

# 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 XXIII**

**Number V**

**May 2020**

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## Meeting Announcement

We'll be meeting on-line via ZOOM. John Miller, K6MM will be returning to REDXA (virtually) to present the video of the 2015 K1N Navassa Island DXpedition (DXpedition of the year for 2015). John writes: " This was a rare opportunity in 2015 to visit a small uninhabited Caribbean island that is largely a wildlife refuge. For many years, its lighthouse served as a beacon for ships traveling through the Windward passage. Accessible only via helicopter, Navassa screams "Stay Away" from every corner of the island.



## REDXA President's Commentary

Hard to believe it's May already. I hope all is well with you and yours and that you're surviving isolation. Please stay safe and check on friends and family when you can. It seems our April Zoom meeting was a great success! With over 30 participants it went off without a hitch and great to see REDXA members that live out of

the area.

One of the biggest questions is “Will we have Field day?” The answer is “not exactly”. You can read the ARRL’s announcements regarding Field Day on the following pages. It is just not possible to stage a traditional Field Day with social distancing what with all the sharing of equipment. I’m sure we’ll discuss it on our Zoom meeting. See ARRL announcement on Field Day elsewhere in this issue. The ARRL appears to be suggesting local clubs work together.

Join us on Zoom Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. John Miller, K6MM will do an updated presentation on the K1N Navassa Island DXpedition. Accessible only by helicopter, Navassa screams stay home.

Stay Safe! Jim, K6JS

Service Agreements is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting 6 p.m. (1800) PDT Wednesday, May 13, 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/93214457754?pwd=V3gxV0pUaUxaaUZ0bUM5azdMZ3Rodz09>

Meeting ID: 932 1445 7754 (password will be mailed separately)

Password: Password will be sent to current REDXA members in a separate email.

Guests can email [jselmi@hotmail.com](mailto:jselmi@hotmail.com) for password

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,93214457754#,,1#,549320# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,93214457754#,,1#,549320# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 932 1445 7754

Password: 549320 (FOR CELL PHONES. This is not the same as the one mailed to members)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adFXFvxkle>

## ARRL Field day announcement

With 2020 ARRL Field Day – one of the biggest events on the Amateur Radio calendar – just about 12 weeks away, ARRL officials are monitoring this situation with the coronavirus very closely and paying close attention to all of the information and guidance being offered by the CDC's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

At its core, Field Day is a local event and an opportunity for local amateur radio clubs to showcase the skills, science and technologies that make radio communication such a wonderful hobby and a valuable public service. Since the impact of the coronavirus outbreak has been very different in different parts of the country, we recommend that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day be in regular contact with their local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities. This also offers an opportunity for amateur radio clubs to bolster or re-establish their relationships with local and state public health and emergency management officials.

Because of the unique circumstances presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club and/or group to try something new. Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year - use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with our current circumstances.

Local club officials are the most appropriate people to be making decisions about their specific Field Day programs. We are all concerned about protecting the health and safety of those participating in or attending Field Day activities, and so we trust local club officials to take the appropriate steps to monitor local conditions and make decisions in the best interest of their communities.

ARRL officials strongly believe that following the guidelines of local, state and national health care professionals will help ensure everyone's safety in the coming weeks and months.

## ARRL Field day announcement (Most recent)

Creative Approaches to Field Day 2020 -Paul Bourque, ARRL Contest Program Manager

This year, Field Day promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation. Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional FD site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign. We will be including club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity. Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year. Try setting up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entry in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie. Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting. One club is planning to conduct their Field Day as a four-transmitter Class A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a Get-on-the-Air (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while having GOTA operators participate via remote link. Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at their usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their own homes. The club is creating a schedule outlining when each member of the club will be at the control of the transmitter via the remote link. Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation. ARRL invites your stories about the interesting and creative ways you're planning to use to adapt your Field Day operation. Share these on the ARRL Field Day Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1966096706830030/> We will be posting updates on the Field Day webpage as they become available.

Just a heads up from the ARRL 6<sup>th</sup> District QSL Bureau

Incoming QSL Bureau news by Robert T Devine, KC6AWX, Manager, ARRL 6th District In-coming QSL Bureau

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to the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff at ARRL are currently working from

PLEASE NOTE! ARRL has suspended sending us incoming QSLs due home. Some foreign bureaus have also suspended shipments. The United States Postal Service is processing incoming mail and have been made aware that numerous International mail coming into the US is not happening as some countries are not allowing mail to enter or exit their countries. A listing of those countries currently not shipping mail to the US can be found on the USPS site below: .

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>

We will be unable to do further mailings until ARRL resumes shipments. Thank you for your understanding, and Be Safe!



## APRIL MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

For the first time in the club's history and due to the public health risk caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, President Jim Selmi, K6JS, called the meeting to order via the virtual meeting application Zoom. It commenced at 6:15 pm, April 8, 2020 and a total of 12 members "joined" the meeting on-line.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March meeting, as published in Sunspots, followed by a second and approved. The treasurer, Fred N6YEU, stated that he would be providing a report for the next issue of Sunspots.

Old Business. None.

New Business. It was noted that the 2020 Hamvention in Xenia OH was cancelled out of concerns for protecting people from COVID-19. Field Day plans, at this point, are now tentative.

Program: A "round robin" of members was conducted by Jim asking how people were working through the pandemic and the shelter-in-place order. Jim also urged all members to use Club Log, to upload their latest QSOs updated there and thus improve the REDXA standings worldwide. Upcoming events such as the CW Test (a weekly on-the-air mini-contest conducted by CW Ops), Florida QSO Party and others were discussed. Many members contributed their recent contest or DX activities.

Jim advised that there will likely be another Zoom meeting in May. Check your email and the website for further details.

Adjourned at 7:30 pm.

### REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*May 13 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**May 30-31 CQ WW WPX CW**

*Jun 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Jun 26-28 ARRL Field Day**

*Jul 8 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Jul 11-12 IARU HF World Championship**

*Aug 12 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

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

## Treasurer's Report for March

As of the end of March our bank balance at Exchange Bank was : \$3,740.56

I deposited a dues check from AI- K6RIM for two years dues a couple of days ago giving us a total of \$3,780.56 in the account. I will go through the roster to update it tomorrow to give you a current actual paid up membership and will also forward that to Doug-WW6D to keep us up to date.





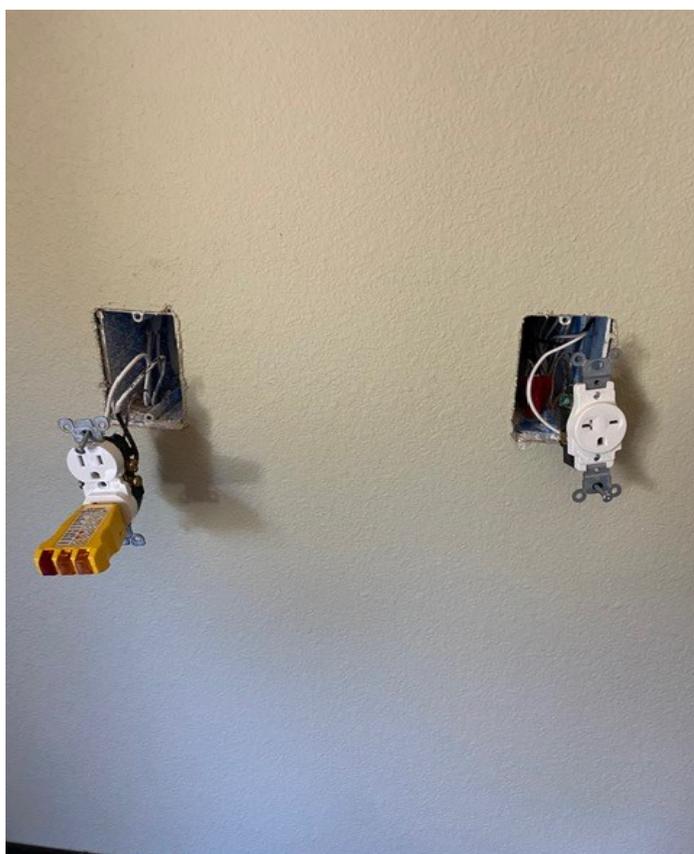
REDXA members suffered some terrible losses from the fires of October 2017. But the good news is that they're on the rebound. The tangled mess below is what remained of WX6B. On the pages that follow, Bill shares





Tower base just after the fire with a hopeful message to the cleanup crew

Bill write: "Rebuilding wasn't without its challenges. One issue was with my electrician. After several trips to my radio tech we couldn't figure out why the fuse on the KPA 500 kept blowing out. Well if you look carefully at the sockets on the wall you can't see that he put the wrong face plates on the boxes. He misplaced the 240 to the 110 outlet and that just doesn't work well. It was a tough decision but I tore a huge hole in the new wall for coax, rotor control cables and grounding wires. on top of a tower from WX6B. "More to come in 2020."





Bill continues: "While I had ladders and boom lifts I hung an owl box on my old temporary power pole. You can also see my new views to the East. I can now see Vallejo and Mt Diablo from my roof top. You can also see my 2 m vertical mounted on a roof eve. My neighbor below me may not appreciate the 72 foot tower so I'll see how this plays out. The old tower belonged to Bruce Butler but I never got the Steppir on it. The 2017 fire torched this one to the point that that I replaced it with one from a ham in Alabama. While working on the property I rented a towable boom lift for \$260.00/weekend. I got up to 40 feet and it was rather spooky. I also secured some wire standoffs and will get a 160 m loop in the last of my trees. My goal is to have 440 to 160 meters at my finger tips."





“After 2.5 years off the air I finally got the 20 meter beam and tower back in the air! Today I heard stations on 20. I am running the Elecraft K3S, KPA 500 with the old 4 element 20 m beam from M2. On this TX 455 tower I also put up a 9 element 2 m beam and a 440 vertical. Next in the air is an 80 meter dipole which plays north and south. With any spare time I’ll try to get the ACOM 2000A programmed and running. I have the shack in the new basement which is at the base of the old US Tower 572. It’s a 72 foot tower which will be replaced by a new used one and will house the Steppir DB 36. That will require a ton of work and replacing some old melted trombone pieces. I’m hoping to get more in the air before field day. The ARRL has a nice piece on this year’s field day and we may want to pursue field day like the California QSO party. So while Covid 19 has us SIP we can now tackle these radio projects. I look forward to getting back in the game! Hope to talk live soon. WX6B”





REDXA's own Saraj, KU6F, has been at home, social distancing and recovering from recent (successful) spine surgery. Fortunately for her—and for us—is the fact that she's a talented seamstress, knitter, and baker of sourdough breads.

On this and on the following page are some examples of COVID-19 face masks. It's a good thing she also has a stash of interesting fabric.

Saraj writes: *I'm recovering from back surgery and re-assembling my mini-station for 2020 field day from home. In the mean time, mask making and knitting have been my par for course. Here's some pictures. No, I'm not making masks for the masses, but a few had to happen. The back still doesn't like to sew, but knitting works rather well. Oh, and baking sourdough is fun, too.*





More from KU6F.

I should add that there are other REDXA folk who have been practicing their arts and crafts during the shut down. For example—and when I get some pictures—REDXA treasurer and county expeditioner Fred, N6YEU, has been producing some nifty cutlery that he's been exhibiting on his Facebook page.

Do any other REDXA members have creations to share? If so, send them in! .JPEGs preferred and include a little identifying comments.





Marilyn (N6VAW) and Rich (W6UDS) operating from their hotel room in Fiji



REDXA members' scores in recent contests  
compiled from 3830 postings

**7QP May 2**

<u>Call</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>SSB</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Score</u>
K6SRZ	SOCWHP	352		80	84,480
N3RC	SOAML P 260	1	100		52,200
K6ANP	SOAMHP	229	46	93	46,593
N6YEU	SOMLP 90 3	49			13,524
K6RIM	SOMHP	92	21	54	11,070
K6JS	SOACWLP	87		42	10,962
K6CTA	SOCWLP	40		26	3,120
N6ZFO	SOMLP	1		2	21

**New England QSO Party (NEQP) May 2**

<u>Call</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>SSB</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Score</u>
N6ZFO	SOLP	127	43	46	13,570
N3RC	SOLP	44	4	26	2,362
K6SRZ	SOHP	29		22	1,276
K6JS	SOLP	16		14	448

**Ontario QSO Party (ONQP) April 19**

<u>Call</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>SSB</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Score</u>
K6ANP	SOHP	36	14	34	5,338
K6MM	SOHP	38	7	28	3,584
K6SRZ	SOHP	30		26	2,856