
Vision 2008

The Contest Buddy Program

K9YC



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CONTEST CLUB

Goals of Vision 2008

- ✗ Improve our stations
- ✗ Improve our operating/contesting skills
- ✗ Share our stations
- ✗ Get to know each other better
- ✗ Learn from each other
- ✗ Have more fun contesting



Improving Our Stations

- ✗ Antennas
- ✗ Antenna switching, tuning
- ✗ Solve RFI and noise problems
- ✗ Computer setups
- ✗ Logging software
- ✗ Use a new mode – RTTY, PSK31, VHF



Improving Our Operating Skills

- ✗ Get better at CW
- ✗ Logging software
- ✗ Contest strategy
- ✗ Operating techniques
- ✗ Understand Propagation
- ✗ Learn S02R



Sharing Our Stations

- ✗ Host operates part time, guest operates part time
- ✗ Host sits on the couch, guest operates full time or part time
- ✗ Host and guest operate together, with or without mentoring
- ✗ Guest operates host station
- ✗ Guest brings gear, uses host antennas



Sharing Our Stations

- ✖ Start early with summer and fall contests
- ✖ Get to know each other
- ✖ Guest learns the host station
- ✖ Guest gets practice in contests
- ✖ Mentoring opportunities
- ✖ Work out the bugs



Sharing Our Stations

✕ Summer contesting opportunities

- + CQ WPX CW (May 23-25)
- + All Asia DX CW June 20-22)
- + Field Day (June 28-29)
- + RAC (Canada Day – Jun30-July 1)
- + IARU (Jul 12)
- + NAQP RTTY (Jul 19)
- + IOTA (Jul 26)
- + NAQP CW, SSB (August 2, 16)



Sharing Our Stations

- ✕ Fall contesting opportunities
 - + All Asia DX SSB (Sept 5-7)
 - + NA CW, SSB Sprints (Sept 6, 13)
 - + CQWW RTTY (Sept 26-28)
 - + CQP (Oct 4-5)
 - + NA RTTY Sprint (Oct 11)
 - + CQWW DX SSB (Oct 24-26)
 - + Sweepstakes CW (Nov 1-2)
 - + Sweepstakes SSB (Nov 15-16)



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The Member Survey

Online form

Paper form



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Goals of the Survey

- ✗ Identify members needing help
- ✗ Identify members needing stations
- ✗ Identify members offering help
- ✗ Identify members willing to share stations
- ✗ Facilitate station sharing
- ✗ Learn more about our members and their interests



Volunteers Needed

- ✗ Coordinators for each geographical region
 - + Match helpers with those wanting help
 - + Match hosts and guests
 - + Put hosts and guests on maps (KE6RAD)
- ✗ Coordinate all of Vision 2008 (AE6RF)
 - + Tabulate results of survey
 - + Get info to each regional coordinator
 - + Help organize volunteers



Volunteers Needed

- ✗ Coordinators for each club contest
 - + NAQP CW, SSB, RTTY
 - ✗ One flogger per contest (W6FB, W6DGW, + ?)
 - + NA Sprint CW, SSB, RTTY
 - ✗ One flogger per contest (W6RGG, + ?)
 - + CQP (N6RNO)
 - ✗ Lots of helpers
 - + Sweepstakes
 - ✗ Get butts in chairs
 - ✗ Log floggers
 - ✗ Problem solvers



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Logging Software



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Logging Software

- ✗ Keep the log
- ✗ Check for dupes
- ✗ Band Map (your own spots)
- ✗ Verify calls
- ✗ Keep track of mults
- ✗ Send CW (munchies!)
- ✗ Send voice messages (munchies!)
- ✗ Make contesting more fun



Get Started A Step at a Time

- ✗ Keep the log
 - + You type in the entries
 - + Computer checks for dupes, mults
- ✗ Connect to the radio
 - + What band am I on?
 - + CW or SSB?
- ✗ Get Automated (you can drink coffee and munch)
 - + Send CW and voice messages



Get Fancy

- ✗ Get the cluster interface working
- ✗ Automate Antenna Switching
 - + Based on band changes
- ✗ Automate Search and Pounce
 - + Set split in SSB DX contests
 - + Rotate your antenna
- ✗ S02R



Picking Logging Software

- ✗ Should run in Windows
- ✗ Should support all the contests you want to work (so you only learn one!)
 - + Mainstream program
- ✗ Active development and support
 - + New developments (Skimmer!)
 - + Help when you need it
- ✗ Should think the way you think

