

SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

A DX and Contest-oriented Amateur Radio Club serving the California coast north of the Golden Gate Bridge

Volume 40

Number 7

July 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, July 18th 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: A Wire in the Air—What Matters Most
Kristen McIntyre, K6WX

You don't want to miss this!



REDXA President's Commentary

REDXA is honored by a visit from Kristen McIntyre, W6WX, who writes:

The magic of radio happens when we couple RF into the fabric of spacetime. We do that with an antenna. These devices are simultaneously simple and complex. It's easy to get lost in the theory or fooled by the latest anecdote. Let's look at what's important in antenna choice and design. There are things that matter more than others, and it's never perfect. And a bit of theory will guide us. Radiation resistance, loss, pattern gain, terrain, polarization, coupling, loading - they all play a role. Join me

to find out what happens and what matters when we put a wire in the air.

And here's her ham radio biography:

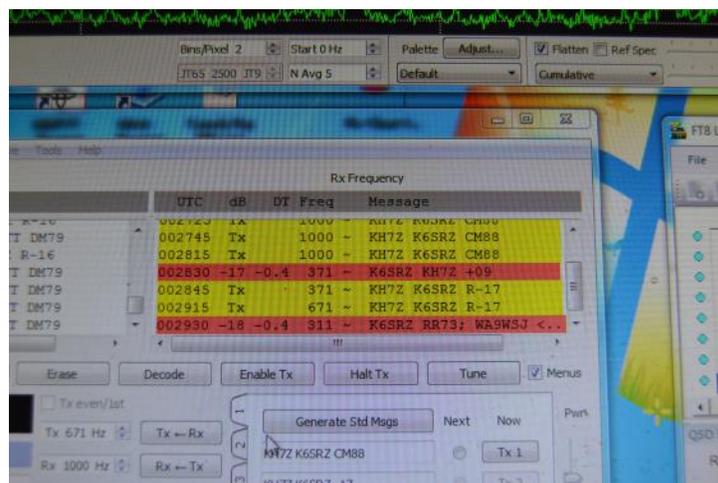
Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, has been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. She started in Amateur Radio in 1979 getting her ticket while at MIT. Kristen has worked in many diverse areas from analog circuit design to image processing to starting and running an ISP. She is currently working at Apple in Core Networking, and spent many years at Sun Microsystems Laboratories where she was researching robustness and emergent properties of large distributed computer systems. She is a long time denizen of Silicon Valley and has worked at or consulted for many of the usual suspects. Kristen is an active ham and loves to chase DX on HF with her Elecraft K2 which she built while visiting her mother in Florida. She is ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director, president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc., the Q&A columnist for Nuts and Volts magazine, and is active in many local clubs. Kristen was recently inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

REDXA members, you do not want to miss this one and tell a friend!

Thanks for Ron, N6IE's, excellent work in coordinating this year's REDXA/MARS Field Day operation from the Marin Rod and Gun Club site. Ron writes:

There is no more fun in the ham radio hobby than ARRL Field Day! It's as true today as it was in 1933 when Field Day first began. Field Day is our annual opportunity to sharpen our skills in emergency operations, including setting up the equipment, sending and receiving messages, training new operators and practicing the kind of teamwork that will benefit our communities 'when all else fails'.

This year's Field Day took on a special meaning for us here in the North Bay in light of the disastrous fires that hit Sonoma and Napa counties this past October that resulted in some 141 fatalities and the loss of 5,300 homes. We should be ever mindful that catastrophes can hit at any time, when we least expect.



KH1/KH7Z, the Baker Island DXpedition was packing up and getting ready to leave the island while this issue of "Sunspots" was going to bed. The expedition was remarkable for its use of the FT8 Mode. There were more than 13 thousand FT8 QSOs. Above is a screen shot of an FT8 QSO. FT8 seems to be part of the future of DXing so it's time, if you haven't already done so, to get familiar with the mode. Here's an excerpt from the expedition blog.

Happy 4th of July America from Baker Island where we will celebrate with hot dogs and burgers.

After 9 days on Baker it's time to think about going home.

We've put about 60,000 QSOs in the log. By sticking to our commitment to keep stations on 20 meters, we have over 16,000 unique calls in the log. Many have ATNOs. Despite it over 1200 top band European stations on the log. And the use of many hams with mod-us.





This year, we were fortunate to return to the Marin Rod & Gun Clubs facilities that we had used for many years up until 2015 and while much of the Bay Area sweltered in the heat, our bayside location had perfect weather to match the spectacular views.

A lot of things went well for us this year, including that fact that all six of the antennas we set up worked very well with typical SWR's less than 1.5:1 on all bands...that's a first! This was the first time from the MR&GC location that we used K3's on both the CW and Phone stations and we had virtually no cross-station interference when operating on 20 and 15 meters at the same time, and only minimal interference when both stations were on 40 meters.

Band conditions were generally as poor as they have been most of the past couple of years, although we were able to make a few dozen contacts on 15 meters. 40 was surprisingly good and helped score a lot of points. We were also surprised to see the return of Cal the chef who came on Sunday morning and made a great breakfast for the crew. He promised to join us for next year's event and we're all looking forward to that!

On the down side, we had the lowest turnout of members that I can remember, especially during setup on Friday and most of Saturday. Since I was never able to entice anyone to volunteer for the GOTA Station Manager, we ran 3A without GOTA, which cost us points. In past years, our generator was coordinated by Phil, K6PHD, but due to his recent passing, we had to improvise to get the equipment from the MARS clubhouse to the site and back again. To add to the problems, I would have ordinarily stayed all of Saturday and Sunday, but I was sidelined from early Saturday until around 5:45 am on Sunday due to a problem with irritation in my eyes.

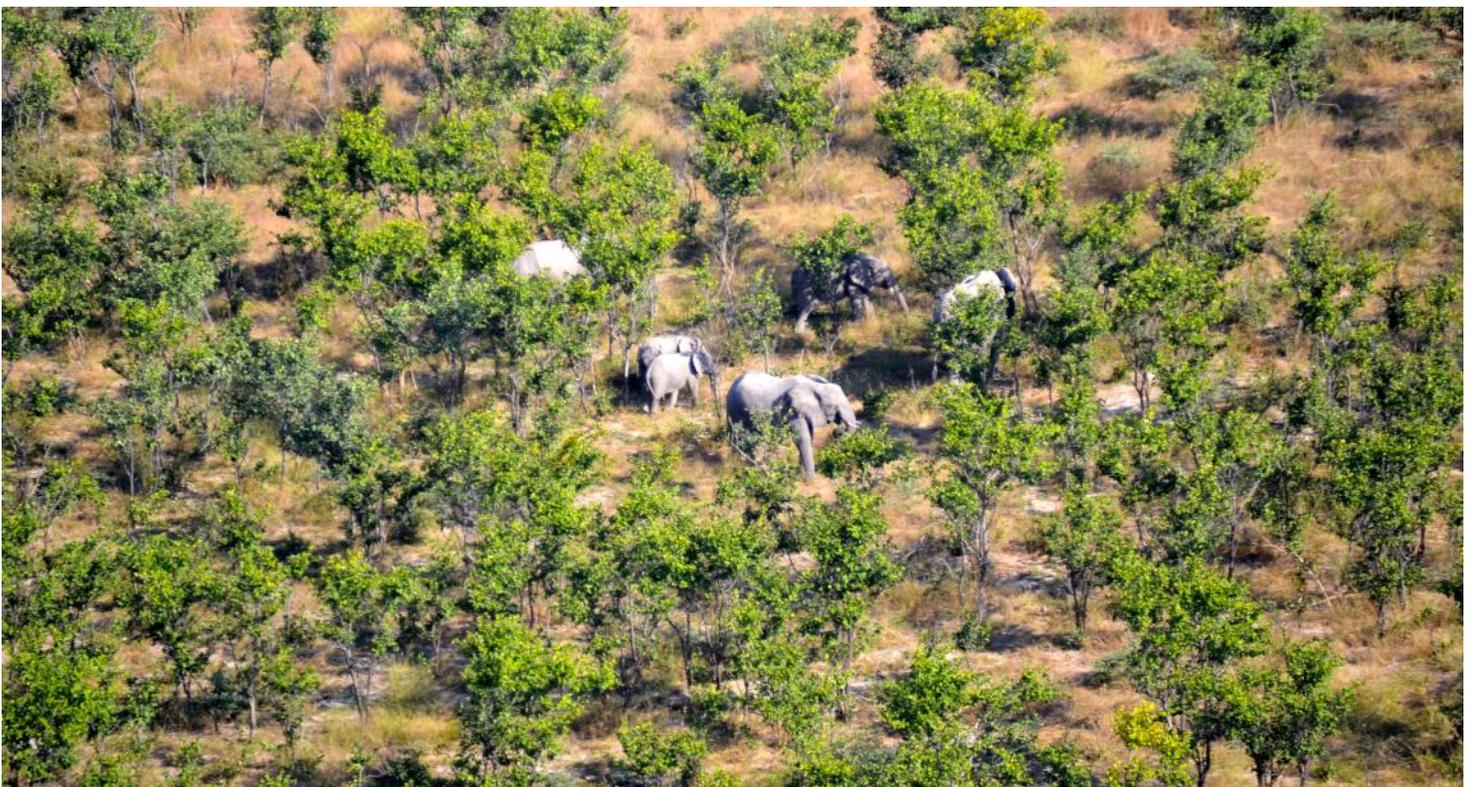
Despite the challenge, Field Day happened, and we had a final score of 6,442, which is down a fair amount from last year, but under the circumstances, not bad. Next year, I want to get more people involved, both operators and managers and return our participation numbers to what they were during our peak years. I'll have a PowerPoint presentation on the wrap-up at our next meeting and I hope to see you all there! My personal thanks to everyone who came out and supported our operation this year.





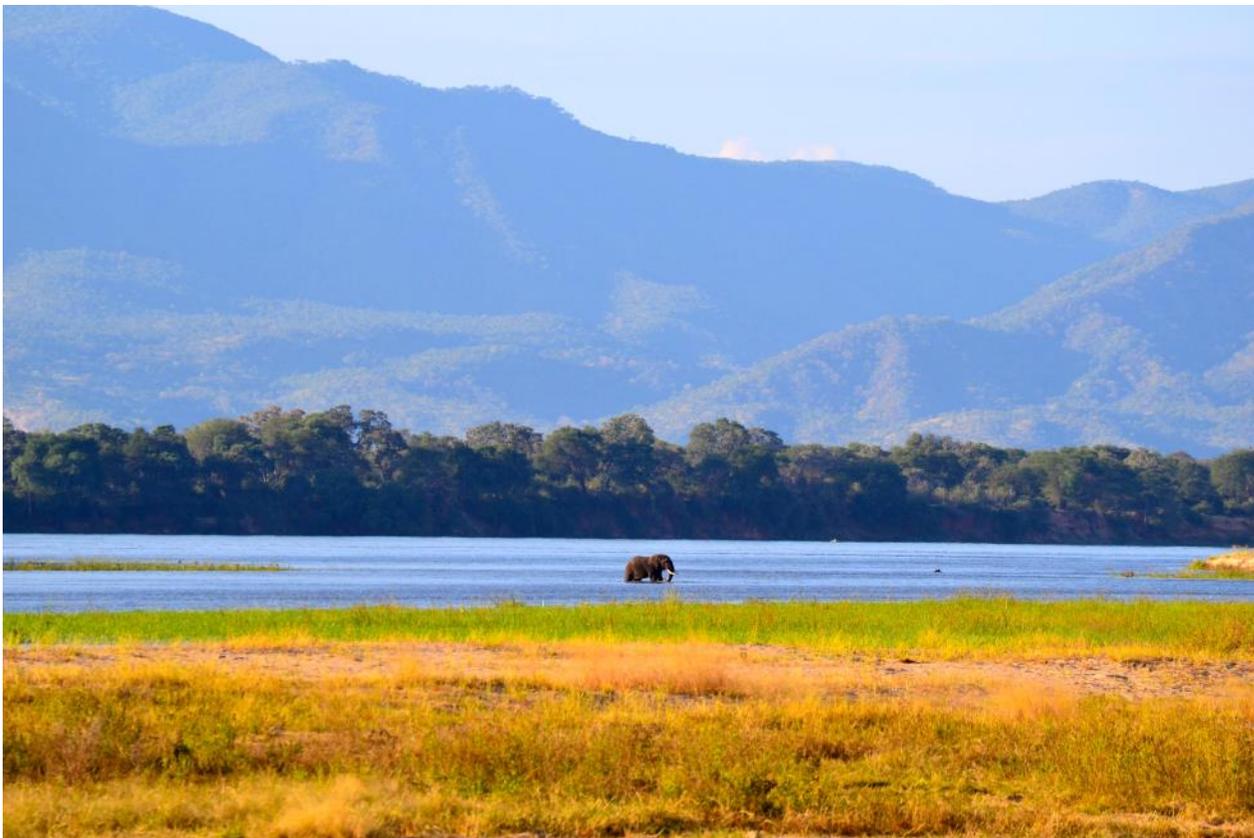
Left: K6SRZ and XYL getting ready for a flight over the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Jeremy, the pilot, took the picture

Below: a herd of elephants as seen from the air





Above: a visiting elephant photographed from inside our tent at the Mana Pools Bush Camp
Below: looking across the Zambezi River toward Zambia





Left: Baboon mother and child

Below: two male impalas fighting for dominance during rutting season in Zimbabwe



Stamp collector's and QSL corner. Probably not much stamp collecting in ham radio these days, what with LOTW. See also following page



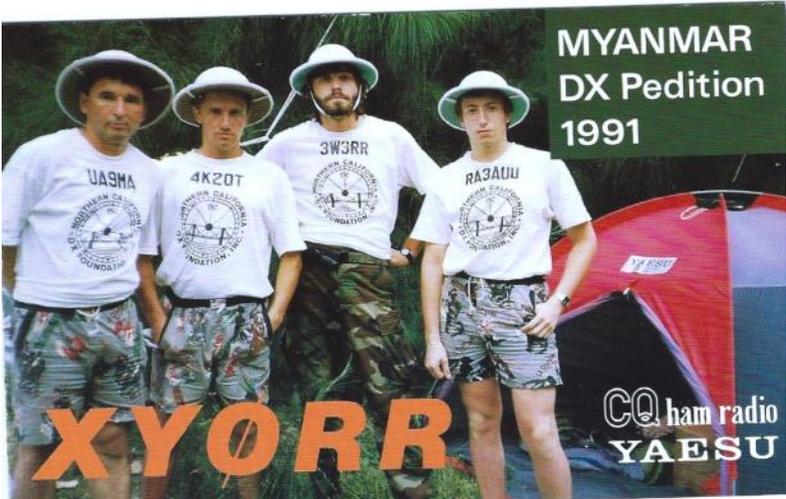
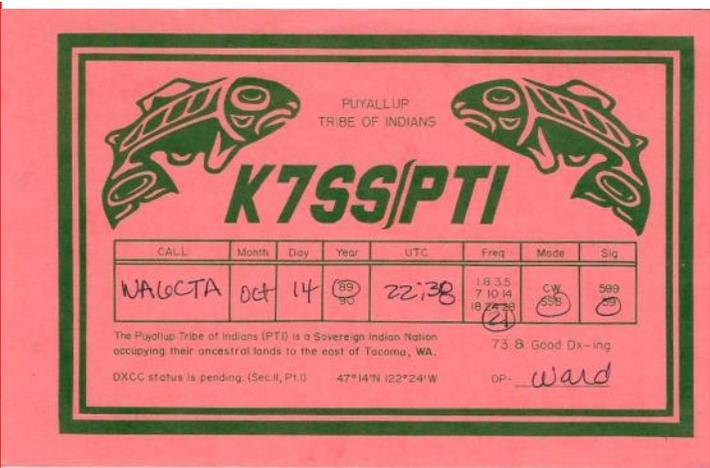
Chobe District is an administrative district in the northern part of Botswana, with the headquarters in Kasane. In 2001 it was merged with Ngamiland, and until 2006 it shared with Ngamiland the North-West District Council as local government. Chobe National Park is a safari highlight.



This is the stamp that accompanied CO8LY's QSL. If you've spent any time with 6M FT8 you've likely worked Eduardo.

The Russian fighter Lavochkine La-9 was probably the best of the Cuban air force in 2006.

Top speed 429 MPH.
NATO code name "Fritz"



From Ed, K6CTA:

I have a pretty good collection of QSL cards that don't count (!).....here are a few from DXpeditions that didn't count.

P5RS7 and XY0RR were pretty obvious – the infamous Romeo (3W3RR) and his bogus operations. K7SS/PTI was an ill-fated attempt by K7SS to get an indian tribal reservation put into DXCC – he claimed it was a sovereign nation which made it a country due to separate administration status – didn't work (you can see the claim on the card). The CIØGI was the same thing in Canada – they tried to claim separate status for Grosse-Ile.....that didn't work, either!



JSZCJY



Here's a card I received from JS2CJY, confirming a 40 meter FT8 QSO. He was running 15 watts to a long wire 5 meters above ground.

But that's not why I'm showing it.

Can any REDXA members help with Mr. Fukoda's Latin inscription? I don't think it's fake Latin. One of you must have taken Latin in high school.

Thanks for any help. de K6SRZ

2018 Field Day Gallery, with thanks to:
Marilyn, Stephen, Jim and others



Monkey Ranch—last year's Field Day site was wonderful, but the good old Rod and Gun Club has the virtue of having a bar.





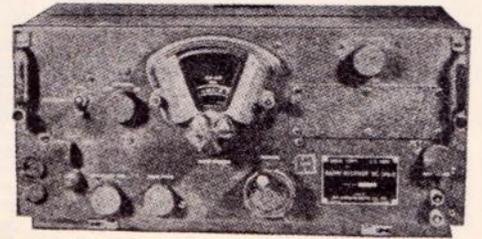


Above: the basic tool kit that accompanies the AB577 “rocket launcher” mast. We had three of them up for FD 2018

Left: illustration from the AB577 manual showing GIs ca. 1960 demonstrating how to remove the set of tubes. The AB577 was *not* a WWII item. Nobody at the Signal Corps knows for sure, but the best guess of the Signal Corps librarian was it was rolled out in 1960, the 100th anniversary of the Signal Corps,



ALMO BRINGS YOU VALUES!



BC-348Q Communications Receiver

Excellent selectivity, sensitivity and stability make this one of the most outstanding of the new receivers yet available from government surplus. Built to withstand vibration and features gear driven 100-1 ratio vernier tuning controls, six bands, 200-500 KC and 1.5-18MC. Two stages of RF and three stages of IF. BFO, crystal filter, manual or A.V.C. Complete with tubes and 28 volt DC dynamotor. Easily converted to 110 V. operation. This receiver is brand new, guaranteed operation.



Army Headphones

Signal Corps magnetic headphones. This double headphone set comes complete with Phono Plug, cord and leather-covered headband. Brand new.

49⁵⁰

149

MAIL
ORDERS
FILLED
PROMPTLY



509 Arch St.
Phila. 6, Pa.
LOMBARD
3-9225
3-9226
3-9227



**Above: what \$49.50
got you in 1947**



Field Day 2018 Pix link

<https://youtu.be/17OrGlioGBA>

<https://marilynbagshaw.smugmug.com/Field-Day-2018-Day-3/n-FhNDgL/>

<https://stephensarhad.smugmug.com/Field-Day/Field-Day-2018/>

Previous years photos can be seen here:

<https://stephensarhad.smugmug.com/Field-Day>

<https://marilynbagshaw.smugmug.com/Field-Day-2018/n->





Above: Remembering Jim Robinson, KE6UAR. Gone too soon, Jim was one of the driving forces behind many successful REDXA and MARS Field Day operations





Going places
(AGAIN)

hallicrafters

3 GREAT RECEIVERS designed and priced for hams who are going places, too

Hallicrafters famous radio equipment, sold and distributed around the world before the war and used with superb effectiveness in every theater during the war is once again on the move. Watch for latest details of the Hallicrafters mobile radio equipped expeditions to the Mountains of the Moon in deepest Africa—a new and exciting test for the ingenuity of hams and the performance of Hallicrafters equipment.

Model SX-42 Described by hams who have operated it as "the first real postwar receiver." One of the finest CW receivers yet developed. Greatest continuous frequency coverage of any communications receiver—from 540 kc to 110 Mc, in six bands. **\$27500**

Model S-40A Function, beauty, unusual radio performance and reasonable price are all combined in this fine receiver. Overall frequency range from 540 kc to 45 Mc, in four bands. Nine tubes. Built-in dynamic speaker. Many circuit refinements never before available in medium price class. **\$8950**

Model S-38 Overall frequency range from 540 kc to 32 Mc, in four bands. Self contained speaker. Compact and rugged, high performance at a low price. Makes an ideal standby receiver for hams. CW pitch control is adjustable from front panel. Automatic noise limiter. **\$4750**

Prices slightly higher in Zone 2

BUILDERS OF *Skyphone* AVIATION RADIO TELEPHONE

hallicrafters RADIO
THE HALLICTRAFTERS CO., MANUFACTURERS OF RADIO AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, CHICAGO 16, U. S. A.
Sole Hallicrafters Representative in Canada: Rogers Majestic Limited, Toronto-Montreal

2 CQ



GRID MILLS tell the story!

TYPE Z-3
PR
QUARTZ CRYSTAL FREQ-KC
14,283
PETERSEN COUNCIL BLUFFS IOWA
RADIO CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

MILLIAMPERES
DIRECT CURRENT

On 10 and 20 fone... PR's put out more DRIVING POWER!

On the higher frequency fone bands DRIVE is the problem! Plenty of grid mills to the final means top efficiency... full modulation capability... longer life for the big bottles... more watts in the antenna. Drive begins with your crystal stage! That's why rugged PR Precision Crystals are designed to deliver high power output under grueling amateur conditions... negligible drift

over wide temperature range... amazing activity... sealed against contamination and moisture... accurately calibrated. Yes, low cost PR's deliver MORE POWER! Available from your jobber for all bands, including ten and eleven! Every crystal unconditionally guaranteed! — Manufactured by PETERSEN RADIO CO., INC., 2800 WEST BROADWAY, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA. (Telephone 2760.)

PR Precision CRYSTALS	10 METERS PR Type Z-3	Harmonic oscillator. Ideal for 100 watt, 1000 watt operation. High activity. Long life. Minimal change in our special circuit.
	30 METERS PR Type Z-3	Harmonic oscillator. Low drift. High activity. High power output. Ideal for 100 watt to 1000 watt operation.
	40 & 80 METERS PR Type Z-2	Rugged, low drift fundamental oscillators. High activity and power output with maximum crystal currents. Accurate calibration. High

May, 1947



JUNE MEETING MINUTES

President Gabe KJ6AZQ called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, June 13, 2018 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 22 members and guests.

Gabe requested that everyone in the club think about their experiences in Amateur Radio and seriously consider a way of sharing them with club members in the form of a program. Coordinate your ideas with others too. For scheduling, contact Gabe.

Bill W6IYS presented the Treasurer's report; for details, see the latest issue of Sunspots. Upcoming expenses include PO Box rental fee, Field Day and club insurance.

Alan K6SRZ, Sunspots Editor, again asked people to contribute photos, articles, what-have-you-to-share items for publications in the newsletter. Please help out.

Bill WX6B provided a short update on his station. It's now been 8 months since the fire and he is finally pouring concrete and making other progress on his house and towers.

Ron N6IE, Field Day Chairman, presented a thorough Power Point presentation on the logistics and operation of the combined REDXA / Marin ARS (MARS) Field Day plans. It included a map of the location along with photos of the layout of antennas and stations.

The plan is to operate in the "3A" category - 3 stations, portable, and on emergency power. The third station will be a combined Get On The Air (GOTA) station and set up as operating either SSB or CW. The GOTA operation will be the priority in that it helps our bonus points. The other 2 stations will be dedicated to a single mode.

Another bonus point goal is to engage in an Educational Activity during the FD timeframe. For that, the FD committee will be presenting a training video of the N1MM Software that will be used during the event.

Setup time is Friday June 22, 10am at the Marin Rod and Gun Club location. Lunch will be sandwiches furnished by the club. Saturday dinner will be at 5pm and Sunday morning breakfast around 8 am - both also provided by the club.

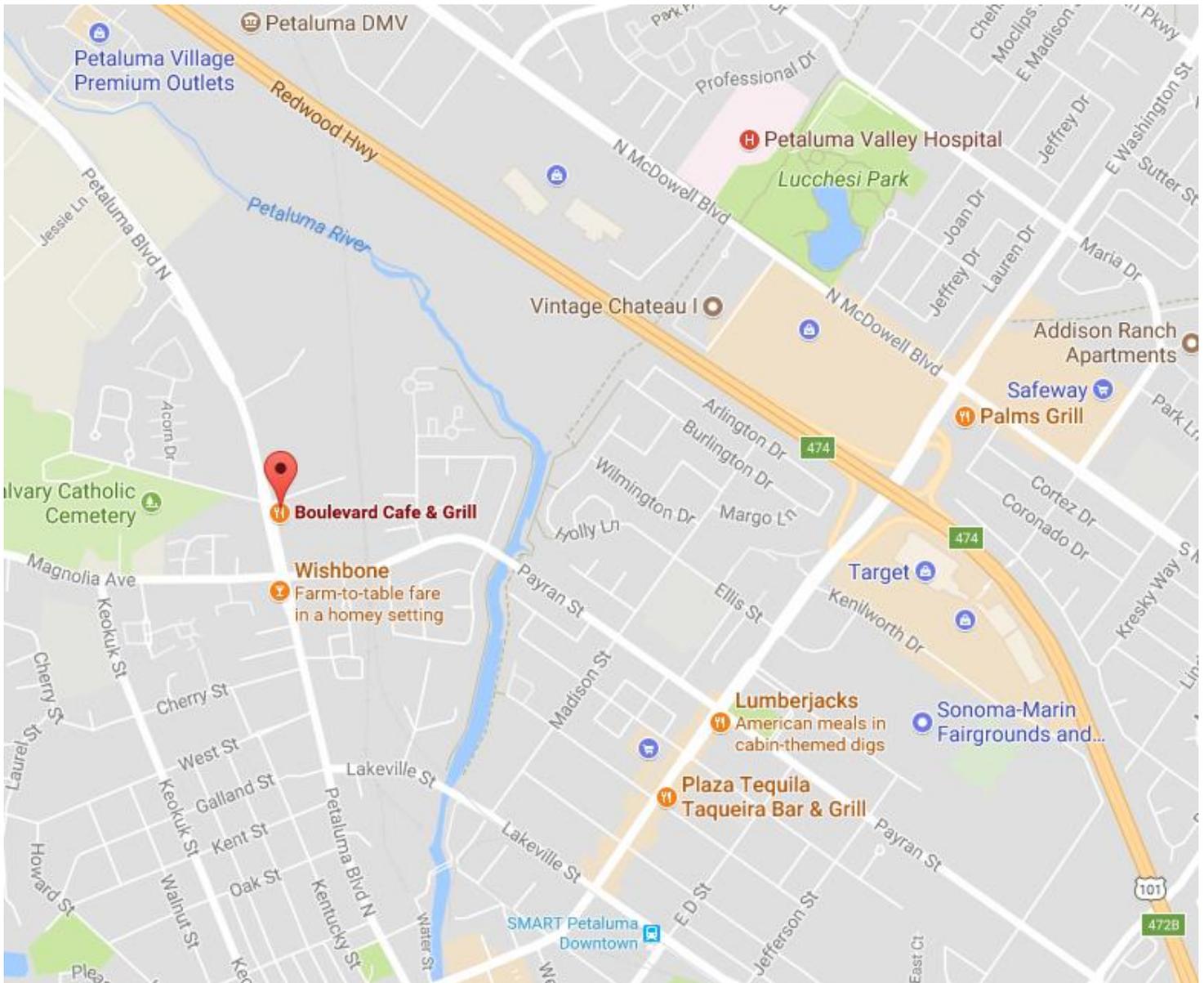
The raffle was won by Josh W6XU, who received \$52 and the club \$52. Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Doug WW6D, Co-Secretary



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.