

SUNSPOTS



REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750531, 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 9, 2008 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 joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) and a return visit from Jim Brown, K9YC, speaking on the topic "Coaxial baluns".

A Tale of Two Hats

REDXA is honored in January by a return visit from Jim Brown, K9YC, speaking on the topic "Coaxial baluns". Jim is a DXer, contester, sound engineer, and jazz aficionado. Those of you who work low band DX in the morning hours—our West Coast "dawn patrol"—have probably heard Jim in the pileups or calling CQ. I was able to draw upon Jim's expertise (and borrow some of his audio gear) to make some nice pileup recordings from Swains Island during the recent N8S DXpedition.

Back in April I was sitting in a tent on Swains Island, running stateside stations on 17 M SSB and trying to ignore the facts that (1) it was 104° F in the tent and (2) that a swarm of mosquitoes was feasting on my ankles. Things were going along at a pretty good clip when someone broke in to congratulate me on my election as VP/CC of Northern California Contest Club.

"KB," I said, and added "listening up 5 to 10..."

Fast forward to December. I'm again on a tropical—well, actually, semi-tropical— island. This time it's a pleasant 83° F in mosquito-free Kona, where the only pileups are the long lines at Lava Java where I go for my

morning latte. But, as on Swains, I'm also contemplating yet another ham radio club office—one that will overlap with my NCCC responsibilities.

In addition to my VP/CC hat, starting New Year's Day I will wear the hat of President of our own Redwood Empire DX Association. In a moment of weakness, I told the outgoing President—our esteemed Al, K6RIM—that I would “run” for the office, being as how I have recently relocated K6SRZ to Penngrove and now have a ten-minute commute to attend meetings.

One of my first official acts will be to welcome the members of NCCC to our joint meeting in Petaluma on January 9. I hope to see as many members of both clubs as possible.

My own radio operations at the new QTH are still at the temporary stage, but it's certainly a better spot than the old Berkeley QTH. I'm using the same portable tower I use for CQP and a variety of wires strung up in some tall pines and I'm racking up new countries on 80 and 160.

I'm bracketed on two sides by heavy hitters Len, K6ANP, and Chuck, N6OJ. A few days ago we had the opportunity to see how we could coexist when FJ/OH2AM started up on 17 M as entity #338. I found myself in a pileup with Len, Chuck, and Al, K6RIM, and it went surprisingly well. All were successful and the front end of my radio did not melt down.

I have been sustained in my role of VP/CC of the contest club by the great cooperation, enthusiasm, and wisdom of other members.

When wearing my new hat—the REDXA presidency—my responsibilities will include making sure we have a series of great programs and guest speakers. This is where I need your help. Please, let me have your suggestions for programs and speakers. Maybe you'd like to do a program for us. For my part, I'll try to work up a presentation on DXpedition medicine.

73, Alan, K6SRZ

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

11/30/07 Balance Forward		\$3,715.58
INCOME		
Badges	36.00	
Christmas Raffle	<u>320.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		356.00
EXPENSES		
Christmas Expense	112.75	
Equipment Purchase	<u>1,380.52</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(1,493.27)
12/31/07 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,578.31</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 2007

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING SCHEDULED.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Al K6RIM called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm, December 12, 2007 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 27 members and 4 guests.

Since we had a large group, everyone went around the room and introduced themselves. Guests included Sylvia (YL of K6ANP), Pat (YL of K6RIM), Margie (YL of N6AD) and Matt KE6LPO.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the miserable conditions during the ARRL 10 meter contest.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting and Treasurer's report as printed in Sunspots was made by Chuck N6OJ and seconded. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

New business. Al K6RIM opened with a big thank you to the outgoing Board of Directors and presented each director with a gift, hand crafted by his YL Pat.

A special note of recognition was made of Steve K6SAB for his tireless duty as our Sunspots newsletter editor over the past 8 years (at least). A loud round of applause ensued.

Al also went on to thank the Field Day co-chairs for this past June's efforts: Jim KE6UAR, Bruce W6OSP and Rich W6UDS. This was followed by a hearty round of applause.

Fred N6YEU then called to everyone's attention to the club's appreciation of Al K6RIM's efforts and work for the the club. Another deserved round of applause.

During the serving of dinner, Fred N6YEU was busily selling raffle tickets. After a wonderful meal, the time had arrived for the raffle itself.

The raffle itself took in \$320. The winner of the Ladies' prize, a \$25 gift certificate to Kohl's, was Margie, YL of N6AD. The drawing for the Ham Radio Outlet Gift Certificates then started. The \$25 prize was won by Josh W6XU followed by the \$50 by Bruce W6OSP. The \$75 certificate was won by Javier NM6E, \$100 certificate by Bob K6SEM and the last \$100 certificate by Toni KF6ZCW.

The REDXA Spirit Award was then presented by Bruce W6OSP. After a brief "bio" virtually everyone figured out it was our president Al K6RIM. Congratulations Al!

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 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

A new DX Marathon begins with the new year. How will you fare this year? Have fun and Happy New Year All!

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6CTA	SOCWHP	1	1	4
K6LRN	SOCWHP	100	11	4,444
K6RIM	SOMXLP	48	4	728
N6YEU	SOCWLP	13		

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6SRZ	SOHP	434	70	66,225 (8 DX)

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MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2008

