

# 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 13, 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 be by our resident 6 meter expert, Bob K6QXY, assisted by Adam KD6POE, who will have a presentation that will spotlight some exciting new propagation modes that have only recently been discovered that will offer a new challenge to those who are looking for something different in DX!**

### REDXA President's Report

Field Day 2011 is now in the history books and we can look back and say that it was another outstanding success for REDXA and our partners at the Marin Amateur Radio Society! While band conditions left a lot to be desired and we will probably end up with a lower score than last year, we have a lot of good things to report.

Each year we seem to do a better job of setting up the antennas on Friday...the project goes faster and we end up with a better set of 'sky hooks' than the year before. We all operate better as a team having learned valuable lessons from the previous years and each year we incorporate some new ideas that result in better technical performance. We had a great turn-out on Friday with perfect weather and no unexpected difficulties in either erecting the seven antennas (which grew to eight by Saturday) or setting up the main stations. As has been the tradition over the years, Marilyn, N6VAW provided us with a delicious lunch...thanks again Marilyn!

This year, we got the CW antenna in the perfect location, about 20 feet farther east than last year so that we could raise it to its full height while maintaining a safe distance from the power line drop. Our 'side-to-side'

arrangement of the SteppIR's for SSB and CW worked very well when both stations were on the same band at the same time with only a slight bit of CW noise heard at the SSB shack, in most cases S1 or less which was not at all disruptive as it was two years ago before we discovered the arrangement.

Band conditions proved to us what we all knew: that the sunspot doldrums are not yet behind us! While we were hoping for a big 10 meter opening, we were somewhat disappointed. None-the-less, on Saturday, with a little 'Field Day Magic' we managed to put up the three element 10 meter beam loaned to us by Dave, KG6TCJ, which performed well on a 25 foot push-up pole and allowed for some Q's from the GOTA station. We'll be sure to make that part of our arsenal for next year and hopefully, we'll have the band conditions to make it a heavy hitter! There was a lot of activity on 20 meters, but we noticed on the SSB station that most of the signal levels seemed to be 2 to 4 S-Units lower than what we were expecting to see. 15 was busy and active, but we did not experience the unusual opening lasting well into the night hours that we enjoyed last year. 40 and 75/80 were reliably good, but our biggest challenge was finding enough open bands that hadn't been 'burned' for all four stations to keep us as busy as we wanted to be through the full 24 hours of the event.

Despite conditions, 'Station 3' RTTY delivered more than 220 points to the final score, and later when we converted to SSB, it went on to add even more. GOTA had a great turn out on Saturday with some folks actually waiting in line to operate.

This year, we definitely raised the bar for food. In addition to Marilyn's Friday lunch, Matt K6OHD and Josh (no call yet) from the Marin club put on a Saturday night meal par excellence featuring tri-tip, BBQ chicken and much more...served from fancy buffet chafing dishes! Now, what other FD group gets that kind of treatment? We had a great Saturday lunch and the best scrambled eggs with cheese for breakfast Sunday that I think I've ever had. When I think about our humble Field Days of years past, I appreciate just how far our efforts have progressed and while creature comforts like this may seem like 'icing on the cake', in a real emergency, logistics such as food preparation would be key to a successful operation.

We couldn't have asked for better weather! It was warm but not overly hot on Friday, and things cooled down as the weekend progressed, making Sunday perfect for removing the antennas. We really dodged a bullet since the following Tuesday we had rain and thunder storms which would have made our Field Day event difficult to say the least had the bad weather arrived just two days earlier.

As of this writing, I don't have an estimate on our

final score, but I think it will be a bit less than last year. Even though we had a slightly lower operator turn-out than last year, we performed better as a team than we ever have in the past and I'm already dreaming of Field Day 2012!

Despite the low sunspot numbers, 6 meters is starting to gain in popularity. Once the realm of special single-band equipment or homebrew, 6 now shows up on the band switches of most newer HF transceivers as well as on the most popular antennas of the day, the SteppIR's. Some new multi-band solid state linears and a new light-weight, portable monoband 1-kW unit now cover 6. The notorious problem of channel 2 TVI has been mitigated over the years by the switch to cable and satellite, and finally the FCC cleared out almost all analog TV stations from the low VHF TV channels during the switch to HDTV last year. All that's missing now are sunspots! But as we'll learn, you don't need giant sunspot numbers to have fun with 6 meter DX. Our resident 6 meter expert, Bob K6QXY, assisted by Adam KD6POE, will have a presentation at our next meeting that will spotlight some exciting new propagation modes that have only recently been discovered that will offer a new challenge to those who are looking for something different in DX!

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 2011

by Wally, N6AD

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

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## JUNE MEETING MINUTES

by Wally, N6AD

President Ron N6IE called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, June 8, 2011 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. In attendance were 23 members and no guests. 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 polled the membership on activity on the G7VJR web site. There have been a few signups. Ron commented that the log checking software is excellent. Chuck N6OJ observed that there are a few DXCC country errors, C49 for example. Valley of the Moon Swap Meet -- VOMARC President Jim K6UUW thanked all those in attendance for the good time which was had by all.

The raffle was won by Jim KE6UAR, who took home half of \$72.

New Business: Field Day preparation -- Plans are on track at this point.

Assignments known so far:

Class                    3A + GOTA  
Software                N1MM  
Calls            W6KB main, W6SG GOTA

Message handling / packet station    Jerry WA6BXV  
Solar panel                    Marin Club  
W1AW bulletin            Doug WW6D  
CW captain                Alan K6SRZ  
Food                        Jim KE6VGV

Ron reminded that although Field Day is primarily an operating event and not a contest, the score does tell us how well we did.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

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## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

5/31/11 Balance Forward		\$2,518.81
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
Raffle	<u>36.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		56.00
EXPENSES		
Field Day N6VAW	103.70	
Hays Insurance	300.00	
M.A.R.C. Field Day	<u>250.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(653.70)
6/30/11 Ending Balance		<u><u>\$1,921.11</u></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 [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) mailed to the REDXA P.O. Box or given to me personally at our regularly scheduled meetings.

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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>

## Contesting and DX News

by Jim, K6JS

If you recently received a TJ9PF QSL, check the QSO year on your QSL card to see if it reads 2001 versus 2011. It appears there was an error during printing. Fortunately this has been rectified by an ARRL ruling that it was a known error and the QSL manager does not need to print corrected cards.

### YCCC SO2R box

If you are interested in trying SO2R check out the YCCC SO2R box at <http://www.k1xm.org/SO2R/>

The fourth group purchase is underway with a planned delivery of kits in August.

The estimated price for a two-channel box (SO2R) is between \$165 and \$180. The estimated price for a four-channel(SO4R) unit is between \$186 and \$201, depending on the quantity we order. We are collecting names - if you are interested, contact Dennis, W1UE, at [so2rbox@verizon.net](mailto:so2rbox@verizon.net)

They have 42 orders in hand for the 4th run of the YCCC SO2R Box and are getting close to the magic "50" number. Dennis will be going to Bulgaria for the LZ Field Competition on July 2, so don't expect a response from him until he returns on July 12. When he returns, he should be able to price out the project, give a firm price, and get on to the payment and order fulfillment end of the project. If everything goes as planned and we don't hit any parts procurement snags, we should have kits in everyone's hands by the first of September at the latest.

**ST0, SOUTHERN SUDAN** (Update). Paul, N6PSE, sent out the following on July 2nd (Press Release #4): "DXpedition to Southern Sudan -- In just a few short days, the people of Southern Sudan will declare their independence from Sudan and will become the new Republic of Southern Sudan.

Vice President of South Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny has announced that admission as a member state of the United Nations will take place on July 14th, 2011.

The DX Friends and the Intrepid-DX Group continue to monitor the UN General Assembly and Security Council votes and are moving forward with our plans for a large multi-national DXpedition to take place soon after the UN admission occurs.

Equipment has been procured and is being staged for rapid delivery to Juba, the new capitol of Southern Sudan. Team members have applied for their visas and we are awaiting them now.

We have held several successful meetings with representatives of the Government of Southern Sudan. We have been issued an amateur radio license for the purpose of this DXpedition. The Government of South Sudan is very supportive of our plans to visit Juba

and to help them celebrate the birth of their new country.

We plan to soon be in the new capital of Juba and to be ready to start our DXpedition after admission by the UN. We will have 18 operators operating 24X7 on seven active stations.

At this time, we are seeking Foundation, Club and Individual Sponsors to help us defray the costs of carrying out this very important DXpedition.

Our official website is  
<http://www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/>  
Thank you, The Intrepid-DX Group and The DX Friends."

<http://www.dxfriends.com/>  
<http://www.intrepid-dx.com/>

ADDED NOTES: As you can see, the U.S. is not the only nation to celebrate their independence (July 4th) this week, but the Southern Sudan will also celebrate theirs on July 9th. After the celebration, the "News Sudan Vision" reports that the United Nations Security Council will first vote to endorse the Republic of Southern Sudan to become a member of the U.N. on July 13th. The United Nations Security Council will then bring it before the General Assembly on July 14th. The Southern Sudan is then expected to be the 193rd member/nation of the U.N.. Word has it that once this happens, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will issue an international dialing code within 48 hours of their membership into the U.N., and will also provide an ITU prefix block. Stay tuned!

Too many DX announcements to list. Visit the announced DX operations page at:  
<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

The RSGB IOTA contest occurs the last weekend of the month with plenty of activity some of which are listed below.

### IOTA NEWS

Look for the Locust to activate **NA-242 - NEW - POINT LAY BARRIER ISLAND (KL7)**: From July 22 - 26 July, Rick, K6VVA and Mike, K9AJ will be active as K6VVA/KL7. They will work primarily CW on 40/30/20/17m. Dates may change slightly depending upon local WX. The objective is a minimum QRV of 3 days within the indicated date range. There is a slight possibility for a brief NA-172 activation as K9AJ/KL7 right after NA-242 before we leave the North Slope of Alaska. Info updates will be posted to Latest News section of the NA- 242 Expedition website. Due to the possibility of polar bears at NA-242, we have purchased electric bear fences, bear spray, and must hire one or more local "Bear Guards" with heavy firepower for 24/7 protection. This will be a dangerous and extremely costly IOTA expedition also due to the mostly air transportation of equipment. NA-242 in July is "The Main Event" after K6VVA

warm-up expeditions to NA-184 (April), NA-066 (May with NI6T) and NA-091 (June with W6NV). QSL only via N6AWD, DO NOT SEND REQUESTS TO K6VVA.

**AS-066.** Members of the Vladivostok Contest Club will be active as RW0MM/p from **Reyneke Island** during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st) as a Multi Op/Island/DXpedition entry. QSL via RW0MM.

**EF8, CANARY ISLANDS** (Look for EF8M from Santa Maria de Guia, Las Palmas Gran Canaria (AF-004, DIE S-005, WLOTA L 0969), to be on the air during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st) as a Multi-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Operators mentioned are Valery/RD3A, Juan/EA8CAC and Alex/UA5C. QSL via UA3DX.

**VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND.** Members of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia will activate Lord Howe Island (OC-004) as VK9HR between July 23rd and August 2nd. Activity will be for ten days with an inter-national team of ten operators operating CW, SSB and RTTY, and on 160-6 meters. Operators mentioned are Tommy/VK2IR (Team Leader), John/VK3YP, Peter/VK2NN, Raffy/VK2RF, Bruce/VK2KLM, Ed/VK2ARE, Don/N4HH, Alex/OZ7AM, Les/W2LK and Saul/K2XA. QSL via EB7DX. The operation's Web site is:  
<http://www.vk9hr.com>

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND** (Update/Delayed). German operators Wolf/DK1IP, Rainer/DL7OR, Gerd/DJ4KW, Arno/DL1CW and Werner/DJ9KH were expected to be active as ZD8D from Garden Cottage, Ascension Island (AF-003), between July 24th and August 9th (see OPDX.1009), but have now push their operation back until possibly October. The delay is due to heavy rainfalls in late April which damaged the street to Garden Cottage (their planned operating site). They have changed their plans and will now use a guesthouse in Georgetown which they state "is not ideal. We have to rely on our fiber- glass poles, as there are no trees etc... We are afraid, that we will be handicapped on 160 and 80m, but we will do our best, of course." For updates, visit their Web page at: <http://www.zd8d.de/index.php?home>

**EU-050.** Lucio, IK8EJN and possibly other operators from ARI Termoli will be active as IL7A from the Tremiti Islands during July and August. QSL via IK8EJN.

**EU-119.** Operators Valery/RW3WW, Andrei/RA3WJ, Andrey/RD3WC, Alexey/RW3QNZ and Igor/RG3K will be active as RC3W/1 from Morzhovets Island during the RSGB IOTA Contest weekend (July 30-31st). Morzhovets Island lies only a few km above the Arctic Circle. QSL via RW3WWW.

**EU-062.** (Update) Operators Mek/SP7VC and Waldi/SP7IDX will be active as LA/SP7VC and LA/SP7IDX, respectively, from Vega Island between July 23rd and August 2nd. Activity will be holiday style (they plan to do some fishing). They plan to have 2 stations on the air: One for the HF bands and the other for the 50 MHz (Grid Square JP65BQ). Operations will be 80-6 meters using SSB and RTTY. They will also be in the RSG IOTA Contest. Equipment will consist of: IC-7000, TS-450, HEX beam, R-7 vertical, 6 element yagi for 6m, 500w amp for HF and 6m. QSL via their home callsigns, by the Bureau, direct and also LoTW. Visit Mek's Web page at: <http://www.sp7vc.pl>

**EU-007.** Operators Adam/EI5JQ, Bronel/EI4JZ, Ark/EI9KC and Jerzy/SQ7JT will be active as EJ0PL from **Great Blasket Island** during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st). QSL via EI5JQ.

**EU-170.** Daniel, DK3CH, will be active as 9A/DK3CH from **Dugi Otok Island** between July 28th and August 10th. Activity will include the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st). QSL via his home call sign.

**NA-145.** Joe, K5KUA, will be active as K5KUA/5 from Galveston Island (USI TX001S, Galveston County, Texas) between July 29th and August 1st. He will participate in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st) as a Single-Op entry. Activity will be on all HF bands, propagation permitting. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

**OC-142.** Operators Andrew/VK4NM and Peter/VK4LAT will be active as VK4MM/P from **Fraser Island**, Queensland, Australia, between July 29th and August 1st. Activity will include the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st). QSL via M0OXO direct.

**OC-156.** Dmitriy, RW6AML, will be active as 3D2ML from **Waya Island**, Fiji, between July 6-17th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

For you cycling fans, check out the Tour De France special event station. TM98, FRANCE (Special Event). Look for special event station TM98TF to be active between now and July 14th. Activity takes place during the start and last stage of the 98th cycling race "The Tour de France", by the VendÉE area hams (West France) on all HF bands, and possibly other bands, on CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via F6KUF, RC VendÉen, either direct or by the Bureau.

Checking out the unofficial WRTC 2014 qualifications Standings for North America call area 6. We have N6ZFO ranked 52nd and 312th in U.S. and right on his heels is K6SRZ at 56th and 337 in the U.S. with K6RIM rounding out the top 100 at 65th in call area

6 and 408th in the U.S.



<http://janmayen2011.org/>

You can follow another DX Expedition using social networking and they re actively posting and tweeting.

Many thanks to the OPDX and QRZ DX newsletters.

**Have fun and good DX.**  
**Jim K6JS**

## Contest Scores

### Virginia QSO Party

	CW	SSB	Mults	
N6YEU	11	4	1	
3 of 10 hours				
Bonus				Total
K8WVA x3 @ 100 points				560

### CQWPXCW Score Summary Sheet WPX CW

K6SRZ(KY0W) 1,962,488

#### WW6D SINGLE-OP

Power : HIGH

Mode : CW

Band	QSOs	Pts	WPX
14	129	264	115
21	22	39	20
Total	151	303	135

Score : 40,905

#### K6SRZ scores

WPX RTTY (KY0W) 1,193,024

WPX SSB (WF6C) 1,030,575

RAC 114,906

NA Sprint RTTY 6,031

### CWops Mini-CWT Test - 1900Z Jun 22

Call: AG6V

Operator(s): AG6V

Station: AG6V

Class: Single Op LP

QTH: CA

Operating Time (hrs): 0.5

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Mults
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80:

40:

20:    4       4  
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Total:       4       4 Total Score = 16

Club: Northern California Contest Club

Comments:

I missed the early morning session of the CWT, which has better propagation for my station. This time around, I got good practice trying to find a signal in the noise. I'll try to be on the dawn session next month! At least I've got N1MM use down pat, so I'm ready for a contest with more copyable stations at my QTH. K3, P3, low G5RV, N1MM logger

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Jul 9-10	IARU HF World Championship
Jul 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jul 16-17	North American QSO Party RTTY
Jul 16-17	CQ WW VHF Contest
Aug 6-7	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
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 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.



MAY

2011



Conducted by K6JS



### REDXA Honor Roll

#### WARC BANDS

#### 30M

K6RIM	319
N6OJ	207
K6ANP	169
AG6V	3
WW6D	2
N6VAW	1

#### 17M

K6RIM	329
N6OJ	312
K6ANP	162
N6GY	8
WW6D	6
AG6V	2
N6VAW	1

#### 12M

K6RIM	294
N6OJ	197
K6ANP	72
N6GY	5
AG6V	2
WW6D	1

#### ARRL DX Challenge

K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
N6OJ	1588
N6VAW	248

#### 160 Meters

K6ANP	158
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	54
WW6D	4
K6JS	4

#### 1.5K Club

<b>K6RIM</b>	<b>1588</b>
K6ANP	1371
N6OJ	1332
N6GY	148

Len, K6ANP reigns supreme on the Gentlemen's band.

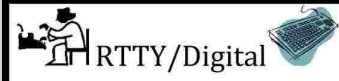
#### Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.

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	160
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6

I have a feeling K6QXY will be perched at the top for some time.



N6OJ	293
K6RIM	253
K6ANP	123
WW6D	9
N6GY	7

N6OJ 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

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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**MEETING: JULY 13, 2011**

