

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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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, December 9, 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 our annual holiday party! Bring your significant others and have fun!

REDXA President's Report

Hard to believe, but this is the 24th Sunspots column that I've written. Since it will be my last at least for a while, I'd like to go out with something memorable or at the very least not boring. This fall, at our house, ham radio has had to compete with the demands of puppies. Our dog (well, actually she belongs to Guide Dogs for the Blind) Annie produced a litter of six healthy pups who are destined to become guide dogs.

If you've ever raised a litter of pups, you likely will recall that the older the puppies get, the less work they are for the mother dog and the more work they are for their human "parents". For the first few weeks, mother dog provides food, comfort, and waste disposal. After that, it's up to the people to provide puppy kibble and pooper scoops.

Puppies like to sample their environment with their mouths. After the first four weeks they have a nice set of teeth to assist with the sampling. A few days before the Sweepstakes Phone contest, I was doing some antenna work out in the yard when my wife came out to say that I had left the door to my shack open and that the puppies had gotten in. My radio room is right off our back deck. The deck was fenced off to provide a puppy play area so, for a brief few minutes, the play area extended to the shack...



I'm happy to say that none of the puppies chewed through a high voltage line. Unfortunately, they found plenty of other interesting playthings including the USB connections and stereo mini plugs that were part of my RTTY set up. They also found a truly wonderful (from a puppy's point of view) plaything in my Heil Proset. Just one tug pulled the headset off the desk and onto the floor where the little dogs could give it a thorough oral going-over. They pronounced the #4 microphone cartridge delightfully crunchy and the ear pads excellent objects for tug-of-war. In short, the phones were trashed..

Fortunately Chuck, N6OJ, had a set of phones to loan me and later in the week I was able to take part in Josh, W6XU's, group purchase of Yamaha headsets. I sent the damaged headset off to the "Heil Hospital" at Heil Hq. in Illinois with a note explaining what had happened. The price list on the Heil Web site suggested that *if* the headset could be repaired, I was looking at maybe \$85-90. A week later, the UPS man drove up and handed me a package and handed mother dog a few dog biscuits. In the package was either a brand new headset or an amazing job of refurbishing—I can't tell—and written across the invoice—an invoice for \$20-- was a longhand note that read "don't be mad at the puppies" signed by "Donna".

And, of course, I'm not. In fact, I love the little beasts. The pups were with us for two months, long enough to watch their individual canine personalities develop and certainly long enough for me to become attached to the little beasts. Yesterday I took the last of the pups down to San Rafael. Today, little Dempsey the Dog (he already weighs 20 pounds) will go to someone who will raise him for the next year and then, in turn, surrender him to Guide Dogs for further training and placement. It was hard not to feel just a little guilty seeing Dempsey being placed all by himself in a concrete dog run behind steel bars.

I'm writing this on a chilly almost-Winter night. Somewhere in the neighborhood the cold is causing a piece of power pole hardware to shrink perhaps a few Angstroms--enough to prevent the arc that has been making 80 and 160 a struggle for the past few days. My fingers are crossed that it will stay that way for next weekend's 160 contest.

2009 has been a good year for our club. Membership has remained stable and some new folks have joined. We did very well on Field Day. Our members continued to distinguish themselves in contesting and DXing. Bruce, W6OSP, was our representative on the very successful K4M expedition.

Most of us are middle-aged or older and as such in 2009 we were faced with the inevitable large and small crises of health and—with fingers crossed—it looks like we'll all make it through to another year.

Soon we will gather for our annual holiday party. I hope that some of you will bring your significant others. I've just about convinced Carol, my wife, that the evening will be mostly about food, drink, fellowship, and prizes, and that it will be not so much about the technical aspects of our hobby.

Thank you for the honor of being president of REDXA. I wish you all the happiest of holidays and a happy healthy 2010. Twenty-ten! Amazing. I'll see you all on the 9th.

73, Alan/K6SRZ

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

10/31/09 Balance Forward		\$2,715.78
INCOME		
Raffle	30.00	
TOTAL INCOME		30.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES		(0.00)
11/30/09 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,745.78</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 NOVEMBER 2009

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm, November 11, 2009 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 28 members and guests. Guests included Ken W6HF, his YL Lucille KL1WE, Peter W6DEI and Ken N6KM.

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

Old business. None.

New business. Alan noted that the Pacific Division is holding a luncheon for club representatives. This will be an opportunity to voice concerns and issues to the Division Director prior to the January ARRL Board of Directors meeting. If you are interested in attending as the REDXA rep, contact Alan or Bill KH6GJV.

Guest Ken N6KM made a special presentation to President K6SRZ of a QSL card photocopy where he and Alan had QSO'd in 1956! Alan's transmitter was homebrew and his receiver was a Hallicrafters S88C.

Al K6RIM proposed that the new board check into the possibility of other venues for the club meeting. Alan stated that the issue will be investigated for next year's plans.

Nominations for the REDXA Spirit Award are to be sent to Alan K6SRZ.

Bob K6QXY passed around a folder of photos of the various 6 meter arrays throughout the world including his and K5AND (6 meter op at K5D); impressive hardware!

November is the month for the election of officers. The nominating committee presented their slate:

Elected positions:

President: Ron N6IE
VP: Josh W6XU
Secretary: San N7PIB
Treasurer: Jim K6JS
Director: Alan K6SRZ (Past President)
Director: Bob K6QXY
Director: Wally N6AD

Appointed positions:

Newsletter Editor: Steve K6SAB
Contest Chair: Doug WW6D
Webmaster: Doug WW6D

Alan moved that the slate of officers be accepted as elected by acclamation, seconded by Al K6RIM.

Motion passed; the new officers will take office January 1.

REDXA Raffle which brought in a total of \$60. The winner for the evening was Al K6RIM who took home \$30, leaving \$30 for the club.

The program for the evening was the first account of the recent K4M Midway DXpedition by Bruce W6OSP. Many of you already know about the issue surrounding the air travel. It certainly put the web site flightware.com in everyone's bookmarks! Bruce noted that all the antennas were verticals. They had a total of 6 stations in operation 24/7 using Icom transceivers (IC-706) and ACOM amplifiers. The food was good, there was commissary and the CW ops had an air conditioned shack! The DXpedition was video recorded by James Brooks, 9Y1VC so watch for this in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Note: ARRL Sweepstakes Phone ended right at the deadline for this column. Look for members' results next month.

Have a Happy Holiday! 73, Doug

California QSO Party

Call	Category	CW Qs	SSB Qs	Mlts	Score
K6JS	SOLP	114 (total)		40	13,680
W6OSP	SOLP				33,615
W6XU	SOHP	943	975	57	272,403

ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Call	Category	Qs	Mlts	Score
N6AD	B	456	78	71,136
W6XU	U	1146	80	183,360
AA6YX	A	565	80	90,400
NM6E	U	91	38	6,916
N6YEU	A	436	77	66,528
W8NF	A	20	17	680
K6JS	U	22	79	66,676
WW6D	A	66	42	5,712
K6CTA	B	662	78	103,272
N6ZFO	A	932	79	147,256
K6SRZ	U	1130		
K6LRN	B	694	80	111,040
K6RIM	U	1003	80	160,480

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Dec 4-6 ARRL 160m
Dec 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
Dec 12-13 ARRL 10m
Jan 1 Straight Key Night
Jan 2-3 ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 13 * REDXA Monthly Meeting with
NCCC
Jan 23-25 ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes
Feb 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting with
NCCC
Feb 20-21 ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW
Mar 6-7 ARRL Int'l DX Contest SSB
Mar 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting with
NCCC

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: DECEMBER 9, 2009



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



Mark Nowell
Manager
W7YN

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

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