

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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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 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:

June - N6IE Ron Castro - Field Day and Redding Carr fire FD inspired response to 4 FM stations getting down by the fire



REDXA President's Commentary

This is your editor writing. I apologize for missing the May meeting (and not getting the Sunspots announcement out in time). Consider this issue a bonus, heavy on news and pictures from the recent Visalia International DX Convention. I'll do my best to get another issue out before the June 12 meeting.

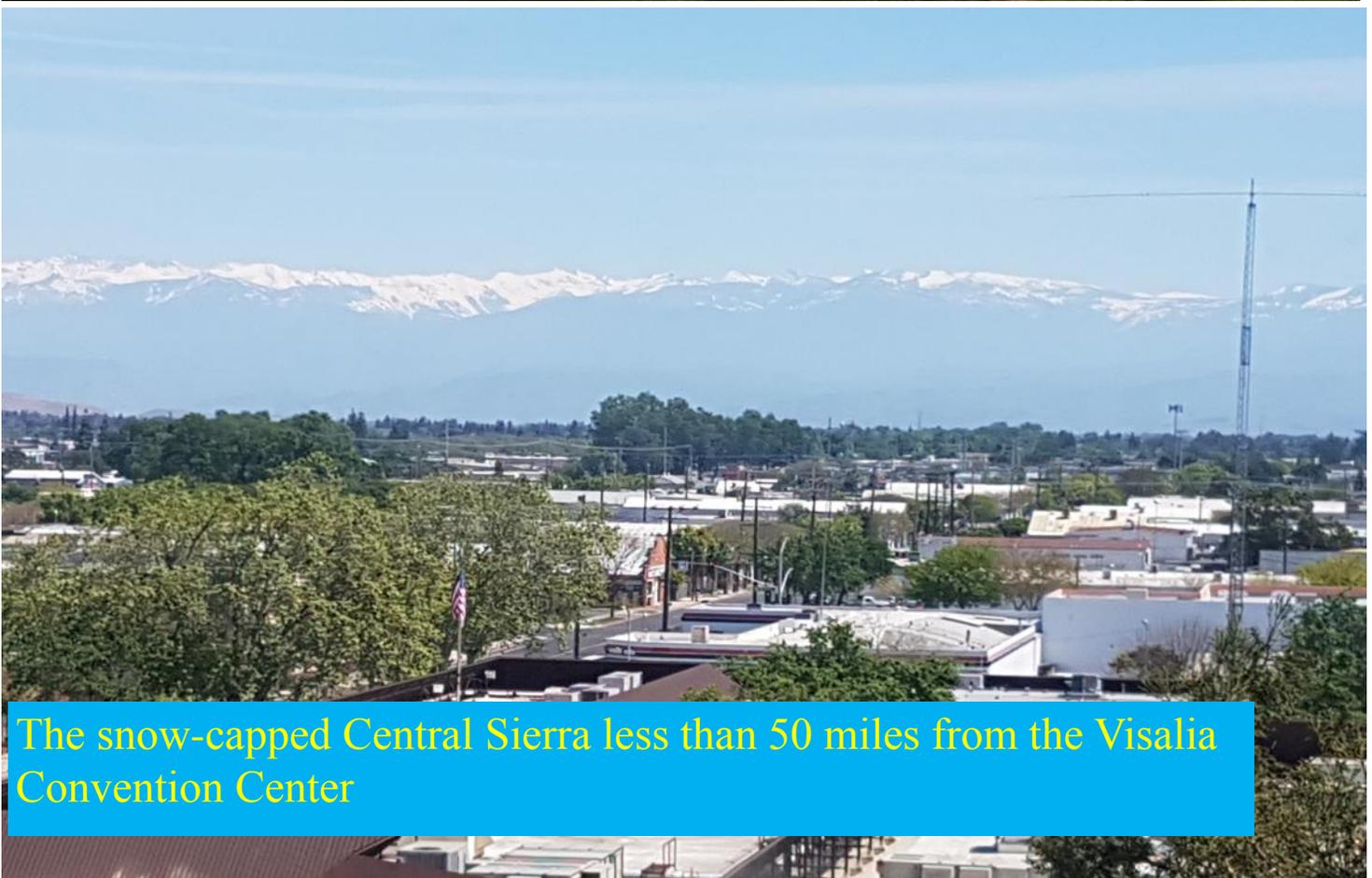


Visalia 2019

The 70th year of the IDXC



Leaving the Bay Area over the Altamont Pass on the way to I-5. This is the route most REDXA members take to Visalia



The snow-capped Central Sierra less than 50 miles from the Visalia Convention Center



The Visalia Fox Theater. Your editor's mother worked for the Farm Security Administration Visalia office after graduating from Cal Berkeley in 1938. She probably went to the movies here.



A spooky assemblage of protected plants seen on the way to Sequoia National Park. Credit N6VAW



Sequoia National Park. The snow pack in 2019 was almost twice normal. The convention attendees who made a day trip to the park were actually prevented from seeing some of the attractions because of the deep snow. Credit N6VAW



Field recording American folk music during the Great Depression. Your editor's mother had the assignment to escort the famed folklorist Alan Lomax to one of the migrant camps near Visalia.



The **Farm Security Administration (FSA)** was a New Deal agency created in 1937 to combat rural poverty during the Great Depression in the United States. It succeeded the Resettlement Administration (1935-1937).



Dorothea Lange's iconic photo of a migrant workers' wife. Lange and her partner Walker Evans had a grant to document life among the migrant laborers (aka "Okies") during the dustbowl migration. There were several Farm Security Administration migrant camps near Visalia



Gladstone Gander—the world’s luckiest duck (goose?)—was a creation of Carl Barks, the Disney studio artist who also created the adventures of Donald Duck, his nephews Huey, Louie, and Scrooge  Dewey, and McDuck.

The iconic signature of Walt Disney—was actually done by Carl Barks. Your editor mentions all of this because he is suggesting a new ham radio award: The Gladstone Gander award for feats of extreme luck in the service of amateur radio. Our nomination for this year’s recipient is our own Fred Leoni, N6YEU

Fred Leoni, N6YEU wins the first annual REDXA [Gladstone Gander Award](#) at the IDXC Visalia Sunday

Here’s Fred at the Visalia Sunday breakfast carrying away his prize: a brand new ICOM 7610





Lining up the W6XU
EME array with the
Moon, getting ready for a
477,900 mile QSO

From Josh, W6XU:

Huge 6m EME weekend for me. Friday night worked Lance W7GJ on his expedition to CP1GJ, followed immediately by Remi FK8CP. I had unsuccessfully tried with Remi a couple of years ago, but easy this time, his sigs peaked at -21. Then Saturday, Bob K6QXY arranged a sked for me with Uli DK8NE. Uli runs 2x5 element quads, but no elevation. As his moon came down into the main lobe, we worked easily, copying him at -23. That's three ATNOS



Hey Fellers: build this solid state BC/VLF receiver . You may have trouble finding Gillette Blue Blades at CVS

SUPERBOY






HEY, FELLERS AND GIRLS! HERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN MAKE!

SUPERBOY'S

WORKSHOP

RAZOR BLADE RADIO

THIS AMAZINGLY SIMPLE RADIO WILL RECEIVE LOCAL BROADCASTS, COSTS ALMOST NOTHING AND IS VERY SIMPLE TO MAKE.

MATERIALS NEEDED

"BLUE" RAZOR BLADE, EARPHONES, WIRE, SAFETY PIN, BOARD, PENCIL LEAD, CARDBOARD TUBE.

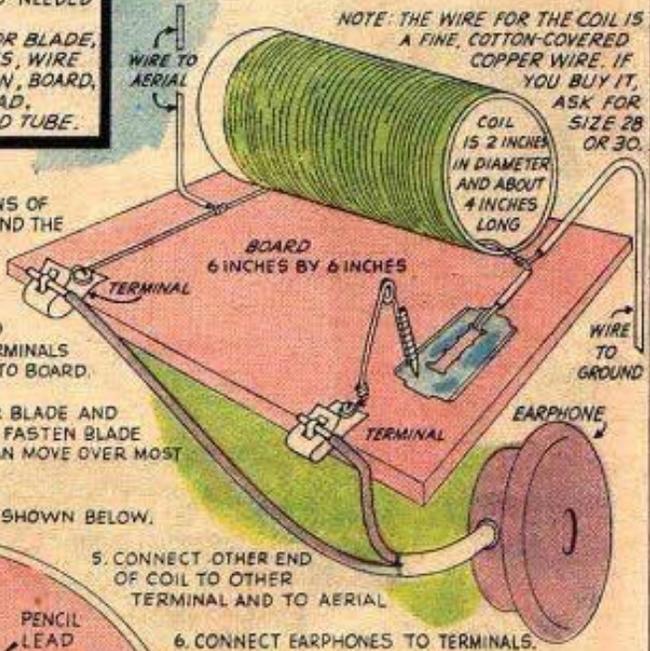
HOW TO BUILD THE SET

1. MAKE THE COIL BY WINDING 120 TURNS OF FINE, COTTON-COVERED WIRE AROUND THE TUBE. FASTEN TO BOARD AS SHOWN.
2. SNIP OFF THE HEAD OF THE SAFETY PIN. ATTACH PENCIL LEAD TO THE SHORT SIDE OF PIN. PUSH POINTED SIDE INTO BOARD. FASTEN TWO TERMINALS (TAKEN FROM DISCARDED BATTERY) TO BOARD.
3. CONNECT ONE END OF COIL TO RAZOR BLADE AND TO A GROUND, SUCH AS A RADIATOR. FASTEN BLADE TO BOARD SO THAT PENCIL LEAD CAN MOVE OVER MOST OF BLADE'S SURFACE.
4. CONNECT PIN TO ONE TERMINAL AS SHOWN BELOW.
5. CONNECT OTHER END OF COIL TO OTHER TERMINAL AND TO AERIAL
6. CONNECT EARPHONES TO TERMINALS.

NOTE: THE WIRE FOR THE COIL IS A FINE, COTTON-COVERED COPPER WIRE. IF YOU BUY IT, ASK FOR SIZE 28 OR 30.

COIL IS 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND ABOUT 4 INCHES LONG

BOARD 6 INCHES BY 6 INCHES



TUNING IN

MOVE THE PENCIL LEAD OVER THE BLADE UNTIL YOU FIND THE SPOTS WHICH GIVE YOU THE BEST VOLUME AND CLARITY. BETTER RESULTS MAY BE OBTAINED BY SCRATCHING THE SURFACE OF THE BLADE WITH A NAIL FILE AND PLACING THE LEAD ON THE SCRATCHES.

IT WILL TAKE PATIENCE TO FIND THE BEST SPOTS. YOU WILL GET BEST RECEPTION AT NIGHT, WITH A GOOD AERIAL YOU WILL GET AMAZING RESULTS.




W6SFK scores his first FT-4 QSO. FT-4 is the twice-as-fast version of FT-8

182654	-3	-0.2	559	+	CQ	V31DL	EK57	Belize
182702	Tx		559	+	V31DL	W6SFK	CM88	
182706	5	-0.2	558	+	CQ	V31DL	EK57	Belize
182712	Tx		559	+	V31DL	W6SFK	CM88	
182718	1	-0.2	558	+	W6SFK	V31DL	-02	
182724	Tx		559	+	V31DL	W6SFK	R+01	
182730	11	-0.1	558	+	W6SFK	V31DL	RR73	
182736	Tx		559	+	V31DL	W6SFK	73	
182930	6	-0.1	558	+	OH1TV	V31DL	-01	
182942	1	-0.2	558	+	OH1TV	V31DL	-01	

FT4 is an experimental digital mode designed specifically for radio contesting. Like FT8, it uses fixed-length transmissions,. You can learn more about FT-4 by visiting http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT4_Protocol.pdf

Here's a rare one coming up that will include FT-8

Zorro, JH1AJT will visit Eritrea again from 25 May to 3 June. The main purpose of his trip is to support the Eritrea National Olympic Committee. He will be joined by Franz DJ9ZB, David WD5COV, Johannes PA5X, Dima RAUSU, Sergey RZ9UN and Champ E21EIC, who will be active as E31A on 160-6 metres CW, SSB and FT8 (Fox & Hound mode). QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via JH1AJT. Tnx 425 DX News



SV2ASP – Monk Apollo S.K

NEWS UPDATE – Kostas SV1DPI writes:

A very close friend of mine, Monk Apollo SV2ASP, passed away at 20:45 UTC on 5/5/2019. His funeral [was] held in Mount Athos at 09UTC, 6 May 2019. The last 3 years he had a battle with brain cancer. He was 64 years old...

1988 Monk Apollo obtained his radio amateur license and the call SV2ASP. He needed 2 more years to get the license from Holy Council. Finally he was on the air for first time in 1990. He celebrated his 10 years on the air with the call SY2A in 2000 and he was trying to find some free time to be on the air when his monastic duties allowed him. In spite of all the difficulties he was sacrificing his very little spare time to make the voice of the Holy Mountain heard on the air and to give joy to a multitude of friends impatiently waiting for a contact. He was trying to spread, through his presence on the radio waves, a message of hope and optimism

—thanks to DX World.net

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*May 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

May 25-26 CQ WW WPX CW

Jun 8-10 ARRL VHF Contest

Jun 15-16 All Asian DX Contest CW

*Jun 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jun 22-23 ARRL Field Day

*Jul 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jul 13-14 IARU HF World Championship

Jul 20-21 CQ WW VHF Contest

Aug 3-4 North American QSO Party CW

Aug 17-18 North American QSO Party SSB

Aug 24-26 Hawaii QSO Party

Sep 14-16 ARRL September VHF Contest

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

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm, April 10, 2019 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 20 members and guests. Guests included N6YEU Fred's sister and brother-in-law.

Alan, K6SRZ gave a quick summary of the NCCC Awards meeting that he recently attended and represented REDXA. The following were awarded and brought to the meeting tonight for recognition:

W6PZ (Multi-op) placed 2nd M/M in the California QSO Party for their County Expedition to Mendocino County and received a plaque.

Redwood Empire DX Association was presented with a plaque for winning the Small Club Competition.

Al, K6RIM received a coffee cup for his effort in the ARRL RTTY Roundup.

Jim, K6JS received a plaque for "3rd place Silver Bracket".

Motion by Len, K6ANP to accept the Secretary's minutes as published in April Sunspots; the motion of seconded and passed. Motion by Joe, AA0BV to accept the Treasurer's report presented by Terry, K6TER; the motion was seconded and passed. Terry also reminded people to get their dues into him ASAP. They were due on January 1!

Old Business. None.

New Business. None.

The program of the evening was presented by Fred N6YEU. He gave a wonderful presentation of his first DXpedition to St. Eustatius including preparation before, operation during the ARRL DX Contest and interactions with the people there. He thanked Jim, K6JS for helping him put together the PowerPoint show and all the QSO's club members made with him as "PJ5/N6YEU".

Alan K6SRZ encouraged people to continue to submit articles, photos etc that may be of interest for publication in our monthly newsletter Sunspots.

The raffle sales were \$64 of which \$32 went to the club and \$32 to Bob K6QXY.

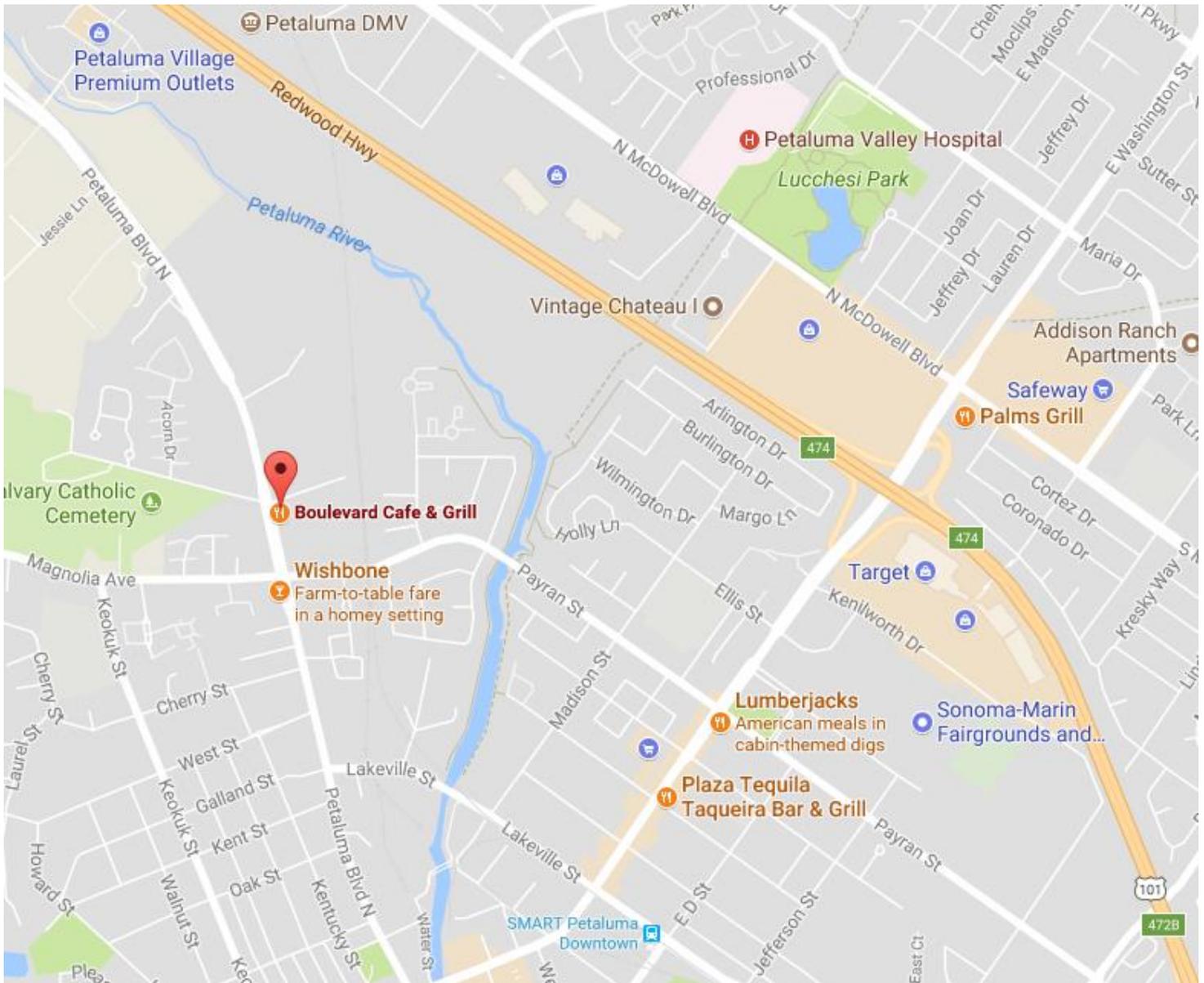
Adjourned at 8:39 pm.





Boulevard Café & Grill

1096 Petaluma Blvd. North,
Petaluma, CA



Redwood Empire DX Association meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Boulevard Café and Grill at 1096 Petaluma Blvd. North. Petaluma, CA.

