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# 2010 California QSO Party Soapbox Comments

*Prepared by John Miller, K6MM  
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**AA6K:** There were more Europeans this year than I can recall.

**AA6XV:** Operation from N6DQ QTH.

**AB5XZ:** Enjoyable contest for me. Friendly ops in CA.

**AB7HP:** First time we participated. It was fun!

**AD2AM:** With 40m taken out by a wet transformer on a pole nearby, and no antenna for 80m, it was a tough year. But I managed most of the counties and broke 11,000 points. Not bad for 100w and a vertical in NY!

**AD6GI:** I need more BIC time and will plan accordingly for next CQP. Tnx to all for their patience + good ears. Looking forward to CQP2011.

**AE6IC:** CW and SSB, All bands, Operating time 16 hours.

**AE6Y:** Another great year for CQP! Enjoyed LP from the home QTH, and improved my score from 2008, mainly due to better 15m condx and more serious second radio usage. Can't wait for 10m to return.

**AE8U:** First time in California QSO Party

**DL3DXX:** First California on 15 meters after long time

**DL3GA:** Even with condx not as outstanding as last year, the CQP rocks the bands. I hope that everyone in the party had as much fun as I did.

**DL4AAE:** When I came back home from a family vacation late Sunday afternoon (local

time) the CQP was in full swing. Because of the great activity and the good ears of the op's in California I could make 39 QSO's including 2 all-time new CA-counties! I knew I mustn't miss this one...

**DL4FN:** Icom IC-7400, 100W, dipole

**EA4FLY:** It was wonderful to do all this QSO's with you. I am using a little V dipole (3 meters length in my balcony), and 85 watts. Congratulations for this event. 73s de EA4FLY - Jose

**HA5UK:** I lost exchange details of first 20 QSO's. Please take it as a control.

**IK2RMZ:** FB

**IV3AOL:** Yaesu FT817 (5 watt) and HEX beam

**JE3UHV:** Transceiver IC721/100w , ANT Vertical

**JR1NKN:** Thank you for the QSOs. See you all next time.

**K0FX:** Thanks for another great contest. Looking forward to next year. 73 Don K0FX

**K0RCJ:** Excellent contest as always..

**K2DFC:** A great contest. Should have stayed up all night, could have made many more contacts. Will be back next year.

**K3FIV-6:** Wow, great contest, lots of stations! Don't forget to check your log to see how many NCCC calls you worked for the anniversary award certificate - see [nccc.cc/40th.html](http://nccc.cc/40th.html) If you

worked me, you've got at least one - and probably a lot more. Running, especially on 20 SSB, with 100 watts and a dipole is "challenging". I managed to squeeze in and stay put as a mouse among the elephants for at least a little while, especially at the fringes of the band and out of the busiest time. Sorry for any frustration from people looking for MEND - I was there, but not usually in the crowd. Thanks to everybody who pulled me out. Most interesting experience was on 20 and 15, where the bands seemed very long. Trying to get the Northeast states/provinces for the CA-station multipliers, it seemed like I was more likely to get a call back from Europe than NA. That \*never\* happens - calling CQ with my 100w/dipole and getting EUs back. On CW and SSB as well. Thanks! Did miss a few mults though - I don't think anyone lives in DE...and I used to live 20 miles from it. Couldn't find QC, KY, or ME either. Hmmm, maybe some of you guys in PA, MD, VA could run some mobiles into DE during next year's CQP? For people wondering about mobiles in CA, one thing I had to learn when moving from the Northeast to CA was that CA is \*big\*. MENDocino county alone is larger than several states combined. I live in the SW corner of the county, and it

is a five hour drive to the opposite corner. Those pesky mountains make it difficult driving too. In much of CA, running lots of counties in a mobile is a week's work, not hours. Propagation on 15 was highly variable. I'd hear a midwest station 59+, then when we did the exchange a few seconds later he (and I) were in the noise. Tried CQing several likely times on 10 to see if anyone was around but not a sound. Maybe next year. Rig is a Flex-3000, running 100 watts on all bands to a Carolina Windom at about 35 feet. N1MM did its normal great job, no problems. I loaded up the latest version about an hour before the start (I know I know, dumb thing to risk...) and turned on the "score reporter". It was interesting to see my score get updated at getscores.org as the contest progressed. Worked fine, no problems, thanks N1MM, K1TTT and crew! I did learn that I need some better kind of keyboard. It was too easy to hit the wrong keys especially with numbers. Hope I didn't QLF too many.....QTH is in sight of the ocean about 100 miles north of San Francisco. CQP is interesting because all of the CA stations are pointing their beams away from me. So on 20 and 15, I usually can't hear any other CA stations - sorry if I landed on top of you, and for those of you who "stole" my frequency, I understand... There may be some QSOs logged by more than one station! Several times as I was working stations, the band changed and I could faintly hear another CA station

running on the same frequency. Hope everybody actually worked the station they thought they were working...Thanks everyone for coming to the party! 73 /Jack de K3FIV

**K3TW-4:** "Greetings from my new QTH in Florida."

**K4MWD:** Operating mobile in New York

**K4WI:** missed Merc County!

**K5ZD:** Only an hour of operation. Signals from CA were not very loud.

**K6BEW:** Operation from Peddler Hill, Amador County. Antenna problem limited transmission to only 20 meter band. Heavy rain, thunder and lightening caused early termination of operation and departure from site.

**K6BR:** Sorry we goofed on the time, the log is off by one hour but total hours worked is correct as you will see.

**K6C:** Operating M/S again with AA1ON as a guest op.

**K6DW:** Another great contest this year...

**K6GEP:** Great band condix are turning CQP into a DX contest.

**K6H:** Where to start .. lost 40/80 antenna day of contest, so no op there.. amp keyer went south, so no amp .. had flu shot last week, had flu-like reaction ... phooey. Great activity on the bands .. cheers to the CQP team! Mark-AA6DX- Eureka.

**K6KO:** KW

**K6NA:** That was great fun! My thanks to Glenn for the opportunity to pilot his awesome station.

**K6ST:** Fun contest, got rained out on hill top in SIER county so we were limited to hours of operation.

**K6TTT:** Calif county expedition outdoor operation at 8,000 ft. Curtailed by rain/thunder at 21:30z

**K6TU:** This was my second serious effort at CQP. I learnt a lot from last year's running and spent the year in between upgrading the station and making the game plan. I'm very happy with the results! Conditions were good but I found 15m still a struggle and 10m was out for the count. Now for next year's plan!

**K6TUJ:** Difficult wx & band conditions from this QTH. Still had fun. CU next year.

**K6VAR:** This was my 2nd CQP. 2009: 100 QSO's (all SSB), 32 mults, 6368 points. 2010: 109 QSO's (24 CW, 85 SSB), 34 mults, 8228 points. FT-990, 40/20 inv vee. QTH small lot in suburbia infested with RF noise. I'm new at CW, so I used DM780 for receive but sent manually with a Bencher paddle. Despite the low rates, I still had fun making the contacts I could make.

**K6VO:** The SOARA CQP group continued its annual tradition of operating Multi-single from K6NR's station in the California desert as K6VO. We had the usual amount of fun, but fought a bad local electrical noise all weekend.

**K6VO:** There were thunderstorms in the area most of the weekend and we were off the air for an hour Saturday as one moved overhead. Last year we missed a multiplier for the first time ever - NT. I am pleased to report we made 7 NT contacts this year. Idaho was the rare one this year with only 3 QSOs.

Many thanks to everyone for the QSOs, especially the DX stations in Europe and elsewhere - we had a total of 182 DX QSOs. Thanks also to the province of Ontario for 117 QSOs, Texas for 114 and Pennsylvania for 102. 73, Dana - K6NR. Station: K3, AL1200: 1500W 160m inverted L, 80m vertical over 67 radials 40m 4 square, 20m 4L@60', 15m 5I@45', 10m 5I@48'

**K7SV**: It's always such a treat to work CQP! Many thanks to NCCC for sponsoring it once again.

**K7ZD**: Off times: 10-02 1615z to 10-02 1844z, 10-02 1943z to 10-02 2311z, 10-03 0652z to 10-03 1523z

**K8MM**: I finally worked SFRA after missing it the last two years keeping me from a sweep. This year I got SFRA out of the way early and missed SHAS and GLEN for the sweep. Maybe I'll work a sweep one of these years. 73 - Ian, K8MM

**KA3DRR-6**: CQP is the best of the best and I enjoyed every minute. My first time logging Europeans on 20 and 15m that was a big hoot. I want to thank everyone in the log for helping make CQP the best of the best! 73.

**KB3UAU**: This is a school club, single operator, youth entry. The operator was kb3uau (a youth operator) operating on the grounds of Grove City College, using the K3GCC callsign. All QSOs were made from Madera County, Calif.

**KB9YGD**: Tu all fer fb caqp agn this yr es cu nxt yr de kb9ygd

**KC4MYV**: Will have to mark the calendar for next year and

buy energy drinks so I can work this and work sat night on the job enjoyed it

**KC4YBO**: FUN contest. Will keep looking for the other 16 counties.

**KD0AKN**: Wish I had more time, was fun

**KE5BUS**: My Grandson (non-ham 11yrs old) Stephen Pendolf-Armstrong enjoyed making contacts with me

**KE6K**: Put up a new G5RV at 40 feet Friday evening.

Worked really great. It's the best antenna installation I've been able to put up in my 47 years of operating. Neighbors showed up Saturday not happy. But it worked great for the contest.

**KE7DX**: Only missed 4 counties this year. Thanks to the County Expeditions! Did better than last year! It's hard from the state next door when all of CA is on 20m & up! Weather Meteorologists claimed end of Monsoon season days ago, so it had to rain & lightning! Fun as always! Good warmup for the Arizona QSO Party coming up next weekend! Join us! <http://www.azqsoparty.org>

**KE9EX**: CQP gave me a chance to test out my new-to-me transceiver. Also, learned a lot about the wrong way to make Cabrillo files. Thanks to all.

**KG6YPH**: Part of K6WC

**KI6BEN**: Operating From Area 52, on the Vargas Cattle Ranch, in Fremont, CA

**KI6TID**: Age: 45

**KI6UAP**: Youth, County Expedition

**KJ4AOM**: Great contest as always!

**KN4Y**: Unknowingly I got schedule for a trip out of town,

I went screaming and yelling. But I was able to get back to the shack for the last five hours of the CQP. So I did not miss all the fun. I did only CW and there were plenty of stations likewise. I had a ball on 15-meters.

**N0AC**: I was operating from my Colorado Rocky Mountain cabin. Nice signal between here and W6-land.

**N0RPI**: Had a great time, going to have to work a little harder next year for that bottle of wine. 73's Dennis

**N1NN**: My 6th CQP

**N3UM**: My third CQP (previously '06 and '09). This year, my best score ever: much better than in '09, when like this year I operated CW only, and slightly better than '06, when I did both phone and CW. I like the CQP: Plenty of activity, good ops, an excellent warmup for the upcoming contest season. I noticed that this year there were many fewer CA mobiles than in '06 or '09: I only found one or two on CW. I also noticed that of the 6 CA counties I missed this year, I also missed 4 of those in 2009: BUTT, MARP, SJOA, and SISK. Would be great to hear CW from those counties in 2011! Key to my higher score this year was finding 15 meters open Sun. afternoon: 1745-1900Z, and again after a break for chores, 2020-2100. A surprise: SFL was only 81, and propagation software said NO hope for opening to CA. When the computer and the band disagree, trust the band. Made 61 QSOs and 2 new counties on 15 m., at a time when I had worked everyone I heard on 20 m. I could have worked more CA stations on

40 m. and maybe some on 80 m., except that I had to QRT about 0240Z so I could get up early Sun. to spend the morning at a local hamfest, while most W6 ops were still asleep. Still, got 59 QSOs and 1 new county on 40.

**N4PN:** Big time Fun. Lots of stations...not many mobiles but Fixed/Portable stations everywhere...all counties covered.

**N5JB:** Another great fun contest. Had a short 15M opening. That was nice. Generally pretty good conditions too.

**N5NK:** My first time to play this game. I've really got to get a better antenna! Thanks for running a really nice contest

**N5PO:** Never heard from 7 CA counties...but still enjoyed the contest very much. Look forward to next year

**N6DQ-Trinity: K6WX:** Nice opening to EU on 20. Trinity very radio quiet, wanted QRO to reach the weak ones. Hope everyone got TRIN in their log.

**N6DQ:** Missed ID and SD. Where was SFRA and YOLO?

**K6YRU:** Enjoyed my first BIC activating Trinity-

**N6DQ:** I've become a contest junkie!

**N6DW:** Maybe I should list multi-op. Murphy was the guest op this weekend . . . . all weekend. I apologize if any inappropriate language escaped my vox.

**N6EE:** I posted to the Packet Cluster, but did not use any packet spots. Guess that still classifies me as Multi-Single?

**N6ER:** NOTE: I worked N6HC on 15 SSB and gave him #111, but did not log him.

I just wanted to make sure Arnie got credit for this.

**N6HE:** Holy Cow! GREAT participation!!!!

**N6MI:** Operation from N6MI contest van (picture at n6mi.com) near Ibex Pass.

**N6MW:** For my contacts # 425 through 434, at least for some, my software sent serial # 1 (incorrectly) before I caught the problem. Kindly do not penalize the recipients for odd serial #s.

**N6NO:** Lot of work to set up expedition to Placer County. Everything worked well technically, but nevertheless Murphy just had to show up. Had to QRT in first half hour for personal reasons.

**N6RV:** Just spent a few hours horsing around!

**N6TV:** Finally worked a Sweep on CW, a first I think. Thanks to KK7X in Idaho for giving me no. 11 in the last 40 minutes of the contest.

Conditions seemed better than last year, but I made almost the same no. QSOs.

**N6XT:** I would like to personally thank N6MUF and WA3IHV for operating with me. Thanks to all those who participated this year.

**N6YEU:** This was a single op, low power "Field Day Style" County expedition to Del Norte. N3FJP does not like DX it fills in the country instead. I will submit and change the info after the reject QSOs come back. Thanks, Fred

**N7EIE:** Great contest, as per normal. I enjoy it every year! I can't believe I made more contacts on 40 meters than I did on 20 meters. CU next year!

**N8DEZ:** First CQP. 100w + dipole. Lots of fun. TNX!

**ND0C:** 20 was good on Saturday but rough on Sunday. Skip was really too long for me, but good for the Europeans and the East Coast. 80 and 40 were pretty decent, given my power level and mediocre antennas. 15 was very disappointing - no real opening here, but I could hear CA stations working the East Coast. Never did hear a San Francisco or Merced station. I would have liked to duplicate last year's sweep, but it was not to be.

**ND3R:** Great contest. 15 meters was great from here. Hope 10 is as good next year.

**NG7Z:** Another great CQP is history. Unfortunately, 15M was not productive at all. 20M was great into the south part of CA but not so much north of SF. Great ops and great participation makes this QSO party well worth the effort.

**NO8C:** Thanks!

**NQ2W:** Cool party...thanks for hearing my QRP signal. Hope to CU next year. Will, NQ2W

**NV9X:** Had fun. Lots of participation.

**NY6I:** We set up our operation in a Prune Orchard west of Winters. The WX was perfect and the trees provided excellent supports to use as tie downs for the antennas and operating tent. We not only provided an opportunity for all to work Yolo County, we really enjoyed the outdoor surroundings with the wild life, plums, walnuts and tomatoes to munch on as we took turns at the radio. I don't know where NY6I will set up next year, but we'll continue to improve our antenna array,

site location, and "exotic" location. HI HI!

**NZ6Q:** A blind guy and a one-armed guy on a mountain top for three days with a bunch of high voltage radio equipment... what could happen??? A lot of fun!

**PA2REH:** Cu all next time. 73 de Eric - pa2reh

**PA3ARM:** Focusing on getting my last 3 counties in CA for USA-CA; no new one since 2003...wkd SBEN and TUOL !; now need SISK yet. Excellent condx!

**UA3VVB:** 73 de Alexei U

**VE3BK:** Just a few contacts for fun.

**VE3CV:** First time entry and what a blast. Still, had to squeeze in a few hours during XYL's 23rd wedding anniversary weekend plans! Finally a good workout on 15m with new hexbeam. Thanks for all the Qs and will be back next year...sorry XYL!

**VE3HG:** QRP with FlexRadio 1500. Read my comments at [www.ve3hg.wordpress.com](http://www.ve3hg.wordpress.com)

**VE5BCS:** My best score but no sfan or lake I missed the sweep by 2. The sd worker well I hope all is ok

**VE6VS:** 20 & 40 was hot, however family has not quite got a grasp on "I need 12 more counties"

**VU2PTT:** After a lot of listening and searching found only one station. Hope better conditions prevail next time. 400 watts to C3S at 60 feet.

**W0ETT:** Nice to hear so many familiar CA callsigns in the CQP. Good activation of counties in the test, tho I did miss 8. I worked mostly home stations but only 2 mobiles that I could tell, K6AQL being the

most active. 73 Ken, W0ETT Parker, CO

**W1END:** There is always lots of activity in CA. Thanks to all.

**W1WIU:** I missed last year's contest due to family illness . As expected 20 and 40 meters were the workhorse bands from RI. Made some Q's on 15M activity on both SSB and CW Sat. until about 2200Z. Missed "only" 10 counties this year Hi Hi. Hope to see you again next year !

**W2CVW:** Paper log converted to electronic log by W6OAT. W2CVW's age = 74 Cover sheet indicates \$2 enclosed for results, but no cash attached to log.

**W2UDT:** Only was able to get on Sunday. Both 15m and 20m were the bands. Just too bad I was not able to get on Saturday! Well, maybe next year. Lots of CA activity and I'm sure all the CA counties were on. Only just judging by what I worked on Sunday. CU next year and thanks for another great effort by everyone! 73, W2UDT

**W4AWF:** Had a lot of fun working the contest on a more or less casual basis. CA QSO Party, been there, done that, got the T-Shirt. No really I did, I ordered two T-Shirts!

**W4PGM:** Note from N6DE: this should be a check log. Station did not copy exchange. I put #1 for all QSOs. Station's logger Ham Radio Deluxe filled in county from QRZ.com.

**W4UCZ:** Thanks for the fun party.

**W5ESE:** What a great contest! Thanks for sponsoring it!

**W5ZL:** Having just worked the Texas QSO Party last week in the K5NA rover

I worked CQP quite casually - catch as catch can. Really set out to try to sweep all the counties, but ultimately missed several. Maybe next year! Thanks to all. Loads of fun.

**W6DCC:** Great contest - as always. Thanks

**W6M:** Another year to be on the wanted end of the contact. Better conditions for state contacts but county contacts was weaker with not much of a signal going up and down the state from out location. Already looking forward to next year.

**W6ML:** County Expedition to Mono County, <http://www.vistasierra.com/w6ml/cqp2010.htm>

**W6OT:** Limited time on with limited antennas, but still had a great time

**W6RFU:** Multi Single School Club operation. Many of our usual ops were out of town during the contest weekend. Good work by Mike K6QD and Jon KG6K to hold up our commitment to provide SBAR for CQP 2010.

**W8KNO:** Had a good time even though my 160 & 80 meter dipoles came down when it got dark. I do not climb in the dark, even for the CQP.

**W9QL:** Scored better than last year, with more Q's but the same amount of multipliers. Missed 6 counties working SSB only. Some good openings on 15, which I usually don't see from here. Thanks for a fun contest. Hope to see you again next time.

**WA0AVL:** Bad WX lost reflector from KT-34XA in Hvy Light show storm net'd 56 mults missed SF and YOLO. Thanx for all the hard work

your club does each year to make this event possible...

**WA1FCN:** Another one is history. This is at least my 25 CQP. I was in very first one in 1966 N. H. and many from Ct. Condition seemed ok on 15, tho 20 not as good as past years. Thanks to K6AQL for a few counties. Like last year I missed one country this time Sutter.. I believe I broke my old Alabama score record this year. 73 Bob WA1FCN

**WA5RML:** Oct 2nd: K1 @5wts to Buddipole; Oct 3rd: FT-817 @5wts to dipole and vertical; Great fun! Thanks to all who dug my signal out of the noise and QRM. In most cases, if you had a QSO with me, you had an S9+ signal into North Texas. Good job to all!

**WA5TRX:** Had a great time Made a record 163 QSO's minus 1 dupe and caught the last 6 counties needed for Worked All CA Counties (as soon as the QSL's come in)

**WA6KHK:** A lot of great operators in California and the level of participation from out of state stations was great! Good activity from Europe! Lots of fun.

**WA6LIE:** Another Fun year! Running 100 watts without a beam on 20 was not a good idea from MONT, so I made it up on the other bands. Snagged some good European DX on 15,20,40 and 75 SSB! W6/VK4SY and KI6EAB used my radio remotely when I was not. They did pretty good! Next year, a bit more power and CW along without sleeping so much. 73, Scott.

**WA7PRC:** Worked 80-40-20m only & less than 24hr but still managed 51 counties!

**WB0PYF:** First CAQP, a lot of fun

**WB3JKQ:** Great friendly contest

**WB6BFG:** Only got to play for short periods as my daughter and granddaughter were in town...Congrats to those who posted some respectable scores! Thanks for the fun!!

**WB6HYH:** Great Contest.

**WD5JNC:** My first time back in several years. Love the Cal QSO party It's a great warm up for the November Sweepstakes

**WI7F:** With the long skip and my location on the Columbia River I was too close to get the northern counties that i heard in northern WA working. My output was 75 watts only and that was not enough this year. I missed Saturday openings due to a boating safety conference that i was vice chairman for so did not get as much time in as i wanted to this year. However it sounded like you guys had lots of high scores, KB

**WO4MW:** First QSO party, lots of fun, but wish to have gotten more counties

**YU1PJ:** Nice Contest. First time working CA QSO Party. See you next year.