

SUNSPOTS



REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma, CA 94975

Volume xxv

Number VIII

October 2022

Club Officers:

PRESIDENT:

Bill Sirvatka, WX6B

billys95402@icloud.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Roger Cooper, N3RC

rogern3rc@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

Roger Cooper, N3RC

rogern3rc@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Fred Leoni

N6YEU@aol.com

DIRECTORS:

Josh Fiden, W6XU\

Ed Schuller, K6CTA

EDITOR:

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ

Meeting Announcement

No in-person meeting this month. Please read the commentary below.

President's Commentary

Hello REDXA members. I hope everyone is happy and healthy as we reach the end of the year. I don't want to be somber in this editorial, but I believe that REDXA has several important issues, and they need to get resolved if we are to survive as a club. So, let me begin.

I suspect next year we will have no choice but to go to live **quarterly** meetings at the Boulevard Café. And that may not even happen. [ed. See the letter from Daniel on Page 10]

Our attendance is dwindling, and I believe last month we had a meager 12 attendees. On some level maybe fewer in-person meetings will help bring those numbers up and make it profitable for Dan to continue serving our group. It is a quality issue and not a quantity one and this needs to be discussed by the end of the year. I don't want to make a unilateral decision and we should have a frank conversation about it once again. There are folks who can't make a live meeting on Wednesday nights, and we should entertain other possibilities. Boulevard Café is a great venue, but it may be time to investigate other options.

Continued next page

President's commentary, continued
from page one

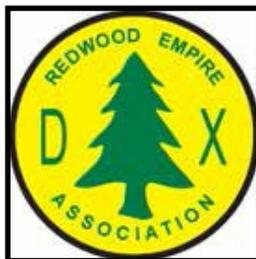
Last of all we need to clear up the dysfunctionality of our leadership. It's time to resume the treasury reports, Sunspot newsletter, raffles, communications and the business end of this club. On some level it has just disappeared, and we need to resume these tasks. If everyone is too busy to do this on a monthly basis, then I refer back to the quarterly meetings with less work for all but being prepared for the meetings that we do have.

I was told last month that I was too doom and gloom, but this is not the same organization that I attended years ago. I realize Covid was a big factor in the last couple of years but it's time to move beyond that and see if we can pull it off. Our club is not alone in this struggle, and I hope we can manage to get past some of these problems and keep the enthusiasm and fellowship alive. The reality is that we are shrinking, and we need to address that and our needs as a club.

In closing I would like to applaud those who played in the California CQP. Good efforts and great conditions. I have been talking to a few members and I think next year we will do a large group camping trip to some rarer county. I also know of two hams who would like to join REDXA asap and be able to submit their future scores. Rem (K6BBQ) from Marin would like to join and he had a small multi op/single station on the air for CQP. Total contacts were 825, total qso points 1758, 57 mults for a total of 100,206 points. He worked out of my stations and Frank KG6N buzzed over to give us some CW points. My present station now consists of the Elecraft K3S, 4 element 20m monobander, Steppir DB36, 160 loop, 80 meter dipole and I am in the process of adding one last beam which is the JK 6 elements on 10 and 5 on 15 just for fun and to piss off the neighbors. The amps that live here are the Elecraft KPA 1500, 500, Acom 2000 A and the Expert 2K. We are ready to roll now and start chasing DX.

Don't forget D60AE is now alive and on the air. I see a handful of folks on Clublog but let's get rolling on this one. I just logged them on 10 meter CW and they are good!! Bouvet in January and I'd like to see some enthusiasm and prizes for that one! Wednesday night speaker will tell us all about it.

Take care for now.
WX6B





Saraj, KU6F, at K6SRZ during the recent California QSO Party. We signed W6PZ and finished third in the M/S division (per 3830). Our goal was to have fun and avoid sleep deprivation. We didn't get the sweep (missed NT for the second year in a row).





Big IR Mark III at K6SRZ. This allowed us to have a resonant antenna on both 75 and 80 Meters. A brand new antenna and only used for about an hour during CQP. BTW, it's for sale!



The CQP awards for 2021 have been a bit late. K6SRZ is still waiting for his wine for getting in just under the wire at #20 for an all CW effort.

CW has become more and more important in CQP over the past few years. What with FT-8 and all, it's nice to find a center of CW activity.

The gavel is REDXA's prize for winning the Sequoia (small) Club division in CQP.

The plaque honoring a previous small club CQP win is hanging on the wall at the Boulevard Café.

Perhaps—as our president suggests—next year REDXA can mount a serious multi operation



KG6N's CQP story

CQP each year is primarily my main event. I farm my wife and kids out to the in laws and try to keep my butt in the chair. This year was no different. I cleared the clean laundry from its home on the back of the garage ham shack, re-assembled the gear from field day, and ran some qso's on ft8 to make sure it works. So far so good.

Saturday morning, I kiss the kids goodbye, remind my wife how much I appreciate her putting up with weird radio stuff, and empty the last of her pot of coffee into my mug. Pumpkin spice? Not too bad.

I start on time and make contacts with ease for an hour or so and then decide to move up to 15 meters. I call CQ and then the USB ports on the computer fail. My Winkeyer string repeats my CQ with callers wondering what I'm smoking here from SONO. I unplug and replug the keyboard, mouse, and winkeyer and then it stops. I go to 100 watts and experience the same mess. This is when I remember Bill, WX6B, graciously nudging me to operate CW from his shack. So I unplug my headset and keyer/paddles and go for a ride. Once at Bill's place, I plug in the keyer and headphones and configure the logger for the Winkey. All seems OK and then with the first CQ, the USB port shuts down on his PC. Damn! A few toroid's later we were cured and back in the running. A couple hundred qso's and a hamburger later and we're canning CQP in favor of Sunday's fishing trip. At home I made about 400 contacts and no further rfi. Next year.

Frank, KG6N

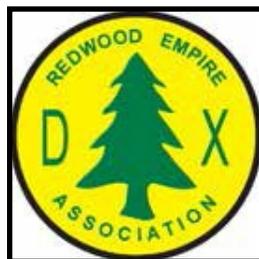


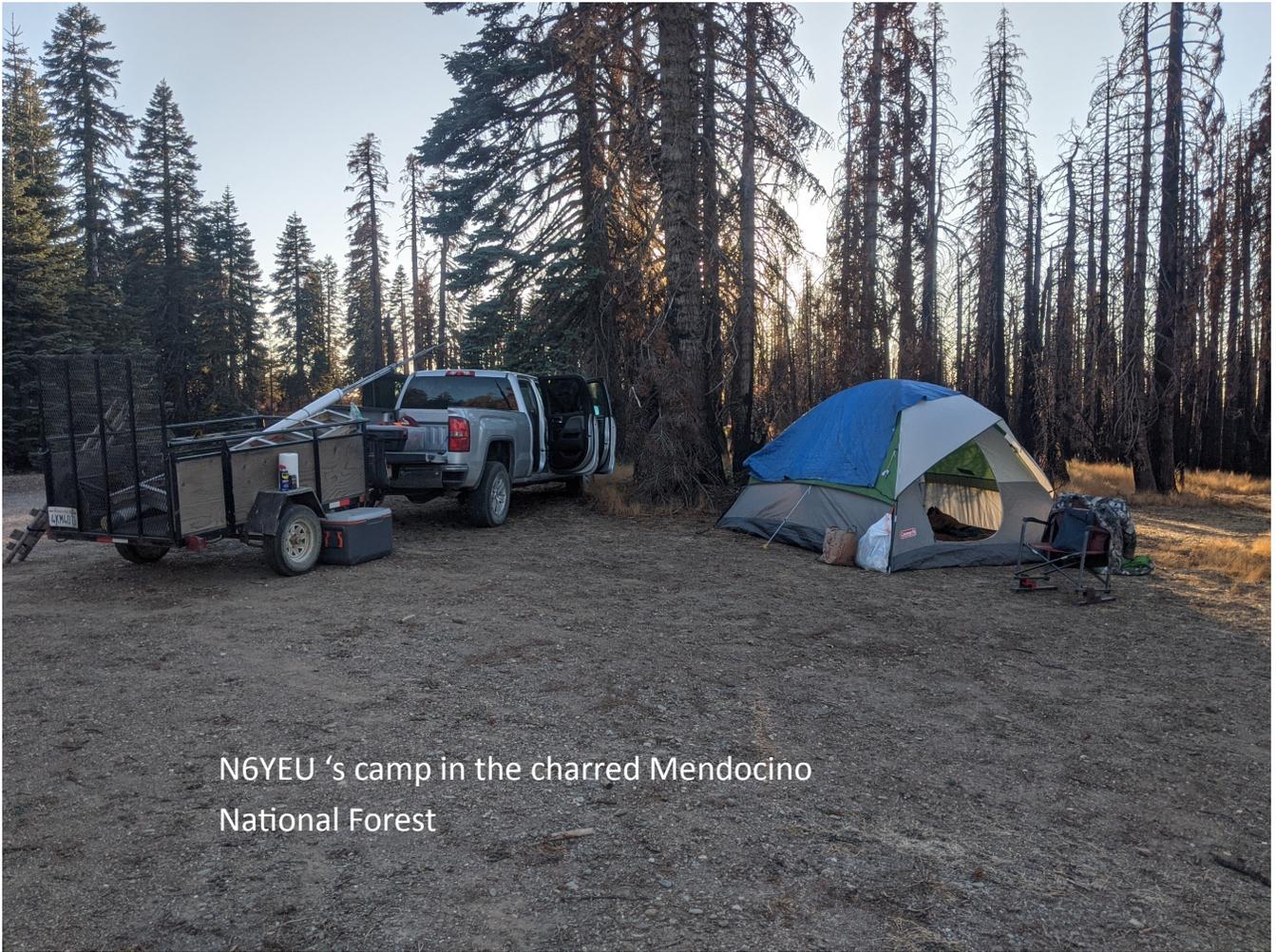
N6YEU for CQP

This year I was able to return to my usual CQP County Expedition after operating last year from West Virginia. This year I went to Glenn County, which is a "most needed county" most years.

I drove north to Willits then east to Round Valley/ Covelo then another 20 miles or so to Mendocino National Forest and set up at a place called "Telephone Camp". Unfortunately the area was burned a couple of years ago so the scenery wasn't ideal. A non-ham friend and his wife tagged along and he helped with the tower set up and take down. I used an AB 577 surplus tower, but only used 6 tubes to extend to 35 feet. I used my old Force 12 C3 tribander and a trapped inverted vee dipole for 40-80. I set up a Coleman tent for the "shack". My trusty Honda EU 2000i generator provided power.

Weather was comfortable and radio conditions were quite good. 15 was super and 10 was great also. I ended up with 1086 qsos and only missed Yukon/ NT for last mult. I worked K6JS on 40 cw and W6XU on 15 cw for my only two REDXA member QSOs. I also did some Parks on the Air before CQP giving out Mendocino National Forest. I stayed until Monday before heading home. Good fun as always.





N6YEU 's camp in the charred Mendocino National Forest



Treasurer's Report and acknowledging a very generous contribution to our club

Balance as of June 30,2022: \$2,755.27

Balance as of July 31,2022: \$2,755.27

(No income or outgo for July

Balance as of August 31,2022: \$2,755.27

(no income or outgo for August)

That said we are still attempting to finalize Field Day expenses with Marin Amateur Radio Club and I am also attempting to receive our portion of the deposit given to Marin Rod and Gun Club.

Also,due to my being away in Europe and having difficulty getting the donation check from W6SFK in my hands I did not get a chance to deposit his donation of \$1000 before he needed to close his account.

[ed. Sadly, the account has now been closed and Steve and will not be writing a new check.]



The Future of REDXA meetings

I believe we're going to have to go the quarterly route if we are to survive as a club.. Time for a BOD meeting to discuss this. Here's my most recent correspondence with Daniel of the Boulevard Café.

—Bill

Hi Bill,

I'm so sorry but tomorrow I have a meeting to attend and I can't stay to cook and unfortunately with the group of 12 it isn't enough to have a cook stay.

I know the group has been getting smaller and I'm open to working with you guys if maybe you can have the meeting closer to 3 pm or even the quarterly meetings May work better.

I'm sorry but with the inflation on everything it's hard to even break even.

Let me know what you think.

Thank you,

Daniel Gomez

