

# SUNSPOTS



**REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

**Volume xxv**

**Number XI**

**November 2022**

## Club Officers:

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## Meeting Announcement

No meeting this month. See below. We will be zooming.  
Details on the REDXA Web page.

## President's Commentary

There's not much to add to Bill's commentary that appeared in the last issue of "Sunspots" so you editor will take the liberty of featuring some photos and offering some brief thoughts on the future of amateur radio.

Sad to report that if you google "is ham radio dead" you will get several hits and not too many are rosy.

Ham radio is being hit by twin whammies. First is the inescapable fact that most practitioners of the

Continued on the following page

art (or hobby if you will) are suffering the reality of advancing age and as we become silent keys we are not being replaced by our children or grandchildren. Look at the check numbers in Sweepstakes. Not too many are between 0 and 22. Or take the popular all Asian DX Contest where part of the exchange is the operator's age.

The second whammie is the Internet. With a cell phone or a relatively inexpensive computer it's possible to span the same distances that seemed almost magical back in my day when lots of young people were getting on the air—even building their own equipment or maybe a Heathkit.

Of course much of Internet or of cell phones depends on radio. Lots of people don't know this. But the Internet also offers a huge advantage over ham radio in that it permits commerce, including advertising, and an ease of posting personal messages .

Ham radio requires a receiver a transmitter and an antenna. This can be expensive and also frequently runs afoul of zoning ordinances. Some hams have incurred thousands of dollars in legal expenses in attempts to secure the building permits necessary to erect an antenna tower. The luckiest among new, young hams are those with parents who are already hams and have stations ready to use.

My own son was advised by his colleagues that provide security for the Burning Man event on the Nevada Black Rock Desert to get a technician license so he could legally access a private repeater. He did them one better: due his strong science background, he got his general class ticket.

I congratulated him and offered that he could now use my station on bands that allowed world wide communication. "Why?" he asked, holding up his cell phone to indicate that he could already do this.

We of REDXA are also smarting from COVID and our generally advancing ages. Our dinner meetings at the Boulevard Café have ceased due to declining attendance and our host's difficulties in hiring staff. For now, we keep in touch by email, by our W6KB repeater and the promising new series of breakfast meeting at —café in Cotati. Kudos to Len, K6ANP, for getting these started. (continued next page)

Of course, the problems that are facing REDXA are not unique. The plain and simple fact is that we are not maintaining the levels of membership that we once had. At one end, we are dying or becoming too infirm to maintain a home station and at the other end there are simply none of the young people who want to take up the pursuit.

There are estimates suggesting the half of the more than 700,000 licensed amateurs in the USA are inactive. [755,430 in 2028] Using the ARRL's membership statistics, only about a fifth of those are actual ARRL members. In 2000 the IARU estimated that there were 3 million radio amateurs world wide. Currently the number is estimated to be around 2 million. The ranks of US amateurs have apparently been growing by about 7,000 per year but it is important to consider that some of the amateurs who are included in the 755K are actually deceased but still kept on the books as "licensed".

Some authors have suggested that the young people who do become licensed amateurs are doing so because of interests in public service activities such as providing communication for bicycle races or marathons. Making contact with the International Space station with an inexpensive HT and antenna is likely a bigger draw than a 48-hour marathon international DX contest.

So here is my take on what's happening. Feel free to disagree and feel free to put your comments in writing with circles and arrows and photos and references—exactly what I've been begging our membership to do during my tenure as "Sunspots" editor.

First, understand that demographics and the explosive growth in digital tech-

nology pretty much guarantee that there will not be an influx of young, licensed hams.

Second digital technology will continue decrease participation in the traditional modes (the ones we love to use like CW, SSB, and FSK RTTY). . Much as I am lukewarm to FT-8, there's no denying that—unless there's a contest— the CW frequencies are largely empty. If you want to make a casual contact or work a little DX you're likely—as I am—to boot up WSJT-X to make a few QSOs.

I'm not a techie but I believe it's only a matter of time before something as powerful of FT-8 will appear allowing actual chats and even pictures. When that happens—when we can exchange pleasantries with the (also inevitable) NASA-Mars base—this may attract some new folks into the hobby.

Third, ham radio as emergency communication will be with us for a long time. Cell phones are superior instruments for emergency contacts as long as cell phone towers and electrical supplies are intact. When the towers fail, it's ham radio to the rescue.

Fourth, remote operations will continue to thrive, allowing us to avoid HOA restrictions and zoning problems. Again, it's only a matter of time before remote equipment will become less expensive and easier to use .

For the time being, traditional ham radio is the province of middle-aged or older white men. For the sake of our mental health we should avoid trying to turn back the clock and instead try to stay up-to-date with changes in the technology and whenever possible share our stations and our knowledge with the public.

Group efforts like Field Day should be more open to the public. Other events—maybe a demonstration of talking to ISS astronauts—from public places may prove attractive to some. If you like contests consider operating multi and inviting others to come participate.

For my part, I recognize that my brand of ham radio makes me a “dinosaur” (despite the fact that dinosaurs survived for millions of years ). I am not able to turn back the tide of human affairs. Instead I’ll be a happy dinosaur, open to change when it happens and cherishing my memories.



## REDXA Contest Activity

Pulled from 3830 11-3-22

By Jim, K6JS

### California QSO Party (CQP)

| Call       | Class         | CW Qs | Ph Qs | Mults | Op Time | Score            | Ops               |
|------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| W6PZ@K6SRZ | M/S HP        | 984   | 780   | 57    | 22:21   | 257,184          | K6SRZ, KU6F       |
| K6BBQ@WX6B | M/S HP        | 125   | 700   | 57    |         | 100,206          | K6BBQ, KG6N, WX6B |
| K6RIM      | SO HP         | 984   | 73    | 57    |         | 176,586          |                   |
| N6TQ       | SO HP         | 677   | 21    | 57    | 14      | 118,161          |                   |
| N6YEU      | SO CntyExp LP | 815   | 271   | 57    | 17.5    | 170,259          |                   |
| N6IE       | SO(A) HP      | 1058  | 1016  | 58    | 22      | 301,716          |                   |
| W6XU       | SO(A) HP      | 1014  | 173   | 58    | 12.5    | 196,504          |                   |
| K6JS       | SO(A) LP      | 1088  | 38    | 57    | 22:00   | 190,380          |                   |
| K6CTA      | SO(A) LP      | 72    | 0     | 28    | 2       | 6,048            |                   |
|            |               |       |       |       |         | <b>1,517,044</b> |                   |

### CQ WW DX SSB

| Call  | OpMode     | Remote | QSOs | Zones | Countries | Op Time | Score   |
|-------|------------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------|
| N6ZFO | SO(A)AB HP |        | 790  | 101   | 207       | 26      | 674,828 |
| K6TQ  | SO(A)AB HP |        | 522  | 82    | 177       | 15      | 375,291 |
| K6RIM | SO(A)AB HP |        | 315  | 70    | 136       |         | 180,044 |
| K6MM  | SO(A)AB HP |        | 268  | 62    | 144       |         | 152,852 |
| K6ELE | SO(A)AB HP |        | 115  | 29    | 43        |         | 31,302  |
| K6CTA | SO(A)AB LP |        | 125  | 40    | 59        |         | 27,512  |
| KG6N  | SOAB HP    |        | 42   | 21    | 37        |         | 6,380   |

### CQ WW DX RTTY

| Call | Class       | Other  | QSOs | State/Prov | DX  | Zones | Op Time | Score   |
|------|-------------|--------|------|------------|-----|-------|---------|---------|
| K6MM | SOAB HP     |        | 103  | 57         | 25  | 23    |         | 15,435  |
| K6JS | SO(A)AB QRP | SO2R   | 128  | 57         | 32  | 34    | 10      | 24,108  |
| K6TQ | SO(A)AB HP  |        | 465  | 118        | 82  | 47    | 12.5    | 187,967 |
| N6IE | SO(A)AB HP  | Remote | 406  | 162        | 151 | 82    | 09:17   | 321,135 |

**DXCC stats are pulled from Clublog. If you have corrections please send them to Jim, K6JS**

## REDXA DXCC All-Time

Data pulled 11/3/22 from Clublog

By Jim, K6JS

| Rank | Callsign | 160 | 80  | 40  | 30  | 20  | 17  | 15  | 12  | 10  | 6 DXCC ▼ | Slots | Range       |
|------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1    | K6RIM    | 53  | 195 | 321 | 323 | 339 | 334 | 334 | 310 | 303 | 16       | 340   | 2528 64 yrs |
| 2    | K6ANP ★  | 156 | 226 | 297 | 226 | 334 | 228 | 296 | 134 | 242 | 18       | 339   | 2157 77 yrs |
| 3    | N6IE+1   | 114 | 195 | 289 | 292 | 333 | 312 | 305 | 245 | 235 | 17       | 338   | 2337 44 yrs |
| 4    | W6WF+2   | 17  | 60  | 97  | 91  | 275 | 190 | 216 | 124 | 115 | 4        | 337   | 1189 43 yrs |
| 5    | N6YEU    | 3   | 73  | 208 | 110 | 327 | 239 | 290 | 199 | 235 | 1        | 335   | 1685 32 yrs |
| 6    | N3RC     | 153 | 221 | 293 | 288 | 323 | 296 | 317 | 230 | 269 | 43       | 333   | 2433 65 yrs |
| 7    | K6MM     | 92  | 144 | 230 | 199 | 321 | 264 | 289 | 232 | 240 | 10       | 332   | 2021 63 yrs |
| 8    | W6DR+2   | 136 | 157 | 258 | 216 | 304 | 243 | 272 | 174 | 212 | 30       | 331   | 2002 42 yrs |
| 9    | WX6B+2   | 4   | 43  | 165 | 46  | 300 | 219 | 242 | 153 | 197 | 6        | 316   | 1375 14 yrs |
| 10   | W6GMP    | 8   | 84  | 193 | 171 | 290 | 277 | 269 | 211 | 212 | 5        | 314   | 1720 13 yrs |
| 11   | K6CTA    | 47  | 48  | 147 | 144 | 210 | 169 | 219 | 91  | 159 | 1        | 295   | 1235 24 yrs |
| 12   | K6JS+2   | 14  | 107 | 209 | 96  | 230 | 160 | 208 | 104 | 161 | 11       | 294   | 1300 16 yrs |
| 13   | N6AD     | 4   | 24  | 211 | 103 | 253 | 162 | 202 | 85  | 136 | 6        | 288   | 1186 26 yrs |
| 14   | K6VXI ★  | 0   | 0   | 12  | 0   | 201 | 56  | 68  | 6   | 38  | 2        | 205   | 383 11 yrs  |
| 15   | AA0BV    | 1   | 9   | 25  | 32  | 28  | 37  | 35  | 6   | 7   | 3        | 72    | 183 5 yrs   |

## REDXA DXCC 2022 Calendar Year totals

Data pulled 11/3/22 from Clublog

By Jim, K6JS



| Rank | Callsign | 160 | 80 | 40  | 30  | 20  | 17  | 15  | 12  | 10 | 6 DXCC ▼ | Slots | Range      |
|------|----------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----------|-------|------------|
| 1    | W6DR+2   | 33  | 50 | 107 | 125 | 116 | 149 | 121 | 127 | 65 | 29       | 205   | 922 42 yrs |
| 2    | W6GMP    | 0   | 15 | 56  | 68  | 136 | 89  | 107 | 54  | 62 | 4        | 191   | 591 13 yrs |
| 3    | K6MM     | 8   | 16 | 38  | 32  | 99  | 73  | 118 | 63  | 62 | 7        | 185   | 516 63 yrs |
| 4    | N6AD     | 0   | 3  | 63  | 30  | 81  | 67  | 109 | 44  | 82 | 5        | 167   | 484 26 yrs |
| 5    | K6RIM    | 0   | 4  | 96  | 16  | 132 | 33  | 116 | 12  | 54 | 2        | 158   | 465 64 yrs |
| 6    | N6IE+1   | 14  | 29 | 81  | 7   | 108 | 58  | 103 | 21  | 39 | 13       | 154   | 473 44 yrs |
| 7    | W6WF+2   | 0   | 4  | 9   | 7   | 59  | 87  | 92  | 40  | 33 | 2        | 151   | 333 43 yrs |
| 8    | N3RC     | 6   | 15 | 50  | 8   | 67  | 57  | 107 | 34  | 55 | 20       | 143   | 419 65 yrs |
| 9    | K6JS+2   | 0   | 20 | 62  | 4   | 83  | 19  | 77  | 32  | 46 | 8        | 135   | 351 16 yrs |
| 10   | K6ANP ★  | 1   | 7  | 30  | 18  | 56  | 13  | 35  | 18  | 19 | 7        | 85    | 204 77 yrs |
| 11   | WX6B+2   | 0   | 2  | 20  | 2   | 56  | 16  | 20  | 6   | 26 | 0        | 78    | 148 14 yrs |
| 12   | N6YEU    | 0   | 0  | 23  | 2   | 52  | 10  | 42  | 6   | 13 | 0        | 78    | 148 32 yrs |
| 13   | K6VXI ★  | 0   | 0  | 8   | 0   | 54  | 15  | 33  | 1   | 36 | 1        | 78    | 148 11 yrs |
| 14   | K6CTA    | 0   | 0  | 2   | 0   | 18  | 3   | 18  | 1   | 20 | 0        | 34    | 62 24 yrs  |
| 15   | AA0BV    | 1   | 4  | 10  | 8   | 5   | 12  | 13  | 2   | 4  | 0        | 34    | 59 5 yrs   |



## REDXA Slots All-Time

Data pulled 11/3/22 from Clublog

By Jim, K6JS

| Rank | Callsign | 160 | 80  | 40  | 30  | 20  | 17  | 15  | 12  | 10  | 6 DXCC ▼ | Slots | Range       |
|------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1    | K6RIM    | 53  | 195 | 321 | 323 | 339 | 334 | 334 | 310 | 303 | 16       | 340   | 2528 64 yrs |
| 2    | N3RC     | 153 | 221 | 293 | 288 | 323 | 296 | 317 | 230 | 269 | 43       | 333   | 2433 65 yrs |
| 3    | N6IE     | 114 | 195 | 289 | 292 | 333 | 312 | 305 | 245 | 235 | 17       | 338   | 2337 44 yrs |
| 4    | K6ANP    | 156 | 226 | 297 | 226 | 334 | 228 | 296 | 134 | 242 | 18       | 339   | 2157 77 yrs |
| 5    | K6MM     | 92  | 144 | 230 | 199 | 321 | 264 | 289 | 232 | 240 | 10       | 332   | 2021 63 yrs |
| 6    | W6DR     | 136 | 157 | 258 | 216 | 304 | 243 | 272 | 174 | 212 | 30       | 331   | 2002 42 yrs |
| 7    | W6GMP    | 8   | 84  | 193 | 171 | 290 | 277 | 269 | 211 | 212 | 5        | 314   | 1720 13 yrs |
| 8    | N6YEU    | 3   | 73  | 208 | 110 | 327 | 239 | 290 | 199 | 235 | 1        | 335   | 1685 32 yrs |
| 9    | WX6B     | 4   | 43  | 165 | 46  | 300 | 219 | 242 | 153 | 197 | 6        | 316   | 1375 14 yrs |
| 10   | K6JS     | 14  | 107 | 209 | 96  | 230 | 160 | 208 | 104 | 161 | 11       | 294   | 1300 16 yrs |
| 11   | K6CTA    | 47  | 48  | 147 | 144 | 210 | 169 | 219 | 91  | 159 | 1        | 295   | 1235 24 yrs |
| 12   | W6WF     | 17  | 60  | 97  | 91  | 275 | 190 | 216 | 124 | 115 | 4        | 337   | 1189 43 yrs |
| 13   | N6AD     | 4   | 24  | 211 | 103 | 253 | 162 | 202 | 85  | 136 | 6        | 288   | 1186 26 yrs |
| 14   | K6VXI    | 0   | 0   | 12  | 0   | 201 | 56  | 68  | 6   | 38  | 2        | 205   | 383 11 yrs  |
| 15   | AA0BV    | 1   | 9   | 25  | 32  | 28  | 37  | 35  | 6   | 7   | 3        | 72    | 183 5 yrs   |

The Dream



The Reality





Field Day 2012

QST Article in

## Up Front in QST

upfront@arrl.org

### Collage Honors Family's Hams

Paul Deppe, N4NEH

My dad Roger Deppe, N9FEC, was one of four brothers, all of whom were long-time hams. Their father owned several businesses during this time, including a hardware store and radio repair shop, so the brothers were exposed to radio at an early age. They all served in the military during and after World War II, and they all earned college degrees in engineering.

**Les Deppe, W0RYX, 1920-2006.** Served as a radio operator in the Navy in WWII, earned a BSEE, worked as an electrical engineer for a taconite mining company in northern Minnesota. Les was fluent in Swedish, Norwegian and Danish and had many long-time ham friends in Scandinavia.

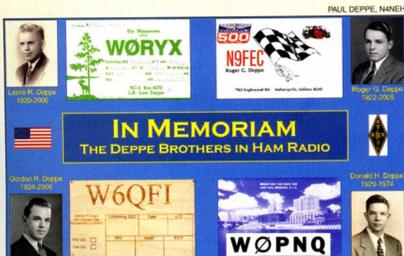
**Roger Deppe, N9FEC, 1922-2005.** Served as a Navy pilot in WWII, earned BSME, worked as an industrial engineer for Eli Lilly & Co in Indianapolis. After his retirement he worked for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in public relations. Dad and I got our Novice tickets together at the local Red Cross in 1971.

**Gordon Deppe, W6QFI, 1924-2006.** Served in the Navy during and after WWII, earned a BSEE, worked as an instrumentation engineer for a nuclear power companies in Los Angeles and Sacramento. Gordy also hosted local radio shows on music from the Big Band Era.

**Donald Deppe, W0PNQ, 1929-1974.** Served in Army Intelligence during and after the Korean War, earned a BSEE, worked in the electronics industry in Minneapolis until his tragic death in a fire in 1974. Don was a talented homebrewer and I still have the schematic for a MOSFET-based HF transceiver he designed and built in 1973.

After my dad passed away, I had the idea to make a plaque for our vacation home in Minnesota. My folks bought a small cabin on a lake near Ely, Minnesota about 25 years ago and dad and I put up a dipole and took our HF and VHF rigs there each summer. One corner of the cabin has a small desk for the shack and I thought a plaque would be nice to remember them by. I had many summer QSOs with dad, Les and Gordy from our home and cabin. My daughter Colette (8) likes to work 20 meter PSK31 at the cabin with me almost as much as fishing!

I should also mention that my mother Bea Deppe is also a ham (KB9WHD), as is my aunt (Les' wife) Phyllis (KA0LWU).



Paul Deppe, N4NEH, of East Amherst, New York, assembled this collage in memory of his father and three uncles.

### Field Day Group Encourages Drop-Ins

When the Marin ARS and Redwood Empire DX Association decided to join forces for Field Day, most of the focus was on radios and antennas. Operating as W6SG "2A," we knew that band conditions were not perfect but we would make a fair score using the club's new SteppIR 3L, a SteppIR 2L and a "shorty 40" on three surplus military towers.

We also needed to earn some bonus points. One category is "Site Visitation by... an agency... as a result of an invitation..." The REACH Medical Helicopter Service was invited and they certainly did "drop in"! At 1500, a helicopter circled the site. Then the pilot gracefully brought the helicopter in right on target! They gave us a tour of the aircraft and they toured our Field Day site. REACH provides air ambulance services in Northern California. Their mission is to transport patients despite any adverse weather conditions to area hospitals. In the end, W6SG submitted 1250 bonus points. — Doug Bender, WW6D, and Jim Robinson, KE6UAR

MARILYN BAGSHAW, N6VAV



With the FD antennas in the background, the REACH helicopter pays a visit to the W6SG Field Day site at the Marin Rod and Gun Club on San Francisco Bay.

### Hawk Prefers Horizontal Polarization

For some time I have been finding my magnetic 144/440 MHz antenna on the roof of my S-10 pickup lying on its side. I didn't have a clue if birds were hitting it, kids were messing with it or what. As I was looking out the bedroom window one day, I saw the reason for the tipped over antenna. Evidently, a red tailed hawk is an anti-ham radio activist. This mount has a rare earth magnet and will stand up to 80 mi/h highway speeds, tornado/storm chasing and ice. But not a determined red tailed hawk. — Troy Creed, W8TCC

TROY CREED, W8TCC



A Lansing, Michigan ham has a hawk with an attitude.

A visit to the REDXA-MARS Field Day operation at the Marin Rod and Gun Club by the Angel Flight helicopter.



Putting up the 40 M beam at the Rod and Gun Club for Field Day in the days before COVID.



**Multiplier status**

|     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| CT  | ENY | DE  | AL  | AR  | EB  |
| EMA | NLI | EPA | GA  | LA  | LAX |
| ME  | NNJ | MDC | KY  | MS  | ORG |
| NH  | NNY | WPA | NC  | NM  | SB  |
| RJ  | SNJ |     | NFL | NTX | SCV |
| VT  | WNY |     | SC  | OK  | SDG |
| WMA |     |     | SFL | STX | SF  |
|     |     |     | TN  | WTX | SJV |
|     |     |     | VA  |     | SV  |
|     |     |     | WCF |     |     |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 0   | DX  | VE  |
| AZ  | MI  | IL  | CO  | AK  | MAR |
| EWA | OH  | IN  | IA  | PAC | NL  |
| ID  | WV  | WI  | KS  | PR  | QC  |
| MT  |     |     | MN  | VI  | ONN |
| NV  |     |     | MO  |     | ONE |
| OR  |     |     | NE  |     | ONS |
| UT  |     |     | ND  |     | GTA |
| WWA |     |     | SD  |     | MB  |
| WY  |     |     |     |     | SK  |
|     |     |     |     |     | AB  |
|     |     |     |     |     | BC  |
|     |     |     |     |     | NT  |

A two year-old copy of WriteLog with 83 mults

**Band Summary**

|                |            |           |
|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Score: 116,532 |            |           |
| QSO            | Sec        |           |
| 80             | 38         | 2         |
| 40             | 98         | 10        |
| 20             | 218        | 8         |
| 15             | 336        | 60        |
| 10             | 12         | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>702</b> | <b>83</b> |

I was happy to see this: ss a sweep. All 83. And then I learned that there were 84. Fortunately I had logged #84, Prince Edward Island but WriteLog didn't show it in the as a mult with the red squares.

WriteLog hadn't updated the check boxes for Sweepstakes multipliers.

There are now 84 for the sweep

SS CW 2022 - WriteLog

File Edit View Entry Radio Bands Setup Tools Contest Windows Help

| SEQ | DATE       | TIME | FREQ  | NR  | P | CALL  | CK | SECT | M | ML | TIME-OFF |
|-----|------------|------|-------|-----|---|-------|----|------|---|----|----------|
| 210 | 2022-11-06 | 0038 | 14040 | 223 | U | K9WO  | 74 | WI   | 0 |    |          |
| 211 |            | 0038 | 14040 | 201 | B | K9BGL | 55 | IL   | 0 |    |          |
| 212 |            | 0039 | 14040 | 062 | A | W4DAN | 58 | TN   | 0 |    |          |
| 213 |            | 0039 | 14040 | 53  | A | NR7T  | 75 | UT   | 0 |    |          |
| 214 |            | 0040 | 14040 | 52  | A | KR7W  | 63 | ID   | 0 |    |          |
| 215 |            | 0041 | 14040 | 329 | B | K5TR  | 76 | STX  | 0 |    |          |
| 216 |            | 0042 | 14040 | 118 | A | N2EY  | 67 | EPA  | 0 |    |          |
| 217 |            | 0042 | 14040 | 107 | U | VE7XF | 54 | BC   | 1 | 65 |          |
| 218 |            | 0043 | 14037 | 420 | B | VY2TT | 02 | PE   | 1 | 66 |          |
| 219 |            | 0044 | 14040 | 8   | A | K3LT  | 81 | DE   | 0 |    |          |
| 220 |            | 0045 | 14040 | 84  | U | W7GES | 94 | AZ   | 0 |    |          |

There it is, right where I logged it  
Mult #65

QSO Entry

Radio SEQ NR P CALL CK SECT

kHz CW



Looking Northeast from K6SRZ on the first really rainy day in a long time. The tower is AB577 supporting a 5-element M-squared six meter yagi.

160 meter FT-8, looking out the shack window while running Jas and YBs at West Coast Sunrise

