

# Orca Report: Special Edition

British Columbia QSO  
Party 2012 was a  
tremendous success!



VA7BEC

## Inside

- Page 1**    **Behind the Scenes**  
Coordinator's perspective
  
- Page 3**    **A Whale of a Good Time**  
Numerical analysis
  
- Page 5**    **Results: BC Stations**
  
- Page 7**    **Results: Outside BC**
  
- Page 9**    **BCQP 2013 Invitation**
  
- Page 10**   **Orca DXCC Contact  
Information**

## Behind the Scenes

By Rebecca VA7BEC, Contest Coordinator BCQP

### Pre-Contest Jitters

On Saturday, Feb 4, before the BCQP started, I was filled with cautious hope and a bit of dread. Just as a host/hostess might wonder on the night of a big dinner party: What happens if the invited guests don't show? In my case, as contest coordinator, I wondered, What happens if all the promotion doesn't translate into active participation?

I had brought the sponsorship change to the table, hoping that under the banner of a contesting-oriented group like Orca DXCC the party might have a better chance of success. But there was no guarantee of that, given the challenges that led the previous sponsor to step away.

*A big thank you to all who got involved in BCQP 2012, whether on the air or behind the scenes.*

Orca DXCC



The role of contest coordinator fell to me, probably because I proposed the sponsorship change and had a few years of BCQP behind-the-scenes experience. As coordinator, I could certainly have delegated tasks. But I didn't.\*

First, I didn't want to burden anyone with what could have been an exercise in futility; and second, at that point in time, I thought it would be more efficient, if just one person kept track of correspondence and announcements and that same person fielded associated comments and questions.

\*The website was a major exception. Bud VA7ST did an outstanding job in organizing all the materials I sent him. And talk about fast!

Once the website was up, with all the required rules and tools, I began emailing invitations in earnest. To clubs in BC and beyond. To radio-related organizations. To online calendars. To reflectors and forums. To people who had participated in previous years.

But what if I hadn't done enough?

### **Snowball Promotion**

Every few days, I'd google "BCQP" to see where the event popped up. This was important as pre-QP prep, especially since the sponsor had changed. At the very least, I wanted to make sure that any contest calendars and websites mentioning the event had the correct contact email as well as the appropriate link to the most current rules and tools.

I saw that my invitations and emails were being posted on the websites of clubs and organizations, and then picked up somewhere else again. It was like being spotted on the cluster. It was amazing. It gave me hope.

### **Game Day**

But still I worried. Even with all the extra promotional support, would stations get on the air to call "CQ CQ BCQP" or answer a CQ?

And so, there I sat in front of the radio on Feb 4, watching the clock tick down to start time, wondering if the next 12 hours would be terribly fun or just terrible.

### **It was fun!**

Within the first few hours after calls of "CQ BCQP" stopped, logs began popping into my inbox. Logs with hundreds of QSOs. Logs showing a considerable improvement in VE7/VA7 participation. Logs from people who were entering a contest for the first time and/or using logging software for the first time. Logs from multi-op stations where the BCQP had been used as an opportunity to learn about HF. Logs with "That was fun!" in the soapbox or in the log-attached email.

Some BC stations posted outstanding results. They worked most of the 12 hours and took full advantage of all the other QSO party activity that overlapped with the BCQP. A look at cluster history also shows that these stations were spotted many times, which fueled activity and kept callers busy.

By log deadline, I had received 65 logs—an all-time high—with 27 from BC stations and 38 from non-BC stations. There was improvement in the number of Qs in BC logs and also more Qs—though not a huge number—in logs from outside BC, which means there were more BC stations on the air for these stations to contact. Perusing the logs received, I counted about 120 VE7/VA7s who were either participating on their own or as part of a team. That's **three times more** than in 2011!



From the log submission total, it's obvious that many single-op stations didn't send in a log. For whatever reason. But at least they were on the air, and that's the primary objective of the BCQP.

In addition, it seems that BCQP 2012 was used as an opportunity to introduce new operators to the world of HF and contesting, albeit casual contesting, and to gain familiarity with radios, antennas and logging software. Not everything went smoothly at every station, but that's radio. We have to learn how to deal with glitches and broken equipment and software that doesn't do what we want no matter how much we curse it.

Now the challenge: to build on the success achieved in 2012 and make 2013 even better, whatever criteria are used. So much depends on BC stations getting on the air, not only to answer CQ CQ BCQP but to call CQ CQ BCQP as well. If the 120+ operators who took to the mic, key

and/or keyboard in 2012 can encourage even just one radio pal to get involved in BCQP 2013, what an incredible party it will be.

#### *Soapbox:*

*Three of the four operators at VA7EOC had never operated on the HF bands before. The most often asked question after the BC QSO Party was "When is the next one?" :) — VA7EOC. A good year for 10 meters, soft on 40, and fewer yet on 80. We spent much of our time troubleshooting issues with our 20/15 meter elements on the TH7DX antenna. Not having 20 and 15 distracted us and troubleshooting took much of our time. We also had a late start due to accessing the building where the station is. A good time was had by all!. —VE7BFC.*

*Soapbox continued on next page.*

## A Whale of a Good Time

First BCQP under Orca DXCC sponsorship a tremendous success

The sponsor changed, but the objective was the same: To get more BC stations on the air. In the BCQP, BC stations can work anyone anywhere and stations outside BC have to work BC. Consequently, the involvement of BC stations is vital.

From this perspective, BCQP 2012 was a tremendous success.

A comparison of data in submitted logs for 2011 and 2012 reveals a remarkable improvement in participation, in terms of federal electoral districts represented as well as the number of VE7/VA7s on the air and support from outside the province.

In 2011, activity was concentrated in the Lower Mainland, with submitted logs showing contacts with stations in only 15 <sup>note 1</sup> of BC's 36 federal

electoral districts—the multipliers in this QSO party since the province does not have the typical QSO party county exchange. In 2012, geographical coverage grew to 27 <sup>note 2</sup> federal electoral districts, providing more opportunities to collect multipliers and build a higher score.

Based on callsigns in submitted logs, the number of BC operators who got on the air, either as a single-op or in multi-op stations, more than tripled, from 39 in 2011 to 123 in 2012.

The number of submitted logs jumped from 31 in 2011 to 65 in 2012. A breakdown reveals a 125% increase in logs from BC stations, up from 12, to 27, and a 100% increase in logs from non-BC stations, up from 19, to 38. For the first time ever, two logs came from DX locations (Japan).



## Soapbox continued

*We had a great time with this contest.... Lets do it again next year. — **VE7LFE**. Great to see more activity from BC stations this year. — **VE7WWW**. Thank you for an interesting contest. Hope to find more participation next year. — **N7SV**. I really enjoyed BCQP 2012. — **VE7JT**. Had fun but the band conditions weren't in our favour. — **VE8GER**. Guess I didn't look often enough. Thanks everyone. — **WIEND**. Only part-time between MN QSOs. Will see more of you next year! — **VE3KZ**. Thank you for sponsoring this event, look forward to next year's! — **VA7AQD**. Not many contacts but it still was a lot of fun! — **VE7TK**. Activity was a bit sparse, but had a few busy moments when spotted. Good fun for Orca's first outing in this one. — **VA7ST**. My first QSO party, and first contesting in a long time. It was fun. — **VE7JWS**. Great day working from VE7XS 'Project' - glad to participate and support the contest. Looking forward to 2013 - maybe Bill can play next year instead of working. — **VE7JR**. It was good fun. — **VE7SP**. One more than last year and I heard three that I was unable to work. — **W8KNO**. Here's an entry from the "other" coast. — **VE1NB***

In 2011, only three of the 12 BC logs received had more than 100 Qs. The number quadrupled in 2012, with 12 of the 27 BC logs showing more than 100 Qs. Even at stations where the operator(s) could only spend a few hours here and there during the 12-hour contest period, the number of Qs averaged more than 50.

Because there were more VE7/VA7s on the air, stations outside BC had more opportunities for QSOs with BC stations. This translated into a marked improvement in the number of Qs in logs from outside BC in 2012. The average doubled, moving from four Qs, to eight.

For reference, the top BC result in 2011, irrespective of category, was by Brian VE7WEB (now, VE7WO) with 170 Qs and a score of 32,800 points. He entered in the SINGLE-OP LOW MIXED category. The top non-BC result was by Jules N2WN with 12 Qs and a score of 420 points. He entered in the SINGLE-OP QRP MIXED category.

The 2012 event acquired more of a competitive tone, as Ken VE7BC demolished last year's SINGLE-OP LOW MIXED record by a BC operator with 529 Qs and a score of 167,402 points. Meanwhile, Dick N7RO delivered the best results by a non-BC station with 41 Qs and a score of 3,558 points in the SINGLE-OP LOW MIXED category. Numerous hours at the radio and a determined effort to find multipliers were the keys to these outstanding scores.

Then there is the multi-op class. In 2012, five multi-op stations submitted logs, all reflecting many hours of hard work. While location and power do impact results, the showing by VE7JR was the most amazing in terms of numbers: 866 Qs and a score of 313,492.

It must be noted, however, that the results of all participants are noteworthy, individually, in certain components of the station log or in the fact that someone got involved in a QSO party for the first time, and also overall, in contributing to the success of BCQP 2012. The progress shown in 2012 was made possible by the efforts of everyone who got on the air. Congratulations to you all.

It was a whale of a good time. Let's do it again next year.

### Notes:

1. Coverage in 2011:  
BNW BUD DRE KEL KTC LAN PMM NND NWC NVA SBV SWC SYN  
VAQ VIC
2. Coverage in 2012:  
BNW BSI BUD CPG DRE FPK KEL KOC KTC LAN NAA NND NVA  
NWC OKS PGP PMM PWP RMD SGI SWC SYN VAE VAQ VIC VIN WVS



## Results

Total Score = [(CW/DG QSOs @ 4 points + SSB QSOs @ 2 points) x multipliers] + bonus points

### BC Stations

Call	District	CW	SSB	DG	Total Points	Mults	Bonus	Total Score	Club
<b>SOLP SSB</b>									
VE7CV	KTC		418		836	135	40	112,900	Orca DXCC
VE7JT	PWP		253		506	101		51,106	
VE7JWS	KEL		61		122	24		2,928	Orchard City ARC
VE7WWW	KTC		37		74	32	20	2,388	
VA7GAP	NVA		33		66	20	40	1,360	
VE7GM	SWC		12		24	14	40	376	
VE7GHW	DRE		13		26	10		260	
<b>SOLP CW</b>									
VA7ST	KEL	46			184	35	20	6,460	Orca DXCC
VE7YL	RMD	45			180	32		5,760	Orca DXCC
<b>SOLP MIXED</b>									
VE7BC	NND		525	4	1,066	157	40	167,402	Orca DXCC
VE7WO	NND	29	173		462	114	40	52,708	Orca DXCC
VA7AQD	KTC		22	17	112	37	20	4,164	
VE7MID	BUD	1	16		36	21	20	776	
VE7KE	KTC		15		30	17	40	550	
VE7FO	VAQ	1	7		18	11		198	BCDX
<b>SOHP SSB</b>									
VE7SNC	PGP		273		546	57		31,122	
<b>SOHP MIXED</b>									
VE7VR	BNW	5	203		426	99	60	42,234	Orca DXCC
VA7KO	DRE	68	3	21	362	69	60	25,038	Orca DXCC
VE7IO	SWC	42	42		252	66	80	16,712	Orca DXCC
VE7TK	SGI		120		240	50		12,000	
VA7FC	VIN		83	3	178	59	20	10,522	
VE7SP	DRE		9		18	11	20	218	Orca DXCC



**MOLP - SSB**

VA7EOC	VAE		126		252	67	20	16,904	VECTOR
--------	-----	--	-----	--	-----	----	----	--------	--------

**MOLP - MIXED**

VE7BFC	BUD		112	4	240	71	20	17,060	BCIT ARC
VE7OGO	KEL	1	103		210	52	20	10,940	Orchard City ARC

**MOHP - SSB**

VE7JR	LAN		866		1,732			313,492	Orca DXCC
VE7LFE	PMM		534		1,068	105	40	112,180	Maple Ridge ARC

**Sponsor Station: MOHP MIXED**

VA7ODX	BNW	106	311	62	1,294	219	—	283,386	Orca DXCC
--------	-----	-----	-----	----	-------	-----	---	---------	-----------

**Multi-Op Stations**

VA7EOC: VE7CTC VE7EES VA7KMG  
 VA7ODX: VA7BEC VA7KO VE7FO VE7XF  
 VE7BFC: VA7XI VE7SDI VE7WNK  
 VE7JR: AA7CH VA7AQ VA7XB VE7CZV VE7DPE VE7IDI VE7JR VE7XS  
 VE7LFE: VA7BZ VA7VX VA7ZJR VE7EAR VE7FY VE7LFE VE7QJ VE7XX  
 VE7OGO: VA7AMW VE7EFG VE7ENP VE7FI VE7MSS VE7XY

*From the log-checker's notebook: The abbreviation for Nebraska is NE **not** NB, which is the abbreviation for New Brunswick.*

*Trivia: Nebraska had been abbreviated NB by the US Postal Service initially but was changed in 1969 to NE to avoid confusion with New Brunswick. Indeed!*



## Outside BC

Call	P/S/ DX	CW	SSB	DG	Mults	Bonus	Total Score	Club
<b>SOQRP DG</b>								
JM2RUV	JA			1	1		4	
<b>SOQRP MIXED</b>								
KS4X	TN	2	9		10	40	300	Tennessee Contest Group
<b>SOLP SSB</b>								
W7WEC	WA		21		19	40	838	Western Washington DX Club
AE6YB	CA		18		16	20	596	Northern California Contest Club
VA3GKO	ON		12		11	20	284	Contest Club Ontario
KF7GYE	AZ		12		11	20	284	
WA5SWN	KS		10		10	20	220	
K2DSL	NJ		10		9	20	200	Bergen ARA
N7VS	OR		7		7	20	118	Willamette Valley DX Club
N9WL	NM		7		6	20	104	
VE8GER	NT		7		6	20	104	
K7JKM	OR		7		7		98	
W7KAM	MO		6		6		72	Society of Midwest Contesters
KD8GRG	MI		5		4	20	60	
W8KNO	OH		3		3	20	38	
KE4KE	MN		3		3		18	Minnesota Wireless Association
VE3EXW	ON		3		3		18	Oakville ARC
W0NFS	MO		2		2		8	Mississippi Valley DXCC
VE9ML	NB		1		1		2	Maritime Contest Club
K0VG	MN	checklog						
<b>SOLP CW</b>								
VE1NB	NS	9			9	60	384	Maritime Contest Club
N3KR	PA	5			5	20	120	Frankfurt Radio Club
W1END	NH	4			4	20	84	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
JA2CUS	JA	1			1		4	
<b>SOLP DG</b>								
W4JHU	VA			2	2	40	56	



**SOLP MIXED**

N7RO	WA	5	35	1	37	80	3,558	Orca DXCC
ND3D	MD	8	3		11	40	458	Potomac Valley Radio Club
WB7CYO	ID		11	2	11	20	350	
W4BK	TN	4	3		7	20	174	Tennessee Contest Group
VE2AWR	QC	6			6	20	164	
VE9OA	NB	1	4		5	20	80	
KC7H	WA		4		4		32	
NY4JB	TN		1		1		2	Tennessee Contest Group

**SOHP SSB**

W1NVT (W1SJ)	VT		8		6		96	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
-----------------	----	--	---	--	---	--	----	---------------------------------------

**SOHP CW**

VE1OP	NS	4			4	40	104	Maritime Contest Club
-------	----	---	--	--	---	----	-----	-----------------------

**SOHP MIXED**

VE3KZ	ON	2	9		11	40	326	Contest Club Ontario
KB2SSZ	NY	4	5		8	20	228	
KR9E	IN		5		5	20	70	Daviess County ARC

*From the log-checkers' notebook: Check your log before you submit it to ensure you have input the correct category information (class, mode, power and operator call sign(s)).*





Mark Your Calendars: First Saturday in February

## British Columbia QSO Party 2013

1600z February 2 to 0400z February 3

### Objectives:

Stations outside British Columbia, make as many contacts as you can with VE7/VA7 stations.

British Columbia stations, make as many contacts as you can with other stations in the province as well as the rest of Canada, into the United States and beyond.

- ✓ Original-photo certificates for top scores in all classes, BC and outside BC.
- ✓ The BCQP is fully supported by N1MM contest logging software and CQ/X GPS-enabled software for mobile contesting.
- ✓ Go to <http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp.html> for rules, tools and updates.

### Questions?

Email the contest coordinator, Rebecca VA7BEC at [va7bec@rac.ca](mailto:va7bec@rac.ca) or [bcqp@orcadxcc.org](mailto:bcqp@orcadxcc.org)

**Join Orca DXCC in BCQP 2013.**

**We'll have a(nother) whale of a good time!**



## Sponsor Information

### Orca DX and Contest Club

Callsign                      VA7ODX

Mailing address            105A - 8988 Fraserton Court  
Burnaby, BC Canada V5J 5H8

Website                      [www.orcadxcc.org](http://www.orcadxcc.org)

Email                          [bcqp@orcadxcc.org](mailto:bcqp@orcadxcc.org)

