

California QSO Party

CQP & improving your operating skills



Quick! Mark the weekend of October 4th and 5th 2014 on your calendar and start planning for a weekend of radio fun!

The first full weekend of October marks the annual running of the California QSO Party (CQP) – the most fun you can have with a radio if you live in the Golden State! This year marks the 49th running of CQP sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club.

Why contest? From an operating point of view, most aspects of Ham Radio from Public Service, chasing DX to working contests have one thing in common – accurate and timely copying of information often under stress. Entering a contest—either casually to or as a serious, full time effort—is a great exercise in operating “under fire”.

The first full weekend of October (October 4th & 5th this year) sees the annual running of the California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

We are the DX! Whether you’re a “Big gun” or “Little pistol”, CQP is a great opportunity for you to be on the receiving end of a pileup or to search and pounce for other states and countries.

You can easily Work All States in a single weekend especially with everyone looking for you. And there’s DX to be worked: it’s possible to work all continents during CQP.

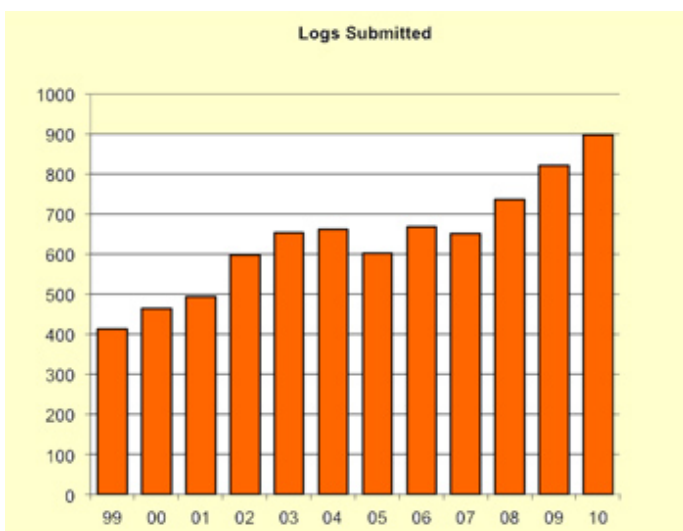
For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California. Want to be on the end of a really big pile up? Plan a County Expedition to one of the rarer California counties—and the rest of the world will beat a path to YOU. Check out the counties activation planning map on the CQP web site at

<http://www.cqp.org/Counties-Plan-2014.html>

You may be surprised to find that some of the rarest counties often lay on your doorstep.

Low Power, High Power? CW or SSB? CQP is a fun contest for all.

CQP is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club, and organized by a group of dedicated, experienced volunteers coordinated by Chris Tate, N6WM – CQP Chair. CQP continues to see healthy growth in submitted logs. In 2013 we had well over 900 logs submitted! CQP rivals many national and international contests in participation and awards. Our goal is to break the 1000 log level in



2014.

Every station that submits a log is eligible for an achievement certificate and there are several operating categories where the leader receives a special CQP plaque for proud display on the shack wall. Of course, since we are in California, the top 20 scores submitted in California and Outside California qualify for a special award – a bottle of NCCC Private Reserve Wine with personalized label. The wine is graciously donated by Twisted Oak Winery and is a limited production Tempranillo crafted by wine maker and NCCC member Jeff Stai, WK6I.

Three categories are designed to encourage operation in contests:

- YL award
- Youth (< 18) award
- California New Contester



So if you've never entered a contest or have only dabbled in the past, this award category is for you!

If you work all 58 counties, you qualify for the "Worked All California Counties Award" sponsored by NCCC. You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>

Part time or full, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast! We hope you will join us this year and have a lot of Fun!

Chris Tate, N6WM, CQP Chair