

SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

A DX and Contest–Oriented Amateur Radio Club serving the California coast north of the Golden Gate Bridge

Volume 38

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, March 14 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

PROGRAM: Via SKYPE, Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering and the K3LR super contest station will present an interactive program on what to consider when maximizing your stations antenna farm. K3LR is the likely stateside M/M winner in the recent ARRL SSB DX contest.



REDXA President's Commentary

Hello REDXA members and welcome to March. I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy and healthy. Our next meeting—on March 14—will be a Skype presentation with Tim Duffy, K3LR, of DX Engineering. The presentation is a good background review of antennas which we have all come to love and appreciate. I recommend that when you are considering design of your antennas you generate a list of questions regarding gain, height above ground, yagis vs quads, adjustable vs. fixed and so forth.

As we saw last year, Tim runs a huge contest station so he is a wonderful resource for tips on improving your skyhooks. Be prepared for a good interactive session and let's have some fun.

We have many dates open for presentations this year so please let us know if there's something you'd like to see; a speaker you think would be good for the club; or a presentation that you would like to give. I want to keep REDXA engaged, enlightened, and entertained this year. Every little thing helps our cause so speak up and participate. Let's keep REDXA a top tier club. And thanks to everyone who puts time and effort into keeping our club and our hobby alive.

I also want to talk about the pitfalls of buying ham gear online. Whether it's Craig's List or QTH.com scammers are out there. I plan to share my latest horror story about dealing with a scammer and Paypal. You can't be too safe these days and I'll tell you why at the next meeting.

Best,

Bill, WX6B



[RTTY and Llamas](#)

[See Page 5](#)



[The bunker—Highway 116](#)

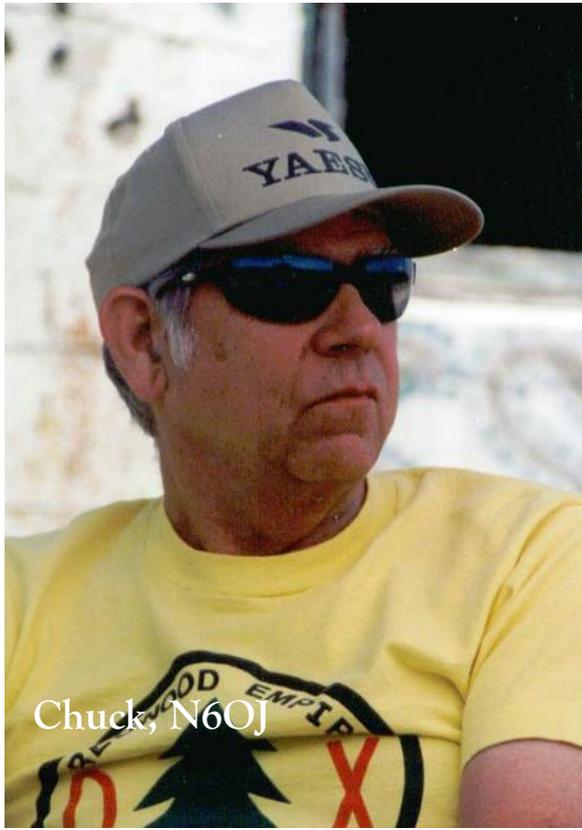
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My Passion for Amateur Radio

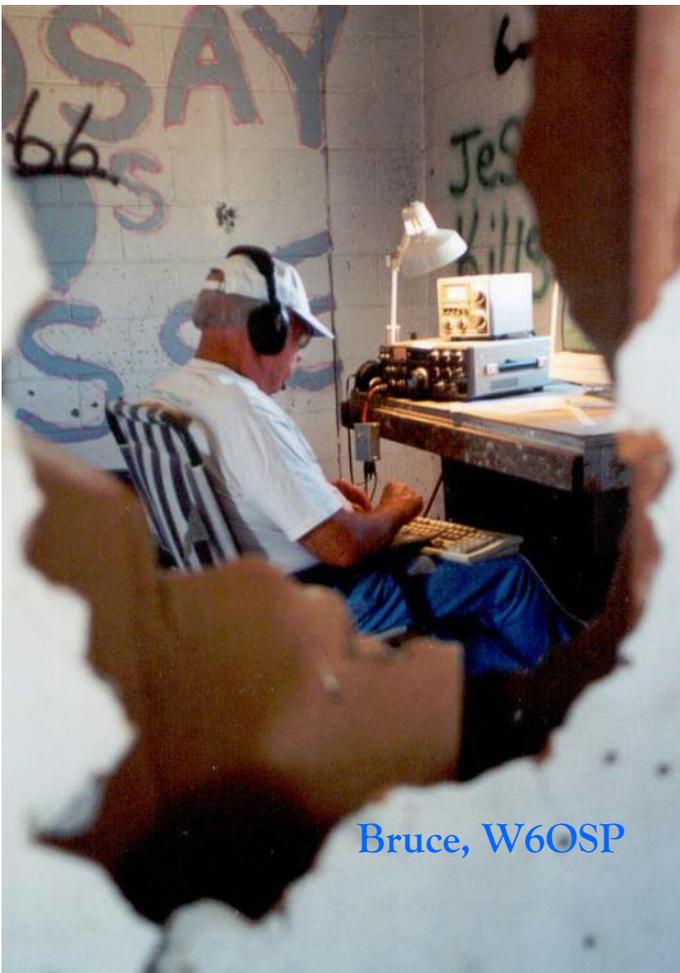
I studied to become an Electrical Engineer while attending College of Marin in the late 50's. Getting a job at that time didn't depend on a degree. I got a job at Pacific Telephone in the Engineering Dept. as an Engineer's assistant. I became a shortwave listener when my older son's roommate gave me a receiver. I installed twin lead around the walls of my kitchen. Then, my younger son, N6JRO, got his Ham Radio license when he was in high school. In 1987, thirty years ago last year, I realized my passion when I got my Amateur Radio License. In 1988, I was the Novice Station operator, now known as GOTA, at Field Day before the Marin Amateur Radio Club merged with REDXA for that event. After discovering DX, qualifying to join NCDXC & REDXA, meeting Rich, W6UDS, my dream was realized. He and I became, not so rare, DX as we took our stations to Rarotonga, Fiji, Tahiti & Ireland.

In 2002, fifteen years ago last year, REDXA operated from a bunker on Highway 116. Remembering just one of the many highlights in my life, which REDXA has given me, I am including some images of that event here.

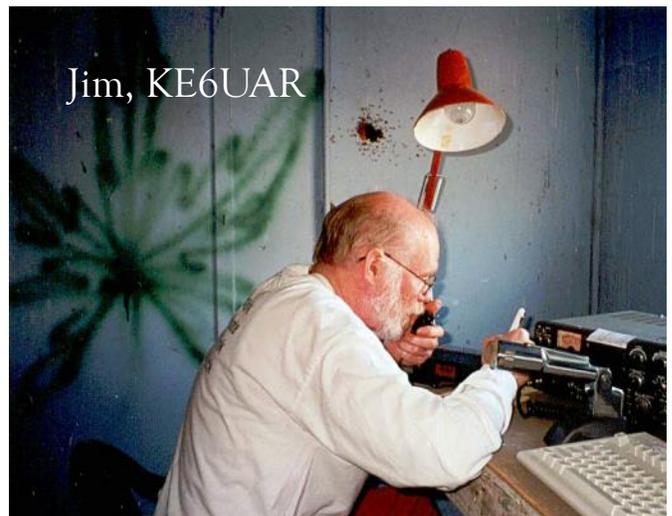
Marilyn, N6VAW



Chuck, N6OJ



Bruce, W6OSP

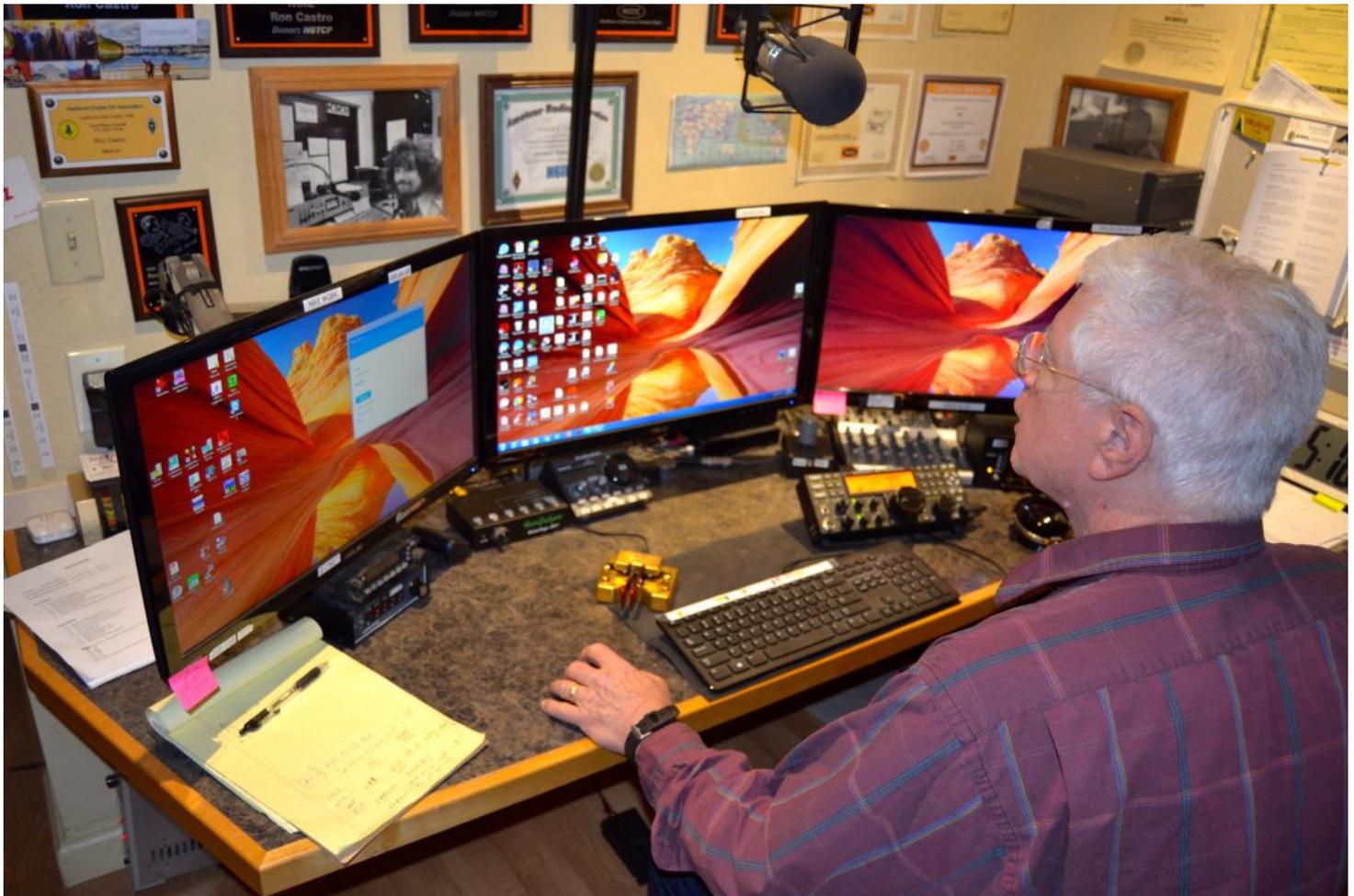


Jim, KE6UAR





REDXA member and very active RTTY contestor Ron, N6IE, has built a formidable remote station at a poultry ranch off of Jewett Road. The operation is controlled from the comfortable operating position in his East Petaluma home and accessed by high speed Internet .





Pictured above is a SteppIR DB 42, the primary antenna at the N6IE remote site. The tower stands at 70 feet. The original tower was a 100-foot TriEx Sky Needle rotating tower that belonged to Frank Clement, W6KPC, the former owner of TriEx. Tashjian Towers did the rebuild. The llama is 3d from the left



To the left is the N6IE shack-in-a-closet where, from top to bottom, you can see a Green Heron rotor control, SteppIR SDA-100 controller, Elecraft K-3, and ACOM 2000. Toward the rear of the closet is the PC that controls the operation.

Factoid: Clement was one of the engineers who helped design Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose sea-plane.



The Spruce Goose

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Acting President Bill WX6B called the meeting to order at around 7:30 pm, December 13, 2017 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 26 members and guests. He welcomed everyone and gave an update on his station's recovery from the October wildfires.

Alan, K6SRZ, our Sunspots Newsletter Editor, reiterated the need for "content" – so please send him your articles, photos, etc.

Bill W6IYS presented the Treasurer's report and noted that this year is his 66th in this wonderful hobby! He further noted that DUES are now DUE! \$20 a year payable as of December 1. Send to the club PO box or bring to the next meeting.

Jim K6JS, Contest Chairman, reported that he has sent in the latest roster to the ARRL so that we can now enter as a club in the ARRL affiliated contests.

The raffle was won by Rich W6UDS. He received \$61 and the club \$62.

For the program of the evening, Al K6RIM then led a group discussion of the current offering of high end transceivers, including the Flex 6000 series, the new Icom 7610, the Elecraft K3S, the Kenwood TS-990S and others. Len K6ANP, Rich W6UDS, Frank KG6N and Ed K6ELE also contributed their observations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Doug WW6D, Co-Secretary

Treasurer's Report for February 2018

Bal. Brt. Fwd.	2/1/2018		<u>\$3,417.91</u>
Receipts			
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$62.00	
	Dues	\$100.00	
	Total Receipts		<u>\$162.00</u>
Disbursements			
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Flow			<u>\$162.00</u>
Balance 2/28/18			<u>\$3,579.91</u>

Contest Scores Collected from 3830 by K6JS

ARRL DX CW Feb 17, 2018

Call	Class	Remote	OSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score
W6DR	SOU	HP	700	262	22:19	550,200	
K6SRZ	SOU	HP	535	210		336,420	
N3RC	SOU	HP	491	149		219,477	
K6ANP	SOU	HP	470	443		218,550	
K6MM	SOU	HP	428	64	12:00	208,608	
K6RIM	SOU	HP	325	140		136,500	
K6JS	SOU	HP	109	65		21,255	
N6ZFO	SOU	LP	589	170	21:40	300,390	
K6CTA	SOU	LP	50	47		7,050	

Soapbox

W6DR - The new KPA1500 works great!!!

K6MM - Decent conditions all weekend. Operated for 12 hours. 80% S&P and 20% running for JAs & EU. Great to see so many excellent CW ops on the air worldwide. Cut numbers? Not my favorite thing. Another Senior Moment: When T88NC was spotted on 20M with just 30 minutes to go, there was a feeding frenzy. The first 5 callers all got a DUPE response from him, including me. Huh? Then I realized it was T8NC whose spotted call was busted. Jeez. Thanks for the Qs.

K6RIM - Better conditions here on Saturday than Sunday. Overall, conditions seemed fair or worse. So I made only a token effort. No particularly memorable DX other than Mongolia on 40M. Time Waster Dept: a Puerto Rican station giving signal reports of 5NN T. That means he's running zero power? Dunno, although I seriously doubt it. Many stations seeking repeat. I logged what he sent. I'm not particularly a fan of cut numbers, but this use of T for zero was a real time-waster. IC-7610, KPA500, Traffie Hexbeam and SteppIR Big IR vertical - N1MM+

K6CTA - Just got on for a few minutes.....thanks for the Q's. Elecraft K3/P3 N6BT Bravo-5 remote tuned vert End-fed long wire

K6ANP - Not a full time effort. 10 meters was a total loss. Had fun!

K6JS - Spent most of my time looking for new countries on 80. I added 8 new ones. Elecraft K3 - KPA500 - SteppIR BigIR vertical

N6ZFO - Complete confusion on Fri evening when DU3JS and 3D2JS called simultaneously on 20m. We got spoiled on WPX RTTY weekend by fabulous 20 and 40m Eu openings; nothing like that here for ARRL DX CW.

N6ZFO - Fri night after working out 20m, qsy'd to 40 and picked a strong signal for first qso ~ it was IZ4NIC, S9+. Followed with several other Europeans. Many Eu heard on 80m, but not workable on 200w and dipole. Eu openings on 20m, 1400-1700Z (morning in CA) were amazing both days.

FT1000MP Mk V at 200w 14-el multi-monobander 10,15,20
F12/Innov/K7NV 40m DE Zepp on 40, 80.

K6RIM - For this primarily CW op, rare participation in a RTTY contest. Lots of participation! Decent EU openings on both 40M and 20M. Nice to find Z60A on 20M.

IC-7610 KPA500 Hexbeam & SteppIR BigIR Vertical N1MM+/MMTTY

N3RC - My new Digikeyer II intermittently wiped out the K3 audio/xmit functions two hours into the contest, just as I had finally gotten on true FSK for the first time. Taking the Digikeyer II out of the loop got me back on with only 2 hrs to end of contest. Grrrrrr! Since I thought the K3 was going to Elecraft to get fixed, I did lots of research on Icom 7610 after hearing glowing reports at local Redwood Empire DX Assoc. meeting last week. May get one after reading all the reports!

CQ WPX RTTY Feb 10, 2018

Call	Op	Class	Remote	OSOs	Prefixes	Time	Score
WQ6K(N6IE)	SOAB	HP	x	1623	708	29:30	3,091,836
WU6TT(W6DR)	M/S	HP		1275	467	33:10	1,360,371
N6ZFO	SOAB	HP		671	361	17:30	502,151
K6RIM	SOAB	HP		276	179		107,937
K6ELE	SOAB	HP		287	178		94,696
N3RC	SOAB	HP		198	134	4:00	49,044
AK6M(K6MM)	SOAB	HP		58	51	1.5	7,395

Soapbox

N6IE - Great conditions on Friday and until Saturday afternoon, then things slowed down. Picked up again Sunday. For once everything at the remote station worked well with only some minor internet problems. Thanks for all the Q's!

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club
presents

HAMFEST 2018

**Saturday, April 28th,
8 am to 12 noon**

Featuring

- Swap Meet (indoor and outdoor spaces)
- Breakfast
- VE Testing Session
- Station Demos
- Fox Hunt

PLUS: special exhibit of vehicles that support
emergency communications
Radio Control helicopter using 70cm.
On the air demo of FreeDV digital voice on HF



Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building
126 First Street West
Sonoma
For info: 707-935-7441

Admission: FREE
Breakfast: \$8.00
Talk-in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 pl)
for flyer and map: www.vomarc.org

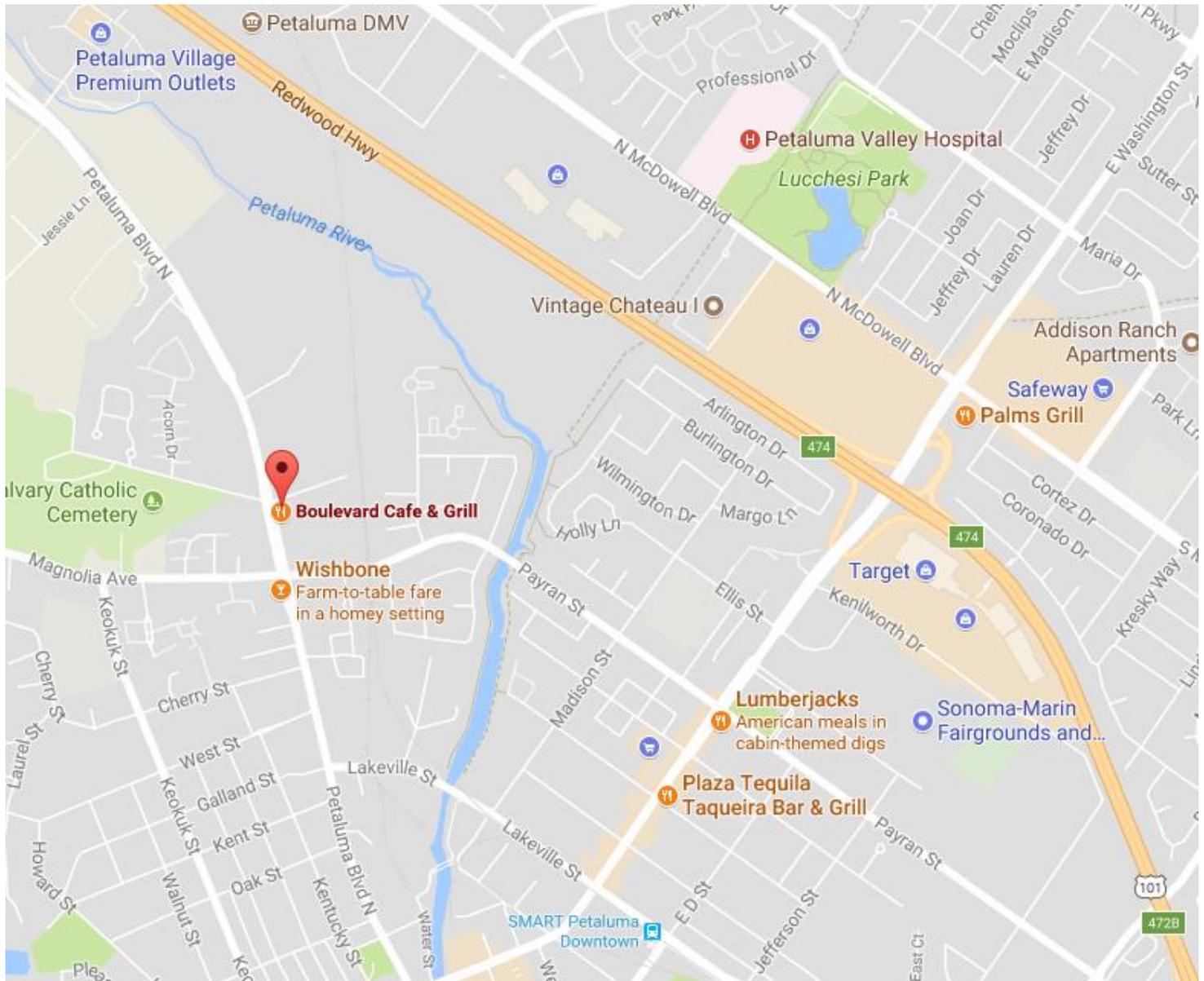


This is the photo that accompanied the N4BQW/KH9 QSL to K6QXY, confirming a 2-way 6 meter QSO



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.

No HRO advertisement this month and not again until we determine what sort of arrangement—if any—exists between REDXA and HRO. In the meantime, feast your eyes on this beauty from a 1951 issue of CQ. Image courtesy of Jim Hill



Collins 32V-2 Transmitter

The 32V-2 is a VFO controlled bandswitching, gang-tuned amateur transmitter, conservatively rated at 150 watts input on c-w and 120 watts input on phone. It covers the 80, 40, 20, 15, 11 and 10 meter bands. The heart of the 32V-2 is the Collins 70E-8A permeability tuned oscillator, used as the VFO. The calibration is very accurate, and stability compares favorably with most crystals used by amateurs.

The r-f tube line-up: a 6SJ7 VFO, 6AK6 buffer, 6AG7, 7C5 and 7C5 frequency multipliers, and 4D32 final amplifier. Speech line-up: a 6SL7 in cascade to a 6SN7 to a pair of 807 modulators, which furnish 60 watts audio power to modulate the final amplifier. The power supply contains a 5Z4 (low voltage) and two 5R4GY (high voltage) rectifiers, a VR-75 bias regulator, and two OA2 screen voltage limiters.

All controls are conveniently located on the front panel. As an additional refinement, both coarse and fine antenna loading controls are actuated by the same dial. The 32V-2 can be operated by a push-to-talk switch on the microphone, a key, or a separate switch. Terminals are provided for supplying the energizing voltage for an antenna change-over relay. Other terminals, paralleled with the operate switch, are used to disable the receiver when the transmitter is in SEND position. Grid-block keying is utilized on three stages following the VFO. The back-wave of the VFO as heard in a receiver placed beside the 32V-2 is negligible; thus break-in operation is accomplished without difficulty. Keying is very clean, without chirp or clicks. The keyer circuit also includes a side-tone oscillator which is used as a c-w keying monitor.

Dimensions:
 21 1/8" wide, 12 7/16" high, 13 7/8" deep.
Power source: 115 volts 50/60 cycles a-c.
Shipping weight: 128 pounds.
Net domestic price 5375.00

That's \$5378.25 in current buying power