

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 XXIII

Number I

January 2020

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
658 Laurel Grove Cir.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
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:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the 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: Propagation guru Carl Leutzelschwab with an update on Cycle 24 and a review of predictions for Cycle 25.

Will we ever be able to work 10 meters again? Please check out Carl's propagation Web site <http://k9la> and see his biography on Page 3.



REDXA President's Commentary

Happy New Year! The start of a new year and plenty to look forward to, continued good low band propagation as cycle 25 slowly starts to emerge. We'll learn more about Cycle 25 and HF propagation as our presentation will be given by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

It is my honor to be leading this fine organization for another year. It's the best DX and contesting club in the world. I'll do my best to make sure we have a series of great programs and guest speakers in the coming months. Please send

President's Commentary (cont.)

me information on presentations you'd like see in the coming months.

Our club has been in existence for forty-one years, back when cycle 21 was starting its rise to 220+ sunspots. We have so many high-quality ops in our ranks who have helped build us from a small group of founding members to our thriving membership of today. We owe them a debt of gratitude, as well as to all our current members who are our future.

It is important to recognize the accomplishments of the past club officers who have made a personal investment in REDXA over the years. You gave your time and energy to make REDXA a better club. Every one of you deserve our thanks and gratitude. I'd like to congratulate Terry and Bill for a job well done and all the other board members that step up to make the club what it is today. Kudos also go out to all members for your continued support of REDXA.

We had a good time at our traditional REDXA holiday party! We had a great turnout of our regular attendees as well as numerous family members and friends and we all enjoyed an evening of fun and festivities. Special thanks to members (N6GY, K6RIM, K6JS) who donated equipment for our raffle. (apologies if I missed any)

Sunspots is the most widely received communication vehicle for our club. Every member gets a copy and we all look forward to receiving it every month. Help our editor and feel free to submit an article for publication in Sunspots. We are always looking for more content. Articles should be received before the third of each month.

I did carve out a few minutes while on vacation in Lake Tahoe to participate in Straight Key Night on New Year's Eve and enjoyed using my old J-38 novice key to make about 10 QSO's. I'm able to send 16 – 18 WPM with the old key, but the wrist sure gets stiff trying to rag chew.

I look forward to seeing you all Wednesday evening.



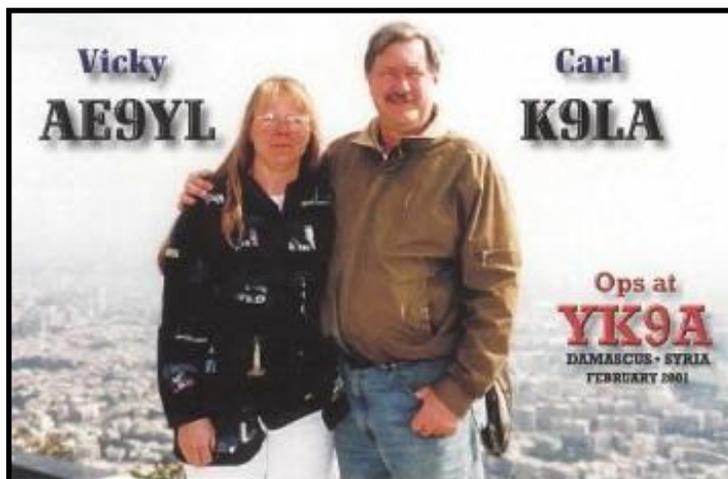
Our January 2020 speaker, Carl Leutzelschwab, K9LA

My interest in Amateur Radio developed from my SWL days in the 5th and 6th grade using a National NC-60 with a long-wire out the basement window and over to our garage. My Amateur Radio interests ultimately led to a career in electronics.

I've always been fascinated with how an electromagnetic wave can go to extreme distances, and this led to my interest in propagation. I doubt that the "magic of radio" will ever leave me, and I eagerly look forward to listening to far away signals on the bands.

Short bio: I was licensed in 1961 as WN9AVT, and chose K9LA in 1977. I am interested in propagation, DXing, contesting, playing with antennas and vintage equipment. I am a graduate of Purdue University (MSEE) and have been on a couple DXpeditions (Syria YK9A and Market reef OJ0). My wife is Vicky AE9YL and we enjoy operating from the Cayman Islands (Vicky is ZF2YL)

I retired in early October 2013 after 41 years as an RF Design Engineer with Motorola and Raytheon (formerly Magnavox). ZF2LA).



The National NC-60, National's competition with the S-38 (your Editor's starter radio). See <https://str/bapix/NC60.htm>

Hams helping Hams

Pictured below is REDXA member Ron Gove, AF6MO. Our own Adam McLaughlin was approached by MARS—the Marin Amateur Radio Society—to see if he might help Ron get back on the air. Ron lost his home in the Tubbs fire and now resides in a trailer park with severe antenna restrictions.

The restrictions are such that he was advised that he was limited to a dipole no more than ten feet above his trailer. ADAM asked K6QXY's help in the project. Bob donated a section of tower and Adam welded a base plate. Bob also furnished a rotator plate, bearing plate and standoff brackets. The basic antenna is an MFJ multiband rotatable dipole with some added 2 meter elements. The tower sections are left over from one of Bob's old EME arrays.

Ron uses supplemental oxygen and attends many REDXA meetings.

Kudos to Adam and Bob for their generous work.



Ron, AF6MO





Adam, KD6POC, welding the base plate for the new AF6MO antenna tower



The finished product in place revealing the rotatable dipole and a set of 2 meter elements



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary



President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:48 pm, October 9, 2019 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 15 members and 1 guest, our speaker Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, co-founder of Elecraft. Attendance was down due to the PG&E preventive power shutoff that affected many members.

Minutes from the September meeting were moved, seconded and approved as published in an email circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. Treasurer's report was presented by Acting Treasurer Bill Zaner, W6IYS, which was also moved, seconded and approved.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Alan, K6SRZ, our Sunspots editor, noted that the October issue will be forthcoming. Please send him material / content / articles.

President Jim K6JS noted that next month is the election of club officers. He will be forming a nominating committee to engage people in next year's club activities. Further he noted that a group will be designated for selecting the annual club's Spirit Award.

Program was presented by Eric on the recently announced Elecraft K-4 transceiver. Wow! What a nice radio! He gave an impressive demo along with realistic RF used to show the various features. For more information, go to: elecraft.com .

The raffle sales were not held.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary



President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm, November 13, 2019 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 19 members and guests.

Minutes from the October meeting were moved, seconded and approved. Treasurer's report was presented by Acting Treasurer Bill Zaner, W6IYS, which was also moved, seconded and approved. Bill wanted people to note that he is the "Acting" treasurer and that he is looking forward to transitioning to a new member soon.

November Minutes (cont.)



Old Business. Following up from last month's agenda, Jim will be seeking volunteers from the membership to become officers in the club. With regard to the Spirit Award, Fred N6YEU volunteered to head up the committee to make this year's selection. Please send Fred your nominations.

New Business. Jim K6JS outlined the upcoming program for December. In addition to the traditional Gift Certificates, members are encouraged to bring items that they no longer need. Hearing that, several people noted that they have items; in particular, there will be a Hallicrafters S-85 receiver and a Peet's Weather Station among the raffle prizes.

It was announced that club member Bill WX6B will be moving into his rebuilt QTH on December 1. Congratulations Bill! He will be looking for help in installing his antennas etc.

Wally N6AD is working on the club reflector transition from Yahoo to groups.io. He has already done the preliminary work and hopes to have this worked out by next year.

Program was presented via video chat by Gary Johnson NA60 on "Locating & Killing Receiver Interference." This informative talk outlined Gary's struggles with a particularly difficult case and the steps / best practices that he documented. For further information, go to his QRZ.com page.

The raffle sales were not held.

Adjourned at 9:06 pm.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:56 pm, December 11, 2019 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 27 members and guests.

Minutes from the November meeting, as circulated via email, were seconded and approved. Treasurer's report was presented by Acting Treasurer Bill Zaner, W6IYS, which was also seconded and approved.

Old Business. Following up from last month's discussion, Fred Leoni N6YEU has volunteered to become treasurer and will work with Bill during the transition.

New Business. No new business was introduced. The election of officers will be deferred to the next meeting in light of the hectic times during October's Kincaide fire and other related power safety outages etc.

Holiday Raffle was enhanced this year by several donations from members. The traditional Ham Radio Outlet gift certificates were 2 each \$100, 1 each



December Minutes (cont.)

\$75, 2 each \$50, and 2 each \$25. The YL certificate was \$75. The donations included an MFJ Antenna Tuner, MFJ Foot Switch, Fred Cady book on the Elecraft K3S, Heil Headsets and an Astron Power Supply.

A wonderful dinner was hosted and served by Daniel and his family, owners of the Boulevard Café. To thank them, 'pass the hat' was sent around and garnered \$140; the club then approved the additional \$160 to bring our gift to Daniel of \$300. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The annual REDXA Spirit Award was presented this year to Bill Zaner, W6IYS, who has contributed many ways over the years and, most significantly, the past 3 years by stepping into the club treasurer role. Congratulations Bill!

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*Jan 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jan 11-12 North American QSO Party, CW

Jan 18-19 North American QSO Party, SSB

*Feb 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Feb 15-16 ARRL Intl DX Contest, CW

Feb 29- Mar 1 North American QSO Party, RTTY

*Mar 11 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

*Apr 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Apr 23-26 Visalia Int'l DX Convention

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



The ATNO Department

ATNO, as many of you know, is the acronym for "all time new one" on the DXCC list. An ATNO can be one's first ever DXCC entity or one's first new one by band or mode. Since this is a new department, let me start with:

K6QXY and W6XU, both worked Botswana, by 6 meter moon bounce. Bob worked A21NK and Josh worked A21EME. This was #184 for K6QXY.

December was good for K6SRZ on 160 meters with OX, EA6, FY, and 8R new for a total of 183. The good news is that CW DX coexists with FT8 on 160.

Let's hear from you!

Speaking of Botswana, this lady leopard in Botswana's Okavango Delta is resting after dismembering an impala. Not the blood stained muzzle.



CQP report from Fred, N6YEU

This year I went to Madera County for my annual California QSO Party one-man expedition. I operated from just east of Oakhurst and close to Yosemite. After the contest I feared this might have been my poorest result ever in CQP. .

Not knowing for sure I went to the NCCC CQP web site and looked up all my results over the years. The statistics proved to be enlightening.

My very first try at CQP was in 1991 operating from home. My first attempt at a "County Expedition" was in 1993, when I operated from Lake county near Upper Lake. It was a bit challenging. My next attempt as an expedition was to Yuba county where I operated /mobile on Saturday and the next day with a Mosley TA 33 at about 10 feet strapped to a picnic bench at a campground at Collins Lake.

The next year, 1998, was my first serious attempt when I drove to Modoc county and set up my tent next to a fire lookout on Manzanita Mountain. It was great fun being in a rare county even if it did snow on Friday night! Thus began my annual quest to operate to mount a serious portable operation each year. I have gone /portable camping "Field Day" style since then, I missing only 2001 though. I have no idea why and there is nothing in my main log that gives any indication why I skipped 2001. I have operated from: Modoc, Lake(twice), Glenn (3 times), Del Norte (3 times), and Mendocino (twice) counties Sierra (twice),Trinity (3 times), Lassen, and Yuba counties(twice). In 2004 I teamed with Frank KG6N (former KD6KVL) as a multi single operation. In 2017 I operated portable eight from my daughter's place in West Virginia, using a simple wire antenna.

I have managed to work all 58 multipliers 3 times and 57 mults 6 times. My best score ever was in 2014 from Glenn with 687 CW qsos and 700 SSB qsos for a score of 200,796
Next best was the year before also in Glenn with 187,188. Glenn county seems to like me!

As for whether or not 2019 is short due to very high winds and I chickened out and did not- Madera 2019 does appear to be my worst showing. My Trinity county 2015 effort was cut short by weather. My Madera score was 76,896 and the next closest was Colusa in 2005 with 77,773 so it looks like ,yes, it was not a good year. I do realize that the Madera qth was not perfect and the propagation gods were not shining down on me but , I take solace that at least I was giving out one of the rarer counties to the deserving!

Each year it gets a bit harder to go portable as it does involve a great deal of time and effort but the rewards are many. I have managed to bring along a non-ham friend to assist with set up the last couple of years so that helps a lot. It's much safer also. Plan on me heading out again this year to one of the "rare ones"! CQP is one of the highlight of the whole year for me. I highly recommend giving a county expedition a try!

73,Fred-N6YEU

Twenty nine years of N6YEU's CQP operations, most of the being one-man Field Day style operations (which are a LOT of work—ed.)

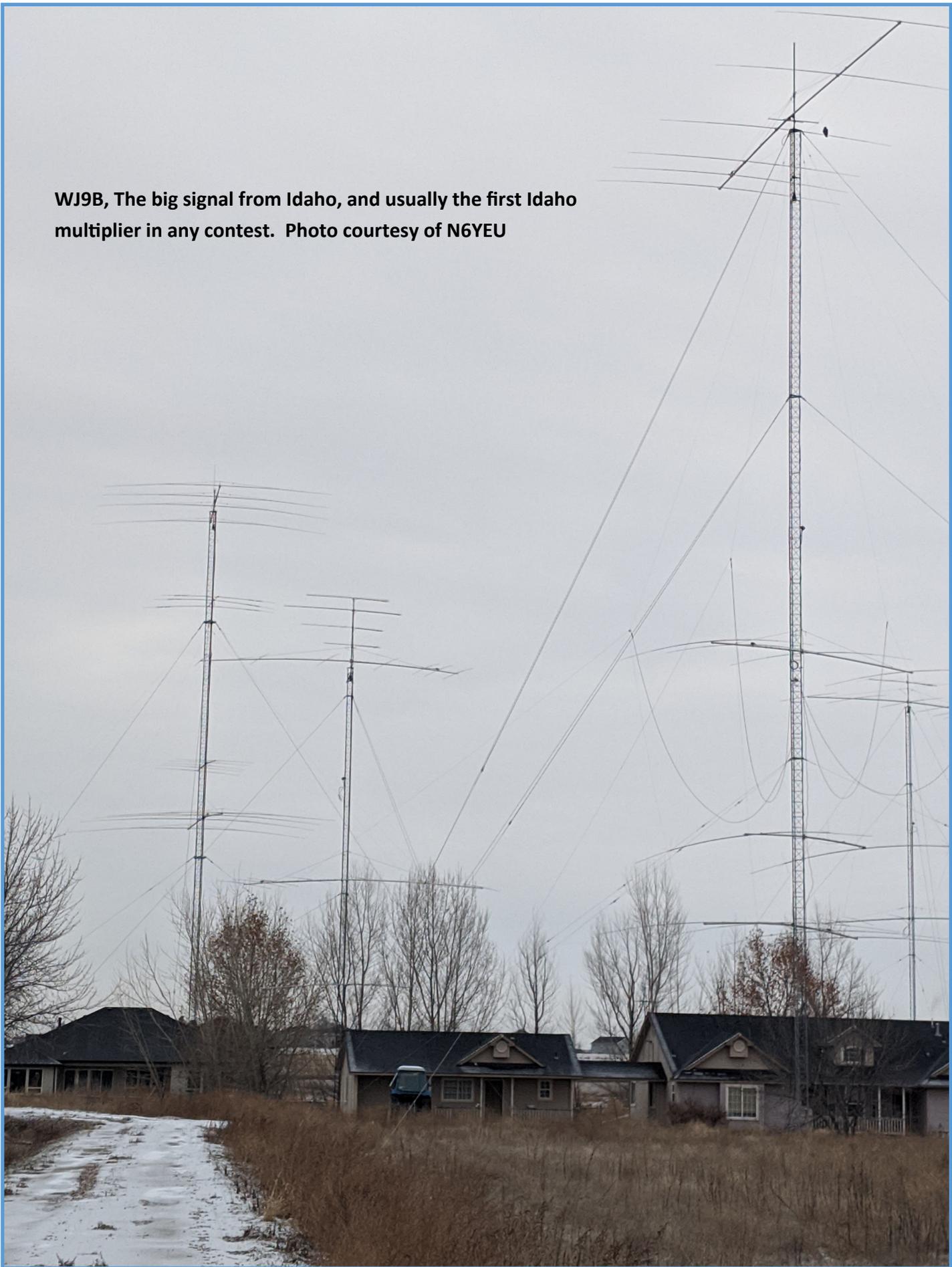


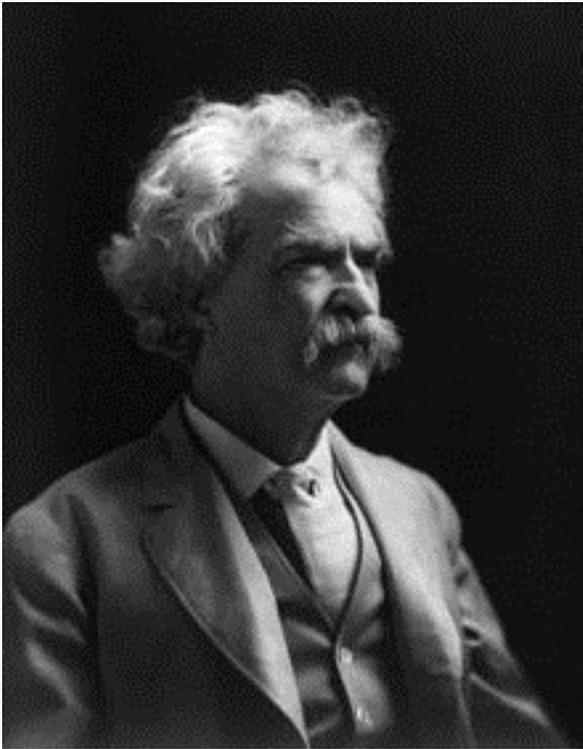
CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY HISTORY
N6YEU - FRED LEONI

YEAR	COUNTY	CW	Phone	QSO TOTAL	SCORE	MULTS
1991	SONOMA	20	43	63	4,526	31
1992	SONOMA	141	42	183	23,322	46
1993 (A)	LAKE	38	23	61	4,000	25
1993 (B)	SONOMA	59	8	59	4,956	28
1994	SONOMA	392	119	511	79,184	56
1995	SONOMA	456	252	708	99,216	53
1996	SONOMA	420	27	447	63,072	48
1997	YUBA	144	11	155	18,160	40
1998	MODOC	409	640	1049	137,885	55
1999	LAKE	485	365	850	121,125	57
2000	GLENN	438	636	1074	147,317	57
2001	NOT SURE	WHY	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	???		
2002	De/NORTE	492	423	915	128,370	55
2003	De/NORTE	545	514	1059	154,454	58
WITH FRANK KODUNE 2004	YUBA	561	458	1019	145,549	56
2005	COLUSA	343	204	547	77,733	54
2006	Mendocino	662	353	1015	156,194	58
2007	SIERRA	444	155	599	83,893	53
2008	Mendocino	585	220	805	125,026	57
2009	TRINITY	668	527	1195	168,107	55
2010	De/NORTE	679	402	1081	162,022	57
2011	LASSEN	504	552	1056	149,197	57
2012	SONOMA	257	188	445	57,350	50
2013	GLENN	666	643	1309	187,188	57
2014	GLENN	687	700	1387	200,796	58
2015	TRINITY	227	126	353	45,717	49
2016	SIERRA	366	306	672	85,500	47 50
(18) 2017	West Virginia	89	136	225	26,950	50
2018	TRINITY	217	498	715	86,632	56
2019	MADERA	374	151	525	76,896	54

6 → 57 MULTS 3 → 58 MULTS

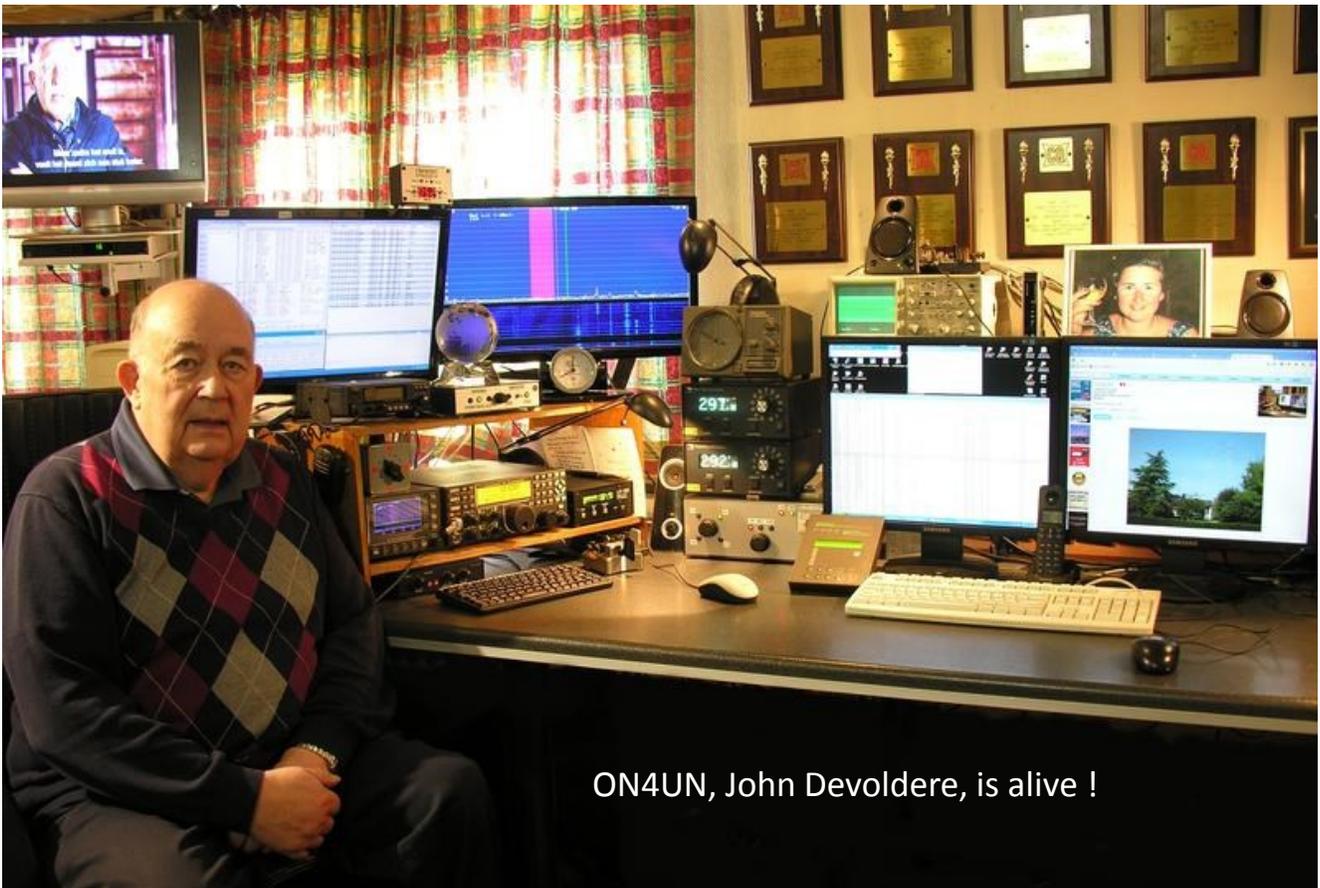
WJ9B, The big signal from Idaho, and usually the first Idaho multiplier in any contest. Photo courtesy of N6YEU





Fake news department: Last week a rumor circulated on the Internet that low band guru and author of the ARRL “Low Band DXing” had died. Turns out he had n’t . He’s alive and at home in Belgium, bringing to mind Mark Twain’s famous quote:

“The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated”

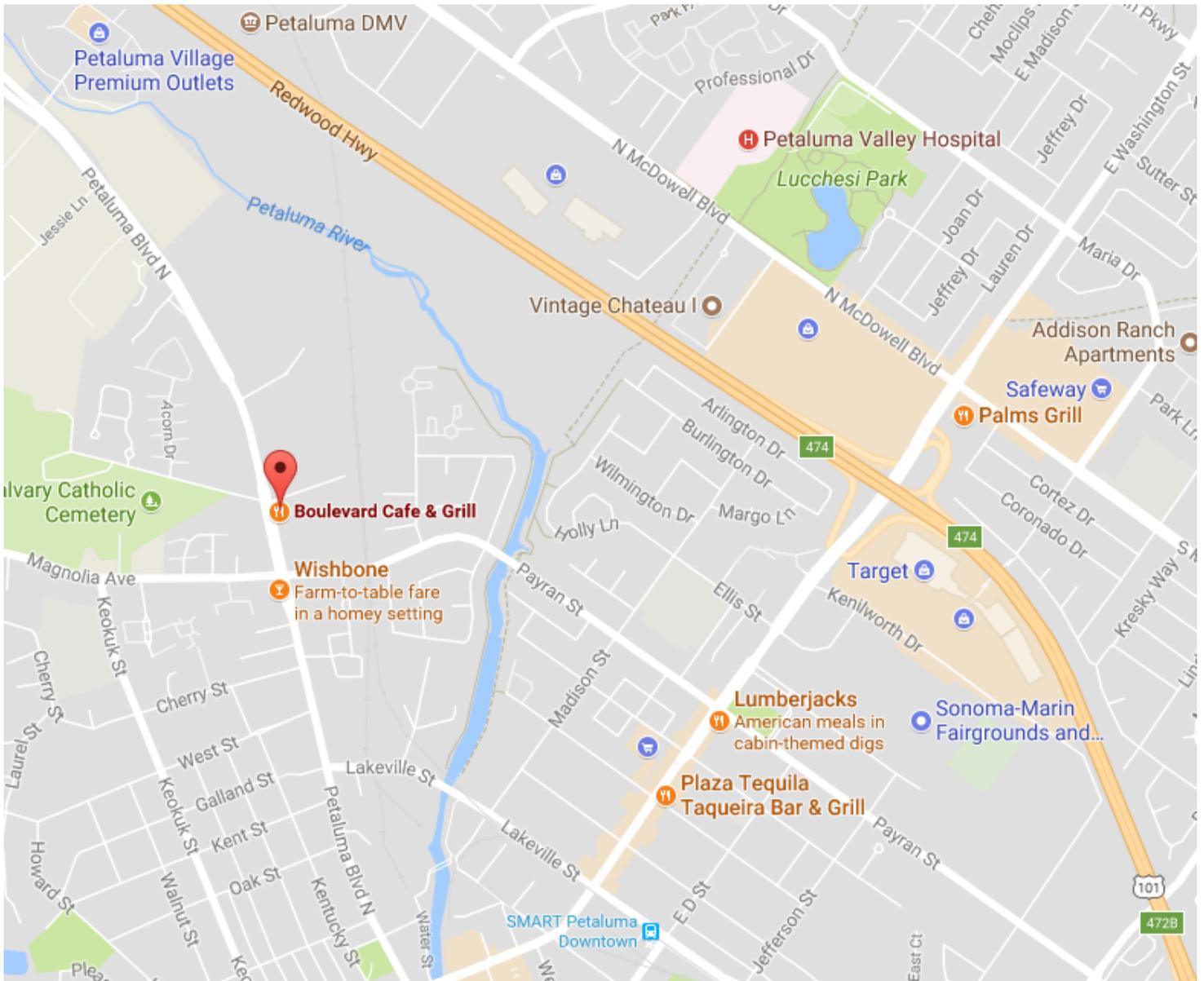


ON4UN, John Devoldere, is alive !



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.



Post script:

Not only were the Holidays close together, but also the second Wednesday of January 2020 comes early. If you contributed material for “Sunspots”, I may not have used everything (yet). I wanted to get this issue out before the January meeting—ed.