

The wait is over for now. After more than two years, we'll be meeting in person for a sit-down lunch and regular presentations . To make the new arrangements a success we need *YOU* to attend!



We're meeting at the Boulevard Café, Petaluma at a new time—NOON—and a new date—SATURDAY MARCH 19. It will be the same good food; the same excellent A/V system; and some of your fellow (and gal) ham radio friends—maybe even a few new folks. Be there!

# SUNSPOTS

**REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

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## Meeting Announcement

**Don't miss this one. For the first time in more than two years, we'll be meeting at the Boulevard Café. This time we'll be meeting on Saturday, March 19 at Noon. If all goes well, we may be able to share meetings with the MLDXCC and with NCCC**

**Please come and share your support with the Café. A menu will be announced soon.**

## President's Commentary

What lies ahead? It seems that the Covid panic has disappeared only to be replaced by Ukraine and high gas prices. As I drove by the Valero station I see \$6.25/gallon and climbing. We live in interesting times I guess. In regards to REDXA I was quite pleased with the turnout for our February meeting and I thought Steve W6SRD did a superb job with his Dxpediton presentation. I am still amazed at the amount of work and money that goes into these trips and also the average age of the operators. It's a big deal and my hat goes off to these guys who will go to this extreme just to make the hobby exciting for us and in the comfort of our homes. I don't think they get enough credit and if you like to work new countries we can't be without these huge

trips. As time marches forward, I can only hope there's still enough interest, money and energy from hams to continue providing us with this treat! I have many more countries to pursue and I hope I don't run out of time before I get the rest.

Unfortunately, this morning I see that NCCC has cancelled their Saturday March 19th lunch and moved it to the following Sunday. So, we won't be teaming up with them to say "hello" and share in the ham radio fellowship. It appears that our numbers are diminishing and we are becoming a much more elite hobby. It is my goal to keep this thing alive and exciting for our members in the coming months and hopefully we can stay connected with this hobby we hold so dear! If you find new hams don't hesitate to reach out, welcome them with open arms and encourage them to stop by our zoom sessions and future luncheons.

I paid Dan Gomez the owner of Boulevard Cafe a visit and he's happy to see us return. I have his menu in front of me now and to make things fast and easy I will try and choose a lunch menu that everyone can enjoy. If you prefer something different you can probably get there earlier and submit your request ahead of time. I suspect hamburgers, sandwiches and salads will be our choices.

It will be nice to finally have a live meeting to catch up with lies and share some stories. I talked to Chuck N6OJ and if his health is good, he will stop by and say "hello". There is no formal speaker program at this point since I was counting on a mutual zoom with NCCC. I'll see if we can put something together to make this a lively meeting. I have confirmed around 15 attendees so far and hope to get a record turnout. I may have an issue and unable to attend because my life is full of funerals these days and they keep coming in record numbers. Hopefully I can attend both. I'll make sure we have zoom running in the background since Fred is also on tour!

Lastly, I am excited to see some improvements in band conditions. There have been various contests and I see our group posting scores. It's always nice to get 10, 12 and 15 meter openings. Let's see more of these please. I am also happy to announce that with the help of some hams I got the DB36 on top of the 72 foot tower. I bought this antenna in 2017 right before the fires and it has never seen the top of a tower until last week. I have lots to learn but hopefully it will play well and worth the headache of getting it up. It has been a nightmare project for me and I cross my fingers that it works well. I have to admit when the tower is fully extended it's a beast and probably an eyesore for those non-hams. I expect there will be issues with the neighborhood soon.

Be safe out there and pray for rain. There's no upside to this drought and it's about ready to add to the misery index.

Peace,  
WX6B

## Treasurer's Report

REDXA Bank Account

Balance as of January 31: \$3822.01

Outgo: \$60.00 (plaque sponsorship for CQP)

Income: (3 dues via Square app) \$57.36 and one dues by check \$20.00 Total: \$77.36

Balance as of February 28:

\$3,839.37

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Leoni- N6YEU Treasurer

Also today ( March 7) I renewed the club insurance. This was for \$300.00 which will be part of next months report. I must admit that I had neglected to renew last year and fortunately we didn't have field day or live meetings so we are ok.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)



## Back to the Marin Rod and Gun Club for Field Day 2022

### Field Day “In-Person” is Back!

Ron, N6IE  
ron@n6ie.com

After two years of COVID cancellations of Field Day, it looks like we will be returning, along with our friends at the Marin Amateur Radio Society to the Marin Rod & Gun Club, just as we have done for many years in the past! This, of course, is assuming that there are no new COVID outbreaks or any other disasters that may befall us between now and then. The dates to circle on your calendars are:

Friday, June 24 for setup

Saturday, June 25 for operation, starting at 11:00 am PDT through 11:00 am Sunday

Sunday, June 26, end of operation and teardown after 11:00 until we are done around 2:00 pm

Our intent is to run as a 3A entry with one each phone, CW and FT-8/4 stations. Assuming we have enough helpers, we should be able to run the same compliment of antennas that we have run in previous years. This year, I want to improve on the performance of our SteppIR BigIR vertical by using 16 30' radials which will require us to develop a “Team Vertical” of three or four folks to erect the antenna and spread out the radials. In addition to our normal station captains, we will need a volunteer to be the Team Vertical captain to supervise the setup and teardown of the antenna. If you're interested in taking that on, please let me know!

There will be some important changes that we will need to observe since we will probably not be 100% free of COVID by the third weekend in June. Some of these points are required by our MR&GC contract and others are just common sense:

We will have to compile a list of all people who will be attending the event along with their phone numbers and proof of COVID vaccination. All attendees must be vaccinated!

We will have to appoint a 'Covid Compliance Officer' (CCO) who will be on duty to verify all vaccination cards.

Anyone with a fever, any other COVID symptoms or who has been recently exposed to someone with COVID should not attend.

Hand sanitizer will be provided at each of the operating positions.

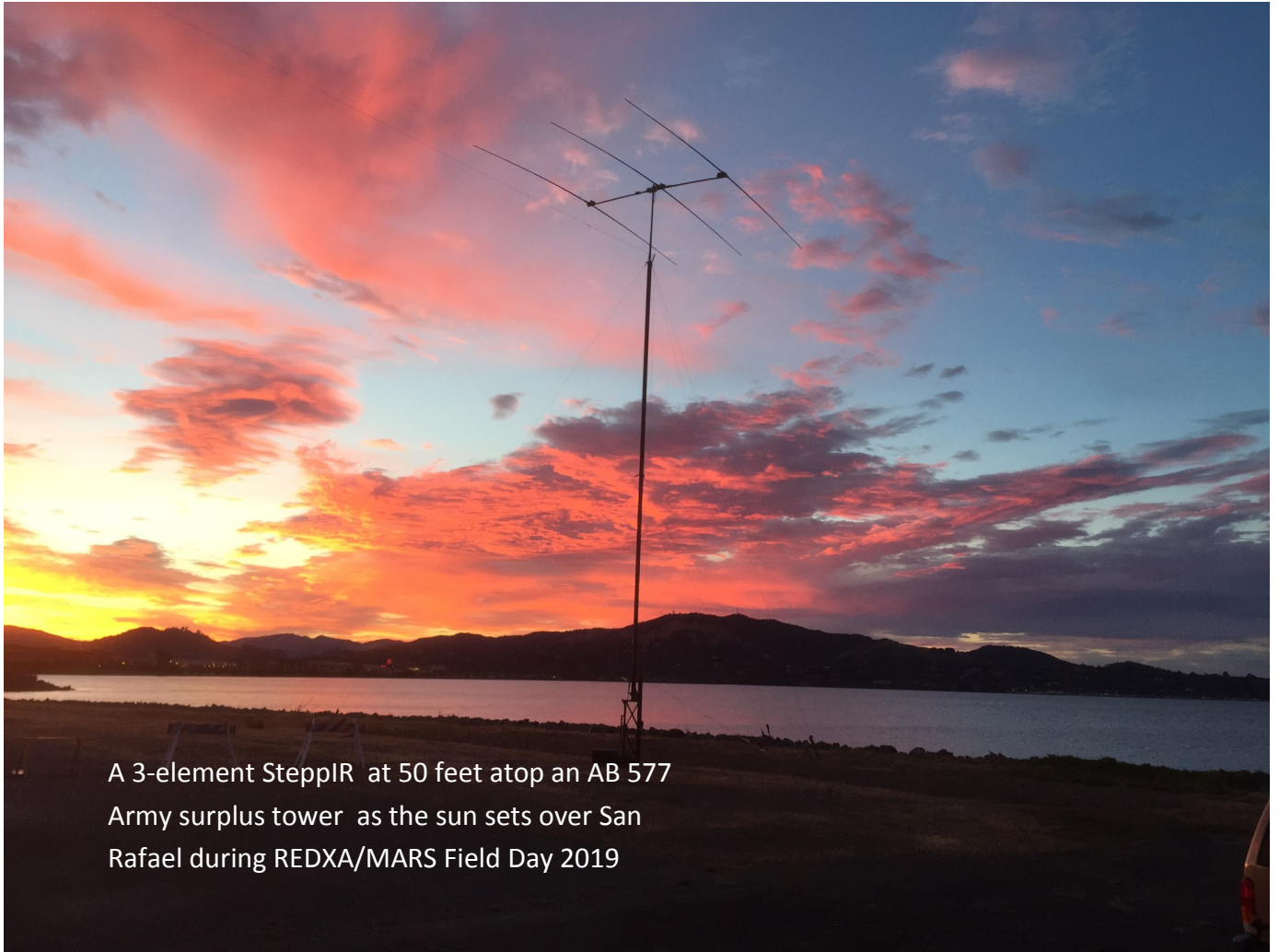
Disinfectant spray will be located at each of the operating positions and ops will be encouraged to spray all microphones, headsets, code keys, keyboards, mice and radio knobs when starting a shift.

We will observe all county and state masking or social distancing requirements if any still remain.

As we have done in the past, I will be taking reservations for operating times in advance, so if you have a preference, please email me, or sign up when you arrive on-site.

I will be happy to discuss more about this at our big 'return to live' monthly REDXA coming up March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Boulevard Cafe. Field Day 2022 will be our big return after two years of the solitude and loneliness of 1D class operating, so I'm hoping we have a huge turnout and make up for all of our lost fun, excitement and good times with old friends...I hope to CU there!





A 3-element SteppIR at 50 feet atop an AB 577 Army surplus tower as the sun sets over San Rafael during REDXA/MARS Field Day 2019



Parks on the Air of the month. A new column from our travelling treasurer?



Editor's Note:

Visitors to our part of the world frequently ask about visiting Muir Woods. Here's a suggestion. Take them to Armstrong Woods. The trees are just as big there with fewer parking hassles .

On March 1 I decided to do a local Parks on the Air activation at K-3398 Armstrong Redwoods Reserve State Conservation Area (formerly known as Armstrong Woods State Park). I paid my day use fee of \$9 (a senior discount of \$1 whoopee) And drove to the picnic area in the back of the park. This unfortunately is a less than ideal spot for radio as it is in a deep canyon surrounded by some VERY BIG trees. With no internet connection I was unable to "self spot" on the POTA Web site and had to rely on the Reverse Beacon Network. I got on 20 CW and called CQ a couple of times and got a one call from NE. I thought maybe things would go ok but that was my last QSO on 20. Switching to 30, I had one Q with OR and then nothing again. So, I tried 40 and I managed 5 cw qsos and 3 ssb. 1 OR and the rest CA. In almost 2 hours I managed a total of 10 QSO: ! Not what I was hoping for but I did get the minimum 10 qsos to get credit for an official " activation". This is the closest park to my home so I hope to return for another try. There is a road that does lead to a higher elevation part of the park but it is currently still closed due to damage from the Walbridge fire of 2020.





Big trees!



Mr. POTA, N6YEU



In honor of International Women's Day, I can't resist sharing these two views of women on the air. To the left, a pin-up ala Vargas (actually don't know the artist) with a little ham cheesecake.

Below the right, radio of the French Resistance with power supplied by a bicycle frame turned generator . (Painting by an unknown artist.)





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

We're going back to the Boulevard Café & Grill the first in-person REDXA meeting in more than two years. We'll also be joined via Internet link with the MLDXCC and some members of NCCC.

Saturday March 19 starting at noon. Please plan to attend. The program will be *All of Us Getting Together Again*.

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.

