



Math League News

■ **View Scores or Send Comments via the Internet**
You may view scores at <http://www.mathleague.com>.

■ **Contest Registration and Books of Past Contests**
Please mail next year's registration (enclosed) soon. *You may ask us to bill you in the Fall.* We also sponsor an *Algebra Course 1 Contest* and contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. Use the enclosed form to register for contests or to **order books of past contests.**

■ **2002-2003 Contest Dates, Oct.—Apr.** The contest (& alt) dates are Tuesdays: Oct. 29 (Oct. 22), Dec. 3 (Nov. 26), Jan. 7 (Jan. 14), Feb. 4 (Jan. 28), Mar. 4 (Feb. 25), and Apr. 8 (Apr. 1). If you have a conflict (such as schoolwide testing), please put the alternate date on your calendar now.

■ **End-of-Year Awards and Certificates** Symbols identify winners (we shipped plaques to the advisor). Errors? Write to: *Math Plaques, P.O. Box 17, Tenafly, NJ 07670-0017.* Identify the award, the contest level, your name, and the school's name and address. The Contest #5 envelope contained Certificates of Merit for the highest scoring student overall, and on each grade, for the year. Do you need extra certificates for ties? If so, send a **self-addressed stamped envelope large enough to hold certificates (you need to use * DOUBLE * postage)** to: *Certificates, P.O. Box 1350, Happy Camp, CA 96039-1350.* (Allow 2-4 weeks.)

■ **Calculator Redux** Advisor Paul Manning said "It's a shame that contests allow calculators. Poll the moderators." *Two years ago we did that on the Internet, and the vast majority of respondents want their students to be able to use a calculator on our math contests. In addition, the NCTM recommends that calculators be allowed on math contests whenever possible.*"

■ **A First For The Math League** In our 25 years of giving HS contests, this is the very first time that not even one alternate solution was sent to us for any problem. WOW!

■ **Comments About This Year's Contests** Carnig Nersesian: "Thanks for all the fun and motivation. I'm retiring after teaching 42 years, 21 with the Math League." Nola Forbes: "Student participation has increased dramatically this year . . . with the incentive of homemade cookies afterwards and bonus points awarded by their math teachers. Despite tough questions, we have new participants for each contest. We have a second room to hold our overflow." *It was pizza after contests that motivated me.* Fran Kennedy wrote "Thanks. Students keep trying to understand problems later and take them back to their math teachers." Joe Holbrook wrote "Good contest!" John Owens wrote "It's been a great year. Thanks." Dave Dussault: "Thank you for some great questions this year. My students bombed, but they were good questions." Student Quinn Culver: "Your competitions have stretched my mind." Phil

Smith: "Thanks for the contests my son has taken since 4th grade." David Abineri: "We all enjoyed the League again. We have about 300 students 9-12, and we have had as many as 110 taking the contests during lunch." G. Wagner: "Thanks for a good year." Bruce Mullen: "This was lots of fun!" Bruce Smith: "Well you guys sure made up for having so many easy contests." Robert Tobiasz: "This was not a good one for the end of the year. We had the lowest score in years." Gerald Lamb: "Our lowest score ever." A. Brightwell: "Very difficult." Sue Smith: "It was a bummer. Two of our teachers got 5's but none of our students did." Suzie Moll: "Boy was that one tough contest, especially 6-6. We have not had scores that low in years. Once again, when they see your solution, the kids agree it was not that difficult. Thanks for another great year. Keep up the good work." Roger Finnell: "Why so difficult? Too discouraging for many." Maureen Black: "One student got a 0 this time but had a 6 last month!"

■ **Problem 6-3: Comments & An Alt. Solution** An appeal was made for an answer of 10^9 . We could not understand the appeal. It made no reference to our solution.

■ **Problems 6-4, 6-5, 6-6: Comments** Dave Dussault: "Lots of careless mistakes on 6-3 and 6-5. Question 6-4 was neat, but none of my students got it. Great for discussion. Question 6-6 was fun to go over afterwards." Bob Smith: "My students understood what to do in 6-3, but were not successful. We do not use Arc sin for inverse sin, so the language in 6-6 made it impossible for us." John Owens: "I want to congratulate you on 6-6. Brilliant question! Not that I got it, but once you see the answer, it brings a smile to one's face. None of our top scorers got 6-4." Bruce White: "I really liked 6-5 and it sure made for much discussion about how to read a problem properly."

■ **Problem 5-6 (previous contest)** Student Chris Povirk used geometric series in a *tour de force* of interesting mathematical investigations and showed us his work. Well done Chris. Enter your work into the local Science and Engineering Fair! For those of you going to the International Science and Engineering Fair, we'll see you in Louisville where three of us from The Math League will be among the math judges.

Statistics / Contest #6

Prob #, % Correct (top 5 each school)

6-1	85%	6-4	9%
6-2	73%	6-5	68%
6-3	42%	6-6	1%