

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:

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

VICE PRESIDENT:

Josh Fiden, W6XU
15885 Coleman Valley Road
Occidental, CA 95465
H (707) 874-3940
w6xu@arrl.net

SECRETARY:

Wally Pugh, N6AD
109 Alta Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954
H (707) 769-1065
n6ad@comcast.net

TREASURER:

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

DIRECTORS:

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

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

San Smith, N7PIB
PO Box 624
Vineburg, CA 95487
H (707) 939-1242
n7pib@att.net

CONTEST CHAIRMAN:

Jim Selmi, K6JS
7470 Monique Place
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
H (707) 664-9769
jselmi@hotmail.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, January 12, 2011 at Gourmet Garden 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 with Bruce W6OSP and John K6MM who will give the club a presentation of their DXpedition to PJ7E, Curacao, one of the four new DXCC entities that came into existence on 10/10/10.

REDXA President's Report

Happy New Year! Here it is, the start of a new year and we have a lot to look forward to, not the least of which are better propagation conditions (hopefully!) than we have seen in recent years as Cycle 24 starts to ramp up.

This year, REDXA celebrated 30 years in existence, and as we start the new year, it's a good time to reflect on the year gone by and review some of territory we covered as a club. Here are a few of the highlights from 2010:

- ∞ In January, we enjoyed a great evening with our friends from the Northern California Contest Club at our annual joint meeting. John K6MM and Jack KF6T hosted "160 Meter Night" with interesting presentations on antennas and band conditions.
- ∞ Bruce, W6OSP gave a presentation on the very successful K4M DXpedition to Midway Island at our February meeting.
- ∞ We learned about the mission and workings of the Sonoma County Auxiliary Communications Service at our March meeting from Eric, WB6MVT. This was an important reminder of the role amateur radio plays in civil emergencies and how we can help.

- ∞ At the April meeting, we were fortunate to have a visit from legendary DX guru Wayne Mills, N7NG who talked about the new ARRL website, the long-running 701YGF drama that took nine years to resolve, and also took questions from the members. The rest of the evening featured demonstrations and comparisons of popular shack automation software. Yours truly showed off the LOGic 8 program, Dave KD6FIL and Jim K6UUW presented Ham Radio Deluxe and Chuck N6OJ demonstrated CommCat, along with an offer from the program's author, Howard W6HN from Healdsburg for any REDXA member to purchase a copy for a \$20 donation to the REDXA treasury. Several members took advantage of this generous offer.
- ∞ April was also the month for the Visalia DX Convention which I attended for the first time. REDXA had a fabulous turn-out!
- ∞ May's meeting featured K4M revisited by way of a very professionally produced video by James 9V1YC that was obtained for us by Bruce W6OSP.
- ∞ By June, we were ready to roll with our plans for Field Day with our friends at the Marin Amateur Radio Society. We talked about plans and logistics and Chuck N6OJ gave a demonstration of the very popular N1MM contest software that we used for the first time at the 2010 FD event.
- ∞ Field Day was a blast! We had perfect weather and the best turnout I can remember. Our first 3A effort in several years played out well with a final score of 10,166 put us #1 in California, #1 in the Pacific Division and #6 in the nation. This took the combined effort of 31 operators at four stations (including GOTA) plus numerous other folks who contributed time and effort to the operation. There were some initial frustrations with the N1MM software, but once we figured out the network configurations it seemed to work well the rest of the weekend. We all enjoyed a beautiful day at the Marin Rod and Gun Club and look forward to next year.
- ∞ July's meeting featured a visit from Stu Phillips, K6TU who gave us a demo on Weak Signal Propagation Reporting (WSPR or "whisper") and how we can use it to see band openings and unusual propagation conditions. This operating mode is gaining popularity, so much so that it was the cover-page story of the November QST. July also marked our final meeting at the venerable Mr. Magoo's where we had been meeting regularly for the past several years.
- ∞ Our August meeting opened a new era for REDXA with a "trial run" at the Gourmet Garden Restaurant, which was the same

physical location as the old Carrow's where REDXA had met for many years. Newly remodeled and with new management and cuisine, an overwhelming response by the members convinced us that we should consider a permanent change of venue.

- ∞ Also at the August meeting, we saw a fascinating presentation by Paul Ewing N6PSE who headed the recent YI9PSE DXpedition to Arbil Province in Kurdistan, Iraq. In May of 2011, Paul will be co-leader of another exciting venture, T6PSE, Afghanistan. I'm sure we all look forward to having Paul back to visit with us this fall for another great presentation.
- ∞ The California QSO Party has got to be the best contest of the year for us here in 'six-land' and this year we made a commitment to work hard to win the club competition. To get us fired up for the event, we invited the CQP contest organizer Rick "The Rhino" N6RNO from NCCC to join us for a presentation in September about the event. Rick liked our club so much that he has since become a dues-paying member!
- ∞ Our work to increase club participation in CQP worked! Although the scores are not final, we appear to have turned in our highest ever club total, in excess of 2.2 million points thanks to the hard work of our members. We're still in our proverbial #2 slot, but we're closer to the top than we were last year. We can take #1...maybe 2011 will be the year...KB!
- ∞ "Field Day 2010---The Movie" was our program for October produced by Alan K6SRZ and shown on the big screen at the Gourmet Garden. Alan made it a double feature with an encore performance of his 2004 DXpedition to Banaba Island.
- ∞ November was my turn to give a presentation on the subject of Exotic DX Vacation Homes. It turns out there is quite a variety of locations and stations that owners will rent to licensed hams, from the Spartan to the luxurious, the basic setup to the multi-multi flame-thrower, they're all out there!
- ∞ And then, the holidays were upon us with our traditional REDXA holiday party! We had a great turnout of our regular attendees as well as numerous family members and friends and we all enjoyed an evening of fun and festivities. There were prizes galore for our big holiday party raffle, and we handed out the REDXA 30th Anniversary coffee mugs to any member who handed in a CQP log with at least 100 QSO's or who had worked at least 30 DXCC entities during 2010.

That's a pretty active year, and with your help, we'll have even more going on in 2011! We'll hit the

ground running this month with Bruce W6OSP and John K6MM who will give the club a presentation of their DXpedition to PJ7E, Curacao, one of the four new DXCC entities that came into existence on 10/10/10. This should be an exciting show, so please plan to be with us!

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

11/30/10 Balance Forward \$2,331.70

INCOME

Badges	15.00	
Dues	210.00	
Raffle	385.00	
Tarheel Antenna	250.00	
TOTAL INCOME		860.00

EXPENSES

Badges	49.16	
BiMark Coffee Mugs	292.44	
HRO	350.00	
Postage	28.56	
YL Gift	75.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(795.16)
12/31/10 Ending Balance		<u><u>\$2,396.54</u></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 or QRZ.com mailed to the REDXA P.O. Box or given to me personally at our regularly scheduled meetings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 2010

by Wally, N6AD

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Wally, N6AD

President Ron N6IE called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm, December 8, 2010 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. There were 39 members and guests in attendance. Ron N6IE requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots. Both were moved for approval, seconded and adopted without revision.

Old Business: Fred N6YEU announced that club shirts are still available at \$28.50 each after a one time \$15 initial setup fee. See Fred if interested.

New Business: Volunteers at Visalia -- K6MM is looking for volunteers at the DX Convention in the

areas of registration, raffle ticket sales, and flea market help. Slate of new officers -- announced by Ron N6IE and accepted by acclimation. There is no change from the previous year except for Wally N6AD replacing San N7PIB as Secretary. Thanks was given to San for a great job. Spirit Award -- This year's award goes to Alan K6SRZ for his energetic and inspired effort in furthering our standing as one of the world's leading DX organizations. Upcoming Meetings -- January will likely see another appearance by John Miller K6MM; February is our annual joint meeting with the Northern California Contest Club; and in March San Francisco SCM Bill KH6GJV will enlighten us on the latest from ARRL.

After the raffle and lots of holiday fun the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Jim, K6JS

First off I'd like to thank and tip my hat to Doug, WW6D for his YEARS of service to REDXA. I'll do my best to fill his shoes. Folks, you'll have bear with me as I make this transition. I didn't seem to receive many logs from members this past month, maybe they were all too busy on the radio.

Ole Sol is starting to wake up with SFI numbers reaching the low 90's this past week. Hopefully the higher bands will start opening up soon. 10M is starting to show a little life and I'm working some openings to Europe and South America on 15 SSB mobile during my morning commute down 101. Don't forget that logs are due this month for the 160 contests and the ARRL 10 meter contest

My YL Sue left an engraved Begali Signature paddle under the Christmas tree. My late night and early morning Dxing has been very enjoyable with the smooth action of the Begali. Bruno is a great machinist and delivers a quality product.

Waking up early the morning of 12/21 I turned on the rig and smiled as the racket of QRN I usually have on the low bands was gone. I was rewarded with HB9-Switzerland, V85-Brunei and XU7-Kampuchea on 40 CW, a nice DX hat trick all between 1545Z and 1615Z.

Don't forget to send me your contest scores. I know other REDXA members were active in other contests this past month as I worked them or the log robots show they had submitted a log, but I don't have access to the scores or never received their scores via email. I tried checking for logs at 3830, NCCC and ARRL to give the deserving credit to no avail.

Happy New Year to all and have fun Dxing and Contesting...

ARRL 160 M Contest

Call Category Score
N6IE M/S HP 20,069

ARRL 10 M Contest

Call Category Score
K6RIM M/S HP 258,544

RAC Winter Contest

Call Category Score
K6SRZ SO Mxd HP 218,784

ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest

Call Category Score
K6SRZ SO Unltd HP 188,000

NA QSO Party RTTY - July Contest

Call Category Score
K6SRZ SO LP 39,294

IARU HF World Championship

Call Category Score
K6SRZ SO Mxd HP 363,528

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Jan 8-9 NA QSO Party CW
Jan 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting:
PJ7E DXpedition
Jan 15-16 NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 28-30 CQ 160m CW
Feb 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting:
Joint Meeting w/NCCC
Feb 12-13 CQ WPX RTTY
Feb 19-20 ARRL International DX CW
Feb 25-27 CQ 160m SSB
Feb 26-27 NA QSO Party RTTY
Mar 5-6 ARRL International DX SSB
Mar 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 26-27 CQ WPX SSB
Apr 13 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 15-17 Int'l DX Convention Visalia
See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>
for more Contest Schedules.

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Mark Nowell
Manager
WITYN

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

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MEETING: JANUARY 12, 2011

