

California QSO Party

2025 CQP CA Soapbox

This file contains comments made by stations inside California who participated in CQP 2025. Comments are from SOAPBOX: lines inside Cabrillo log files as well as comments made on the CQP log submission web form. Specific comments intended for the log checking team have been omitted from this file.

After you're done reading this soapbox collection, we encourage you to read all the comments made by CQP 2025 participants on 3830scores.com.

AA6MU

This was another tent operation out in the woods and let's just say the heavy rain during setup made things extra fun. Nothing like a downpour to make you question your life choices :)

A quick word of encouragement to my fellow Californians confined to tiny HOA patios: join a CQP expedition force! It's the one and only contest where you're the hunted, not the hunter, not just another annoying CA station. And it's pure fun. This modest result was achieved with just wires in the trees and an old FTdx3000. You don't need rotating Berthas with 4x6 stacks or even a shiny K4HD or FLEX to be very competitive. And don't get me started on that sub-zero noise level you get out there in the wild. Pure bliss.

A few lessons learned that might be helpful for someone:



California QSO Party

The 2x6 switch picked up condensation overnight and decided to quit working. I'll try to repair and seal it, or just move it inside the tent next time.

That fancy GFCI outlet at the campsite clearly wasn't a fan of high power. It tripped if I dared to pull more than 300W... A couple dozen trips to the campsite power distribution board turned out to be a great workout. Definitely woke up my sleepy legs! So much for running HP? Barefoot next year it is :)

On the bright side: for the first time ever, I got my HEX beam up to 10 meters! It took some generous supply of strong words in my native language to make it happen :) You'll see the results if Dean puts together his beautiful video this year.

AF6GA

Nothing beats being in the middle of nowhere playing radio.

AF6TF

Running 100% natural power, not even a gas generator, but no points for this.

AI6VX

This was fun! I wish my neighbors didn't create so much RFI!

AK6JN

I took a trailer to the park US-0187 and set up there for the day.

K6A (N7AAE, N7AUE ops)

N7AAE and N7AUE operating together on SIER/LASS County line.



California QSO Party

K6AJ

First CW CQP and a quick attempt to run. Need to set up N1MM to send CW!

K6C (KP4MD op)

Special Event Station K6C at the Rocklin Maker Faire, Sierra College, Rocklin, CA

K6CMM

Yaesu FT-710, end fed long wire

K6D (KK6IK, KB6NTW ops)

Great weather and band conditions for a 6-hour QRP expedition to POTA-1180. Lots of fun!

K6DF

Not as many stations on the air this year. The bands were not great. Still had a lot of fun and met some old friends as well... Thanks to all I worked.

K6F (AK7G op)

Thanks for a fun weekend. Been a little slower this time, must be age. -hi

K6FA

Missed last year as I was in China so it was nice to operate again. Miss the old paper log days. My vertical was not working so very few contacts on 40 and none on 80.

K6G (KA9MDP op)

I was surprised at the high noise floor at the start of the event -- especially 20 meters. Initially most of my operation was search and pounce, with little success attempting to run a frequency.



California QSO Party

That turned around a bit on Sunday; however, there were still significant periods where the response time between calls was 3-5 minutes. I need to look at other antenna options for future expeditions if I'm going to stay with an SO-LP activation. My expedition location at the edge of the forest on 21N65 just off Alder Spring Road experienced a lot of pickup and side-by-side traffic from hunters over the weekend, including several "neighbors" each of the nights.

K6IJ

I could not find a safe spot to work a county line so I chose a park-n-ride in Hanford. Road noise was an issue but otherwise it was a decent spot. Used my Little Tarheel II antenna mounted on the fender of the truck and a K3 Elecraft running 100 Watts.

K6KQV

Had a great time. Thanks to all who made CQP 2025 a great contest.

K6KS

Icom IC-7600, KPA500, Force-12 XR6 at 55 feet

K6MM

Another fantastic CQP in the books. Thanks for all the QSOs.

K6NA

My time-on was limited this year but I still enjoyed saying hello to many friends, old and new.

Congratulations to N6DE and his committee for organizing the great CQP for all of us!



California QSO Party

K6PUD

Arrived home with only 100 minutes left, but what a fun 100 minutes!

K6QBQ (K6QBQ, W6SXA ops)

Primary operator: unlicensed youth experiencing amateur radio for the first time. Other operators were K6QBQ (station control operator) and W6SXA.

K6QK (K6ZH, N7CW, N6ERD, N6EEG ops)

Thanks to Dean, N6DE, for all the hard work putting this great contest together.

K6R/M (N3KA op)

This was a tough one. My new antenna worked wonderfully sometimes and was noisy and impossible at other times. Still truly enjoyed the contest as always.

Thanks for a great contest and can't wait for next year.

K6RC (K6RC, WE6Z ops)

A great effort with the new Flex 8400. K6RC really kept up the rate on CW.

K6TUO (W6MVM, K6XV ops)

Great contest.

K6USY

Fun weekend in the backyard with the BuddiHEX antenna working 20/15/10m.



California QSO Party

K6VO (K6NR op)

Fun contest as always, it is great when everyone wants to work you. I had some superb runs on Saturday; Sunday was a bit rough. Overall conditions were not as good as they were last year. 10 meters was "long" and less active at times but was open to much of the country quite a bit.

Operated again single op, using our father's call K6VO, now our family call. For the second time I avoided the drive out to the station near Victorville and took advantage of the K4 remote capabilities.

Only 33 DX QSOs in the log this year, down from 148 last. The most active states/provinces at K6VO were Virginia (111 QSOs), Minnesota (94), and Ontario and Illinois at 83 each. There were 829 unique calls in the log so the multi-band QSOs were very much appreciated. Topping that list was K7SV at 9 QSOs, and VE3NNT, K9CT, N4ZZ and N6AR at 8 apiece. 51 stations worked K6VO 5 or more times.

I made 454 phone contacts this year, with some fun runs. On phone you get the folks who "don't have a QSO number for you." But lots of casual contesters who figure it out and I appreciate them jumping into the fray.

Thanks to the contest organizers who do a fantastic job and to everyone for the contacts.

K6VVA

Another short SBEN QRV for several hours and GRRRRRRRRREAT FOOD at the Dunneville Market & Kitchen in Northern SBEN. A "LOCUST" favorite!



California QSO Party

K6WK

In major way, every year doing this contest has helped me to improve my operating skills. In addition, this year I was fortunate to help a new contester get started into this contest. This year I worked for skill/courtesy performance rather than for score. My gratitude I offer to the organizers, NCCC, of this experience.

K6WSC

This was my seventh California County Expedition from the Anza Borrego Desert in eastern San Diego County. What a wild ride this one was though!

For various reasons, I did not commit to making the five day trip until Monday afternoon. Packing takes place on Wednesday, with travel and the beginning of setup on Thursday. Setup finishes late Friday afternoon.

The antenna support structure is a large complex three mast system with two levels of guying on all three masts. It has withstood high winds on every previous deployment. Not this time. The NWS issued a Wind Advisory stating sustained winds of 25 MPH with gusts to 45 MPH for the San Diego County deserts. The wind began before dinner on Friday and continued all night. The antenna was still up when I went to bed. At dawn, the center mast was bowed over making the antennas usable. There was no way I was going to take the structure down and start over. In fact, I couldn't even figure out how to take it down, given normally I drop the fiberglass mast one section at a time, but that certainly would not work with the bowed situation. After studying it for a while, I decided to try to lower the 20-15-10 dipole (The 80-40 dipole was caught and couldn't be lowered.) Amazingly the center mast straightened up a little, along with my hopes. At that point, I had nothing to lose in trying to right the



California QSO Party

center mast. Nothing was broken. All guy stakes and guys were intact. I decided to disconnect 2 of the 3 top guys and try to pull the mast to vertical. That worked! I raised the 20-15-10 dipole and tidied things up. I checked the SWR on all the antennas, had breakfast and was ready to contest at 7:30 AM before the 9:00 start.

Tons of run fun is a good CQP bet and the 2025 CQP delivered. The best hour was 88 Qs/hr with an average rate of 56 Qs/hr. This was my second highest score in the CQP, just slightly behind the best in 2023.

Thanks to everyone involved with running the great CA QSO Party!

Rig: Yaesu FTdx10

Amp: KPA-500

Antennas:

- 80 (full size) & 40 fan dipole suspended on a 32 ft center & two 28 ft end masts.
- 20/15/10 fan dipole suspended below the 80/40 fan dipole.

K9JM

Good band conditions... lots of fun. Thanks for the Qs.

K9STV

Castle Rock State Park, Santa Cruz side of the highway.

KA3DRR

Thanks for another awesome event. I operated inside the coastal range near Santa Margarita, California. My shack view was priceless looking toward Morro Bay to the west and California Valley to the east. Wind in the morning was gusting at 10 mph at



California QSO Party

peak, but ham radio grit pushed me forward. I enjoyed many loud signals on 10 meters. Quite surprised. Fifteen meters really played to the east. Thank you everyone for your QSO(s) while I operated parks-to-radiosport (P2R) from Los Padres National Forest US-0639.

KC6ZTT

This was my first CQP and I had a total blast. It was nice to be chased for a change! Thanks to the CQP team for putting this together. Can we do this 2x a year? LOL!

KD6HOF

As a single operator this year's total "contacts" were actually less. Maybe because my exchange this year was a bit of a "mouthful" - I was a triple County Expedition (Placer-Sacramento-Sutter).

This year, I was able to run 80 meters which was thoroughly enjoyable (only possible by adding a 110 micro Henry coil to the end of my 10-40 EFHW). 100W out of the IC-7300 w/LiFePO4 230Ah - 300 watts of solar (unplugged due to noise) You know, RFI was not too bad, till I flipped over to the vertical ATAS-120a antenna - Wow, even though this was rural, neighboring solar panels (I'm guessing) really did light-up with RFI during daytime, mostly noticeable on the vertical ant.

KE6ZSN

Thank you to all the hard workers at NCCC for another Great Contest!!!

KF6JS

Fun as always! Thanks to ALL who make it happen for us out here!



California QSO Party

KG6LHW

Was hoping to work the whole 24 hours but was asked nicely by some Native Americans to "not stay too long" as they were having a ceremony nearby. Went QRT at around 1800 local.

KI6WAC

My first contest. Good job, had fun.

KJ6TSX

Had Lots of Fun

KK6VF

Operating from the west end of the Dumbarton bridge.
Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County.

KK6VZD (KK6VZD, KK1BUD, KK6VZA ops)

Our team included a young man, aged 11, who actively participated in making contacts. This was his first contest.

KN6EZF

Fun Contest! My 3rd and I think I'm getting the hang of it.

KN6IPE

Bad start. But, conditions came alive around 10:30AM PST!

KN6USH

This is my first time contesting and using this type of format.

KN6VQ

Always a blast, can't wait until next year!



California QSO Party

KN6VTC

POTA US-0754; fewer POTA QSO's than CAQP due to effect of multiple county QSO's showing as dupes in POTA (decrease POTA QSO's), QSO's with multiple parks and QSO's on different dates (increase POTA QSO's).

KN6ZHJ

First licensed April 2023.

KO6JIT

First time ever participating in CQP. Sorry for any mistakes as I was not aware this event was occurring until I got on the air.

N3BEN

Thanks for another fun year!

N6AA (K2UA op)

Thanks so much to Dick, N6AA, for hosting me! I was on a trip to LA for an IEEE conference the Monday after CQP and I was able to stretch my trip a bit and operate the contest--Dick offered his station and hospitality on just a few days' notice. I really appreciate the opportunity! Also enjoyed having dinner with N5OT and N6AN after they returned from their last stop (Fresno) in their epic W6AQ mobile effort--that was a real treat as well!

N6ACL

First solo expedition - with my Buddipole and my FTDX10 and big battery beside me! This was great!

N6E (N9DK, NS8X ops)

Despite the bear climbing into the front seat and stealing our chocolate (we were right there unpacking!), we had a safe contest.



California QSO Party

SSB seemed very low from our perspective. CW was packed, SSB was light. We intended to do some digital but just didn't get around to it.

N6EF

Tried to break 600 Qs but fell just short of that goal. Better luck next year. May try to do a POTA next year in an under-served county.

N6GEO

Surprised I managed to make it this year. Too many things threatened to disrupt my participation. I got home to start 4 hours late. Then, Saturday night the yagi coax "opened-up" and Sunday morning found me cranking down the antenna and tilting the tower to substitute the feed line. Still, good moments were the 160M rally on Saturday night, and H44SM calling me during a 10M phone run. (He was off the end of my beam!)

N6KKE

THANK YOU

N6LY

POTA US-1203 on Oct 4 - MARN County, 152 QSOs

POTA US-3448 on Oct 5 - SONO County, 94 QSOs

N6M (K5SML op)

Youth op, 2nd year SOLP. I achieved my goal of doubling my QSOs from 2024.



California QSO Party

N6MI

My CQP team had other family and work duties in 2025. So, I operated solo from the [N6MI converted television news van](#). 600 Watts to a small triband antenna at 60 feet and an inverted vee on 40 meters. Camped on a small hill in the Mojave Desert in DM15aa, Kern County, north of Highway 58. Nice conditions on ten meters. Saw one fellow and his dog (on a long walk). The roads in this area were washed out in a desert rainstorm on Monday before the contest -- the plants loved the long drink of water.

N6N (K6EI, WU0I ops)

We used temporary wire antennas at WU0I's newly acquired 5-acre horse ranch near Hollister:

- a G5RV up 40ft for 40- and 80 meters
- a rhombic primarily for 10, 15 and 20 meters held up by four 40' Spiderbeam fiberglass masts. We even managed a pair of Top Band contacts with the rhombic.

N6NFB

Both of the operators I had last year were out of town this year. I managed to approach the score we made as a group.

I spent the first three hours Saturday introducing a new ham to HF contesting, so I guess I was paying it forward some. Looking forward to operating next CQP with an even better station.



California QSO Party

N6TV

Rough conditions, especially Saturday. So many weak signals, and so few Europeans compared to "the good old days." One amplifier failed late Saturday night. Ran that rig with a backup Elecraft KPA500 at 500W for the remainder of the contest.

N6WYZ

So much fun! Thank you.

N6YMK

I was busy on Saturday, so decided to try the new Sunday Challenge. I waited until midnight PST (0700Z), but didn't hear anyone overnight (checked 20 and 40). I checked 40 around 7am (1400Z) but it was too noisy and didn't hear anyone. Not much luck with anything until about 11 am (1800Z) on 10 meters. 15 was somewhat more rewarding, then tried 20. Some skip zone issues (tried to contact a DELN station, but it didn't hear me) and problems with antenna and/or tuner on 20 and 40.

NC6V

Awesome contest again. Thank you!

NQ6B

Thanks, this was fun. Cal QSO Party is the only contest I've ever entered. This is my second time.

NQ6X

This was the first CQP from my home QTH after a major solar install and I was pleased that the RFI common-mode filters I fabricated kept micro-inverter EMI below my local noise floor.

Much fun was had by all.



California QSO Party

NR6Q

Way too many stations asking for dupes because it was day 2. I believe I had one out of state station ask for 5 dupes during the contest, not because they were roaming but because they wanted signal reports or because they just wanted to check in. While I understand the reason for allowing dupes, we should not encourage it either.

Bands were a bit noisy this year but all in all a good contest.

NS6T (WU6P, K6KM, NS6T ops)

Nian (WU6P), Roberto (K6KM) and Tom (NS6T) operated from the comfortable US Towers guest house supported by two of their amazing portable towers. Our stations consisted of a K4 with KPA500, a K3 with N6DE's Acom 1500, and a K3 with a AL-811 - all running high power. Our antennas consisted of a Force12 C3S at approximately 60ft, a 40m inverted-V at approximately 60ft, and a 80m inverted V at approximately 70ft. Thanks to N6DE's VA6AM high-power triplexer and bandpass filters, we were able to use any three bands on any of the three stations. We put all three stations in one room bringing in 220V from the nearby laundry room. We had some concern that we might trip a breaker, but we had no problems of that sort.

Our main equipment challenge came from the WIFI. Based on previous experience with the WIFI, we setup a wired LAN between all the computers, the K4, and a raspberry pi. This network supported N1MM+ communication between the rigs and communication between the K4 and its computer. The LAN was managed and connected to the outside internet via a portable WIFI bridge router. Losing the WIFI only meant losing our connection to the packet cluster.



California QSO Party

Nian and Roberto focused on CW contacts, and Tom made only SSB contacts. On the SSB side, there seemed to be fewer, smaller pileups; and there were fewer DX contacts on Sunday.

NU6N

Great fun! I planned for 8 hours but got carried away. Thanks for the Qs. 10 meters was on weaker side this year and my 40/80m antenna failed (was chewed by wild life). Still to my surprise the result turned out reasonable for my urban location and not so great antennas.

NZ6Q

Having a big house and pool wasn't as much fun as I thought it would be. Next year we will be back to real DXPedition style ops.

W2DON/6

I added the slash 6 to my call after 24 QSOs, when I was running and getting "QTH?" as a reply sometimes. Steve, N2IC, thankfully emailed me to suggest this. I hope this does not cause issues but have tried to log it all accurately here. Adding the slash helped a lot!

This was my first contest nearly 100% running, not chasing. All CW. Did not use any decoding apps. Tried to QRS for those chasing when appropriate, sorry if I was a bit overwhelmed at times and couldn't do it in time.

My station is modest (low dipoles) in a noisy city QTH but I do have an ACOM 1010 amp to help me get out.

I'm <3 years licensed so I believe that qualifies me for the New Contester overlay. Overall a lot of fun. It's exciting to run in a contest.



California QSO Party

I operated around family and friend obligations. I got a glimpse of how it feels on the other side of a DX pileup trying to get through people as fast as possible. Thanks to the organizers for putting this on.

W6A (AA2IL op)

Great fun as always - a big thank you to the contest organizers!

W6AQ/M (N5OT, N6AN ops)

26 county mobile operation.

W6AWG

Took my 26' boat over to Emerald Bay, Catalina Island. Elecraft KX2 running 5W. Inverted vees on 40 and 20 and verticals on 15 and 10. Had a blast! This is my first CQP, and I'm really looking forward to next year!

W6CF (WQ6X, AE6C, W6MLW)

This is a 1st-time operation as W6CF ([California Historical Radio Society](#)) for CQP. We ran a Kenwood TS-590 to an end-fed wire atop the 3-story bldg. For receive, we used a fixed-pointed LOOP antenna to keep the RFI from the onsite repair facility out of the receiver. We had many visitors to the shack who experienced amateur radio operating for the first time. We were hoping to put visitors on the air, but there turned out to not be enough time for that.

Look for a write-up on this at: <https://WQ6X.Blogspot.com>

W6HY (KD6WKY op)

Thanks again to the Del Norte ARC, Joel Wallen W6JKW, Christie Lynn Rust WA6ZDO, and the Hambro Companies for letting me use their excellent club station on the Hambro campus for the 2025 California QSO Party. My effort was muted slightly by



California QSO Party

logistics problems in transit, and technical problems on Saturday.. I'll consider it paying tuition for the knowledge going forward. As usual lots of VE3 stations but surprisingly few NL, NS, NT, NU, PE, YT stations out there this year. I was able to WAS, ND being the last one. I'll be back next year for CQP in DELN, Lord willing! Thanks Dean N6DE for doing the work to make this contact happen.

W6KJ (N9BD, W6PNH, K6KDS ops)

Most of our team did not show up.

W6M (KB9ENS op)

New for this year, I got to see a wildfire start just north of the Carrizo Plain (10 miles and clearly visible from my perch) and a water tanker bomb it out, amazing actually. Bettered my previous year's numbers, trended toward running CW more and stuck it out on 15M for a while and really added to my mults. I'm sure I'd do better if I just didn't sleep as much hi hi.

Thanks to the team who puts on the event and cranks out the scores etc. Much appreciated.

W6ML (W6KC op)

Another great California QSO Party! Last year I managed to work 56 of the available multipliers, and this year I improved to 60, just missing NT, NU, and NL. I couldn't get much of a run going on SSB, so I spent most of my time on CW. My best CW rate was a 133 hour on 40M. And, by far, my best SSB run of the weekend came during the final 30 minutes of CQP, when I logged 60 QSOs on 20M SSB.

I operated with dipoles for 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, plus an 80m inverted vee, all launched between 60 and 80 feet high into



California QSO Party

the surrounding pine trees. I've used a slingshot for years to get my antenna guy lines up, but this year I tried a new 3-ounce aerodynamic fishing weight. It made a big difference...much better accuracy and height on my shots.

Many thanks to N6DE and the NCCC for organizing another outstanding CQP!

Elecraft K4 & KPA-1500

W6R (WQ6X op)

This was an attempt to beat my previous high score QRP record for SDIE County. After spending time putting in hours as W6CF, I found a decent internet connection and ran the K3/0-Mini Saturday evening and Sunday from 8am to the CQP ending @22:00z. Unfortunately, there were internet dropouts, so, if I briefly "disappeared", that is why.

Overall, the condx. were so good that I kept checking the power level, confirming only 5-watts of power at all times. A 40-meter opening to EU Saturday evening and then one on 15-meters Sunday morning made things more fun. Saturday when the West Coast couldn't seem to hear W6R, it turned out that the QRP signal was loud and clear 2,000+ miles away - GO Figure.

The 3-el Stepp-IR and 2-el Shorty-40 @55' certainly made it all happen.

Look for a write-up on this at: <https://WQ6X.Blogspot.com>

W6SFI

ALPI/MONO/TUOL Saturday only, TUOL only Sunday.



California QSO Party

W6SMT

Thank you. Great contest.

W6T (K6ETA, K6KS, K6MLF, N6DVS, NZ6J ops)

It was a 5 person county line expedition. We had two stations. Hex beam, 40m dipole and 80m dipole. We operated simultaneously when stations didn't interfere with each other. One person had to leave us shortly before the start of the contest. We ended up with one CW operator and 3 SSB operators.

W6TCP (W6TCP, K7GK, KX7M, W6NV ops)

Wanted to try to set ALAM record for M/M, but with some equipment trouble, and changes in schedule, last minute decision to enter M/2 low power and set this record.

No troubles working Inband with Low Power setup. Thanks to the CQP Team for another fantastic event. Always fun to feel like DX. Thanks for all QSOs.

W6W (KA6AIL, N6VOH, K6ZZU, N6PZK, K6PWE, K6LPK ops)

We operated from a new location, a bluff overlooking Salton Sea.

WA6KHK

Still at temporary QTH with both towers down. Still using only a vertical with a bent base. Still shopping for a property where I can install my towers. Welcome to California! Way off from last year's score but not bad considering. I couldn't hear a lot of those rare Canadian provinces.



California QSO Party

WB6AAJ

The majority of the counties were on 80 meters, one on 15 meters (short skip). All CW contacts. I would have made more contacts on Saturday night/Sunday morning but this 76 year old man needed to get some sleep because I have net control on Sunday for the Knights of the Megahertz net. Please check the URL: knightsmhz.org.

WM6A (K6IJ op)

Only had a short amount of time before work. Used my club call, WM6A at my home/work QTH in Visalia, CA, which is Tulare County.

WQ6X

This was a brief QRP run from the W6CF station at the California Historical Radio Society to set a higher QRP score record than was set last year. Read the upcoming CQP Write-up at: <https://WQ6X.Blogspot.com>

WU6X

Late start due to camping issues. Unfortunately, I was kicked out of Siskiyou county campground due to the Feds funding halt. So, ended up in Placer ... again! Inverted V on 25' pushup, 100w from KX3/KXPA. Always one of my favorite events. Maybe next year I can get back up to Siskiyou. 73 to all and thanks for the Q's.

WW6D

A huge thank you to:

CQP Chairman, Dean Wood, N6DE and team of Tom NS6T, John K6MM, Victor N6DVS, John NN6U and Fred K6DGW.

You all have been tireless in making this contest a success - I greatly appreciate your work on this event.

