

---

# 2011 California QSO Party Soapbox Comments

*Prepared by John Miller, K6MM  
Email: k6mm@arrl.net*

**AA2AD:** This is a contest!

**AA6DX:** Enjoyed seeing 10 & 15 open -- now to get rid of arthritis!

**AA6K:** This was a fun contest!!!

**AA6XV:** Operation from N6DQ

**AB1OD:** Switched to multi-one once the test was well underway and I realized that working all counties might be within reach if I permitted myself some peeks at the spots. Alas, I came up short, as I failed to find four counties while S&P-ing, and they either weren't spotted or I was tending to the honey-do list when they were spotted. Still, plenty of activity = lots of fun, even from out here on the right coast.

**AD6E:** Tulare county expedition

**AE1P:** Had fun, and got my first CQP sweep, had all counties worked Sunday morning...

**AE6IC:** Great party... reminded me of the good old days of ham radio openings and enthusiastic ops.

**AE6Y:** Thanks to K6TA/K6KO for outstanding hospitality. But how can I have made 2300 Qs and never even heard VE5 or SD??

**AG6AM:** Great time operating this QSO party. Thanks for putting this on. This got me motivated to work more CA counties using 80 meters.

**CU2JT:** Some confusion from my side whether I should send cu or dx. So I did a little of both... Please don't blame they guys for my mistake. E-mail: garwik@yahoo.com

**DL4AAE:** Could make only a few QSO's to W6 due to poor condx this weekend. Had fun anyway.

**ES1WST:** Since 2009 I've wanted to participate in CQP, but with my QRP station there was no hope. But this year the sun decided to help out and I added a Hexbeam. It's a fairly tough path from ES1 to CA (330deg) and conditions were less than ideal. But one CA station briefly peaked At a fluttery s9 on 20m and I managed to work him, plus one more. I had slightly higher hopes than 2 QSOs, but it could have been worse. Maybe more next year if the sun agrees?

**KØJPL:** 10 & 15M sure helped my score.

**KØMPH:** During CA CQP, I was visiting my son in Michigan and brought a radio, vertical Antenna, and remote antenna tuner along. My six year-old grandson, James helped me install the antenna, run the cables through a second story window, and set up the station in the family room. James learned to say "kay zero mike papa hotel portable 8" and a serial number followed by "Michigan". He made 39 qs.

Four-year old sister, Adria, wanted part of the action but could only master "mike papa hotel portable 8". So I would tune in a station and have her call with the power turned down to zero percent. We wouldn't get a response but she was in the action.....except NU6C heard us: "who is the portable 8?" I had to turn up the power to finish the contact. After the kids were in bed I made a few CW contacts. Thanks to all who took the extra time to complete a contact with a young person. It put a smile on his face and we had a few good laughs ... "who is the YL?" Often I could "hear" the smile on the Californian's face.

**K1GIG:** YL Operator. Had a few computer crashes, but started the contest with a newly installed Hex Beam....Rocks!

**K2EL:** Thanks to all!

**K2SSS:** 1<sup>st</sup> time CQP – "New Contester".

**K3FIV-6:** Wow, I bet that was as much fun as you can have with 100w and a dipole! It's novel to be on the "prey" side of the hunt, and a nice surprise to be called even by dx on 20/15/10 where I occasionally found a little bit of elbow room for my weak signal. This was 95% running, which is the opposite of what I normally do in contests. I hopped around from band to band, mode to mode, trying to make MEND

available. Sadly, no one in SD was around...but the other 57 made it into the log. When my voice failed Saturday nite, I switched to only CW then when my brain failed, I struggled into bed. Most interesting event was about 15 minutes before the end. I was on 20cw, and all of a sudden the noise level went from s2 to s8, pretty much wiping everything out. I thought maybe the antenna/tuner succumbed to the early rain we've been getting since yesterday. But when I switched to 10m to check it out, the signal levels there were way up, much better than any time before in the contest. Hmm, I wonder what the sun did at 2145 UTC? Every contest is a learning experience, and I learned a new thing about the optimal way to structure your exchange macros. They have to be the right length, not too short, not too long. If it's too short, you won't be able to grab that glass/bottle/can of whatever you're using to avoid dehydration. If it's too long, prospective callers will get tired of waiting and you'll lose Qs. It turns out there is a critical length, to be avoided at all costs. If it's long enough to reach out for the refreshments, but not long enough to get back to the keyboard when that next station calls, instability occurs, and the container has a high probability of falling over, especially if the headphone cable provides an assist. Don't ask me how I know this. Hope everyone had fun! Thanks for all the Qs and the patience. 73, /jack de K3FIV.

**K3TW:** Many thanks for another enjoyable CQP

**K4GOP:** I beat last year's score thanks to a new Hex antenna.

**K4ORD:** Conditions were very good from CA into VA for the CQP; enjoyed the Party - until next time, 73, Riley.

**K5GQ:** Could not hear any pile-ups

**K6ANP:** Total operating time was 10.5 hours

**K6ASK:** New Contester

**K6ATZ:** 1<sup>st</sup> beam; 1<sup>st</sup> CQP submission.

**K6CSL:** Broke all my station records for CQP. Conditions were great!

**K6DW:** Another good contest; results could have been better

**K6JAT:** Had a blast! Great propagation for a change.

**K6KAP:** Wish I could have done more. Next year!

**K6LY:** Everyone had a blast; great contest!!

**K6S:** N6GEO & WQ6X survived the Sacramento River near Decker Island. George used an FT-897 while WQ6X put an ICOM-7000 on the air. George's vertical dipole design was awesome on 20m and 10m. A tuned wire worked well on 15m. Unfortunately, the Honda generator gave us an S9 noise level much of the time. So if you heard us but we couldn't hear you, that is why. We made radio presence on all bands from 160m to 2m, CW and SSB.

**K6TU:** What a difference a year and some sunspots make! 10 and 15 were wide open across the country and were hopping. Thanks for all the contacts!

**K6UD:** Only 1 operator (K6IRF) for this contest. No takers and I told them it would

be a lot of fun. Next year other club members will surely join. 73!

**K6VO:** For the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row, members of the Southern Orange Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) joined me at my San Bernardino desert ham shack to put K6VO in the CQP. Conditions were good, with lots of DX Qs and openings on all bands. The QRN was bad so apologies to the stations calling we were unable to pull out. We all had a great time, and hope you did too. See next year. Dana, K6NR. Station: K3 to AL-1500; 5L@48' on 10m, 5L@45' on 15m, 4L@60' on 20m, 40m 4-Square, 80m vertical, 160m inverted L.

**K6VVA:** Two county expedition: SBEN 21,177; MONT 12,579.

<http://www.k6vva.com/cqp2011>

**K6WC:** 2011 CQP from SBEN, Pinnacles National Monument. Driven off our normal perch on Fremont peak by other earlier reserving evil-doers, we set up our station at the Pinnacles National Monument. We lost a lot in geography but did get shore power rather than generators/batteries. This year we had 3 CW operators ranging from 5 yrs experience down to 1 yr. Didn't find any rate on SSB until N6NUL hit his stride on 15M SSB Sunday afternoon. K3RRy didn't do any operating but his awesome technical support contributed many QSOs we wouldn't have otherwise made. K3, N1MM, AL-600, Spiderbeam, 40m/80m Fan inverted V. Our youth station efforts are recorded in the KJ6BNO and KI6UAQ logs. An operator QLF caused a

valid Q not to be recorded in our log about 2011-10-02 0410. Don't nil them if you don't have it it was our error!

**K6YA**: 1<sup>st</sup> FARS club CQP party. KJ6LXV youth; AG6GH new ham; BBQ was good.

**K6YL**: This was an incredibly fun QSO party and we already look forward to another county Expedition to Trinity next year.

**K6YV**: Conditions were great on Saturday, a little mushy on Sunday. We had some issues (as usual) with WriteLog talking to our rig. What a blast!

**K6Z**: Another excellent CQP in the books, and a very memorable one for our team. A big Thank You to the NCCC for all the hard work that goes into sponsoring the contest.

**K7ACZ**: Hard to work from Las Vegas. Heard many CQP contacts being made on 20m but could not hear the CA side. Started out with a few contacts on 10m. Then went to 40m.

Later in the afternoon 20m did open for me. Wish more of the rarer counties would have tried to do a run calling CQ. I could hear counties I needed answering someone else's CQ then they were gone; no way to work them. I was surprised not to hear TULA county but I remember back when I was K6ACZ in Orange County I went to IMPE one year and to TULA another year to put those counties in the contest and got a lot of "thanks for a new one" for those counties.

**K7SV**: Somewhat limited in time but it was a blast as always!

**K8MM**: Thanks to N6ZFO in Lake County, I got my first CQP sweep. CU guys in the Michigan QSO Party.

**K8MR**: Fun contest with enough sunspots to make it a five band contest (maybe six if I could have stayed awake later).

**K9QJS**: Got my license 6 months ago. CQP was fun! I was quiet & off air from 2011-10-02 08:00 UTC until 15:00 UTC.

**KA2AAM**: Great contest!

**KA3DRR**: Thanks for a stellar event this year with excellent cycle 24 numbers! My score improved with the help of 10m and better conditions on 15m. KB until next year.

**KB9YGD**: Tu all for the FB time and 10m helped us a lot. 73.

**KC9MEA**: Youth operator, age 15. I worked the entire weekend. Condx were good, especially on 15m and 10m. Looking forward to next year's CQP!

**KD6CUB**: Great contest again this year. Already looking forward to next year and hopefully the conditions will be even better.

**KD6WKY**: The bands were alive all weekend long. Great to hear 10m open all weekend long too. Never had so many DX stations participate in CQP. Good times.

**KD8GIJ**: New contester. Used a TS440S and wire in the attic. Isn't this hobby great!? This was my first contest ever!

**KD8HHG**: Good QSO party.

**KE6GFI**: YL Operator.

**KE9I**: Just a limited amount of time from Germany. Thanks for DM5TI to lend his FB station for operation.

**KIØI**: Wow – a great QSO Party! It was so cool to have 10m and 16m pipelining into Cal. Also fun to work all CA

counties in one CQP. Great job getting the counties on the air. Thanks all for the Qs. 73, Mark.

**KI6JJW**: Still flailing away with wire antennas here in CCOS.

**KI6LAV**: YL Operator.

**KI6UAQ**: Converted from paper log, times very approximate. Youth stations county expedition with Cece Kerns. Set up and operating by themselves in a separate tent as part of the IRCSLV expedition to Pinnacles National Monument. All 3 are 4H members and the boys are active boy scouts. Josh is learning CW even as I type.

**KI6UDZ**: New contester.

**KJ4VTH**: My first CQP. Tnx for a great contest.

**KJ6BNO**: Converted from paper log, all times very approximate. Log starts at 37 due to paper log bungle. Youth Operator. YL Operator. Technician Operator.

"Because I'm competitive Dad, why else?". We'd set up a youth operator tent on 10m.

Josh (KI6UAQ) and Cece (KJ6BNO) operated it under KI6UAQ on Saturday.

However the boys left on Saturday night and let's just say Cece felt a little

"challenged" by the situation. So Cece did you want to beat their pants off?

No....well...maybe a little.

10:00am operating under her own call and stayed put until the end of the contest, making more contacts than both boys put together. Go figure. A 12 year old. YL voice is worth 10-20DB after all! K3, YP-3 Super antenna configured for 10M at 30 ft.

**KJ6LJB:** CQP is the first contest that I have tried since getting my ham ticket one year ago.

**KJ6PVA:** After having passed my tech test in June I got hooked on HF in the Field Day activities and then received my Gen ticket in July. This is my first contest. So I would like to be considered for the New Contester Award. Thank you for all the work.

**KJ8O:** Had a great time; glad to see 10m open!

**KN4Y:** operated CW and kept busy moving from signal to signal; Also worked a mobile several times. Big surprise was 10m opening for long periods. I needed Del Norte on 10m to complete all CA counties on four bands. Sadly I did not work the county; Try again next year.

**KQ6RE:** Looking forward to next year!!

**NØAX:** This is the most I've been able to participate in years – great contest, thanks!

**NØOKS:** K3/10 and 5BTV Vertical

**NØORQ:** New contester. First year of HF and first year of CQP. I only worked the first day of contest. 90 QSO Points, 45 contacts, 31 counties.

**N1NN:** 7<sup>th</sup> California QSO Party.

**N2JNZ:** 15m was fantastic. Using a Flex-1500 at 5 watts to a Zerofive 40M vertical.

**N3TG:** Nice contest. Where are the mobiles?

**N3UM:** I enjoy the CQP. I find it a good way to warm up and sharpen skills for the coming contest season. In any contest my main goal is to do better than last year and I did that in the CQP this year. Operating

CW only, it seems like I will miss some counties with only Phone Ops. Better QSO total this year due to two factors: Several hours more BIC time (didn't go to the local hamfest this year) and a lot more sunspots: 104 Qs on 15m this year vs 61 last year. I must give special mention to K6AQL – worked him in 10 different counties, three uniques: COLU, KING and SUTT. A nice surprise, since K6AQL had not even posted an operating schedule as of Friday. Got my 52<sup>nd</sup> and last county (YOLO) late Sunday, when W6EO answered my CQ. Thanks to all who made the CQP what it is. I will be back next year.

**N4ARO:** As always an excellent QSO Party. Special acknowledgement to Andy, AE6Y for his great free logging program. After downloading and using it several years ago, it is still the only program I use. Thanks to all the guys who work hard to publicize and put on this great event each year.

**N4DXI:** I just ran out of time....missed 15 counties!

**N4PN:** Thanks for another great CQP. Sorry, for the first time in a long time, I could not operate the full time.

**N4VV:** The packet cluster was used.

**N5JB:** Sure was nice to have 15m back. I was pleased that 1<sup>st</sup> hop F2 from my QTH was so strong into CA. Sweet! Made good numbers on 15m. It was also nice to have a little bit of 10m. Maybe it is a harbinger of better things to come. Got my sweep at QSO 381 in 7 hrs 12 min. Not as fast as last year, but I'm still anxious to learn if it was good

enough to be first to 58 again this year. Thanks to AF6UJ for the Merced QSO; the last county I needed. CQP is always a great contest.

Congrats to the NCCC for putting on a good show as usual. Now if we could just get some rain here in Texas.

**N5NK:** Great event! My only regret is that I couldn't spend more time playing with you guys.

**N6DW:** As often happens family obligations got in the way and I had a limited effort, only about 9 hrs. Last year no one would respond to my CQ so it was all S&P. This year I even got a few runs going and was spotted a couple of times. Nice to know the microphone still works, even if the antenna doesn't.

**N6F:** Fun event even with indoor antennas.

**N6HA:** New contester. I've done a few contests but this is the first time submitting my logs.

**N6JBR/4:** I was portable in Salt Lick, KY, EM88ec.

**N6MA:** How about a CW only category

**N6MI:** Operated near Pearsonville, CA (Inyo county). Station is Ford van with the 56 ft. pneumatic mast (N6MI.com)

**N6UWW:** Single Op – YL operator. It's great fun as always to run across the regular group of contesters as well as share the love w/ the newbies. Tnx to WB6BFG for keeping me fed, quenching my thirst (happy almost Friday!) and encouraging me along the way.

**N6VOH:** Had a great time and hope for better score next year. 10m was a lot of fun.

**N6XT:** Had a few issues but most got resolved. Hope to improve the score next year. Thanks to all the operators.

**N7EIE:** This was one of my best CQP's ever. Great condx on 20m Saturday. CU next year!

**N8CBW:** Great fun operating part-time from my car in the driveway!

**N8DEZ:** Still on the dipole.

**N8XX:** Great that 15 and 10 came alive. Was absolutely amazed that my 5 watts to an 80 meter inverted V with apex at 28 ft. could actually be heard amongst the cacophony of the "full gallons" even on SSB! Thanks to the FB crew in California who put on a grand party!

**N9FN:** It was good to see propagation between Indiana and California. I made a few Q's from my mobile station then decided to play more from the car as I had time. Gee, is there a certificate for high score in the out-of-state mobile category? ☺ 73, Dave

**N9WL:** Great time. Two-day format makes participating much easier. Thanks!

**NA4C:** KJ6NLD, Natalie, is a great operator. A fun contest.

**NDØC:** This was fun! All the bands seemed to be pretty noisy, but my 5 watts still felt pretty loud. I usually have decent propagation to CA from here. Overall I was pleased with my score, but I wish 10 had been open from up here in the black hole. And it would have been nice to complete the sweep but I never heard anybody from MERC or YOLO – bummer! I'm pleased with 567 Qs and the final score with QRP and so-so antennas. I've been playing in the CQP for

over 20 years – always QRP – and I'll be back again next year. Thanks for a great event with good activity!

**ND3R:** Great contest, as always. CU all next year.

**NN6DX:** Great to have 10m open. Sorry I couldn't operate Sunday. CU next year!

**NO2D:** Bands great this weekend, at last. 5 watts was all it took to make contacts with almost anyone I heard.

**NO5W:** First time in quite awhile that 15m was my money band and it was in great shape. That was good news. The bad news was that after Saturday I had worked all the fixed stations on 40-15m so Sunday was even worse than the SS doldrums with very few non-dupe stations to work and only one mobile to chase. 73/Chuck.

**NQ2W:** Enjoyed the short time that I had with the CQP. Thanks for hearing my QRP signal.

**NR8R:** Great QSO Party!

**NU10:** This was my first CA QSO party. Just wish I knew N3FJP had a program so I wouldn't have had to type all the QSOs in from my log with 3 days until deadline! Very 73!! Chris.

**NU6N:** I am a YL so please enter me for the "Top YL Award". Band condx were very interesting. Each solar flare produced improved band conditions for a few minutes and that definitely helped my score. A Challenging and fun contest. Thank you everybody.

**NV9L:** I am a YL and a rookie operator. This was my first contest ever and what a blast it was!!

**NY4S:** First QRP! Had fun testing suspect antenna. Must be okay.

**NZ6Q:** Chaos, mayhem, and madness. Then we got all the antennas put up. After that it was nearly 20 hours of fun, fun, fun.

**RG5A:** FT-2000, Antenna DX-77A

**SP5SA:** ICOM 765, 500w, 4 element QQ.

**VA3KAI:** Rig: Kenwood TS2000. Fun contest with great conditions from CA to eastern Ontario. I'll be back for sure next year and will plan more operating hours.

**VA3PAW:** New Contester. My dog ate the log records from 2 to 11...

**VA3RKM:** FT897, 5 watts, vertical. Always fun!

**VA3YOJ:** YL Operator.

**VE2EZD:** Tnx for this great QSO Party. FT950, AL811H, 80m dipole, 40m full wave Delta loop on 40, 20, 15, and 10m.

**VE3GTC:** Thanks for another Great CA QSO Party!

**VE3ZT:** Excellent CA ops!

**VE7RSV:** Operated battery power with Buddipole and FT857 from a picnic table, so only stayed on 20m this year until the rain chased me away.

**VE8DW:** Thanks for a fun contest!

**WØBH:**  $(227*3) + (954*2) = 2589 * 58 = 150,162$ ; Sweep at 1948Z

**WØETT:** Thanks for the FB CQP! 73, Ken. IC-756pro3 to HF Yagis.

**W1END:** California sure is a "radio-active" sate. Conditions were fine. Rig was FTDX5000 (150w) and Butternut HF6V Vertical.

**W1MA:** Only missed 6 counties on CW only. Worked

2 SSB contacts early in morning as it was slow going to give them points. They were struggling as well. A lot of fun. K6AQL worked hard to cover numerous counties. He should receive special recognition for his efforts.

**W1WIU:** Thanks for another FB QSO Party. Antennas still down from "Irene". Put up the MA5B at 20 ft, pointed it west, cranked up the AL-811H and had a ball! Hope to be up and running at full height in a few weeks.

**W3RP:** First CQP; from 764 Chapel Road, Leeper, PA 16233 (Clarion County).

**W4JHU:** Thanks for sponsoring, organizing and administering this event.

**W4UCZ:** Thanks for another fun party!

**W5ESE:** Thanks for sponsoring it!

**W6AMM:** Great action on all bands. For me this was an opportunity to diagnose the station ahead of the 2011-2012 season. I got a page full of notes.

**W6CT:** Kenwood TS930 into an 80 foot long stealth random wire at 12 feet.

**W6EO:** Had only indoor antennas in attic.

**W6GMP:** New contester.

**W6ML:** County expedition to MONO county.

<http://www.vistasierra.com/w6ml/cqp2011.htm>

**W6M:** Glad to see conditions so much better. Spent all time on 10m.

**W6OAT:** Missed NT

**W6UE:** Thanks to all who have made W6UE such a fine station. I was worried that a loud party in the clubroom next to the shack on the Caltech campus would ruin my

Saturday night. Thankfully, they were pretty quiet. Other times they have set the walls thumping with their loud music.

**W6V:** KI6BEN is operator.

**W6YX:** First time above 4,000 QSOs! We've been above 3,000 Qs for 4 years now but with the recent great conditions, Mike N7MH, thought we could do better than our usual two or three transmitter operation. In the last week he pushed us to get seven transmitters ready and we had up to six operators a few times, although most often I was only two or three operators. We only had 3 amplifiers and some transmitters were only one mode. Conditions were not as good as last week, but we were pleased to break 4,000 Qs. The out-of-CA participants certainly didn't have a hard time finding or working us. The 5,000 QSO level set by N6O (congrats!) will have to wait for another year....

**W6ZE:** CQP was a great time to do our antennas in the park event.

**W8KNO:** Thanks to AE6Y, K6NV, K6YV, KF6T and N6KI for the 80m Qs. My 100 watts, E-W dipole at 16 feet needed all the help it could get. Did not do any CW this year.

**W9AAC:** Always an enjoyable QSO Party. Thanks again.

**W9QL:** Missed 4 counties, which was 2 better than last year. Conditions were poor on 20m but great on 15m where CA stations were typically 10 over S9! It was also nice to see 10m open up, which has not happened from here to the west coast in quite awhile.

The band conditions helped contribute to a few more Qs

than last year. I had a good time as always and hope to see you again next year.

**WAØMHJ:** 16 minutes of fun. Sorry it couldn't have been more.

**WA1FCN:** Just a relaxing effort this year. Congrats to Tom K4ZGB for overtaking my 2004 Alabama record. I won't relax next year.... Hi HI. Sure nice to meet all the old regulars in this event. I hope conditions on 10m will be as good next year as they were this year. 73, Bob.

**WA3HAE:** Great job by the organizers, mobiles and fixed stations! What a fun time. Missed Shasta for the sweep. No 80m antenna didn't help either!!

**WA5IYX:** Nice to see 10m alive again for this event. The last hour of the test got aborted due to a 6m opening to South America! Did manage a few short runs this time. Must get a good head-boom-mike. Still yet to get a sweep of CA counties in this in 30+ attempts. First go with a Cabrillo submission.

**WA5SWN:** Great party! The bands (10-15-20) were open, good propagation, lots of stations worked on 2 bands. At 49 counties, this is the closest I've ever come to a clean sweep! (highest score, too). Had to cut short for a family emergency or I would have gone the whole way. Just wait until next year!

**WA5TRX:** Had a lot of fun and QSOed last 2 counties needed for working them all.

**WA6KEK:** The money band was 15m for me. Conditions on Saturday were awesome. At the start, I had stations calling me after having only

transmitted “is the frequency in use please”.

**WA6KHK:** We tried low power this time but I don't think it worked out too good. We were able to get our last 2 counties in CA for all counties a second time (LASS and SBEN). A lot of DX participation this year. Good luck to all!

**WA6KYR:** We spent too much time taking breaks and having a good time and eating instead of grinding through the contest. Well maybe next year we can get into the contest. Of course, that is what I say every year.

**WB4SQ:** FT2000 and Quad @ 35 ft.

**WB6DWP:** Converted from paper log. Times very approximate.

**WB6JJJ:** That was a lot of fun. I just wish that I had more time to play radio. I was fortunate the RI came along during a CW run an hour before close for a sweep. I think everyone in Ontario was on the air. They were everywhere. Conditions seemed good throughout the test until near the end when the bands went dead and the noise level rose very high. My DXL also went down. Must be the sun....thanks for all of the QS. 73, Bill.

**WB7TPH:** This is one of my first HF contests to work, thanks. I hope I did it right. Not looking for a score, but to give credit to those CA ops that I worked.

**WB8LBZ:** My first QSO party – it was fun.

**WI7F:** Enjoyed it as usual. Just did not have enough time as had to care for ill family

member too. Hope to do better next year.

**WO40:** Aimed for another “First to 58” plaque. Sweep in less than 9 hours.

**WQ3C:** Had a great time for my first California QSO Party.

**WU6W:** Weird doing this from another state.

**WW7CA:** YL operator.

**WZ7Z:** YL operator.