

# SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975



Our program for August 8, John Miller, K6MM  
The KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island



Our Speaker, the always entertaining John, K6MM. He's the one between the "A" and the "I" with the camera around his neck.

# 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 40**

**Number 8**

**August 2018**

## Club Officers:

### PRESIDENT:

Gabe Krupa, KJ6AZU  
PO BOX 750273  
Petaluma, CA 94975  
needemail.com

### VICE PRESIDENT:

(+CC) Jim Selmi, N6JS  
7470 Monique Place  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
jselmi@hotmail.com

### SECRETARY:

Saraj Cory, KU6F  
3275 Dutton Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
ku6f@arrl.net

(+Web) Doug Bender, WW6D  
3638 Hemlock Ct  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
ww6d@arrl.net

### TREASURE:

Bill, Zaner W6IYS  
4661 Valley Quail Ln  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

### DIRECTORS:

Josh Fiden, W6XU  
w6xu@arrl.net

Alan Eshleman K6SRZ  
doctore@well.com

Bill, WX6B (PP)  
billys95404@yahoo.com

**EDITOR: K6SRZ**

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

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, August 8th 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

**PROGRAM:** Our program for the evening will be a presentation by John Miller, K6MM, on his experience as one of the participants in the recent KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island.



## REDXA President's Commentary

With a deadline looming, this is your editor pinch-hitting for the President (s). The big news this month is that K6MM returns to REDXA, this time with a report on the recent KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island.

It's been a long time since the last KH1 activation and, if the USFW rules continue, it'll be another 10 years. I hope all of you who needed this for an ATNO were successful.

The Baker Island expedition was the first DXpedition to use the new "dxpedition mode" with FT8. More than 6,000 FT8 QSOs were logged de-

spite too many hams not taking the time to update WSJT-X and selecting the DXpedition mode. RTFM, as they say.

Transportation to Baker Island was aboard the rather luxurious liveaboard dive expedition boat Nai'a out of Viti Levu, Fiji.

For the crew of the Nai'a, a ham radio DXpedition was a completely new experience, and by all reports, they enjoyed it. The Nai'a has it's own very well done blog, which you can find at <https://www.naia.com.fj/blog>

Here are some excerpts:

### **DXpedition: Baker Island!**

Divemaster Diary (Jun 16th - Jul 12th, 2018)

Dive, Eat, Sleep.... Repeat?! Not this month! Slightly outside the norm of what we usually do here on NAI'A, we have been on an incredible month-long trip (or 'DXpedition!') with a group of HAM radio enthusiasts to Baker Island. Truly a once in a lifetime adventure....

or those who know nothing about ham radio (which included ourselves, not so very long ago!!), allow us to explain.... Globally, there are literally millions of individuals who dabble in amateur radio as a bit of a hobby, their mission being to make contact with other operators across the world. Amongst those millions, there are a select few - 'the HAM elite' of perhaps 200 individuals - who take it a HUGE step further and organize expeditions (known as DXpeditions) to wildly remote locations. There is a list of 'desirable' locations to broadcast from and, very close to the top of that list, you will find a teeny tiny dot of an island just 12 miles north of the Equator in the heart of the Pacific Ocean: Baker Island. It has been over ten years since anyone operated from this sandy speck of land and so a group of these HAM elite got together and decided it was about time to send a team there!

Islands don't come much more remote than Baker! At just 2.6 miles around and completely flat with limited natural resources (no fresh water, for example), it is totally uninhabited by humans and has been that way for many decades. Yet for such a small place, it has a very colorful history! In the mid 19th century, Baker was claimed by both the British and the United States as they exploited it for guano mining (there is an enormous resident bird population on the island, a fact we shall return to in more detail later). Later, in the 1930s, young native Hawaiians were brought over in an ex-



periment to settle Baker: in those days, residency was essential in order to claim land and Hawaiians were considered the 'best suited' to thrive in the island's conditions. It was claimed the island was being populated as it may be useful for commercial aviation: it is more likely, however, that with global political tensions rising it was, in fact, the military that had their eye on it. During WW2, the Japanese bombed Baker and its neighbors, Jarvis and Howland, as they returned from Pearl Harbor. The US extracted their people from the island and it has remained inhabitant-free ever since. Nowadays, Baker is protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and humans are not allowed to set foot on it without express permission, granted after going through an extensive, detailed application process. The group of HAM radio operators organizing this DXpedition successfully gained the right to access the island for a limited period of time to undertake their mission. They were joined on the island by Allie, a resource monitor for USFWS, who made sure their project had minimal negative impact on the island and its wildlife...

The logistics of this kind of a trip are staggering and had to be figured out in minute detail in the months preceding the trip departure in June 2018. Just organizing simple things like fuel, water, food and medical supplies takes on a whole new magnitude when you realize that Baker Island is 1,000 miles from American Samoa, the nearest port, which in turn is 800 miles from Fiji (all in all, we ended up covering 2,914 nautical miles!). We knew that we had to be 100% self-sufficient and that we had to have plans, back up plans (and maybe even back-up-of-back-up-plans!) for every conceivable situation. Fortunately, it was 'all hands-on deck' and a team of very capable individuals worked incredibly hard to give this DXpedition the very best chance of success. The NAI'A crew - boat, office and shore - are a formidable team and they proved their worth in the preparation for this trip. We'd like to offer a huge thank you to all the NAI'A team, especially Hussain - NAI'A's land-based operations manager - and Kathy - our purchasing manager - for working all hours of the day and night in the final weeks leading up to D(e)parture-Day. Vinaka vaka levu!

---

Thanks to the Nai'a crew for the photos and permission to quote. To learn more be sure to make the August 8 meeting.

-ed



KH1/KH7Z



Apropos of the Baker Island dxpediton, here's another Pacific DXpedition slated for this Fall. The Ducie Island expedition will use some of the same equipment that was used on Baker Island and include some of the same operators. Ducie is part of the Pitcairn Island group. The last expedition to Ducie—VP6DX in 2008—set a record of 183,686 QSOs..

Nearly 10 years have passed and Ducie is climbing the most-wanted lists.

You can learn more at the VP6D Web site: <https://vp6d.com/>

# Ducie Island

# 2018



# VP6D



The Braveheart, veteran of several Pacific DXpeditions and the vessel of the VP6D expedition



# REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

Have an event for the calendar? Let me know!

Aug 8 \* *REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Sep 1-2 All Asian DX Phone**

**Sep 8-10 ARRL Sep VHF Contest**

Sep 12 \* *REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Oct 6-7 California QSO Party**

Oct 10 \* *REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Oct 14-16 ARRL Pac Div Convention**

**Oct 27-28 CQ WW Contest SSB**

Nov 14 \* *REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Nov 24-25 CQ WW Contest CW**

**Nov 30-Dec 2 ARRL 160m Contest**

**Dec 8-9 ARRL 10m Contest**

Dec 12 \* *REDXA Holiday Party and Raffle*

**Dec 29-30 Stew Perry Topband Challenge**

**Dec 31-Jan 1 Straight Key Night**

Jan 9 \* *REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Jan 12-13 North American QSO Party CW**

**Jan 19-20 North American QSO Party SSB**

Refer to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more contest information.

The KH1/KH7Z expedition vessel





Introducing a new feature of “Sunspots”, classified advertisements for REDXA members. Send the editor an honest description, a price, and contact information and consider donating a small percentage of the sale price (10%?) to the club treasury.

**Pixel Technologies Magnetic Loop antenna.** \$100/BO  
Chuck, N6OJ (707) 763 2520

**Pole mounting fixture for YAESU 2800 rotor** \$20.00  
Alan, K6SRZ (707) 665 5790

**Cushcraft 5-element 6M yagi** with solid boom to mast mounting plate  
\$75.00  
Alan, K6SRZ (707) 665 5790

**Henry 2K-3 Amplifier** all offers considered  
Fred, N6YEU n6yeu@aol.com

Gordon , K6PT has many items for sale. He requests you contact him via email [gckiefer@comcast.net](mailto:gckiefer@comcast.net)



### Antenna Items

Glen Martin roof tower, model RT-424 . New in box  
Glen Martin roof tower , model RT-1832. New in box  
DX Engineering , vertical model DXE-40VE-1. New in box  
DX Engineering , vertical model DXE-40VE-1. New in box  
HY-GAIN 14 Element 2 mtr. Yagi.  
Hy-Gain 204BA.  
Yaesu model GS-065 thrust bearing, new in box

### Accessory items

SWR/PWR meter, Daiwa model CN-620.  
Foot switch, Heil.  
Foot switches , various.  
Microphone, Shure model 444D.  
Microphone, Heil model HM-12, also cable wired for Yaesu ( 8 pin).  
Microphone boom , Heil.  
Paddles, Bencher model BY-1.  
Speaker, Yaesu model SP-6.  
Power supply, Astron , model RS-20M. **Sold**  
MatchBox, Johnson 1 KW.  
Diecast water tight box, 6 3/8 in x 10 1/4 in x 3 3/4 in.  
Hinged cover.  
Male to Male type "N" adapter.  
50 ft section , new Times LMR 400 coax with male type "N" connectors.  
Drake Twins cabinet , like new.  
Various headphones.

### Equipment

2 mtr xcvr. , Azden model PCS-3000.  
2 mtr. Xcvr , ICOM model IC-229H.  
HF xcvr., Yaesu model FT 990, Rom. 1.3, CW fltr.

HF xcvr , Yaesu model FT 990, Rom. 1.3 , CW fltr.  
HF xcvr. , Yaesu model FT990 , Rom. 1.3, CW / N-SSB fltr.  
HF Amplifier, Ameritron model AL-80B, 10/12 mtrs.  
HF amplifier, Drake model L-4, Harback supply and soft start.

HF Receiver, Collins model 75S3-B, original box and items.

### Test and Misc.

- 1)Accukeyer with memory.
- 2)Accukeyer with memory.
- 3)Transfer Oscillator, Beckman , model 7580.
- 4)Syn. Generator, Fluke model 6011A.
- 5)Syn. Generator, Fluke model 6011A.
- 6)Syn. Generator, Fluke model 6011A.
- 7)Constant level Gen., Tektronix type 190A.
- 8) 12 volt supply ( home brew used for powering mobile 2 mtr xcvr from 120 vac).
- 9)Power supply, HP model 6116A.
- 10)Power Supply, HP model 6202A
- 11)Power Supply, Electronic Measurements model 212A.
- 12)Power Supply, Electronic Measurements model TR212A.
- 13) Audio Oscillator, HP model 200A.
- 14) Collins ( 2-3Mhz) PTO's.
- 15) Globe Xmitter model, 680 , parts or repair.
- 16 Kenwood model TR-7730, 2M , service manual, parts or repair.

## Treasurer's Report for July 2018

Bal. Brt. Fwd.	7/1/2018	<u>\$3,605.75</u>
Receipts		
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$53.00
	Badges	<u>\$41.00</u>
	Total Receipts	<u>\$94.00</u>
Disbursements		
	Dinner- Guest Speaker	\$25.00
	Badge	<u>\$20.35</u>
	Total Disbursements	<u>\$45.35</u>
Cash Flow		
		<u>\$48.65</u>
Balance 7/31/18		<u>\$3,654.40</u>

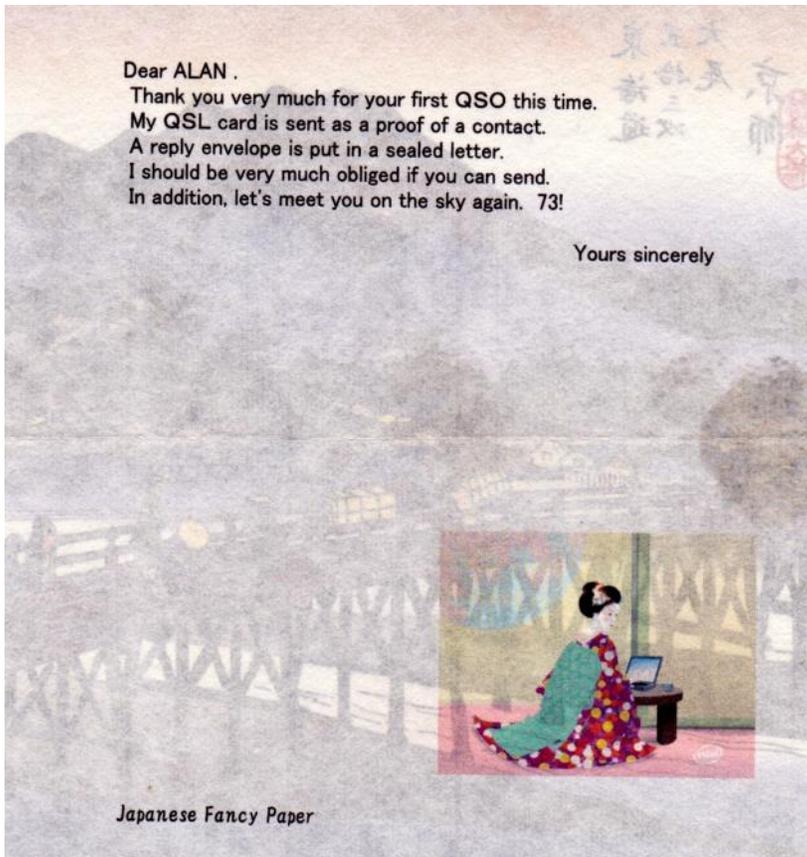


Not part of the Treasurer's Report. On the left, the big and heavy Henry amplifier that Fred, N6YEU has for sale



## QSL Corner

The artwork in the classical Japanese style and the comments from the JA operator were a little bonus included with his QSL request. Translating into English can sometimes have charming results as below.



“Let’s meet you on the sky again. 73”

## QSL Corner 2

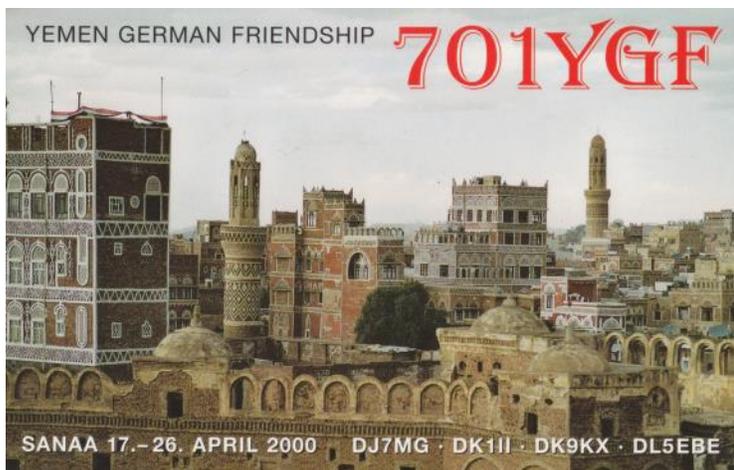


I posted this QSL in last month's "Sunspots" and wondered if someone could translate the Latin inscription

Here's N6ZFO's translation:

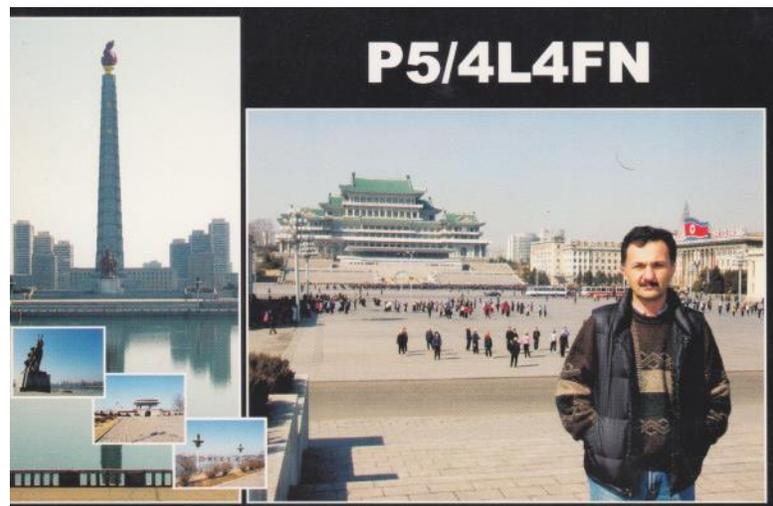
*"Assiduus usus uni rei deditus et ingenium et artem saepe vincit"*

English translation: Constant practice devoted to one subject often outdoes both intelligence and skill



Left: somewhat notorious DXpedition to Yemen. "YGF" has another, X-rated interpretation

Right: Still number one on the most-wanted list



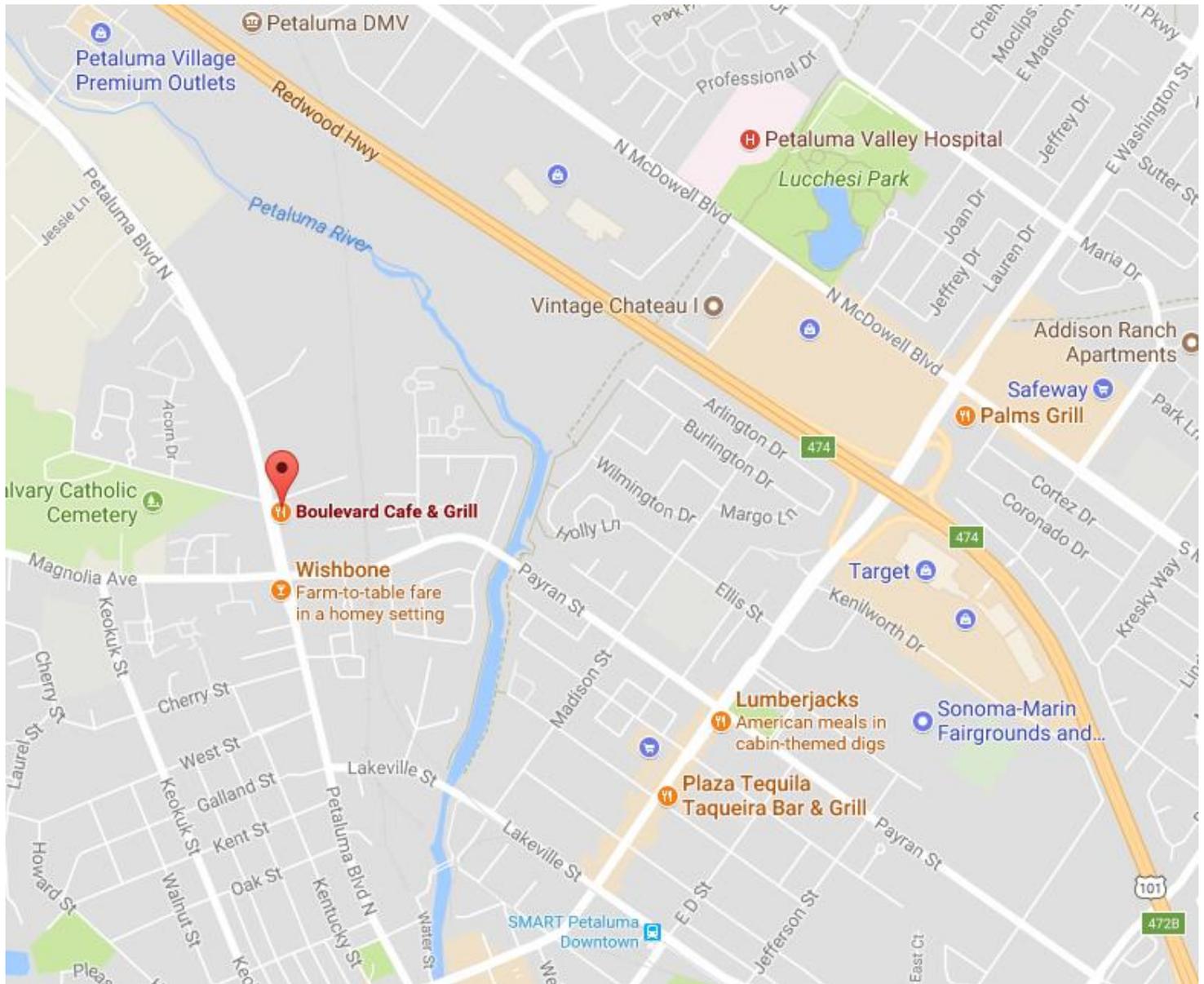
Treasurer's Report for July 2018 prepared by Bill Zaner, W6IYS, REDXA Treasurer

<b>Bal. Brt. Fwd.</b>	<b>7/1/2018</b>		<b>\$3,605.75</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$53.00	
	Badges	\$41.00	
	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$94.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
	Dinner- Guest Speaker	\$25.00	
	Badge	\$20.35	
	<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$45.35</b>
<b>Cash Flow</b>			
			<b>\$48.65</b>
<b>Balance 7/31/18</b>			
			<b>\$3,654.40</b>



## 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.