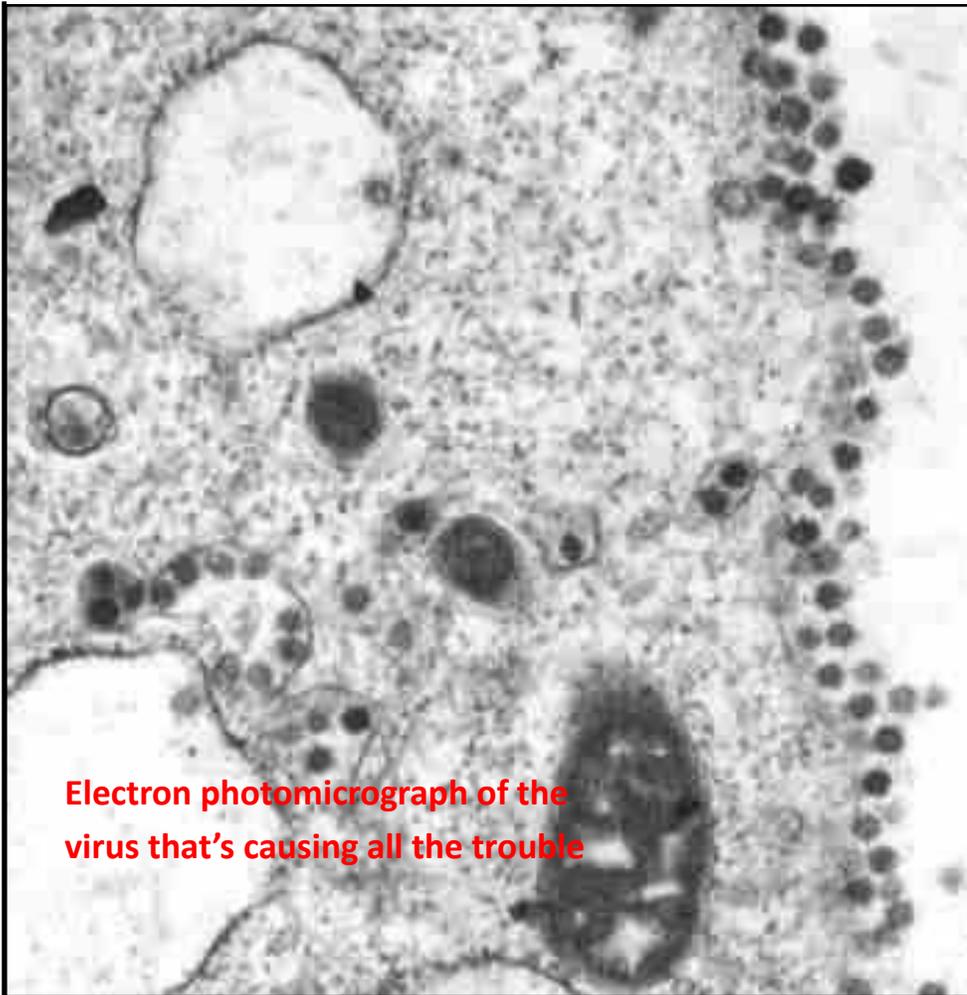


SUNSPOTS



REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975



Electron photomicrograph of the virus that's causing all the trouble

As of this morning, March 10, there are no official plans to cancel or suspend our March 11 meeting due to concerns about Covid-19, the illness caused by the current pandemic corona virus.

Should plans change, I will try to notify everyone on the "Sunspots" distribution list.

An abbreviated issue of "Sunspots" follows on the next page.

—ed.



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 the Golden Gate Bridge

Volume XXIII

Number 3

March 2020

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Alan Eshleman K6SRZ
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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at the 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:

This month our speaker will be Bob Wilson, N6TV. His presentation is "Everything you need to know about USB and serial interfaces for your rig."



REDXA President's Commentary

Spring is in the air in Northern California. Hopefully we're all enjoying this beautiful weather. It looks to be another year of drought for California. Let's hope we get a wet March to bring the rainfall totals up. I have been taking advantage of this nice weather to get some fishing in. I've been using the float tube on Lake Ralphine, and a trip to the Yuba river flyfishing for trout. I've also made a few trips to the coast, Dillion Beach fishing in the surf for perch. I did



President's Commentary (cont. from P. 1)

land a nice striped bass in the surf. When I'm at the coast and the fish aren't biting, I'll turn the mobile rig on and make contacts. Folks are always amazed I'm mobile with such a big signal. Saltwater really enhances the take-off from a short vertical. A few trips to the Russian river for steelhead, but without any rain the steelhead returns are dismal this year. We must be at the bottom of the cycle if I'm writing about fishing.

This month our speaker will be Bob Wilson, N6TV. His presentation is Everything you need to know about USB and serial interfaces for your rig.

Conditions for the ARRL DX SSB contest this past weekend were not as good for the CW version of this contest. I made a handful of contacts here and there, but just couldn't get motivated to keep the BIC.

I built a paddle for mobile operation and got that installed in the truck over the weekend. I tuned around the band and JA3YBK from Mt. RF was opening the band as usual. I called him with 5W from the driveway and got Kilo ?? QRZ. I eventually worked him with 20W sitting in the driveway.

VP8PJ Dxpediton was a good one and I see many REDXers worked them. I needed them on 80m, but wasn't able to hear them when I was on. I guess I need stay up after 9pm on weekdays. Currently there's a team of LA ops activating 9J2LA in Zambia until March 15th. TO7DL on Reunion Island will be active until March 16th. EX0QR in Kyrgystan will on through March 17th.

That's it for now. I look forward to seeing you all Wednesday.

73,

Treasurer's Report



Balance January 1, 2020:
\$3,504.56

Income from dues for January: \$165.00

(NO raffle in Jan.)

Expenses: plaque sponsorship for CQP (\$59.00)

Ending balance Jan31: \$3,619.56

Balance February 1: \$3,619.56

Income: raffle:\$21.00

dues: \$100.00

Balance as of 29 February: \$3740.56

Respectively submitted,
Fred N6YEU Treasurer



CLUBLOG and REDXA

By Steve, W6SFK

Over the years I have found Club Log to be a very useful tool to track DXCC entities. There are many tools that not only to show your own personal performance by band and mode but also how REDXA performs as a DX oriented club.

I have always found it interesting to see how REDXA ranked among the other Radio Clubs using the “Club League” feature. Historically REDXA has been in the top 25 percent of the clubs listed.

Just recently I noticed REDXA was no longer included in this list. Reviewing the rules I discovered clubs with fewer than 15 active members are not shown in the “Club League Tables”.

Clearly, REDXA has more than the required number of club members but the catch is to be included in the Club League tables there must be at least 15 “Active” members.

There are two classes of club members used in the Club Log tables. Registered Members and Active Members. REDXA currently has 37 registered members and of those only 13 are currently active. To be considered currently active, a member must have uploaded their logbook contacts that show recent activity within the preceding 12 month period.

The easiest way to satisfy this requirement is to use logging software that automatically uploads each QSO as it is made. Most logging programs now offer uploads to both LoTW and Club Log.

Note from Club Log: Members must add themselves to the club. Instruct them to click 'Settings' and then go to the 'Clubs' tab to join. This method allows users to opt-out (by default) of leagues and DXpedition charts. The opt-in principle is how Club Log is intended to work. To comply with GDPR privacy laws, email addresses are not revealed.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm, February 12, 2020 at the Boulevard Cafe, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 12 members and guests.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January meeting, as published in Sunspots, followed by a second and then approved. Fred N6YEU, our new Treasurer, reported that the transition from Bill W6IYS is going smoothly and Fred made his report at the meeting. A motion was made to accept his oral report, seconded and then approved by the membership. Thanks again to Bill W6IYS for his service to the club.

Old Business. None.

New Business. None.

The club raffle was split with \$21 going to the club, \$20 to Jim K6JS.

Program: The previously announced speaker for the evening had to bow out on short notice due to a family emergency. Thus, the program was hastily put together to be a "tell all" night. Several stories were shared, and the membership enjoyed the lively conversation. Jim K6JS also brought along a slide show depicting the evolution of the SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radio) setup at his station. It is very involved technically as well as demanding on the operator's skill set.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*Mar 11 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Mar 28-29 CQ WW WPX SSB

*Apr 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Apr 23-26 Visalia Int'l DX Convention

*May 13 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

May 30-31 CQ WW WPX CW

*Jun 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting*

Jun 26-28 ARRL Field Day

Refer to <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html> for more contest information.

For Sale

I have the following items for sale:

Yaesu FT- 950 HF Rig excellent condition. Great rig for new ham: \$600.00

Hygain 204-BA 4 element 20 meter mono band yagi. Original NOT MFJ. (Current MFJ price \$599.99) My price: \$200

Henry 2K-3 HF linear amplifier(no idea if works)

Asking \$100(you pick up) \$150 delivered (reluctantly) The beast is very heavy!!

Ten Tec Argosy 2 HF Rig. Final transistors are not good but still puts out 3-5 watts. Asking \$80.

All items are negotiable.

Fred- N6YEU

Look what I'm missing by
being retired



My former colleague, Dr. Orna Hananel, having
her hazmat mask fitting at Kaiser, San Rafael



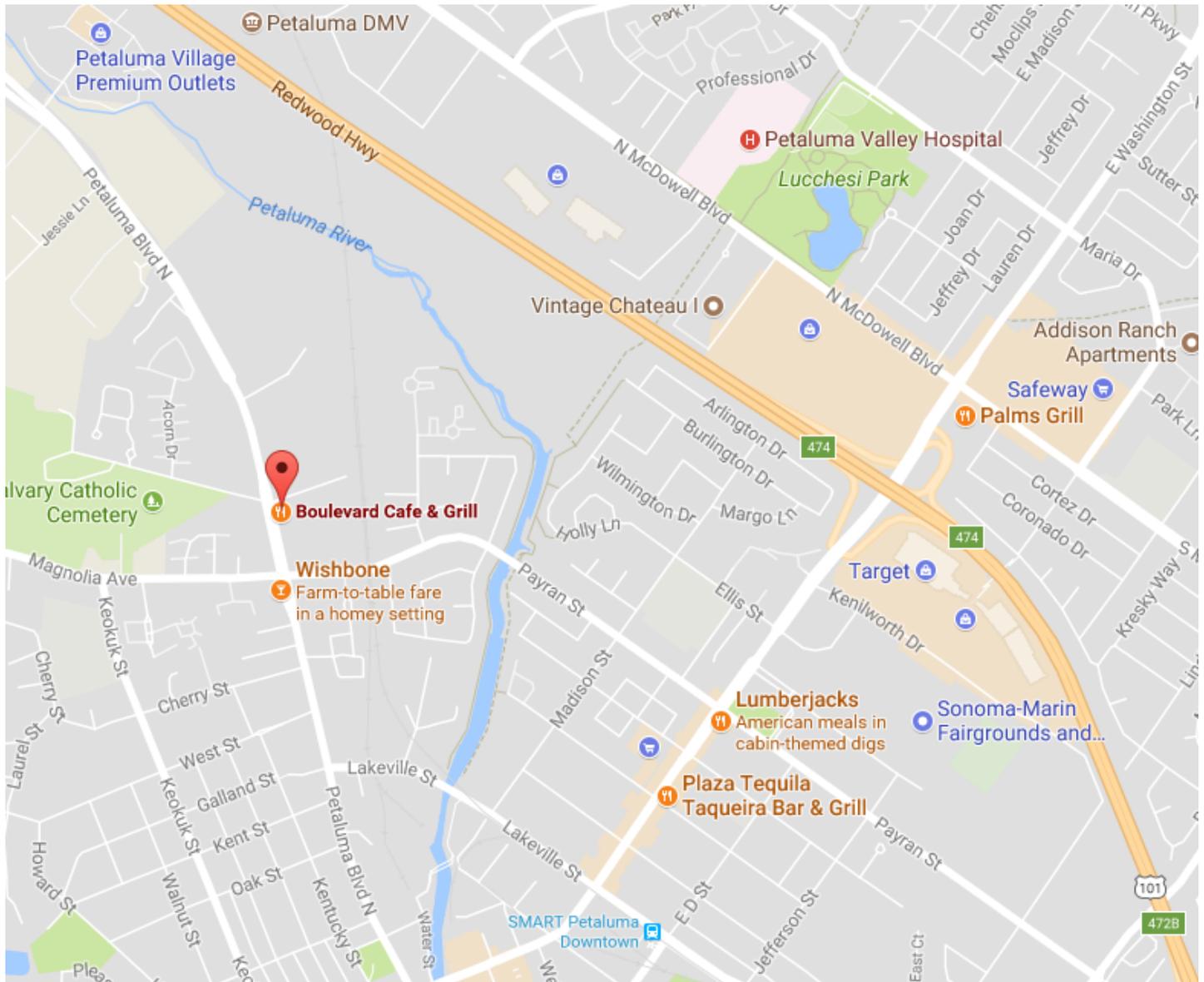
After a short rain (0.1 inches) at K6SRZ





Boulevard Café & Grill

1096 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petalu-



Redwood Empire DX Association meets the second Wednesday of each months at the Boulevard Café and Grill at 1096 Petaluma Blvd. North. Petaluma, CA.