

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 12, 2014 at Boulevard Cafe & Grill, 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 C82DX Mozambique DXpedition by Rob K6RB and Rusty W6OAT.

REDXA President's Report

Here we are in month two of 2014. I was pleased with the attendance of the January joint meeting with NCCC. John-K6MM put on a great presentation on the Wake Island DXpedition.

It is with great sadness that, for those who haven't heard, we lost one of the pillars of our club, Bruce Butler-W6OSP. He was a great ham and gave back much more than he ever took from ham radio. He will leave a large hole in the tapestry of REDXA.

Many club members have been chasing the DXpedition to Amsterdam Island, FT5ZM. Checking Clublog.com I am glad to see we have 23 members who have logged at least 1 qso with this rare entity. KC6AWX is in the lead with 9! I even show up in the log on 15m phone which unfortunately I didn't work them there!

For some of you newer members and actually some of you older/longer members I would like to encourage you to think about attending the International DX Convention in Visalia. The new venue in downtown Visalia is a super location. If you have even a small interest, this is the place to go. The dates are April 4-6. Check out the website:



dxconvention.org for details.

We will have another DXpedition presentation this month for your entertainment. C82DX-Mozambique with K6RB and W6OAT.

I am initiating a new "column" this month in "Sunspots" which I am tentatively calling: How I Got Started in Ham Radio". I find it interesting to learn about the other members history. I will start it off with my own story and hopefully we will have several others grab the baton and "volunteer" to do future columns.

Take care and see you at the meeting. 73, Fred

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 2014

by Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Ed, K6ELE

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 by the club president, Fred, N6YEU. Fred welcomed the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) to the joint meeting with our club. Over 40 members attended from both clubs. Two guests were present, Bill AJ6RB and Joel KQ1N.

Bill, KH6GJV, gave the treasurers report. The club balance is \$2714 as of 12/31/13. For the raffle in December \$385 was collected and \$433 was spent. The raffle collected \$219, \$110 given to winner; \$109 to club account.

Old Business:

Fred reported that the new trustee for the club call is Len, K6ANP.

Fred said that the sale of excess club antennas has brought in \$350. Several of the 15M antennas were delivered to San Jose by Saraj, KU6F.

New Business:

New club shirts and caps are available for order. Club shirts to sell for \$25 and caps for \$8. A signup sheet for orders was circulated.

Fred reported that Petaluma schools were interested in discussing ham radio presentations in schools. He will look in to this in more detail.

It was suggested by Fred that the newsletter might include member profiles with members signing up to provide a profile.

Upcoming programs for future meetings include; K6RB reporting on C81DX next month, K6TU on SO2R, Elecraft, and Fred on CQP.

Fred suggested that for future meeting members might bring 3-4 favorite QSL cards for discussion. Bill, KH6GJV, introduced Eric McHenry, KK6GWV. He is the Director and Chief Technology Officer who works for the city of Santa Rosa. Eric is interested in learning about our club.

The NCCC President, Alan K6SRZ, conducted a brief NCCC meeting that included a report on CQP 2013 and the addition of a new member to their club.

Club Presentation:

John, N6MM, gave a presentation on the Wake Island DXpedition, K9W. The purpose of the Dxpediton was dedicated to preserving the memory of the Forgotten 98. This was the group of civilian contractors who lost their lives on Wake Island on October 7, 1943 during World War II. Wake Island is an unorganized, unincorporated territory of the United States, administered by the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. Access to the island is restricted, and all activities on the island are managed by the United States Air Force. There is also a missile facility operated by the United States Army.

John said that it had been difficult to secure permission for the Dxpediton because Wake Island is a military base. The Dxpediton was approved by the Commanding General of the Pacific Air Force. The Dxpediton got off to a slow start due to the shut-down of the Federal government. The Air Force provided the members with air transportation, housing, and support on the island. Operations were from two locations, an abandoned chapel and a shore side abandoned beach house. Operators were on a four on four off rotation and the operating

schedule was focused on predicted band openings. He reported the over 100,000 QSO's were made. Several military flights landed while they were operating and the team met the Commanding General of the US Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Terry G. Robling.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Treasurer Report

by Bill, KH6GJV

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

12/31/13 Balance Forward		\$2,714.99
RECEIPTS		
Dues 2014	265.00	
Raffle (net)	<u>109.00</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		374.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Office Expense	<u>16.04</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(16.04)
CASH FLOW		357.96
1/31/14 Ending Balance		<u><u>\$3,072.95</u></u>

Dues are due! Please mail your \$20 (\$25 for family) to the club PO Box or I'll gladly accept them at the meeting!

REDXA
PO Box 750834
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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>

Contesting

by Jim, K6JS

I noticed the 2012 Sweepstakes results were recently posted. I can't find my call in any reports. I have a valid receipt and confirmation # without any stated errors. I've emailed the ARRL to see what happened. It's very frustrating as I "think" I won my class in the SF section. ARGH! I'll let you know what becomes of this...

Visalia news

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Don't forget the raffle prizes which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention!

Only 55 days until the 65th running of the Visalia DX convention. If you haven't been yet you should think about attending. REDXA always has a great turnout. We already have 3 tables reserved in the banquet hall for the Saturday night dinner. Ron Castro, N6IE is handling the seating arrangements. He needs your conformation number to reserve a spot at the table.

Speaking of Visalia, I was the lucky grand prize winner back in 2009. An ICOM 7700. Icom is releasing a firmware upgrade similar to the 7800 upgrade. It includes a spectrum waterfall display with PC mouse operation, new audio scope, direct remote control operation and enhanced DVR functions. I'm looking forward to March and improved functionality.

DAYTON HAMVENTION CONTEST DINNER
(Press Release)[edited]. The North Coast Contesters
are proud to announce: The 22nd Annual Dayton
Contest Dinner

2014 Contest Dinner tickets are on sale now exclu-
sively via our web site.

Thanks to Scott, KA9FOX and QTH.com for
designing, building and running the Contest Dinner
web site - <http://contestdinner.com>

Master of Ceremonies for the Dayton Contest
Dinner is Contest Hall of Fame member and World
Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)
Chairman, John Dorr, K1AR.

Doug Grant, K1DG, Co-Chairman of WRTC2014
will be our featured speaker.

The 2014 Contest Hall of Fame inductees will be
announced.

The Contest Dinner will be held on Saturday night,
May 17, 2014 at 6:30 PM Cash bar opens at 5:30
PM.

Located at the newly renovated Crowne Plaza Hotel
(Official Contester Hotel) 5th and Jefferson Streets
(Next to the Dayton Convention Center) Dayton
(Downtown), Ohio in the PRESIDENTIAL BALL-
ROOM on the second floor.

Seating is random. Tables are set in rounds of 10.
You can purchase an entire table for your group
(purchased group tables are set for 8).

Tickets are only available on
<<http://contestdinner.com>> There are no tickets for
sale at the door.

The 26th annual Contest Super Suite (all FOUR
nights during Dayton) details are here:
<http://contestsupersuite.com>

And Contest University seats are filling up fast
<http://contestuniversity.com>

We expect another sold out event for the Dayton
Contest dinner.

Get your tickets early!

73!

Tim K3LR

Dayton Contest Dinner Chairman

President, North Coast Contesters

The W1AW Centennial Stations W1AW/4 in Geor-
gia and W1AW/KH6 in Hawaii are QRV until
2359Z on 11 February. In addition, W1AW Centen-
nial Stations W1AW/6 in California and W1AW/9
in Wisconsin will be QRV starting at 0000z on
February 12. They will be active until 2359z on 18
February. It's been fun to work them all mobile or
when there is no other DX to work. :)

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.

The CQ World Wide WPX RTTY Contest, QRP
CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, YL-ISSB
CW QSO Party, SARL Field Day Contest, Asia-
Pacific CW Spring Sprint, Dutch PACC Contest,
KCJ Topband CW Contest, SKCC Weekend CW
Sprintathon, OMISS SSB QSO Party, New Hamp-
shire QSO Party, FISTS Winter CW Sprint, RSGB
1st 1.8 MHz Contest, AWA Amplitude Modulation
QSO Party and the Classic Phone Exchange will
certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming
weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from Febru-
ary 10 to 14. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug CW
Sprint, RSGB 80-Meter Club Data Championship
and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for
February 12. Please see February QST, page 88
and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for
details.

Ohio/Penn DX Special Bulletin

DX News

by Jim, K6JS

Ole Sol is all over the place with over 200 sunspots
and an SFI close to 200. Ten meters was full of
signals on Friday 2/7 during my lunch hour. The
bands have been in great shape lately. FT5ZM has
been keeping a lot REDXA members busy. N6IE
has the most slots worked with 14. MM, AWX,
Rim-shot and OJ are hot on his heels. Presently

there are 29 REDXA members who have worked them.

I was shocked to work them on 80M before work. I usually can't get past Colorado in any contest on 80! I saw them spotted the other morning, clicked on the spot and low and behold they were S5. I turned on the amp for the dreaded 5 minute warm-up. I thought, what the heck, so I called him bare-foot, 100W into a multi-band (trapped on 80) inverted vee at 35' and he came back K6J?, literally worked on the first call. They definitely have good ears. The bands have been full of DX, so go out and enjoy the conditions, If you're in range try 146.49 simplex where a lot of members hang out and talk about DX and radio.

DX Operations for January 2014

3B9, RODRIGUES ISLAND. Eric, OE4AAC, will once again be active as 3B9/OE4AAC from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between February 10-18th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters CW. QSL via OE4AAC.

3V, TUNISIA. SWL Ashraf "Ash", 3V4-002 (KF5EYY), will be active as 3V8BB from the "Institute Superieur de L'Animation Pour la Jeunesse et la Culture" in Tunis, during the CQWW WPX RTTY Contest (February 8-9th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (40m) entry. QSL via LoTW or to LX1NO. Read about Ashraf on the following Web page at: <http://www.kf5eyy.info>

6Y, JAMAICA. Yuri, VE3DZ, is once again active as 6Y2T from Jamaica (NA-097) Between February 11-18th. Activity will include the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Operations outside of the contest will be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands and using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via VE3DZ.

C6, BAHAMAS. George, KQ8Z/GM0IIO, will once again be active as C6AZZ from Grand Bahama Island (NA-080, WLOTA 0527, WW Loc. FL06UO) between February 11th and March 4th. This time it will be for the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest

(March 1-2nd) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entries. He states that he will be on as many bands as possible outside of the contests. If it's like last time, activity will focus on 6 meters (CW, SSB, FM) if there are any band openings, otherwise on 80-10 meters, mainly CW with some SSB using his Icom 756 Pro3. George will use a 80m OCFD antenna at 40 feet. The 20m antenna will be a full sized 20m delta loop right on the beach vertically polarized with the apex at 40 feet. QSL via KQ8Z.

CN2, MOROCCO. A Russian team is expected to be active again as CN2AA during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Multi-Single entry.

Operators mentioned are Yuri/RL3FT, Sergei/RU3RQ, Andrey/RV1AW and Sergey/RX3APM. QSL via UA2FM and LoTW. Sergey will be active outside of the contest (before) as CN2PM. QSL via UA2FM.

D8A, ANTARCTICA. Lee, DS4NMJ will be QRV as D8A from the Jang Bogo research station at Terra Nova Bay from February 1 to January 31, 2015. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and RTTY. QSL via HL2FDW.

EA8, CANARY ISLANDS. Juan, EA8RM (ex-EA8CAC), will be active as EA8RM during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via LoTW.

EA9, CEUTA AND MELILLA. Jorge, EA9LZ, will be active from Ceuta during the CQWW WPX RTTY Contest (February 8-9th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL via LoTW or via EA5KB.

FG, GUADELOUPE. Jean-Pierre, F6ITD, will once again be active as FG/F6ITD from Guadeloupe and two of its islands between January 28th and March 25th (2014). Activity will be on all HF bands using SSB and the Digital modes. He plans to visit the following two islands in the IOTA NA-102 group:

January 29th-February 9th - Basse Terre Island (main island); his callsign FG/F6ITD.

February 9th-March 25th - La Desirade Island; his callsign FG/F6ITD and TO6D during contest. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW (preferred). Logs will be uploaded to

ClubLog and LoTW. For more details, see:
<http://www.qrz.com/db/FGF6ITD>

FP, ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON. AI, W6HGF, will once again be active as FP/W6HGF from Miquelon Island (NA-032, DIFO FP-002, WLOTA 1417) between February 7-18th, depending on transportation and weather. Activity will be on 160-10 meters but focused on the Digital modes, mostly RTTY, including an entry into the CQWW WPX RTTY Contest (February 8-9th) and ARRL CW Contest (February 15-16th). QSL via LoTW, direct to W6HGF, eQSL or via the ClubLog OQRS. For more details, updates and daily summaries, watch:
http://www.qsl.net/w6hgf/FP_W6GHF_2014.html

FT5Z, AMSTERDAM ISLAND. As this was being typed, the FT5ZM team continues to be active from Amsterdam Island possibly until February 9th. They landed on the island on January 24th, and were expected to have 18 days to set up, conduct the DXpedition, and tear down for departure which means they would leave on February 10th. Activity has been on all bands, 160-10 meters. Operations during last week were mainly CW and SSB, but on Sunday, the FT5ZM Web site reported: "Earlier today, Ralph, K0IR, started RTTY activities. This was not a pirate. The team will continue with this mode until the end of operations." The FT5ZM log is now available on ClubLog at:
<http://www.clublog.org/charts/?c=FT5ZM>

The breakdown as of as 1359z, February 1st, 69804/QSOs and 19512/Unique (Modes - 42152/CW, 27651/SSB and 1/RTTY). By Continent: 686/AF, 10/AN, 16590/AS, 33244/EU, 16969/NA, 1361/OC and 944/SA. QSL via N2OO. The FT5ZM QSL processing order is as follows:
a.OQRS DIRECT (via ClubLog)
b.OQRS bureau (via ClubLog)
c.DIRECT MAIL
d.Regular incoming BUREAU
For more details, see their Web page at:
<http://www.amsterdamdx.org>
Also, watch their media links at:
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/FT5ZM>
Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FT5ZM>

HC, ECUADOR - Rick, NE8Z will be active as HC1MD and HC1MD/HC2 between January 19 and February 10, 2014. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL both HC1MD and HC1MD/HC2 via K8LJG direct or LoTW.

KH2, GUAM. Hisashi, JF2SKV, will once again be active as NH0S/KH2, this time during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via JF2SKV.

P4, ARUBA. Andy, K2LE, will once again be active as P40LE during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m) entry.
QSL via K2LE.

PJ5, SINT EUSTATIUS. Operators Jeff/K5WE and his son Erik/N5WR will be active as PJ5/homecall from Sint Eustatius (NA-145) starting February 5th. Activity should be on all HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and RTTY, and an entry in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) using the callsign PJ5W. QSL PJ5/N5WR via N5WR. QSL PJ5/K5WE and PJ5W via K5WE. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW. ADDED NOTE: Do not forget to read Erik's article in February's QST titled "Father and Son DXpedition to St. Barts" which took place last year June 2013.

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN (Possibly FS). Jeff, VA3QSL, will be active as PJ7/homecall from Dutch Sint Maarten (NA-105, WLOTA 0711) between February 9-17th. Activity will be holiday style on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. There may also be some activity from French St. Martin as FS/homecall. QSL to his home callsign, by the Bureau, direct (2 USDs) or LoTW.

S9, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (Update/Reminder). By the time you read this, operators Giovanni/IK5BCM, Giuseppe/IK5CBE and Giovanni/IK5CRH will be active as S9TF from Principe Island (AF-044) until February 13th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are:
CW - 3505, 7005, 10103, 14005, 18069, 21005, 24910 and 28005 kHz
SSB - 3680, 7140, 14245, 18145, 21305, 24970

and 28505 kHz

RTTY - 3593, 7045, 10133, 14093, 18107, 21093, 24923 and 28095 kHz

QSL via IK5CRH. For more detail and updates, visit the S9TF Web page at:

<http://gmross.wix.com/principe-is-2014>

ST. KITTS, V4. Bernie, W3UR will be QRV from January 21 to February 5, operating as V4/W3UR. Activity will be mainly CW, with a focus on 160 meters, including contest operation. QSL via home call, LotW.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS, Bill, N6MW plans to be QRV as V73MW from Majuro Atoll, IOTA OC-029, from February 4 to 14. Activity will be mainly on 160, 80, 30 and 20 meters using CW with some RTTY. QSL via M0URX.

VK9M, MELLISH REEF (Press Release #6)

[edited]: "For Immediate Release:

Mellish Reef 2014 -- January 26, 2014 -- Mellish Reef DX-pedition is scheduled for March 28, 2014 to April 9, 2014.

Status: We are on schedule and will soon be on autopilot. Team members booked their travel to Mackay, Australia, local contacts in Mackay are established, as well as suppliers to assist with logistics. Generators were ordered and will ship later in February from Sydney, Australia. One of the biggest logistical challenges will be purchasing 1,400 liters of petrol. The skipper of Evohe, Steve Kafka, agreed to handle the sourcing and take delivery of the petrol removing from the team this task.

Antennas from SteppIR, coax / accessories from DX-Engineering and folding hex beams from <foldingantennas.com> will be air shipped to Australia in early February from the USA. Another shipment from Hungary is also scheduled for February, some equipment will be hand carried.

Joining the antenna lineup is a 4 Square provided by Norbert DJ7JC.

Update to the QSL Policy: We are happy to announce that any individual donating \$50(USDs) or more to VK9MT will automatically receive their

QSL for all QSOs, free of charge. These donors will not need to request

QSL cards or take any action to redeem the QSL. Our QSL manager, Tim

Beaumont M0URX, will post the cards to all \$50+ donors as soon as the cards are ready, thank you Tim for this wonderful service.

Global Pilot Team: The pilot team will manage all DX community communication between the island team and DXers. Prior to sailing we'll update the web site with process details and e-mail addresses. While on the island we will not be checking personal e-mail accounts. Please direct operational suggestions to the pilot designated for your region.

Fund Raising: Like all DX-peditions to rare and semi-rare DXCC entities, donations are welcomed through vk9mt.com please use the Donate Button on the web site to insure your name is automatically added to the donor list, or by check / money order in US dollars to:

Mellish Reef 2014 DX-pedition
Gene Spinelli, Treasurer
PO Box 189
Divide, CO
USA 80814

For our friends outside the USA please use PayPal or e-mail for wire transfer instructions:
info@vk9mt.com

We appreciate the generosity of the foundations, clubs and individuals who have already made a donation or a commitment. At the completion of the DX-pedition a financial summary will be sent to all club / foundation donors.

For additional information please e-mail:
info@vk9mt.com

And, of course, good luck to the FT5ZM team that is now QRV.

73, Team Mellish 2014"

YJ, VANUATA. Operators Bill/N7OU and Rocky/NE7D will be active from Port Vila, Vanuatu, between February 11-25th (2014). Callsigns to be announced.

Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW. They will be using verticals on a north-facing shore and 500w amps. They will also be a Multi-Single entry in the ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 15-16th). QSL via their home callsigns.

Logs will be uploaded to LoTW as soon as they return to the USA.

Many thanks to ARRL DX bulletin and the OPDX.

Propagation de K7RA

Solar activity surged this week, with average daily sunspot numbers increasing nearly 55 points from 101.4 to 156.3. Average daily solar flux rose nearly 38 points from 142.9 to 180.4. These increases compare the recent period, January 30 through February 5, with the previous seven days.

Geomagnetic indices remained quiet. So quiet, in fact, that on February 4 the high latitude college A index near Fairbanks, Alaska was 0, because each of the 3-hour K index readings that day were 0. The same thing happened back on January 19.

Geomagnetic numbers will increase this weekend, with planetary A index predicted to be 5, 15, 10 and 8 on February 7-10, followed by 5 on February 11-16, 8 on February 17-18, 5 on February 19-24, then 8 on February 25, then 5 February 26 through March 1, and 12 on March 2.

Solar flux should be strong, with values of 190, 185, 180, 170 and 160 on February 7-11, 155 on February 12-13, followed by 135, 130 and 140 on February 14-16, and 145 on February 17-22. Solar flux is expected to gradually climb to 200 on March 1, drop slightly, then peak at 210 on March 5, followed by a low of 130 on March 14 and then another rise.

OK1HH supplies us with his geomagnetic outlook, and he predicts the geomagnetic field will be quite to active February 7-8, mostly quiet February 9-10, quiet of February 11, mostly quiet February 12, quiet on February 13-15, quiet to unsettled February 16, quiet to active February 17, quiet to unsettled February 18, quiet on February 19-20, quiet to unsettled February 21, quiet on February 22, quiet to unsettled February 23, and quiet to active February 24-25.

Let us now review the recent averages, to see where solar activity has been and perhaps where it is headed.

The average daily sunspot number for the month of January 2014 was 126, the highest it has been since October-November 2013 when it was 127.2 and 125.7. Prior to that, the most recent date it was higher was way back in 2003, when the average daily sunspot number was 132.8 in July, and 150 in January.

We track a 3-month moving average for sunspot numbers, and the averages for the three months ending in September (2013), October, November, December and January (2014) were 77.4, 91.2, 102.9, 123.7 and 123.3. The last previous 3-month average that was a high as recent numbers was 128.9 ending in February 2003.

Looking over the numbers for the past few years to determine if there was a double peak shows us high average sunspot numbers at the most recent period, 123.7 and 123.3 ending in December 2013 and January 2014, then 106.4 on both 3-month periods ending May and June 2013, then 118.8 and 118.6 ending in November and December 2012. This suggests that our second peak for Cycle 24 is the highest, although how that other peak (May-June 2013) will figure into a 12-month smoothed sunspot number is anybody's guess.

Thanks to the ARLP006 Propagation de K7RA

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events: by Doug, WW6D

Feb 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 15-16	ARRL Intl. DX Contest CW
Feb 21-23	CQ 160m Contest SSB
Feb 22-23	North American QSO Party RTTY
Mar 1-2	ARRL Intl. DX Contest SSB
Mar 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 29-30	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 4-6	Visalia Int'l DX Convention
Apr 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 26(?)	VOMARC Hamfest and Flea Mkt

If you have events that you would like to have posted here, let me know!

Bruce Butler, W6OSP - SK

I am sad to report that Bruce W. Butler, W6OSP, became a Silent Key on January 16, 2014.

Bruce originally was licensed as W5PXN in New Mexico in 1950. Upon moving to Southern California in the early 1970ís, Bruce changed his callsign to W6OSP and activated that callsign in Napa, CA in the mid-1980's.

In 1990, Bruce joined the Board of the Northern California DX Foundation as its Treasurer and served as the Foundation's President from 2009 until his retirement at the end of 2011.

Bruce was a member and past President of the Redwood Empire DX Club, and a member of both the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California Contest Club. He also was a 50 plus year member of the American Radio Relay League.

Bruce operated from a number of DX entities including 3B9, 4O, A6, KH8, H40, HV, KH4, PJ7 and ZF.

Working with Bruce in the NCDXF was a real pleasure for me. His energy was boundless and he was always looking for ways to help activate those most needed entities.

Amateur radio, and the DX community in particular, has lost a champion; I have lost a great friend.
Rusty Epps, W6OAT
President, NCDXF

I received word today from Bruce's wife Jerry that Bruce W6OSP became a Silent Key this morning. Our fellow member, Past REDXA President, DXer, DXpeditioner, contester and enthusiastic Field Day Champion will be sorely missed.

Vy 73 OM,
Doug, WW6D

I am so sad that Bruce is gone. I only knew him a few years, but he was always a champion to the gentility of ham radio. He always urged me on as a YL to be the best operator I could be.
Blessing be from your friend,
Saraj, KU6F

Bruce was a good friend, gone too soon. He was always supportive and happy to see me.

Thank you Marilyn for my last picture with Bruce, FD 2013, REDXA W6OSP and KU6F ? sweet journey old friend.

Saraj, KU6F

Having know Bruce throughout my tenure with NCDXC and working with him to set up events at the International DX Convention I am very sad to hear that he is now a silent key.

Bruce was always energetic, businesslike a pleasure to work with. He was instrumental in bringing us a number of very rare DX entities. I will personally miss catching up with him at the NCDXC picnic. Like W6ISQ, Bruce was a true ambassador for amateur radio.

We have lost another giant.
John Eisenberg, K6YP

We knew it was coming, but that does not dull the pain much.

I traveled halfway around the world with Bruce to 3B9 in '99, and shared a room with him at Dayton for years. He was easy to be with, warm and generous.

He was a great guy--and my stockbroker. He was a straight shooter and a great friend indeed.

It was a shock when his cancer came back and I have dreaded this moment.

Two of the best ones have left us, days apart. It's been a rough month for our ham community.
Garry, NI6T

This is indeed very sad news. Bruce was a vibrant member of REDXA for decades and was a joy to be around.

We will miss him.
RIP old friend
Ron Castro, N6IE

Oh my----well, that is sad news-----just after we lost W6ISQ.....I have known Bruce for many years, and he too was my broker at one time.....honest, straight shooter, and competentwe shared much together--he was always in good humor,gentleman and kind....

I shall miss him---and my prayers go out to his family.....K6MD

This is indeed sad news. My breath stopped for a moment, and my heart dropped at the news. Bruce was a gentleman, and always welcomed newcomers and treated them like respected friends. He was a role model, and I am pleased to have known him. He shared his knowledge and experience willingly and without any attitude of superiority. As I continue in this hobby, I will try to emulate him. He lives on as we remember him.

Donna Hinshaw, AG6V

I guess we all new it was coming but still a shock. I'll always remember when my dog Molly gave him a nip on the ankle at FD at the old Petaluma site one year. Donna really hit the nail on the head. He was just a great guy/ham! I'm glad to have known him. Fred, N6YEU

Those of us who were aware of Bruce's condition were speculating when, but we certainly did not expect it this week. What a dark week for ham radio in general and for the NCCC and NCDXC families. Tom Taormina, K5RC

I too am greatly saddened to hear of Bruce's passing. He always seemed like a true force of nature -- I admired Bruce and enjoyed his company. He will be sorely missed.

My condolences to his family.
Dean, N6BV

During the time I have known Bruce I have enjoyed every minute. Each conversation a delight, his help with Field Day and antennas immeasurable, his stories about radio and travel memorable.

Darlene and I had the opportunity to dine with Jerry and Bruce to discuss Egypt before our trip and it was a marvelous time to get to know both of them.

Our heart goes out to Jerry,
We will miss Bruce.
Jim Robinson

I did not know Bruce well, but he was always very congenial when we crossed paths briefly in Visalia. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all his good NCCC/NCDXC/NCDXF friends. R.I.P, Bruce.

I suspect Bruce and Jack are now cooking up a Multi-Single event at 'The Big Station In The Sky'.

This week reminds me of a year or two ago when our Rotary Club lost 2 valued members within about a month - one in his 40's and one in his 50's.

IMHO, we need to appreciate and treasure the eyeball QSO time with ALL our fellow Hams in Visalia this year.

73, Rick, K 6 V V A * The Locust

Another great ham has gone from our midst. He will be missed. a good man and a great ham. 73 my friend. Tom, N6AJR

I was inspired and somewhat in awe of Bruce. When first elected to post os Club Secretary of REDXA, I used to send him a copy of the Club Minutes (Although he wasn't on the BOD at that time) just to get his input, and make sure I didn't put my foot in my mouth.

He gave quiet, practical advice. Some of which I passed on to my son, to help with his tobacco problem.

I don't know what "band" he is listening to, but I hope he will be forgiving and not use the "WOUF-HONG" or the "Rettysnitch" if ever I am priveledged to join him once again.
Rick Sealock, N6GY



Photos by Marilyn N6VAW





REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS					
30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	326	W6XA	335	W6XA	327
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
KC6AWX	258	N6OJ	322	N6OJ	252
N6OJ	238	KC6AWX	307	KC6AWX	263
K6ANP	169	W6SFK	231	W6SFK	149
N6IE	165	N7PIB	167	N6IE	134
K6SRZ	154	N6IE	165	N7PIB	120
W6SFK	153	K6ANP	162	K6SRZ	106
AI6II	14	K6SRZ	143	N6GY	77
K6JS/m	10	N6GY	116	K6ANP	72
N6GY	7	K6JS/m	45	K6JS/m	26
		AI6II	41		

N6OJ adds 5 new ones!

AI6II is on the list

N6OJ adds 2 new ones

ARRL DX Challenge	
W6XA	2985
K6RIM	2530
KC6AWX	2336
N6OJ	2231
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1770
W6SFK	1328
N6IE	1256
N7PIB	1123

N6OJ passes K6ANP for the 4th spot

160 Meters	
W6XA	224
W6OSP	178
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	150
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	59
KC6AWX	49
N6IE	37
N7PIB	15
W6SFK	6

KC6AWX adds 22, Inv L is workin'!

1.5K Club	
W6XA	1689
K6RIM	1588
KC6AWX	1434
N6OJ	1420
K6ANP	1371
K6SRZ	1124
N6IE	1043
W6SFK	802
N6GY	148

OJ passes ANP again

Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.
 Provide me with your total countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Countries do not count until HQ Awards Committee takes action and announces a start date for a new country.

Six Meter DXCC	
K6QXY	173
W6XA	130
KC6AWX	15
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
N6OJ	5
W6SFK	2

N6OJ enters the fray on the magic band

RTTY/Digital	
N6OJ	304
KC6AWX	302
K6RIM	253
W6SFK	189
N6IE	185
W6XA	162
K6SRZ	140
K6ANP	123
N6GY	86

N6OJ adds 2 to regain the top spot

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:
jselmi@hotmail.com
 Updated 2-7-14

Mobile DX	
N7PIB	121
K6JS	113
W6SFK	3

K6JS adds 2 new ones - Vroom!

DXCC Mixed	
K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6OSP	353
W6XA	352
KC6AWX	348
K6SRZ	346
W6SFK	282
A36II	241
N6GY	232
K6JS	212

A36II is on the list

Contest Scores

by Jim, K6JS

If you don't see your scores in the following, I don't have it. The best place to post scores is on 3830. I also peruse the REDXA and NCCC reflectors. A lot of ops just send them to me directly.

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Call	Class	QSOs	Sec	Cty	Score
N6IE	SOHP	1614	57	64	195,294
K6SRZ	SOHP	739	56	36	67,988
N6OJ	SOLP	642	55	35	57,780 (From NCCC)
K6MM	SOHP U	318	56	31	27,666
K6CTA	SOHP	100	39	2	4,100
K6RIM	SOHP	68	29	3	2,176

ARRL RTTY Soapbox

N6IE – Ron- The Unlimited class makes a big difference in score, and puts the SO1R stations on a par with the SO2R ops. By far, this is the highest I have ever scored in this contest, although with spotting, in all fairness, it's like comparing Barry Bond's home run record with Babe Ruth's and Roger Maris's. Band conditions were fairly good, especially 10 on Saturday and 40 at night. Thanks to all the KB'rs from the NCCC who got into the contest!

K6CTA -Ed- Took a tiny amount of time to get on and exercise the radio and operator. Both appear to be functioning correctly, however minimal my participation was. I was too lazy to change bands! Thanks for the Q's and HNY to all.....

K6MM – John- Just didn't have the time for a big effort, but had fun anyway.

K6SRZ – Alan- Pretty laid back this time. No packet and no worries about time management. I got more than six hours of sleep and for much of the rest of the time my log remained open while I watched football (I picked up the elusive VE5 mult during halftime of the 49ers-Packers game) or took my time over meals. I wonder why the time-off rule is so different in this contest.

Congrats to fellow REDXA member N6IE on a great score. Early on in the contest I had some problems with the receiver being blocked--not just by Ron's signal (though I think I'm on a line between his station and the NE) but by a few other very strong signals. I twiddled with various settings on the FT5000 and cured the problem.

I expected more EU on 10 meters with the high flux, but it didn't happen while I was listening. Where was Vermont?

I think the general level of RTTY contest operating skill is improving. There were more ops who understood asking for fills and how to time things between blasts of QRM.

ARRL 160 Meter

Call	Class	QSO's	Sec	Cty	Score
K6SRZ	SOHP	534	76	8	95,256
N6ZFO	SO/LP	134	57	2	15,516

ARRL 160M Soapbox

K6SRZ – Alan- Missed OK, MS, RI, VE4, NL, MB, NT... Conditions pretty poor in my opinion. The flux was too high. The morning JA openings were feeble and, of course, it's Monday in Japan. My dogs did appreciate that I got up early on Sunday and they were able to eat and relieve themselves without having to wake me up. As noted elsewhere, QRL apparently means "I'm going to start CQing on this frequency and there's nothing you can do to stop me...".

My certificate for winning ARRL SF Section 160 HP last year arrived in the mail yesterday. Thanks for the Qs. it was a work night in JA...they're 17 hours ahead.... I should have said "it's almost Monday in Japan". Their Monday morning starts at 0700 PST Sunday. But you know that. So far the 49ers are keeping me awake...

Conditions were poor and it seemed to me that many of the East-of-the-Mississippi stations were having trouble hearing us (or not trying very hard to dig us out of the noise). The contest starts at 2 pm for us--not exactly optimal time for working toward the East (or for California folks who have to work). I didn't hear many stations at East Coast sunrise trying to work us. I like DXing on Top Band, but the ARRL 160 is yet another ARRL contest with a huge east-of-Mississippi advantage. We have the same ionosphere, but dramatically different population densities. See you in Stew Perry?

N6ZFO – Bill- If one does enough contests one will be bad. This was the one. No traction at all, and hardly a single moment of joy . . . everything was a struggle except XE2S and T32RC, which were worked easily.

From here conditions were far less than ideal.. Arising early Sunday morning (0330) I found JA's with strong signals. . up to S-7 but none calling CQ and none would answer mine. Later, nearer sunrise, JA's were way down. . maybe 5 S units below good conditions. . got only a Z. O? out of one. JA2YBK was way down in strength and during the time he called CQ no one answered.

May also have an undiagnosed antenna problem. . . SWR was 1.0:1 and that's not correct. . it's always been closer to 1.3:1 previously.

Limited time because of complex final exam due Sunday in a major UC Davis wine course.

NS Sprint CW 2-2014

Call	CLASS	QSOs	MULTS	SCORE
N6ZFO	SO LP	271	47	12,737
K6SRZ	SO HP	269	47	12,643

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