

SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

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Meeting Announcement

We're still Zooming, but the end is in sight. This month REDXA is pleased to host Arnie Shatz N6HC, who will reprise the 2019 DXpedition to Pitcairn Island.

Arnie is a semi-retired urologist from Southern California and a member of several important passed DX peditions, including Banaba (2005 where he accompanied your own "Sunspots" editor, K6SRZ).

You can read Arnie's impressive history on QRZ.com. Pitcairn is best know to contemporary audiences from the book "Mutiny on the Bounty" and at least three movie versions (see p.12)

President's Commentary

Well 2021 is better! COVID down, temp up and we are still here! I spoke this week with Daniel of Boulevard Cafe about meeting there and he said to call him back in a month, he still can't find people to work. Let me know your thoughts on meeting in person. The earliest would be August. (continued next page)

President's Commentary (cont.)

I haven't been doing a lot of hamming. FT-8 on 6m gets old even though the openings have been pretty good.

Alan K6SRZ led the club charge on Field Day with 1,017 Q in 1D LP all cw.

Nice to see some shipments of K4, I am so far back that it will for sure be 2022 before I have to decide whether to buy one.

Elecraft is a great company and I hope they weather the storm well.

Looking forward to getting in my RV late-summer and taking off for a while. The XYL and I both had surgery this summer and hope we will be ready to go late summer. Our last trip was 2 years ago, up the coast to Olympic National Park which was great. Maybe I'll do some POTA activity on the trip. I miss the county hunting activity I was able to do in Montana.

I have lost interest in watching sports except for tennis, NFL, and the Tour de France. If you have never watched the Tour, give it a try. It's a giant travel advertisement for the beauty of France. It takes a while to understand all the strategies and tactics but it's worth it. I was fortunate to watch the Tour in person in Chamonix, France in 1963 while on a summer cruise with the Navy ROTC. I used to do a lot of cycling including commuting 14 miles each way in DC for a couple of years. Now the XYL and I have fat tire E-bikes and really enjoy them.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom and to share my yearning for DXpeditions. I was pleased to get a refund from the Bouvet Expedition today. Hope someone else takes up the charge.

Roger, N3RC

REDXA Treasury report for June

Balance as of June 1: \$3,614.40

Outgo: \$0.00

Income: \$135.32 (6 dues from Square App and one check)

Ending balance as of June 30: \$3,749.72

Fred, N6YEU, treasurer



N6YEU/6 at Tahoe for Field Day

On the following pages, your editor reminisces about DXing and helping with medical emergencies. I sure hope that in the future my REDXA friends will take the time to share their stories of ham radio (and other topics).



On a Saturday afternoon many years ago I was at California Memorial Stadium in Berkeley watching a football game when my cell phone rang. It was hard to understand much that the caller had to say over the crowd noise, but he identified himself as Bernie, W3UR, the DX editor of QST magazine. He wanted a favor. I told him that I'd call him back in a few minutes—after the game.

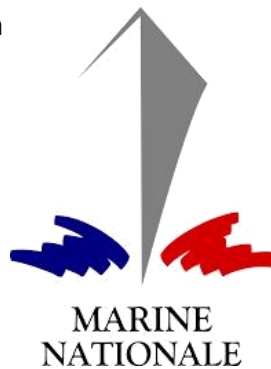
Outside the stadium, in the relative calm, I called Bernie and received an interesting assignment. No, I wasn't in line for the DX Hall of Fame. Instead, Bernie thought that my medical and ham radio credentials made me suited to help another ham in distress.

Turns out that ham-in-distress was a woman who was sailing in the South Pacific when she developed a medical problem and wanted advice on what to do. I had the frequency she was supposed to be on and her location in the Solomon Islands. So I pointed the beam toward H40 and tried to make contact. The best I could say was there was "something" there but nothing that I could understand. So, I recruited my friend and fellow DXpeditioner Arnie, N6HC (also a physician). He was a little closer to her (Southern California vs my Norcal) and was able to get a better history.

She was also anchored just off a rural village, but, alas, the place was deserted as the residents were all off on some sort of pilgrimage.

The emergency was that she had developed a thick, crusty, weeping facial rash that wasn't going away. We learned that there had been no obvious exposure to any sort of chemical irritant and that except for the rash she wasn't feeling that sick. A few hours later, we received a faxed photo of the rash. It was pretty bad. The differential diagnosis came down to whether this was either an infection or some sort of allergic response. Not being sure, I decided that the worst possibility to miss would be an infection. We learned that she was carrying antibiotics in taking Keflex, an antibiotic with activity

And then fate intervened. Turns out there the Solomons and that one of the ship's license and had overheard the medical mined that he was very close to the sailmotored to the sailboat. Seeing that the he took he back to the destroyer which doctor.



her medical kit and I advised her to start against Staph.

was a French warship on maneuvers in officers was studying to get his ham radio emergency transmissions. He also determined that the boat in distress so he took a launch and woman needed some sort of treatment, had an operating room and a real live

In short order, the French physician was able to determine that this was an allergic response to the anti-malarial pills she had been taking (malaria is a BIG problem in the Solomons). After a few days of treatment with prednisone, the rash began to clear and the woman enjoyed her status as an honored guest of the *Marine Nationale*. She was wined (French of course) and dined with special meals.

When she was pronounced cured, the same young officer who brought her to the ship used the ship's heli-copter to fly her back to her sailboat. And that's where the story ends for me. I've asked Bernie and Arnie if they had anything to add to the story, but, sadly, they did not record the name or callsigns.

So I missed my chance to be a ham radio hero.

My friend Garry, NI6T, did get a chance to use ham radio to help with a medical emergency without the help of the *Marine Nationale*.

In 1960 Garry, K2RQC, was 18 year-old student, working on summer vacation job writing ad copy for Lafayette Radio in Jamaica Queens NY. One day in early July, Garry was tuning across 15 meters when he heard a call from ZP5CF who was asking for help with an emergency. ZP5CF was operating outside of the USA 15 meter phone band and was being QRMed by several other Spanish speaking stations. So Garry took a chance and QSYed to ZP5CF's frequency and with his full 150 watts (two 6146s as Garry recalls) and asked the QRMers to stand by. It worked.

ZP5CF, Doctor Federico Donna, didn't speak English, but Garry spoke enough Spanish to learn that Dr. Donna was desperately seeking a supply of the drug *Aramine*. Aramine was required for one Colonel Cottone. Garry agreed to help.

With the help of his father, Garry learned that aramine was manufactured by Merck, Sharpe, and Dome. The next morning, Garry's father contacted their international division. The endipitously was also a ham,

MSD supplied 5 ampules of aramine, [JFK today] by motorcycle escort ready to fly the precious cargo to

All of this caught the attention of Garry's home on Long Island with



contacted an all-night pharmacy and contacted MSD and was referred to head of the international division ser-W2TWR.

which were rushed to Idlewild airport where Pan American Airways had a jet Asuncion.

the press. Reporters descended on the result that his picture (posed in

front of a NC300) appeared in the New York Times. This attracted the notice of a US foreign service officer at the embassy in Asuncion. The embassy again alerted the press to the story that Garry had saved Col. Cottone's life. Again, the news media descended upon Garry's modest station and this time the wire services picked up the story and it went national. And that was Garry's 15 minutes of fame.

ZP5 was also an ATNO for Garry, a step on the ladder to his present place at the top of the DXCC Hon-or Roll.

Aramine (generic metaraminol) is a vasopressor, a drug that is used to raise blood pressure. Its principle use today is to counteract the dangerous low blood pressure that can sometimes follow the use of spinal anesthesia. Garry doesn't know exactly why Col. Cottone needed the drug.

So, is there a moral to these stories? I'd say "yes". They both demonstrate that even these days with the Internet and satphones, DXers can also provide essential emergency service, spanning thousands of miles in the process.



DXpedition
medi-cine

3D2CConway
Reef 2012

This is Miguel,
PY3MM who has
suffered an
anterior dislocation
of his left shoulder

Alan, K6SRZ, the
expedition doctor
prepares to manip-
ulate the shoulder
back in place.

DXpedition Medicine



Success! The hu-
meral head is back
where it belongs
Miguel is pain free
and we do a happy
dance on the sand

Photo credit:
Paul,N6PSE

REDXA member scores

WPX CW					
Call	Op	Class	QSO	Prx	Score
KU6F	K6SRZ	SOABHP	1076	508	1,345,692
NB6U	N6ZFO	SOABHP	942	504	994,896
AK6M	K6MM	SOABHP	638	433	516,136
N6TQ	N6TQ	SOABHP	482	290	315,520
WQ6K	N6IE	SOABHP	358	350	294,700
K6RIM	K6RIM	SOABHP	455	327	272,391
N3RC	N3RC	SOABHP	340	239	160,130
K6CTA	K6CTA	SOABLP	11	9	243
W6XU	W6XU	SOABLP	12	12	204

Soapbox

K6MM - "Yes, dear, I'll be there soon"... "Pull weeds? "Sure. Just a few more minutes". Closed the shack door, called CQ and 14 hours later found 600+ Qs and 0.5M points in the Log. Was hoping for more on 15M, but was happy to see 20M, the money band, open late into the evening. Had some great runs on 20M, using a new technique: I just called "CQ AK6M". I figured those around me knew I was in the WPX contest. Everyone else below 14.100 was on FT8:>) Very enjoyable time. Thanks for all the Qs. 73, John, K6MM / AK6M Station: K3 / ACOM 1000 / 2-ele SteppIR / G5RV / N1MM+

N6ZFO - Just 200 watts, awaiting amp repair. A somewhat casual effort.

K6SRZ - I really hate cut numbers!

An expanded list of scores and Club Log standings will appear in the next issue of "Sunspots"



This month's REDXA ZOOM meeting will feature Arnie Shatz, N6HC, reprising the 2019 DXpedition to Pitcairn Island.

Hal Turley, W8HC, prepared an excellent history of the island that can be seen at <https://pitcairndx.com/the-island/>

Pitcairn, of course, owes its present day fame to the fact that it is where the mutineers from the HMS Bounty settled and scuttled the ves-sel.

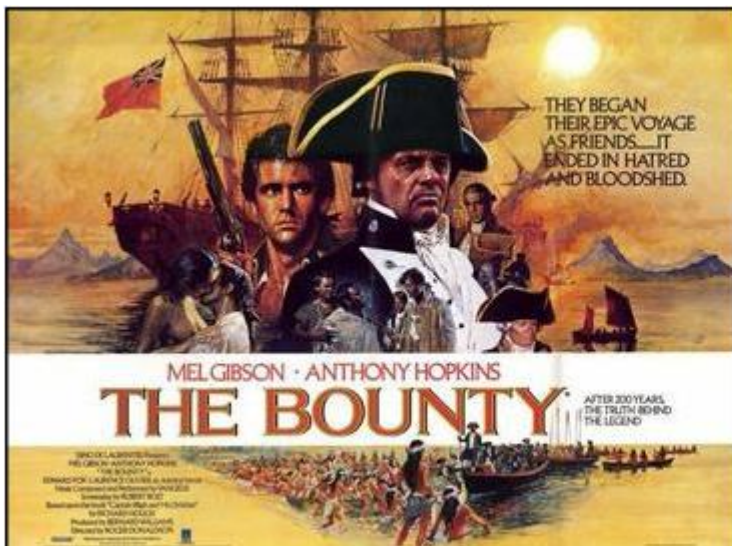
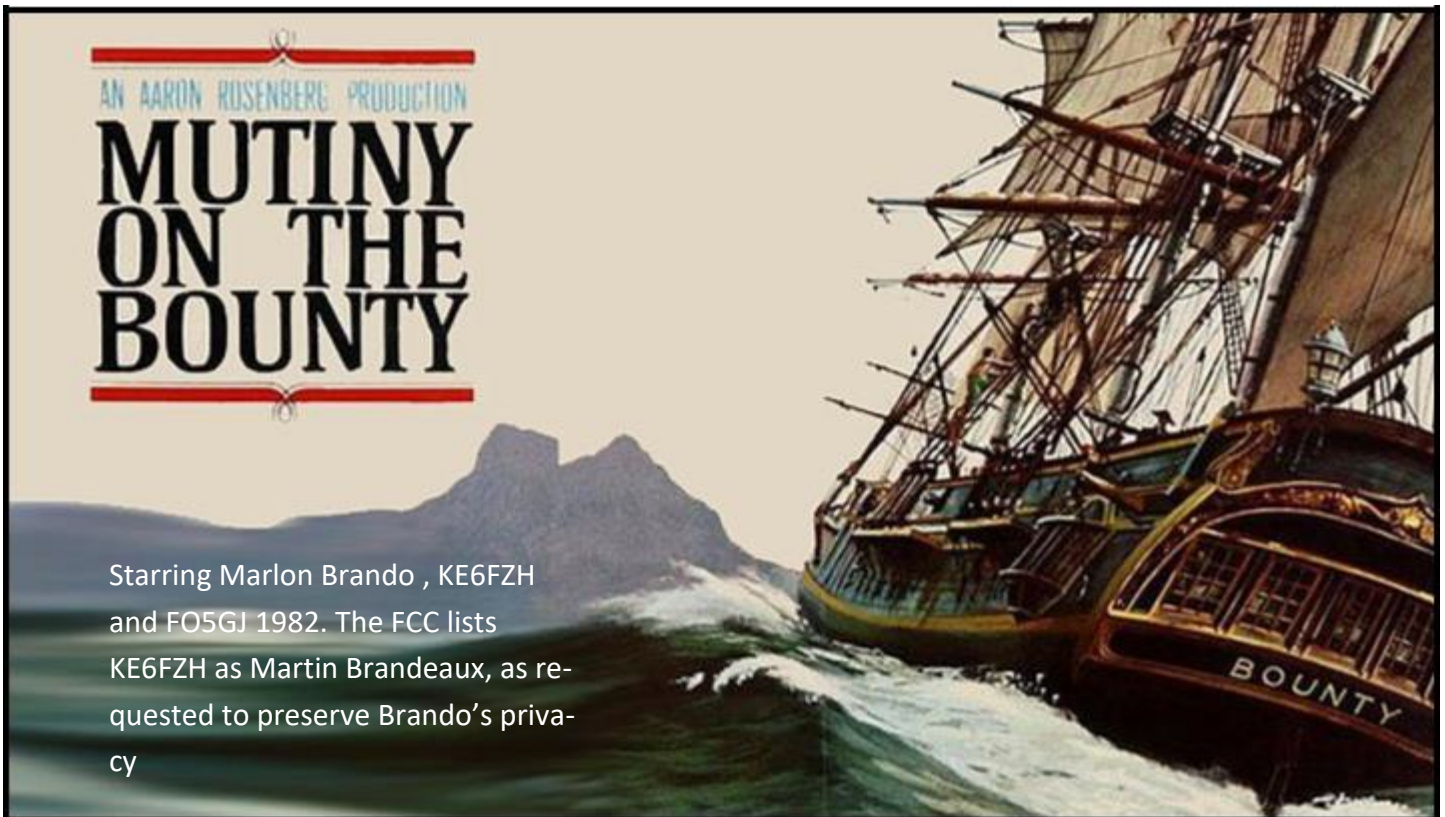
In present days, some of the men on Pitcairn were arrested and convicted in a child sex abuse scandal.



Captain Bligh was apparently not as nasty a character as he was as portrayed by Charles Laughton (1934)

Famous line: "Go below Mr. Christian"

Pitcairn at the movies



Mel Gibson as Fletcher Christian, 1984. It was apparently well-reviewed but the Mel Gibson-Anthony Hopkins dynamic was not true to the facts. Gibson was quoted as saying that Bligh should have been the good guy and Christian the bad guy.

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

The monthly meeting was held on Zoom June 9, 2021. Social hour began at 6:30 pm, hosted by President Roger Cooper, N3RC. Formal meeting began at 7:04 pm. During the meeting, 15 participants were noted.

Old business: none.

New business: Minutes and Treasurer's report were approved as published in the Sun-spots newsletter. Members were reminded about Field Day 2021 and that the rules allow home stations ("D") to work other home stations as amended in last year's event.

Roger noted that discussions on returning safely to the Boulevard Café are ongoing. Check the club website for updates.

Program: ABCs of RFI for Hams by Bob Brehm, AK6R. Bob is the current owner and CEO of Palomar Engineers, a company that specializes in RFI solutions. While he is in the business of selling solutions, the major portion of his talk focused on how RFI is produced, how to mitigate its effects and ways to prevent it from hampering your ham station. All excellent material as the plethora of "noise makers" are polluting the airwaves more and more every day.

During the presentation, he showed many examples of feed line chokes, baluns, ununs, and various practical applications of ferrites for AC/DC power lines, computer in-terconnect cables, transceivers, linear amplifiers, and home theater systems.

The company has an informative website at: <https://palomar-engineers.com/>. As an incentive for you to check out the site, he offered first time customers a 10% discount for on-line orders using the discount code NEWBIE.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

Jul 10-11 IARU HF Championship

Jul 14 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Aug 11 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Sep 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Oct 2 **Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest (in Sonoma)**

Oct 2-3 **California QSO Party**

Oct 13 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Oct 15-17 **Pacificon 2021 - ARRL Pacific Div Ham Radio Convention**



Refer to <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html> for more contest information.



Boulevard Café & Grill
1096 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA

The Café is open again , including inside service. They're not able to host gatherings like our REDXA meetings yet but I encourage you to stop in for breakfast or lunch.

Please thank Daniel and his staff for their support over the past years.

REDXA's first place small club CQP plaque is prominently displayed here on the wall alongside plaques from other service clubs

In-person meetings may be coming soon. Daniel is still not sure when. Like so many other restaurant owners, Daniels is still looking to hire more staff. When the hiring is complete, he'll be able host our evening meetings.

