

# 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 12, 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 by Garry Shapiro, NI6T, who will present a program "On the Shoulders of Giants" that focuses on some of the personalities behind the development of radio technology in the 20th Century, including the great Harold Beverage.**

### REDXA President's Report

In September 1998 I made my first Swaziland QSO, a 30 M contact with 3DA0CA. When I looked up the QSL information I was surprised to learn that the QSL manager, W4DR, had the same name as my late father: John Eshleman.

W4DR, as many of you know, is a dentist in Virginia and a well known DXer and DXpeditioner. Until 2007, Bob (he goes by his middle name) held the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup, awarded for standing at the top of the ARRL's DX Challenge with 3124 confirmed band-countries. [W4DR lost the DeSoto Cup in 2007 to I4EAT's 3129 band-countries].

Along with my QSL card and the requisite SASE, I sent Bob a note drawing attention to the family name and half-joking that we might be related. Shortly thereafter I got a phone call from W4DR and was startled by his first question: "Are you a Mennonite?" he asked. No, I said, my father's side of the family are all Catholics and my mother's side are Russian Jews who came to California (Petaluma actually) to start a chicken ranch. Eshleman, Bob told me, is a Mennonite name.

Not long after that I received email from another Eshleman—a retired man

living in Grass Valley--whose hobby was genealogy. He shared some of the data he'd collected and also sent me a copy of the "Pennsylvania Mennonite Quarterly" from Summer 1988, and entire issue devoted to the descendants of one Martin Eshleman, a Mennonite who arrived in Philadelphia in the early 18th Century. Apparently I'm one of those descendants.

Mennonites, by the way, are an Anabaptist sect that originated in Switzerland in the 16th Century. The church takes its name from the founder, Menno Simons, a Catholic priest who quit the Roman Church for reasons too complicated to discuss here.

The epicenter of the Mennonite faith in the USA is Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Lancaster is also the epicenter of the Eshleman name. There are roads and schools there bearing the family name.

So, what with the bands being dead, the oft-postponed Glorioso Island DXpedition being postponed once again, and my wife, Carol, already in Pennsylvania for an Aikido camp, I caught a plane to Pittsburgh to do a little bit of genealogical research of my own.

My first stop was PNC Park in Pittsburgh where I watched the Giants take their only road win from the Pirates behind the pitching of Matt Cain. The next day Carol and I headed east in our rental car to Lancaster County. Lancaster County is a mixture of tourist traps ("Dutch Wonderland" is a theme park complete with roller coaster) and traditional Amish and Mennonite farms, where horsepower and manpower supply the off-the-grid power. The banks in some towns have special stalls reserved for their horse and buggy customers. We stayed in a motel in Intercourse PA on the street where the "ice cream cone" scene in the movie "Witness" was filmed.

The Mennonite Historical Society in Lancaster has yet to computerize all of its data, but there are several card files with references to Eshleman. The librarian and I got to talking and somehow the subject of ham radio came up. "Interesting," said the librarian, "down in Virginia where I come from there's a dentist, a Mennonite, who's also a ham."

Full circle.

So with that we left Lancaster County and headed east into PVRC territory. We drove down the Maryland Eastern Shore where we feasted on blue crab, which was a welcome antidote to the sugar and butter laden Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. After that we went on to Washington, DC and feasted on the Smithsonian's offerings. After that, home to Penngrove.

Which brings me to this month's REDXA meeting. On August 12, Garry Shapiro, NI6T, will present a

program "On the Shoulders of Giants" that focuses on some of the personalities behind the development of radio technology in the 20th Century, including the great Harold Beverage. I'll also be bringing copies of the 2009 Field Day Video for those that ordered it (AI, K6RIM has dubbed me the "Woody Allen of REDXA") and perhaps a few extra copies for any others who might be interested. Any money above my cost will go to the REDXA treasury.

Incidentally, in my continuing effort to catch up with 20th Century technology I posted my very first YouTube video—a clip from my travels after the N8S Swains Island DXpedition. You can see it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjtwFcoWd5g>

In September, Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, will be joining us to discuss topics in digital communication.

October's program is still TBA and suggestions are still welcome.

I hope to see you all at Mr. McGoo's on the 12th.

73, Alan/K6SRZ

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## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

|                         |        |                   |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 5/31/09 Balance Forward |        | \$2,674.49        |
| INCOME                  |        |                   |
| Raffle                  | 36.00  |                   |
| TOTAL INCOME            |        | 36.00             |
| EXPENSES                |        |                   |
| Field Day N6VAW         | 46.23  |                   |
| Field Day W6UDS         | 241.48 |                   |
| W6OSP - Pulleys         | 44.00  |                   |
| TOTAL EXPENSES          |        | (331.71)          |
| 7/31/09 Ending Balance  |        | <u>\$2,378.78</u> |

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JULY 2009

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING WAS HELD.

## JULY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm, July 8, 2009 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 24 members and guests. Guests included Rick N6RXA and Kathy.

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 Chuck N6OJ and seconded by Ron N6IE. Motion passed.

**Old business.** Remember that the San Francisco Yacht Club evening social (significant others also invited) will be held on Saturday August 29. Details are on the club web site.

**New business.** Alan K6SRZ proposed that the club purchase a new screen for use at club meetings. However, Bob K6QXY offered to provide one to the club gratis. (Thanks, Bob!)

Bob K6QXY then started a brief round table discussion regarding the latest 6 and 10 meter openings using Sporadic E propagation. As you may remember from his earlier formal presentation on Es, a new propagation mode called "SSSP" seems to have been re-confirmed during several openings in July. For example K6QXY worked JR6EXN (9033 km), an HK0 (5012 km), 8R1BB Guyana (9997 km) all on 6 meters.

Jim KE6UAR provided a Field Day Wrap-up. Overall the combined MARS and REDXA effort netted over 3000 QSOs including over 400 on SSB using the GOTA station. All who helped in any way were heartily thanked.

Fred N6YEU conducted the REDXA Raffle which brought in a total of \$72. The winner for the evening was Al K6RIM who took home \$36, leaving \$36 for the club.

The program for the evening was the premier showing of "The Consummate Field Day Video: REDXA/MARS FD 2009" produced and directed by our own Alan K6SRZ. The video was a wonderful re-cap of the weekend's events including some amusing interviews of REDXA members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

## Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

### IARU HF Championship

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| Call  | Category | CW Qs | Ph Qs | Zones | HQ | Score   |
|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|----|---------|
| K6SRZ | SOCW HP  | 352   | n/a   | 44    | 39 | 93,707  |
| K6LRN | SOCW HP  | 417   | n/a   | 62    | 66 | 153,984 |
| WW6D  | SOCW LP  | 101   | n/a   | 40    |    | 12,120  |

### NAQP RTTY July

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| Call | Category | Qs  | Secs | NA | Score  |
|------|----------|-----|------|----|--------|
| N6OJ | SOLP     | 455 | 118  | 2  | 54,600 |

### NAQP CW August

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| Call  | Category | Qs  | Secs | Score   |
|-------|----------|-----|------|---------|
| K6RIM | SOLP     | 727 | 170  | 123,590 |
| AA6YX | SOLP     | 418 | 115  | 48,070  |
| WW6D  | SOLP     | 101 | 48   | 4,848   |

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### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

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|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Aug 12    | * REDXA Monthly Meeting |
| Aug 15-16 | NA QSO Party SSB        |
| Aug 29    | * REDXA SFYC Social     |
| Sep 9     | * REDXA Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 26-28 | CQ WW RTTY              |
| Oct 3-4   | California QSO Party    |
| Oct 14    | * REDXA Monthly Meeting |
| Oct 24-25 | CQ WW SSB               |
| Nov 7-8   | ARRL Sweepstakes CW     |
| Nov 11    | * REDXA Monthly Meeting |
| Nov 21-22 | ARRL Sweepstakes SSB    |
| Nov 28-29 | CQ WW CW                |
| Dec 9     | * REDXA Monthly Meeting |

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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>

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**MEETING: AUGUST 12, 2009**



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