

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, January 13, 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 the Northern California Contest Club who will put on the evening's presentation "160 Meter Night". We'll learn about how to get on "Top Band" and information about this popular band.

REDXA President's Report

I want to start by thanking all of you for bestowing on me the opportunity to lead one of America's finest DX clubs! Although we are a small group, REDXA has distinguished itself over the years by attracting a dedicated and expert group of DX'ers and contesters who have unselfishly shared their experiences, talents and labor with other members to the benefit of all. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to my predecessor, Alan, K6SRZ for his tireless efforts on behalf of the club and I look forward to his council as a member of our Board of Directors. I'll be joining a long line of club presidents who have advanced the interests of the club members, as well as Amateur Radio in general, DX'ing, contesting and public service. They have set good examples and I hope that I can come close to the high bar they have set.

When I first moved to Petaluma from San Bruno in 1985, I wanted to join a local club, but I hadn't yet heard of REDXA, so I visited 'that other club up the road' in Santa Rosa. While the meeting was well attended, and the members seemed quite friendly and genuinely happy to have me as a guest, almost the entire meeting was spent with parliamentary matters that apparently grew from numerous opposing factions from within the club. Every agenda item seemed to invoke endless debate and bickering along



with shouts of “Point of order!” and references to Robert’s Rules. By the end of the meeting little had been accomplished and my head hurt. I never went back.

A short time later, I ran into Chuck, N6OJ on the air and was invited to one of the REDXA meetings, which in those days were held at the old Sonoma Joe’s restaurant, now a card club/casino. The warm, welcoming atmosphere and camaraderie were instantly noticeable and I felt right at home. Parliamentary procedures were kept to a bare minimum and after a good meal, we heard from our guest speaker, a member of the DX Advisory Committee who spoke about how DXCC and the DXAC worked as well as commentary on existing and proposed rules and changes and reflections about unusual DXCC facts and stories. It was a great evening and I came away with valuable information I could use as a DX’er, plus, I met some fine folks that I still have the privilege of calling friends a quarter of a century later.

It’s my hope to continue the fine tradition of our club where the business portion of the meetings are kept short and functional and the main focus is kept on maximum “Fun Quotient”!

To that end, I’ll need your help in procuring programs for our meetings. Please let me know if there are DXpedition participants available to make presentations, or about any presentations or programs you have heard about from other clubs that we might be able to ‘borrow’. I think that the best presentations can come from our own members who are willing to share their experiences in areas directly or indirectly related to Amateur Radio. Power Point presentations are very easy to make (I can help you if you need), and are an excellent way to show something of value to fellow members. Here are a few examples:

- Demonstrations of shack automation/contesting/DX software and equipment
- Slide shows of contest or DX mobile/portable operations, especially CQP
- Emergency communications/search and rescue
- DX vacation spots or ham radio get-a-ways
- DXpedition planning and execution
- QRP
- Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF)
- GPS: How it works, use in ham radio (DF, frequency standard, APRS, etc.)
- Ham Radio Digital Voice modes: D-Star, AOR-DV, ARD-9800, Mototrbo, repeater TDMA, etc.
- History of Amateur Radio, any aspect of it or anything related to it
- Ham Radio organizations: local, regional, national, international
- Mountain-top DXing
- Award-chasing
- Grounding basics for the ham: RF, AC, lightning

- Contest strategies for beginners and/or experts
- Amateur Radio Satellite communications
- Repeaters
- Visits with other hams in interesting places
- Portable, mobile and maritime mobile pointers and “How to”
- Visits to ‘world-class’ contest/DX stations
- Propagation prediction (Please give us hope for cycle 24!)
- Antenna modeling, constructing or performance evaluation
- RFI/TVI trouble-shooting and elimination
- LoTW “How to” and/or other QSLing tips and ideas
- Slide show of the next Dayton/Visalia (or any) convention and all the new ‘goodies’ on display, news, topics of discussion, etc.
- Boat-Anchor collecting and restoration


Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you have. I’m easy to reach by phone during the day at 707-546-9185, at home 707-763-4273 or by e-mail at ron@n6ie.com. Remember, you don’t need to be a professional presenter, or a Toastmasters black belt... REDXA is a perfect venue for first-time public speakers...and we’re not really “public”, just a bunch of friends gettin’ together for dinner and talk!

This month’s meeting will be a special one since it will be the annual joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club who will put on the evening’s presentation “160 Meter Night”. We’ll learn about how to get on “Top Band” whether you have many acres for antennas or just a tiny suburban lot like I have, plus propagation, DXing, contesting and general hints and tips about this fascinating band that has grown in popularity with declining sunspot activity. I look forward to seeing you all there at Mr. McGoo’s Wednesday, January 13th, 2010!

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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Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

11/30/09 Balance Forward		\$2,745.78
INCOME		
Dues	390.00	
Raffle	246.00	
TOTAL INCOME		636.00
EXPENSES		
Badge	15.00	
Bizmark (Spirit)	125.00	
HRO Certificates	350.00	
K6SRZ (Bizmark)	11.25	
YL Gift	75.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(576.25)
12/31/09 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,805.53</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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 2009

by San, N7PIB

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm, December 9, 2009 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 31 members and guests. Guests included Matt N6PIA, David W6DZN, Kathy (YL N6RXA), Pat (YL K6RIM), Sylvia (YL K6ANP), Janet (YL W6WR), Carol (YL K6SRZ) and Devon (Harmonic K6JS).

Alan K6SRZ requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots; motion was made by Chuck N6OJ, seconded by Rich N6RXA and passed.

Old business. None.

New business. President Alan K6SRZ announced that next month's (January) meeting will be our annual joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC). The current program being planned is a panel discussion on 160 meter techniques.

It was with great pleasure that Alan announced this year's winner of the REDXA Spirit Award – Marilyn N6VAW. This award acknowledged her participation in numerous club activities, her enthusiasm and support for club members, participant in several DXpeditions with Rich W6UDS and her role as the 'de facto' club photographer, including the 2008 Field Day photos which were published in QST. Congratulations, Marilyn!

Chuck offered his high recommendation of the Yamaha 500 headset which he recently obtained through an NCCC group buy coordinated by Josh W6XU. If interested in a REDXA purchase, please let one of these individuals know about your wishes.

The new officers and directors were introduced by Alan (see election results in last months Sunspots newsletter).

Our treasurer Jim K6JS noted that several of last year's Gift Certificates remain unused – please work something out with Ham Radio Outlet to clear their books.

Fred N6YEU then conducted the traditional holiday raffle. The winner of the Lady's Prize: Carol (YL K6SRZ).

Gift Certificate winners:

\$25 – Dave, AA6YX
\$50 – Al, K6RIM
\$75 – Len, K6ANP
\$100 – Kathy (YL N6RXA)
\$100 – Chuck, N6OJ

Congratulations to all! The raffle sales took in \$246.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Happy New Year! Lots of REDXA member activity during the last few weeks, despite the propagation. Getting on the air makes its own propagation, right?

ARRL Sweepstakes Phone

Call	Category	Qs	Mlts	Score
N6YEU	A	429	76	65,208
K6RIM	U	1066	80	170,560
K6LRN	B	705	79	111,390
K6JS	U	347	78	54,132
K6CTA	B	345	61	42,090
N6ZFO	A	178	65	23,140
W6XU	U	1329	80	212,640
AA6YX	A	300	75	45,000

CQ WW CW

Call	Category	Qs	Zones	Ctrys	Score
K6RIM	SOABHP(A)	544	99	249	515,388
W6IYS	SOABLP	240	56	91	93,148
K6JS	SOABHP	180	63	103	80,842
K6LRN	SOABHP(A)	421	98	178	315,192
K6SRZ	SOABHP	206	62	92	78,078
WW6D	SOABHP	235	60	90	95,700

ARRL 160 M

Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Ctrys	Score
K6SRZ	SOHP	756	74	14	140,448
WW6D	SOLP	31	17	2	1,105

ARRL 10 M

Call	Category	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6RIM	SO Mxd LP	191	34	21,760
K6SRZ	SO CW HP	204	27	22,032
NM6E/5	SO Mxd LP	42	23	3,174
N6OJ	SO Mxd HP	344	45	48,420
N6YEU	SO Mxd LP	59	17	3,264

RAC Winter Contest

Call	Category	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6SRZ	SO	345	23	38,088

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MEETING: JANUARY 13, 2010



Stew Perry Top Band Distance Contest (TBDC)

Call	Category	Qs	Score
N6ZFO	SO LP	57	262.5
N6IE	MS HP	122	532

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Ctrys	Score
N6OJ	SOABLP	1081	57	25	88,642
N6IE	SOABHP	1229	56	40	117,984
K6SRZ	SOABHP	479	73	?	34,967

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Jan 9-10	NCJ North American QSO Party CW
Jan 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting with NCCC
Jan 16-17	NCJ North American QSO Party SSB
Jan 23-25	ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes
Feb 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting with NCCC
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 with NCCC
Mar 27-28	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting with NCCC
Apr 16-18	Int'l DX Convention Visalia