

Important!

The next REDXA meeting will be February 7 because the regularly scheduled meeting would have fallen on **Valentine's Day (February 14)**.

To repeat: the next meeting is on February 7



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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at Boulevard Café & Grill, Petaluma. If you need directions please call one of the club Officers

6pm— Social Hour in the Lounge
7pm — Dinner and Meeting
8pm -- Program

FEBRUARY MEETING: "HOTTEST NEW RADIOS FOR 2018"

The February REDXA Meeting will feature a member discussion of the "Hottest New Radios in 2018". Especially the newer software defined radios (SDR) from Flex, ANAN, ICOM and other manufacturers.



REDXA President's Commentary

So close yet so far! You could almost taste Bouvet but Mother Nature is always in control. So now we wait to see if they can reschedule that event for some future date. It's a massive undertaking to get that kind of DXpedition together but I'm optimistic it will happen.

So here we are in February with record breaking temperatures and scratching our heads trying to figure out what this is all about. Our meeting is also a week earlier this month due to Valentine's Day and the need to take care of our significant others on the 14th. This Wednesday we have several of our members discussing some of the features and benefits of their HF rigs. So if you're thinking about making a purchase in the near future you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear about the pros and cons of various radios used by



some top DX chasers in the club.

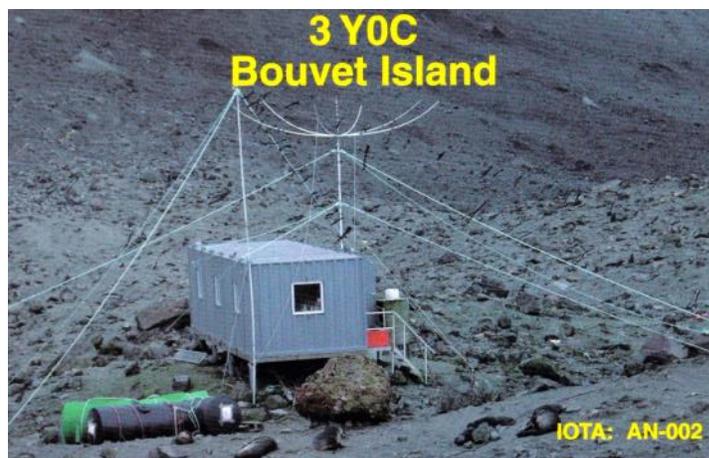
I hope everyone is doing well and I thought I would share a few photos about the detrimental effects of fire on a ham tower. My lot is clear now after almost 70 dump trucks loads were hauled away. After the county gives us the green light for the soils testing we can begin to rebuild and get back on the air someday. Hope to see the usual crowd this week. Enjoy the weather!

Bill, WX6B



WX6B Photos continued on Page 12

By now we all know that the long-anticipated 3Y0Z expedition to Bouvet was aborted due to foul weather and possible engine problems with the ship. Safety first, of course, but there are many disappointed hams who were waiting for the chance to work this #2 most wanted entity. The card below is from astronaut and physician N4BQW, Chuck Brady. who had a one man operation in 2001. Brady operated for 56 days while serving as the medical officer for the Norwegian Antarctic Research expedition.



Sadly, not long after his return from Bouvet, Brady took his own life while apparently depressed by relationship problems.

Treasurer's Report for January 2018

Bal. Brt. Fwd.	1/1/2018		<u>\$3,598.91</u>
Receipts			
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$54.00	
	Dues	\$65.00	
	Total Receipts		<u>\$119.00</u>
Disbursements			
	Guest Dinners (2)	\$50.00	
	Donation (NCDXF)	\$250.00	
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$300.00</u>
Cash Flow			<u>-\$181.00</u>

Balance 1/31/18

\$3,417.91

Contest scores

By K6JS

I usually scan the 3830 website for contest scores. I'll look under REDXA and NCCC scores to gather REDXA scores. If I'm missing any scores please let me know and I'll keep an eye out for your call. You can also send me your scores at jselmi@hotmail.com

As you can see by the list of calls and contests our REDXA club is very active on the air. A lot of us hang out on 146.49 simplex. I imagine it will be very active in the next few weeks as the 3Y0Z operation gets rolling.



SOAB(A) HP

N6IE	x	359	88
	186		7.8
	269,068	NCCC	
K6RIM		351	67
	174		
K6MM		282	58
	8	136,170	NCCC
K6JS		275	83
	15:00	155,760	REDXA
N3RC		200	48
		64,141	NCCC

229,432 NCCC

SOAB(A) LP

K6CTA		50	21	48
	2	9,246	NCCC	

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 2017 Oct 28

Call	Remote Op TimeScore	QSOs Club	Zones	Countries
SOAB HP				
K6LRN	6+	50,750	150 NCCC	41 84
K6ELE	4	9,802	66 NCCC	15 10
M/2 HP				
NØKQ(@N6ZFO)	491	331,563	70 NCCC	167
SOAB(A) HP				
K6SRZ	14:14	238,496	373 NCCC	72 160
K6MM		156,032	301 NCCC	59 125 9
K6RIM		82,928	205 NCCC	51 95 6.2

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 2017 Nov 25

Call	Remote Op TimeScore	QSOs Club	Zones	Countries
M/S HP				
NØKQ(@N6ZFO)	1085	1,095,120	110 NCCC	250
	29:55			
SOAB HP				
K6SRZ	7	98,325	201 REDXA	72 99
KG6N		35,551	170 REDXA	28 45

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 2017 Dec 9

Call	SO2R Club	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op TimeScore
SO CW HP					
N6TQ			45	10	6 1,800
	REDXA				
SO CW Unlimited HP					
K6SRZ			115	23	6 10,350
	REDXA				
K6JS			21	4	00:49 336
	REDXA				
SO Mixed Unlimited HP					
K6RIM			25	9	0.7 846
	REDXA				

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2017 Dec 1

Call	Op TimeScore	QSOs Club	Sections	Countries
Single Op HP				
N6ZFO		669	80	6 17
		120,744	NCCC	
K6SRZ		357	67	6 7
		54,093	REDXA	
N6TQ		239	54	5 6
		29,618	REDXA	
SO Unlimited HP				
N6IE		200	61	9
	4.5	29,260	NCCC	
N3RC		233	57	4
		27,588	NCCC	
K6MM		168	60	8 4
		21,420	NCCC	



CQ 160-Meter Contest

Call	Remote Op Time Score	QSOs Club	State/Prov	Countries
Single Op HP				
K6SRZ	4:47	203 33,920	42 NCCC	11
N6ZFO	2:00	106 12,420	42 NCCC	4
N6TQ	6	210 31,148	48 REDXA	8
Single Op Assisted HP				
W6DR	19:16	618 111,240	58 NCCC	14
N6IE	X 7:23	266 42,944	55 NCCC	9
K6MM	4	119 13,284	34 NCCC	7

145,002 NCCC #4

N6ZFO	616	158	10
	97,328	NCCC #1	
K6MM	139	65	3
	9,035	NCCC #3	
N6IE	x	85	50
	4,250	NCCC	0:40
K6ELE	22	20	440
	NCCC		
K6JS	14	9	126
	NCCC		

North American QSO Party – CW– January

Call	Remote QSOs	Mults	Op Time Score	Team
M/2 LP				
K6JS		165	87	04:00
	14,355	NCCC		
K6CTA		34	24	816
	NCCC			

Single Op LP

N6ZFO		852	204	10:00
	173,808	NCCC Team #1		
K6SRZ		830	182	8
	151,060	NCCC Team #2		
N6IE	x	639	178	9
	113,742	NCCC		
KG6N		431	125	10
	53,875	NCCC		
N3RC		527	101	
	53,227	NCCC Team #5		
K6MM		225	78	3.0
	17,550	NCCC Team #3		
K6RIM		168	93	
	15,624	NCCC		

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 2017 Dec 30

Call	Remote	QSOs	Op Time Score	Club
Multi-Op HP				
N3RC		70		259
	NCCC			
Single Op HP				
W6DR		135	05:36	671
	NCCC			
N6IE	x	83	2:41	402
	NCCC			
Single Op LP				
N6ZFO		40	2:00	399
	NCCC			

ARRL RTTY Roundup 2018 Jan 6

Call	SO2R Op Time Score	QSOs Club	State/Prov	Countries
M/S HP				
W6DR		1025	55	39
	23:51	96,350	NCCC	
Single Op HP				
K6LRN		610	53	33
	14:23	52,460	NCCC	
K6ELE		277	42	20
	14	17,174	NCCC	
W6XU		185	42	13

North American QSO Party – SSB – January

Call	Remote QSOs	Mults	Op Time Score	Team
M/2 LP				
K6RIM		107	64	
	6,848	NCCC		
Single Op LP				
K6SRZ		1067	185	10
	197,395	NCCC #2		
N3RC		1014	143	10

W6SFK		132	36		9
	2:15	5,940	NCCC		
Single Op LP					
N6ZFO		808	55		33
	21.5	71,104	NCCC		
N6OJ	x	496	53		14
	14	33,232	NCCC		
SO Unlimited HP					
N6IE	remote	1532	57		59
	22:48	177,712			
K6SRZ		845	56		32
	19	74,360	NCCC		
K6MM		464	52		35
	12	40,368	NCCC		
N3RC		410	47		16
		25,830	NCCC		
SO Unlimited LP					
K6CTA		27	17		3
		540	NCCC		



RAC Winter Contest 2017

Call Time	Score	CW Qs Club	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op
K6SRZ	359		431	40	28	
11	291,852		REDXA			



The new Tashjian tower and 6–40 M log periodic array at K6ANP



FT-8

During the winter months I like to get up early and turn my 40 meter antenna west to southwest to take advantage of the strong grey line propagation between Europe and Africa and the West Coast. This season, I noticed fewer signals down at the low end of 40. Where had they all gone? It turns out most of the activity was up on 7074 using the new FT-8 mode.

FT-8 [it stands for Franke/Taylor 8] is a weak signal, digital mode that has become very popular among HF dx enthusiasts. FT-8 is part of a suite of weak signal modes developed by Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, a Nobel Prize winning astrophysicist and moon bounce enthusiast.

Some appreciation of the popularity of the mode can be seen in this graph developed from data on Club Log. What it shows is that toward the latter half of 2017 activity on FT-8 accounted for almost 60% of the QSOs reported to Club Log while CW, SSB, and other modes showed a corresponding decrease. Already some operators have achieved DXCC with FT-8. Articles in ham radio publications undoubtedly contributed to the surge in popularity.

To get started with FT-8 and the other Joe Taylor creations you can visit the WSJT-X (it stands for “Weak Signal Joe Taylor”) Web Page <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

The WSJT-X page has links for downloading the software suite for Windows, MAC, and UNIX. If you are already using AFSK RTTY, FT-8 is very easy to use. All that is needed besides a basic transceiver is a sound card interface such as RigBlaster.

At some future meeting of REDXA we will likely have a presentation on FT-8. The populari-

ty of the mode is such that the upcoming Bouvet Island DXpedition has issued special instructions for how to work them on FT-8

Ten Steps on How to Work 3YØZ (Bouvet) With FT8

Due to the relative newness of this mode, there is a need for operators to understand how to operate FT8 correctly and maximize their chances of getting into the 3YØZ log.

FT8 will not be a “primary” mode. We will use this mode when the band dies, or before it opens. If a band appears dead, watch for us on the FT8 transmit frequencies listed here:

160: 1.835 80: 3.570 60: 5.357 40: 7.071 30: 10.133 20: 14.067 17: 18.095 15: 21.067 12: 24.912 10: 28.067 6: 50.316

3YØZ operations on FT8 will not use “normal” FT8 sequencing (read below).

Using and understanding the following guidelines will maximize your success in making an FT8 (digital) contact with 3YØZ Bouvet.

1. First, your computer clock needs to be ACCURATE. Do not assume it is. An accurate time synch is mandatory for proper decoding and sequencing; <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/pc-times-match-atomic-clock-syncwindows/> gives instructions on how to do this.
2. Download and install WSJT-X (Version 1.8.0-rc3 or newer) from <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjsx.html>
3. Read the the FT8 Help files. ZL2IFB's is also

4. We will NOT be using the normal segments. To avoid QRMing normal FT8 activities, we will conduct our DXpedition FT8 activities just below the normal PSK segments(except on 6 meters). See our band plan above.

5. Do not transmit on our transmit frequency. Select a clear spot on the waterfall in the Wide Graph, do a <Shift, Left Click> on that clear spot to set your transmit frequency, and call us there. Check the box labeled “Hold Tx Freq” to keep your transmit frequency locked. We will not respond to callers on our transmit frequency.

6. Our transmit frequency may move around low in the passband, but that is OK. FT8 will decode the entire passband, and you will decode us wherever we transmit in that passband segment. Our moving around will also help deter DQRM.

7. FT8 is a low power, weak signal mode. High power and/or “heavy” audio processing will only hinder your ability to make a contact.

8. DO NOT SEND US GRID SQUARE INFORMATION. Before calling us, double click on the box next to the Tx1 message in the “Generate Std Msgs” window. This will toggle off the Tx1 message, so that your calls to 3YØZ automatically include only a signal report, and the QSO sequence will be as indicated below. Remember, **DO NOT CALL US WITH A GRID SQUARE**. We only want to exchange signal reports in order to maximize the number of QSOs per hour. We will not respond to calls containing grid squares.

9. A typical exchange between KL7YL and 3YØZ will look like:

a.) Bouvet: **K1ABC 3YØZ 73** (finishing a preceding contact)

b.) Vivien calls: **3YØZ KL7YL -06**

c.) Bouvet answers with: **KL7YL 3YØZ R-02**

d.) Vivien answers with: **3YØZ KL7YL RR73**

e.) Bouvet answers: **KL7YL 3YØZ 73**

f.) The QSO is now complete and KL7YL is in the log. This took only one minute (four 15-second sequences) for a complete contact.

10. IMPORTANT!

If you see 3YØZ return to someone else, stop transmitting by clicking the “Halt Tx” button on

the FT8 control panel. Continuing to transmit during a QSO will NOT increase your chances of making a contact. Immediately after seeing 3YØZ transmit a “73” to another station, click on the “Enable Tx” button to begin transmitting a signal report to 3YØZ.

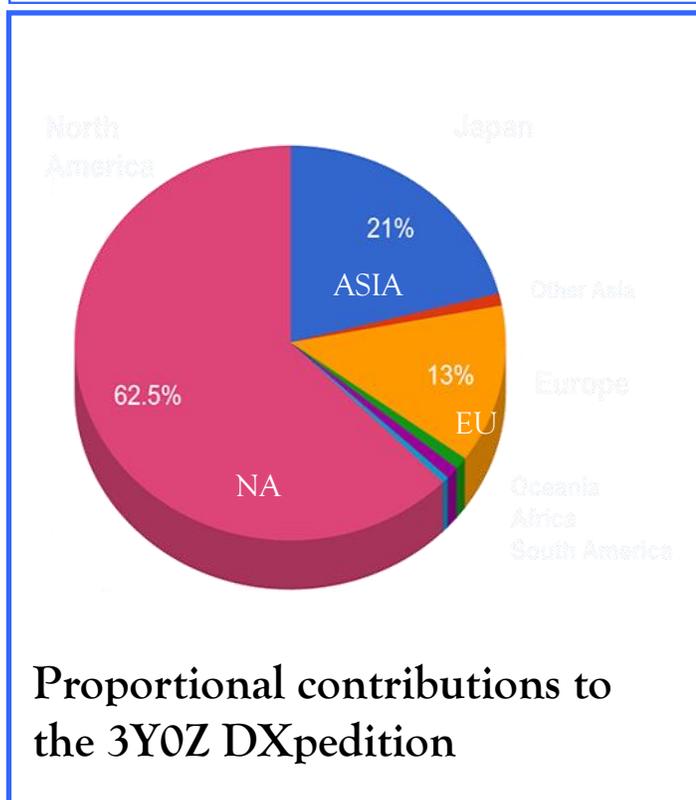
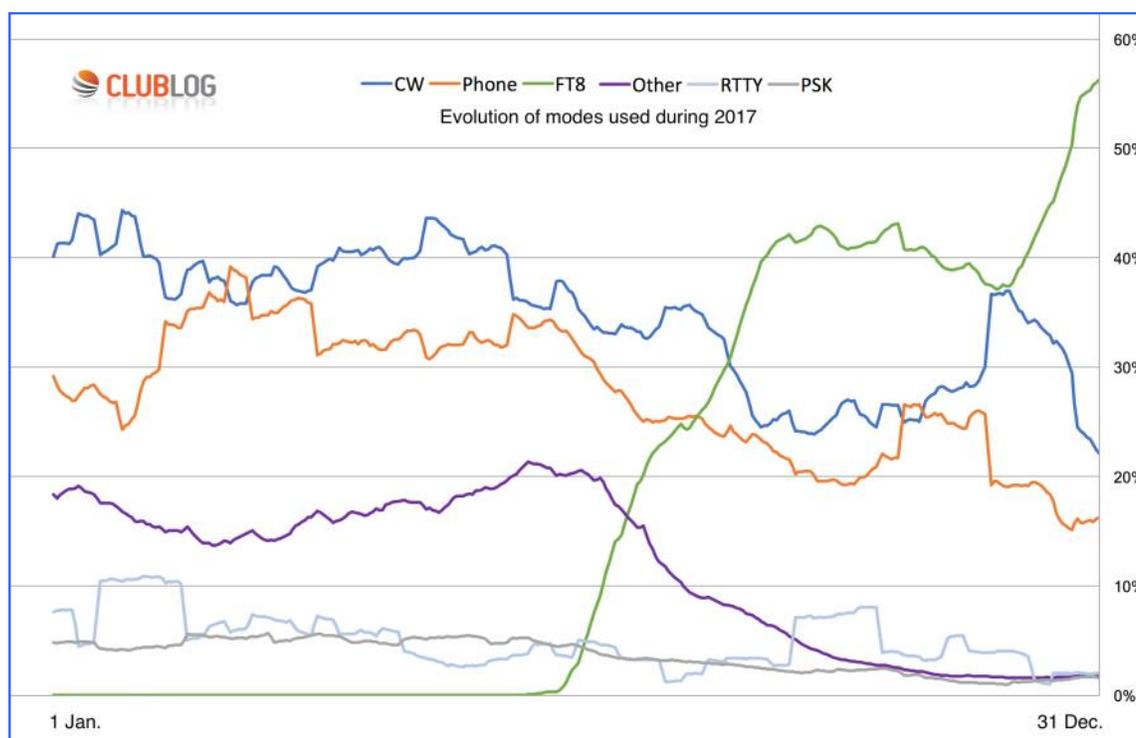
Repeat until you are called by 3YØZ.

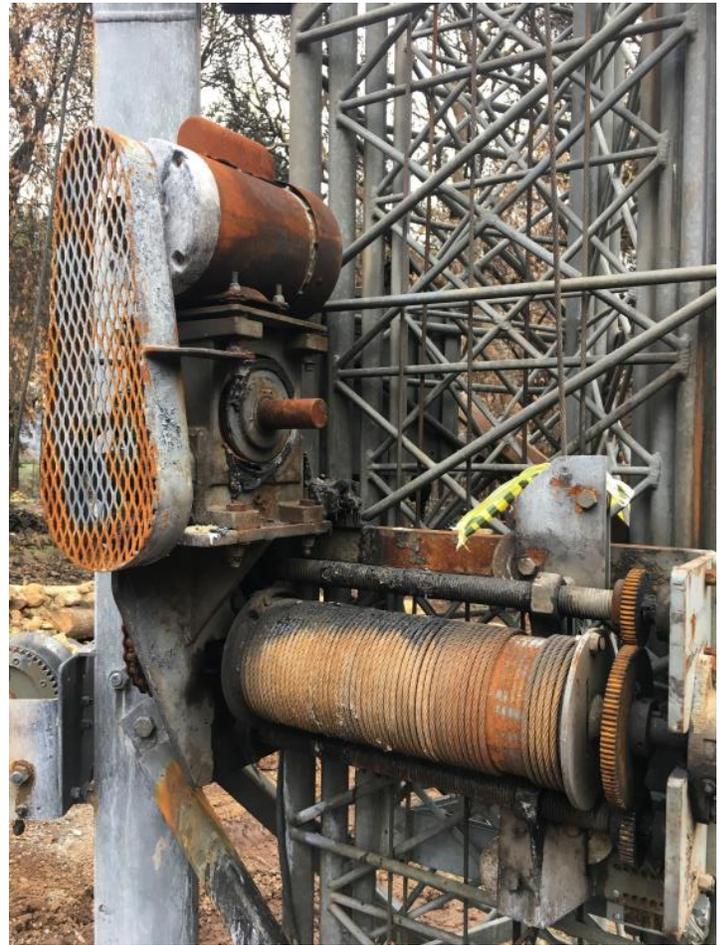


And now that's all moot, but still worth studying because protocols and techniques for FT-8 DXing will become more and more important in the future—ed.



Proportion of Modes used on the Air in 2017 as reported to Club Log



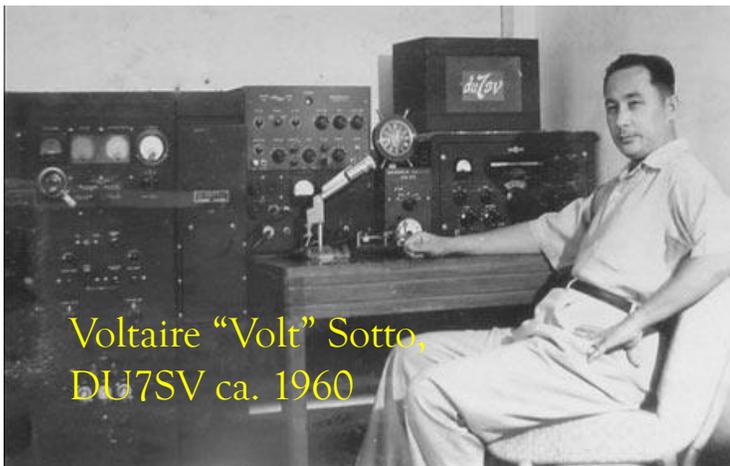


Historical QSLs



If you were working DX in the 1950s and 60s, chances are that DU7SV was your first QSO with the Philippines and this striking green QSL with bold brush strokes was your prize.

Voltaire "Volt" Sotto was a professor of electrical engineering at the National Radio School and Institute of Technology. The card pictured here was my prize from a 40 M QSO in 1957

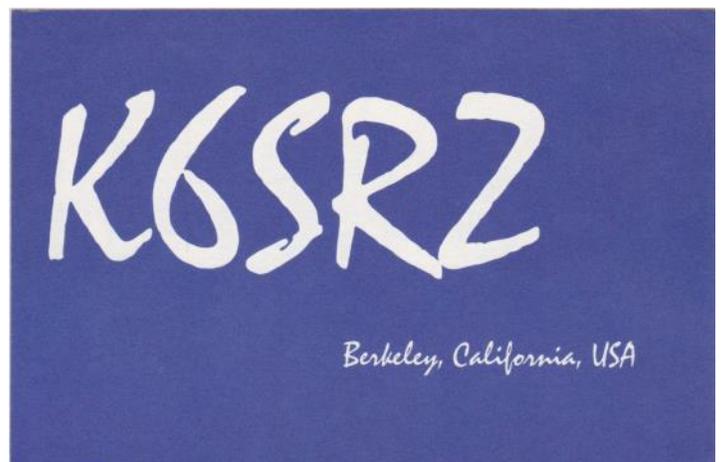


Voltaire "Volt" Sotto,
DU7SV ca. 1960



The DU7SV QSL card style certainly influenced others. JA3AAJ also used brush strokes to create his card. This card confirms a 1957 QSO and is stamped by Harace Greer, W6TI, the Sixth District incoming QSL Bureau manager at the time.

This style was so influential to me that when I got back on the air in 1996 I tried to imitate it. Lacking any skill in brush stroke calligraphy, I used a stock Apple word processing font.





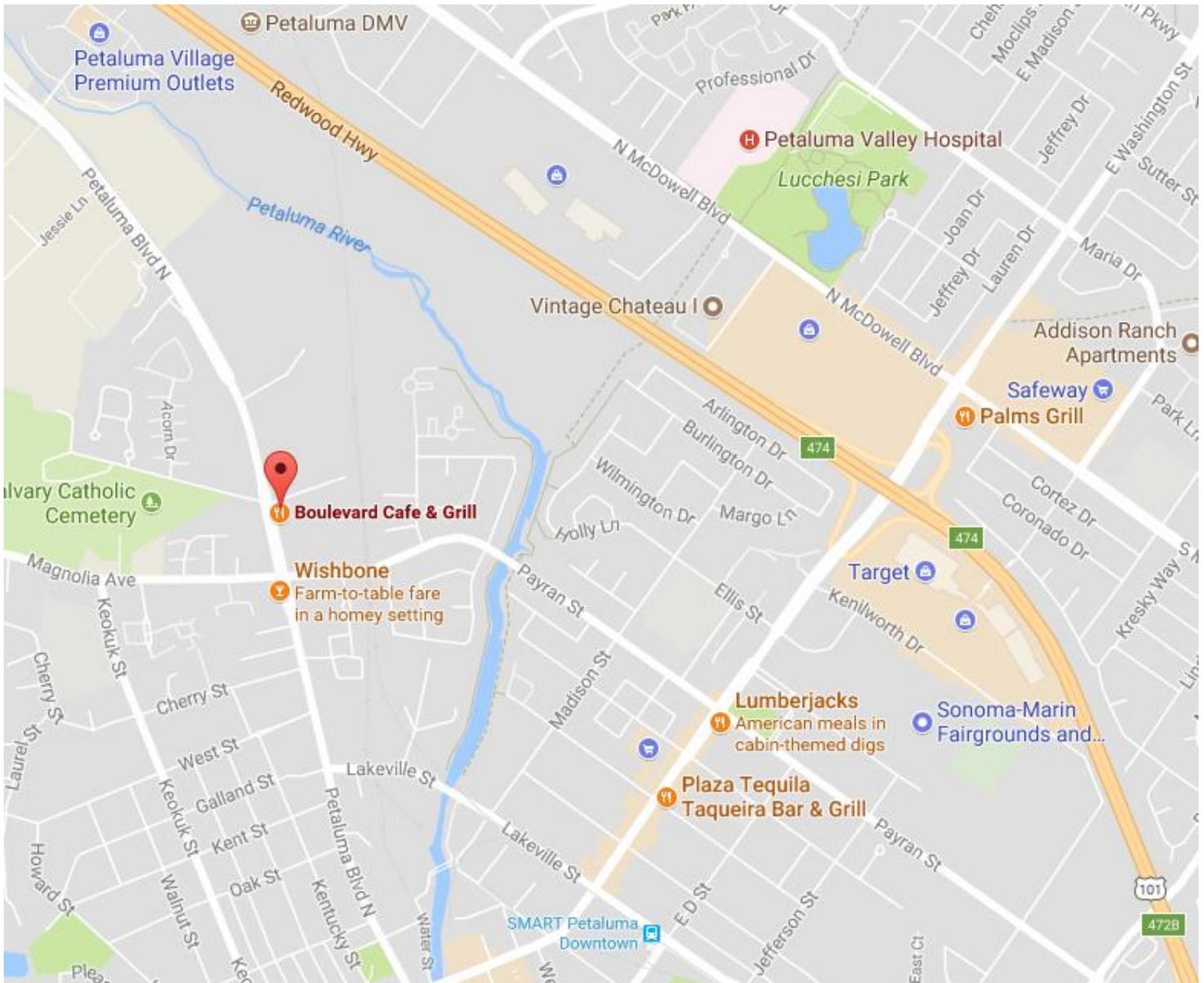
The W6BX Tuolumne CQP M/M expedition. K6SRZ represented REDXA. N6RNO's XYL prepared this sign to mark the exit to the station site. Sadly, the last day of the expedition was the first day of the great Sonoma Fire.





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.

HAM RADIO OUTLET

14 STORE BUYING POWER!

ICOM



IC-7600 | All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-7200 | HF Transceiver

- 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP • AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control



IC-7100 | All Mode Transceiver

- HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions



ID-5100A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

- Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch • FM Analog/DV Repeater List Function

ID-51A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible



TH-F6A | 2M/220/440

- Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories • Li-Ion Battery

KENWOOD



TS-590SG | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- Equipped with 500 Hz/2.7 kHz roofing filter as standard • ALC derived from TS-990S eliminating spike issues • Antenna output function (shared with DRV connector) • CW - morse code decoder function



TM-D710G | 2M/440 Dualband

- V+V/V+U/U+U operation • Built-in GPS • Built-in TNC for APRS & DX-Cluster operation • 50W 2M & UHF • 1,000 memories • Dual receive • Green or amber backlight colors • Latest APRS firmware w/new features • Sky Command II remote functions



TM-V71A | 2M/440 DualBand

- High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops • Invertible front panel • Choice of green/amber for LCD panel • 104 code digital code squelch



TM-281A | 2 Mtr Mobile

- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



FT-60R | 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

YAESU
The radio



FT-991 | HF/50MHz/2M/440 Transceiver

- 160 M-440MHz - SSB/CW/FM/C4FM Digital/AM/RTTY/PSK • 100 W (2M/440: 50 Watts) • 3.5" TFT full-color touch panel operation • High speed spectrum scope • Roofing filters: 3kHz & 15kHz • 32-bit high speed floating point IF DSP



FTDX1200 | 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- Triple Conversion Receiver With 32-bit Floating Point DSP • 40 MHz 1st IF with selectable 3 kHz, 6kHz & 15 kHz Roofing Filters • Optional FFT-1 Supports AF-FFT Scope, RTTY/PSK31 Encode/Decode, CW Decode/Auto Zero-In • Full Color 4.3" TFT Display



FT-450D | A100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in • 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FTM-400DR | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



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