

# 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

VOLUME 30

NUMBER 3

MARCH 2009

### CLUB OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT:

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ  
210 Nila Mae Way  
Penngrove, CA 94951  
H (510) 540-8790  
doctore@well.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

Jim Robinson, Jr., KE6UAR  
16820 Lauri Lane  
Occidental, CA 95465  
H (707) 874-3958  
jcr3jr@yahoo.com

#### SECRETARY:

Doug Bender, WW6D  
3638 Hemlock Court  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
H (707) 526-5131  
ww6d@aol.com

#### TREASURER:

Jim Selmi, K6JS  
7470 Monique Place  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
H (707) 664-9769  
jselmi@hotmail.com

#### DIRECTORS:

Al Burnham, K6RIM  
409 Summit Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
H (415) 924-6783  
k6rim@pacbell.net

Ron Castro, N6IE  
1355 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 225  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
ron@n6ie.com

Bob Magnani, K6QXY  
1500 Los Alamos Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
H (707) 538-3801  
k6qxy@aol.com

#### CONTEST CHAIRMAN & WEBMASTER:

Doug Bender, WW6D  
3638 Hemlock Court  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
H (707) 526-5131  
ww6d@aol.com

#### EDITOR:

Steve Bertsch, K6SAB  
673 Plum Street  
Novato, CA 94945  
H (415) 898-5159  
sabertsch@gmail.com

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.redxa.com/>

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, March 11, 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 a presentation on the P29NI DXpedition by Alan AD6E.**

### REDXA President's Report

This month REDXA is privileged to hear a report on the recent P29NI IOTA expedition to Papua New Guinea. Our speaker, Alan Maenchen AD6E, was one of the members of the expedition and was at the key when he gave me my first P29 QSO on 160.

Alan was also responsible for my getting a start in Dxpediting. Back in 2004, Alan was scheduled to go to Banaba, T33, with a group of expeditioners with who he had previously gone to TI9M (Cocos Island). Unfortunately, Alan hurt his back and elected to stay home. In his place, he suggested that I might be a worthy addition to the team.

And so it was that I wound up in my shorts and T-shirt sitting on a stack of four cases of Victoria Bitter Beer in 100 degree weather handing out T33 QSOs on CW.

I was especially proud after the expedition when the leader, Hrane, YT1AD, told me how surprised he was that I actually knew a thing or two about running a pileup. Before getting to Banaba, he assumed that I was just coming along to be the expedition doctor (I did that too).



## Sixty-Five

I turned 65 last month. To put it another way, it's been 53 years since I received novice license KN6SRZ and began operating from the RF black hole of Mill Valley's Homestead Valley.

Anyhow, last month ham radio activities took a back seat to the business of becoming a "senior". First, I had to deal with Social Security and with Kaiser to turn my Kaiser membership into something called "Medicare Senior Advantage". Next, I had to navigate a bewildering array of options with my retirement plans. And every morning I had to stand in front of the bathroom mirror and ask myself if it was really true that I was SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OLD! How could this be? The "inner me" was still a healthy teenager. The outer me, however, was slowly recognizing that—if family history is any guide—I had only about twenty more years to accomplish whatever I could in this life.

Now, one of the things I want to accomplish—besides curing cancer and realizing world peace—is becoming number 1 on the DXCC Honor Roll. It's going to be tough. For one thing, I was off the air from 1962 to 1996. I just missed the VK0IR expedition, my one QSO with Yemen (and it was with Yemen) didn't count, and there are two French islands in the Indian Ocean that haven't been activated for a long, long time.

Let's be honest: despite commendable efforts to bring youth into ham radio, HF Dxing is largely the province of the middle-aged or older. We are dinosaurs, albeit happy ones.

My own modest proposal to the DXCC program would be to change the rules so that if an entity is not activated within ten years, that entity should be removed from the current list and back-burnered. When it is again activated, it can go back on the list, and those who were fortunate to have worked the entity many years before would have their credit restored.

It probably won't happen, so I'll have to be content with discounts at the movies, AMTRAK, and coffee at McDonald's to name but a few (there's a Web site, [www.seniordiscounts.com](http://www.seniordiscounts.com) that) claims to have 15,000 listed senior discounts. And, if I can hold until I'm 76, I'll be eligible to ski free at Squaw Valley. The Squaw Valley discount is a tribute to modern medicine, I guess, since it used start at age 70.

I'll see you all at Mr. McGoo's.

73,

Alan/K6SRZ

## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

1/31/09 Balance Forward		\$2,884.49
INCOME		
Dues	<u>300.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		300.00
EXPENSES		
Meals	<u>22.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(22.00)
2/28/09 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,162.49</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 FEBRUARY 2009

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING SCHEDULED.

---

### FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, February 11, 2009 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 18 members and guests. Guests included were Pete Mandel from the Marin County Dept. of Public Works who was one of the guest speakers and Devon, harmonic of Jim K6JS.

**Old business.** 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 Frank WA6PXW. Motion passed.

**New business.** Upcoming meeting programs were announced by Alan K6SRZ:

March - P29NI DXpediton by Alan AD6E.

April - TBD

May - Remote Control of your Amateur Radio Station by Rick "The Locust" K6VVA

June - Field Day preparation

July - **THE Definitive** Field Day Motion Picture by Alan K6SRZ

August - Giants in the History of Amateur Radio by Gary NI6T

It was sadly noted that well known DXer and DXpeditioner Jim Smith VK9NS has become a Silent Key.

No raffle was held this month.

Alan K6SRZ also announced that the rare Desecheo Island was about to be activated.

The program for the evening was "Urban Search & Rescue" presented by Pete Mandel and our own Jim K6JS. Pete has been associated with US&R for over 27 years and has been with Marin County's SAR since 1995. Jim is a relative newcomer but has been assigned many of the information technology issues associated with US&R. They begin by outlining their mission and training, how they prepare for an assignment, and discussed a recent exercise. In addition to the slide show, they brought along handouts describing the US&R background in Marin County, their team members and capabilities. They also brought along some of the specialized equipment for conducting search operations. A very interesting program and a hearty thank you to Pete and Jim for the program on short notice!

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

---

## Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

---

## Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Bob K6QXY now has 152 countries on 6 meters EME. He recently received QSLs from LX6FX for Luxembourg and EA6BQ for the Balearic Islands.

Dave AA6YX recently received some nice "wallpaper" -- he was acknowledged as 2nd place in all of 6 land for the 2008 running of the CQ WPX SSB contest. Dave is also closing in on WAS needing only AZ and NV.

Congratulations Bob and Dave!

Don't forget about sending in your pre-registration for the 60th Annual International DX Convention held in Visalia, CA. The deadline is March 20. The web site for all Visalia convention material is [www.dxconvention.org](http://www.dxconvention.org).

## NCJ North American Sprint CW Feb

---

Call	Category	Qs	Mlts	Score
N6ZFO	SOLP	194	42	8,342
K6LRN	SOHP	136	36	4,896
K6SRZ	SOHP	222	39	8,880

## ARRL DX CW

---

Call	Category	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	608	211	384,864
N6YEU	SOABLP	318	121	115,434
WW6D	SOABHP	115	46	15,870

## CQ WPX RTTY

---

Call	Category	Qs	Pfxs	Score
N6IE	SOABHP	1092	398	836,994

---

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Mar 7-8	ARRL Int'l DX Phone
Mar 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 15	NCJ North American Sprint RTTY
Mar 29-30	CQ WW WPX Phone
Apr 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 17-19	Visalia Int'l DX Convention
May 2-3	7th Call Area QSO Party
May 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 23-24	CQ WPX CW
Jun 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 13-14	June VHF QSO Party
Jun 20	Kids Day
Jun 27-28	Field Day
Jul 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
July 11-12	IARU HF World Championships

**Pacificon 2009 to be hosted by  
EMCOMMWEST, May 1, 2, and 3,  
at the Circus Circus Hotel, Reno, NV**

On February 15, I learned that the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club had decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. They have done an outstanding job of running Pacificon every year since 1992, and this decision was made by their Pacificon Committee, based on the current economic downturn, and unsuccessful negotiations with the host hotel. Realizing the difficulty of finding a replacement for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, that with an experienced committee spends nearly a year planning this successful event, I decided to contact EMMCOMMWEST, the second largest Amateur Radio Convention in the Pacific Division. They very kindly accepted, knowing the marriage of the two events would require an expansion of program matter, and the addition of Friday presentations. I am truly grateful to the entire EMMCOMMWEST team for their decision. The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has been very supportive of this effort, and is making all of their speaker, vendor, and organizational information available to the EMMCOMMWEST team. The keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Field Organization Supervisor from ARRL HQ; and the banquet speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who was in charge of Amateur Radio rules enforcement at the FCC when

he retired. I hope many of you will be able to attend this year's Pacificon. More information is available at <pacificon.org>.


A special note to all club newsletter editors: Please feature this information in your monthly publications. I will be sending additional mailings as more news becomes available.

See you at EMMCOMMWEST/Pacificon!

Thanks and 73,

Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
Director, Pacific Division  
ARRL The national association for AMATEUR  
RADIO

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM  
RADIO  
OUTLET**

**Mark Nowell**  
Manager  
WITYN

2210 Livingston Street  
Oakland, CA 94606  
(510) 534-5757 • 800-854-6046  
(510) 534-0729 Fax

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO  
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR  
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

673 Plum Street  
Novato, CA 94945

**MEETING: MARCH 11, 2009**

