

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 14, 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 joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club. The program is devoted to a discussion of the Elecraft K3.

REDXA President's Report

What's a K3?

- A. A nonimmigrant visa for a spouse
- B. A mountain in the Himalayas, known locally as Faichan Kangri
- C. An all mode amateur radio transceiver
- D. All of the above

The answer, of course, is D, all of the above. But since I need to fill a few column inches, let's consider A and B.

It's important to know that if you have more than one spouse—multiple wives is the most common case—the State Department will only grant a K3 for one. So, it's important that you choose carefully. You'll have to get tourist visas for the other wives. If there are children involved, you'll need to get K4s for them. For more information, see: <http://tinyurl.com/y36smc>

K3 the mountain is the 12th highest in the world, measured at 26,401 feet. It is part of the Karakoram range in Northern Pakistan. The closest airport is Islamabad.

The summit of K3 is 1.5 km long, giving rise to the name "Broad Peak" among mountaineers. The name K3 is derived from the notation used by

the Great Trigonometric Survey of 1856, part of the Survey of India commissioned by the British East India Company. George Everest was one of the surveyors.

Other K3s of note include

The *Leninsky Komosol*, the first Soviet nuclear submarine,
The Daewoo K3, a light machine gun
The Fifth World in the video game Donkey Kong Country 3
A bus route through London
A highway in Kansas

...which brings us to this month's program for our joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club. The program is devoted to a discussion of the Elecraft K3, including comments from the manufacturers and from users of this groundbreaking radio that has found its way onto so many hams' wish lists.

I'll leave the technical discussion to the program. For more background on the K3, check out the April 2008 review in *QST*
<http://www.elecraft.com/K3/K3%20QST%20prod%20rev%201.pdf>

The popularity of this radio and the way it has taken the ham radio world by storm is breathtaking to behold. The heavy hitters among contesters are already sporting pairs of K3s in SO2R configurations. Late one night I had just scored a new entity on 160—a German ham down in the Marquesas—and because the conditions were good enough to actually ragchew, I gave my QTH as “nr SF”. “FB” was the reply, and then the German op went on to say he would also be “nr SF” on his way back home because he was going to swing by Aptos to pick up his very own K3 .

So popular is the K3 in the contesting community that, when I post my contest results to the NCCC reflector, I have taken to facetiously giving my classification as “single op, high power, no K3”.

As always, it's difficult lining up programs for future meetings. If anyone reading this has a suggestion for future programs—or if you'd like to do a presentation for REDXA—please let me know.

The REDXA/NCCC joint meeting is always a lot of fun. For any NCCC members who have never been to one of these joint meetings, Mr. McGoo's features a full bar and an Italian family style meal. We'll be getting together at Mr. McGoo's at 1800 PDT on January 14. Bring your appetite and bring your questions.

73, Alan/K6SRZ

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

11/30/08 Balance Forward		\$2,363.26
INCOME		
Raffles	<u>310.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		310.00
EXPENSES		
Bizmark-Spirit Award	173.45	
N6YEU Org. Supplies	115.32	
USPS PO Box	<u>30.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(318.77)
12/31/08 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,354.49</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 DECEMBER 2008

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING SCHEDULED.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, December 10, 2008 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 33 members and guests.

Old business. Alan K6SRZ opened the business meeting by making a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots. It was seconded by Ron N6IE. Motion passed.

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

January – Joint NCCC/REDXA meeting, Seminar on Elecraft K3.

February – P29NI DXpedition by Alan AD6E.

March – 90% sure that our own Jim K6JS will speak on Search and Rescue operations.

Jim K6JS announced that, while he was securing our gift certificates for this year's holiday raffle, Ham Radio Outlet informed him that 3 certificates were not used at all last year from the 2007 holiday party – a \$75, a \$50, and a \$25 certificate. You know who

you are! Failure to use them will put the money back into REDXA's account. There is also a partially used one on their records as well.

Al K6RIM then made his report as chair of the REDXA Spirit Award committee and several excellent nominations were received. On behalf of the entire club, the 2008 REDXA Spirit Award was presented to Jim Robinson KE6UAR for his outstanding support of the club, his hard work as Field Day Co-chair, and exemplifying the true Amateur Radio spirit. Congratulations, Jim!

After we finished a wonderful meal, Alan K6SRZ then briefly led a sing-along of holiday melodies.

This was followed by Fred N6YEU who conducted the REDXA Holiday Raffle. \$310 was collected. Here are the winners:

Lady's prize \$75: Sylvia (YL of Len K6ANP)
 \$100 HRO Gift Certificate: Dave AA6YX
 \$100 GC: Phil K6PHD
 \$75 GC: Bruce W6OSP
 \$50 GC: Bruce W6OSP
 \$25 GC: Fred N6YEU
 ARRL 2008 Handbook: Frank WA6PXW
 3 World Radio Subscriptions: Rick K6ZWB
 ARRL Repeater Directory: Rick K6ZWB
 World Radio Subscription: Alan K6SRZ
 ARRL Antenna Handbook: Alan K6SRZ
 ARRL Low Band DXing: Matt KE6LPO
 ARRL 2001 Handbook: Michele (YL of Todd KB6CGE)
 Yaesu baseball cap: Dave AA6YX
 ARRL 2007 QST CD: Rich W6UDS
 Yaesu baseball cap: Wally N6AD
 World Radio Subscription: Jim KE6UAR

A fun time chatting and swapping stories followed and well wishes were shared among everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

The ARRL has announced a new award to work toward in 2009, the "Triple Play Worked All States". The "triple" part comes from needing to confirm contacts with all 50 states using phone, CW and digital. And confirmation must be done using Logbook of the World. Check out arrl.org for details.

Matt KE6LPO and Todd KB6CGE both have upgraded to Extra Class! Congratulations!

Happy New Year!

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Call	Category	Qs	S/P	Ctry	Score
K6SRZ	SOHP	627	56	22	48,906
K6CTA	MSHP	471	49	17	31,086

RAC Winter Contest

Call	Category	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	MLts	Ph	MLts	Score
K6SRZ	SOHP	265	0	24	0					34,032

Stew Perry 160m Contest

Call	Category	Qs	DX	Score
K6ANP	SO	260	5	1250
K6SRZ	SOHP	186	5	186(?)

ARRL 10m

Call	Category	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Secs	Score
K6SRZ	SOHP Asst	90	47	29			13,166
K6LRN	SOHP	131	0	18			9,432
K6CTA	SOHP	144	0	26			14,976
K6RIM	SOLP combined	CW+Ph=183		31			18,290
AA6YX	SOLP	77	36	28			12,160

ARRL 160m

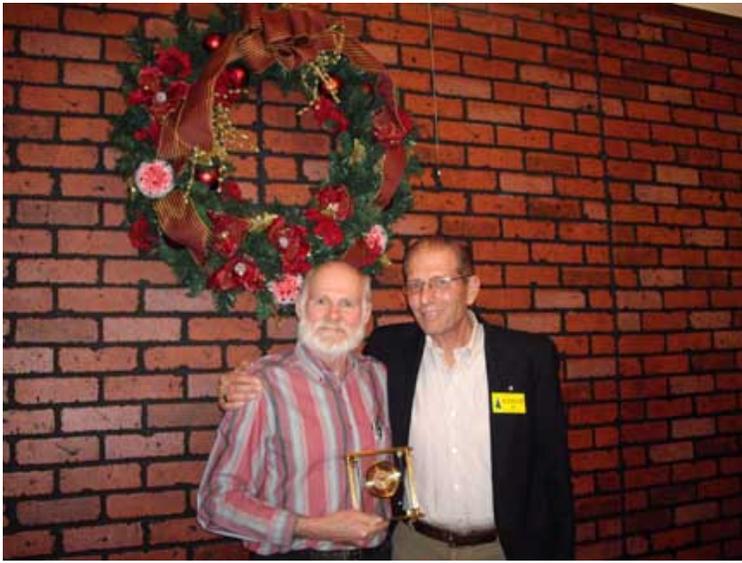
Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Ctry	Score
W6OSP	SOHP	149	44	8	14,872
K6SRZ	SOHP	534	72	8	89,120
N6IE	MSHP	285	63	0	35,910

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Jan 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jan 24-25	CQ WW 160m CW
Feb 7-8	CQ WPX RTTY
Feb 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 14-15	ARRL Intl DX CW
Feb 21-22	CQ WW 160m SSB
Feb 21-22	NA QSO Party
Mar 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 29-30	CQ WW WPX Phone
Apr 17-19	Visalia Int'l DX Convention

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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



REDXA Christmas Party 2008

Photos by Jim, K6JS

A fun time was had by all!!!

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MEETING: JANUARY 14, 2009

