

SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

A DX and Contest-minded Amateur Radio Club serving the California coast north of the Golden Gate Bridge

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Club Officers:

PRESIDENT:

Jim Selmi, K6JS
7470 Monique Place
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
jselmi@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

(+CC) Roger Cooper, N3RC
7110 Elphick Road
Sebastopol CA 95472

SECRETARY:

(+Web) Doug Bender, WW6D
3638 Hemlock Ct
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
ww6d@arrl.net

TREASURER:

Terry Tinagero, K6TER
1195 Ethan Dr.
Santa Rosa CA 95401

DIRECTORS:

Josh Fiden, W6XU
w6xu@arrl.net

Bill, WX6B (PP)
billys95404@yahoo.com

Gene Krupa, KJ6AZU

EDITOR:

Alan Eshleman K6SRZ

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.redxa.com/>

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be meeting at the Boulevard Café in Petaluma on April 10, 2019.

Our program will be a report on our own N6YEU's solo DXpedition to Sint Eustasius (PJ5). The March issue of "Sunspots" had extended commentary and some photos from Fred's adventure.

Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. PDT with business meeting, dinner, and presentation to follow.



REDXA President's Commentary

Editor: "Sunspots" will be shorter than usual this month, or at least for the first half of the month. Many will be travelling to the Convention in Visalia will be on the lookout the Convention that est to REDXA mem-
lowing page you can on joining the table REDXA at the big Sat-
quet. Visalia has been to our current REDXA won major prizes at hope to see you there.



REDXA members International DX and your editor for happenings at should be of inter-
bers. On the fol- find information reserved for urday night ban-
particularly good President. Jim has Visalia twice! I



Visalia DX Convention is just around the corner. The 70th International DX Convention sponsored by the Northern California DX Club will be held again at the beautiful Visalia Conference Center in downtown Visalia, California from April 12-14, 2019. If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators (and contesters) from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar callsigns with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sched with for the past 10 years but never met.

The convention is a full 2 ½ days Friday through Sunday. Friday will be a full day of Contest Academy presentations and training, including parallel presentations in the DX and technical fields. This will be a must for the novice or seasoned DXer! Friday evening dinner options include Top-band, Contesting and IOTA.

Saturday also includes a full day of presentations. Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Visit the manufacturers' midway where you can talk to the people who design and use the latest and best equipment. K6V will be on the air from the Hotel. Try the latest rig with the newest antenna. Don't forget the raffle prizes which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention.

REDXA IDXC Table reservations - Early Seating Requests

To reduce the time waiting in line at the convention site Friday and Saturday, early seating assignments for the Saturday Evening Banquet will be available via E-mail request. You need to pre-register for reserved banquet seating. Since the Convention Center only uses round tables seating 8 people, for group seating, the maximum group size is 8 people. Any registered individual may request seating for only himself or himself and up to seven (7) additional persons making a maximum group of eight persons (Full Table).

Examples:

- a. W6XYZ requests seating for himself, one person
- b. KA6XYZ requesting seat for himself and his wife would be a group of two.
- c. N6ABC requesting seating for himself and KA6XXX and KA6XXX/YL would be a group of 3.



CQ WPX SSB from WC6H. Shown are two of the three towers

For the recent CQ WPX SSB contest your editor had the opportunity to be a guest operator at WC6H, Rich Cutler's fine station in Valley Springs (Calaveras Co.) I was joined by our host and by N6TV, W6SC, K6ST, WX5S, and NC6R. We operated in the M/2 class.

As those of you who did the contest from the West Coast already know, the conditions to Europe were somewhere between terrible and non-existent. WC6H finished with a score of 9,238,571 points (4514 QSOs and 943 prefixes). We have the 3d highest QSO total so far reported to 3830, but the seventh highest multiplier total attributed to the paucity of European stations. Nevertheless, we appear to be the Zone 3 winners.

I was pleased, and a little surprised, to see that one of the radios at WC6H was a venerable YAESU FT1000MP. That radio has always been a favorite of mine. It certainly held its own against the competition.

During break times—when I wasn't sleeping—I was entertained by Rich's livestock: Goldie the golden retriever and Max, an African Grey parrot who both talked and mimicked various electronic sounds coming from the shack. You can see there pictures on the next page.



Goldie the golden retriever at home at WC6H



Max the African Grey Parrot at WC6H. Max is a talking bird who can also expertly mimic the electronic sounds of direct TV

Upcoming Meetings

April - PJ5/N6YEU - Fred Leoni DXpedition to PJ5 Sint Eustatius.

Total radio contacts in 7 days, totaled 3,939 including all 50 states and 76 DXCC. 1637 Q's in ARRL DX CW Contest running 100W and a dipole.

May - AI6VN Rob Robinett - KPH receive antennas, KiwiSDR and WSPR

The KiwiSDR is a standalone 14 bit ADC 0-30 MHz receiver that attaches to your local network and is optionally accessed through the Internet where a browser is used to connect to the user interface. In addition to standard AM/SSB/CW listening modes, it includes a number of user developed extensions like WSPR logging, CW decoding, IQ display and transmitter location. There are more than 100 publicly available Kiwis around the world available for signal captures, many with excellent antennas and very accurate clocks and oscillators. The presentation will include a live demonstration of the use of Kiwis at KPH in California and N6GN in Colorado near WWV.

June - N6IE Ron Castro - Field Day preparations and Redding Carr fire FD inspired response to 4 FM stations getting down by the fire

March MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm, March 13, 2019 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 25 members and guests.

Guests included our speaker Chris Tate, N6WM and David Barnes, NO6M.

Motion by Chuck N6OJ and seconded to accept the Secretary's minutes as published in March Sunspots passed. Motion by Chuck N6OJ and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report presented by Terry, K6TER also passed.

Old Business. None.

New Business. David, NO6M, applied for membership. Following the usual protocol, Dave was unanimously accepted as a new member. Welcome aboard Dave!

Jim K6UUW reminded the membership of the upcoming Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest on Saturday, April 27, which includes the swapmeet, breakfast, VE exams, demonstration of fox-hunting, meet/greet ARRL officials and display of emergency vehicles. He encouraged REDXA members to come out and enjoy the camaraderie.

Fred N6YEU gave a short recap of his first DXpedition to St. Eustatius. He will be our speaker for the April meeting.

Alan K6SRZ encouraged people to submit articles, photos etc that may be of interest for publication in our monthly newsletter Sunspots.

Terry K6TER encouraged people to get their dues into him ASAP. They were due on January 1!

A wonderful presentation was given by Chris Tate N6WM of his participation in the 2018 VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition.

The raffle sales were \$105 of which \$52.50 went to the club and \$52.50 to Wally N6AD.

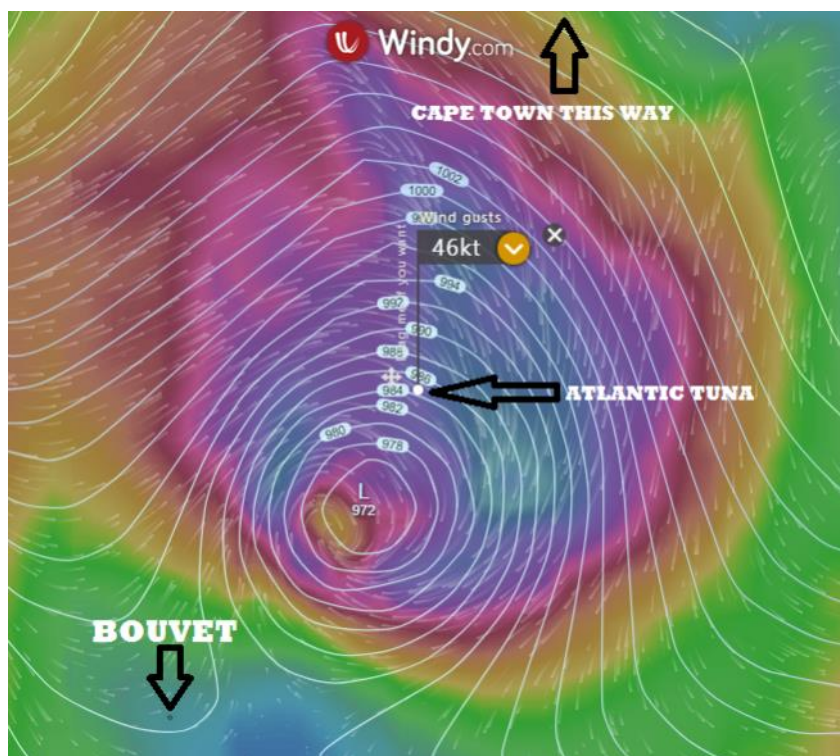
Adjourned at 9:10 pm.

You'll have to wait a little longer for Bouvet

APRIL 2 @ 15:10Z



After spending 2 weeks at sea, and being only 70nm from Bouvet before a ferocious storm struck, the Atlantic Tuna is now berthed at Cape Town port. Dom, 3Z9DX informs DX-World that the ship "is solid as a rock" and only "some elec-



Sadly, the second recent DXpedition to Bouvet Island has been cancelled due to foul, dangerous weather. Well over a million USD has been invested in these efforts. Many hams need a Bouvet QSO to claim their place at the top of the DXCC honor roll.

Securing a safe landing on Bouvet looks like it will require either a prolonged spell of good weather or perhaps some sort of direct governmental aid. Maybe Norway can be convinced to stage another operation on Bouvet.

The last successful Bouvet operation was 3YOE operated by Petrus Kritzing, ZS6GCM, during the winter of 2007-8 as part of a scientific expedition.

Prior to that—from December 2000 until March 2001—The late Chuck Brady, MD, N4BQW, operated 3YOC while serving as the medical officer for the Norwegian Antarctic Research Expedition.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*Apr 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Apr 12-14 Visalia Int'l DX Convention

Apr 27 Int'l Marconi Day (observed)

Apr 27 Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest

May 4-5 7th Call Area QSO Party

*May 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

May 25-26 CQ WW WPX CW

Jun 8-10 ARRL VHF Contest

Jun 15-16 All Asian DX Contest CW

*Jun 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jun 22-23 ARRL Field Day

*Jul 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jul 13-14 IARU HF World Championship

Treasurer's Report for March

Beginning balance. 4138.07

Deposits.

 Raffle. 35.00

Terry Tinagero, Treasurer

K6TER



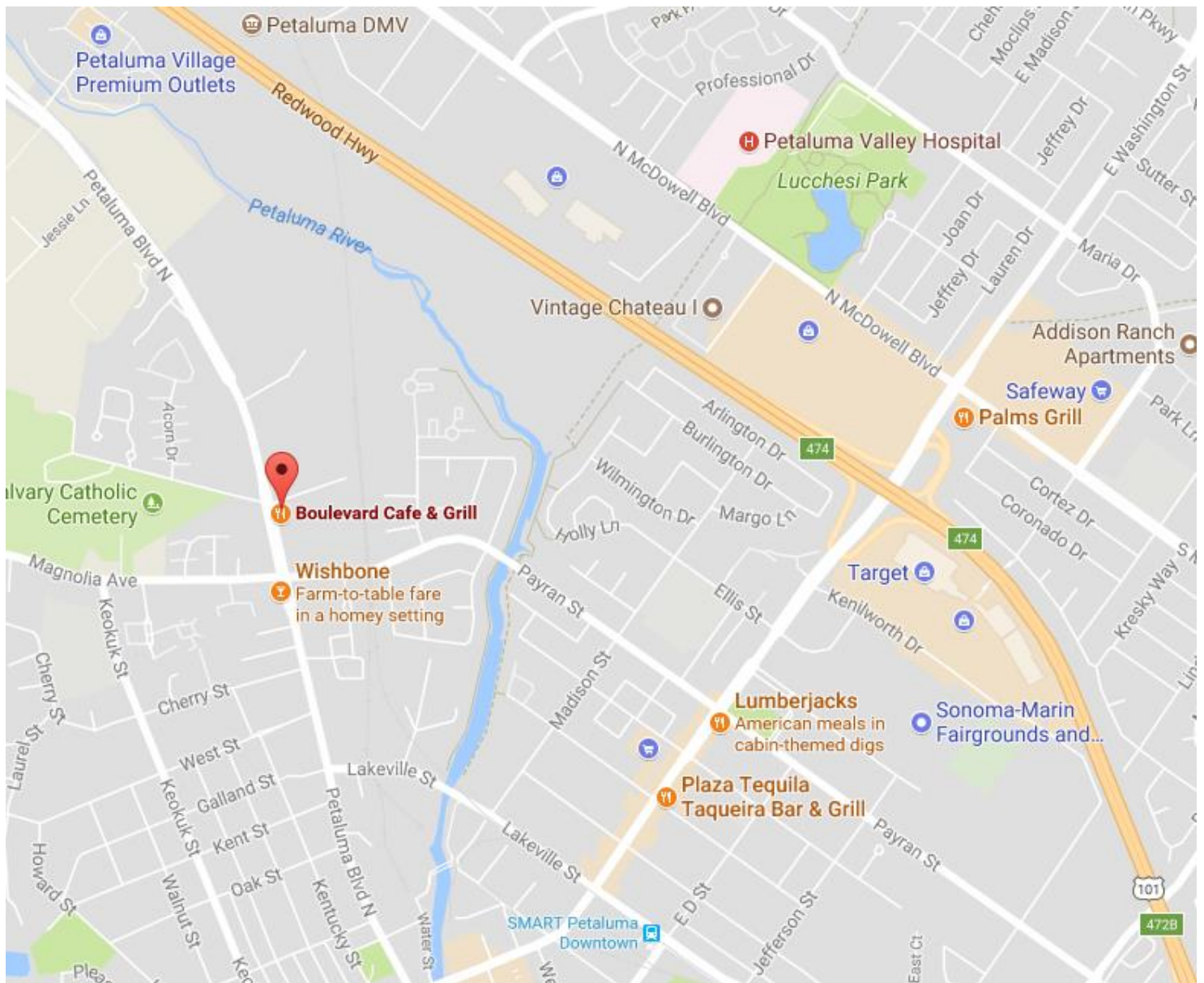
Jeez, the cad couldn't even say "88". She might be better off...

—courtesy of Rick, K6ZWB



Boulevard Café & Grill

1096 Petaluma Blvd. North,
Petaluma, CA



Redwood Empire DX Association meets the second Wednesday of each months at the Boulevard Café and Grill at 1096 Petaluma Blvd. North. Petaluma, CA.