

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

Volume XL

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting will be September 12, 2018 at the Boulevard Café. Our featured speaker will be W9WNV, Don Miller, MD, who is arguably a major influence on how the pursuit of DX and DXpeditions have evolved from events of the 1960s. "Sunspots" has already featured QSLs from some of Don's expeditors.

Don disappeared from the DXing world for many years, but he's back and we're privileged to have him.

To make this meeting more relevant to REDXA members, your editor recommends taking a look at Hugh Cassidy's (WA6AUD of West Coast DX Bulletin fame) article "The Don Miller Story as Told to Hugh Cassidy": <https://www.k6qqq.com/the-don-miller-story-as-told-by-hugh-cassidy-wa6aud/>



REDXA President's Commentary

Again, this is your editor pinch-hitting for our President(s). We're all busy and consign our "what can I contribute to the back all of you that it is contribute content to more of you have home brewing promotion of interest to leagues. My goals light the potential mention contribute the current (October



We're all busy and consign tribute to 'Sunspots' "burner. But, I implore not the editor's job to this newsletter. Surely photos, historical QSLs, jects, and other infor- your REDXA col- for this issue are to high- crisis for WWV and to tions by local hams to issue of QST.

Ever wonder how the custom of DX stations running QSO's with "5NN" got started? Well, according to some sources it all started with this month's speaker, Don Miller, W9WNV.

The saga of Don Miller, his many DXpeditions, his fans, his detractors, and his disputes with the ARRL would take too much time and too much space to cover in this month's newsletter. I urge all of you to read some thing of his background, starting with Hugh Cassidy's article originally published in the NCDXC newsletter "DXer". A Google search will take you to a series of videos that Marti, OH2BH, recorded with Don. Previous issues of "Sunspots" have featured QSLs from some of Don's DXpeditions.



Paul, N6PSE and Don, W9WNV at NCDXC



WWV/WWVH Funding in Jeopardy

Most of us who operate contests have used the National Institute of Standards and Technology (previously the National Institute of Standards) stations WWV/WWVH to let us know the exact second that the starting bell for a particular contest.

Here's the ARRL's commentary on proposed defunding these stations for fiscal year 2019.



NIST FY 2019 Budget Would Eliminate WWV and WWVH

ARRL members and Amateur Radio clubs are expressing increased concern over the inclusion of WWV and WWVH on a list of proposed cuts in the White House's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. The proposed cuts also would include the Atomic Clock signal from WWVB used to synchronize specially equipped clocks and watches. [Online](#) petitions soliciting signatures include [one](#) established by Tom Kelly II, W7NSS, of Portland, Oregon, who would like to see funding for the stations maintained. At this point, the budget item is only a proposal, not a final decision. That would be up to the Congress to decide.

ARRL is among those worried over the possible loss of WWV, WWVH, and WWVB and is suggesting that members of the Amateur Radio community who value the stations for their precise time and frequency signals and other information sign Kelly's petition and/or contact their members of Congress promptly, explaining how the stations are important to them, beyond government and military use.

Kelly's petition, which may be signed by US residents, notes that WWV is among the oldest radio stations in the US, having been established in 1920. "The station has transmitted the official US time for nearly 100 years, and is an instrumental part in the telecommunications field, ranging from broadcasting to scientific research and education," his petition says. "Additionally, these stations transmit marine storm warnings from the National Weather Service, [GPS](#) satellite [health](#) reports, and specific information concerning current solar activity and radio propagation conditions. These broadcasts are an essential resource to the worldwide communications industry."

NIST's [full Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2019 budget request](#) to Congress calls for the agency to "discontinue the dissemination of the US time and frequency via the NIST radio stations in Hawaii and Fort Collins, Colorado." The agency noted, "These radio stations transmit signals that are used to synchronize consumer electronic products like wall clocks, clock radios, and wristwatches, and may be used in other applica-

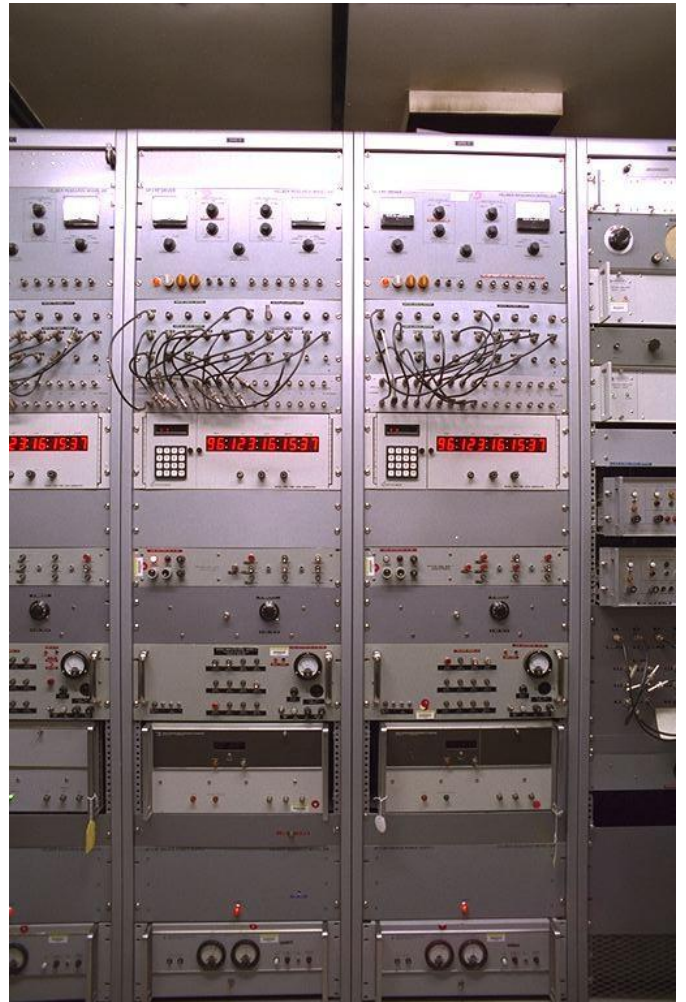
cations like appliances, cameras, and irrigation controllers.” The specific cut, which would come from the NIST Fundamental Measurement, Quantum Science, and Measurement Dissemination budget, would amount to \$6.3 million.

In its budget request, NIST said that it plans to [consolidate](#) and focus work on its efforts in quantum science while maintaining essential core capabilities in measurement science research and measurement dissemination, as well as eliminate “efforts that have been replaced by newer technologies, measurement science research that lies outside NIST’s core mission space, and programs that can no longer be supported due to facility deterioration.”

WWV and WWVH broadcast time and frequency information 24/7, including time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, and marine storm warnings. Transmissions are broadcast from separate transmitters on 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz. An experimental 25 MHz signal is also currently on the air. WWVB transmits standard Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) signals on 60 kHz to appropriately equipped timekeeping devices.

NIST Public Relations Director Gail Porter told Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL – editor of [The SWLing Post](#), which has been tracking developments – that NIST “is proud of the time and frequency services we provide through our radio stations, and understands that these services are important to many people.”

NIST Director Walter Copan has supported the overall budget request. “This budget request ensures that NIST can continue to work at the frontiers of measurement science by preserving investment in core metrology research,” Copan said. “Through its constitutionally mandated role, NIST performs work that only the government can do, and produces enormous return on US taxpayers’ [investment](#). Translating measurements into technically sound standards across all industries enables effective international trade and US competitiveness.”



The atomic clock at WWV



Here's what you—yes, YOU—can do to make sure WWV/WWVH continues ticking:

There are two active petitions placed on the White House's "We the People" petition site. Supposedly, 100,000 electronic signatures will trigger a response from the White House

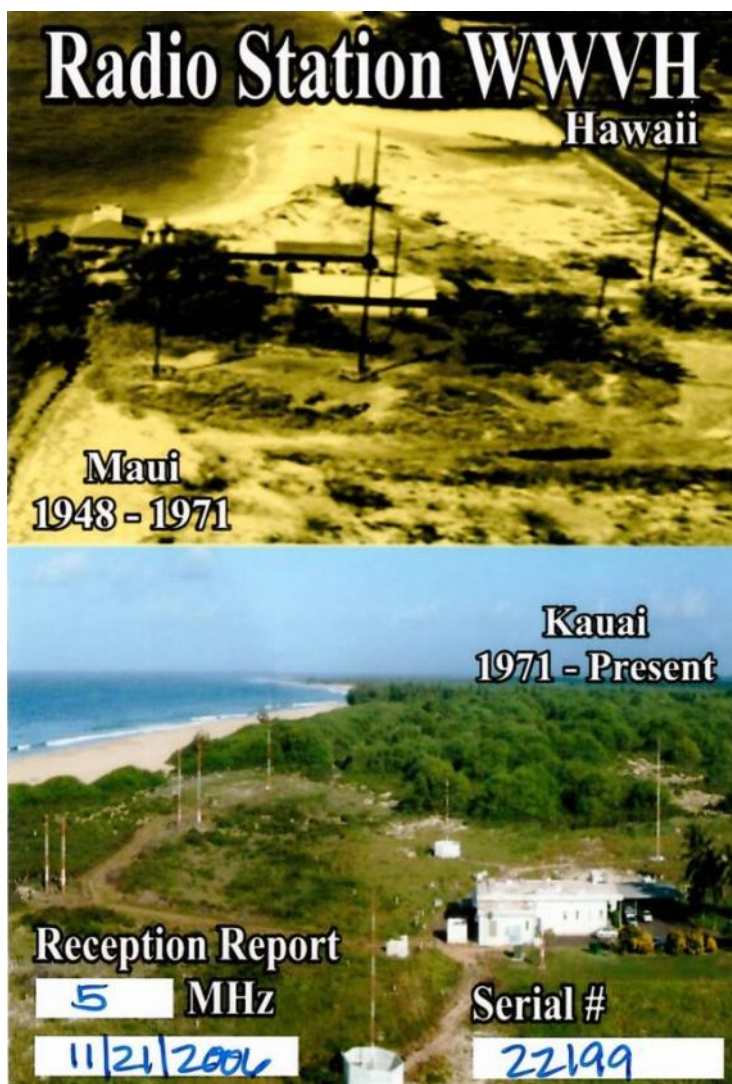
<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/maintain-funding-nist-stations-wwv-wwvh>

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/maintain-funding-nist-stations-wwv-wwvh>



WWV has a cousin to the North, CHU at the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa. CHU used to have a strong time signal at 7.335 MHz, but it's now found at 7.850.

Kihei, Maui



Barking Sands, Kauai

Unintended consequences of FCC Spectrum decisions. And it's not just hams! Steve, W6SFK calls our attention to a recent article in [Wired Magazine](https://www.wired.com/story/wireless-mics-radio-frequencies-fcc-saga/). You can read it at <https://www.wired.com/story/wireless-mics-radio-frequencies-fcc-saga/>



The article details how theater companies throughout the nation are being forced to spend more money than they have to replace their wireless microphones. Here's an excerpt from the "Wired" article:

The upheaval around wireless mics can be traced to the National Broadband Plan of 2010, where, on the direction of Congress, the FCC declared broadband "a foundation for economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness and a better way of life." Two years later, in a bill best known for cutting payroll taxes, Congress authorized the FCC to auction off additional spectrum for broadband communications. In 2014, the FCC determined it would use the 600 MHz band— where most wireless microphones operate—to accomplish that goal.

*The auction began in 2016 and continued into 2017. **T-Mobile**, the largest purchaser of the reallocated spectrum, spent close to \$8 billion, and is using it to increase its LTE coverage and to lay the foundation for its 5G network. Wireless mic users have until July 2020, at the latest, to vacate the 600 MHz band.*

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events
by Doug WW6D

Have an event for the calendar? Let me know!

*Sep 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Oct 6-7 California QSO Party

*Oct 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Oct 14-16 ARRL Pac Div Convention

Oct 27-28 CQ WW Contest SSB

*Nov 14 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Nov 24-25 CQ WW Contest CW

Nov 30-Dec 2 ARRL 160m Contest

Dec 8-9 ARRL 10m Contest

*Dec 12 * REDXA Holiday Party and Raffle*

Dec 29-30 Stew Perry Topband Challenge

Dec 31-Jan 1 Straight Key Night

*Jan 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jan 12-13 North American QSO Party CW

Jan 19-20 North American QSO Party SSB

Refer to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more contest information.



Many thanks to John Miller, K6MM for his presentation on the KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition. John always gives a great program and we really appreciate his trips up to Petaluma from his home in the South Bay

Check out Santa Rosan Bob Dildine,'s (W6SFH) article "An Active Dipole for Long- and Medium Wave Frequencies" in the October 2018 QST. In the article he acknowledges the contributions of his Monday morning breakfast group, which includes our own Doug, WW6D

CQP is Coming



These intrepid expeditioners are off to Alaska in 1898, but they could just as well be putting a rare California county on the air for CQP, the California QSO Party. If you haven't operated CQP, please give it a try this year. CQP starts at 1600 Z October 6 and runs for the next 30 hours, of which you can operate 24 of them. Multi-stations can operate the full 30 hours. You can find the rules here: www.cqp.org.

The best part of CQP is that if you have a "6" in your call, for one exciting day you are DX! Everyone wants to work you—everyone including a fair number of DX stations. There are plenty of awards in CQP, including the coveted special bottle of CQP wine with your call sign right on the label.

This year K6SRZ, N3RC, AA6YX, will be off to Mendocino and N6YEU will be a one-man operation from Trinity county Please work them—all bands, CW and Phone. N6IE and K6JS will likely stay home and see if they can beat your editor's Sonoma record.

The rebuilding is under way



Bill,'s (WX6B) new truck, laden with aluminum destined to help rebuild his and Saraj's (KU6F) antenna farms, which were casualties of last October's fires. A big thank you to Ken, N7KD for his generous donation.

Treasurer's report for August 2018, prepared by
REDXA Treasurer, Bill Zaner W6IYS



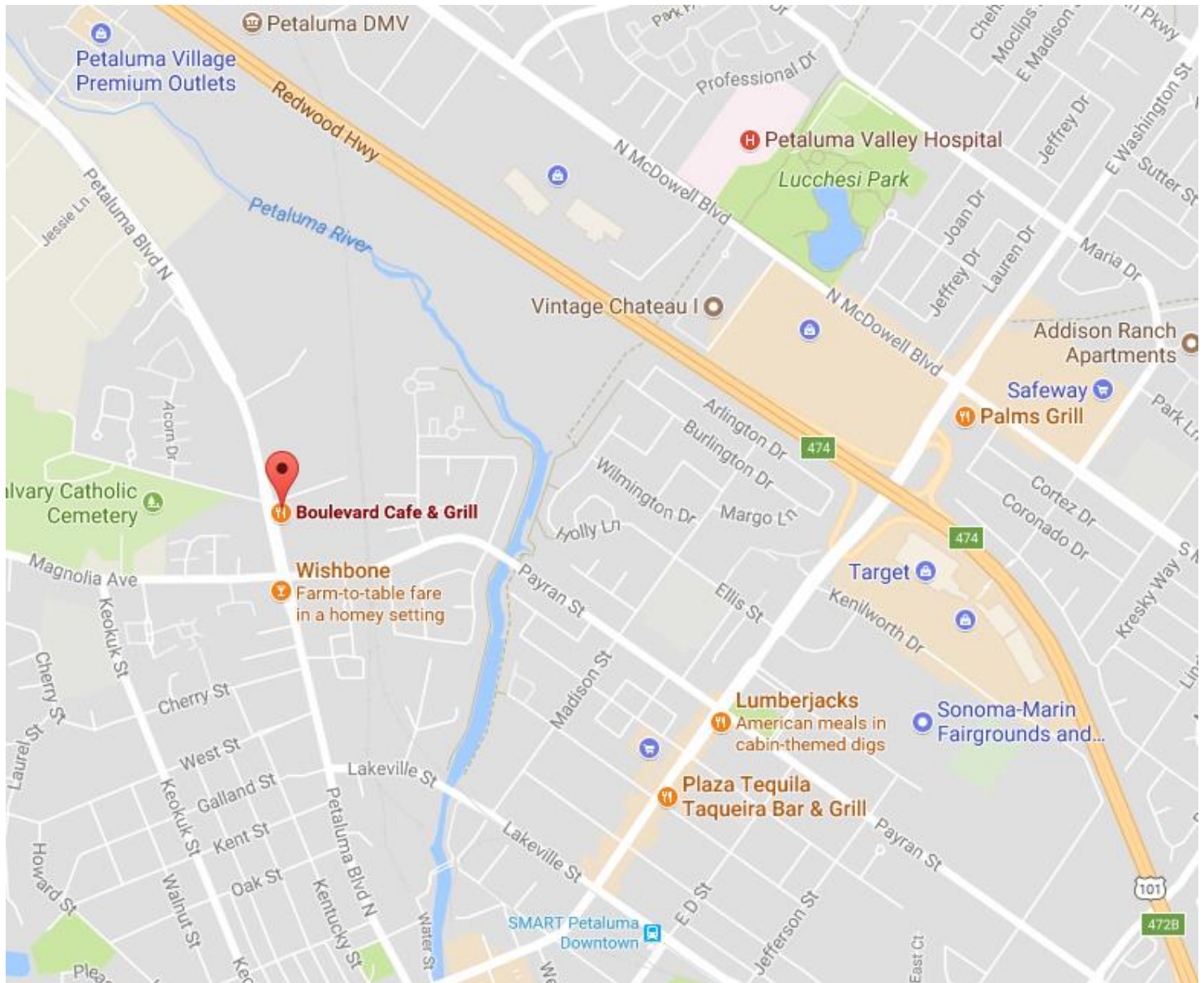
Bal. Brt. Fwd.	8/1/2018		<u>\$3,654.40</u>
Receipts			
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$54.00	
	Dues	\$20.00	
	Auction: Donated Equipment	<u>\$125.00</u>	
	Total Receipts		<u>\$199.00</u>
Disbursements			
	Dinner- Guest Speaker	\$25.00	
	NCCC Sponsor 2017 & 2018	<u>\$120.00</u>	
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$145.00</u>
Cash Flow			<u>\$54.00</u>
Balance 8/31/18			<u>\$3,708.40</u>

Welcome new REDX members Ronal Gove, AF6MO,
(Santa Rosa) and David Chaney, AA6AE (Auberry CA
a.k.a. San Quentin),



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.