

# 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, February 10, 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 by Bruce, W6OSP, talking about the recent DXpedition to Midway Island.**

### REDXA President's Report

Our last meeting was an enjoyable one thanks to the presence of our fellow hams from the Northern California Contest Club. I want to thank all the NCCC members who made the trip, some from as far away as Santa Cruz and Auburn, and especially to John, K6MM and Jack, KF6T who did a spectacular job of presenting a series of excellent Power Point demonstrations relating to 160 meters. "160 Meter Night" was well received by all!

Being together with prominent contesters reminded me of a QSO I heard on 75 meters a few months ago where a "newbie" who had gotten his license just a few months earlier was heard to say "I just don't get it! What is it with this contesting thing?"

Wow! How do you answer a question like that in 25 words or less? Why do we fight sleep deprivation, spend many hours and dollars in the pursuit of another fractional dB of signal, beat up our equipment and our aging bodies, and become social outcasts with our families and non-ham friends? For someone just getting into the hobby, those are legitimate questions but a few obvious reasons why we pursue the "contesting thing" come to mind.

Sooner or later, most hams become motivated to start collecting QSL cards

of LoTW credits toward awards such as WAS, DXCC, WAC, etc. and contesting is an easy way to bulk-up quickly on many of the cards and credits needed. While none of us are likely to work a P5 in a contest anytime soon, a beginner can easily start a substantial collection of entities with just a modest station and basic contesting skills, without having to enter the contest or submit a log.

There is the emergency communications angle. Contests are practice for the day when we may have to send real emergency traffic and hopefully, we and our stations will be prepared. Our skills will be refined and we will be better at improvising when things don't go as planned. That is our main goal in the Field Day exercise and our high score gives us a great deal more than just bragging rights...it gives us the confidence to know that we can really make a difference when called upon "when all else fails"!

Then there is the ability to help advance the science of communications. NCCC and REDXA have a treasure-trove of highly motivated and competitive testers, DX'ers and DXpeditioners who are always working to push the envelope and advance the state of the art of our hobby in much the same way race car drivers "torture test" automotive equipment design concepts on the track that eventually wind up in our own everyday vehicles. Contesting is the NASCAR of communications technology.

There is always a social angle in most types of competition, whether it's golf, racing (cars, boats, horses, running, etc.), chess, poker, or in our case, ham radio contesting that spawns organizations, activities and life-long friendships that come from having a common interest in a particular pursuit that the average person might not understand. Some folks think we're downright crazy to do what we do. We know better.

Finally, there is the personal satisfaction of knowing that you did your best in building your station and making it run. Whether you have an antenna farm that could challenge Voice of America or a just a dipole in the attic, *you* made it come to life. *You* used *your* skills, *your* intellect and *your* endurance to reach that final score. And next contest, *you* will do better if you choose!

Whether it's contesting or DX'ing, our 'quest to be the best' helps drive innovation, self improvement, self esteem and camaraderie as we keep reaching for the next level of achievement.

Whether it's DX'ing or contesting, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to the hardy folks who unselfishly donate their time, efforts, endurance and personal wealth to brave the unpredictable situations encountered in DXpeditions. DXpeditions give us all the

opportunity to put cards from DX entities 'on the wall' that would otherwise not be there, which is why the members of REDXA so highly value presentations from those who have made the journeys, done the work and given us all the enjoyment of working a rare and distant part of the world and adding to our DXCC collections. It's even more meaningful when the presenter is one of our own regular club members, which is the case for this month's program. Bruce, W6OSP will be giving a presentation on the K4M DXpedition this past October to historic Midway Island. I hope you will all join us for an enjoyable program!

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## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

12/31/09 Balance Forward		\$2,805.53
INCOME		
Badges	45.00	
Dues	260.00	
Raffle	46.50	
TOTAL INCOME		351.50
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES		(0.00)
1/31/10 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,157.03</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 QRZ.com or mailed to the REDXA P.O. Box or given to me personally at our regularly scheduled meetings.**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 2010

by San, N7PIB

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

## JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

by San, N7PIB

President Ron Castro, N6IE called his initial meeting for the 2010 year to order shortly after 7:00 pm at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant in Petaluma. There was an extremely good turnout as this was a joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club. Among the guests were the following members of the NCCC (not complete due to excessive QRM): NW6P, KF6T, AF6RT, N6LG, AA6XV, N6WM, K6MIM, K2RD, NI6T, N6ZFO, W6AOT, W6DZN, KD6DF, AD6E, W9YC, WJ6O, K6AUC, KI6UJT, WK6T, and W6XA. Also, Debbie (harmonic of Jim, K6JS, our treasurer) was introduced.

President Ron entertained a motion to accept the minutes for the December 9 Holiday dinner meeting, moved by Alan K6KLL, seconded by Chuck N6OJ, and passed.

Old business: None

New business: Jim, K6JS has agreed to upgrade the Club's 2 element SteppIR to a 3 element model.

Results for the 2009 Field Day were announced, an excellent performance in our category.

Dues of \$20 are due for the 2010 calendar year. Please remit to Jim, K6JS, if you have not already done so.

The program was presented by several members of the NCCC who discussed varying antennas for use in 160 meters operations. John Miller, K6MM, one of the presenters, has written an article on "The No Excuses 160 Meter Vertical" that was published in the June 2009 QST (p.32 et seq.). Additional information may also be found on the NCCC website at <http://www.nccc.cc/newsletter.html>.

The raffle took in \$86 and was won by Rich.

Next month's meeting will have as its featured presenter Bruce, W6OSP, talking about the recent DXpedition to Midway Island.

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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>

## Bob Damon, N6OL - Silent Key

I'm saddened to report that Bob Damon, N6OL became a silent key on January 28, 2010. He was a member of REDXA and dropped out after the onset of Alzheimer.

de, K6ANP

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### Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

#### ARRL Sweepstakes Phone

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Call Category Qs Mlts Score  
W6PZ SOHP ? ? 175,200  
(K6SRZ op)

#### NAQP January CW

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Call Category Qs Mults Score  
K6SRZ SOLP 824 183 150,792  
K6LRN SOLP 390 139 54,210  
N6ZFO SOLP 641 164 105,124  
K6CTA SOLP 365 122 44,530  
N6IE SOLP 383 132 44,616  
N6YEU SOLP 123 53 6,519  
K6RIM SOLP 751 162 121,662  
AA6YX SOLP 386 105 40,530

#### NAQP January SSB

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Call Category Qs Mults Score  
W6PZ SOLP 122 58 7,076  
(op K6SRZ)  
W7DG M2LP 820 144 118,080  
(several ops incl W8NF)  
AA6YX SOLP 405 109 44,145

#### RAC Winter Contest

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Call Category Qs Mlts Score  
WW6D SOLP 48 10 3,120

#### ARRL RTTY Roundup

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Call Category Qs Secs Ctrys Score  
WW6D SOLP 141 37 10 6,627


#### CQ 160m CW

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Call Category Qs St/Ps Ctrys Score  
N6IE SOHP(A) 214 47 8 29,425  
K6SRZ SOHP(A) 638 55 29 162,708

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Feb 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Feb 13-14 CQ WW RTTY WPX  
Feb 20-21 ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW  
Feb 27-28 NCJ North American QSO  
Party RTTY  
Mar 6-7 ARRL Int'l DX Contest SSB  
Mar 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Mar 27-28 CQ WW WPX SSB  
Apr 14 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Apr 16-18 Int'l DX Convention Visalia  
May 1-2 7th Call Area QSO Party  
May 12 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
May 29-30 CQ WW WPX CW  
June 9 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
June 12-14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
June 26-27 ARRL Field Day

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673 Plum Street  
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**MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

