

# 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 XXI

Number XXVI

June 2019

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

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, June 12th 2019 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 will include planning for Field Day, which is coming up very soon. FD Chairman Ron, N6IE, will also report on how "Field Day" techniques helped get several commercial broadcasters back on the air after the devastating Carr fire in the North Valley around Redding.



## REDXA President's Commentary

It's already June and Field day is just around the corner. It is always one of the more enjoyable events of the Ham Radio year. This month's meeting will be by Ron N6IE. He will have a presentation on the Carr Fire (Redding CA) response to restore commercial FM stations and REDXA's Field Day Prep. Ron and the field day committee have already done lots of work to insure that this year's event will once again be successful. The Field Day committee has everything in place to facilitate a fine effort this year and as always, we need as many hands as possible for setup and take down.

Marin was where I first experienced Field Day back in 1974 as a newly licensed novice. My elmer, W6FQS(SK) invited me to join the Marin Amateur Radio Club at the Boy Scout's Camp Tamarancho near Fairfax, Ca. I



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remember the thrill of working SSB and CW through the evening hours. Invite your friends or family down to experience what Field Day is all about. Who knows maybe it will spark an interest.

I have contacted Eric WA6HHQ from Elecraft and he will be coming to Petaluma to do a presentation on the new Elecraft K4. We are still working on dates, but he assured me he'll make the trip for a REDXA presentation. I'll be selling a couple rigs to help finance the purchase of a new K4. I'm looking forward to hearing all about this new rig soon.

As usual the Visalia DX Convention was well attended by REDXA. A good time was had by all. One of our own, N6YEU kept the REDXA luck going and won a new Icom 7610.

I've been in contact with Bruce Horn, WA7BNM developer of [3830.com](http://3830.com) and the [contest calendar](#). He now has a new feature that can track contest scores by club. If you go to 3830 and select "Activity Tracker" and then select REDXA, you will see all contest scores submitted under REDXA. He also has another unpublished feature that will track all submissions, whether submitted as REDXA, NCCC or MLDXCC. I've uploaded a current roster and it will display all contest activity of REDXA members. It even works for alternate WPX calls as long as the "OP" field has the club members call. (I recently uploaded the roster, it might take a little time to work) This might seem trivial to some, but being the REDXA Contest chairman for many years, I don't feel you realize how much work is involved trying to identify club members' calls in many contests, where the scores were submitted under different clubs and many different calls. I would spend hours combing through websites and inevitably I'd miss some calls or contests. I even went as far as trying to automate the process and I wrote an Excel spreadsheet that scrapped data (Internet contest sites) from the web and then compared it to our roster to give me the results. It was a cumbersome process that still needed a lot of manual labor to work.

Please update your contest scores on 3830, no matter how small or large. You can submit to any club you'd like and we'll still find your results.

I look forward to seeing you all next week. Jim, K6JS

Editor's note:

On the pages that follow, I've included material on the history of Field Day.



It's that time again! The June 12 REDXA meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning. Per our Field Day Chairman, Ron, N6IE:

#### Field Day 2019

Once again, REDXA and the Marin Amateur Radio Society are teaming up for another outstanding Field Day event at the Marin Rod and Gun Club! This year's event will start on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am with our antenna work. Saturday, we will begin on-air operations at 11:00 and deconstruct the facilities Sunday morning.

Field Day is a great opportunity to build our skills in emergency radio communications that could benefit our communities in the event of a disaster. With the Tubbs fire and last year's Carr and Camp fires still fresh in our memories we are reminded that the most dire situations can strike without warning and we could be called to help.

At this month's meeting I will be going over our FD plans, and I'll also extend the presentation to show the devastation of the Carr fire that hit Redding last August and how my ham radio experience helped me quickly recover operations "Field Day style" at four local FM broadcast stations whose transmitter sites were destroyed in the first days of the fire so that they could serve the community with critical 24-hour news and information.

I hope everyone can join us for this year's event, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all this Wednesday!

Ron, N6IE  
REDXA Field Day Chairman



High scoring team for the VY2 section during the 1898 Field Day.

Read more about the history of Field Day starting on on page— of this month's "Sunspots".

## The history of Field Day (1933-1999)

In 1933, The June 1933 QST announced that the second Saturday in June, for a period of 27 hours, starting at 4 pm local time, that hams would go into the "field" and set up portable stations.

W1BDI F.E. Handy said:

"The real object of this contest is to test 'portables' wherever they may be available.... If successful, we want to make it an annual affair."

The scoring of that first contest was each QSO with fixed stations will count 1 point, contacts with other portables count 2 points, and DX contacts count 3 points. Multiply QSO points by the total number of ARRL sections, plus countries worked

September 1933 QST announced the winner of the 1st Annual Field Day was W4PAW. They made 62 QSOs and had 28 sections for a total of 1876 points.

1934 Field Day #2 is announced.

1936 Field Day was so popular that a second Field Day was held August 22nd-23rd of that year. The highest qso total for June was 143 and the highest QSo total for August was 136.

1937-Field day #5 is announced for June 19th-20th. The FD message bonus was added. The winning qso for this FD was 204 QSO's at a rate of 7.5 qsos/hr.

1938- Field Day period goes from 4 pm Saturday Local time to 6 pm Sunday Local time.

1939- the first rule to include all station apparatus must fall within a 100 ft radius excluding antennas.

1940-The 100' rules is changed to 500'. Home stations are allowed to work FD.

1941- The ARRL inadvertently forces a nationwide start time by notifying the FCC of the Field day period and the FCC communication 73-D references a single start time for all ham stations for Field Day from 4pm EST June 7th to 6pm EST June 8th.

1942-1945 All Ham activity ceases.

1946-Field day returns and adds a VHF only category

1948- 11 meters (now the CB band) is added for a Field Day Band. FD is shortened to 24 hrs. Battery and Emergency power categories are added.

1949- Mobile category added to FD.

1970- A free Novice station is allowed. Starting time is moved to 1800z.

1972- Battery results are listed separately.

1973- Repeater rule is waived for satellite contacts and a 50 point sat bonus is included for the first time.

1974- A 100 point bonus is added for making contacts solely by natural power. 15 minutes rule for band changes is instituted.

1975- the Explosion of SSB leads the ARRL to institute a 2X multiplier for CW contacts.

1976- 10,000 qso mark is broken by W1VV/1

1977- The natural power bonus disappears and techs are now allowed to operate the Novice station. The 2X CW rule becomes permanent.

1980- RST is replaced with category and class for the exchange. Setup time is changed again, nothing can be set up before the 24 hr period. natural power comes back as a 100 point bonus. Sat and FD message bonuses increase to 100 points.

1981- Due to the popularity of packet radio, a 100 point bonus is instituted for one packet QSO and the repeater rules are waived for qso's through a digipeater. The Yankee Clipper Contest Club W2RQ turn in an impressive 11,201 qso total for Field Day.

1984- power multiplier is changed from 200 watts to anything less than 150 watts.

1993- Due to the influx of Technicians, a 100 point bonus is added for making 10 VHF/UHF contacts and a free VHF/UHF station is allowed class A and B.

1994- The modern FD record is set by K6CAB 15A by getting 3450 QRP QSO's for a total score of 30,150

1998- Free packet station and bonus are eliminated, but RTTY/PSK31 are added as a 3rd FD mode. The 100 point bonus for VHF/UHF stations is deleted.

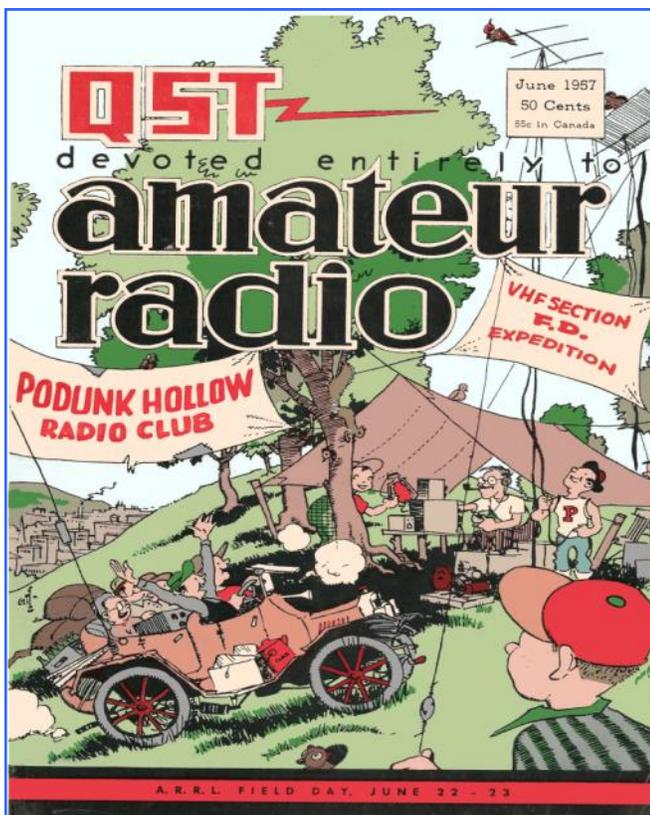
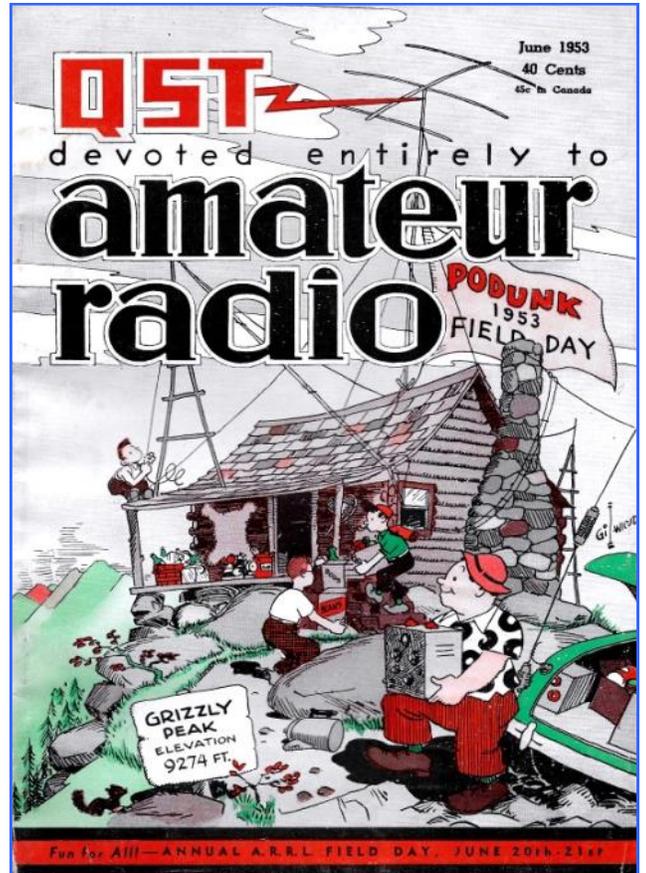
So that is the history of Field Day. We've come a long way Baby!

Credit: December 1999 QST

By Jim Massara, K2EST

For nearly 40 years, Phil Gildersleeve drew cartoons about his beloved hobby, amateur radio. He drew precious little else. In that time, he helped define the look of the nation's leading ham-radio magazine, *QST*, and brought pleasure to thousands of his fellow hobbyists. But to most people—including those who published his work—he was an enigma.

Here's what we do know: Gildersleeve was born in 1908 in Portland, Conn., descendant of a prominent family known for building ships. (The family was so prominent, in fact, that part of Portland was named Gildersleeve.)...



Until shortly before his death from lung cancer in November 1966, Gildersleeve continued to contribute to *QST* but worked entirely by mail. Apparently, he had little direct contact with *QST* staffers—so little that only one of them showed up for his funeral.

## Club Scores

I'm not sure if you saw the post on the NCCC reflector regarding listing of club scores.

I had gone to the extent of writing an Excel app that scrubbed the 3830 website and compared it to our roster. A helluva lot of work to design and it still had manual labor aspects to it.

Now you can search REDXA and NCCC and pick out our calls for the monthly Sunspots reports.

Save this link:

<https://www.3830scores.com/activitytrackers.php>

Bruce, WA7BNM the author of 3830 states:

*By default the activities are generated based on the club selection on the score submittal form, but in the case of the **SCCC** the entries are automatically accumulated based on the roster of the club members call signs. As a result, you'll see activity when an SCCCer is an operator for an entry that is primarily associated with another club (e.g. N6AN was an operator at K3LR for CQWW CW).*

I'm going to email him to see how we can add our roster to display all members by call.

Of course this won't work when members use an alternate call, unless they submit the log as REDXA.

Still this is a huge time saver for anyone who posts club contests scores for their clubs. Believe me, I've been doing it for many years.

73,  
Jim  
K6JS



Jim Hill was at Dayton (well, actually, Xenia Ohio) this year. Did anyone else make the trip? Jim sends along a photo of the new K4 transceiver on display there.



## MAY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm, May 8, 2019 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 25 members and guests.

Jim began the meeting by polling the audience on their reaction to the recently completed Visalia DX Convention. Then, he recognized the "big winner" in REDXA: Fred N6YEU won one of the two grand prizes, an Icom IC-7610.

The May issue of Sunspots was not available at meeting time, so no motions were made to accept the Minutes from the April meeting or the treasurer's report for April. Approval will be postponed to the June meeting.

**Old Business.** Ron N6IE reported that ongoing preparations for the upcoming ARRL Field Day event with the Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) continues. There will be 3 stations, one of which will serve a dual purpose of being the GOTA (Get On The Air) station.

**New Business.** The program next month will be feature Ron N6IE as the presenter, and his program will discuss his company's response, in Field Day fashion, to get several commercial FM stations back on the air after the 2018 Carr wildfire. It will also include last minute details on Field Day.

The program of the evening was presented by guest speaker Rob Robinett AI6VN. He explained the new SDR receiver capability at the site of former commercial station KPH now under the auspices of the Point Reyes National Seashore. This historical site is now accessible worldwide through these receivers and provides 24/7 access to KPH's wonderful antennas. For more information, go to the Maritime Radio Historical Society web site at: <http://radiomarine.org/>.

The raffle sales were \$90 of which \$45 went to the club and \$45 to John KM6XO.

Adjourned at 9:02 pm.

## **REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events**

by Doug WW6D

**Jun 8-10 ARRL VHF Contest**

*Jun 12 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Jun 15-16 All Asian DX Contest CW**

**Jun 22-23 ARRL Field Day**

*Jul 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Jul 13-14 IARU HF World Championship**

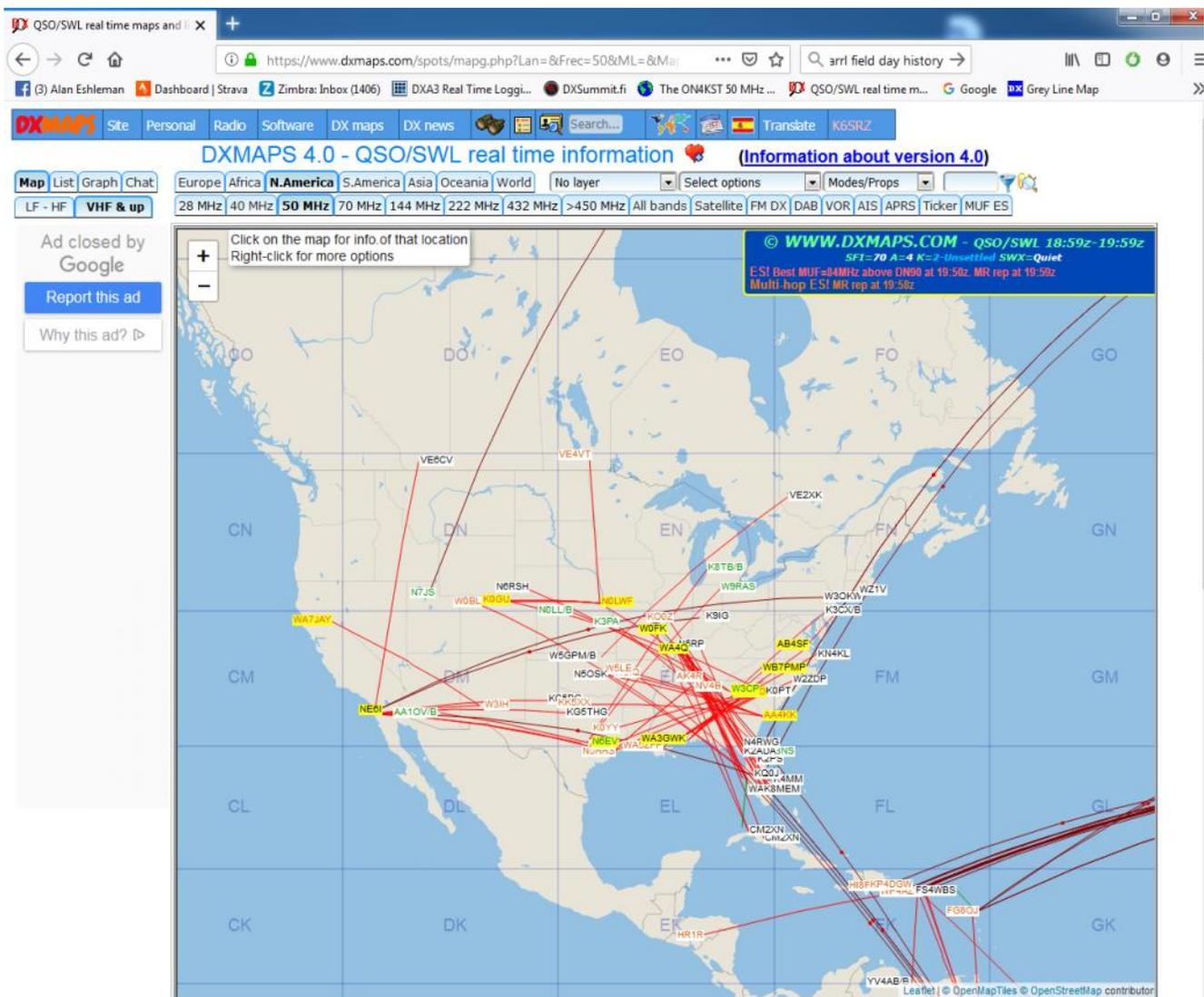
**Jul 20-21 CQ WW VHF Contest**

**Aug 3-4 North American QSO Party CW**

It's Sporadic E season on six meters ! From late Spring and through Summer, the six meter band comes alive. With the advent of FT-8 and the fact that most new transceivers include six meters, activity on the band has been picking up. The screen shot below is from

<https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php?Lan=&Frec=50&ML=&Map=NA&HF=&DXC=ING2&GL=>

This is a free service that only asks that you disable ad-blockers when visiting the site.



Ominous SWL reports from 1937. If you do a Web search for “Nazi ham radio cards” you’ll find several variations of this graphic.

**To Radio** *W4B99*

**DE 2831-R**  
**Nürnberg**

**Ur sigs fore hrd hr**

Date	<i>28.11.37</i>
at MET	<i>1845</i>
QRG	<i>2.843.2</i>
clg wkg	<i>sp. tone</i>
wrt	<i>5.5.8</i>
QSB	<i>2</i>
QRNr	<i>-</i>
QRMr	<i>2-3</i>
WX	<i>-</i>
°Cels	<i>10</i>
mm	<i>-</i>
Log Nr.	<i>80120</i>

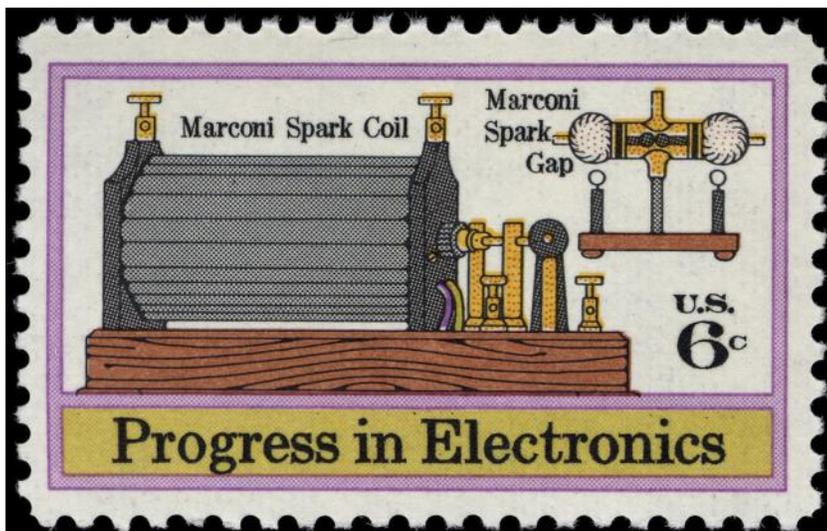
**Pse QSL** Hpe cuagn, dr om.  
direct or via DASH Vy73 es best DX.  
Rcvr. SW3 (P—vP—1). Ant. *39m4*

Remarks *Cond. sig. bad, only you are heard to hear. Congrats for 1st class ham award. De*



Electronic Art

These stamps were issued several years ago



## The Electro Audion

is the latest word in Wireless. It is the most sensitive Detector constructed today, being even more sensitive than the Electrolytic and many hundred times more sensitive than Silicon and Carborundum.

Now used by nearly every government.

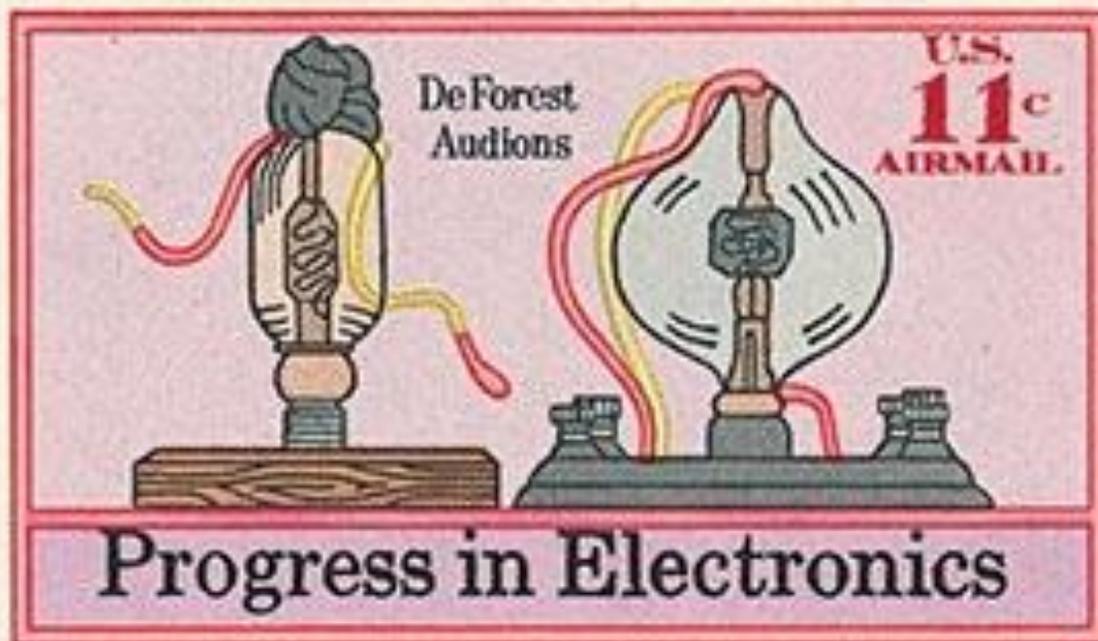
Send today four cents postage for our marvelous 196 page encyclopedia No. 10 with 425 illustrations on experimental, electrical apparatus and instruments.

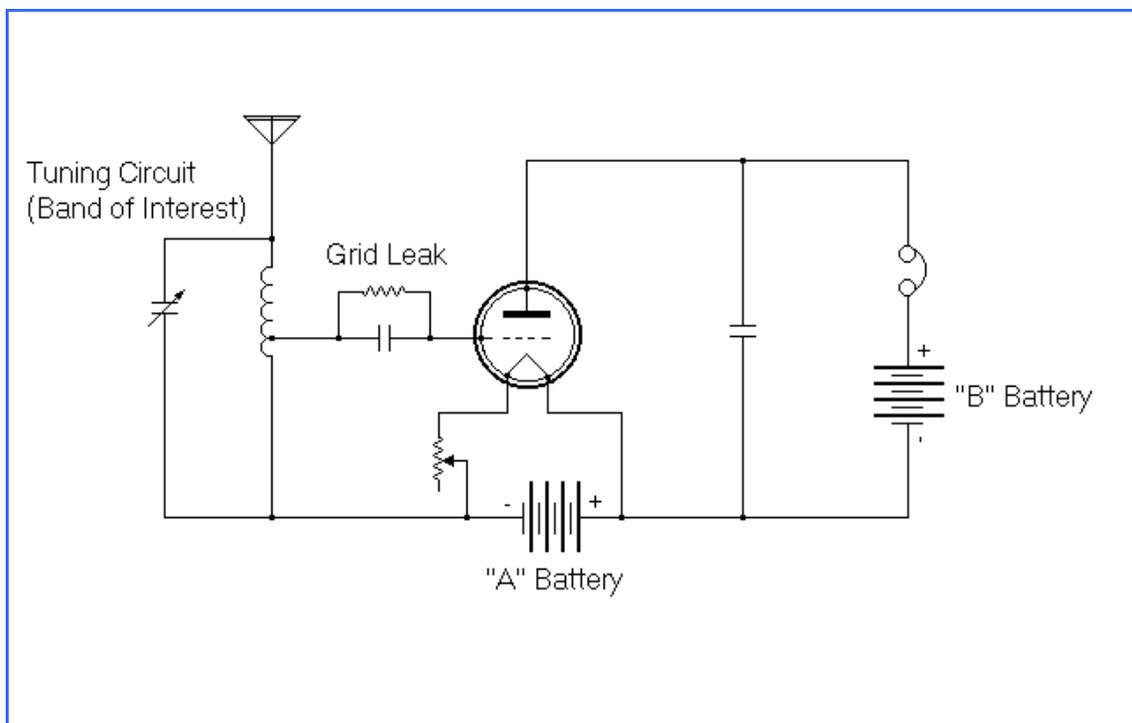


Price of this marvelous instrument

**\$4.00**

**THE ELECTRO IMPORTING CO., 233a Fulton St., NEW YORK CITY**  
"EVERYTHING FOR THE EXPERIMENTER"





This is a basic one-tube radio receiver. The triode tube is a refinement of the DeForest Audion. Back in the day, one needed to draw schematics like this (or something similar) during the General Class Amateur examination. Good luck finding a “B” battery today.

Per “The Daily Beast”: [The B battery seems to have fallen out of the ANSI standards, which started being formulated in the late 1920s, as did the A bat-](#)



Per Wikipedia:

Lee de Forest (August 26, 1873 – June 30, 1961) was an American inventor, self-described "Father of Radio", and a pioneer in the development of sound-on-film recording used for motion pictures. He had over 180 patents, but also a tumultuous career—he boasted that he made, then lost, four fortunes. He was also involved in several major patent lawsuits, spent a substantial part of his income on legal bills, and was even tried (and acquitted) for mail fraud. His most famous invention, in 1906, was the three-element "Audion" (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device. Although De Forest had only a limited understanding of how it worked, it was the foundation of the field of electronics, making possible radio broadcasting, long distance telephone lines, and talk-  
ing motion pictures, among countless other applications.



As this issue of “Sunspots” is being prepared, a major DXpedition is on the air from Conway Reef. Conway is a small island located about halfway between Fiji and New Caledonia. Conway is claimed by Fiji and is a unique entity for the DXCC. It is uninhabited, but home to thousands of sea birds.

Apropos of Conway Reef, here is sequence of photos by Paul, N6PSE. This is your editor treating the dislocated shoulder of Miguel, PY2BB.

I was the expedition physician and one of the CW operators on the 3D2C DXpedition to Conway Reef.



Miguel had been snorkeling and I was happily running a pileup on 15 CW when my presence as a physician was requested. I performed the correct manipulation, the shoulder popped back into place, and both of us smiled in relief. A few minutes later, I was back at the radio.

This sequence of photos was used in a presentation on expedition medicine at the 2017 Visalia convention.

—credit N6PSE



**K6QXY: some history and another ATNO on 6 meters**

Circa 1956. Seated, Bob Magnani K6QXY; standing Bob's late father K6YIL.

**Right rack:** Collins 75A3 , power supplies, filter king converters and VFO with panadaptor.

**Middle rack:** 2 and 6 meter exciters and QRO amplifier.

**Left rack:** KW 6 meter amp with power supply

Below, the 2 and 6 meter yagis at K6YIL

**T77C**  
 TOP DXCC HONOR ROLL#1  
 5BDXCC - 5BWAS - 5BWAZ  
 160m DXCC - 6m DXCC  
 10-X #25981

Antonio (Tony) Ceccoli  
 Via A. Belluzzi, 7/b Cailungo  
 47893 Borgo Maggiore  
 Republic of San Marino  
 Europe (via Italy)

**Republic of San Marino**



**K 6 Q X Y**

Date	GMT	Band	Mode	RST
13.4.19	22-23	60 MHz	2x JT65	-28

Thanks 50MHz EME QSO!  
 73 de T77C - Oper. & verified by *[Signature]*

Here's the card confirming Bob's 180th DXCC counter on 6 meters, this via moon bounce with JT65

## Treasurer's Report

Starting Balance.	\$4587.57
Raffle.	\$45.00
Bill paid	
Post office box.	<\$106.00>
Ending Balance.	\$4526.57

Terry, K6TER

Semper Fi

## For Sale

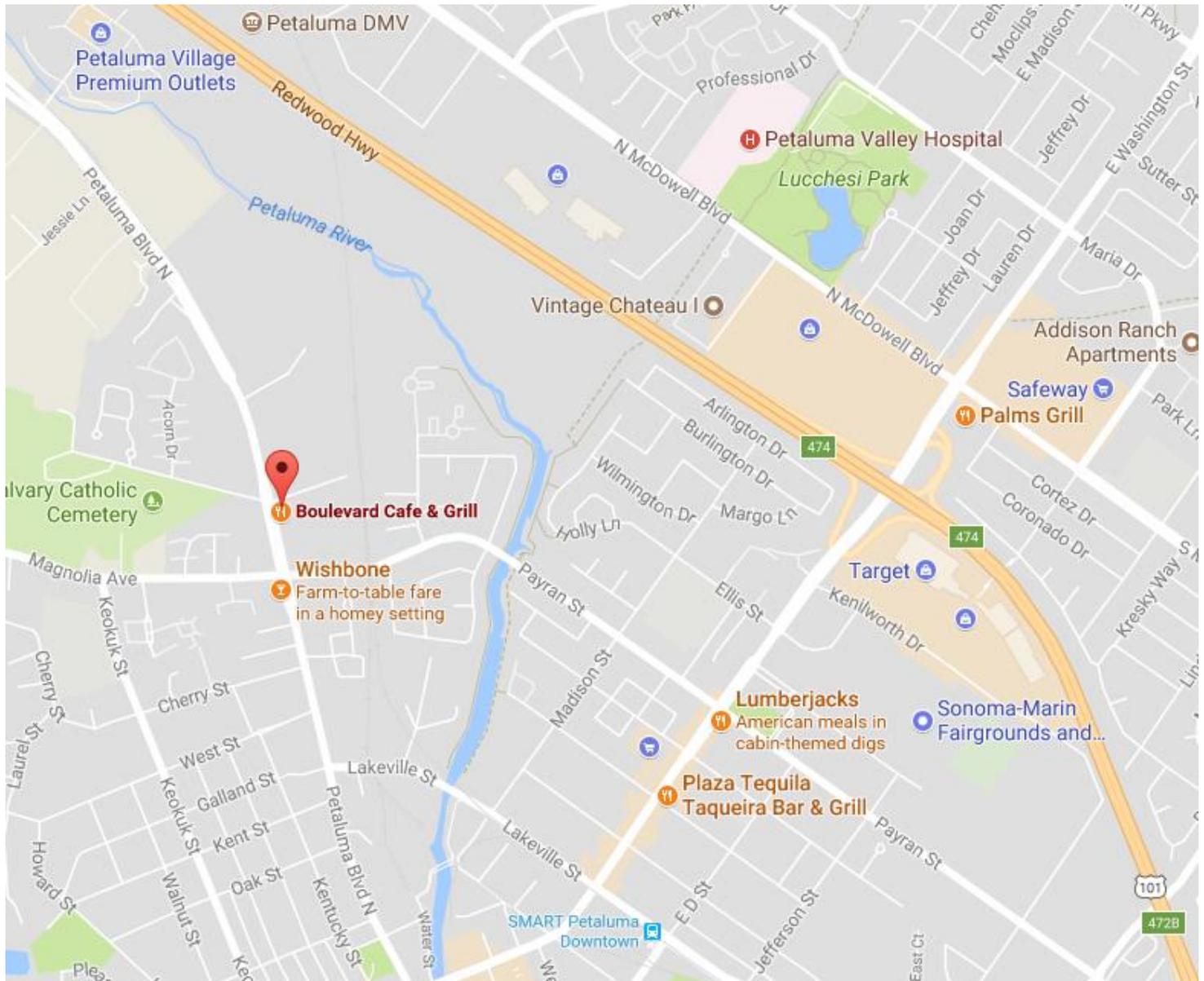


Thinking about going QRO? This ALPHA 99 (your editor's) is for sale. Contact K6SRZ for details.



## 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.