

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

VOLUME 30

NUMBER 6

JUNE 2009

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ
210 Nila Mae Way
Penngrove, CA 94951
H (510) 540-8790
doctore@well.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Jim Robinson, Jr., KE6UAR
16820 Lauri Lane
Occidental, CA 95465
H (707) 874-3958
jcr3jr@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Doug Bender, WW6D
3638 Hemlock Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
H (707) 526-5131
ww6d@aol.com

TREASURER:

Jim Selmi, K6JS
7470 Monique Place
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
H (707) 664-9769
jselmi@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS:

Al Burnham, K6RIM
409 Summit Drive
Corte Madera, CA 94925
H (415) 924-6783
k6rim@pacbell.net

Ron Castro, N6IE
1355 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 225
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
ron@n6ie.com

Bob Magnani, K6QXY
1500 Los Alamos Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
H (707) 538-3801
k6qxy@aol.com

CONTEST CHAIRMAN & WEBMASTER:

Doug Bender, WW6D
3638 Hemlock Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
H (707) 526-5131
ww6d@aol.com

EDITOR:

Steve Bertsch, K6SAB
673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945
H (415) 898-5159
sabertsch@gmail.com

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 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 Field Day preparation and a presentation by Field Day committee.

REDXA President's Report

Here Comes Field Day

Another month has gone by with perhaps a glimmer of hope: the solar flux index hit 72 and the spotting networks were buzzing with reports of actual QSOs on 10 meters. For the record, I made about 19 QSOs, including one transequatorial contact with Argentina, during the recent WPX CW contest.

Fortunately, we don't need sunspots to have fun on Field Day. The Field Day committee has everything in place for a fine effort this year, and, as always, we need as many hands as possible for setup and take down. For my part, I'm making sure that I am not scheduled to work that weekend. During the recent WPX contest I had to shut down on Saturday night because I had made an error on my clinic schedule requests. I thought I was requesting a Thursday shift, but I put in Saturday's date. Not surprisingly, I couldn't find anyone who wanted to trade.

The money bands for WPX were 20 and 40. There were strong openings to Europe and parts of the Middle East into the wee hours of the morning on 20 meters and six-point QSOs with Japan on 40 meters were plentiful [if you've never operated WPX, six points are awarded for every QSO on



160, 80, or 40 meters with stations on a different continent]. The East Coast contesters clean up with EU QSOs on the low bands and we West Coasters take advantage of our pipeline into Japan.

K6SRZ is now full power QRO with the addition of an Alpha amplifier. I bought it used from a retired UCSF professor of physiology who decided that he would rather devote his newly found leisure time to golf rather than ham radio. It was probably a good move on his part since when I went into San Francisco to pick up the amp (actually, two of us picked it up since it's really heavy and my back has been sore) I noted that his house was only a few feet from the neighbors' houses. I'm pretty sure that if he had gone on the air with 1500 watts, the neighbors would be on his doorstep with pitchforks and torches.

Since relocating from Berkeley to the North Bay, I've spent some time revisiting some of the places of my youth (I grew up in Mill Valley). Last week, Annie the Dog and I hiked part of the Dipsea Trail and the week before I hiked down to Mill Valley from the Mountain Play ("Man of La Mancha" this year). Marin was where I first experienced Field Day at the Marin Amateur Radio Club site somewhere off of Paradise Drive in Corte Madera. It was my first chance to communicate by amateur phone (AM variety) since my home station—Heathkit AT-1—was strictly CW. If I hadn't already been hooked on ham radio, I think Field Day would have done it. The ARRL keeps telling us that Field Day isn't a contest—and also keeps listing the scores—but just about every USA or Canadian amateur radio contesteer can trace his or her introduction to radio contesting to Field Day.

Now, realistically, I doubt that there's anything that can be done to recruit young people into the ranks of HF operators at the rates we experienced in the 50s and 60s. But I will do my part during Field Day at the GOTA and CW stations. I'll also be doing audio and video recordings to be edited into a presentation for our July meeting. Be in the movie: come to Field Day.

I'm still looking for programs for September and October and welcome your suggestions. One possibility would be to have a visual presentation of various members' home stations. Garry Shapiro, NI6T, will be our speaker for the August meeting. Garry is an electrical engineer and 160 meter devotee with an interest in the history of electronics and radio communication. His talk will cover some of the contributions of the major figures in the development of electronic communication.

We meet as always at Mr. McGoo's in Petaluma. This month it's early: June 10. Be there!

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

4/30/09 Balance Forward		\$3,011.49
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
Raffle	21.00	
TOTAL INCOME		41.00
EXPENSES		
Insurance (Marsh)	320.00	
USPS - PO Box	58.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(378.00)
5/31/09 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,674.49</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 2009

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING WAS HELD.

Official word on Visalia Reservations for 2010

Hello everyone,

There's been back and forth changes on the when you can call the Holiday Inn at Visalia, but it is now finally settled out. Here's a snippet from the web site (www.dxconvention.org):

"The Holiday Inn will begin taking reservations on June 9, 2009 at 09:45am PDT. They will also be taking reservations for RV parking starting at the same time. Room reservations can be made by calling 559-651-5000, RV reservations can be made by contacting Brian Lancaster at extension 2608. Please do not call before June 9, the hotel will not accept reservations before that date. you need to contact the hotel directly and not via the Holiday Inn main number or web site. This is a special event and reservations are handled directly buy the hotel at 559-651-5000."

MAY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, May 13, 2009 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 23 members and guests. Guests included Marsha KE6BEQ, Rich KF6SZA, Dale AF6OE and guest speaker Eric "Locust" K6VVA.

Alan K6SRZ requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots. The motion was made by Ron N6IE and seconded. Motion passed.

Old business. Follow up on Field Day by Jim KE6UAR. A sign up sheet was circulated. (If you were not there, please contact Jim directly. See web site for his contact info.) REDXA will operate 2A together with the Marin Amateur Radio Society. Jim is looking into how we can incorporate RTTY into each station or separately so that we can take advantage of the QSO's in that mode. Our own Lee KE6VGV will "co-cook" with help from Dave from MARS. Jim will also ensure that the REDXA Field Day site is correct on the ARRL Field Day locator. Logging software will be N3FJP because it is easy to use for "first-timers" and networks stations' computers very well. (Please try to familiarize yourself prior to FD by visiting their web site at www.n3fjp.com.)

New business. Alan K6SRZ provided a brief re-cap of the Visalia DX convention. Notable were the prize winners of the annual raffle. Our own Jim K6JS won the grand prize, an Icom IC-7600! N6OJ won a Yaesu FT-450.

Al K6RIM asked for a show of hands regarding the August club social event at the SF Yacht Club. An enthusiastic response prompted Al to state that he will set this up again for us this year. Thanks, Al!

Bob K6QXY reported on the latest prediction on Cycle 24. NOAA, noted as the one of the most conservative prognosticators of sunspot cycles, stated that the peak will likely be May 2013 with an Smoothed Sunspot Number (SSN) of 90. December 2008 is now officially regarded as the solar minimum and the beginning of our current cycle 24.

Fred N6YEU announced that Frank KD6KVL has a new harmonic in his ham shack — a lovely baby girl. Frank is certainly a proud daddy!

Fred further offered a quick and easy "hint & kink" for CW ops: take a look at the latest shelf liner material that looks and feels like rubber mesh. A small 4"x6" square under your keyer, microphone, etc. really holds it in place.

Also, Fred N6YEU announced that he has made up some T-shirts stating "Got DX?" and "Got CW?". If interested, contact Fred directly.

Fred N6YEU conducted the REDXA Raffle which brought in a total of \$42. The winner for the evening was Wally N6AD who took home \$21, leaving \$21 for the club.

The program for the evening was "How Not to Build a Remote Station" presented by "the Locust" K6VVA. An entertaining and lively slide show with a style only the Locust can provide. The heart of his system is a "wireless grid" product made by AIRAYA and operates at 5 GHz. He found, through several trials, that the recommendation for "line of sight" really meant that! He does have an operational system at this time but, as a true Ham, there is always room for improvement. Eric also presented a short re-cap of his recent VP2VVA operation to British Virgin Islands.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Big news for Dave AA6YX! The ARRL contesting branch awarded him a Plaque for 1st place in the ARRL Sweepstakes SSB contest, Single Operator, Low Power for the Pacific Division. Further, Dave received another plaque for 1st place in the CQ Worldwide SSB Contest for the 6th Call District, SOLP Tribander/Wires category. Way to go Dave!

Congratulations also go out to Josh W6XU. He received 1st place, SOHP, San Francisco section in the 2008 June VHF QSO Party. He's hoping to have a 432 MHz yagi up for next June's running. Nice going Josh!

As you are all aware, this month is the club's joint effort with the Marin Amateur Radio Society in Field Day (June 26-28).

Did you know that Field Day is the largest national event in Amateur Radio in the U.S.? No other single event draws out more hams (and potential hams as well)! Further, it attempts to show off all the various aspects of ham radio, from HF and up, from satellite to digital, emergency preparedness to good old fashioned socializing. Hope you can make it out to see us.

The ARRL's Field Day locator service is up and running. Type in 'W6KB' in the box next to the button "Search for Field Day Stations" at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

Manchester Mineira (CWJF All American) Contest

Call	Category	Qs	Pfxs	Score
AA6YX	SOABLP	188	41	17,958
WW6D	SOABLP	92	32	8,064

7th Call District QSO Party (7QP)

Call	Category	CW Qs	SSB Qs	RTTY Qs	Secs
AA6YX	SOLP	158	157	0	100
78,800					
WW6D	SOLP	38	0	4	32
4,032					
K6JS	SOLP	106	0	0	51
16,677					

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Jun 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 13-14	June VHF QSO Party
Jun 20	Kids Day
Jun 27-28	Field Day
Jul 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
July 11-12	IARU HF World Championships
Aug 1-2	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 15-16	NA QSO Party SSB
Aug ?	* REDXA SFYC Social
Sep 26-28	CQ WW RTTY

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945


MEETING: JUNE 10, 2009



Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**

Mark Nowell
Manager
W7YV

2210 Livingston Street
Oakland, CA 94606
(510) 534-5757 • 800-854-6046
(510) 534-0729 Fax

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA