

We'll be ZOOMing our
next Meeting

Time 7:00 PM

October 14 (Wednesday)

ZOOM:

meeting number 917 8189

2793 password *****

Elections



REDXA Election

It's that time of year again. Time to start planning for election of new officers.

During our October meeting, we will organize a Nominating Committee for all positions.

We will also set up a committee for the REDXA Spirit Award. We can't wait till the last minute.

During our November meeting the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and a vote will be held and decided by a simple majority. (I'll figure out how to do this virtually—Jim)

December meeting: New officers and directors assume office.



SUNSPOTS

REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

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Meeting Announcement

This month's ZOOM meeting program features REDXA stalwart (and current REDXA treasurer) Fred Leoni, N6YEU, relating his adventures in County Expeditions for the California QSO Party. Fred is just back from a successful County expedition to Mendocino County and in the past has mounted expeditions throughout Northern and Central California. County expeditions can be solo or group affairs. They're always a challenge and often a lot of fun

REDXA President's Commentary

I hope everyone is safe and sound during these trying times. Let's hope for cooler temperatures, and no more wind events that are becoming the norm for us lately. The dreadful air quality the past 7 weeks is the longest stretch on record, and it takes a toll on our wellbeing.

Our thoughts go out to another REDXA member who has lost everything in the recent fires. Bob, K6QXY with his giant 6M array and hilltop location in East Sonoma county barely made it out alive as first responders scrambled to evacuate folks the evening the fire started. He is staying with Josh, W6XU. We've had 4 members lose everything in the past 3 years, just too many for this small club.

Our Zoom presentation this month will be our own Fred Leoni, N6YEU. His presentation will be on 20+ years of CQP County Expeditions.

The contest season has kicked off with a very successful CQP. Please submit your CQP log before Monday October 26th @ 23:59 UTC. Make sure to choose Redwood Empire DX Association for your club and enter the SMALL club category.

I'm usually scrambling before contests, getting rigs,

Cont. next page

President's Report (cont.)

computers and antennas configured. Now that I'm telecommuting, it's a lot easier to do this work on lunch, break and also at the end of the workday. No more hour commute, sitting in traffic on 101.

Living on a 100' x 45' lot hurts when it's time to go to 80M. This year I built a Folded Counterpoise (FCP) under an Inverted L hung off the tower. This FCP, designed for 80M is only 32' long. The short and linear FCP was designed by K2AV to reduce ground loss-es from inadequate radial systems beneath inverted L's and vertical antennas. The FCP and Isolation Transformer allows us to get on the low bands and do well from small lots and other confined circumstances.

I had a SteppIR BigIR roof mounted vertical with radials spread on the roof. I had to take it down for reasons I won't get into here. The FCP is a 5/16 wave single wire folded counterpoise by bending a single 5/16 wave wire into three folds, creating opposite phase fields from the folds designed to produce minimal net fields at the ground. The FCP is coupled with 20 bifilar turns of Teflon sleeved AWG14 wire on an Amidon T300A-2 powdered iron core. I wound the transformer and rigged an inverted L off the tower, with the inverted L base and FCP at 8' in the backyard and the other end of the L in a tree out front. It worked fantastic in CQP! I made over 100 Q's on 80 with plenty of East coast stations too. If you're interested in getting on 80 with a vertical or inverted L and you have minimal space. I recommend looking into the FCP.

I had a successful low power CQP from the home station. 1000 Q's, but 22 dupes... I wonder if a skimmer busted my call. I had SSB and Cw contacts with K1IR, Jim Edelson, our June presenter on tower safety. I found a guy in ND using a straight key and had a lengthy QSO with him. What we'll do for a mult... :) . I missed VE7 and VY1/ VE8. As usual the VE3's showed up in mass quantities.

November sweepstakes is just around the corner. REDXA will once again enter November Sweepstakes as a Local club. Try to clear your calendar for SS CW November 7-9 and SSB November 21-23.

Don't forget to check out the REDXA YouTube page for past presentations.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvANpw-F6QPAe8T41tzK3w/>

I hope to see you all Wednesday evening. Social time 6PM – Meeting starts 7PM.

CQP in the COVID era

CQWW WPX was the first major contest to feel the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Logs received for WPX SSB from 2010 through 2019 averaged around 5000 logs. In 2020 logs received jumped to a whopping 7600 logs! On the CW side, participation increased over the same time period from an average of 4000 logs from 2010 to 2019 and 5900 logs received in 2020.

I wondered if CQP would see the same increase in participation, it is the best State QSO party on the air. CQP 2020 didn't let us down as participation seemed to be fantastic. I imagine there will be a record number of logs submitted this year. There were plenty of stations to work even with poor conditions on the upper bands. I wonder if all the smoke and ash impacted 10 and 15 . There were a couple of short openings on Saturday and Sunday on an otherwise dead 15 meter band. 20 and 40 were the money bands and they seemed to continually produce Q's throughout the weekend.

Kudos to the CQP organizing team for another job well done.

Don't forget to submit your log for Redwood Empire DX Association and choose the SMALL club category. Due date is Monday 10/26/20 @ 23:59 UTC

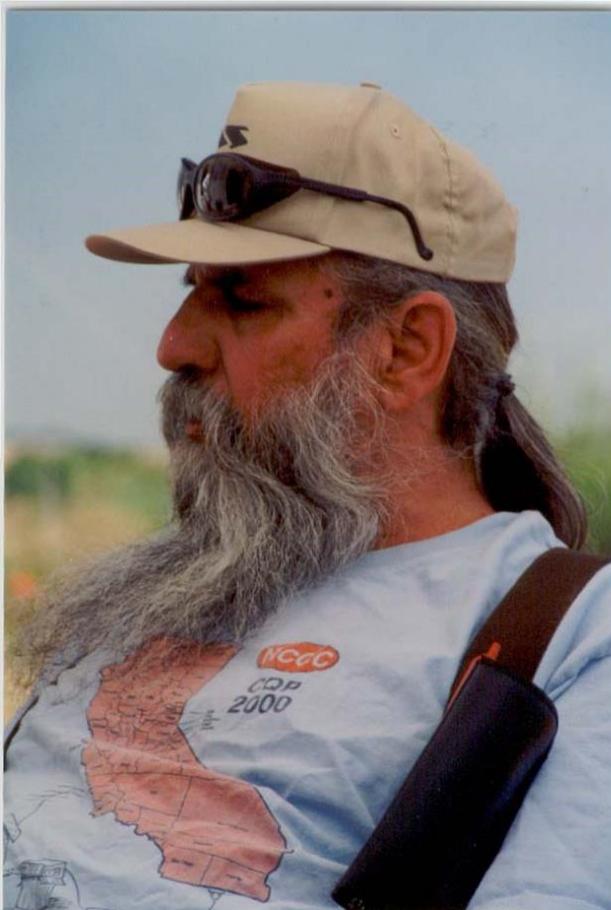


Jim Scagliola,

W6WR/SK

(this was originally posted on Facebook by your editor)

Jim Scagliola was buried yesterday with full military honors here in Petaluma. Jim was a Vietnam vet and a motorcycle enthusiast. Most of the mourners were either his comrades from the VFW or from the Rip City Riders. I was there representing the local ham radio club. Jim was an ac-



complished radio operator (W6WR) and a longtime member of our club.

The service was brief. Everyone wore a mask. It opened with three ear-splitting rifle volleys by three riflemen and one riflewoman) The preacher shared a little of Jim's history and read the words of Johnny Cash's "These Hands". Everyone present joined him in reciting Psalm 23:4 and The Lord's Prayer (even this atheist knew all the words).

Rest in Peace, Jim. W6WR is now W6WR/SK. SK (silent key) is the telegrapher's shorthand

marking the death of another operator.





Looking toward where Bob's home once stood



Remains of the 6M Moon bounce antenna

Above credit Griffin Bean



The 6M EME antenna at K6QXY before the fire.

Six Meter Titan K6QXY, Bob, barely made it out alive from the recent fires in Santa Rosa. Bob, who is 80 years old, had one of the biggest 6 meter stations in the western half of the US with a massive EME array, reports W9ZR, Randy. Bob was still doing his own tower climbing. Unfortunately Bob's QTH was burned to the ground. Bob is now staying at W6XU and plans to be QRV as K6QXY on 50, 144, 432 and 1296 terrestrial after installing a 90 foot rotating tower. Photos of the aftermath can be seen [here](#).

Other stations totally lost in the recent fires out west include K6XX, N1WC, K3RRY and KA6SQC.

-N3UR, The Daily DX



Penngrove at 10:00 a.m. local time

Fire, fire, fire...



A sad day in Penngrove. A carload of joy-riding teenagers crashed into the iconic Palace of Fruit and started a fire. The store is a total loss. The owner promises to rebuild.



REDXA is pleased to announce the creation of our own Youtube Channel.

Presentations are available online if you were unable to attend our monthly Zoom meetings or want to watch it again

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvANpw-F6QPAe8T41tzK3w/>

We currently have 2 presentations online.

History of Transoceanic Radio Communications - Frank Do-novan W3LPL

Amateur Radio Tower Safety—Jim Idelson K1IR



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

The monthly meeting was held via Zoom on September 9, 2020 beginning at 7:01pm. It was hosted by President Jim Selmi, K6JS. Two guests attended the meeting, Andy NN6D and Wendy KN6DON. A total of 24 participants were signed into the meeting including guests, speaker and members.

A motion was made to approve the minutes and treasurer's report from the August meeting as published in the August Sunspots. Motion was seconded and approved.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Andy Szapalas, NN6D, was introduced to the club and applied for membership. He had already submitted his application for membership via email prior to the meeting. His application was briefly read and his membership was approved. Welcome to REDXA, Andy!

Ron N6IE reported that he will be operating as special event station K6O during the California QSO Party (CQP) coming up on Oct 3-4. A QSO with his station will qualify as the letter "O" in the special S-E-Q-U-O-I-A award. See the CQP rules for more information.

Josh W6XU plans to be active during the September VHF QSO Party and encouraged other members to participate.

Fred N6YEU will be activating a county expedition during CQP. He will activate a county based on rarity and had not decided on which one as of the meeting.

Program: Our speaker for evening was well known contester from the Potomac Valley Radio Club, Frank Donovan W3LPL. His topic: "**History of transoceanic radio communications**".

Frank's presentation covered radio technology development from the Maxwell's mathematical description of electromagnetic waves in 1860-1865, Hertz's development of a crude spark transmitter and spark receiver that proved the existence of electromagnetic waves in 1886-1888, Fessenden's heterodyne receiver patent in 1901, Marconi's development of two way transoceanic high power radio spark communications from 1901 through 1907, and the development of multi-hundred-kilowatt spark, arc and electron tube transmitters from 1906 through the 1930s.

It also covered Armstrong's development of regenerative and superheterodyne receivers from 1913-1918, ARRL's very successful one way transatlantic test in 1921 at about 1 MHz, the development of military and commercial HF receiver, transmitter and antenna technology from 1921 through the 1970s, and the development of early operational satellite communications capabilities from before 1960 through the 1970s.

It was a well-researched program with lots of enthusiastic side dialogue that made it even more interesting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Clublog standings as of September 2020

Club Log Standings are based on worked entities during the calendar year. Top 5 in each category.

Overall

KC6AWX	228
N3RC	157
N6IE	149
N6AD	133
K6RIM	127

CW

KC6AWX	161
N6IE	128
K6JS	115
K6RIM	114
N3RC	99

SSB

K6RIM	75
KC6AWX	70
N6YEU	56
N6VXI	53
N3RC	41

Digital

N3RC	137
KC6AWX	136
N6AD	133
N6IE	106
K6ANP	97



REDXA member Fred Leoni has a tradition of operating as a county expedition during the California QSO Party.

This year Fred went to Mendocino County, near Willits

Fred will be the speaker for REDXA's October 14 ZOOM meeting



Fred writes: *This year I went portable again on a county expedition to Mendocino. Through the coordinating efforts of Dean N6DE and Rebar N6DB I had permission to set up and operate at a ranch owned by John Mc Kee about a mile and a half west of Willits. This year Frank KG6N joined me to do a multi single low power effort. He is a very fine CW op and is able to watch YouTube videos and send texts while operating! The exact spot of our qth was 39.386388 N and 123.359444 W for those who want to look it up on Google Earth. Weather conditions were warm to hot with on and off smoke from the fires depending on wind direction. Results were:*

80 CW-140 80 Phone-7

40 CW-284 40 phone-7

20 CW-460 20 phone- 332

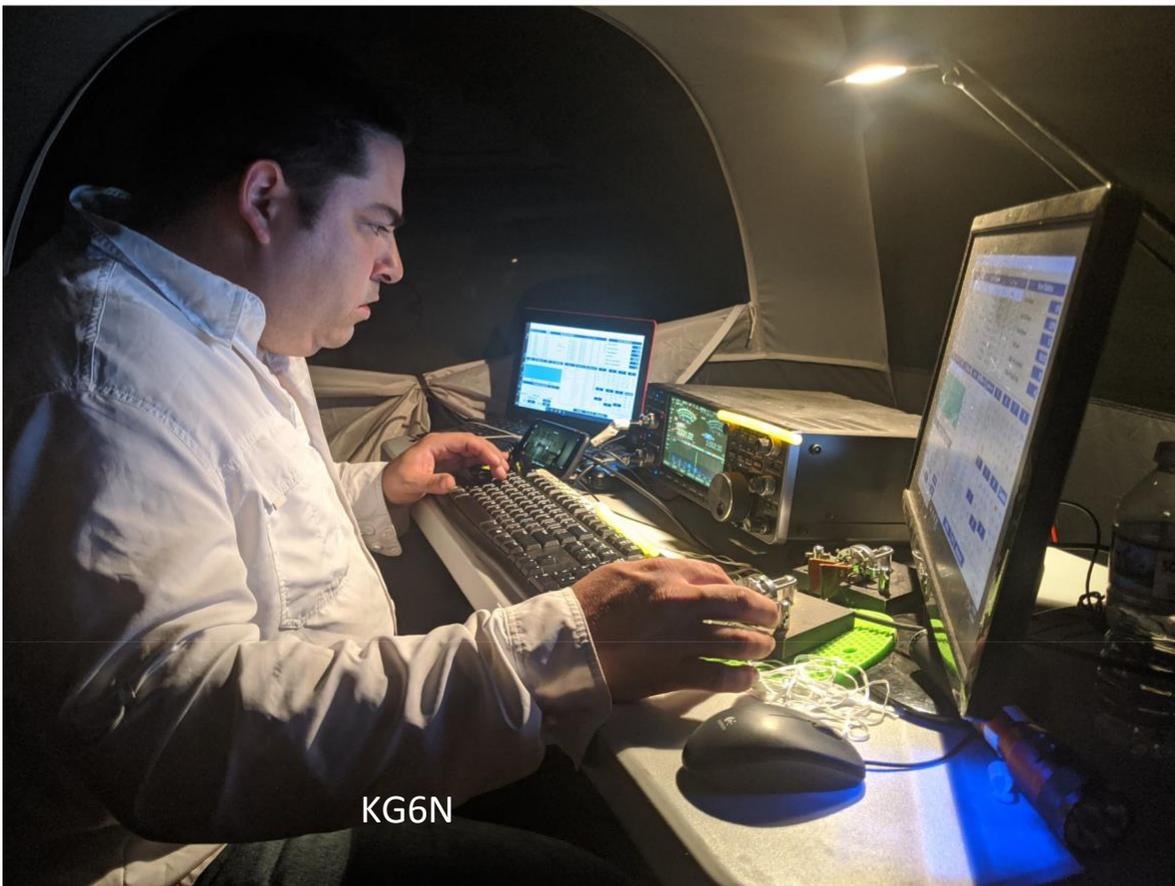
15 CW-79 15 phonre-2

963 CW and 348 phone total with 58 multipliers for a claimed score of 207,930

Frank and I did a multi single expedition to his father-in-law's place in Yuba back in 2004 so it was nice to have the "team" back together. Frank was a tremendous help with set up, take down and operating. I'm getting a bit "long in the tooth" for solo expeditions so his help was greatly appreciated! Another CQP is done and good fun was had by both of us. I'm already looking forward to next year where I will be going to.....?



Above: N6YEU/6
near Willits for
CQP. Nice view!



California QSO Party

Call	Cty	Class	CW Q's	SSB Q's	Mults	Score	Club
W6PZ(K6SRZ)	SONO	SOHP	1402	381	57	283176	
N6YEU(KG6N)	MEND	MSCEXP	963	348	48	207930	
W6I(N6ZFO)	LAKE	SOAHP 997		310	56	202552	
K6MM	SCLA	SOAHP	896	162	57	171684	None
K6JS	SONO	SOLP	822	156	56	155400	
W6DR(K6TD,N9YS,W6DR)		MSHP	434	661	58	152192	PL259
W6XU	SONO	SOHP	709	283	56	150808	
N6TQ	MARN	SOHP	653	47	55	112915	
K6O(N6IE)	SONO	SOAHP	322	443	56	103712	
K6ANP	SONO	SOAHP	466	187	54	95688	
K6RIM	MARN	SOHP	527	58	55	93335	
KC6AWX	MARN	SOLP		385	51	39270	
N5UJ(NM6E)	Texas	MSHP	90	114	48	23904	Texas
K6ELE	MARN	SOHP		92	55	6734	
K6CTA	MARN	SOAQR	50			27	4050
N3RC	SONO	SOHP	29		18	1596	NCCC

Soapbox

N6YEU - Another fun CQP as a County Expedition. Brought a friend along to enjoy the excitement as multi single. Conditions were decent and surprised on a good 15 meter opening on Sunday. Smoke from California fires was bad at times but coastal winds helped clear the air. It was nice to work all the mults this year and at least 2 of each! Last 2 were MT and MR. Used a Force 12 C-3 tribander at 35 feet with trapped dipole for 40/80 hung as a vee off portable tower. Also used a Butternut HF-2V on 40-80. Coleman 10x10 tent was our shack. Power provided by Hon-da EU-2000 generator. Thanks for great weekend! 73 de Fred/N6YEU and Frank/KG6N

N6ZFO - Good conditions; surprising opening to New England and Maritime Canada on 15m on Saturday provided a new mult. Heavy smoke from fires made SSB unpleasant. Can't believe I missed the VE7 multiplier. Then Saturday night, the KPA-1500 quit working, so resorted to 200w FT-1000MP MkV barefoot on Sunday, but my enthusiasm was somewhat diminished. Big thank you to Dick, W6TK for use of the W6I "Sequoia Event." 73 Bill n6zfo, operating as W6I

K6MM - Always an exciting contest. Missed NT for the sweep. Great participation this year. Hope everyone had FUN working the SEQUOIA stations. Thanks for the Q's. See you next time. 73, John, K6MM

K6JS - Always a fun contest and a challenge running LP from a little pistol. I missed AB and NT. I found a guy in ND using a straight key and had a lengthy QSO with him. What we'll do for a mult... :) I wish 15 had more activity,

Scores, continued

seemed to be a good opening on Sunday, but not a lot of Q's for me running LP. I had some great runs on 20 and 40 on Saturday (at least from my little pistol). Living on a 100' x 45' lot hurts when it's time to go to 80M. This year I built a Folded Counterpoise (FCP) under an Inverted L hung off the tower. It worked fantastic! Over 100 Q's I wouldn't have gotten without the FCP. See you all in SS 73, Jim K6JS K3 x 2 YCCC so2r DB18 @ 50' In-verted L with FCP on 80M

CQWW RTTY						
Call	Class	QSO	ST/Prov	DX	Zones	Score
N6ZFO	SOaABHP	932	127 82	53		404266
N6IE	SOaABHP	600	152 93	67		363480
N3RC	SOaABHP	735	117 146	44		247536
K6ELE	SOABHP	316	64 31	30		53375
W6DR (N9YS, W6DR) M/SHP		215	77 39	33		45594
K6MM	SOABHP	200	88 22	21		33536

Soapbox

N6ZFO - Fair conditions. some Eu on 20, nothing on 40 or 15. All states worked except VT.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

Oct 14 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Oct 24-25 CQ WW DX SSB

Nov 7-9 ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Nov 11 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Nov 21-23 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

Nov 28-29 CQ WW DX CW

Dec 4-6 ARRL 160m Contest

Dec 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting

Dec 12-13 ARRL 10m Contest

Dec 26-27 Stew Perry Topband Challenge

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

Editor's note

This isn't the cheeriest edition of Sunspots I've edited, featuring as it does fire, destruction, and the death of our friend. After more than a month, the air over Marin, Sonoma, and the rest of Northern California has finally cleared to the point that the sky is again blue and familiar stars and planets appear in the nighttime sky.

There are perhaps promising signs that we may be emerging from the propagation doldrums. Yesterday I worked EU and AF on 15 meters (OK, it was FT8, but it was still DX) and this morning I was working into Asia on 160 M as far west as grid NO66, which is close by Kazakhstan and Mongolia. In the recent CQP, 80 M was in better shape than it had been for a long time.

COVID-19 has made it more difficult to put together multioperator contest operations. To safely maintain many antenna systems requires help—manpower—and this is not conducive to social distancing. But things should get better—especially if science is allowed to replace politics. And when that day comes, I hope that all of us in REDXA can continue to work cooperatively to help each other with station maintenance, antenna work, elmering, and becoming facile with new modes of operation.

"Sunspots" welcomes your contributions, especially how you have been dealing with ham radio in the age of covid. And remember: this is a hobby. The other stresses of COVID-19 include how to make a living; how to educate ourselves and our children; and, above all, how to stay safe and healthy.



Here's a ray of sunshine through the gloom of the last few months. A big congratulations and a mazeltov to Earl Gordon, W6GMP, and Regina Cooper, who were married on October 10.





Boulevard Café & Grill

1096 Petaluma Blvd. North,
Petaluma, CA

The Café is open again for socially distanced inside and patio service. They're not able to host gatherings like our REDXA meetings, but I encourage you to stop in for breakfast or lunch. It's one way to thank Daniel and his staff for their support over the past years.

