

What a year! REDXA offers our sympathies and help to Members WW6D, WX6B, and KU6F who lost their homes In the October fires

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, December 13th 2017 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 is to celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, and any other midwinter holiday you wish. SO attendance is encouraged and there will be prizes!



REDXA (past) President's Commentary



New tower at K6ANP (page 4)

Hello to all of the REDXA members and their families! First of all I want to thank all of the folks who stepped up to assume their roles for 2018. I have to admit I had concerns that we were heading in the wrong direction the latter part of this year. Lucky for us that was not the case. I'm happy we're Sonoma Strong and ready to close the books and start a new year. I remain optimistic that the new year brings joy, happiness and strength to our club. We lost two members and without Steve we've had to figure out how to get our monthly newsletter Sunspots back up and running. Throw in a firestorm for good measure and it complicates matters even



What is it? Answer on Page 4

more. I'm not looking back and I will remain positive that 2018 will bring good times and excitement back into our club. I would like to see REDXA membership grow in number and that we have some great meetings to educate and entertain us. Although I won't be active as your president I will continue to line up presentations and assist anyway I can. Unfortunately I'm still relatively homeless and unable to serve as a good resourceful president. I am working on changing that and perhaps I can step up again. In the meantime I will make sure that we remain solid and keep up the momentum that we had earlier this year.

Lastly, I look forward to a great Christmas party and also working Bouvet and the other spectacular dxpeditions next year. Most likely I will be trying to weasel my way into your ham stations to log on some ATNO's. It will be a couple of years before I get a home station but I guarantee you this next one will be a force to reckon with.

I hope to see a huge gathering at our next meeting and can't wait to see everyone again!

Bill, WX6B

Editor's note: next month we'll be hearing from our new president, Gabe Krupa, KJ6AZU. Please forgive me for any problems with this issue of "Sunspots". I'm just getting used to the job.

Per Field Day Chairman Ron, N6IE:

The 2017 ARRL Field Day results were published in the January 2018 issue of QST. Despite the fact that a bunch of East Coast and Midwest clubs beat us, REDXA/MARS came in #1 in California as well as #1 in the Pacific Division and #1 west of Texas in the 3A class! Our overall standing the 3A class was #20, but still an excellent showing considering the band conditions we have had to contend with.



W6SFK on the ground crew at K6ANP

Answer: a KPA 5000 after a firestorm



Contesting news from K6JS...

But first, congratulations to Jim for his Pacific Division win in the 2016 ARRL Sweepstakes. Jim was first in the Division for Single operator, low power, unlimited CW. Jim says it's his first Contest "lumber". We wish him many more



REDXA "Local" Club competition

Club competition continues to be a popular and fun aspect of contesting. We get a chance to be part of a team while still operating from our home QTH. For many of us, it is motivating to get on the air to make some points for our club or to compete for honors against fellow club members.

A tip of the hat to all the folks that get on the air for CQP, SS and other contests. This seems to be a great way to generate participation amongst our members. The local club category is limited to a 35 mile radius around the center of your club. The center can be moved around to include active members.

The club category for sweepstakes is the combined score of the SSB and CW weekends. Last year we had a nice turnout of REDXA members and ended up in the Medium club category. We had 17 logs submitted worth 975K points. The 17 logs put us in the Medium club category. Guess who won the medium club category..... The Motherlode, with 44 logs and almost 4.3 million points.

I feel the local club sweepstakes gavel is in our reach! We had quite a few big stations that were not active for one or both of the SS weekends. It's something to shoot for... Plus the coveted Sweepstakes gavel is awarded to the winner of each category.

The ARRL requires a list of eligible club members to be uploaded to their website before the start of an Affiliated Club Competition contest. It's very simple to use, all that is required is Call Sign and Grid Square of the member, save as a text file and upload to the site. It automatically calculates the distance from the club center, so you automatically know who is eligible. I've uploaded the whole REDXA roster

Looking ahead at Local club competition opportunities

The ARRL has 9 ARRL sponsored contests that are designated as Affiliated Club Competitions.

- January VHF Contest
- RTTY Roundup (January)
- (February and March) International DX Contest
- June VHF Contest
- (August) 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
- September VHF Contest
- November Sweepstakes CW & SSB
- (December) 160-Meter Contest
- (December) 10-Meter Contest

CONTEST SCORES



(scores are pulled from www.3830scores.com. I know I worked other REDXA members not listed here)

ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB

Multi-Op HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
W6PZ(@K6SRZ)		1338	83	22:55 222,108

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
K6JS	125	55	06:00	13,750

SO ? LP

N6YEU I know I worked him ☐

ARRL Sweepstakes - CW

Multi-Op HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
W6XU (K6JS, N6AD)	922	83	22	153,052

Single Op HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
K6SRZ	955	81	22:37	154,710

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
K6RIM		518	81	83,916
N3RC		331	75	49,650

California QSO Party (CQP)

M/SYL HP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
KU6F	0	98	18	24	7,760

MS HP

W6XU (K6JS)	1433		58		220,478
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(from memory couldn't find it online - It was mixed ssb/cw)

SO(A)Fixed HP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
N6IE Remote	791	725	56	18.3	214,088

SO(A)Fixed LP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
K6CTA		101	0	28	8,484

SOFixed HP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
KG6N		522	371	58 24	133,864
N6TQ		325	0	55 9	53,625
K6ELE		0	360	52 8:20	36,712

SOFixed LP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
K6RIM		821	168	55	153,945
N3RC/6		113	1	30	10,230

In an effort to generate club activity, REDXA has identified the ARRL 10 meter contest as a club focus contest. The past few years the NCCC has declined to participate in the ARRL Sweepstakes club competition, so we have added SS CW & SSB.

The ARRL affiliated Club Competition has 3 categories for competition.

Unlimited is 51 or more logs and 175 mile circle or one ARRL section.

Medium is 50 or fewer logs and 175 mile circle or one ARRL section.

Local is 10 or fewer logs and 35 mile circle.

An overview of contest results for REDXA members. Going all the way back to the **ARRL DX CW Contest**.

In the Single Op Assisted high power category. K6SRZ is #1, K6RIM #2 and K6JS #3 in the competitive San Francisco section. N6YEU is #1 in the single Op low power category for the SF section.

In the **ARRL DX SSB Contest**, K6RIM takes #1 and K6ELE is #2 in the San Francisco section Operating in the single Op assisted high power category.

ARRL November Sweepstakes.

I thought we were entering the Local category. I misunderstood the 10 log limit for the local category. It is a limit of 10 logs for both the SSB and CW contests. Let's say K6JS operates the CW and the SSB weekends of SS, that will count as 2 logs. Hence, the reason were put into the Medium club category with 17 logs. We came in 18th place, close to 1 million points. The Medium club winner the Motherlode DX Contest Club submitted 44 logs and 4.2 million points. The PL259's (Pizza Lovers) won the Local club category. They had 3 CW logs worth 444K points and 7 SSB logs worth 1.3 million and a total of 1.8 million points.

ARRL November Sweepstakes CW

In the Pacific Division N6YEU is 3rd and N3RC is 11th running in the single Op low power category. K6LRN is 7th in the single Op high power category. N6ZFO is 1st in the multi Op high power category. K6SRZ came in 2nd in the single Op unlimited high power category and K6RIM was 18th. In the single Op unlimited low power K6JS came in 1st place. K6CTA in 5th place. N6ZFO and K6JS will receive ARRL plaques for their 1st place scores in the Pacific Division.

In the San Francisco section, Single Op low power category N6YEU is #1, N3RC #2 and KO6PS is 5th.

N6ZFO #1 in Multi high. In the single Op unlimited high power group K6SRZ #1, K6RIM #2, KG6N #3 N6IE #4. In the unlimited low power group, K6JS #1 and K6CTA #2.

Next up was the **ARRL November Sweepstakes SSB**.

In the Pacific Division N6YEU is 3rd and K6TER is 8th running in the single Op low power category. KU6F came in 4th, while K6LRN and N6ZFO came in 11th and 13th in the single Op high power group. K6MM is 6th in the Multi High category. W6PZ(K6SRZ) is 5th with K6RIM 16th and KG6N 17th.

In the San Francisco section, Single Op low power category N6YEU is #1 and K6TER #2. In the single Op high power category, KU6F is #1, and N6ZFO #2. In the single Op high powered unlimited group W6PZ(K6SRZ) is #1, K6RIM #2, KG6N #3 and K6JS #4. K6CTA is #1 in the single Op low power unlimited category.

REDXA entered the **ARRL 10 Meter contest** in the Local club category

In the Pacific Division, single Op CW only category K6LRN and K6JS came in 3rd and 4th. WW6D, W6SFK came in 11th and 13th. In the Single Op Unlimited Mixed Mode category K6SRZ is #1, K6MM #3, KG6N is 8th and K6CTA 16th.

Narrowing it down from the Pacific division to the San Francisco section. In the Single Op CW Only - HP, K6JS is #1 and W6SFK #2. In the Single Op CW Only - LP, WW6D is #1. In the Single Op Unlimited Mixed Mode - HP K6SRZ is #1 and KG6N #2. K6CTA is #1 in the Single Op Unlimited Phone Only - LP category. Old friend and ex-REDXA member AI6II takes #1 in the Single Op Unlimited CW Only - HP category.

Upcoming Contests

CQ WW CW

Nov 25 0000Z to Nov 26 2400Z.

Thanksgiving time again! Pass the turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole and save room for dessert. Pumpkin pie and a big ole weekend of CQWW CW!
It's possible this contest might already be "in the log" by the time you receive this newsletter. It's a fun contest with excellent world-wide participation. At this point in the sunspot cycle you can look to the low bands to work new ones or fill some slots. You might want to try Saturday and Sunday when the pile-ups are smaller and CW speeds maybe a little slower. The exchange is 5nn 3 for us (RST and CQ Zone)

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Dec 1 200Z to Dec 3 1600z

Here's one for the 160M enthusiasts or for someone looking to some new State/Country slots.

10-Meter Contest

Dec 9 0000z to Dec 10 2400z

Always the second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. This is the 45th running of the ARRL 10 meter contest. Several different categories to enter.

REDXA has entered the 10 meter contest as a local club several times in the past. We usually compete in the local club category and last year REDXA came in 5th place world-wide with only 4 logs. In 2015 REDXA came in 2nd place in the world with 10 logs worth 1.6 million points. We were only 236k points behind first place Central Virginia Contest club who has won this category 4 of the last 5 years.

The downslide of Cycle 24 will have an impact on this one, gone are the West Coast openings to EU and we can only hope for some Asian and South American openings. Although ten can always surprise us, last year many of us were called by V51YJ, FW5JJ or D44BS out of the blue, which is good DX on any day. With the solar flux in the 70's this year, compared to the 80's last year and 110 in 2015, search out other propagation modes other than traditional F2-layer ionosphere refraction. Look for backscatter, meteor scatter, trans-equatorial, and sporadic E openings There are several categories to choose from to suit your needs and it's pretty much a daytime contest, which leaves the evenings open for other activities.

RTTY Roundup

Jan 6 1800z to Jan 7 2400zRTTY Roundup

First full weekend of January, but never on January 1. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2400 UTC Sunday (**January 6-7, 2018**).

This one is for the diddlers out there. We have several members who participate in this one; N6IE, K6RIM, N6GY, N6ZFO, K6ELE, N6OJ and K6CTA. We almost have our team of ten operators right there. The NCCC usually has identified this as a focus contest, which means local clubs usually contribute their points to NCCC.

NAQP CW

Jan 13 1800z to Jan 14 0559z

ARRL International DX Contest

CW: Third full weekend in February (**February 17-18, 2018**).

Phone: First full weekend in March (**March 3-4, 2018**).

Per Field Day Chairman Ron, N6IE:

The 2017 ARRL Field Day results were published today in the on-line edition of QST. Despite the fact that a bunch of East Coast and Midwest clubs beat us, REDXA/MARS came in #1 in California as well as #1 in the Pacific Division and #1 west of Texas in the 3A class! Our overall standing the 3A class was #20, but still an excellent showing considering the band conditions we have had to contend with.



Board Meeting and November Meeting Minutes - REDXA

Board Meeting

A Special Board of Directors Meeting (to which all members were invited) was held beginning at approximately 5:30 PM, prior to the regular meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017. The main order of business was to discuss elections, holiday party, programming and other issues of importance to REDXA.

Candidates for 2018 officers and directors:

President: Gabe, KJ6AZU

VP: Jim, K6JS

Secretary: Saraj, KU6F and Doug, WW6D (co-secretaries)

Treasurer: Bill, W6IYS

Director: Josh, W6XU

Director: Alan, K6SRZ

Director: Bill, WX6B (Past President)

Alan, K6SRZ volunteered to be Sunspots Editor.

Gabe, KJ6AZU and Jim, K6JS agreed to organize the holiday party, including solicitation of HRO gift certificates.

Programming during 2018 will be arranged by a committee of members including Al, K6RIM.

Respectfully submitted, Al, K6RIM, Interim Secretary

Regular November Meeting

V.P. Gabe, KJ6AZU, called the November meeting at the Boulevard Café to order at 7 PM. In attendance were approximately 32 members, plus the guest speaker Ian Parker, W6TCP.

Speaker Ian Parker, W6TCP, was introduced by V.P. Gabe. Ian presented WSPR Radio (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter). His presentation included photos of large and impressive antennas and towers and various types of equipment used for WSPR.

An election of officers and directors for 2018 was held.

Elected were:

President: Gabe, KJ6AZU

VP: Jim, K6JS

Secretary: Saraj, KU6F and Doug, WW6D (co-secretaries)

Treasurer: Bill, W6IYS

Director: Josh, W6XU

Director: Alan, K6SRZ

Director: Bill, WX6B (Past President)

Doug, WW6D, nominated Grant Pritchard, KK6JJ of Novato for membership in REDXA and Grant was unanimously elected to membership.

Treasurer Bill, W6IYS gave a Treasurer's Report. REDXA is \$2,883.00 in the black.

The Treasurer's Report and Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Al, K6RIM

Treasurer's Report For November

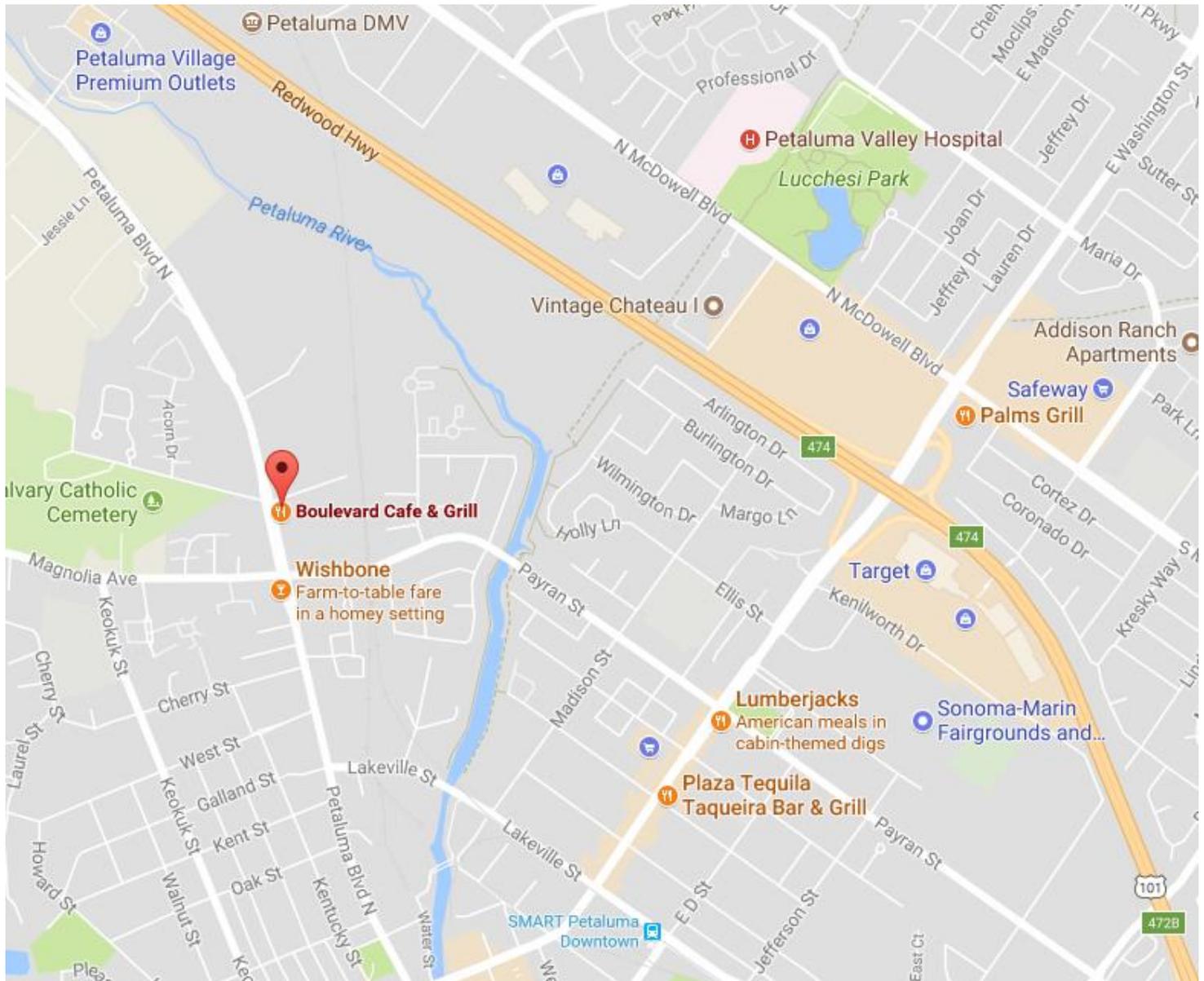


Bal. Brt. Fwd.	11/1/2017		<u>\$2,883.66</u>
Receipts			
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$112.00	
	Dues	\$225.00	
	Reimbursement from MARS for shared 2017 Field Day costs	<u>\$ 132.19</u>	
	Total Receipts	469.19	<u>\$469.19</u>
Disbursements			
	Speakers Dinner	\$20.00	
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$20.00</u>
Cash Flow		\$449.19	\$449.19
Balance 11/30/2017			<u>\$3,352.85</u>



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. Visitors are welcome.

Used Ham Gear for Sale

Proceeds Go to REDXA

Rick, N6GY, is offering a substantial number of used “Ham Gear” items for sale. The items come from his own shack and that of his father’s . Rick is generously donating the proceeds to REDXA as a gift. The list below gives a short description of the items and an asking price—ALL PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE. The gear is available for inspection by contacting Gary, N2BBB, in Santa Rosa. He can be reached at 707-364-3844. REDXA members have “first call” --after 30 days unsold items will go to e-BAY.

1. KENWOOD TS-570S transceiver (\$450)
2. YAESU 101EX with SP101 Speaker and TUG8 Microphone stand and “lollipop” mike (\$300)
3. HEATHKIT 10-4204 Oscilloscope (\$40)
4. DIGITAL COMMUNICATION INC. 2M 4 POLE Bandpass Filter, Model DCI-146-4H ((\$200)
5. Pace 5804A Power supply (\$25)
- 6 ASTRON RS-20A 20A Power Supply(\$50)
- 7 MFJ Adjustable Regulated 35A Power Supply Model 4035V + manual (\$75)
8. MFJ Deluxe Versatuner II 949E + manual (\$70)
- 9 MFJ Dummy Load MFJ-260 (40)
- 10 MIDLAND 23-136 Power/SWR meter ((\$30)
11. CALRAD 65-287 Power/SWR meter (\$30)
- 12 CHANNEL MASTER 9510A Rotater Head (\$25)
- 13 CHANNEL MASTER ROTOR (Ruusty condx) (\$20)
14. MISC.,
 - a. various coils for Hustler HF mobile antenna
 - b.”Black Box” labeled “LSET-1”
 - c. Radio Shack Dual chain antenna bumper mount 21-910 (\$15)
 - d. Realistic SP-140 Communications speaker (5\$)
 - e. Motorola TU-32-4-A Communications Speaker (no plug) (\$5)
 - f. several unknown communication speakers
 - g. PROTAX 6 position Coax Switch (no knob) (\$10)
 - h. Waters 6 position Coax Switch (\$10)

HAM RADIO OUTLET

14 STORE BUYING POWER!

ICOM



IC-7600 | All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-7200 | HF Transceiver

- 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP • AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control



IC-7100 | All Mode Transceiver

- HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions



ID-5100A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

- Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch • FM Analog/DV Repeater List Function

ID-51A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible



TH-F6A | 2M/220/440

- Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories • Li-Ion Battery

KENWOOD



TS-590SG | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- Equipped with 500 Hz/2.7 kHz roofing filter as standard • ALC derived from TS-990S eliminating spike issues • Antenna output function (shared with DRV connector) • CW - morse code decoder function



TM-D710G | 2M/440 Dualband

- V+V/V+U/U+U operation • Built-in GPS • Built-in TNC for APRS & DX-Cluster operation • 50W 2M & UHF • 1,000 memories • Dual receive • Green or amber backlight colors • Latest APRS firmware w/new features • Sky Command II remote functions



TM-V71A | 2M/440 Dualband

- High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops • Invertible front panel • Choice of green/amber for LCD panel • 104 code digital code squelch



TM-281A | 2 Mtr Mobile

- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



FT-60R | 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

YAESU
The radio



FT-991 | HF/50MHz/2M/440 Transceiver

- 160 M-440MHz - SSB/CW/FM/C4FM Digital/AM/RTTY/PSK • 100 W (2M/440: 50 Watts) • 3.5" TFT full-color touch panel operation • High speed spectrum scope • Roofing filters: 3kHz & 15kHz • 32-bit high speed floating point IF DSP



FTDX1200 | 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- Triple Conversion Receiver With 32-bit Floating Point DSP • 40 MHz 1st IF with selectable 3 kHz, 6kHz & 15 kHz Roofing Filters • Optional FFT-1 Supports AF-FFT Scope, RTTY/PSK31 Encode/Decode, CW Decode/Auto Zero-In • Full Color 4.3" TFT Display



FT-450D | A100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in • 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FTM-400DR | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



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