

SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

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This edition of “Sunspots” marks a change in how REDXA will be going forth for the time being. Sunspots is now a quarterly publication. Monthly editions were too often starved for contributions. Should the volume of REDXA related material increase, it will be a simple matter of reverting to a monthly newsletter.

With declining attendance at our evening dinner sessions, it’s not feasible for our host—the Boulevard Café—to remain open in the evening. Fortunately, Len, K6ANP, has arranged for monthly breakfast gatherings at Marvin’s in Cotati and monthly ZOOM sessions allow us to have presentations from outside the club. Details are found on the REDXA Web site.

2023 marks our first year going forth without the presence of one of our founders, Chuck Ternes, N6OJ.

This issue is dedicated to Chuck’s memory. If, in the future, you have more to share with your fellow REDXA members, please send them to me.

The appearance of two rare DXCC counters—Crozet and Bouvet—has energized several of our members who are closing in #1 DXCC status. For now, the center is holding and COVID restrictions are easing. Lets all continue to come together and make REDXA strong.

—ed.

CHARLES TERNES OBITUARY

Charles "Chuck" Ternes

May 21, 1940 - December 13, 2022

Chuck, 82, died peacefully after a long illness. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Beverly, and his daughters Debbie and Tracy Zezza (Paul). Chuck had five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Chuck was a lifelong resident of Petaluma and successful businessman who owned and operated Ternes Office Equipment in Petaluma for many years.

Chuck was an avid ham radio operator. He was a founding member of the Redwood Empire DX Association, past director of the Northern CA DX Foundation and served on the board. He volunteered with the Office of Emergency Services when needed. He also enjoyed square dancing, golfing and traveling with his wife.

Chuck had a big heart, many friends everywhere and often shared about his adventures on the Petaluma River and his family cabin in Lake County. He loved deer hunting, duck hunting and fishing.





Elmer Award

This award is presented to

Chuck Ternes, N6OJ

*in recognition for providing
unselfish and benevolent assistance
to the novice radio operator.*

*By carrying on the time-honored tradition in
Amateur Radio of
sharing knowledge and providing
guidance and support,
you are ensuring that others may experience
the wonder, excitement and friendship of Amateur Radio.*

This expression of gratitude is presented by

Rick Sealock, N6RXA

November 23, 2010

Date

One of the finest ways to be remembered as a ham: a skilled operator who was always ready and willing to help another operator.

Fred, N6YEU writes:

I will remember Chuck as just a super nice guy. He was always willing to help in any way with those interested in ham radio. I sought his advice several times and he never disappointed. His being a mentor to so many new (and old) hams will surely be part of his legacy. He truly will be missed.

Fred- N6YEU

Field Day 2009

LTR Bruce Butler (SK) Doug WW6D Chuck, N6OJ (SK)



If there's Ham Radio up in Heaven, Bruce and Chuck are sure to be sharing the operating position

From Ron, N6IE

Here are a couple of N6OJ's certificates that I saved, a few of which referenced current and SK REDXA members. Chuck was always a great salesman for the club and for ham radio in general and he never missed an opportunity to promote both. I first met Chuck in 1985 on the 146.91 local Petaluma repeater and he invited me to join the next REDXA meeting that was, in those day, held at Sonoma Joe's near Old Redwood Highway and 101. I was impressed with the amazing energy of the very talented local hams and decided REDXA was the club for me! Previous clubs I had belonged to always seemed to get bogged down in boring procedural matters, but Chuck and gang were all about having fun and enjoying the comradery of fellow DX'ers and contesters. Chuck was a founder and the most enthusiastic member of the club, served as president several times and was a vigorous Field Day organizer. His memory will always be with us...rest in peace, OM.



Former meeting venue for REDXA. This was back when restaurants still gave away matchbooks



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

QRPDXCC
This Certifies that

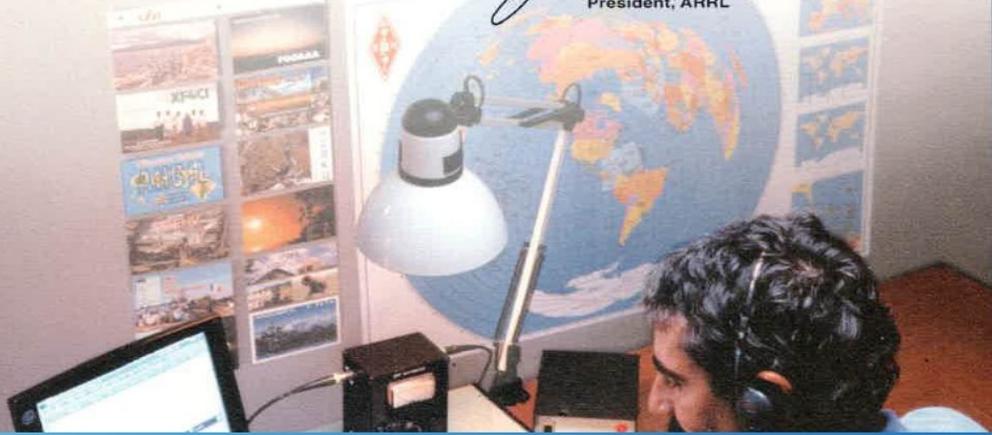
Chuck Ternes, N6OJ

Has this day submitted an application showing contacts with at least 100 different locations on the **ARRL DXCC** List and has certified that this has been accomplished using a transmitter power of five watts or less. In the proud tradition of **DXCC**, this award is issued in recognition of this outstanding achievement.

April, 2004

Newington, Connecticut

Jeri Heyril
President, ARRL



100 DXCC Counters from Chuck's QTH on Cherry Street.

It was a bittersweet day not that long ago when REDXA members and a heavy duty crane operation turned out to bring down Chuck's beams and towers

REDXA Marathon

Number of DXCC worked in current calendar year

From Clublog (2/26/23)

Rank	Callsign	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ☑	Slots	Range
1	W6GMP	0	19	22	48	74	34	31	49	74	0	150	351	14 yrs
2	K6RIM	0	0	66	4	85	5	103	12	93	2	122	370	65 yrs
3	K6MM	0	7	27	4	57	8	70	15	85	4	113	277	64 yrs
4	W6DR+2 ☑	11	3	30	35	13	31	21	51	42	1	108	238	53 yrs
5	N3RC	2	12	53	17	45	6	63	17	64	0	100	279	66 yrs
6	K6JS+2	0	0	10	2	8	1	4	7	63	0	74	95	49 yrs
7	WX6B+2	0	1	1	12	46	3	11	12	17	1	69	104	15 yrs
8	K6VXI ☑	0	0	0	0	4	11	9	17	45	0	58	86	12 yrs
9	N6IE+1	3	8	16	4	23	1	25	5	12	0	57	97	45 yrs
10	N6AD	0	4	18	8	16	4	5	1	17	0	45	73	27 yrs
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K6CTA	0	0	8	2	8	3	28	4	25	0	40	78	25 yrs
12	W6WF+2	0	1	0	3	9	8	9	9	22	1	39	62	44 yrs

REDXA All-Time DXCC Worked Statistics

From ClubLog (2/26/23)

Rank	Callsign	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ☑	Slots	Range
1	K6RIM	53	195	321	323	339	336	334	310	304	18	340	2533	65 yrs
2	N6IE+1	117	201	291	301	334	313	309	253	240	19	339	2378	45 yrs
3	K6ANP ☑	156	226	297	226	334	228	296	134	242	18	339	2157	77 yrs
4	W6WF+2	17	62	101	93	275	196	221	129	125	4	337	1223	44 yrs
5	N6YEU	4	73	208	110	327	239	290	199	236	1	335	1687	32 yrs
6	N3RC	153	222	293	290	323	298	317	231	272	43	334	2442	66 yrs
7	K6MM	93	145	233	205	323	267	293	237	246	14	334	2056	64 yrs
8	W6DR+2 ☑	137	164	261	235	307	252	275	198	222	30	332	2081	53 yrs
9	WX6B+2	5	52	173	75	303	232	248	163	203	13	319	1467	15 yrs
10	W6GMP	8	94	203	194	297	280	272	223	220	5	318	1796	14 yrs
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K6JS+2	14	108	212	103	234	162	213	116	171	11	298	1344	17 yrs
12	K6CTA	47	50	149	145	211	172	221	95	159	1	298	1250	25 yrs
13	N6AD	4	27	216	111	257	168	208	90	147	6	291	1234	27 yrs
14	K6VXI ☑	0	0	12	0	204	67	81	28	86	2	211	480	12 yrs
15	AA0BV	1	9	25	32	28	37	35	6	7	3	72	183	5 yrs

REDXA All-Time DXCC Worked Statistics

From ClubLog (2/26/23)

ARRLDX CW

Date/Time Call Class Power Score
2/20/2023 16:33 N6ZFO SOUAB HP 1,254,144
2/20/2023 00:22 K6RIM SOUAB HP 861,120
2/20/2023 21:41 K6ANP SOUAB HP 785,004
2/20/2023 00:29 N6IE SOUAB HP 610,944
2/20/2023 01:06 N3RC SOUAB HP 353,829
2/20/2023 02:56 K6MM SOUAB HP 276,570
2/19/2023 23:04 N6TQ SOAB HP 115,182
2/20/2023 02:26 N6YEU SOAB LP 101,442
2/20/2023 16:33 K6JS SOUSB10 QRP 46,350
BC QSO
2/6/2023 00:07 N6TQ Single OpCWHP 15,460

CQ160 CW

1/29/2023 17:03 K6SRZ Single Op AssistedHP 38,696
1/29/2023 22:20 W6DR Single Op AssistedHP 34,102
1/30/2023 05:37 N6TQ Single Op HP 22,001
1/29/2023 16:04 N6IE Single Op AssistedHP 20,910

NA Sprint CW

2/5/2023 05:57 N6ZFO Single Op HP 11,960
2/10/2023 19:23 K6MM Single Op HP 2,590

NAQP CW

1/15/2023 06:15 N6ZFO Single Op AssistedLP 200,448
1/16/2023 07:52 K6MM Single Op AssistedLP 50,677
1/15/2023 03:26 K6RIM Single Op AssistedLP 43,250
1/15/2023 06:44 N3RC Single Op LP 30,444
1/15/2023 16:20 N6YEU Single Op LP 3,612
1/16/2023 20:11 K6CTA Single Op AssistedLP 1,518

NAQP SSB

1 22/2023 06:11 N6ZFO Single Op AssistedLP 150,147
1/22/2023 17:32 N6YEU Single Op LP 36,520
1/22/2023 19:05 K6MM Single Op AssistedLP 26,208
1/22/2023 17:15 K6ELE Single Op LP 6,900

NCCC Sprint

12/30/2022 04:38 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,064
1/8/2023 19:17 N6ZFO Single Op LP 624
1/13/2023 08:53 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,107
1/20/2023 03:09 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,496
1/27/2023 04:28 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,394
NCCC Sprnt Ladder2/3/2023 03:35 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,530
2/10/2023 03:09 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,568

REDXA members' contest scores as compiled by Jim Selmi, K6JS.

Nice to see so much club activity during the ARRL DX CW Contest.

More scores are listed on the following page

Contest Scores (cont.)

2/17/2023 03:09 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,764
2/24/2023 05:09 N6ZFO Single Op LP 1,426

RAC Winter

12/28/2022 07:27 K6MM Single Op Assisted HP 2,100

RTTY Roundup

1/9/2023 03:59 N6ZFO SO Unlimited HP 80,444
1/9/2023 01:04 N6IE SO Unlimited HP 78,234
1/9/2023 00:15 N3RC Single Op HP 47,056
1/9/2023 01:06 K6SRZ Single Op HP 32,844
1/8/2023 20:49 K6MM SO Unlimited HP 21,105
1/8/2023 23:43 K6ELE Single Op HP 11,033
1/9/2023 05:01 K6CTA SO Unlimited LP 2,160

RTTY WPX

2/13/2023 00:24 N6ZFO SOAB TB-Wires HP 1,086,606
2/13/2023 00:26 WQ6K(@N6IE)SOAB HP 700,220
2/13/2023 06:29 W6DR SOAB HP 23,184
2/13/2023 04:28 AK6M(@K6MM)SOAB TB-Wires HP 18,988
2/11/2023 07:17 N3RC SOSB/40 HP 168
TBDC
12/28/2022 07:28 K6MM Single Op HP 82

Most Recent Treasurer's Report

From N6YEU

Balance as of December 31;2022: \$2,549.51

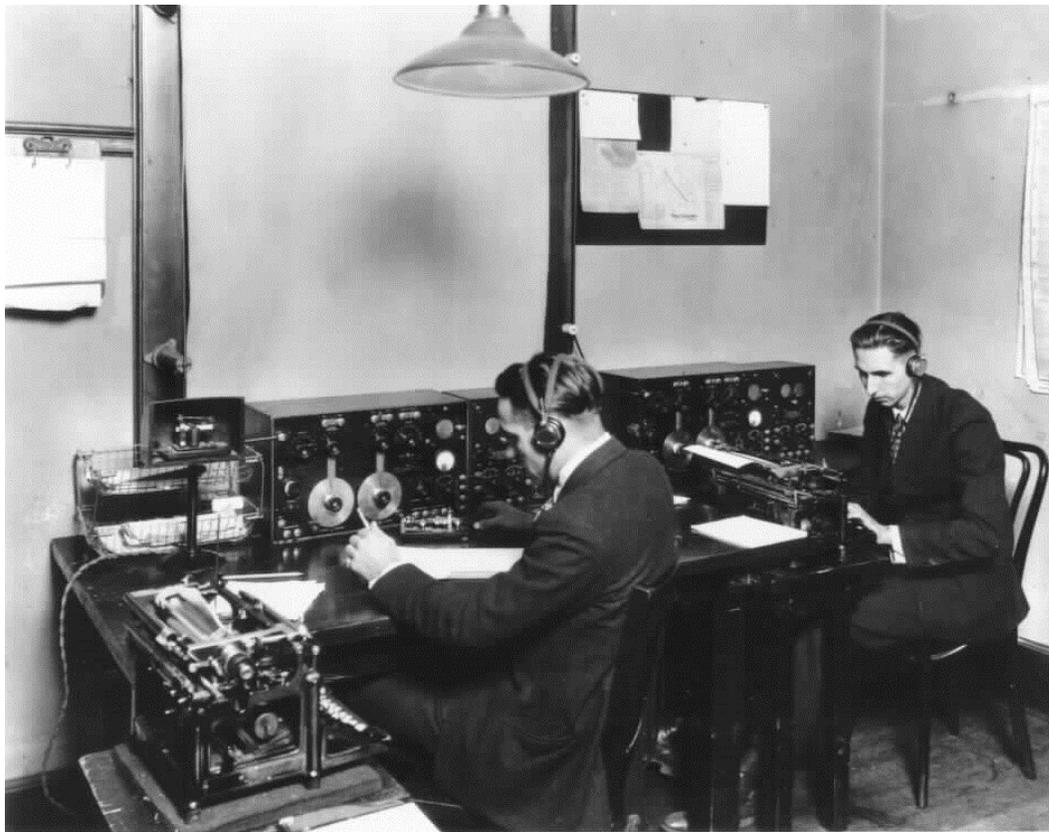
Income from dues etc.: \$347.97

Outgo fir donations and Zoom renewal:

Balance as of January 31,2023: \$2,537.28

Submitted by,

Fred-N6YEU , REDXA Treasurer



Later to become KPH, this is the RCA station at Marshall (Marconi)

SECRET RADIO AERIALS



Thinking about downsizing or maybe having problems with an HOA? Here are some suggestions from 1922. All of these aerials were meant for receiving only.

The Metamorphosis of a Little Pistol Station

Ed Schuller - K6CTA

When I lived in Mill Valley, my QTH was on a Ridgeline overlooking SF Bay. I had a commanding view, and a clear shot over either SF Bay or the Pacific to most of the world. Coupled with an 8 element beam and 1500 watts, it wasn't too hard to work k most anything I heard. Of course, there were times I had to fight through the pileups, but I knew I would eventually get through (which I did more times than not).

When I moved to San Rafael, my life (personally and radio-wise) changed dramatically. Living in a HOA environment, and a townhouse to boot, my station was now operating under some severe restraints. Gone was the beam; the amp disappeared, too. I now was reduced to running barefoot to a ground mounted vertical dipole on 20-10, and an end-fed long wire strung in the garage attic. My radio was still my trusty K3/P3 combo. After doing some research, I chose to use a N6BT Bravo-5A remote tuned vertical; it had a fairly small footprint and was not too tall - HOA friendly! The antenna has no traps, and is tuned for each band by using a switch box at the operating position. It's a pretty efficient antenna (~95%). In order to be able to traverse the width of most of the frequencies it operates, I use an antenna tuner. At first, I was happy to work whatever I could. But over time, I became frustrated and felt that I needed to try to make the station more efficient and maximize my ability to work DX. The first thing I did was order a new Elecraft K4 to replace my 14 year old K3. It took about 6 months to arrive, but once it did I realized what an improvement it was. My next step was to replace the antenna tuner. I had a MFJ 998 Auto tuner (that I had mainly used in MV on the lower bands with a 43' vertical). While it worked fine, it always needed to be touched up when changing bands or making larger in-band excursions. I always had the notion that it wasn't overly efficient, but it had served me well. For its replacement, I chose the Elecraft KAT500. This is a great tuner that interfaces with the K3 (something the 998 didn't do). Plus, it has multiple in band memories - every 20 kHz or so. This tracks the K4; when I move frequency, the tuner will automatically retunes to the stored setting once I hit the next 20 kHz segment.

The final change was to get rid of the manual switch for the Bravo 5A. I found a Top Ten Devices Band Aide band decoder, and wired it up to switch the relays in the antenna as I changed bands on the K4. The KAT500, Band Decoder and my microHam MK-II are connected to the K4 through one of N6TV's Y-Boxes; everything tracks the K4 with a minimum of cabling and hassle. So now I had a station that functioned at top efficiency - all I have to do is turn on the K4 and everything else is automatic. Plus, I feel that I've maximized the efficiency of my station.

Of course, the recent uptick in propagation helps (quite a bit!), but to me, the proof of the updates is that I was able to work both the 3Y0J operation and also FT8WW. The K4 has been a wonderful addition; in my opinion it runs rings around my old K3 (which was a great radio - it got me to 338 confirmed on the Honor Roll - along with the amp). But maximizing the functionality of the station has been a big boon to my operating pleasure and performance.



The most excellent little pistol station at K6CTA

N6YEU's travels

On Christmas day Dec.25 having not received an Elecraft KPA 500 from Santa I decided to drown my sorrows by making a POTA activation.

I drove out to the coast and up to Fort Ross and found a nice spot in the park across Highway One from the main fort I operated from a spot about a quarter mile up the hill in an abandoned apple orchard which, convenient;y , had a few picnic tables.

I used my usual IC 7300 and linked dipole. I used a Bioenno 15 ah LiFePO4 battery and ran the rig at 50 watts. I operated casually for 2.5 hours 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters making 95 CW and 7 SSB contacts with 32 states and provinces.

The weather was perfect at first but cooled down rapidly before I went QRT.

From October 14 to October 20,2022 I operated portable from Boise National Forest in Idaho joining some deer hunter friends on their annual hunt

I operated some each day using my IC 7300 and multi band linked dipole. I operated 100% SSB due to having forgot to bring the correct adapter so I could plug in my key! I ended up with 912 qsos mostly on 20 meters but a few on 40 and 17 also. I worked 47 states (missed HI, MT and UT) plus several provinces. A couple of times I was running a pileup of more than QSOs/hour. **Great Fun!**



Fort Ross
Selfie





N6YEU/IDAHO



WX6B has worked TN8K on 33 out of 45 band slots

Propagation from [UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \(Z3\) / USA W6 / STATE:CA / ZONE: 3 / Geo Propagation Map](#)

Leaderboard for zone 3 / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Z3) / NA or Club: REDXA - Redwood Empire DX Association

	13cm	6m	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	60m	80m	160m
SSB	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
CW	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FT8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FT4	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FM			✓									
RTTY							✓	✓				

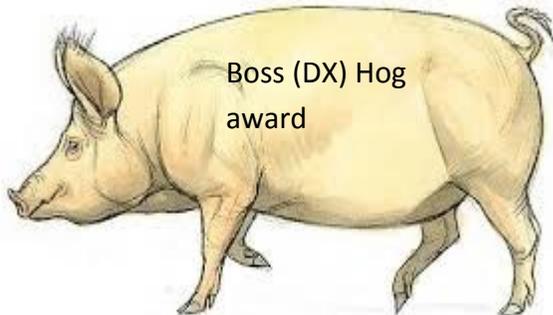
ap [Statistics](#) [Leaderboards](#) [Spots](#) [Geo Propagation](#) [Soapbox](#)

N6IE has worked TN8K on 34 out of 46 band slots

[Propagation from UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \(Z3\) / USA W6 / STATE:CA / ZONE: 3 / Geo Propagation Map](#)

Leaderboard for zone 3 / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Z3) / NA or Club: REDXA - Redwood Empire DX Association

	13cm	6m	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	60m	80m	160m
SSB	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
CW	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FT8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FT4	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DATA	✓											
FM			✓									
RTTY							✓	✓				



Boss (DX) Hog award

Quite an achievement Ron and Bill. By a factor of a single 30 M RTTY QSO, N6IE takes the first annual Boss (DX) Hog award..

Another notable achievement was Roger's (N3RC) 160 M QSO with CN3K