

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, December 14, 2016 at Boulevard Cafe & Grill, 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 annual Christmas party where we'll eat, drink, laugh and celebrate good cheer with our ham family and friends.



REDXA President's commentary

Hello REDXA Members.... Welcome to the last editorial column for 2016 and I hope you've all had a wonderful year with many successes, properly working equipment, huge db gain, high output power and good health.

So here we are with the last meeting of the year. Once again you've elected the least qualified, most inexperienced and underperforming CW person to lead this group of hams. It was a tough rigged campaign with usual media bias but I crushed the competition and fought my way to the top. Well as long as I surround myself with those most qualified and intellectually advanced I think I can pull this off. I promise to make REDXA great again, restore the sunspots numbers, reach across the

aisle to new hams and other clubs as well as putting a new tower in everyone's home. 2017 will be a great year with new contacts, gear, dxpeditions, ATNO's and the excitement that makes our hobby unique and drives our enthusiasm.

I will be the quest speaker in December and will review our accomplishments for 2016, discuss our upcoming 2017 presentations, recognize the efforts and talents of some club members and share the story of the Bruce Butler memorial tower project. I would once again urge everyone to feel free to recognize or honor those folks who have helped them in their ham radio journey. Prepare to stand up and share your story with our group at this special Christmas party.

I look forward to seeing everyone and I suspect it will be another banner turnout this month. I reached out to many businesses for any type of gifts that they might throw our way but the results were rather disappointing. So I over compensated by getting some nice raffle prizes and I think we should plan on an evening where we eat, drink, laugh and celebrate good cheer with our ham family and friends.

Best of 73's! President Bill

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 2016

by Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Ed, K6ELE

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by the club president, Bill Sirvatka, WX6B

Announcements:

The spirit awards for 2016 was discussed by Bill. Len, as the 2015 awardee, and Saraj were appointed as the nomination committee. Members can send nominations to Len or Saraj.

The treasurer reported that our balance after receiving the amount due from Marin Amateur Radio

Society is \$3,900.

The Christmas party will take place at the December meeting.

Alan said that the use of Money Ranch for field day in 2017 could be possible after a discussion with the owner.

Program:

The president introduced Ed Muns, W0YK, who made a presentation on RTTY.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events: by Doug, WW6D

Have an event for the calendar? Let me know!

Dec 10-11	ARRL 10m Contest
<i>Dec 14</i>	* <i>REDXA Holiday Party & Raffle</i>
Dec 17	RAC Winter Contest
Dec 17-18	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night
Jan 7-8	ARRL RTTY Roundup
<i>Jan 11</i>	* <i>REDXA Monthly Meeting</i>
Jan 14-15	North American QSO Party CW
Jan 21-22	North American QSO Party SSB
Jan 27-29	CQ 160m Contest CW
Jan 28-29	Winter Field Day
<i>Feb 8</i>	* <i>REDXA Monthly Meeting</i>
Feb 11-12	CQ WW RTTY WPX
Feb 18-19	ARRL International DX CW
Mar 4-5	ARRL International DX SSB

Refer to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more contest information

Bal. Brt. Fwd.	11/1/16				<u>\$3,911.98</u>
Receipts					
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$49.00			
	Dues (2017)	\$265.00			
	Sales-REDXA Shirt	<u>\$38.00</u>			
	Total receipts			\$352.00	
Disbursements					
	Christmas Party Gifts	\$198.95			
	Dinner for guest speaker	\$25.00			
	Total Disbursements			\$ 223.95	
Cash Flow					\$128.05
Balance 11/30/16					<u>\$4,040.03</u>

2017 Dues

Please remember that 2017 dues are delinquent if not paid by December 31, 2016. I'll be happy to take your check, money order, cash or a note on your car at the next club meeting. Dues are \$20.00 for regular members; \$25.00 for a family membership and \$12.50 for full time students under the age of 18. If you prefer you can mail your check to REDXA, P.O. Box 750834, Petaluma CA 94975-0834. Make your check out to REDXA. Remembering to pay your dues can be a nuisance so you might consider paying a year or two in advance. A number of members pay two or three years in advance and avoid the hassle of writing a check every year. Give it a try.

Bill, W6IYS

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

REDXA ARRL Sweepstakes “Local” Club competition

Club competition continues to be a popular and fun aspect of contesting. We get a chance to be part of a team while still operating from our home QTH. For many of us, it is motivating to get on the air to make some points for our club or to compete for honors against fellow club members.

A tip of the hat to all the folks that got on the air for SS. This seems to be a great way to generate participation amongst our members. It doesn't happen without a little tension on my part. The local club is limited to a 35 mile radius around the center of your club. The center can be moved around to include active members. No matter how hard I tried, you can't get N6ZFO, Bill in Clear Lake and the Marin guys in that 70 mile circle. They are 74 miles apart. It's too bad the option of 35 miles or one ARRL section is not an option for the Local category. If ARRL would just be sensible and allow an ellipse (the orbit of all our various solar system planets) this would be easy! ☺ We also cannot not rely on an earthquake to decrease the Lake County to Marin distance, because both are on same side of the San Andreas fault line. Bill and I talked via email and I made the decision to exclude ZFO for this contest.

Looking at preliminary results we might have won the Local club gavel if we all fit in the 70 mile circle. I've looked at the past few years of results in the local club category. The top 3 clubs competing in this category are usually the PL259's (Pizza Lovers)(K6TU, Stu, K6TD Kevin, AE6Y, K6LRG, W0YK Ed, etc.), the Kansas City Contest Club and the New Mexico Big River Contesters. I checked 3830 and ARRL logs received page and it appears the Kansas City Contest club might beat PL259 by 100K points. We appear to be 200K points behind in 3rd. All this could change after log checking and eligible member checking, etc.

One interesting note, PL259 scored most of their points in the SSB contest. They had 5 logs worth 942,382 points for SS SSB and 2 logs and 199,772 points in SS CW.

REDXA had great activity, generating 558,905 points on 9 logs in SS CW and 507,382 points with

8 logs in SS SSB.

I feel the local club sweepstakes gavel is in our reach! We had quite a few big stations that were not active for one or both of the SS weekends. It's something to shoot for... Plus the coveted Sweepstakes gavel is awarded to the winner of each category.

Looking ahead at Local club competition opportunities

The ARRL has 9 ARRL sponsored contests that are designated as Affiliated Club Competitions. There are three categories of club competition.

Unlimited is 51 or more logs and 175 mile circle or one ARRL section.

Medium is 50 or fewer logs and 175 mile circle or one ARRL section.

Local is 10 or fewer logs and 35 mile circle.

For all categories, members must be "members in good standing" according to the rules and requirements of the club.

10-Meter Contest - Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (**December 10-11, 2016**). This is the 44th running of the ARRL 10 meter contest.

We've entered the 10 meter contest as a local club several times in the past. Last year REDXA came in 2nd place in the local club category, 10 logs worth 1.6 million points. We were only 236k points behind first place Central Virginia Contest club who has won this category 4 of the last 5 years. The downslide of Cycle 24 will have an impact on this one, gone are the West Coast openings to EU and we can only hope for some Asian and South American openings. Although ten can always surprise us, last year many of us were called by V51YJ, FW5JJ or D44BS out of the blue, which is good DX on any day. With the solar flux in the 80's this year, compared to 110 in 2015, search out other propagation modes other than traditional F2-layer ionosphere refraction. Look for backscatter, meteor scatter, trans-equatorial, and sporadic E openings There are

several categories to choose from to suit your needs and it's pretty much a daytime contest, which leaves the evenings open for other activities.

RTTY Roundup - First full weekend of January, but never on January 1. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2400 UTC Sunday (**January 7-8, 2017**).

On the heels of W0YK's RTTY presentation last month, here's a perfect opportunity to try RTTY contesting. We have several members who participate in this one; N6IE, K6RIM, N6GY, N6ZFO, K6ELE, N6OJ and K6CTA. We almost have our team of ten operators. The NCCC has in the past has identified this as focus contest, which means local clubs usually contribute their points to NCCC.

International DX Contest

CW: Third full weekend in February (**February 18-19, 2017**).

Phone: First full weekend in March (**March 4-5, 2017**).

REDXA Club Eligibility List

The ARRL requires a list of eligible club members to be uploaded to their website before the start of an Affiliated Club Competition contest. It's very simple to use, all that is required is Call Sign and Grid Square of the member, save as a text file and upload to the site. It automatically calculates the distance from the club center, so you automatically know who is eligible. I've uploaded the whole REDXA roster.

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2016 Nov 19 Claimed Scores

Single Op HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>KU6F</u>	897	83	22.5	148,902	REDXA
<u>K6JS</u>	228	70		31,920	REDXA

Single Op LP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>N6YEU</u>	241	73	11.5	35,186	REDXA
<u>K6TER</u>	107	65		13,910	REDXA

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>W6PZ(K6SRZ)</u>	1223	83	19	203,018	REDXA
<u>K6RIM</u>	232	82		38,048	REDXA
<u>KG6N</u>	215	80	24	34,400	REDXA

SO Unlimited LP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>K6CTA</u>	37	27		1,998	REDXA
<u>N3RC</u>		?	?		?

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2016 Nov 5 Claimed Scores

Single Op LP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>N6YEU</u>	462	81	17.5	74,844	REDXA
<u>N3RC</u>	233	74		34,484	REDXA
<u>KO6PS</u>	56	36		4,032	REDXA

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>K6SRZ</u>	1070	83	23:04	177,620	REDXA
<u>K6RIM</u>	395	82		64,780	REDXA
<u>KG6N</u>	366	81	13	59,292	REDXA
<u>N6IE</u>	312	83	10	51,792	REDXA

SO Unlimited LP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>K6JS</u>	439	83	18	72,874	REDXA
<u>K6CTA</u>	142	68		19,312	REDXA

ARRL 160 Meter

Single Op HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K6SRZ	255	63	6	4:40	36,639	REDXA
N6TQ	204	50	3	6	22,419	REDXA

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N6IE	211	63	4	6.75	29,279	NCCC
K6MM	190	56	4		22,120	NCCC
K6JS	20	11	2		440	NCCC

SO Unlimited LP

Call	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N3RC	63	21	2		2,709	NCCC

K6JS – First time ever operating 160M. I loaded up my 80M Trapped dipole
K6SRZ - No EU and no new band-countries. I just couldn't get motivated for this one...

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

SOAB(A) HP

Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N6IE	522	100	169	19.2	369,875	NCCC
K6RIM	247	63	143		136,578	NCCC

K6RIM - All S&P. Less than stellar conditions. Thus, spent little time in this one.
TS-990, Elecraft KPA500, Traffic Hexbeam, SteppIR Big IR Vertical N1MM+

N6IE - I wasn't planning on doing this contest, I just wanted to iron out some glitches in my remote system, but I wound up working over 500 Q's! Conditions were less than spectacular, with very few EU worked, but it was nice to hear at least a few signals on 10.

K6JS - Rough condx for a LP little pistol. Operated Friday night and Saturday, took Sunday off. No EU in the log, never heard any of the big EU stations. Thanks for the Q's.
Elecraft K3(2) - Force12 C3 at 40', 40/80 Dipole at 40' and SteppIR Vertical.

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB

SOAB(A) HP

Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K6MM	255	60	121		126,157	NCCC
K6SRZ					58,374	
K6RIM	122	38	73	3.4	35,409	NCCC
K6CTA	29	18	28		3,588	REDXA

[K6RIM](#) - Poor conditions. Didn't stick around very long

[K6SRZ](#) - Mostly looking for new band-countries. Found none Only two EU in the log. I quit early due to (1) bad condx and (2) a mysterious SteppIR failure.

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MEETING: DECEMBER 14, 2016

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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