

We'll be ZOOMing

our next Meeting

Time 7:00 PM Sept

8th (Wednesday)

ZOOM: meeting \*\*\*\*\*

Password: \*\*\*

---

There's also a direct link to

ZOOM posted at:

[http: www.redxa.com/](http://www.redxa.com/) Check your

email for the "Meeting ID" and pass-

word. You should have received an

email with this information. If not,

contact one of the club officers.

---

---

---



Volume XXIII

Number VII 1834, Petaluma, CA 94 September 2021

### Club Officers:

**PRESIDENT:**

Roger Cooper, N3RC  
rogem3rc@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Bill Sirvatka, WX6B  
billys95402@icloud.com

**SECRETARY:**

Doug Bender, WW6D  
ww6d@arrl.net

**TREASURER:**

**Fred Leoni**  
**N6YEU@aol.com**

**DIRECTORS:**

Josh Fiden, W6XU  
w6xu@arrl.net  
Jim Selmi  
jsemi@hotmail.com

**EDITOR:**

Alan Eshleman K6SRZ  
Saraj Cory, KU6F

### Mee#ng Announcement

We're s(II Zooming, but the end is in sight. This month REDXA is pleased to host Program - Station Spotting with N1MM Plus by Kevan Nason, N4XL

Kevan, N4XL considers himself a "LiHle Pistol" and does not have an amplifier. His primary focus currently is HF Contes(ng. He will address the issue of how to integrate the various spoOng networks and (ps on how to make it work for you using the N1MM Plus contes(ng soRware.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Unfortunately COVID hangs in there! My XYL Kathy and I cancelled our trip to Croatia this fall and instead are doing a RV trip in California. Still hope to make the trip to Hawaii later in the year.

Thanks to Saraj, KU6F, for picking up the ball on the Sunspots newsletter while Alan, K6SRZ, and his XYL, Carol, battle some health issues.

Not much new in the ham scene for me. Did replace a 130' ocf with a 260' ocf. We will see how that works this fall and winter on the lower bands. Also putting up Hi-Z 3el vertical low band receiving array. Hope to get the sat array working, too so I will start using my new Icom 9700 more. Have also started to try to work the CWT minitests occasionally and even managed a couple of state qso parties this weekend.

With the COVID growth it looks like meeting in person may have to wait for a while.

Still looking for Zoom presentations for future meetings so be on the lookout for good ones for the club.

Windows 11 is coming and I am sure that it will cause the usual batch of issues with ham related software. Not looking forward to that but not much can be done about this progress. Hope Microsoft does a good job with the release, they do seem to be getting a little better over the years.

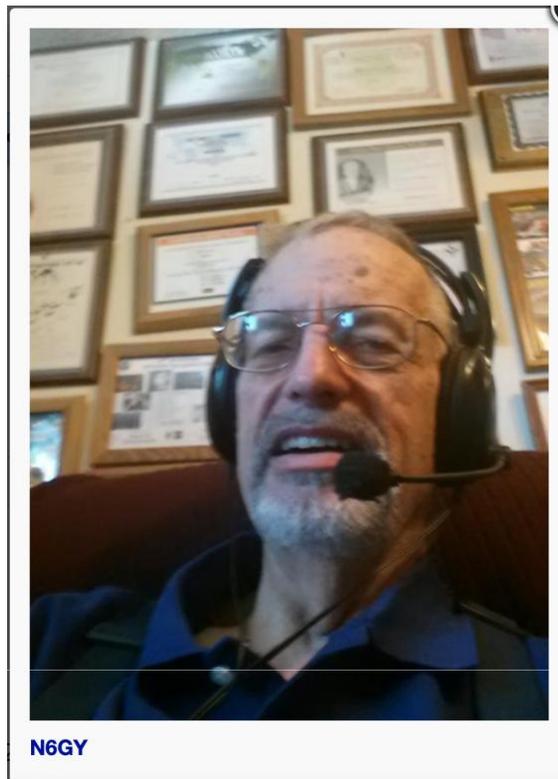
Going to take my SDR and laptop on RV trip, haven't decided whether to take the FT-2000 as its a pretty small RV.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom and to the presentation on Spotting in N1MM by Kevan N4XL.

73 Roger N3RC

***In Memory of Rick Sealock, N6GY*** Survived by wife Kathy, K6KBS, and their son's family. Doug has sent a card on behalf of REDXA. Their mailing address is on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com)

I remember Rick for his wonderful mentoring as I first made my way into the land of ham. I spent my very first Cal QSO party at his shack. So much fun not sleeping and listening through the QRM at 5am. Rick, we'll be listening for you on the wires. Fly with angels; you are missed.



## **REDXA Treasury report for Aug 31, 2021**

Ending balance as of August 31,2021: \$3,849.72 There was no outgo or income for the month of August.

I did not check the p.o. box so there is an outside chance some dues payment could have arrived. I had the bank print out the statement today.

Submitted by Fred Leoni, N6YEU Treasurer

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION DETAILS**

Improve Rate Using N1MM's Spot Capabilities

Presented by N4XL

Surprisingly, many contesters are unaware of the tools offered by N1MM to effectively find workable stations using Search and Pounce. Whether you operate from a Multi-Multi Super Station, have a modest 100 watt Little Pistol setup with a low tribander and wires, or live in an HOA controlled development using compromised antennas, you can improve your scores by using these tips. SO2R operators have also benefited by more productively using their second radio. Although geared primarily towards Assisted operators, ideas for those who prefer to avoid clusters will also be presented.

Topics include:

- Tools available within N1MM to identify workable stations
- Program options which maximize the benefit of the Mult and Q window spot usefulness
- Indicators offered within the program to help determine when switching from run to S&P or if changing bands will be more productive
- Effective use of N1MM's Band Scope feature
- Keyboard shortcuts to quickly navigate to your next multiplier

Questions both during and after the presentation are encouraged.

## **Fred N6YEU and wife Debbie heading off on cross country trip.**

We will be driving back east in our pickup and 4-Wheel pop-up camper to visit our daughter Melissa and family beginning Sunday 5 Sept. via Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, eastern Canada back to New England and down to West Virginia. I hope to arrive in WV a couple of days before CQP begins. I will be operating (hopefully) from a real station as N6YEU/8. ( I have a couple possible guest op opportunities near my daughter's place). Worse case I set up at daughter's with my portable dipole and IC-7300 as I did once before. During the almost three week trip to WV I will be trying to get on the air when I have the chance especially if we are in a national or state park or similar activating parks for the Parks on the Air program. I will have a short introduction in separate article.

I plan on "Zooming" for Sept. and Oct. meetings and will get the treasurer's supplies to someone to keep until my return. We are both vaccinated and will be "socially distancing" as best we can. We will be traveling along U.S Highway 2 for the most part which is quite isolated which will definitely help. This will be our fourth over and back trip

" On the road again,we can't wait to get on the road again...."

73,Fred

## **Parks on the Air (POTA)**

Off and on during the last couple of years I have been enjoying operating in the Parks on the Air Program. After having a great deal of fun during the 2016 National Parks Centennial event sponsored by ARRL ( National Parks on the Air-NPOTA) I discovered POTA. National parks,state parks,recreation areas national forests, historic landmarks etc, have all been assigned a four digit number designation. The program is worldwide. All parks in USA begin with the letter K. For example locally there is Armstrong Redwoods Reserve State Conservation Area K-3398

Hams go to the various parks to "activate" them. 10 qsos is the minimum for a official activation but all qsos count. The hams calling are known as "chasers or "hunters". There seems to be quite an interest in both activating and hunting. For those of us who enjoy portable operating it is right up our alley. I have done a couple of activations and have worked many here from home. More detailed information can be found on the web site: pota.app (ex. [pota.us](http://pota.us)) I hope to activate some parks on my journey across the USA and Canada (as we speak). Keep an ear open for me and watch the spots page on their web site.

73, Fred, N6YEU

# California QSO Party – Next Month!

by Doug WW6D

By the time you read this, it will be less than a month until the most popular state QSO Party on the contest calendar. And this year's event brings significant rules changes for the club competition.

As you may remember, REDXA \*finally\* won the Small Club Competition last year after many years of trying. A real rivalry had developed between us and the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club as well as the Pizza Lovers 259 (PL259 for short).

And, as they say, all good things must come to an end... the club competition rules have now be changed for 2021! Briefly, the old alignment of clubs has given way a new stratification based on size. To quote the new rules (from <http://www.cqp.org/Clubcomp.html>):

**“There are 5 categories of California clubs and 5 categories of non-California clubs.** [Emphasis is mine.] Categories are based on the number of logs received by each club. To commemorate California's stunning natural landscape, five U.S. National Parks located inside California were selected as club category names. Spanning California from the northwest to the southeast corners of the state, these national parks include forests, mountains, vast desert wilderness, islands in the Pacific Ocean, towering waterfalls, granite cliffs and the tallest trees on Earth. Just as these national parks are different from each other, so too are amateur radio clubs. CQP Club Category names attempt to cherish this fact and to represent different levels of club participation.”

Further the breakdown is summarized in this table:

<u>CQP Club Category</u>	<u>Number of Logs per Club</u>
Yosemite	31+
Joshua Tree	21-30
Sequoia	11-20
Redwood	6-10
Channel Islands	1-5

Further, there are some other interesting features – bonus points for California County Expedition stations participating within the club. Read the full rules from the website.

Bottom line: everyone that can get on the air should do so and submit a log for REDXA. And more importantly – have fun!



# VOMARC Hamfest returns

by Doug WW6D

Believe it or not, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club is holding their "annual" hamfest next month. It will be the first hamfest in Sonoma County for at least 2 years. Here's the details...

## Features

- A pancake breakfast (the club's annual fund raiser)
- A Swap Meet with all kinds of new and used amateur radio equipment
- Demonstrations of Fox-hunting (where a person with a handheld radio and special antenna tries to find a hidden radio)
- A VE session where prospective hams can earn their license or current hams can upgrade
- A display of emergency vehicles
- Meet ARRL Officials

## Admission

Admission is FREE, there is a charge for breakfast

Talk-in on 145.350- MHz (88.5 pl)

## When

The 2021 Hamfest will be held on the morning of **Saturday, October 2nd.**

## Location

First Congregational Church of Sonoma, 252 W Spain St, Sonoma

**Note1:** this is the same weekend as the California QSO Party, so plan accordingly. Social distancing, masks and other health related mandates will be observed.

**Note2:** the venue has changed from previous years - so don't go the park!

**Note3:** for more information, go to their website:

<http://vomarc.org/events/hamfest.html>

# AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

by Doug WW6D, Secretary

The monthly meeting was held on Zoom August 11, 2021. Social hour began at 6:30 pm, hosted by President Roger Cooper, N3RC. Formal meeting began around 7 pm. During the meeting, 14 participants were noted.

**Old business:** none.

**New business:** Minutes and Treasurer's report for July were approved as published in the Sunspots newsletter.

Roger noted that discussions continue with Daniel on returning safely to the Boulevard Café. Jim K6JS followed up on his pledge to check out other potential places. He discussed "Café Belini" in Petaluma which could potentially serve us. We would need to have a minimum of 10 'diners' in attendance.

**Program: Traveling with Ham Radio in Europe by Jim Stockwell, W6KC.** Jim, W6KC, presented a talk about his travels with ham radio equipment in Europe. He covered highlights from his five-month 1971 trip throughout Europe in a VW camper, a mobile antenna and a Yaesu FT-101 [remember those days?]. He continued with his more recent 2019 three-month visit accompanied by his YL. The presentation included several photos, videos and comments highlighting his operations in 14 different cities in four countries in

Europe. He has written an article about his travels which was published in the November 2019 issue of "Solid Copy", the newsletter for members of CWops, an international club that promotes the use of CW on the ham bands.

Check out Jim's website for a recap of the program along with his efforts in the California QSO Party: <http://www.vistasierra.com/w6kc/>

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Doug WW6D

*Sep 8 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Oct 2 Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest (in Sonoma) <http://vomarc.org/events/hamfest.html>**

**Oct 2-3 California QSO Party**  
**<http://www.cqp.org/>**

*Oct 13 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

**Oct 15-17 Pacificon 2021 - ARRL Pacific Div Ham Radio**  
**Convention <http://www.pacificon.org/>**

*Nov 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting*

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



## Boulevard Café & Grill

1096 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA

The Café is open again , including inside service. They're not able to host gatherings like our REDXA meetings yet but I encourage you to stop in for breakfast or lunch.

Please thank Daniel and his staff for their support over the past years.

REDXA's first place small club CQP plaque is prominently displayed here on the wall alongside plaques from other service clubs

We will continue Zoom meetings for the (me being; stand by.

