

# 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

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Visit our Web Site at <http://www.redxa.com/>

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, August 10, 2011** at Gourmet Garden Restaurant, Petaluma. If you need directions, please call one of the club officers.

6 pm — Social Hour in the Lounge  
7 pm — Dinner and Meeting  
8 pm — Program

**PROGRAM: Our Program for the evening will have us reliving the fun and excitement of Field Day 2011. Alan, K6SRZ has again this year documented our efforts on video.**

### REDXA President's Report

#### REDXA meets TWiT TV

A world-wide phenomenon involving ham radio is taking place and it's starting right here in Petaluma! Over the past couple of months, I've been telling you about a new weekly web-cast TV show about ham radio featuring the ebullient Bob Heil, K9EID on the TWiT ("This Week in Tech") network which is owned and operated by local radio and TV personality Leo Laporte. Leo has for a long time been a 'tech guru' and his interest in all things technical led him to a recent interest in ham radio and a connection with Bob Heil and Gordon West, WB6NOA. The first show which aired in May, featured Leo interviewing Bob, Gordon and Eagles lead guitarist Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, talking about how they got interested in ham radio. Leo confessed that he wanted to be a ham, and has since taken and passed his Technician Class test and was issued the callsign KJ6QGP. By the time you read this, Leo will probably have passed his General test.

The TWiT TV series is called Ham Nation and recorded podcasts can be accessed at [www.twit.tv/hn](http://www.twit.tv/hn). Twit TV is home-based in its brand new (and still being built) studios on Keller Street, right across from the Phoenix Theater here in Petaluma and the official grand opening weekend is August 20th and 21st. Leo has gotten so fired up about ham radio that he's having an HF station built right in the main studio area and is hoping on getting up antennas so that local hams can join the fun and operate from the studio during the grand opening event. The Ham Nation podcasts should be a powerful voice for our hobby that is sure to raise awareness of the great things ham radio does and in the process recruit thousands of new hams all across the nation and around the world. The various TWiT TV podcasts reach nearly a half-million viewers each month, plus Leo hosts a weekly radio broadcast that is carried by 110 stations including KGO in San Francisco.

The REDXA folks wasted no time in getting involved, and last week, Matt, KE6LPO, Chuck, N6OJ, Bill, KH6GJV and I met with Leo at the new studios and checked out the roof of the historic 100 year-old building to make plans for a temporary antenna system for the grand opening, as well as a permanently installed system later on. We'll get started with a triband beam on a tripod and some dipoles that should do a fair job of covering state-side QSO's and some DX as well. Most of the construction will get done Friday, August 19th, and we'll have some updates on the plans at the August meeting. We understand that I-COM will supply a transceiver and no doubt Bob Heil will supply a microphone and headphones. I hope that lots of REDXA members will come out and join the celebration in Petaluma's historic downtown!

At our August meeting, we'll relive the fun and excitement of Field Day 2011. Alan, K6SRZ has again this year documented our efforts on video and has been working diligently the past month editing the footage for our presentation. It's sure to be a great evening of fun, food and friends, Wednesday August 10th at the Gourmet Garden Restaurant in Petaluma...I'll look forward to seeing you there!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JULY 2011**

by Wally, N6AD

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

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### **JULY MEETING MINUTES**

by Wally, N6AD

President Ron N6IE called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, July 13, 2011 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. In attendance were 23 members including four guests: Catherine and Zoe, XYL and granddaughter of Steve K6SFK; and Dean KG6ORD with XYL Susie KG6ORL. Ron N6IE requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report as published in Sunspots. Both were moved for approval, seconded and adopted.

Old Business: Club Log web site – Ron N6IE asked who was king of 160 meters based on club participation on the G7VJR web site. Though the question remained unanswered, Bruce W6OSP and Len K6ANP both said try it, you'll like it. Field Day report – W6KB rang up 2804 QSOs for a grand total of 9556 points. Propagation this year was somewhat limited, but that's OK. The GOTA station was well manned, the food was the best ever (thank you Marin Amateur Radio Society), and everyone had a great time. Participating operators, don't forget to pick up your REDXA coffee mug.

The raffle was won by Rick N6RXA, who took home half of \$110.

New Business: New podcast studio in downtown Petaluma – tech personality Leo Laporte KJ6QGP is expanding his This Week in Tech show by opening a new studio in downtown Petaluma. He has added a second show called Ham Nation, hosted by Bob Heil K9EID. Ham Nation airs live on <http://live.twit.tv> Tuesdays at 6:00 Pacific Time. See <http://twit.tv/hn> for more information. Ron N6IE is looking into the possibility of a special event station run by the club to operate at the new location. VOMAR at Point Reyes -- Ken N6KM announced that a special event station operated by Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club will be QRV at Point

Reyes Lighthouse August 7 – 8 on 14270 and 7270 kHz.

Upcoming Meetings – Nothing reported.

The main feature of the evening was a presentation by Bob K6QXY on 6 Meter Propagation. Bob has been and still is an innovative pioneer in 6 meter operation and an avid researcher in helping to uncover some of the mysteries of this unique band.

Quick summary: If you want to be serious about DX on this band you need high gain antennas and low noise. We are two years into Cycle 24 so far and it looks dismal. Most predictions of sunspot numbers for the near future are good enough for HF but not 6 meters. We need 100 minimum for East Coast to Europe, West Coast to Asia and we may not get that. In the meantime, we can rely on F2 Propagation, conventional one or two hop Sporadic E, and Trans Equatorial Propagation, although TEP on the West Coast is rare with these low numbers. Other propagation types: SSSP, discovered by the Japanese, and ESSSP, discovered by Bob, our presenter. EME on 6 meters is considered an esoteric mode. Bob has an array with 18.6 DBD gain for this purpose. Bob's article on 50 mHz MUF tracking has some great info including details on his antenna system:

<http://sites.google.com/site/n8uupradio/Home/k6qxy-6-meter-prop-article>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

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## Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

Here is the link for the News Summary:  
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>

## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

6/30/11 Balance Forward		\$1,921.11
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
Field Day Food	100.00	
Raffle	<u>100.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		220.00
EXPENSES		
Field Day Exp. W6OSP	73.27	
Josh Field Day	50.00	
MARC ½ FD	<u>302.21</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(425.48)
7/31/11 Ending Balance		<u>\$1,715.63</u>

REDXA membership renewal is due. Please submit your dues ASAP. Dues can be mailed to me via my home address, which is current on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) mailed to the REDXA P.O. Box or given to me personally at our regularly scheduled meetings.



MAY

2011



Conducted by K6JS



### REDXA Honor Roll

#### WARC BANDS

##### 30M

K6RIM	319
N60J	207
K6ANP	169
K6SRZ	145
AG6V	3
WW6D	2
N6VAW	1

##### 17M

K6RIM	329
N60J	312
K6ANP	162
K6SRZ	131
N6GY	8
WW6D	6
AG6V	2
N6VAW	1

##### 12M

K6RIM	294
N60J	197
K6ANP	72
K6SRZ	38
N6GY	5
AG6V	2
WW6D	1

#### ARRL DX Challenge

K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1605
N60J	1588
N6VAW	248

#### 160 Meters

W6OSP	174
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	143
K6RIM	55
N60J	54
WW6D	4
K6JS	4

#### 1.5K Club

<b>K6RIM</b>	<b>1588</b>
K6ANP	1371
N60J	1332
K6SRZ	1124
N6GY	148

Bruce, W6OSP reigns supreme on the Gentlemen's band.

#### Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.

Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Countries do not count until HQ Awards Committee takes action and announces a start date for a new country.



K6QXY	166
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6

K6QXY worked 6 new ones this E season.



N60J	293
K6RIM	253
K6SRZ	128
K6ANP	123
WW6D	9
N6GY	7

N60J passes up RIM-shot to take the lead in the digital realm.

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:

Jselmi@hotmail.com

#### Mobile DX



K6JS	46
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#### Islands On The Air

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:


by Doug, WW6D

Aug 6-7 VOMARC Spcl Event N6P,  
Point Arena Lighthouse  
Aug 6-7 NA QSO Party CW  
Aug 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Aug 12-14 SCRA activates rare grid CM79  
Aug 13-14 WAE DX Contest CW  
Aug 20-21 NA QSO Party SSB  
Sep 3-4 All Asian DX Contest, SSB  
Sep 10-11 WAE DX Contest, SSB  
Sep 10-12 ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party  
Sep 14 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Sep 24-25 CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY  
Oct 8 FISTS Fall Sprint  
Oct 12 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Oct 14-16 Pacificon – Santa Clara  
Oct 29-30 CQ WW DX SSB  
Nov 5 ARRL Sweepstakes CW  
Nov 9 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Nov 19 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB  
Nov 26-27 CQ WW DX CW

Dec 2 ARRL 160 m  
Dec 10 ARRL 10 m  
Dec 14 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting

See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more Contest Schedules.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

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**MEETING: AUGUST 10, 2011**

