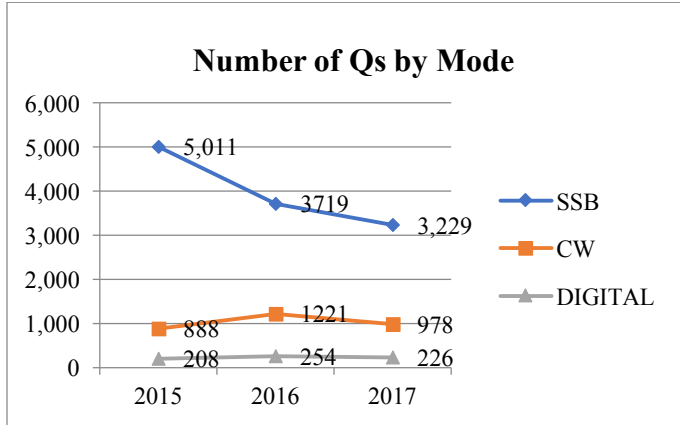
Although SSB was still by far the most productive and popular mode for stations inside and outside BC, the number of Qs in this mode continued to chart a downward path, settling at 3,229 in 2017, compared with 3,719 a year ago. However, the SSB ratio (number of SSB QSOs as a percentage of all Qs in submitted logs) edged up 1.2 points, to 72.8%.

The number of DIGITAL Qs reversed course, dropping to 226, from 254 a year ago, but the DIGITAL ratio improved 0.2 point, to 5.1%. It is interesting to note that 2017 brought out more team participation, and several of these teams dabbled in a bit of DIGITAL, which complemented the otherwise lonely efforts of Barry VA7GEM and sponsor station VA7ODX.



#### Ratios by Mode

Interestingly, Q ratios for SSB and DIGITAL improved even though Q counts fell, mainly because Qs by these modes, as percentages of the reduced aggregate Q count, represented a larger amount than in the previous year.



#### ***Outlook for BCQP 2018***

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 2018 or how conditions will be interpreted by individual operators on event day. However, band conditions are not likely to improve much, and 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 objective 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 continue to be offered in 2018, 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 is facilitated through the generous support of plaque sponsors.

Extended hours may have a positive impact on participation. Alternate suggested frequencies for CW will remain in place for Saturday evening, in case CW operators wish to stay on the air despite the frustration caused by NA Sprint CW.



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 top-category certificate winners; *italics* indicate sponsored plaque winners; \* denotes district award

### Results: BC

Callsign	Category	District	Total QSOs	Mults	Base Score	Bonus	Total Score	Club
<b>*VE7JKZ</b>	SOLP CW	SGI	42	40	6,720	20	6,740	Orca DXCC
<b>*VA7ST</b>	SOLP CW	KEL	36	25	3,600	20	3,620	Orca DXCC
<b>*VE7AHT</b>	SOLP CW	DEL	7	9	252	20	272	Delta ARS
<b>*VE7YL*</b>	SOLP CW	RIC	25	15	1,500	20	1,520	Orca DXCC
<b>*VA7VF*</b>	SOLP SSB	NPR	106	50	10,600	20	10,620	Orca DXCC
<b>*VE7ZZV</b>	SOLP SSB	NWB	25	14	700	20	720	
<b>VE7YJ</b>	SOLP SSB	LAA	9	12	216	20	236	
<b>VA7GAP</b>	SOLP SSB	NVA	7	9	126	40	166	
<b>*VB7150</b>	SOLP DIGI	NVA	63	27	6,804	20	6,824	
<b>*VE7JH</b>	SOLP MIXED	CML	218	118	73,868	20	73,888	Orca DXCC
<b>VA7EU</b>	SOLP MIXED	BNS	51	48	9,024	40	9,064	
<b>*VE7SGW</b>	SOLP MIXED	LAA	46	42	5,880	40	5,920	Delta ARS
<b>VA7YJJ</b>	SOLP MIXED	CML	23	26	1,554	20	1,574	
<b>*VE7BGP</b>	SOLP MIXED	NAL	9	12	264	20	284	Nanaimo ARA
<b>VE7KCY</b>	SOLP MIXED	VAQ	4	5	80		80	
<b>VA7FFT</b>	SOHP SSB	SWR	32	23	1,472	20	1,492	White Rock ARC
<b>*VA7GI</b>	SOHP CW	VAQ	25	19	1,900		1,900	Orca DXCC
<b>*VE7ACN</b>	SOHP MIXED	BNS	164	69	28,152	40	28,192	Orca DXCC
<b>*VE7VR</b>	SOHP MIXED	BUS	70	53	13,780	40	13,820	Orca DXCC



*VE7AX	SOHP MIXED	COA	27	26	2,756		2,756	Orca DXCC
*VE7CV	SOHP MIXED	KTC	21	31	1,674	40	1,714	Orca DXCC
*CG7CMR	MOLP SSB	PMM	31	23	1,426		1,426	Maple Ridge ARC
*VE7NWZ	MOHP SSB	SBV	10	5	100		100	Terrace ARC
VE7JR	MOHP SSB	LAA	checklog				0	Orca DXCC
VE7SAR	MOLP MIXED	SWR	107	57	17,670	60	17,730	Surrey ARC
*VA7QD	MOHP MIXED	SWR	725	226	388,268	80	388,348	Orca DXCC
*VE7SCC	MOHP MIXED	CPC	990	170	349,180		349,180	CARESS (Coquitlam Amateur Radio Emergency Services Society)
VA7ODX	MOHP MIXED	NWB	568	215	327,230		327,230	Orca DXCC
VA7SRY	MOHP MIXED	SWR	535	114	141,816	40	141,856	Surrey ARC
VE7DB	MOHP MIXED	SWR	19	15	780	40	820	White Rock ARC

## Teams

Note: \* indicates YL op

VE7SAR	VA7XNL VA7FMR VE7RGK VE7SXM
VE7DB	VA7NX VE7OM VE7WNO
VE7QD	VA7NLF* VA7NF VA7QD* VE7IO
VE7NWZ	VE7CNQ VE7EDT VA7MNV VE7SXS VE7ECK
VA7ODX	VA7AM VA7BEC* VA7KO
CG7CMR	VA7BZ VA7JPM VA7VX VE7MOC VE7RWX VE7XX
VE7JR	VA7DEP VE7JR VE7XS
VE7SCC	VA7GXM VA7JHW VA7RX VA7XP VE7HHS VE7KCY VE7KW
VA7SRY	VA7VJ VA7XB VE7ADA





### Results: Outside BC

<b>VY1KX</b>	SO QRP MIXED	YT	9	8	272		272	Orca DXCC
<b>WB0IWG</b>	SO QRP SSB	ND	11	10	220	40	260	Minnesota Wireless Assn
<b>K5LH</b>	SOLP CW	TX	17	12	816	40	856	Heart of Texas DX Society
VA3ATT	SOLP CW	ON	11	10	440	20	460	Contest Club Ontario
W1END	SOLP CW	NH	6	5	120	20	140	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
W4HVH	SOLP CW	LA	3	3	36	20	56	
W4ZPR	SOLP CW	VA	3	3	36	20	56	
N3CKI	SOLP CW	VA	3	3	36	20	56	
AA8TA	SOLP CW	OH	3	3	36		36	DELARA Contest Team
VE9ML	SOLP CW	NB	2	2	16	20	36	Maritime Contest Club
<b>W4JHU</b>	SOLP DIGITAL	NC	2	2	16	20	36	CDXA
WB2COY	SOLP DIGITAL	NY	2	2	16	20	36	
WN4AFP	SOLP DIGITAL	SC	1	1	4	20	24	Swamp Fox Contest Group
<b>VA3QWW</b>	SOLP SSB	ON	14	13	364	40	404	
<b>NW5Q</b>	SOLP SSB	TX	11	11	242	60	302	DFW Contest Group
<b>W4LID</b>	SOLP SSB	KY	11	10	220	40	260	
N9WL	SOLP SSB	NM	8	8	128	20	148	
KJ4KKD	SOLP SSB	TN	5	4	40		40	
NM5WB	SOLP SSB	NM	7	6	84	20	104	
WZ6ZZ	SOLP SSB	CA	6	5	60	20	80	
KM6AKK	SOLP SSB	CA	5	5	50	20	70	
N6ENO	SOLP SSB	CA	6	5	60		60	



W0RDE	SOLP SSB	MO	4	4	32	20	52	
KC5DCT	SOLP SSB	TX	4	4	32	20	52	
KE0JYJ	SOLP SSB	NE	5	5	50		50	
W7KAM	SOLP SSB	MO	4	3	24	20	44	Society of Midwest Contesters
K4VBM	SOLP SSB	GA	4	3	24	20	44	Georgia Contest Group
AJ4LN	SOLP SSB	VA	1	1	2	20	22	Sterling Park ARC
KD2KW	SOLP SSB	TX	3	3	18		18	LAARK
AB4GG	SOLP SSB	TN	2	2	8		8	Tennessee Contest Group
K1AUS	SOLP SSB	MT	2	2	8		8	
K7HKR	SOLP SSB	AZ	2	2	8		8	
KC0IUY	SOLP SSB	KS	2	2	8		8	
KC5LL	SOLP SSB	TX	2	2	8		8	
KV4MO	SOLP SSB	TN	2	2	8		8	
KW4LY	SOLP SSB	KY	1	1	2		2	
<b>NG7W</b>	SOLP MIXED	WA	25	24	2,016	100	2,116	Orca DXCC
<i>VE2ZT</i>	SOLP MIXED	QC	22	18	1,368	40	1,408	NorDX Club
KS4X	SOLP MIXED	TN	13	11	396	20	416	Tennessee Contest Group
KI0I	SOLP MIXED	MO	6	5	110	20	130	Kansas City Contest Club
W8KNO	SOLP MIXED	OH	7	5	100	20	120	Mad River Radio Club
K0HNC	SOLP MIXED	KS	6	6	84	20	104	
N4DLR	SOLP MIXED	OH	5	5	80		80	
AB5XM	SOLP MIXED	TX	2	2	16	40	56	
N4ARO	SOLP MIXED	TN	5	4	48		48	Tennessee Contest Group
<b>JO7KMB</b>	SOHP DIGITAL	DX	1	1	4		4	
K0OO	SOHP DIGITAL	MD	1	1	4		4	Potomac Valley Radio Club
<b>K4BAI</b>	SOHP CW	GA	10	8	320	40	360	South East Contest Club



VE2GT	SOHP SSB	QC	7	6	84	20	104	NorDX Club
KF5NRS	SOHP SSB	TX	2	2	8		8	
<b>WB8WKQ</b>	SOHP MIXED	MI	65	45	8,190	100	8,290	
WA8KAN	SOHP MIXED	WV	16	14	756	40	796	
K4EZX	SOHP MIXED	TN	13	11	462	40	502	
AH6AX	SOHP MIXED	MD	10	10	380	40	420	
AF4RK	SOHP MIXED	FL	3	3	24		24	Florida Contest Group
JH2RMU	SOHP MIXED	DX	2	2	12		12	
<b>K0ARF</b>	MOLP SSB	MN	11	7	154	40	194	Keeping Amateur Radio Fun
<b>VE9CRM</b>	MOLP MIXED	NB	11	11	462	60	522	Club radio amateur du Madawaska
<b>W1NVT</b>	MOHP SSB	VT	10	7	140	20	160	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

### Teams

VE9CRM VE1MAM VE9RMO VE9BEL VE1PIN

K0ARF N0UV K0SV

W1NVT W1SJ KB1FRW

### Special certificates:

- Number of SOLP SSB logs submitted warrants presentation of a second and third place certificates to NW5Q and W4LID, respectively.



### **Sponsor Information**

#### **Orca DX and Contest Club**

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### **Did you know?**

The concrete silos at Ocean Concrete's Granville Island facility were transformed into "Giants" in 2014 by Brazilian street artists known as Osgemeos. Great time-lapse video of project at <http://www.vancouverbiennale.com/artworks/giants/>

Burrard Street Bridge, a five-lane, Art Deco style, steel truss bridge, was constructed in 1930-1932. It is one of three bridges that cross False Creek and provides a fabulous view of English Bay.