

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, July 14, 2010 at Mister McGoo's
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 be
speaker Stu Phillips, K6TU who will introduce us to
the world of Reverse Beacon Networks and Weak
Signal Propagation Reporting (WSPR or "whisper").**

REDXA President's Report

Field Day 2010: Another Great Success for REDXA and MARS!

Field Day 2010 is now in the history books as we sit back and reflect on all that transpired...the things that worked, the things that didn't and the things that can be improved next year.

Although as of this writing I don't have our final score, I believe that 3A was a good fit for our club, our antenna complement and the conditions. We managed to keep four stations, including GOTA, running, manned and busy with seven antennas despite having marginal propagation. The most miraculous thing is that there was virtually no interference among the stations. Our plan of positioning the two SteppIR's 'tip-to-tip' really worked out exactly as we hoped, allowing the SSB and CW stations to operate simultaneously on the same band, which was tested on both 20 and 15 meters and without any RFI problems from the nearby PG&E lines. We also found that we could operate any two stations on the same band with different modes if one of the stations used a vertical antenna. This allowed GOTA and 'Station 3' to keep active when nighttime propagation limited usable bands.



Bottom line is that we were able to make more QSO's this year than last despite not having the phenomenal 15 meter opening we enjoyed last year. Even more important is that we got more operators on the air than at anytime I can remember in our club's history. I counted 31 operators with call-signs who showed up on the N1MM log or on the sign-up boards, and I know we must have had at least a few more with no license or who didn't sign in. We had plenty of volunteer GOTA mentors which not only added to our final score but provided a valuable training opportunity. Operators of all skill levels got on and made contacts and at least a dozen more folks joined us for a beautiful day by the bay.

Next year I want to move the two SteppIR's about 10 feet farther east to allow the CW tower to extend to it's full height without fear of being too close to the electric "drop" line, and with the possibility of 10 meters being more useful, we might want to consider a dedicated 10 meter antenna, maybe a vertical or small beam, mounted right near the buildings to minimize coax loss. 10 was open the last couple of hours this year, and we made a bunch of contacts...all on the 40 meter beam, fed with 200 feet of RG-213! Hey...if it works, it works!

After two years of perfecting them, the sign up boards did their job and with four operating stations, we were able to accommodate and coordinate our 31+ operators while not leaving any stations idle for more than a short time, even in the wee hours of the morning.

Mr. Murphy did indeed pay us a visit (what would FD be without that?), and the first casualty was Chuck N6OJ's radio that took a dive along with our RTTY plans in the first two hours...but not before Chuck made several QSO's demonstrating RTTY operating procedure enough to warrant a 100 point bonus for educational activity. Bruce W6OSP's '746 was substituted for Station 3 although due to an unknown problem we had to rig up the bizarre 'desk lamp mic boom' seen in several of the Field Day pictures linked on the REDXA website. That's what Field Day is all about: overcoming unforeseen problems with ingenuity and the parts and equipment on hand.

We also had a "Murphy moment" with Alan K6SRZ's camera, but he has assured me that he has enough footage to put together a great video to be viewed at a future meeting.

I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Field Day our best ever...our great team of operators, the folks who provided our meals, our construction and logistics people, the MARS folks and the Marin Rod & Gun Club for the use of their facilities. I'm already excited about next year...KB!

On another topic...since ham radio is such a

technological endeavor, it was only natural that computers and the Internet became as much a part of every shack as rotator boxes or antenna tuners. One of the most unique and futuristic uses for computers, real-time propagation tracking, will be the topic of our **July meeting** at Mr. Magoo's. Our guest speaker will be Stu Phillips, K6TU who will introduce us to the world of Reverse Beacon Networks and Weak Signal Propagation Reporting (WSPR or "whisper") which are high-tech but easy to use systems you can implement in your own shack with almost any HF transceiver and a computer with sound card and Internet connection using free software.

Don't forget that our **August meeting** will be held at the Gourmet Garden (the old Carrows where we used to meet a few years ago) and we will be fortunate enough to have a special guest give a presentation. Paul Ewing, N6PSE, who headed the recent YI9PSE DXpedition to Kurdistan, Iraq, will be at the meeting with a presentation on his very successful DX adventure! Paul has been an amateur radio operator since 1984. He became a serious DXer in 2003. Since then, Paul has wanted to join a DXpedition but found it difficult to get invited. In 2009 Paul sought to form his own DXpedition team and obtained a license for IRAQ. Paul found it easy to recruit experienced DXpeditioners to his team and in April of 2010 the YI9PSE team made 50,401 QSOs in eight and a half days of operation from Arbil Province IRAQ. Paul and his team have now joined forces with the South Pacific Contest Group and will activate the Spratly Islands in January 2011. They are also in the early stages of planning a DXpedition to another much needed entity in the Middle East. Paul plans to organize at least one DXpedition per year and participate in others as time allows. Paul is most proud that his two children have followed him into Amateur Radio. Paul's 12 year old son Ryan is N6RYN. Paul's 22 year old daughter Michelle is KJ6DOM.

One more time so we don't get it mixed up: ***This month: Mr Magoo's. Next month: Gourmet Garden.*** I'm going to write that on the back of my hand so I don't forget!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 2010

by San, N7PIB

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

by San, N7PIB

The June meeting of REDXA was called to order at 7:53 P.M. There were 21 members in attendance. President Ron introduced our newest prospective member, Donna Hinshaw of Petaluma, AG6V, and her membership was promptly approved. Welcome to REDXA, Donna.

The minutes and treasurers' report were moved for approval, seconded and adopted.

The Shorty Forty has been put back into full working order and will have a chance to help our Field Day effort.

Under New Business: The August meeting will be held at the Garden Gourmet at the usual time and date. The restaurant is located at the same site that used to be occupied by Carrow's (at which we met prior to moving to Mr. McGoo's some years back.

The July meeting will feature Stu Phillips, K6TU, who will present a program on real-time propagation. The planned program for August will be a wrap-up of the recently concluded Field Day. September will be a rally for this year's California QSO Party effort. October still needs a volunteer presenter for vacation DXing locations.

The initial sober report about the prospects for our annual social at the San Francisco Yacht Club, hosted by Al, K6RIM, have been sadly borne out. After many enjoyable years there, we will no longer be having an August dinner there. Al deserves our thanks for the effort he has put in to make these socials such an enjoyable event these last few years.

A volunteer is needed to help Donna, AG6V, put up a G5RV at her Petaluma QTH

Fred, N6YEU, said that there is the expectation that there will be a special event station to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first air mail flight from Petaluma to Santa Rosa, which took place on February 11, 1911. The raffle was won by Bruce, W6OSP, who took home his half of the total pot of \$63.00.

The evening's program concerned preparations for the 2010 Field Day which took place on the weekend of June 25-27. Jim, KE6UAR, is our site director and it will be held at the Marin Rod & Gun Club as in the past several years. Callsigns for the event will be W6KB and W6SG as we will be operating in conjunction with the Marin Amateur Radio Club. Set up begins on Friday at 11 A.M. Operation will be 3A with a GOTA station in addition. Chuck, N6OJ, gave a fine presentation on the operation of N1MM which will be the logging program in use by network for all

participating stations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D



(photo courtesy Rick N6RXA)

Bob K6QXY has been taking advantage of the seasonal sporadic E (Es) on 6 meters and reports the following:

Many KH6, KL7, & JA,s
5/3 TG9AWS
5/11 OA4TT (7,478KM)
6/2 FG5GP, FG1GW, HI3TEJ
6/3 DU7/ PA0HIP (11,256KM)
6/7 SM5EDX (over pole) never done before (8,499KM)
6/10 CT1HZE
6/18 WP2B, KP4EIT
6/19 5J0BV (HK0)
6/20 LA8HGA, SM4EMO (over pole)
6/26 FS/W6JKV
6/27 FS/W6JKV, WP2B

As Bob says, "That's it so far; [now] looking for J6 would be a new country."

It was wonderful seeing all of you that could make it to Field Day. It's hard to believe that we still pull this off every year, and every year it gets even better. I guess "practice makes perfect" really pays off!

CQ WPX CW

Call	Class	Qs	Pfxs	Score
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	376	243	166,941
WW6D	SOABLP	108	89	17,444
W6IYS	SOABLP	322	188	112,048
K6LRN	SOABHP	685	340	449,820
KY0W	SOAB(A)HP	1542	521	1,379,608
(op K6SRZ)				

ARRL Field Day

Call	Class	Qs	Score
N6ZFO	1E	77	374



(photo courtesy Rick N6RXA)

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

July 10-11	IARU HF World Championship (and WRTC 2010)
July 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
July 17	NA QSO Party RTTY
July 17	CQWW VHF Contest
Aug 7-8	NA QSO Party CW

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MEETING: JULY 14, 2010



Aug 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 21-22	NA QSO Party SSB
Sep 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Sep 25-26	CQ WW DX RTTY
Oct 2-3	California QSO Party
Oct 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Oct 30-31	CQ WW DX SSB
Nov 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Nov 27-28	CQ WW DX CW
Dec 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting

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