

# Going Mobile in CQP

by

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To be ... or not to be. That is the question.

# What is Your Objective?

- There is only one recognized mobile category in CQP: Most Mobile QSOs
- “To Be Serious” means you’re out to win this category.
- “Not To Be Serious” means you’re out to have fun and don’t really care about score.
- My comments here are aimed at the serious mobile operation. But lots of what I will say also applies to those out just to have fun.

# Mobiles out for fun WILL have fun!

- You will be sought after by the hoards
- You can see some of the most beautiful scenery in the world
- You can activate one or more rare or underrepresented counties
- You can visit your mother-in-law

# What is a Mobile Station?

- Mobile is a “Special Category” defined as “A station that is self-contained, capable of legal motion (street, water, or air) while operating, motion optional. Note: California stations that change counties are considered to be a new station and may be contacted again for point and multiplier credit.”

- The only mobile award is a plaque sponsored by Vic, K6IC, for “Most Mobile QSOs” .
- All that matters is the NUMBER of QSOs. Rate is all important.
- The points per QSO differential between Phone and CW QSOs does not matter.

# Go Multi-op if Possible

- It does not change your entry category
- It is safer from a driving perspective
- You will get less tired
- It is usually more fun having others along
- It is easier to put in more time on the air
- You will have time to look at the scenery

# Mobiles do not have power classes

Run as much power as you possibly can.

You probably will need at least 400+ watts to hold a frequency on Phone.



# Bands

- Rules permit operation on all contest bands from 160m through 2m
- Most important bands will be 20m, 40m and 15m
- It is okay to work the same station once on Phone and once on CW on each band

# Time

- Time is not a problem for a mobile station
- The clock resets whenever you enter a new county
- Single op stations must take at least six hours off. Most will do so from about 1:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. If you are going to sleep, do it in this time window because your rate will be lowest then anyway.

# Sign your Call as W6OAT/xxxx

- This is the accepted way mobile stations identify themselves
- It prevents you from looking like a dupe in the other station's logging program
- It is more likely to get you spotted on packet because folks realize you are moving

# The Logging Computer

- Most mobiles use laptops
  - Some RVs have tables
  - Many balance the computer on their laps
- Minimize glare on screen
- Select a good logging program for CQP
  - Free and Commercial Software is listed on the CQP website

Do not leave things for the last minute.  
Mobiles have all sorts of problems,  
particularly noise. Get things checked out  
with enough time left to fix problems.

# Who is Your Competition?

2012	K6AQL (K0DI)	1,160
2011	K6AQL (K0DI)	1,264
2010	K6AQL (K0DI)	1,224
2009	K6AQL (K0DI, K0KTZ)	1,170
2008	K6AQL (K0DI, K0KTZ)	1,276
2007	K6AQL (K0DI, N6MU)	1,026
2006	K6AQL (K0DI, K0KTZ, +)	1,393
2005	K6AQL (K0DI, K0KTZ)	1,447
2004	K6AQL (K0DI, K0KTZ)	1,661
2003	K6AQL (K0DI, W4RU)	1,685
2002	K6AQL (K0DI, K0KTZ)	1,573
2001	K6AQL (K0DI, N9HZQ)	1,584
2000	K6AQL (K0DI, N9HZQ)	1,137
1999	W6ZQ	358
1998	K6AQL (K0DI, N9HZQ)	760
1997	K0DI/6 (+N9HZQ, KS4IS)	336
1996	K6MO/mm	318

# Plan Your Route

Look for Locations Where You Can be Loud

Roads out in open areas

Ridgetop roads

Brief stops in particularly good spots

Avoid hilly terrain where you find yourself down at the bottom of canyons. It's like driving through a dummy load!

# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

K6AQL is the Fourlanders in California  
Contest Club

Operator Dave, K0DI starts from his home in  
Manhattan Beach (LANG) at 16:00Z

Operated CW only

Probably had a non-ham driver



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

Made 1,251 QSOs before log checking (and lost an unknown number because of a computer problem)

## Band Breakdown

15m	554	44.3%
20m	402	32.1%
40m	179	14.3%
80m	97	7.8%
10m	5	0.4%
???	14	1.1%

# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

## 1. Los Angeles County LANG

16:00 - 17:31 UTC

09:00 – 10:31 PDST

Minutes: 91

QSOs: 64

53 on 20m; 11 on  
15m



# K6AQL 2012 Performance

## 2. Kern County

KERN

17:35 – 18:41 UTC

10:35 – 11:41 PDST

Minutes: 66

QSOs: 65

1 on 20m; 64 on 15m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

## 3. Tulare County

TULA

18:46 – 20:08 UTC

11:46 – 13:08 PDST

Minutes: 80

QSOs: 93 on 15m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

## 4. Kings County KING

20:11 – 21:29 UTC

13:11 – 14:29 PDST

Minutes: 78

QSOs: 109 on 15m

Motion Stopped



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

## 3. Tulare County #2

TULA

21:34 – 21:41 UTC

14:34 – 14:41 PDST

Minutes: 7

QSOs: 9 on 15m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

5. Fresno County

FRES

21:42 – 22:13 UTC

14:42 – 15:13 PDST

Minutes: 31

QSOs: 37 on 15m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

## 6. Madera County

MADE

22:14 – 22:49 UTC

15:14 – 15:49 PDST

Minutes: 35

QSOs: 45 on 15m







# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

8. Stanislaus County  
STAN

22:39 – 00:02 UTC

15:39 – 17:02 PDST

Minutes: 83

QSOs: 28

12 on 20m; 16 on 15m

Motion Stopped



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

## 9. San Joaquin County SJOA

00:03 – 00:45 UTC

17:03 – 17:45 PDST

Minutes: 42

QSOs: 54 on 20m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

10. Sacramento County  
SACR

00:47 – 01:35 UTC

17:47 – 18:35 PDST

Minutes: 48

QSOs: 56 on 20m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

11. Sutter County  
SUTT

01:37 – 03:41 UTC

18:37 – 20:41 PDST

Minutes: 124

QSOs: 124

40 on 20m; 84 on 40m

Motion Stopped



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

12. Yuba County  
YUBA

03:44 – 05:00 UTC

20:44 – 22:00 PDST

Minutes: 76

QSOs: 36 on 40m

Stopped for Dinner?



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

13. Butte County

BUTT

05:08 – 06:04 UTC

22:08 – 23:04 PDST

Minutes: 56

QSOs: 21 on 40m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

14. Tehama County  
TEHA

06:11 – 07:18 UTC

23:11 – 00:18 PDST

Minutes: 67

QSOs: 38

2 on 40m; 36 on 80m





# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

15. Glenn County

GLEN

07:19 – 07:54 UTC

00:19 – 00:54 PDST

Minutes: 35

QSOs: 15 on 80m



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

16. Colusa County  
COLU

08:06 – 14:38 UTC

01:06 – 07:38 PDST

Minutes: 272

QSOs: 121

46 on 80m; 36 on 40m;  
39 on 20m

Time off from 08:09 –  
10:45Z (2h, 36m)



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

17. Yolo County

YOLO

14:48 – 15:38 UTC

07:48 – 08:38 PDST

Minutes: 50

QSOs: 50 on 20m



# K6AQL' s 2012 Performance

18. Solano County  
SOLA

Log Lost



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

19. Contra Costa  
County

CCOS

Log Lost





# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

21. Santa Clara County  
SCLA

17:31 – 18:28 UTC

10:31 – 11:28 PDST

Minutes: 57

QSOs: 56

15 on 20m; 27 on 15m;  
14 on ??

SCLA log started with QSO  
#15



# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

22. San Benito County  
SBEN

18:40 – 19:59 UTC

11:40 – 12:59 PDST

Minutes: 79

QSOs: 51

35 on 20m; 14 on 15m; 2  
on 10m

Motion Stopped







# K6AQL's 2012 Performance

24. San Luis Obispo County  
SLUI

21:46 – 21:59 UTC

14:46 – 14:59 PDST

Minutes: 13

QSOs: 19 on 15m

End of CQP



# K6AQL and K0DI

- Dave + friends have made a major contribution to CQP over the years
- Thank them when you work K6AQL
- If you go after their record, attack ... but with class! Make sure you hit a lot of counties.

# Publicity

- Some mobiles list their routes and expected times on their QRZ.com page
- Some are using the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) to track their speed, exact location, altitude, etc.

Drive Safely

Have a Great Trip