

BC QSO CHALLENGE

NEWSLETTER

February 10 - 11 2007

Saturday February 10 1600z

(8:00 am PST) to

Sunday February 11 3:59z

(8:00 pm (Feb 10) PST)

Check Your District

.Not Sure what Your District is?

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VE7XF - part two

*Ve7xf continues his story on
contesting*

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HELLO B.C. AND THE REST OF CANADA

This edition of the Newsletter is being distributed to clubs across Canada. We're asking for your help in spreading the word about the B.C. QSO Challenge to as many hams as you know.

The B.C. QSO Challenge is being held Feb 10 - 11, 2007. We call on all hams, especially who like to contest, to make this an exciting weekend. The objective is for all VE/VA7s and non VE/VA7s alike to work hams inside BC and log as many districts as possible.

We need VE/VA7s on the air in every federal electoral district of B.C. and hope you will participate in your district.

A list of the 36 federal electoral districts is presented on page 2. Full contest rules are available at:

<http://www.deltaamateurradio.com/BC%20QSO%20CONTEST.htm>

We look forward to having you join us Feb 10 - 11 in what promises to be great fun for hams in B.C. and the rest of Canada.

73's

Gordon Dick, President, Delta Amateur Radio Society



This year, the exchange for the B.C. QSO Challenge will be federal electoral ridings, and the goal is to work as many VE/VA7s in as many districts as possible. Can anyone get all 36 districts? But more importantly, can we count on you B.C. hams to represent your district? We need everyone to be on the air so non-VE/VA7s have an easy time making contacts with hams in all B.C. districts.

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Contesting, part II by VE7XF

Now that winter is upon us (even here in the Lower Mainland), you're probably huddled around the transistors in your shack, trying to keep warm. The lucky ones will have big tube amplifiers that give off a lot of heat, not to mention a nice warm glow.

You might even be thinking about using that amplifier in the upcoming BC QSO Challenge. It would certainly give you a louder signal, more easily heard in a far corner of the galaxy when condx are poor (as they seem to be these days).

But perhaps not as loud as you thought. If you're using a 'normal' power of 100 watts out (as most xcvs are these days) and you're S7 in Mellonville (not a bad report), switching on that 1000 watt amplifier will make your signal 10 db stronger. An S-unit is generally considered to be either 6 or 12 db, so your signal is now about S9 in Mellonville - not really a big change. And you'll be in a different entry class, competing with other 'big boys'.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that your 100 watt signal can get out pretty well, so you don't really 'need' an amp to have fun in a contest. I almost always enter in the 'low power' category - it's technically much less complicated, and I can usually work almost everything I can hear - you can, too. I assume that the station I'm calling is using similar power, so I will be as loud to him/her as he/she is to me. (To keep the shack warm, I use a plug-in heater :-)

If you want a better bang-for-the-buck, improve your antenna system first! If you're using a vertical, put more radials under it. If you're using a dipole, put it up higher, or get a directional antenna. If you're using a beam, put it up higher

BC QSO Districts

<i>AB</i>	<i>Abbotsford</i>
<i>SI</i>	<i>BC Southern Interior</i>
<i>BD</i>	<i>Burnaby/Douglas</i>
<i>BN</i>	<i>Burnaby/New Westminster</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Cariboo/Prince George</i>
<i>CF</i>	<i>Chilliwack/Fraser Canyon</i>
<i>DR</i>	<i>Delta/Richmond East</i>
<i>EJ</i>	<i>Esquimalt/Juan de Fuca</i>
<i>FP</i>	<i>Fleetwood/Port Kells</i>
<i>KT</i>	<i>Kamloops/Thompson/Cariboo</i>
<i>KL</i>	<i>Kelowna/Lake Country</i>
<i>KC</i>	<i>Kootenay/Columbia</i>
<i>LA</i>	<i>Langley</i>
<i>NA</i>	<i>Nanaimo/Alberni</i>
<i>NC</i>	<i>Nanaimo/Cowichan</i>
<i>NN</i>	<i>Newton/North Delta</i>
<i>NW</i>	<i>New Westminster/Coquitlam</i>
<i>NV</i>	<i>North Vancouver</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Okanagan/Shuswap</i>
<i>OC</i>	<i>Okanagan/Coquihalla</i>
<i>PM</i>	<i>Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge/Mission</i>
<i>PW</i>	<i>Port Moody/Westwood/Port Coquitlam</i>
<i>PP</i>	<i>Prince George/Peace River</i>
<i>RI</i>	<i>Richmond</i>
<i>SG</i>	<i>Saanich/Gulf Islands</i>
<i>SB</i>	<i>Skeena/Bulkley Valley</i>
<i>SW</i>	<i>South Surrey/White Rock/Cloverdale</i>
<i>SN</i>	<i>Surrey North</i>
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vancouver Center</i>
<i>VE</i>	<i>Vancouver East</i>
<i>VN</i>	<i>Vancouver Island North</i>
<i>VK</i>	<i>Vancouver Kingsway</i>
<i>VQ</i>	<i>Vancouver Quadra</i>
<i>VS</i>	<i>Vancouver South</i>
<i>VI</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>WV</i>	<i>West Vancouver/Sunshine Coast/Sea to Sky country</i>

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too, or switch to a 'trapless' antenna. Every little bit helps. And your antenna improvements will help your receiving situation too. Once you've gone as far as you can go with your antenna, THEN you can invest in a high power amp.

A little bit about contest scoring: In the old days, paper logs were checked by real people, and it took a loooong time to determine the results. Nowadays, most of the big contest sponsors (CQ, ARRL, etc.) use software to score submitted logs. Log anomalies are put into a "UBN" file - Unique, Busted or Not in log.

Unique:

Good for you if you get on the air just to give your buddy a few points. But please try to make a few more contacts as well. If your call appears in only one log, there is a tendency for the log-checkers to think that your buddy is 'padding' his log with an imaginary contact to increase his score. This is known as a "unique". If your call appears in a few more logs, the doubt is removed, and all is well.

Busted:

You work W5ZLF, but log him as W5CLF. The checking software matches you up by time and band, but sees that you got his call wrong. He gets the points, but you have made an error, so you don't get any points, and often you pay a penalty as well, just to make you suffer. Make sure you have his call correct, and log it correctly.

Not in log:

You might not appear in someone else's log for any one of many reasons. e.g.: if W5ZLF is not sure of YOUR call, and you've QSYed down the band, he might not log you, for fear of losing more points (see Busted) - so you're Not In his Log.

The moral of the story is: be careful with your logging.

Please try to get on for the B.C. QSO Challenge, and give out a few multipliers for the poor non-VE7s who wish they lived here.

VE7XF

My thanks to VA7BEC for helping in putting this newsletter together.