

The 2000 California QSO Party

<http://www.cqp.org>

by AD6E

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The dust has settled and the logs have been checked and tabulated. Now we can see who came out on top by county, state, country, or whatever category you're interested in. One of the great things about CQP is the many different ways you can stretch yourself and your station to achieve that next goal.

Altogether, we received 464 logs this year, which is an increase of 12% over last year. Although not a record in itself, there were many new records set this year

The biggest score by any station anywhere was (again) the massive N6O effort put out by the Radio Oakley M/M folks. Operating five transmitters, they blew past last year's record of 705k, 5,452 QSOs with a feat of 731k and 5,611 QSOs! With several years in a row of breaking the M/M record, we wonder how long this string of victories can continue. Congratulations to N6RO, K3EST, N6IG, N6BV, K6AW, K6CTA, and WA6O for a great team effort!

The CA single op efforts were truly amazing as K6NA (K6LL op) in San Diego worked his way to another CA win. He was challenged by W6KP (N6MJ op), and K6LA, who set new records in Orange and Los Angeles. The San Diego record set by N6TR back in 1989 still stands. This is the same top three as last year. Dan and Ken are closing the gap, so watch out next year.

Not to be outdone in amazing feats, the non-CA single op category saw the return of K5GA operating from K5NZ in Texas. His only soapbox comment in his log said simply "I'm back..." Challengers W8MJ and W4CAT finished significantly back. This was a great win; good enough for a new Texas record, but not quite enough to take the "best ever non-CA" record from VE7NTT. W4CAT broke his own TN record, but W8MJ was just shy of breaking his own MI record set last year.

MOBILES -

Once again, all California Counties were on the air in force, thanks in large part to the mobile operations by K6AQL (N9HZQ and K0DI) who covered 25 counties; from Alameda to Yuba. They were joined by W5WMU/6 (six counties) and W6ZQ (two counties).

COUNTY EXPEDITIONS -

County Expeditions are Field Day style operations from rare counties, or at least a nice location that's off the beaten path. Twenty-one different County Expeditions were active in 18

counties. These operations ranged from simple to complex M/M. Doing an expedition can be a lot of fun. The SO competition was fierce, as W6PH in Inyo county again beat out AD6E, this time in Yolo county, for the top spot. N6DE put on the best M/S expedition along with K6ENT out in Mariposa county. They edged out N6A in Alpine by the narrowest of margins. W6ML did the best M/M expedition, from Mono county. They were staffed by W6KC, W6SW, W6JTB, N6PY, and KX6H.

County Expeditions:

K6DW	Yuba	KS6U	Modoc
AD6E	Yolo	N6ZB	Merced
N6LL	Tulare	N6DE	Mariposa
K6SRZ	Trinity	W6ESJ	Lake
N6FW	Trinity	W6PH	Inyo
NA6E	Sutter	W6PT	Imperial
K6III	Sierra	N6YEU	Glenn
ND6E	San Benito	W6TVP	El Dorado
AG8L/6	Plumas	K6KYJ	Colusa
W6ML	Mono	N6A	Alpine
W6JA	Mono		

SWEEPS -

A major part of the fun is to work all 58 multipliers. With all this activity, no less than 28 stations outside CA managed a complete CA sweep. This compares to only 18 last year. This year saw the very first sweep from Europe as HA1AG managed to achieve this amazing feat. The very first sweep was made by VY1JA when he worked K6JKC in Lassen at 01:21Z. That's 9 hours and 21 minutes into the contest. Congratulations to Jay!

Sweeps of all CA counties:

N9UC	W4CAT	WB5KIA	WA0AVL	W1RAN
W7UQ	W8MJ	WA3HAE	K9PG	HA1AG
K5GA	KO7X	K5IID	KB5KYO	VY1JA
K8MR	K8KS	K3CR	N5YE	VE3OBU
W5ASP	W8GN	KE9I	WA5SOG	
NB1B	N0AC	K9ZO	N0HJZ	

In California, 39 stations found all 50 US states plus the eight Canadian call districts for sweeps. Compare this to 48 last year! This is the only state QSO party where the number of multipliers is the same for both in-state and out-of-state operators.

Sweeps of all states and provinces:

W6YX	WA5VGI	WN6K	N6JS	K6EY
AD6E	K6KM	K6IF	AE6Y	AC6T
N6DE	N6TNX	K6NA	W6DI	W6KK
N6A	W6UT	K6RIM	K6LA	AK6R
W6ML	K6BZS	N6HC	W6BSY	W6KP
ND6E	K6KO	N6KI	N6ED	W6AFA
N6ZB	W6TKV	W0YK	N6O	NZ6N
W6BJH	K6GT	KR6RF	W6EEN	

The very first sweep from CA was made by W6KP at 22:27Z at 6 hours and 27 minutes when he contacted NL7KF for AK. Congratulations!

SCHOOLS-

This is the second year of the school competition in CQP. Nine schools responded to this new award challenge:

W6YX	Stanford Univ	SO	302354
N9UC	Univ of Chicago	SO	113274
W7UQ	Univ of Idaho	SO	77430
K4KDJ	Virginia Tech	MS	42533
K4UCF	Univ of Florida	SO	40014
W0EEE	Univ of Missouri	MS	29079
W1AF	Harvard Univ.	MS	18650
N5XU	Univ of Texas	SO	9000
W8YY	Michigan Tech Univ	MS	7144

QRP-

Another first for the 1999 CQP was a QRP category. After a good start last year, the number of QRP entries this year actually dropped from 25 to only 18. They are noted in the results tables with a "Q" after their scores.

QRP stations:

N0HJZ	AE9K	K3WWP	N4JIU	N6MU
K8ZT	W4DEC	W8SFF	WB0IWG	KA6SGT
N7JXS	AA1CA	AF9J	JR1NKN	
K8CV	AD6G	K9DIY	K6III	

As with the schools, we hope the word gets out to the QRP community to get more activity in the next CQP.

RECORDS -

A total of 19 new records were set this year, with 11 CA records and 10 state records falling. New records set this year are tabulated below.

New Records in California

Butte	K6KM (K2KW op)	304,442
Fresno	N6ED @ K6MI	293,973
Inyo	W6PH	224,352
Los Angeles	K6LA	329,730
Orange	W6KP (N6MJ op)	332,688
Solano	W6DI	242,962
Yolo	AD6E	212,454
Multi-Multi	N6O @N6RO	731,844

Out of State new Records

Idaho	W7UQ (KL9A op)	77,430
Illinois	N9UC	113,274
Iowa	N0AC	127,368
Maine	K1PQS	40,176
Missouri	K0OU	91,514
Pennsylvania	K3CR	121,162
Tennessee	W4CAT (K1KY op)	127,716
Texas	K5GA (@K5NZ)	144,594
Utah	K07X	86,768
West Virginia	K5IID	71,398
Europe	HA1AG	60,494

THE STATISTICS -

If you add up the total number of QSOs in the logs that were submitted, we see there were 63,324 CW QSOs and 120,471 SSB QSOs. Of course, these are only the REPORTED contacts. There were 464 logs submitted, yet the total number of

active, non-unique call signs seen in these logs totaled 5,462! Every sort of call appeared, from 2E0AOZ to ZS6WP. This is after the list was trimmed to eliminate common "busted" calls. Obviously CQP is a lot bigger than the relatively small number of submitted logs would make you think. There were 4,947 such calls seen last year.

Log checking was tackled by AD6E, W6OAT, NF6S, K6EP, N6DE, and K6III. Log checking rules were established by the team as follows: Any simple copying error such as wrong NR, wrong QTH, or wrong call was penalized by reducing the score by 1/2 of a QSO. Double copying errors (e.g. wrong call *and* wrong NR) or worse were penalized by removing the QSO. The team used extensive search software to be as accurate as possible. Only QSOs that were either proven to be in error, or had a very highly probable error were reduced. No penalty was given by software alone. There was always a human judge to make the actual decision.

Overall, log accuracy was very good. Claimed scores were reduced by an average of 1.9% and resulted in changing the outcome of final standing in very few cases. This is pretty close to what we saw last year. The good news is that only 11 logs had greater than 10% score reductions due to errors, while there were many "perfect" logs where no errors could be found.

My thanks go to the log checkers who put in many hours of effort to get these results out. Their efforts have made these results more credible. Anyone who submitted a "soft" log can get a report file that details each and every deduction. Please send your request to cqp@contesting.com

SOAPBOX -

Thanks to WA6OIA who called me with two minutes to go, to give me SF and mult #58!
N0HJZ

Great party! Loved it!
W8GN

Excellent condx and gd activity of Calif stations brought me 11 new counties, thank you...
OK1FCA

I had fun in the contest. I was learning the ropes of a new radio, getting ready for the fall season.
KE4OAR

Low score, but great fun as usual. At least I beat my previous high!
K2EWA

Activity was great - evidently CQP has become an international event. Great to have so many DX stns taking part.
WB6NFO

Thanks for putting it on again! Thanks also to AE6Y for the contest software - worked great!
KB5KY0

CQP was great fun... This is the first low band activity for me in quite a while. I'm a VHF/UHF/SHF nut, and take part in those contests all the time. I'll be back next year.
W9OBG

Ciao Alan,
This year for the first time I took part to the "CA QSO PARTY", a contest very nice to work a lot of "CA" stations.
IZ5BRW

Thanks for another fun year in the CQP contest.
WA2MNO

Missed the sweep by one - guess I shouldn't have taken off for an early dinner with the local group. Did have a lot of fun but ran out of stations to contact and spent most of my time listening for the low power stations in the background. They could hear me but I had a heck of a time hearing them from the QRM.
N0WY

Nice contest, fellas. My first time, but hopefully not the last.
W4RKV

Thanks for another fun weekend. Absolutely the premier state QSO party. I look forward to it each year.
W4HZD

In summary: It was a great event!!

Highlights:

- I had lots of fun!
- completed a clean sweep with all the 58 counties in the log
- great run on 10m at 9 PM local
- topped 4U1ITU's (N6TR) old EU record
- congrats to the mobiles and the QRPs for their persistence just to give me a new mult. I'd like to mention particularly K6III and K6AQL here
- Thanks to AE6Y - whose latest software worked flawlessly during the entire event
- 430 QSOs, 58 mults, ~ 62k points

Lowlights:

- missed the first two hours (Saturday prime time) due to a failure in the antenna box
- despite I heard several CA stns on 80, they did not hear me
- most CAs seemed to have RX problems on 40 as well
- I drove 1200 km from the Netherlands to do CQP and I was damned tired when the contest started by having one night without sleep already under my belt

I have a question to the organizers: has anybody from EU ever achieved a full sweep in CQP? I checked the records but found no signs of it.

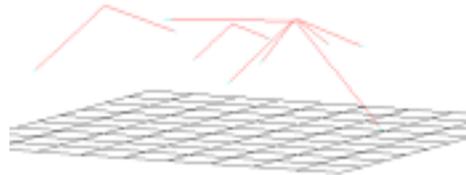
73 de Zoli HA1AG

Probably the best comment received from one of the CA players during the last few hours when I gave out an 800 series QSO number to his ~500 exchange: "GET A LIFE!!" Of course I get a few "meow's" here and there as well. What an operating event! Probably one of the best pre-season station shake-downs around so we can get our skills and equipment ready for that "Other" QSO party the following weekend. Once again, the "Sweep" came easy, but not quite soon enough to beat the famed 7:35 Hr set by our very own WO4O in 1998. My Tennessee record set in 1998 is topped with this effort, but there is much room for improvement if I can avoid oversleeping! Missed beating the all-time CW record by 17 Q's. Congratulations to the event organizers for another memorable year!
K1KY (W4CAT)

Very good activity. Even had some rate going on 10 meter ssb, which was the only place I could get answers to CQ's. Missed Sierra county. Never heard them. Spent last two hours looking for K6III who was running QRP from there but never found him.

Apparently I was the only one to miss that county- everyone else was having trouble finding Sutter. I worked NA6E like three times :-). Good warm-up to the contest season. Thanks to NCCC for the activity.
K0OU

Wire antennas for 40 & 80 at AD6E on a remote Yolo ridge top



AD6E arrival at Yolo ridge top



AD6E operating table