

We'll be ZOOMing for our
July meeting.

Time 7:00 PM

July 8 (Wednesday)

ZOOM:

meeting number 917 8189

2793 password *****

See page 11 of this issue for
fur-ther instructions if you're
not familiar with ZOOM

SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

Volume XXIII

Number VII

July 2020

Club Officers:

PRESIDENT:

Jim Selmi, K6JS
jselmi@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

(+CC) Roger Cooper, N3RC
rogern3rc@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

(+Web) Doug Bender,
WW6D
ww6d@arrl.net

TREASURER:

Fred Leoni
N6YEU@aol.com

DIRECTORS:

Josh Fiden, W6XU
w6xu@arrl.net

Bill, WX6B (PP)
billys95404@yahoo.com

EDITOR:

Alan Eshleman K6SRZ

Meeting Announcement

I look forward to seeing you all for our July Zoom meeting with a program by Rob Sherwood, NC0B. He will do a presentation on Receiver Contest & DX Performance - A Complex Subject Today - Great RX Performance – TX Limitations. He also adds a mixture of VHF/UHF focused talk dealing with RX and TX limitations above 6 meters.

In August we'll welcome Marty Sullaway, NN1C (formerly KC1CWF) an 18-year-old Extra Class radiosport aficionado living in Eastern Massachusetts. Marty has found him-self operating at stations such as KC1XX, W1KM, K1LZ, K1VR, K1IR, 4X6TT, HH2AA, K6ND, K3LR, and K1TTT in some of the major DX contests. Marty has been fortunate to be a member of winning teams, having won both modes of CQ WW and ARRL DX contests in M/S and M/2 categories.



REDXA President's Commentary

I hope everyone is staying healthy and continues to social distance and wear a mask. I've been telecommuting since March and enjoy it, but miss the social interactions with Colleagues. I do go into the office every Wednesday and spend time with my 93-year-old Mom during lunch and after work.

The Zoom meetings seem to be going well. It's been nice to see a good turnout for these alternative meetings while we're all trying to stay safe. I'd much rather meet in person, but it's nice to see some of our members who live out of the area or are unable to attend in-person. The Boulevard grill has opened with(next page)

(Continued from Page 1)

some outside seating areas. I wonder if we could have a get together in the parking lot, give him some business while social distancing. Truth be told, I'm not ready to be around any large groups of people yet.

I've been playing around on 6M FT8 while working from home. It sure is the "magic" band with very interesting prop-agation. I played around in the June VHF contest (6M only) and most of the time it was like watching the grass grow. There was a nice double hop E skip during the last hour of the contest. There was a great opening the day before the contest and the day after. I must have about 20 states and a handful of DX. Apparently, I missed a great opening to CT, EA and the Caribbean. I've decoded EU and JA stations, but haven't worked any yet. I'm running 100W and using the DB18. I just purchased the Elecraft PR6 6M preamp, but have to yet to install it. I use Logger32 for my daily log-ger, WSJT and L32 interface well with auto logging of QSO's. One issue is WSJT and FT8 just pass Grid square info as QTH and L32 is unable to extract the "State" info from the corresponding Grid square number. We had several members participate in the June VHF Contest.

W6XU	140 QSO's	39 Mults	5 655 points
N6ZFO	91 QSO's	35 Mults	3 185 points
N3RC	92 QSO's	24 Mults	2 208 points
K6JS	46 QSO's	26 Mults	1 196 points
K6SRZ	63 QSO's	18 Mults	134 Points
K6MM	39 QSO's	9 Mults	351 points
AA0BV	10 QSO's	5 Mults	50 Points

was busy moving new furniture in Tahoe over Field Day weekend. I was up there a few days before field day Fly-fishing the Truckee, Little Truckee and Carson rivers. I made the drive down the mountain on Saturday and made 10 or so mobile Field Day (1C) Qso's, a few CW and the rest SSB.

I also made a bunch more FD QSO's from the home station. Looking at the 3830 activity tracker it appears REDXA had a nice turnout of folks. I missed the usual gathering at MRGC with MARS, but feel we made the wisest decision to QSOIP (QSO in-place). Hopefully we can all get together next year. We have 15 REDXA FD scores posted on 3830 for a total of 12,755 points.

I look forward to seeing you all for our July Zoom meeting with a program by Rob Sherwood, NCOB. He will do a presentation on Receiver Contest & DX Performance - A Complex Subject Today - Great RX Performance - TX Limitations. He also adds a mixture of VHF/UHF focused talk dealing with RX and TX limitations above 6 meters.

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Treasurer's Report for June 2020

Balance as of May 31:

\$3865.56

Income from dues: \$160.00

Money returned from Northern California DX CLUB:

\$250.00

(this was money that we were donating to the Northern California DX Foundation in 2019 that was inadvertently sent to the DX Club and got deposited. Neither the DX Club or the bank caught the error. Doug WW6D discovered REDXA had not been credited with our annual donation. I found the record of the check having been written and deposited. Doug contacted the club and explained the situation and asked them to return the money which they did.)

Out go : 2020 donation to the Northern California DX Foundation \$250.00

#2 donation to NCDXF \$250.00 (This is the returned money which was originally our 2019 donation)

Total income:\$410.00

Total outgo:\$500.00

Balance as of June 30: \$3775.56

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Leoni-N6YEU Treasurer

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

The Zoom video meeting was held at 7:00pm on June 10, 2020, hosted by President Jim Selmi, K6JS. I was unable to 'join' but gathered information from several of the participants.

Fred, N6YEU, treasurer, reported on the club's financial status.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Fred noted that the club had not made its annual contribution to the Northern California DX Foundation and recommended our usual amount of \$250. The membership approved.

Ron, N6IE, as Field Day chairman, reported on the upcoming changes to the rules for the event scheduled for June 26-28. The major change is that home stations on commercial power (class 1D) will now be allowed to work all Field Day stations regardless of their class. In the past, 1D stations could not work each other.

Program: Our speaker for evening was Jim Idelson K1IR on Tower Safety. Across all his activities in our hobby - from public service to satellite activity to repeater operations and contesting - towers have been a part of his ham radio life. Jim climbed his first tower when he was just 13 years old. Jim informed the group about his recent research and findings in the area of Tower Safety. Jim combined his long experience with tower work and a passion for data analytics to bring new insight to this topic.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*Jul 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jul 11-12 IARU HF World Championship

Aug 1-2 North American QSO Party CW

*Aug 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Aug 15-16 North American QSO Party SSB

*Sep 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Sep 12-14 ARRL September VHF

Sep 26-27 CQ WW DX RTTY

Oct 3-4 California QSO Party

*Oct 14 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Oct 24-25 CQ WW DX SSB

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



A new offering from the ARRL, a searchable data base of ARRL contest award certificates.

If you have participated in ARRL Contests by submitting your log, Go to <http://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php> and enter your call sign and see what certificates are available to you.

You can view the certificates and download them as either PDFs (suitable for printing) or .jpegs that can be posted to Web pages as done here. The certificates also show where you placed in the contest.

K6ANP has a 1985 certificate for 10 M Phone and N6OJ has one for 160 CW from 1985. K6RIM has 94 certificates.

K6SRZ was amazed to see that he has 105 certificates listed dating back to 1998.

Contesters are always admonished to submit their logs—no matter how small—to the contest organizers. Fred's (N6YEU) log, with all of 340 points in the 2019 mixed mode 10 meter contest, placed first in the San Francisco section.

Local super station N6RO has 150 certificates on file.

Thanks to K6JS for sharing this resource.





Above: Field Day 1899 with prospectors in Alaska.

Below the view to the East from the Rod and Gun Club Field Day site.

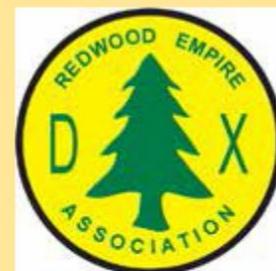


Field Day just wasn't the same this year so I offer up these images as nostalgia.

Field Day from home was not all bad for your editor. Sleeping in my own bed was an improvement over a futon in the back of my old Volvo. And I didn't have to drive back to Penngrove from the rod and Gun Club to retrieve various cables and connectors that I'd forgotten.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how well my home station performed with low power. I had runs of >150/hour on SSB and >120 on CW. I doubt switching on the amp would have made much of a difference .

But, of course, was missing was the chance to socialize with REDXA and MARS friends; to make new friends; and to have the chance to explain ham radio and what all the various equipment did to the interested visitors to the site.





Nothing to do with Ham Radio but still cool (I think) Dept.

This is an infrared image of three young barn owls (*Tyto alba*) on top of an owl house your editor built maybe 10 years ago. A few days ago I started hearing lots of owl calls. In the morning I found fledgling feathers and gopher entrails on the ground beneath the box. So I splurged and ordered a set of night vision binoculars. I set up with a tripod and was delighted to record this image.

I count this as one of the positive aspects of shelter-in-place.

Stay safe. Wear a mask. This is serious.



New for CQP 2019: a very colorful plaque. K6SRZ was part of a M/M expedition to San Benito County and another M/M to Merced County. The original plan was to activate just San Benito, but on the Sunday of CQP we got an urgent message from the CQP organizers that Merced was severely under-represented. So, K6SRZ, K9YC, and W6GJB (with his nifty radio trailer) moved to a site in Merced County and handed out about 500 CW QSOs, insuring that no one would miss Merced for the county sweep.



Club Log Standings

Club Log Standings are based on worked entities during the calendar year

Overall

KC6AWX	221
N6IE	147
N3RC	146
K6RIM	125
N6AD	124

CW

KC6AWX	158
N6IE	124
K6RIM	112
K6JS	104
N3RC	89

Phone

K6RIM	75
KC6AWX	65
N6YEU	42
N3RC	41
K6VXI	40

Digital

N3RC	126
KC6AWX	126
N6AD	124
N6IE	107

REDXA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Redwood DX Association

Time: Jul 8, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Wed, until Dec 9, 2020, 6 occurrence(s)

Jul 8, 2020 07:00 PM

Aug 12, 2020 07:00 PM

Sep 9, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 14, 2020 07:00 PM

Nov 11, 2020 07:00 PM

Dec 9, 2020 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://marincounty-org-dpw.zoom.us/meeting/tJUqf-igpzktE9ck3XqhGaSfP3pVpriubzC0/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCpqTMrEt2XtxCERowcB4qgd_zxmHpaj_pel0zdEih0YzDwBrFSBKJtGc3S

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://marincounty-org-dpw.zoom.us/j/91781892793?pwd=MjJwUmhXaUFZMTQ0Qlg2MUdRTjBCZz09>

Meeting ID: 917 8189 2793 **Password:** *****

One tap mobile

+12133388477,,91781892793#,,,,0#,,432213# US (Los Angeles)

+12532158782,,91781892793#,,,,0#,,432213# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 213 338 8477 US (Los Angeles)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle)

Meeting ID: 917 8189 2793

Password: 432213



Find your local number: <https://marincounty-org-dpw.zoom.us/u/ab48R4xzKT>



Field Day at K6SRZ (1D)

He's not getting a hair cut until
the "all clear" sounds

There's a field just outside



The Goodyear Blimp visits K6SRZ
during the 2018 ARRL Summer
VHF contest. The antenna now re-
sides with WX6B

Field Day 2020; The Home Edition. By Saraj, KU6F

If the origin of Field Day is to practice message handling and station assembly under difficult conditions, I win!

Everything went wrong, but I persevered.

In my wee HOA townhouse patio, 18' mast doesn't fit tripod, strap to back fence post.



Missing coax adapters, drive to Elmer's house, borrow adapters, tune buddi pole on 20 and 15.

Tuner dead, future research.

K3 mic doesn't work, ran through both menu and configurations, reset all, no joy.

Bear's (sk) rig too heavy for me ICOM 756 PRO II in go box, Jan's (sk) ICOM 746Pro rig AWOL (the search continues).

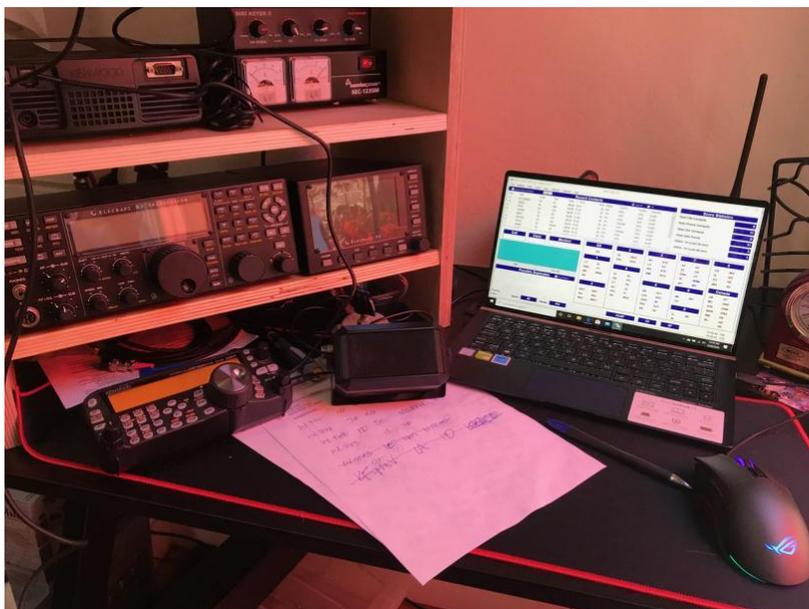
Brava to Miriam Marlin (quilting friend, but her husband is a ham) for wandering into a Texas HRO two years ago and sending me a Ken-wood TS-480 SAT. Out of the box for a first adventure to save field day!

By the time I got on the air and made my first QSO It was like being a brand new ham, the thrill returns!

With lots of QRM and my extremely compromised antenna and shack I only made 11 QSO's, but heard lots of stations all over the country and in Canada. I kept a list of all heard, research data for future configurations.

Setting up willy nilly as I did really got the brain working on the minutiae for better configuration, station grounding, etc. Before I tear the K3 apart, I'll improve grounding, that might be the issue. The Kenwood was built for mobile and not nearly so fussy. The lad and hubby will

help me install a long wire in the attic and assemble a quod (tak-tenna) in the next several weeks, now I've got the bug again and Sascha's college is out for summer.



Jan's ICOM 746Pro was hiding "incognito" as components of our surveillance system underneath a dust cover.



N6YEU Field Day

I participated as much as I could this year, operating 1E (home station emergency power with my Honda EU 2000i generator).

The start was pretty poor. I tried 15 and found a couple stations but band wasn't really open. Went to 20 and worked a few on both phone and CW hunt and pounce.

Things picked up in the afternoon and 20 SSB was on fire. I had a great run on 20 phone. An interesting thing was I must have worked every station in Colorado. 52 different stations in CO! I missed PAC,AK,NNY,VI and eastern Canada provinces. I never heard Hawaii or Alaska!.

I did very little on 80 Saturday night and some success on 40 phone Sunday morning filling in the CA sections. My dipole on 40 wouldn't tune on low end of band so stayed on phone mostly.

One interesting thing was the number of stations who called me who were in SF section and local, but had never met. I also had 7 qsos on 2 meter FM 146.49

All things considered it was an enjoyable FD. I did miss our normal field day experience but I honestly did not miss the set up and take down part,hi!

73, Fred

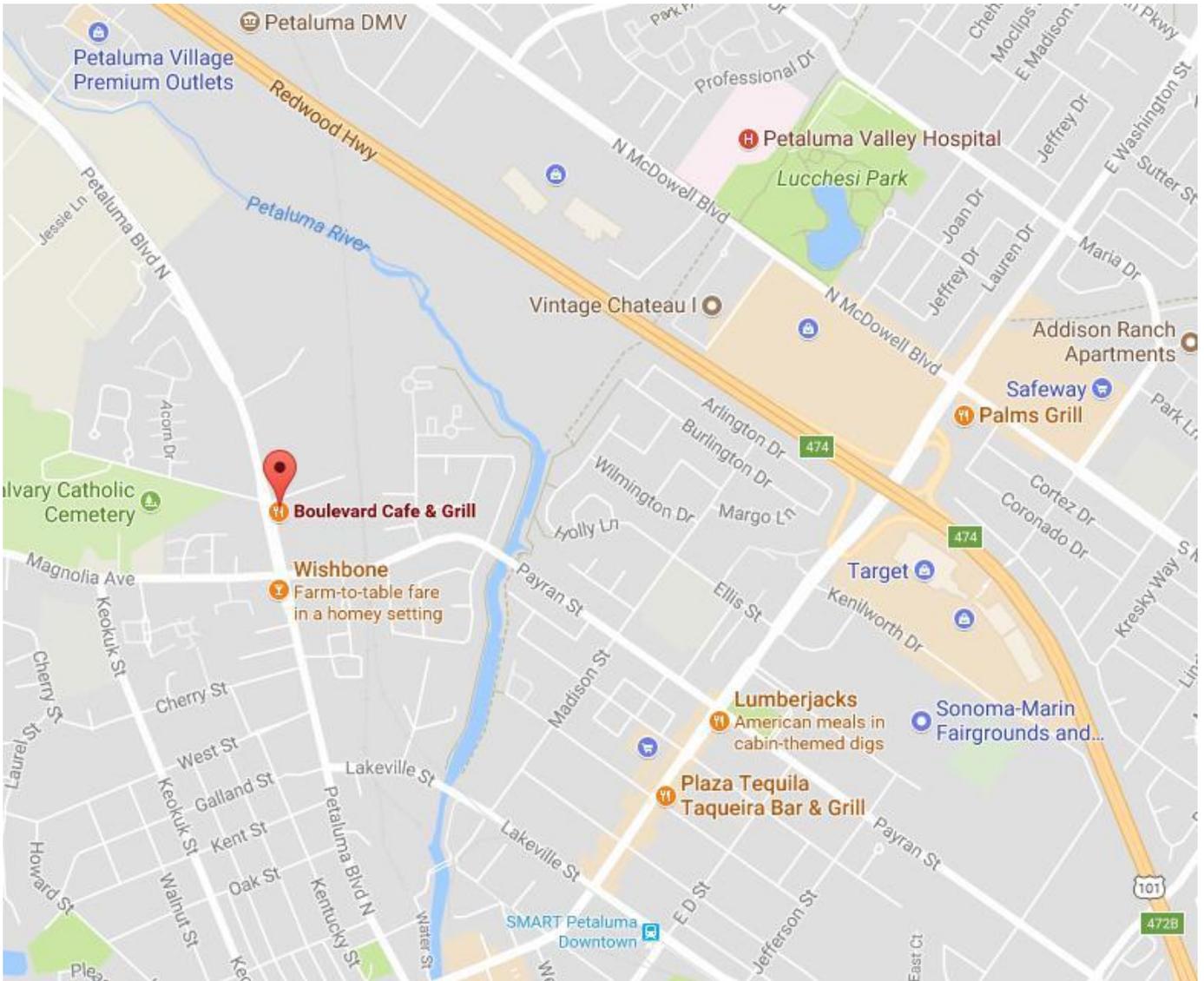




Boulevard Café & Grill

1096 Petaluma Blvd. North,
Petaluma, CA

The Café is open again for socially distanced inside and patio service. They're not able to host gatherings like our REDXA meetings, but I encourage you to stop in for breakfast or lunch. It's one way to thank Daniel and his staff for their support over the past years.





And to conclude this month's "Sunspots" with a little cuteness, this is Buttercup, Guide Dogs puppy-in-training, with Carol (K6SRZ's XYL) three years ago after a vet visit in San Rafael. Buttercup, some of you will remember, attended a few REDXA meetings. Today Buttercup serves as Alice Wingwall's guide, dividing her time between Berkeley and Sea Ranch.

