

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 8, 2012 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 our annual joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club. Our presentation will be on Software Defined Radios for contesting by Stu Phillips, K6TU.

REDXA President's Report

It's hard to believe that it is already February!

If you missed January's meeting, you missed a great presentation by Paul Ewing, N6PSE, detailing the ST0R Southern Sudan DXpedition. The Intrepid-DX Group and the DX Friends combined their efforts in a multi-national DXpedition to South Sudan to celebrate the birth of a new country. One of the comments overheard afterwards was "one of the best presentations in a long time". We were also lucky to be the first to preview the ST0R video.

This month brings our annual joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club. Our presentation will be on Software Defined Radios for contesting by Stu Phillips, K6TU. Ham radio operators have always been on the forefront of new technology, evolving from tubes to solid state many years ago. Over the years we've developed packet, PC logging, station automation, SDR's, band scopes, skimmers and remote



control stations. Most of these technologies were introduced in the past 15 years. The computer has become an integral part of the modern ham shack. Only time will tell if the SDR platform can leverage its flexibility, performance and processing power to become the choice of the next generation of operators.

Thank you for a great turnout at our annual Christmas party. We were blessed this year with a magnificent contribution from Pietro Begali, I2RTF, who donated a Begali Contour iambic key with the REDXA logo beautifully engraved on it. There was a buzz in the air as everyone waited for the Begali key raffle. Our lucky winner was Bruce Butler, W6OSP. Many thanks go out to Pietro and Bruna Begali. Grazie mille!

The November Sweepstakes CW initial results are in and congratulations go out to our 2011 Spirit award winner Fred Leoni, N6YEU for his 1st place finish, S.F. section, low power category. Additionally, AA6YX, Dave New grabbed the top spot in the B category. Not to be outdone, Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, was 1st place, Single Op, unlimited category with a top ten score nationally and top 5 on the West coast in the U category. Josh Fiden, W6XU, was hot on his heels, a mere 86 Q's behind Alan. Great job and kudos to all of you...

Due to time constraints from family issues the DX and contesting articles and contesting scores contain only the information which was forwarded to me. Please remember to cc me with your scores and also consider contributing information for publication in Sunspots. We welcome your voice.

73,
Jim, K6JS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 2012

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

President Jim K6JS called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, January 11, 2012 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. There were 35 members and 3 guests in attendance. Prospective member Mike AI6II was present as well as Ted Palmer, a prospective new ham. Jim entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in SUNSPOTS. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

President Jim introduced the new officers of REDXA to the group.

He then recognized Alan K6SRZ who requested help of the members either this Thursday or Friday in helping him to get up his new STEPPIR DB18.

Old Business - None

New Business -

President Jim announced he was getting together with new treasurer Saraj KU6F later this month to go over the books on the Club's money, and visit the bank to get the proper signatures on record.

He then requested the Club think about supporting another contest in the future, in addition to our Field Day and the annual Cal QSO Party.

He asked the membership to think about a purely social event like a Club picnic, or an evening at the SF Yacht Club, as done in the past.

He stated that the wines he is offering for excellence in the Cal QSO Party are just waiting for the final log checks by the NCCC, and would be awarded at a future meeting.

He encouraged members to write articles for the upcoming SUNSPOTS issues.

Finally, it was announced that CQP Shirts were still available for purchase. Go to cqp_shirts@cqp.org to order.

won and took home \$65.

The presentation of the evening was done by Paul N6PSE. It featured the first run movie about the new country of South Sudan, and the first ham radio DX-Pedition ST0R that he and his group "DX FRIENDS", in partnership with "THE INTREPID DX GROUP" ran for 21 days last year. The movie was very entertaining, and highly appreciated. At the end he answered members questions.

Upcoming Meetings:

February	Joint meeting with NCCC
March	Discussion of staying, or moving meeting place with suggestions to be made and observing budget allowances.
April	To be announced

There was a final raffle of 4 coffee mugs, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS & Saraj, KU6F

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

12/31/11 Balance Forward		\$2,976.47
INCOME		
Dues	80.00	
Raffle	64.00	
TOTAL INCOME		144.00
EXPENSES		
Meals	17.14	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(17.14)
1/31/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,103.33</u>

Please send your dues to my attention at:

Saraj Cory, KU6F
1283 Mark West Springs Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Finally, my son came home early from school last Thursday (January 26th) with what turned out to be a growth spurt (instead of the flu), fell asleep midday which gave me the opportunity to get onto the bands while the sun was up: I happily worked: C21HA, T32WW, TI8II, and HK0NA (again), trying for TN2T and W2AW, but those last two are just barely hearable -- keep listening in and try as the prop gods allow. I take my radio blessings where I find them.

73, KU6F

Contesting and DX News

by Jim, K6JS

The Six Meter report from Bob Magnani, K6QXY. He reports working ZL2DX, ZL3NW and E51EME on January 1st and contacting VK3ZAZ on the 6th. On January 22nd he had a sporadic E link to a trans-equatorial (TEP) region, which produced P43A and FM8DY. On the 25th he managed to work HK0NA for DXCC #168 on the magic band, the only W6 in the log. The weak QSO took 30 minutes to get it in the log. Great job Bob!


REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Feb 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 11	FISTS Winter Sprint
Feb 11-12	CQ WPX RTTY
Feb 18-19	ARRL Intl DX Contest CW
Feb 24	CQ 160m Contest SSB
Feb 25	NCJ NA QSO Party RTTY
Mar 3-4	ARRL Intl DX Contest SSB
Mar 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 24-25	CQ WPX SSB
Apr 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 20-22	Int'l DX Convention, Visalia
May 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 26-27	CQ WPX CW
Jun 9-11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
Jun 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 23-24	ARRL Field Day

See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more Contest Schedules.

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MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2012

