

The 2003 California QSO Party

<http://www.cqp.org>

by AD6E

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The biggest and best keeps getting bigger and better. This was another banner year for the "California Sweepstakes".

We received a total of 649 logs, which is another 9% increase over last year which was a record shattering year in it's own right.

SINGLE OP RESULTS - CA

No tight race this year as N6MJ operated the fine station of W6KP to a record high score to easily beat his nearest rivals K6LA and K6XX. This extraordinary effort broke the previous all time high record of 373,122 points set in 1991 by N6IG. That record held up almost exactly one solar cycle.

Dan made 302 more QSOs than Ken and 565 more QSOs than Bob. This was not even close despite the fact that both Ken and Bob achieved their own highest ever scores and set new county records of their own. The CW to SSB ratio was almost exactly the same for all three competitors: 40/60

After several years of seeing southern CA monopolizing the top spots, it's nice to see K6XX in there at #3 from Santa Cruz with W6NL close behind from Santa Clara.

Low power competition was much closer as AA6PW edged out N6MU for the low power top honors. W6PH, a county expedition, was close behind to claim #3 spot. Kurt was actually planning to run QRO, but with smoke pouring out of the amp just before the start, decided to make a go of it barefoot. N6MU actually made 13 more QSOs than AA6PW, but the ratio of CW to SSB was higher for AA6PW and that gave him the margin of victory.

The top 20 S/O stations are also the CA wine winners. You can see those stations on the awards page, and what it takes to win the wine in CQP. It takes a score of > 225k to win the wine .. which is about the same as last year.

SINGLE OP RESULTS – non CA

Now things get interesting. Unlike the CA results, VE7SZ operated by VA7RR was running neck and neck with K5TR. The actual final results went to the log checking crew twice just to be sure. In the end, K5TR was declared the winner in what has to be the tightest race in memory. K5TRs' margin of victory is only 10 QSOs. However, that isn't the full story since Gary had a higher CW / SSB ratio and therefore had more QSO points than George. Unfortunately, Gary missed Glenn county and that cost him the victory.

The low power race found W8MJ with a convincing win over K0EJ and WA3HAE. Ken was not able to match his record setting score from last year, but he was by far the low power leader again.

Again, if you look at the non-CA wine list, you'll see the top 20 single ops and what it takes to win the wine from outside CA. Its getting tougher every year.

MULTI-SINGLE -

This year, M/S entries were allowed to use SO2R style operation for the first time. No one made mention of such use, so we don't know if this was helpful or not.

The Stanford Radio Club, W6YX, succeeded in it's defense of the M/S title. They smartly outscored the county expedition teams of N6A and W6PT who fought it out in an incredibly close race for second place. W6PT actually had more QSOs, but a lower ratio of CW to SSB.

	CW	SSB	total	Mult	Score		
W6YX	811	1,469	2,280	58	311,605	MS	S
N6A	999	781	1,780	57	259,920	MS	C
W6PT	808	1,045	1,853	57	257,298	MS	C
K6LRN	669	1,177	1,846	57	248,662	MS	
K6VO	634	1,170	1,804	58	246,123	MS	
K6L	905	718	1,623	58	240,903	MS	C
K6A	897	764	1,661	57	240,483	MS	
K6C	811	560	1,371	57	202,606	MS	C

There were a total of 24 M/S teams in the CA competition this year. Only the top few are shown here. Note that many of these are also CA county expeditions.

Non-CA M/S teams have not been a major part of CQP in the past, but they are becoming more common. Of special note are the teams of KX4X, KL6CQ and KQ7W shown below. There were 8 M/S teams in the USA and 3 in Europe.

	CW	SSB	total	Mult	Score		
KX4X	167	442	609	58	80,475	MS	
KL7CQ	107	386	493	55	60,252	MS	
KQ7W	211	179	390	51	50,541	MS	L

MULTI-MULTI -

The biggest score by any station any where was (again) the massive N6O effort put out by the Radio Oakley M/M folks. They operated five transmitters, and have set M/M records several years in a row, but missed setting a new record this year by a small amount.

Not so close behind were the county expeditions of W6ML, KS6U, and ND6E. N6O had almost double the score of the nearest competitor.

	CW	SSB	total	Mult	Score		
N6O	1,697	3,532	5,229	58	705,048	MM	
W6ML	1,116	1,583	2,699	58	377,870	MM	C
KS6U	980	1,061	2,041	58	293,741	MM	C
ND6E	402	560	962	58	134,908	MM	L C
W6ABR	0	241	241	42	20,244	MM	L

There were three of other M/M efforts from outside CA including VE6AO, W7RN, and NP2SH

	CW	SSB	total	Mult	Score		
VE6AO	0	826	826	57	94,221	MM	
W7RN	173	268	441	56	59,164	MM	
NP2SH	231	166	397	55	56,375	MM	L

MOBILES -

CQP has not traditionally had heavy reliance on mobile stations to activate all counties since there are usually plenty of expedition stations ready and willing to activate otherwise rare counties. A few years ago,

K6AQL came on the scene with annual serious efforts covering 25 counties from Alameda to Yuba. This year they were challenged by W6OAT and K2RD, who traveled through 19 counties. Both teams combined covered 34 counties and made almost 2,500 QSOs! This included double coverage of the rarest of counties: Colusa, Sutter, Glenn, Yolo, Yuba.

They were joined by other mobiles: W6GKF (Mono, Tuolumne), KE6CC (San Bernardino), W6XE (San Francisco, Marin), and N6BT (Tuolumne, Mono, Kings, Mariposa). Unfortunately, we never received a log from Tom so we can't verify those QSOs.

Several non-CA mobiles also joined the fun. Entries were received from WA3AAN (DE), K4UK (OH, WV), KF4GL (VA), and N0BAF (WY).

COUNTY EXPEDITIONS -

County Expeditions are Field Day style operations from rare counties, or at least a nice location that's off the beaten path. Eighteen different County Expeditions were active in 22 different counties.

These operations ranged from simple S/O to complex M/M. Doing an expedition can be a lot of fun. Top S/O Expedition score goes to W6PH again in Inyo county followed by W6CQP (AD6E) in Merced county. Top M/S Expedition score was W6PT again in Imperial county, and the top M/M Expedition was, once again, W6ML in Mono county.

Of special note was the combined Expeditions of K6L (Lake) and K6C (Colusa). These two stations were located about 100 yards from each other and manned by the same operators.

Also of special note, N6IZ hiked several miles to the Lassen/Plumas/Shasta tri-county point to operate with his QRP rig and batteries. He claims the highest number of Calories burned per QSO. KX7M and W6CWM operated from county line/point QTHs although those locations were a little easier to get to.

	Mult	CW	SSB	County	Score	
W6PH	58	786	936	Inyo	245,340	SO L
W6CQP	56	928	623	Merced	225,820	SO
W6PZ	56	852	550	Trinity	204,736	SO
KX7M	56	790	304	Mendicino Tehama	166,824	SO L
N6YEU	58	545	514	Del Norte	154,454	SO L
N6LL	46	149	62	Tulare	26,335	SO L
WA6WPG	18	17	42	Stanislaus	2,448	SO L
N6IZ	19	21	9	Lassen Plumas Shasta	1,567	SO Q
N6A	57	999	781	Alpine	259,920	MS
W6PT	57	808	1,045	Imperial	257,298	MS
K6L	58	905	718	Lake	240,903	MS
K6C	57	811	560	Colusa	202,606	MS
W6EU	52	408	0	Sierra	63,726	MS
W6CWM	50	4	297	Del Norte Humbolt Siskiyou	30,375	MS L
K6ST	39	3	234	Sierra	23,373	MS L
W6ML	58	1,116	1,583	Mono	377,870	MM
KS6U	58	980	1,061	Modoc	293,741	MM
ND6E	58	402	560	San Benito	134,908	MM L

SWEEPS -

A big part of the fun is to work all 58 multipliers. Despite the huge participation of CQP this year it was not so easy to make the "sweep".

Only 28 out of state stations managed to work a complete CA sweep. Compare that to 30 last year, and only 9 the year before! The toughest county by far was Glenn.

The very first sweep was made by WO4O when he worked ND6E in San Benito county at 23:25Z. That's only 6 hours and 25 minutes into the contest. Congratulations!

Sweeps of all CA counties:

VE3KZ	K4WI	KX4X	N5OT	WA3HAE
VE3OBU	K5CM	N0AC	N8UM	WD5K
VY1JA	K5TR	N0FW	NY4N	WO4O
PJ2/NH7C	K5XR	N4CW	W8GN	WY0A
K4BAI	KE5LQ	N4PN	W8MJ	
K4BEV	KE9I	N5JB	W9IND	

In California, no less than 47 stations found all 50 US states plus all eight Canadian call districts for sweeps. This is the only state QSO party where the number of multipliers is the same for both in-state and out-of-state operators. The toughest mult was North Dakota with Hawaii being a close second.

The very first sweep from CA was made by W6NL at 21:13Z or 5 hours and 13 minutes when he contacted N7OG in Utah. Congratulations!

Sweeps of all states and provinces:

AA6GZ	KA6BIM	N6MJ	NT6K	W6TKV
AA6PW	KD6FW	N6MU	W6AFA	W6XU
AD6WL	KE6ZSN	N6NZ	W6AMM	W6YX
K6GT	KF6RIP	N6O	W6CIT	WA5VGI
K6IF	KJ6GQ	N6RER	W6IXP	WA6FGV
K6L	KM6HK	N6XI	W6LD	WB6L
K6LA	KS6U	N6YEU	W6ML	WN6K
K6RIM	N6ED	N6YMM	W6NL	
K6VO	N6IJ	ND6E	W6PH	
K6XX	N6JS	NN6NN	W6TK	

CLUBS -

CA Club competition is again a run away with the Mother Lode DX & Contest Club putting together an even bigger effort that resulted in 24 logs totaling over 2.7 million points. The next best club effort was by the Redwood Empire club with only 6 logs and 886,267 points which is almost exactly the same score they achieved last year.

This is the second year for the non-CA club competition. This has quickly turned into a very stiff competition between the Tennessee Contest Group and Contest Club Ontario. TCG managed 17 entries totaling 701,572 points compared to CCO with 18 logs totaling 624,751 points.

CA Clubs	# Logs	Total
Mother Lode DXCC	24	2,710,071
Redwood Empire DXCC	6	886,267
Santa Cruz ARC	2	446,078
Livermore ARK	3	391,126
Caltech ARC	3	365,455
Monterey Bay ARA	2	281,349

San Fernando Valley ARC	8	278,122
Hollywood Hills	4	199,914
West Valley ARA	4	30,336

non CA Clubs	# Logs	Total
Tennessee Contest Group	17	701,572
Contest Club Ontario	18	624,751
Society of Midwest Contesters	8	463,484
Florida Contest Group	9	429,814
Mad River Radio Club	8	338,712
PVRC	6	267,425
South West Ohio DX Assoc	2	233,410
South East Contest Club	3	184,538
North Texas Contest Club	2	145,750
Weekend Warriors	2	121,708
MN Wireless Association	5	107,688
Central Texas DX Club	3	82,747
Texas DX Society	3	81,975
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	4	51,578
Grand Mesa Contest Club	2	50,027
Frankfort Radio Club	2	40,040
Metro DX Club	3	19,058

SCHOOLS-

The school competition has turned into a spirited fight between Stanford and Cal Tech. Again this year, the school competition was just barely won by Stanford, W6YX. This was a multi-operator group. A serious challenge was offered by the Cal Tech station, W6CIT piloted by N6AN. No other CA schools were heard from. Cornell University, W2CXM won the non-CA school plaque.

School competition

W6YX	Stanford	MS	311,605
W6CIT	Cal Tech	SO	307,284
W2CXM	Cornell University	MS	24,384
W9YB	Purdue University	MS	12,048

QRP-

The number of QRP stations in CQP has remained fairly steady since this category was first introduced five years ago. This year we had 32 QRP logs, up slightly from 30, 22, and 18 for the past three years. They are noted in the results tables with a "Q" after their score. Top CA QRP station was N6RA in San Francisco who made 500 CW QSOs and finished with 73,573 points. Second place CA-QRP is WR6WR with 55,890 points. Top non-CA QRP station was N4JF in AL who worked 414 QSOs mixed with a score of 61,488. Of significant note are JR1NKN and HB9QA who joined the fun from great distances.

QRP stations:

W6RCL	WC7S	KF6CNV	N8VW	W1AAD
WR6WR	KE0G	N4JF	W8TM	N6RA
JR1NKN	W6AQ	KI7Y	NG7Z	AC7A
AA4NO	K6IPV	K6MI	W6ZH	NJ4X
N6IZ	VA3DF	HB9QA	KA6SGT	
WA2BQI	K6ILM	VE3SYB	WA0VBW	
KG5U	VE3IGJ	WB6BWZ	N6WG	

W6ML CQP Website:
<http://www.vistasierra.com/w6ml>

RECORDS -

Despite the sunspot slide, 29 new records were set this year. All existing records can be viewed at <http://www.cqp.org/Records.html>

On a personal note, for the past few years, I've been running around the state looking for good sites to set new county records. I've set seven county records in five years. Two of those were by sitting on a county line, which was both fun and frustrating. This year I won my eighth record with Merced, but lost two in Mendocino and Monterey. Congratulations to K6IF and NI6T... and to all the new record holders!

New County Records in California

Del Norte	N6YEU	154,454
Los Angeles	K6LA	347,478
Madera	KD6FW	208,568
Marin	K6RIM	267,699
Mendocino	K6IF	219,240
Merced	W6CQP (AD6E)	225,820
Monterey	N6IJ (NI6T)	277,356
Riverside	N6MJ	388,136
San Luis Obispo	W6TK	304,239
Santa Cruz	K6XX	311,170

New State/Province Records

Alabama	K4WI	77,256
Arkansas	K5DB	98,410
Connecticut	W1RAN	67,200
Georgia	N4PN	133,980
Maine	N4CW	86,072
New Mexico	K5AM	70,448
Ohio	N0FW	123,685
Oklahoma	N5OT	91,379
Texas	K5TR	168,113
Ontario	VE3KZ	110,838
British Columbia	VE7SZ (VA7RR)	166,981
Europe	DL6RAI	69,314
S. America	PJ2/KH7C	70,528

Other New Records

Most Mobile QSOs	K6AQL	1685
S/O Low Power, CA	AA6PW	259,898
non-CA most CW QSOs	K7QQ	479
non-CA most SSB QSOs	K5TR	1054
All time high S/O CA	N6MJ	388,136
All time high S/O non-CA	K5TR	168,113

LOG CHECKING -

Our goal is to provide the best accuracy possible in these results. As always, nothing is perfect and there may be errors. Any error found after publication will be updated on the CQP web site: <http://www.cqp.org>.

Logs without specifically showing an operating category were all entered as single op, high power. Many logs were received indicating an operating QTH very different than what others copied them to be on the air. In such cases, we used the vast majority of received reports rather than what was indicated in the log. Before submitting any log, please review it to be sure it has complete and accurate information.

Log checking was tackled by K6III, W6OAT, KX7M, N6DE, KF6RIP, WA6O and AD6E. Any simple copying error such as wrong NR, wrong QTH, or wrong call was penalized by reducing the score by 1/2 of that 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.

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

Check logs were received from KG6NWJ, N6GL, KC6MCI, W6ISQ, KD6OTC, N6AA, SP9MRQ, TI2KAC, KB9STQ, W8GG, AB0RX, N6NVI, and W7DQW. These were either check logs by request, or (most likely) the logs were in an unreadable format. Please be sure you send logs that are in simple text format with one QSO per line. Cabrillo style logs are preferred, but are not required.

To make this contest fair, N6MJ should have an ear removed! I listened to him on the 2nd radio and he was working guys I couldn't hear!

- K6LA

Many thanks to Allan, VE7SZ, for hosting me for the California QSO Party last weekend. Allan's station works great in both DX and domestic contests, and the CQP is no exception.

This was my first high power try in the California affair since 1997. The idea was to wait through the year-2000 sunspot peak, and do the contest again once general conditions had deteriorated to the point where 10 and 15 meters would not be as much of a factor for the CA stations.

The reason for this is that, operating from British Columbia, I'm too close to CA, and my signal skips right over most or all of the state on 10 and 15. Twenty is always the "bread and butter" band from here in VE7. I'm favored if the W6s have lousy conditions on 10 and 15, and are forced to spend their daylight hours on 20. It's not as much fun for them, but it's far better for me!

Conditions this year were worse than the 2002 CQP, and I guessed correctly that this was the year to try again. I finished about 4K over the existing out-of-state record, and got above 1,300 QSOs for the first time. Unfortunately, I missed a county - Glenn - and it really, really hurt. Missing the mult made the difference between a narrow first place finish and having to settle for second.

Congrats to K5TR on the top finish and the new record score. George figured out exactly what it takes to be successful in the CQP in his first serious effort at the contest. Also remarkable is the low

power 155K number from Ken, W8MJ, in Michigan.

Finally, I want to pass along thanks to those in the NCCC that organized this year's Cal QSO Party. My guess is that there were more active W6 stations this year than in any past running of the CQP. Keep up the good work -- I, for one, will be back next year.

Thanks to all for the QSOs.
73, Gary VA7RR

Congratulations to the great score by VA7RR at VE7SZ. Hearing Gary with almost the same number all the time keep me working hard to try and pull away. I am amazed that Gary does so well even though he is too close to work California on the high bands well or at all on 10 and 15.

A big thanks to the NCCC for putting on a fine contest and encouraging tons of activity.

- K5TR

Great Contest! I wish all state QSO parties were as successful as yours. Maybe one year I'll beat Paul, K0JPL !! - K0GSV

Hi gang, first of all I want you to know how much fun and enjoyment I had during the QSO party. I've never heard so many stations on during a QSO party. Although I was running QRP, I did manage to work a good many CA stations. I look forward to next year. Again, many thanks for a great effort from the CA stations.

- N4JF

GREAT QSO PARTY AGAIN! Thanks to all of the fixed stations and mobiles. It made for an exciting weekend.. had 56 counties in the first few hours but had to wait a while for San Benito and wait even longer for the last one ... Glenn. Tks to K6AQL and W6OAT got it twice!

- N4PN

Where was Glenn county??? It's the only one I missed and I heard a lot of other stations looking for it at the end. Band Condx could have been better. Absolutely NADA for 10m.

- N0WY

First time in CQP. Great fun!

- W6AQ

This is the first contest log I have ever submitted. Thanks to AE6Y for the logging software.

- WA3HNN

It was a lot of fun. Thanks!

- KF6NCX

Was pleasantly surprised at the 160M activity -- looking forward to another CQP Tee shirt!

- W7DRA