We'll be ZOOMing our August meeting. Time 7:00 PM August 12 (Wednesday) ZOOM: meeting number 917 8189 2793 password ******* See page 4 of this issue for fur-ther instructions if you're not familiar with ZOOM

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

Volume XXIII

Number VIII

August 2020

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Meeting Announcement

We'll be meeting via ZOOM. On August 12, starting around 6:00 PDT. If ZOOM is new to you, there's an information posting elsewhere in this issue of "Sunspots".

This month we welcome Marty Sullaway, NN1C. His presentation will cover Youth in Contesting

Marty is a 18-year-old Extra Class radiosport aficionado living in Eastern Massachusetts. Marty has found himself 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

Here we are in the doldrums of August and cycle 24. There are signs Ole Sol is awakening and the beginning of cycle 25 is on the way. Most predictions are that cycle 25 will be similar to 24. But, there is a recent forecast by a group of 5 solar scientists that predict cycle 25 will probably be among the strongest solar cycles ever observed, and that it will almost certainly be stronger than present SC24 (116 spots) and most likely stronger than the previous cycle 23 (180 spots).

Should these new optimistic predictions come to pass, 6m operators can look forward to some truly, never-before-seen, fall and winter propagation ... for at

President's Commentary (cont.)

least three or more winters. With SSN values reaching the high two-hundreds or beyond, west coast operators can expect to see the 6m band often open before sunrise, most likely favoring Europe via the polar path or towards Africa via the trans-Atlantic path. Unlike 20m, there will be little to no 'polar flutter' and since signals propagating near the F2 MUF suffer very little path loss, they will probably be very strong.

One certainty is, that if FT8 is still around by then, it and your soundcard will fold up quickly once the band opens with wall-to-wall S9++ signals. It may be useful during the first early minutes or during marginal openings, but knowing the signal levels that 6m F2 can produce, it will be like trying to use FT8 with dozens of new neighbors operating on your own block ... and you can easily guess how well that might work! As we've come to understand, FT8 is a wonderful weak-signal mode, but throw just one bone-crushing signal into the waterfall and it's game-over ... on F2, there will be dozens of these!

Such stellar conditions on 6m are ideally suited to CW or SSB and I think there will be a fast exodus from FT8 back to the traditional modes very early ... those that aren't prepared for this, relying only on FT8, will most likely be in for a rude awakening. If you're a 6m "no-coder", now's the time to hunker-down and learn CW ... by the time Cycle 25 becomes pro-ductive, you won't be left out of the many CW DX opportunities that will surely be available on this much quicker QSO mode.

If these predictions do occur, we could have a new pandemic in the ham radio community... **The F2 Flu** [Portions of article reprinted with permission from Steve, VE7SL) – See full article here <u>https://www.amateurradio.com/new-hope-for-cycle-25/</u>]

Don't forget about the QSO Today virtual ham radio expo, which is online this weekend. Over 21,000 hams have already registered for this event! Coming to your laptop, tablet, and smartphone on August 8 and 9, 2020 and "on-demand" until September 9th, 2020.

https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/

Participate in this ground breaking, virtual international amateur radio expo. Packed with world renowned speak-ers, exhibitors, and special conference rooms built on a virtual reality platform. Attend from the convenience of your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. See announcement elsewhere in *Sunspots*.

I hope you all enjoyed our last meeting with renowned receiver guru Rob Sherwood. Save your pennies for the K4.

I'll start the Zoom meeting a little earlier, around 6 – 6:15pm for a little social time. Grab your favorite drink of choice and join us for another great REDXA meeting.

This month we welcome Marty Sullaway, NN1C, and his presentation will cover Youth in Contesting

Marty is a 18-year-old Extra Class radiosport aficionado living in Eastern Massachusetts. Marty has found himself 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.

I hope to see you all this Wednesday. Stay safe and 73. Steve, K6JS

How to ZOOM for our August meeting

Youth in Contesting by Marty Sullaway, NN1C

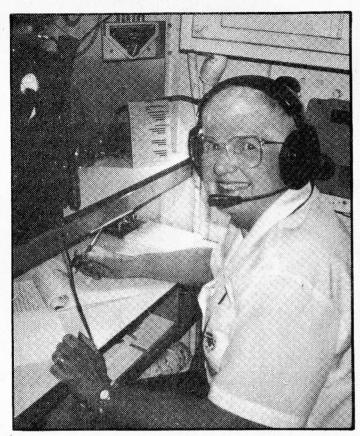
Time: Aug 12, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Every month on the Second Wed, until Dec 9, 2020, 5 occurrence(s) Aug 12, 2020 07:00 PM Sep 9, 2020 07:00 PM Oct 14, 2020 07:00 PM Nov 11, 2020 07:00 PM Dec 9, 2020 07:00 PM Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Monthly:

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 917 8189 2793 Passcode: ******

See below for audio only options 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 Passcode: ***** Find your local number: https://marincounty-org-dpw.zoom.us/u/ab48R4xzKT



Eleanor, KA6VEU.

From World Radio, October 1994: "Eleanor, KA6VEU, and Marilyn, N6VAW, became the first YLs to operate aboard the Pampanito and perhaps the first YLs to op-erate from any submarine."

Eleanor is now a silent key. She and Marilyn are "Plank Owners", charter members of the Pompanito's radio station.

The Pompanito is now designated a National Historic Landmark and is berthed at the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at Pier 45 in San Francisco.

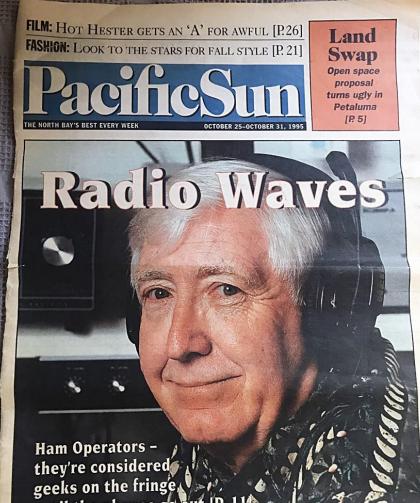


Marilyn, N6VAW.





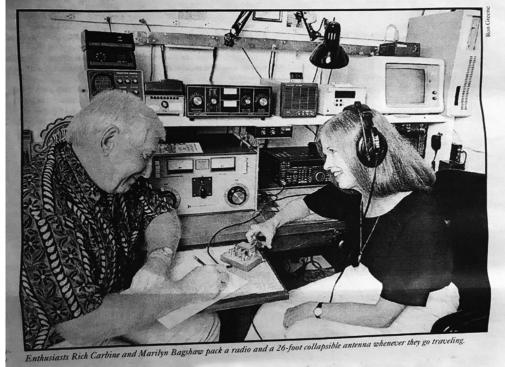
In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Marilyn Bagshaw, a member of one of Mill Valley's pioneering families, became the first woman to operate from the radio room of a World War II submarine. With permission from the Navy, Bagshaw made contacts in Morse Code and voice using her amateur radio call sign followed by the original radio call sign of the submarine. Noteworthy was Bagshaw's contact with a man who had been aboard the Pampanito when she was commissioned over 50 years ago.



Seems like just yesterday...

The article from the Pacific Sun follows on the next page.







"My pants are on fire and my ass is catching!"

In case of disaster...

If being a ham is about surfing the wave, then the ultimate test for a ham is to ride it home when nothing else can get through, electrical or phone wires are down, and lives are at stake. As antiquated as ham radio may seem in the age of the Internet, hams are still essential during disasters. During the war in Bosnia, for example, Yugoslavian hams hurried into devastated areas to pass messages between local communities and refugee camps on behalf of families separated by the fighting.

Closer to home, Marilyn Bagshaw worked in shelters in San Francisco during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. She shadowed firefighters during last month's fire at Point Reyes National Seashore. As head of the radio emergency response crew for Mill Valley, she checks into a "net" of hams every Monday night to test the system. She also has an ID card that lets her cross police or fire lines, or avoid bridge tolls, during emergencies.

Hams who get turned on by emergency response take pride in being able to propagate anywhere, at any time. Bagshaw has a handheld radio with an internal battery and portable antenna, as well as a radio in her car. Her boyfriend, Rich Carbine, has a deep-cell battery on a constant charge in the basement, to provide a big charge if a disaster knocks out power.

Each June, hams from around Marin and the world take their equipment outside for a "Field Day," to simulate freestyle operation during emergencies.

When the fire in Inverness broke out earlier this month, Marin County's emergency net went live with a Red Cross call for help from hams. About 40 hams volunteered to work in shelters and travel along with emergency supply vans or damage assessment teams.

Ham radio was especially needed during the Inverness fire because White's Hill, which separates West Marin from East Marin, prevented both cell phones and the Red Cross's own radios from communicating with headquarters in San Rafael.

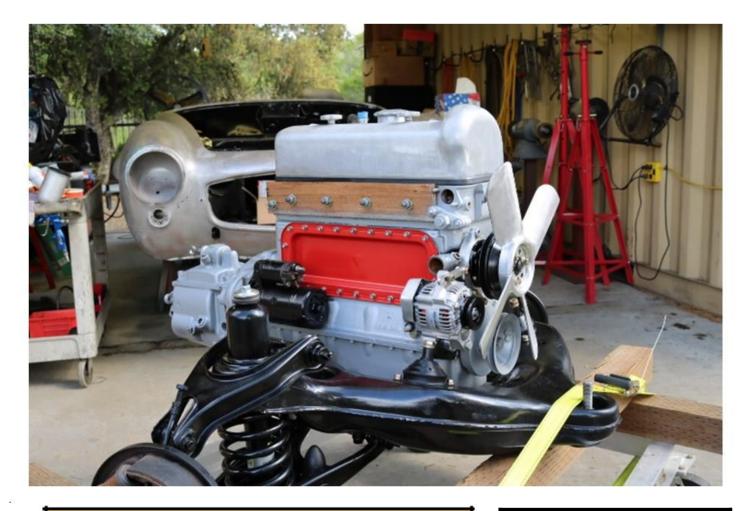
Four days after the fire broke out, it had not yet been controlled. Saturday morning was busy in the radio room at Red Cross headquarters. Tim Harris, a Coast Guard communications officer by profession, was working the radios in his off hours. Marty Brenneis, stressing over some detail, barked into a phone that "my pants are on fire and my ass is catching." And Stu Dake scurried about setting up a high-frequency radio, laying wire and flipping dials. Finally, Dake stops for a minute to talk to a reporter. "All the toys we play with," he says, sweeping a hand at the equipment, "this is when you need them."

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Social distancing with Steve, W6SFK.

Steve is taking the time to get to a major project: restoring and rebuilding a classic Mercedes 190 SL. (Above) the Mercedes 1.9 L dual carb SOHC 4-cylinder engine.

(below) the engine in place.



The "SL" designation for Mercedes autos means either "super light (super leicht auf Deutsch)" or "sport light" sport leicht). Mercedes never announced what "SL" stood for when the car was introduced in 1955. It remained in production until 1963. The car's big sister, the 300 SL was apparently fea-tured in the company's archives as "super light" so perhaps the 190 is a *sport light*.

The auto featured a 1.9 L type 121 SOHC twin carburetor engine that produced 104 HP. Zero to 60 is somewhere near 13 seconds.

Mercedes produced 25,881 units at its Stuttgart plant. More than 10,000 were sold in the USA



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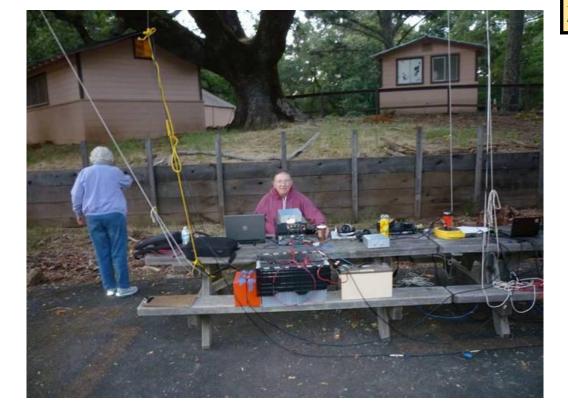
Before the restoration began. The 190 SL shares a garage with a 1927 Chevrolet AA Sedan.







K6UUW at the VOMARC Field Day site



Jim Hill, K6UUW, SK

From David Dammuller, KD6FIL, of *the Valley of the Moon ARC:*

It is with great sadness that we learned of Jim Hill's passing early Monday morning.

We were all so lucky to have had time with Jim in VOM-ARC activities. He was a leader, a friend, a teacher, a wonderful father and husband.

I wish I had better photographs, but I hope the many reminders that surround you of how he has enriched our lives will bring comfort to you, and memories of this special man.

It was truly a privilege to know him. I will miss his friendship, (his countless radio hitches), and his resili-ent presence.

If you would like to offer condolences to the Hill family, please send a card to Judy Hill

1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476



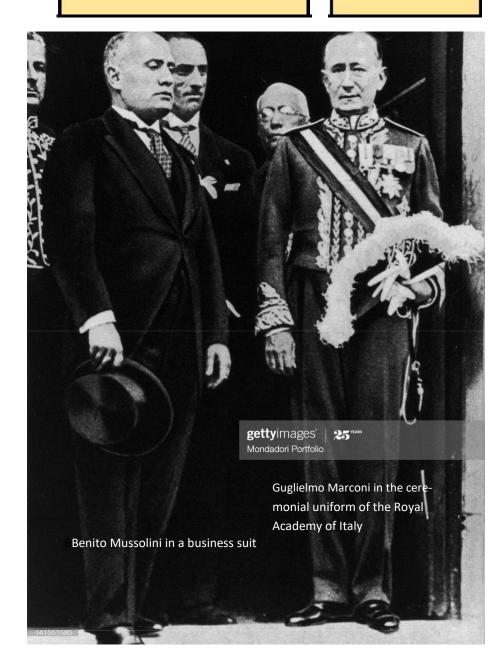




As fans of "The Wire" [the best TV series ever—ed.] know, Officer Jimmy McNulty's favorite whiskey was Jameson. Marconi's first wife, Annie Jameson, was a grand-daughter of John Jameson, founder of the distillery.



Not to detract from his contributions to radio communications, but...



People are not always who they seem to be. Founding Fathers George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, for example, were also slaveholders, and that realization has led some protestors to topple public statues of the men. All across our nation, statues honoring heroes of the Confederacy are coming down as those heroes are (correctly) identified as traitors to the USA. Sports teams are being pressured to change their names because they feed into racial stereotypes.

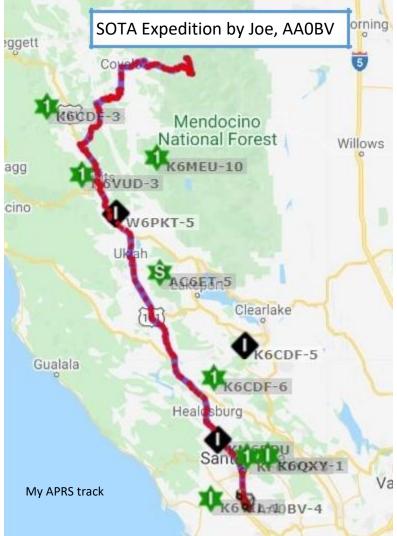
"Sunspots" in an effort to be part of this *zeitgeist* now dips its toes into raging seas of wokeness and cancel culture to announce that Guglielmo Marconi, "Father of Radio" and 1909 Nobel Laureate, was a fascist. Really!

Marconi joined the Italian Fascist Party in 1923 and in 1930 *II Duce*, Benito Mussolini made him president of the Royal Academy if Italy. On his induction to the Academy he is quoted as saying:

"I reclaim the honor of being the first fascist in the field of radiotelegraphy, the first who acknowledged the utility of joining the electric rays in a bundle, as Mussolini was the first in the political field who acknowledged the necessity of merging all the healthy energies of the country into a bundle, for the greater greatness of Italy."

It is not a coincidence that during Marconi's tenure, not a single Jew was admitted to the Academy.

The Marconi Wireless Corporation has a rich history in Marin. There is a town in West Marin named for the man. Out in your editor's yard is is a 160 meter inverted V, which is, of course, a bent version of the Marconi antenna.



Later one more person arrived at the summit and took a picture of my complete set-up. I added an Arrow 7 element yagi for 70cm. I generally use a headset on the summits to avoid wind noise.

I was using my Elecraft KX3 and an SG-LABS 3 watt transverter for 23cm and my Kenwood TH-D74A for 70cm and 1.25M.

The contest started at 1800z and I operated until 2023z. 23cm – 4 contacts; 70cm – 7 contacts; 1.25M – 2 contacts. Three watts and 16 elements on 23cm, 5 watts and 7 elements on 70cm and 5 watts and an extended ducky on 1.25M. My greatest DX was 303 Km on 23cm to the hills above Saratoga.For the ARRL 222 & Up Contest my claimed score is 4087 – point total are total kilometers with a multi-plier of 2 for 1.25M and 23cm and a multiplier of 1 for 70cm. SOTA Activation – SOTA 2020 Challenge

The SOTA designator for this summit is W6/CC-010 – it is a 6 point summit. This year SOTA is encouraging operations on less traditional bands and modes by sponsoring the 2020 Challenge for special operations (next page)

ARRL 222 & Up Expedition and SOTA Activation – An-thony Peak

On Saturday, August 1, 2020 I drove to Anthony Peak. At 6954' it is the highest point in Mendocino County. From Rohnert Park the one way drive is 160 miles and takes 3.5 – 4 hours.

CA 162 is a wide improved dirt road for the last 20 miles to Mendocino Pass. You made a hard right turn onto the M-4 with only five miles and 2000' of eleva-tion gain remaining.

On the final stretch to the peak, you pass Wells Cabin Campground and turn off on the forest Road that leads to the summit.

Your fist view of the summit comes with 224' and a quarter mile remaining. The summit lookout is staffed during fire season.

The fire lookout [ranger] arrived when I was setting up and took this picture for me. I set up my 23cm yagi (Comet 16 elements). Nice to have a picnic table for the gear! The white paper on the summit board notes that the lookout is closed due to COVID-19 so I did not visit the lookout!





during the 1st 7 days of each month. For August the challenge was to make SOTA contacts on 17M. I set up a 30' pole and attached an end fed wire to my KX3 and made 5 contacts – farthest DX was Missouri and two stations in Kansas, and I also worked Sum-mit-to-Summit with a SOTA activator on BIG Hill, and a KX2 at a park in the South Bay. The 2020 SOTA Challenge accumulated points each month thus far for the Challenge I have activated 11 summits with 44 contacts giving me a score of 484, This score makes me the leader in California and USA and so far 15th in the world.

Left home at 6:00 AM and arrived back home at 6:00 PM – 8 hours driving, 3.5 hours operating.

Joe Olsen, AA0BV





REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events	REDXA Clublo	g standings as of July 2020
Aug 12 * <u>REDXA Monthly Meeting</u> Aug 15-16 North American QSO Party SSB	enti-ties worked Here are our Top !	ngs are based on reported during the calendar year. 5 in each category.
Sep 9 * <u>REDXA Monthly Meetinq</u> Sep 12-14 ARRL September VHF Sep 26-27 CQ WW DX RTTY Oct 3-4 California QSO Party	Overall KC6AWX N3RC N6IE N6AD	225 154 147 127
Oct 14 * <u>REDXA Monthly Meeting</u> Oct 24-25 CQ WW DX SSB Nov 7-9 ARRL Sweepstakes CW	K6RIM	126
Nov 11 * <u>REDXA Monthly Meeting</u> Nov 21-23 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Nov 28-29 CQ WW DX CW	CW KC6AWX N6IE	160 124
Refer to <u>https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html_</u> for more con- test information.	K6JS K6RIM N3RC	114 114 99
	SSB K6RIM	75
	KC6AWX N6YEU N3RC K6VXI	68 56 41 40
REGINDOR EMAIRE	Digital N3RC KC6AWX	133 133
TSSOCIATION	NGAD NGIE KGANP	127 107 97



Despite the current Covid-19 situation, ham radio operators are more active than ever and want to continue to learn and engage with their community. To meet this need, we've organized the first of its kind, virtual ham radio expo designed to allow everyone interested in amateur radio to engage with amazing speakers, leading suppliers of equipment, parts and services, and fellow attendees. Our virtual expo platform provides a visually captivating and easy to navigate user experience that recreates the look and feel of a physical amateur radio convention. Attendees have the opportunity to:

- Listen to and engage with 70+ internationally recognized ham radio luminaries that have committed to lead expo sessions. <u>Click here for the speaker list.</u>
- Walk through our virtual exhibit hall filled with popular amateur radio suppliers. Watch new product demos, interact directly with booth staff using video, audio, or text conferencing.
- Engage with fellow hams without leaving your home ham shack. And save thousands of dollars since you don't have to worry about travel, food, and lodging!
- Return over the next 30 days to re-visit, explore, and re-engage exhibitor offerings. (cont. next page)

Your Most Frequent EXPO Questions Answered

We have over 20,000 hams registered for this event. I am being overwhelmed with email questions. You are still welcome to email me, but if I answer your questions below, please visit me at my QSO Today booth in the Expo. 73 - Eric, 4Z1UG

Q: When can we expect an email with the login credentials for Zoom or whatever medium is being used?

A: We will be sending an email or two before the conference. However, if you are registered for the Expo, then you only need your email address to enter on August 8th. The login is at <u>qsotoday.vfairs.com</u>

This is not a Zoom conference. It is a fully virtualized convention on a special platform to give a convention experience. You need only a browser (Explorer, Chrome, Brave, Safari, Firefox) to have full functionality on the platform.

Q: The website has a button to click for a ticket. I registered on June 24th and got a confirmation email. But it looks nothing like a ticket (no attachment or unique number).

A: This ticket for the virtual conference is "virtual". You only need your email address to enter on August 8th and for the rest of the 30 day period.

Q: I never received confirmation when I registered.

A: Check your spam folder first. If it is not there, go to: <u>qsotoday.vfairs.com</u> and try to log-in with just your email address. You can "Update Profile". We are having a problem with the phone number field. Try entering your phone number without dashes or spaces. Also, be sure that you are opted in so that you can participate in the Leaderboard drawing.

Q: The Expo Webpage says that the expo is ending before it begins.

A: The Expo time is Zulu or GMT. It actually starts 15 minutes before the Keynote Address by Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD. That time is 01:00:00 Zulu on August 8th, but it is 18:00 PDT August 7th, Friday evening.

Q: I can't download the speakers from the list posted on the Expo website. Help?

A: Use the button above the speakers to download a copy of the schedule for printing. Keep in mind that that schedule will be updating before the conference if changes must be made.

Q: How do I "Opt In" to be eligible for the Leaderboard contest?

A: Try logging in with just your email address. Until the Expo opens, you will get a message that says that the Expo is closed. You will see an "Update Profile" button. Update your profile and opt-in at the very bottom, then push Save.

Q: How will I recognize my friends at the Expo?

A: We substituted Call Signs for last names on the Platform. If you put in NoCall, then we will use your last name, otherwise everyone is First Name + Callsign.

Q: Where is the navigation training video for the event.

A: it is not yet made, but will be made a few days before the event. It will drop down automatically when you first enter the lobby on the day of the event.

Q: Is the Leaderboard a random drawing?

A: The leader board is not a raffle or random drawing . It is based on the accumulation of points from visiting sponsor and exhibitor booths, looking at content, speaking with booth representatives. This is very similar to a live convention where you would collect stamps or tokens to accumulate points. The prizes are ranked by retail price. Winners will win based on the most points. There are two leaderboard contests; one for the two live days on August 8th and 9th, and another for the 30 day on demand period.

This Expo and the contest is fun

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Contest scores for the last 30 days from 3830.com					
	Cwops CWT 8/6/20				
К6СТА	Single Op	LP	169		
K6JS	Single Op	HP	3,364		
NAQP August CW					
K6SRZ	Single Op	LP	144,160		
N6ZFO	Single Op	LP	126,036		
N6IE (@N6IE)	M/2	LP	86,818		
N3RC	Single Op	LP	62,010		
K6MM	Single Op	LP	37,168		
K6RIM	Single Op	LP	35,420		
W6XU	Single Op	LP	22,428		
K6JS	Single Op	LP	210 From Lake Tahoe		
К6СТА	Single Op	LP	70		
NAQP RTTY					
N6IE	Single Op	LP	94,950		
N3RC	Single Op	LP	86,718		
N6ZFO	Single Op	LP	63,384		
K6SRZ	Single Op	LP	31,722		
К6ММ	Single Op	LP	18,286		
K6ELE	Single Op	LP	7,482		
K6RIM	Single Op	LP	1,600		
W6XU	Single Op	LP	9		
К6СТА	Single Op	LP	4		
			IARU		
N6ZFO	SOABCW	HP	407,478		
N6IE	SOAB(A)CW	HP	135,110		
N6TQ	SOABCW	HP	92,790		
N3RC	SOABCW	HP	65,868		
К6ММ	SOAB(A)CW	HP	31,262		
K6RIM	SOAB(A)CW	HP	15,886		
VHF Contests					
AAOBV	222 Up	Single c	p QRP 4,093		



REDXA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. **Topic: Redwood DX Association** Time: August 12, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Every month on the Second Wed, until Dec 9, 2020, 7 occurrence(s) Jun 10, 2020 07:00 PM 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: Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 917 8189 2793 Password:****** One tap mobile +12133388477,,91781892793#,,1#,432213# US (Los Angeles) +12532158782,,91781892793#,,1#,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:****** Find your local number: https://marincounty-org-dpw.zoom.us/u/ab48R4xzKT

JULY MEETING MINUTES by Doug WW6D, Secretary

The monthly meeting was held on again Zoom (due to the CoVID-19 pandemic) on July 8, 2020 beginning at 6pm for "happy hour". It was hosted by President Jim Selmi, K6JS.

At 7pm, Jim called the meeting to order. The minutes from the June meeting and the treasurer's report by Fred, N6YEU were approved as published in the June Sunspots.

Old Business. A follow up from previous discussions on the upcoming California QSO Party (Oct 3-4) was led by Ron N6IE. Of note, there will be several 1x1 special event calls on during the weekend. Using the last letter of these 1x1 callsigns, there is an incentive to work as many of these stations in order to spell out the word: SE-QUOIA. See the website for more details: http://www.cqp.org/sequoia.html

New Business. Bart Schrijver, KK6BC, applied for membership and attended the Zoom meeting. He was unanimously accepted into the membership. Welcome aboard Bart!

Program: Our speaker for evening was Rob Sherwood, NCOB. His topic: "Receiver Contest & DX Performance - A Complex Subject Today - Great RX Performance - TX Limitations".

Rob was licensed in 1961 with novice license WN8ADB at age 14 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He upgraded to general class about two months later as WA8ADB. He operated as portable Zero in mid-70s out of Colorado and later became WB0JBP in late 70s or early 80s. Briefly, he held the call KC0ZV, advanced class, and eventually became NC0B, extra class, around 1988.

He founded Sherwood Engineering in 1974, offering Drake upgrades. He started testing transceivers in 1976, which now total over 100. Data now is constantly updated and available on the web at http://www.sherweng.com/table.html

Several of his articles and talks are on the web: https://www.dj0ip.de/sherwood-forest/sherwood-s-shootouts/

[This is an extensive resource of material which I recommend checking out - WW6D.]

Meeting adjourned around 9pm.



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.

