
2009 California QSO Party Soapbox Comments

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It's been a couple of years since participating in the CQP with a serious effort. During the weekend realized how much I missed the action. Thought I was not going to pick up NT and ran across VE8 inside of 3 minutes at the end of the contest. With all the congestion on 20M Saturday afternoon seemed really difficult on phone to get a run going with low power. Sunday stations were spread out enough on 20 to get some good phone runs going. Congrats to many big scores. ...**AA6PW**. Unfortunately I was not able to put many hours into this one. Great turnout in CA as usual, and 20m/15m band conditions were excellent. Looking forward to CAQP 2010. It should be a very good year. ...**AD4EB**. Had a great time. I was operating CW only and had hoped for a clean sweep, but missed it by 3 counties. Well, now I have a goal for next year. See you then. ...**AD5WI**. Thanks to K6TA and K6KO for being outstanding hosts and letting me use their terrific ridge-top location in Amador County -- much more fun than from home!. ...**AE6Y**. This year's score is my personal best for CQP.. ...**AE6YB**. Thanks for a fun CQP. I had a blast. This contest takes me out of my S&P comfort zone, but its something this relatively new

contest op needed. Thanks for the patience through some of those "deer in the headlights" moments. I did learn a lot through the process. I could probably do better if I would learn to stay in the chair when the rate starts to drop. My pre-contest goal was 300 Qs, but I made that Saturday night and set my sites on 500. I got my 500th QSO right at the buzzer(not including dupes). ...**AF6EV**. This was my best ever contest. Triple my previous scores. Almost a clean sweep only missed NT. Equipment did real well. I had not done 3 hour pile ups before. 73. ...**AF6JP**. Thanks to the organizers and participants for a fun event, and to Lloyd KH6LC for the use of his station for yet another year. ...**AH6RE**. This year I especially enjoyed participating in CQP. Having spent three wonderful weeks in your beautiful state during my very first visit to the US (April 2009), all the nice memories came back. Every city and county now has a meaning to me. Can't wait to get there again. As I promised in Visalia at the DX Convention: I'll be back. 73 to all my friends over there de Gary, DF2RG and XYL Alveena, DE1AJS. Cuagn in Visalia in 2010, latest 2011. Oh, by the way, it was such a pleasure to hear strong signals from W6 nearly until the end of the contest on 20M.

Next time I will break the 100 QSO barrier. Some stations were actually very surprised about DX stations calling them. Maybe you should add some DX multiplier value to the CQP, otherwise we feel sometimes disturbing you in working the CONUS VE multipliers. Just my 2 cents. ...**DF2RG**. Wow, what an opening this year! Working mobile stations at 9000 km distance in phone felt like sunspot maximum. Special thanks to the stations in Lassen, Sierra, San Benito, Del Norte and Kings! Your activity allowed me to work the last "new ones" in CA. ...**DL3GA**. I had a lot of fun with 100W and a dipole. ...**DL4FN**. That was great! I started wishing to add to my "county hunter" totals. The propagation was good and I couldn't stop! On Sunday, propagation was great on 15M! I was finally able to contact 53 of the 58 counties, the missing being Lake, Colusa, Tuolumne, Yuba and San Francisco. Thanks a lot to all CA station that took time for me, when necessary!...**F1JKJ**. Only SFRA was left for the sweep! S&P only -- not a single CQ. No assistance. The new international allocation of 7100-7200 kHz contributed to my score. Hopefully this will be the Asia record. I was excited ...**JH3PRR**.

W0BH was control-op only for one unlicensed Hesston College student (Ryan). The past number of years, the Hesston College ARC has enjoyed the CQP as a great way to practice for Sweepstakes. This weekend was a busy one for students and only one of the groups made it on the air the last hour. Ryan, an Air Traffic Control student at Hesston College, had never made an amateur radio contact before. He started out looking for stations on 20m and learned how to log. When he finished sweeping the band on Sunday afternoon, Ryan also got a taste of a pileup as I introduced him to running for the last 15 minutes. He commented afterwards that he was sorry he hadn't come out sooner! Thanks to everyone for their patience. ...**K0HC**. Thanks for all the work in putting on the CA QSO Party, again...It's so nice to be able to "Call Home" (having grown up in San Bernardino). It was a great party from this end. See you all next year, and maybe I'll have a better score too! ...**K0LDS**. The premier State QSO Party. Excellent! I completed the sweep at 21:39z Saturday with TUOL. Ended up close to 800 Q's. I consider the CQP to be the kick-off to the contest season. Hope this is an indication of things to come as this was my best CQP yet. TNX to all the CA stations and especially K6AQL, N6O, W6YX for lots of activity and fun. ...**K0OU**. Although this wasn't a full-time effort for me, this is my best score in the CaQP to date. At times 15 meters had signals

booming into MN. I got too tired to spend much time on 160 meters but did manage to work a few stations. Too bad there wasn't a 10M opening into our area. I am not certain where the mobile stations were hiding! I did not hear many of them this year. ...**K0RC**. Heavy participation, great operators, and fairly good conditions = lots of fun. ...**K1BV**. This is always a fun contest with lots of activity. I missed MARP and BUTT. Thanks for all the Q's. ...**K1ZZI**. Unfortunately, various activities conspired to permit me only about 90 minutes to operate this year, but as always I had a good time. Thanks to all the operators who took the time to pull me out of the mud. ...**K2DBK**. This past weekend I didn't think I'd be doing any contesting, but as things ended up, I had the afternoon and early evening free on Saturday and the California QSO Party was in full swing, so I started making contacts. I ended up making about 120 contacts on Saturday. On Sunday before the football games began I made more contacts and ended up with 186 total contacts. There are 58 counties in California and I was able to make contact with 55 of them. This QSO Party was tremendous fun and the ops were fantastic. I'll definitely try and catch this QSO Party next year.. Kenwood TS-2000 w/ 100w to G5RV. ...**K2DSL**. Nice to see good openings on 15M. Lots of EU on 15 and 20. Best personal score and broke my previous county record but what great competition.

Maybe it's time to learn to SO2R. As always, thanks to Brad, K6IDX, for use of his fine station. Used new radio that was delivered by UPS Friday afternoon and after some work had perfect equipment weekend!!! Murphy finally stayed away. that was delivered by UPS Friday afternoon and after some work had perfect equipment weekend!!! Murphy finally stayed away. And... thanks to all for the QSOs. ...**K2RD (at K6IDX)**. This is the "King" of QSO parties!. ...**K2XE**. TS850 TO WINDOM AT 45 FEET, ALS 600 Had a non-contester ham friend (K8SV) and his wife visiting for the weekend, so I had him S&Ping (mostly Sing) on phone, while I spent some time on CW. Nice to have 15M open up on Sunday afternoon after Rick left. With 15 minutes to go I was still missing LAKE and was pretty much consigned to being one short when I took one more sweep on 20 CW for new calls. Answered N6ZFO and was so surprised when he sent LAKE that I mucked up the N1MM log entry and had to get a repeat. ...**K3TN**. Pretty good conditions. Good activity. Glad for good openings on 15M. 80 and 160 were pretty noisy and only W6YI could copy me well enough on 160M to get the number. Several other CA stations were loud there. ...**K4BAI**. My first contest!. Didn't have much time available but I still enjoyed it. Nice job and great web site. ...**K5STZ**. Always fun -- just forgot CaQP was this weekend! But got a couple of hours in. ...**K5WAF**.

I operated from my VW mobile parked at the beach. Next year I plan to put more time into the contest. Lots of fun. ...**K6ACJ**. Best conditions in years. 15M was on again off again both days. But several EU stations called in much to my surprise. 40 was great from about 5 til 8 Sat. Thanks to all for the moves and to all you NCCC guys for pulling me out of the noise on 15 and 20. And to VE8EV for showing up with 15 min to go for the sweep. Congrats to all the many SDIE boys (and girls) who came out and to our secret weapon, N6MJ for an incredible finish from W6YI. ...**K6AM**. This was fun! I almost fell out of my chair when I was called by OK1CF while calling "CQP" on Sunday morning on 20CW. ...**K6CSL**. Very limited time available this year. Had a very nice run of EU stations on 20. Being a fresh call on Sunday produced a nice rate for a while. Thanks for the Q's. ...**K6CTA**. We had a good time, but would it have been better with the KL7 and the YT. Propagation could have been better. ...**K6DW**. Made lots of spots per my usual operating style. Mostly Hunt-N-Pounce but did a few minutes of running on SSB. Running is just not my style or interest. Last Mult was NT (VE8EV) in the last 20m of the activity. I usually try for the sweep but missed several mults; RI, KY, ID, IA, ND. Some PC-to-Rig interface issues. Lost ability to read/set Frequency so that makes sending spots difficult. Later, after reboot and futzing around with the WriteLog menus and set up, I got it back. Keyer

(Winkeyer USB) sometimes failed... could not adjust speed with the front panel knob and things slowed down to about 15 WPM. Later that mysteriously fixed itself (maybe it was the PC reboot that did it). Maybe its time to swap in the K2 rig and interface it to the ICOM little amp. Could be a Winter-time project. My son has been bugging me to get a modern PC or laptop. Have one coming for the XYL this month so will have a chance to evaluate it for radio use (Vista OS) if she will let me touch it! (she has been suffering with a pretty old Window 2000 ME OS for a long time.) Sunday morning is church time. I get on for about 30-minutes before going out the door. Return for a few operating hours in the afternoon. ...**K6III**. Great job every year with this contest, kudos to all that help organize this. It's usually one of the best overall times I have every year. I usually travel to Plumas, but family kept me close to home this year. ...**K6JS**. That was fun. And without 10 meters too. No frequency fights, no pig farmers, no Murphy during the contest - he did visit before and after. There was always enough activity to find a place to get a little run going, CW & phone. My best run was on 40 CW from 0029Z - 0123Z with 116 QSOs followed by 176 on 40 phone, 0128Z - 0227Z. I guess it took me 6 minutes to find the right 40 phone frequency. 40 opened early and long. I don't remember ever having runs like that from home, especially on 40 meters. There were a lot of

ESP QSOs on 15 meters, followed by really loud QSOs. The propagation was very in and out. Fortunately, it was more in for a while Sunday morning, which kept the band/mode skipping paying off with decent rate. I lost an amp before the contest, so the 2nd radio was barefoot. The remaining amp shut down twice during the contest, letting me twice suffer the longest 3 minutes in ham radio, but otherwise kept putting out the power. I noticed during the contest that my email was frozen. When I took my sleep break I decided not to check my email, so I didn't reboot the computer. When the contest ended and I rebooted, Windows wouldn't come up. Fortunately, I had done a full backup Friday night, and, fortunately, I was able to boot to Safe Mode and get my CQP log file on a thumb drive, so after a few hours I was back in business. If I had rebooted earlier, I wouldn't have gotten any sleep. ...**K6LA**. Weather-wise, this was our worst year ever. The wind is always an issue, but a front went through Saturday afternoon, causing constant 45 MPH winds, with 65 MPH gusts. Our little tower trailer was not built to withstand that, so we cranked the tower down. Very early Sunday morning, the reflector on the 2 el 40M yagi turned and began hitting various elements on the tribander, causing receive noise and the amp to kick off if we happened to be transmitting. We finally gave up at about 20Z. We apologize to those we just couldn't pull through the QRM, QRN, wind, and noise.

Thanks to all the great ops and NCCC for making this a wonderful contest!...**K6QK**. With the exception of 10 meters, conditions were excellent. Many more DX Q's this year, especially EU. Biggest thrill was contacting VE8EV (NT) for the sweep - fifteen minutes before the end of the contest....**K6RIM**. I was on my way to my best score ever, but a scheduling conflict kept me away from the shack from 4:30 to 8:30 local time. That--and a few hours of sleep--cost me 2:32 of time. Ah well. Fun as always and the DX participation seemed to be up this year. It was great to see 15 M open. I was called by EU stations on 15. ...**K6SRZ**. This was my first serious attempt at participating in the Cal QSO Party - encouraged by one of my oldest friends and former CAQP Chairman Kevin K6TD. Thank you Kev!!! I had a ton of fun despite inadequate antennas and band conditions that seemed to want to make you work DX rather than the US! This was also my first Phone/CW contest using my new radio - the Flex Radio 5000. What a radio! It performed flawlessly and the receiver with brick wall filters was unbelievable in handling strong local signals yet still getting the wanted signal clear and out of the QRM. My hats off to Gerald Youngblood and his team at Flex Radio - they have made a world beater. I'll be back next year with better antennas and maybe more power. Thanks to all at CQP for putting this together for (yet!) another year. Also to my wife whose enthusiasm for

QSO milestones was as great as mine! ...**K6TU**. With 2 ruptured disks in my neck this was tough. 10 minutes on; 20 minutes of icing. ...**K6UM**. My first CQP and I really enjoyed it! I was using a low random wire, so I'm sure my 100 watts had an ERP considerably less than that. My thanks to those operators who worked with me and patiently dug my weak signal out of the mud. ...**K6VAR**. CQP for me this year was laid back in conjunction with a mini-vacation to the Monterey Bay area. Did swing into San Benito County on the way back and made some /M Q's coming and going. ...**K6VVA**. Great CW activity this year. QSOs were boosted by 125 EU contacts mostly on 20 (the four on 15 were surprisingly loud, though). Mid-day Sunday, an F6 came through at S9+20 on 15, so I moved that radio to 10 meters and CQ'd for ten minutes - no luck, but maybe few people were checking the band. Only got five locals on ground wave all weekend, despite going to 10 for the first ten minutes of every clock hour during the mid-day Saturday and Sunday. Contrasting the EU contacts, I only had six JAs and 19 Oceania Qs. 1530 US and 125 VEs. Finally broke 300K on CW, but not with enough margin to survive log check. Something to look forward to next year. Thanks to N6TV for "motivating" me all weekend. It will come down to the cleanest log between us. There were some dead periods where one is reminded about phone to keep the interest up. Thanks to all for

the Qs, especially the casual ops with single-digit serial numbers. ...**K6YT**. Another very fun CQP. We decided to forgo our usual expedition to Fossil Falls this year in favor of another location in Inyo County. Kurt, W6PH usually operates from his QTH in Lone Pine but this year he offered to let us use his cabin in the Alabama Hills on the west side of Lone Pine directly under Mount Whitney. Not wanting to let US a have all the fun, he decided to join our small group at the cabin this year. We decided to make an effort to win the Multi-Multi County Expedition category this year. Reviewing the past several years results (we were third the past three years) and looking at anticipated solar conditions, we decided on a goal of 280K points. We were shooting for 1000 QSOs on both modes and a sweep of all 58 Mults. We were very pleased to have met most of our goals by 7am Sunday morning but we managed to miss NT for the third year in a row. We made an effort to find NT on 20M SSB in the last few hours of the contest but we couldn't find them and they didn't find us. When we got home we checked DX Summit only to see VE8EV had been spotted a mere 20 KHz from where we were CQing on 20M SSB. Oh well, there's always next year. Our set up consisted of two full time stations and a third part time station. We used a Cushcraft A3 and a Cushcraft 40-2CD on two AB-577 military surplus masts and another Cushcraft A3 on a 33 ft. homebrew tower trailer. On 80M and 160M we

had verticals and a few wire antennas to choose from. The rigs were a TS-930 driving an SB-200 to about 400 Watts, an FT-2000 driving an LK-500 to about 700 Watts and a 756PROIII driving an FL-2000 to about 600 Watts. Logging was done with a wireless network using Milog logging software. We had a few equipment problems but nothing too drastic. We had to take down one of the A3's in the middle of the contest to fix a loose connection, one of the amps gave out on 15M and we had some software glitches to deal with. Overall we ended up having one station on for about 27 hours, and the other two on for an average of about 20 hours each. We started out with 4 Ops but ended with 3 when one person had to depart early Sunday morning. It was an enjoyable experience even with the cold, wind and multiple earth quakes to keep things interesting. The cabin doesn't have heat and one station was out on the porch with no protection from the elements. In hindsight a propane heater would have been a real asset. We were logging with one hand while holding the other over the amp to stay warm. Can we do this again next weekend! Thanks to the NCCC for sponsoring a great contest and especially to the Non-Californians who put a lot of effort into working us CA stations. 73, Bob. ...**K6ZZ (for K6Z)**. Decided to try CQPWIN11.0 this year. Took a few tries to get it all set up, and never did get WinKey going. Nice program. Great activity level, but I missed having an 80 meter antenna.

Thanks for another great CQP. ...**K7HBN**. A very enjoyable outing, especially for a guy who has become used to pointing antennas to the Northeast! I was able to work only the loud ones on 20 meters, and the time window for loud ones seemed fairly brief, with no other daytime band to fall back on. Happy to work all but three counties: Missed KING (heard a W0 portable calling and calling on 20 SSB and being answered by everyone except westerners). Missed MARP, nothing heard. Missed NAPA (was it the grape juice?) Many thanks to NCCC for sponsoring this grand event! ...**K7IA**. As always, the premier QSO party. TNX for all the stations on the air. I really enjoyed it, even if I can't win my state, since I'm from MI and so is W8MJ. 'Nuff said. Good goin', Ken. ... **K8GT**. Missed Glen, Kern, SFra, Yuba. Nice to see 15 meters working for a change. It was good at times, spotty at others. At one point around 17Z on Sunday Sonoma county was moderately loud, but the guys in the Bay area were just above ESP levels. ...**K8MR**. This is my first time participating in this contest. I found it to be a lot of fun and am looking forward to next year. ...**KA2OUO**. The ultimate State QSO Party and CQP is second to none. Thank you for a lot of ham radio fun! My 10-minute rate meter broke 65 that is a first for my station. ...**KA3DRR**. Awesome QSO Party.. It's nice to see one that is more than a few hours long. Operating conditions here are IC-735 bought for \$50, heath

kit sb200 rescued from chicken banders for free, and home brew wire antennas: 20m dipole, 40m vertical GP and G5RV.. Many loud stations from you guys on the west coast and the extra power felt real good, but still a real challenge to work through all those loud stations between here and there.. I tried to get a run going when i could but only got responses one at a time. The nice part of that being the few times I did get someone to answer my CQ it was usually a MULT!! Thanks for the fun, and see you next year. ...**KB1NRB**. I operated QRP portable battery power with a wire antenna. Only my second contest entry... great fun and thanks. ...**KC0JBU**. This is my first QSO Party. ...**KC4EEA**. Worked all I could hear.. ...**KC4EZN**. I logged 17 contacts in the recent CQP. It was my first contest, first time logging with new software. ...**KD4DRN**. Worked hard to get a clean county sweep, but missed 9. With all the AZ ops going to Imperial, I can't believe I didn't get it! Too close to CA to be effective on 20m and up. Had great fun. ...**KE7DX**. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in my first contest. ...**KI6RUW**. I enjoyed operating this contest. I didn't get to operate much on Sunday, but propagation on Saturday was good enough that Saturday was extremely rewarding. Due to the nature of a QSO party, it was a great chance to practice S&P, both on CW and SSB (the young voice helps a lot in busting a pileup). I operated 50 watts about the entire time, although

near the beginning I stayed around 20W in CW. Nice QSO party, and I can't wait for the next one to come around. ...**KJ4HYG (14 years old)**. I am a fairly new Ham and this is my first attempt at contesting. ...**KJ6AZV**. That was fun!! Had my best score ever and enjoyed the many DX calls. It was nice to finally work VY1MB for the sweep on Sunday morning. Both 40 and 20 had plenty of activity and managed a few contacts in the Oceania Contest on 40M in the late evening. Thanks to all that gave me a call. ...**KJ6RA**. Got on for a short time to give out an SC mult, which got me a few thanks from the CA guys. Definitely a top notch QSO Party. ...**KN4QD**. It was a fun contest as always - was able to work more stations on 20M than I thought in the morning before the band went too long, I actually was able to get the R7000 (not designed for 80M) to work enough through a tuner on 80M to make 37 contacts. Thanks to the NCCC for sponsoring the contest and to all the CA stations for the QSOs. ...**KS7S**. This was my first Single OP CQP, and I had a blast. I took the night off to get some sleep and give my voice a rest. Saturday was very good on 20M but Sunday was really great on 15M for a while. Got a clean sweep on Saturday night, my last State to get was NV. My biggest surprise was being called by 5X1DF (Uganda) and a 4Z1 (Israel) station during the contest. Lots of European stations called me both Saturday and Sunday. So it was nice to see the bands in

better shape. Since I am from Belgium (ON4CAT), it was great to work many of my European friends. ...**KT6YL**. Had 57 w/o the use of packet and then decided to use it to look for the elusive SFRA mult...never found it or saw it spotted. 80m Q's were made with 40m antenna...congrats to those good ears. ...**KU5B**. This was really lot of fun from Virginia. I did it all with one 43 foot vertical and was pleasantly surprised about 15 meters. TU. ...**KX4O**. Part time effort but always looking to get a sweep of the 58 counties in shortest possible time. Well didn't make again this year. Maybe have I had gone to CW for the times I had to spend on the bands. Good activity from here in the "heart of Dixie". TNX for the Q's from a low power effort. ...**KY5R**. This is the first time I have seriously competed in the QSO party, and I had a great time! **NORPI**. Three counties short of working them all. ...**NOUNL**. This year I thought I would finally work all counties. Close - not there yet. Maybe next year. However, not bad for only 6 hrs of operation. ...**N1LN**. Part-time effort. All counties worked by early evening first day. Kudos to the organizers of the CQP for a job well done. ...**N2MM**. Ton of Fun. Think there will be some new records this year. ...**N4ZQ**. It was a joy to get a sweep after several dry years. VE8 called in during the first hour (thank you!) and in short order I was missing only ID and NV. My first hour was good at more than 140 Qs but things slowed down pretty quickly.

Conditions were strangely in and out and I also found some DX stations to have towering signals while many stateside were beyond my grasp in the noise. As much as I pushed myself to be where the rate was good, after 12 hours I was struggling to maintain 100Q/hour. So it was a shock on the low bands to discover how far behind the leaders I was. C'est la vie. 40 SSB was pretty good though I was working mightily to pull stations out of the crud. At 03Z, almost to the minute, the band was suddenly quiet, as though the murky water of the band had dropped all its silt and I could see all the way to the band floor. My experience on Sunday morning with 15 meters was not as good as some commented. Many, many CQs went unanswered and I needed to keep QSYing. Yet I also worked a few EU stations on 15. Curious. Congratulations to N6MJ for his fine piloting of W6YI, and to the other big 300k plus scores. It's a pleasure to put you gents in the log. ...**N6AN (at W6UE)**.

Sierra County is at 5200' elevation For pictures of the expedition, and HFTA analysis of the site, see: <http://public.fotki.com/N6DE/cqp/cqp2009/> Major thanks to the West Valley ARA for the use of their tower trailer. It looks like this score will set a new overall S/O Expedition record, as well as a new S/O Sierra County record. What a fun CQP this was! Last year, some stations missed Sierra County for the sweep, despite W6OAT/M doing a great job covering the county, and

W6DSG and N5RA/6 passing out the mult to some grateful stations. Sierra looked like it needed some help, so I decided to go there this year. I had gone to Sierra in 2002 with K6ENT, K6III, and KQ6LQ, and I could have operated from this location again, but I wanted to explore the county for any other possibilities. I got some great ideas from N6YEU, K6ST, and KX7M. I also spent several hours panning the county in Google Earth, and took a day to drive to a few locations. I found a ridge top clearing at 5200' elevation near Downieville, and my HFTA analysis showed that it would be a killer site at low takeoff angles. To the U.S. and Europe, the terrain drops off 1600' at 4000' out from the site. The clearing is about 125' wide by 200' long, surrounded by tall trees. It's a remote location on USFS land in the Tahoe National Forest, yet required only two miles of dirt road driving. The other 224 miles from home were on paved roads. I arrived on Tuesday evening before the contest and stayed until the following Monday evening. Setup and teardown take longer when doing everything by yourself. Both CQP practices were valuable to me. I had the tribander and 80m CW antenna up for Thursday's practice. Thanks to N6ML and K6VVA for helping me with my K3 audio settings. Things seemed to be going well until Friday. Just before darkness, I finished the 40m and 75m antennas. I checked SWR on the 75m antenna and found it resonant at 4MHz! So I ran

outside (now dark) with my headlamp, cut two pieces of additional wire, lowered the antenna, lengthened each end, hauled it back up, and rushed back to the tent for the start of the practice! The antenna SWR was good enough in the 3800 range, and that's where it stayed the rest of the weekend! The start of the practice on 40m was terrible for me. I could barely hear anyone. Then I went to 80m and had no problems. K4BAI called in on 80m CW and told me that he was calling me on 40m. This was worrisome because I should have no trouble at all hearing John's big signal on 40m. On the 3610kHz net afterwards, guys reported loads of QSOs on 40m. I went back to 40m to listen for stations and still couldn't hear much. The S meter was at S9+, but I figured that was just typical 40m. It wasn't until I went to a dead 20m band that I realized the problem... NOISE!!! I was horrified to find an S5 noise level on what should have been a stone quiet 20m. And S3 on 15m. How could there possibly be noise at such a remote location? Was there an RFI source in my tent, or was the generator causing it? I used the same equipment last year and didn't have this problem. And so the frantic experiments began... I moved the generator several times, up to 150 feet away from my tent (250 feet away from my tribander and 40m wire), with mediocre results. Then I turned off everything in the shack except the K3 and my Astron 35A regulated power supply. S2 on 20m. Must be

the generator? Turn on ACOM 1010 amplifier: level increases an S unit! Plug in the battery charger for my Levono Thinkpad laptop (with the laptop still off): level increases to S5! That's when I dug out the #31 2.4" OD toroids and the big clamp-ons from the NCCC group buy a few years ago... thank God I brought a few of them with me! I attached two big clamp-ons around the power extension cable, two loops of the coaxial feedline through 6 of the 2.4" toroids, and whatever else I had left on the laptop battery charger. All this suppressed the noise to reasonable levels (but still non-zero levels). At least this got me back in the game. What a relief. At this point, it was 1am and I went to sleep, having skipped dinner. Saturday morning, I was in a much better mood, and ready to rock. What an amazing contest! Awesome activity and loads of fun! 80m CW on Saturday night was like 20m! And what a welcome sight the 15m opening was on Sunday. I missed VY1 for the sweep. Thanks to AL1G for my only AK contact. Saturday and Sunday nights were frigid. I operated inside a sleeping bag from my chest to my feet! It started to snow at 1pm Sunday, and lightly snowed on and off during the day. A USFS ranger visited for a few minutes on Thursday. Some motorcycle riders arrived in the first hour of the contest on Saturday, but didn't stay. Although I saw a few 20 gauge shells on the ground, and heard some gunshots in the background when setting up antennas, I was surprised that

I didn't see any deer hunters at the site. Thanks to everyone for the QSOs and your participation in CQP! What a blast it was. Hats off to all the expedition stations that braved high winds, snow, and cold weather to activate rare counties. Anyone interested in joining me from this site next year for a M/M? ...**N6DE**.

Another fun year in the books! My biggest worry going into this contest was that I had not participated in a contest for almost 11 months so the rust was going to be an issue. I know most of the top competitors in this contest probably average around 6-8 major contests a year so that had me worried but I just had bigger priorities this year so my lack of practice was what it was, no excuses. I got off to a bit of a sluggish start but found my rhythm by about hour #3 and then I was off to the races. The real bright point was getting the sweep early this year (I remember that last year nobody got it until Sunday morning) and I narrowly missed W6TK's record by 6 minutes!!!! 4 hours 30 mins for me (20:30z). I heard a rumor that somebody might have the record beat this year so apparently there was good coverage of activity by all 58 mults this year right from the start. No smoke signals to VY1 needed ;-) Another weird anomaly was that I had many EUs calling in on Saturday during the early 15m opening and some of them were louder than the average east coaster. Bring On Those Sunspots! Generally, there was good participation from EU this year. Only 1 African logged and a

small handful of Oceania and SA. 160 also proved exciting working many on the East coast and KH6 all at the same time, wish there were more guys on this band to make us another quick feeding frenzy when we band change. Lots of good competition from the usual suspects this year, kept me going and going as we all flip flopped our QSO numbers for 2nd place. W6YI (N6MJ) still made us all look bad. I have to wonder who called SD-Electric to have their power shut off on Sunday, will be a conspiracy theory for some time to come. Jim, Dan, has anybody called the Associated Press to claim responsibility yet? Maybe it was the pig farmers!!!! ;-)

Enjoyable as always which is what keeps me coming back to the K6NA ranch year after year for good stories, good rates, and good hospitality. See you all again next year and pray for 10m! ...**N6ED (for K6NA)**. In spite of less than optimal propagation, my favorite contest again exceeded my wildest expectations. I was not able to operate the full 24 hours, but 19 hours of "organized" bedlam was enough! There was no paucity of stations calling me from in-state, out-of-state and DX. A few times I even stopped my "run" to chat with old friends. Mr. Murphy was not able to rankle my aging transceiver, amplifier, antennas or DOS computer. I lost about 90 minutes on Sunday chasing the elusive FT5GA DXpedition on 15 CW. Alas, no joy at the "Hotel California" in this hunt. Maybe the next DXpedition to Glorioso when the conditions

are more conducive to better propagation to the left coast of North America. I have been participating in this CQP excitement in the Single Operator Class almost since the inception of this State QSO Party. I think I'm ready to consider joining a team effort on a county expedition or M/S - M/M effort next year. Anyone interested in recruiting me? ...**N6HC**. This is my first CQP. ...**N6IEF**. First of all, thanks again to Jim W6YI for his great hospitality and use of his first class station. I will certainly remember this one for a long time. It's always been my goal to make 3000 q's in this contest, but so far I haven't been able to get over the hump. Things finally came together this time, and I got off to my best start ever. By the end of the first night I had 2300 q's in the log, and I could smell 3000. The 1st day I only made a handful of q's on 15m, so I knew I would be fresh meat there on Sunday. I was hoping for a good 15m opening, and the high rates that go with it. Sure enough, the band was wide open and I was off to the races. Then at 1622z, right in the middle of a good CW run, the power went off. Jim has a back up generator, so we pulled that out, but it wouldn't start. So we called the power company to see what the problem was, and they said the power should be back on in 10 minutes. We decided to just wait it out, and hope that it would come back on. Well, 45 minutes later, we still had no power, so we called the power company again. This time they said it won't be on for another 3 hours. At this point,

we knew we had to find a generator, so Jim called up Home Depot and they had one for rent. Jim jumped in his truck and ran down there. I finally got back on at 1909z, so I lost almost 3 hours of op time. I had to do the rest of the contest without the amps, but at least I was on the air. The power finally came back on at 2205z -- 5 minutes after the contest was over. Even after all that, it was still a lot of fun and I will probably be back for more next year. First class station. ...**N6MJ**. This was our 2nd year as an expedition to Alpine County. We used a Cushcraft A4S beam with 40 meter kit on a surplus military AB-577 crank-up tower up 40 feet, a homebrew hex beam on a 20-foot push-up mast and a 5BTV vertical. ...**N6NA**. The bands are starting to come back! In a 9 hr effort, I was able to run guys on 20m (228), 40m (144) and 80m (44), and even made a few Qs on 15m (11). It was the best 80 condx I remember: low A and K indexes, and all the sigs were S-9+, with clean, solid copy all the way to east coast. Thanks for all the Qs and making this a great national QSO party. ...**N6NC**. Welcome Alan, AD6MT, a new contester who was awesome in his first ever contest (SSB)! New QTH, new equipment, new antennas, first time in Humboldt County. No Internet, on air time 19.5 hours. Excellent conditions, 58 sections - no Iowa, no British Columbia! Lots of DX too! ...**N6RC**. Family obligations cut into available operating time, so I was very pleased to break the 300 QSOs line this year. Still way below my best

year in 2006 with 421 Qs, but not bad considering. I'll take it anyway :-). Thanks to everyone for the Qs. It was fun just sitting and CQing and watching to see what states would come back to me. Some very definite propagation patterns, with some areas never heard from at all, and others very active. Hope to do better next year. ...**N6WG**. There were great conditions for the contest. I would like to thank K6WSC for operating with me. ...**N6XT**. GREAT condx! I didn't experience the winds that other county expeditions had but did get snow Saturday afternoon and evening. 2 element SteppIR antenna worked great but new FT-950 was a big disappointment. Power on/off switch is bad and I believe rig also caused lap top to crash twice. Put in my trusty TS-850 and ran like a champ rest of contest. Couldn't get my LDG auto tuner to get my 40/80 trapped dipole to tune on SSB frequencies so basically CW only on low bands. Brought my new Belgian Malinois rescue dog Neela for her first CQP and she is now an old pro. I missed NT but also ID and NV!! Where was K5RC, K7NV etc.??!! I can't wait till next year. 73, Fred. ...**N6YEU**. Best Ontario QSO party yet. Whoops this was CQP! It was Ontario's show with a huge turnout. ON was by far the most common multiplier after CA. Lots of familiar calls and many apparently new CW ops. Glad to slow down for the CW newcomers. Dennis, W1UE stuck out with a notably strong signal especially on 15 and 80 meters. Interesting 15m

situation. On Saturday was wide open to east coast an hour before start of CQP, but on Sunday, the opening was sustained through the day and to most parts of the country. Mid-day on 20m Eu signals were S-9+, stronger than most stateside signals for a while. Very bad luck on mults, missing ID, ND, AK, SK, LA, NT. Others were "thin", namely NV, WY NM SD HI and NE with just one station each. Very limited effort this year as co-operator wasn't able to make the trip to Lake county. ...**N6ZFO**. This was my sixth CQP, and it gets more exciting every year. I was using my new SDR on 20 and 80 only. 80 was open to CA all night! CU next year. **N7EIE**. This is my first electronic submission. ...**N7MZW**. This was one of my more successful efforts. A wedding Saturday afternoon limited my participation. Most multipliers so far. Hope to be back next year. ...**N7VS**. Another fun CQP. Glad 15 opened up - sure helps when you have more bands to play on. Finally got the sweep at 1438 thanks to K6AQL on 40. Followed him for quite a while hoping he would hit Yolo before the band went away. It was pretty close. Listened on 10 several times - never heard a peep. Heard a couple on 160 - K6NA was the only one who could hear me. Fun to play with this new solid state amp by Dishtronix. Nice to be able to run full power and switch bands without retuning. ...**N8BJQ**. Good to be back after several year absence. Part of my rehab with two new total knees was to reinstall the 40 meter 4 square. I blew up

the switch box with crossed wired so I just rotated the coax configuration to the NW for the default position!. 160 was loaded with DX Saturday nite. First contest with the K3, I think I will keep it... 40 went very long early, virtually useless (or I missed the right times). 15 was better on Sunday. Great operators (as always) from CA. Some massive totals. Antennas here were a single 80 meter vertical and a 40 meter 4 square. I need a beam and tower. I could not get Win-Test or CT configured so I used AE6Y Win based program, worked great. ...**N8UM**. Thunder Lightning and good DX. What more could you ask for in CQP? Murphy struck headsets. 20 hrs on a hand mike! CU next year. ...**ND6S**. We go to a mountain fire lookout in the Modoc National Forest, 4500' ASL. Friday was nice, almost shirt sleeve weather. Saturday was blustery. Sunday we awoke to 3-4" of snow, which ran off and on until the contest stopped. The sun came out and we packed in cold 40° sunshine. The average age of this group is ten years higher than the first time we went. Perhaps it's time to look for another location. There are four microwave installations on the mountaintop and they are serious RFI emitters. We might do better with a higher SNR even if the takeoff angles were worse. Band conditions were fairly good judging by the amount of DX worked and the number of QSOs on 15m. Our thanks to all who came by for a contact. We sincerely hope we provided you with the 58th

multiplier. The Central Oregon DX Club. (NE6LE). Dick, **K4XU**. Lots of fun, conditions on Sat. were better than Sunday here. Much QRN from power lines limited the number of QSO's on 160 and 80. Thanks to AD6E Glenn county for number 58. See you all in the piles. ...**NH6P**. My first in-state CAL QSO party from Quincy California. I have put together a small single op or M/S station with the help of my contesting friends including NK7U, W7CT, K7ZS, and KR6G. KR6G and I had a great time operating and the station played well once we figured out how to make KR6G's K3 work with Write Log. (TNX to N6XI for the phone call and the others on the NCCC and WL reflectors for the last minute help). NI6P -- Quincy Radiosport Society, Quincy CA. Mike Reagan. ...**NI7T**. Fun contest. Decided to run high power this year which made a difference. Had a number of calls from DX on both phone and CW. I had a busy weekend and could only manage limited time in the chair. **NK6A**. Part time with my wires in the woods. Great Fun! I just ran out of operating time....**NM2L**. Very nice Party. Got the sweep with about four hours to go. 15 meter opening was nice too. Had lots of fun....**NY4N**. Gotta love it when a plan comes together! Had no expectations of a sweep in this contest but sure enough, NI6P gave me Plumas at 0209Z to complete my first ever sweep in CQP! Condx. were better than last year and received several favorable comments from CA stations regarding the level of

participation from VE3. As usual, it's a jungle out there when you run qrp! ...**VA3DF**. Just a few hours to give points for Contest Club Ontario. Great 15M openings with very loud CA signals! Nothing on 10 and did not spend much time on 80 but not too many heard there either. Nice to hear a lot of CCO members on the air! ...**VA3KA**. Spent a few minutes running this time, and got a few mults in return. Maybe next year I'll run more often. Thanks to all I worked. ...**VA3PC**. Conditions might just be improving at last. This event was a killer last year from BC to CA, but much better this year. 20M was very useful, and 40M and 80M were in terrific shape for this distance. Had a very good time, just wish I had more time on Sunday but had to go buy a snowblower -- winter is just around the bend. Would rather run Qs than a shovel in November, so the time investment now will pay dividends later. ...**VA7ST**. Signals here, particularly on Saturday, were very weak on my wire antennas. Also the bands were very, very noisy. However, my new K9AY loop allowed me to easily continue on all bands and I would highly recommend that antenna to anyone who is bothered by human-generated electrical QRM from built-up areas or who is subjected to QRN from electrical storms. It is quite a remarkable antenna. The K9AY loops improved SNR from top band all the way through 15M. I was getting worried because I never heard from K6AQL/M until nearly five hours into the contest and it

just simply wouldn't have been a party for me unless that station (now an old friend) showed up in my log in CQP. Fortunately, I eventually found him and before the day was over, he was in the log eleven times for five new counties. Thanks a lot guys. Almost always a decent signal and always a first-class op at the paddles. Remarkable performance from that team. (Now, if they had only driven to KERN at the end of the contest, that extra mult would have given me my best-ever score in my seven years playing in CQP!). My score pales in comparison with the guys who ran up more than 2,000 Qs, but it is nonetheless 25% higher than last year and close to my best from 2003, and I attribute that to station improvements, certainly not propagation. Congratulations to NCCC for sponsoring this contest. The web site is a thing of beauty. ...**VE1RGB**. 15M was surprisingly good. Fun time. ...**VE3AD**. VE3GYL was YL operator for SSB portion, and VE3UZ was OM operator for CW portion. ...**VE3UZ**. Wish I could have put more time into this fun event. Missed a few counties including San Fran. Great signals from almost every station. W6OAT was amazing each time I worked him as he was 20-30 dB over S9 each time. Congrats to all the mobiles and all the high scores. Hopefully MB made it into your log through VE4YU or myself. ...**VE4EAR**. The contest was a blast. ...**VE5BCS**. One of my favorite parts of the CQP is the race to the Sweep. This year

at 2020z, W6OAT/m rolled into Sutter and found me on 20m for #57. I knew Trinity was out there, but for the next four hours I was still looking. WB6FZH called in to end my pain at 0024z. A few minutes later, I finally found N6YEU in Trinity for the first of five contacts. I still can't see how I missed them for so long since they were so active, but that's the CQP! Thanks to mobiles K6AQL/m for 5, K6VVA/m for 2 and W6OAT/m for 2. I worked many other casual mobiles and three maritime mobiles who all made me wish I could change places. I also wish I could have changed places with stations on the east coast to enjoy some 15m propagation. Lots of ops found me on 20 and told me I needed to go to 15, but I only heard a few of the strongest stations on 15 and it was usually a struggle to make the Q. 40 was also surprisingly tough even though signals seemed to be loud. Overall, I worked 669 unique calls with special thanks to AE6Y, K6NA, K6XX, W6YI and W6YX FOR 7 Qs. My log shows Kings and Napa to be the "rarest" for me in Q count (2) with Lassen, Mariposa and Yolo a close second (3). As expected, San Diego (120) and Los Angeles (105) came through with the most Qs with Santa Clara (75) not far behind. Since I didn't have 15m, my goal became 1000 Qs for a personal best in the CQP and I finally got there. Congratulations to Dennis, W1UE, for an outstanding job. Thanks to the NCCC for another excellent event, and thanks to everyone for the Qs! ...**W0BH**. This was the most

fun I've ever had in any contest. Without trying I worked four new countries when they answered my CQ's. ...**W0HJW**. A test-run for the W0DLE station. The bands were L-O-N-G! 160 was wide-open to EU on Saturday night. Heard lots of Q's on 15 going over our heads here & it never did get short enough, most QSO's were scatter. I've never heard louder West Coast signals here than the sunset peak on 20 and later on 40 Saturday night. But even then, there were also 6-land signals down in the noise, very strange. And QSO's were going over our heads on 40M, too. K6AQL put in some serious odometer-time, nice going, OM! Just realized that I worked MARP but typo'd it as MARM, so the mult total is really 58. I noticed the operating from the California side was excellent, congrats guys & gals! We found a few action-items at the 'DLE station & he'll be working those to prepare for the fall contests. Nice to get away to 10K feet ASL for a couple of days but it surely feels like winter up there. ...**W0UA (at W0DLE)**. There's always lots of activity in this one. Enjoyed every minute. ...**W1END**. Was really nice to work my home state and talk to hams there who are from here. ..**W1KQ**. Great weekend. First county sweep ever (since 97.). ...**W2LE**. Wish I had more time to put in this year. Good CA turnout and lots of loud sig on 15M and 20M. Another great CQP effort. CU next year! 73. ...**W2UDT**. First time. ...**W4TUN**. CQP is one of my favorite contests, but I had to

shortchange it this year to few minutes of running on SSB. Running is just not my style or interest. Last Mult was NT (VE8EV) in the last 20m of the activity. ...**W6AMM**. Best CQP yet! ...**W6FA**. We had hoped to have more operators but it was a very busy weekend for many. Still managed to put in 12 hours. SBAR was very active this time - did not feel like we were a new mult for anyone. ...**W6RFU**. N1MM problems (fixed by help from K6MM) causing only 2 SSB Qs to be logged. Was all ready for 40m operation and discovered the antenna was a direct short. Other than that, was a lot of fun, warm and rested at home (!), and sat here until I could sit no more, then called it a contest. ...**W6SC**. Tnx for sponsoring such a great contest. Your hard work and efforts are much appreciated. ...**W6TK**. Lots of fun, but a bit tough being a skip zone state. Glad I wasn't on snowy mountain tops with friends from N6D and NE6LE. Missed NAPA. Congrats to the NCCC and CA participants for another fine event! ...**W7YAQ**. Very poor propagation on 20 from this QTH at least. Thank goodness for 15 opening up. No clean sweep of counties this year. Missed Yolo darn it. see ya all next year. ...**WA1FCN**. FT-847; a 20m + 40m fan dipole at 14'. Nice to see even a brief 15-m opening to W6 for the test. One of these years I'll work all 58 counties during this contest. ...**WA5IYX**. Great QSO Party! Lots of good operators in CA - made it easier on my QRP signal. Thanks! ...**WA5RML**. I missed

the first 6 hours Saturday due to family duties and did not intend to get too wrapped up in the contest Sunday, but when 15 opened up, I just couldn't resist. It's been a long time since I have been able to say 15 was the money band. I kept checking 10 meters with high hopes, but nada. Lots of good fixed station activity with 126 unique calls in the log. Two mobiles K6AQL and K6WC also found their way into the log. Thanks to all for the QSOs. ...**WB2ABD**. Thx for a great party. 73 till next year. ...**WC2Z**. Wish I could have found those last 3 counties. Will shoot for them next year. Good to hear so many YL's on the band. Thanks for adding the YL categories. ...**WX4MM**. This year my operations was very reduced for a high level AC noise or a mix of those electric motor, peaking S9 or more ,made 20m impossible and only a few hours in 40M. ...**XE2K**. Tnx for contest QSO's Good cndx short time. ...**YL2PP**.