

# 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

**VOLUME 35**

**NUMBER 1**

**JANUARY 2014**

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Visit our Web Site at <http://www.redxa.com/>

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, January 8, 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 on the November 2013 DXpedition to Wake Atoll K9W presented by John Miller K6MM.**

## REDXA President's Report

Well, here we are 2014 already! Happy New Year to each and every member of our fine club. Welcome to N6YEU/President version 2.0! Thank you for having enough faith in me to railroad (I mean vote) me in for another attempt to lead REDXA.

First off, I would like to thank our previous president Jim Selmi/K6JS for two excellent years as our leader. If I can be even half as effective as president, I will be satisfied I did a good job.

This year will mark my 25th anniversary as a ham. I passed my novice in December 1988 (thanks Steve K6UM ex. WA8LLY) but did not actually have my first qso until 30 September 1989 with Roger KB0FDA in Chadron, NE on 15m CW in the novice band. What a thrill! It took me a couple of days to stop shaking, hi. On 26 October I worked JA7SSB (Super Shooter Boy) for my first DX and I was hooked as a DXer. While I sometimes get a little lackadaisical about working DX when I actually think about making contact over thousands of miles, it still just amazes me.



While we are still awaiting the results, I would like to thank each and everyone of you who participated in CQP this past October. We are due for a win as a club! It is a bit discouraging to be perennial second placers but the scores really don't show who truly is the BETTER club!

I have dropped the ball in terms of getting some new club golf/polo shirts in the past. I will be bringing up the subject at an upcoming meeting. I am also thinking if there is interest we might consider having such items as caps,t-shirts, embroidered patches and/or jackets made up.

I have also thought adding a column to the newsletter. It would be something like: "How I Became a Ham". It would involve 1 member per month to tell his/her personal story as to who, what, when, etc. led to them becoming a ham. I think it would be interesting to learn about our members early beginnings.

While I have been busy this past month, as have most of you, I have been a bit negligent as to confirming programs for the year. We are set for this month but I need to make sure we will be covered. I have a couple ideas and have received a lead on another DXpedition program.

Well, at the risk of going on too long, I would just like to say I am looking forward to a good year for REDXA. We truly have a great club. While we are not without the occasional controversy, I truly believe we have a super bunch of hams. Our mutual enjoyment of DXing/contesting has brought us together and will keep us together in what I truly believe is the world's best hobby.

Take care and 73, Fred

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 2013**

by Bill, KH6GJV

Board Members Present: Alan Eshleman K6SRZ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Bob Magnani K6QXY, and Jim Selmi K6JS.

Guests Present: Ed Essick K6ELE, Fred Leoni N6YEU, and John Shappell KM6XO.

1. Call to Order & Quorum: The meeting was called to order by President Jim Selmi K6JS at 5:42 PM. There was a quorum present in that four of the

five directors were present.

2. Unfinished Business - None

3. New Business

a. Club Station License W6KB Trustee Change - Jim Selmi reported that the Board had been advised that current club station license trustee, Chuck Ternes N6OJ, wished to pass on the trusteeship of the license to someone else. There was an attempt to change the trustee that was not approved by the Board. Jim Selmi said that he solicited a new trustee from founding or senior members of the club, and that Len Gerald K6ANP would be honored to be the trustee of the club station license. Bill Hillendahl moved, and Alan Eshelman seconded, that Len Gerald K6ANP be made the new trustee of W6KB. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Jim Selmi asked Bill Hillendahl to handle the necessary paperwork to transfer the trustee.

4. Announcements - Jim Selmi wished outgoing, incoming and continuing Board members a happy holiday season.

5. Adjournment - There being no objection, Jim Selmi adjourned the meeting at 5:49 PM.

Recorded and submitted by,

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV  
Treasurer

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## **DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES** by Ed, K6ELE

NO MINUTES WERE TAKEN

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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>

## Treasurer Report

by Bill, KH6GJV

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

|                          |               |                          |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 11/30/13 Balance Forward |               | \$2,387.29               |
| RECEIPTS                 |               |                          |
| Dues 2014                | 60.00         |                          |
| Equipment Sales          | 335.00        |                          |
| Raffle (net)             | <u>385.00</u> |                          |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS           |               | 780.00                   |
| DISBURSEMENTS            |               |                          |
| Postage                  | 18.40         |                          |
| Raffle                   | <u>433.90</u> |                          |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS      |               | (452.30)                 |
| CASH FLOW                |               | 327.70                   |
| 12/31/13 Ending Balance  |               | <u><u>\$2,714.99</u></u> |

Also, 2014 Dues are due!

Dues are \$20 for individual and \$25 for families.

Please mail the the club address:

REDXA  
PO Box 750834  
Petaluma, CA 94975-0834

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## Contesting

by Jim, K6JS

We had a good turn-out of members for the 10 Meter contest on December 14th and 15th. The last time I checked the logs received page we were right at 10 logs, which puts us in the "Local" club category and a 35 Mile circle. Apparently I missed a Sporadic E opening on Friday night while I was attending a Christmas party. I hope you all enjoyed the decent conditions.

A few weeks ago the team behind InnovAntennas (<http://www.innovantennas.com>) acquired the legendary Force 12 antenna company and have moved the factory from Bridgeport, TX to Grand

Junction, CO into a facility shared with InnovAntennas America. InnovAntennas Ltd in England is now manufacturing Force 12 products for the European market. The Grand Junction facility is in full swing and we are shipping building and shipping antennas. Watch for a complete update of the Force 12 website by the end of the year. Updated versions of classic Force 12 antennas as well as all-new models will be produced. Stay tuned!  
(Thanks, Bill AA7XT)

There are special prizes for the upcoming World Wide Iron Ham Contest - winners in the Single-Op All-Band and Multi-Op categories will win a round trip to and accommodations at WRTC 2014! Sponsored by the Araucaria DX Group, the Iron Ham uses CW, Phone, and RTTY in a 24-hour format.  
(Thanks, Oms PY5EG)

What is a good cable to use for full-power coax jumpers in the station? RG-213 cable can be awfully stiff and unwieldy so Jeff N5TJ recommends RG-142, a Teflon-insulated equivalent of RG-58 cable. He notes that it is "great to solder and won't melt!"

While preparing to make a group purchase for several local clubs, Jim K9YC discovered that Fair-Rite now makes a 1.4-inch ID #31 clamp-on (part number 2631181381). It's 2.5 inches long, and is the equivalent of five of the 1.4-inch ID, 2.4-inch OD #31 toroids. The big clamp-on is available for less than half the cost of the equivalent five toroids! The clamp-on core is large enough to hold 7 turns of RG8/RG213-size coax without removing the connector, as well.

When the CW Skimmer software was released by Alex VE3NEA, I remember thinking it had the potential to be a game-changer. As it turns out, "skimmers" are changing the game but in more ways than we had anticipated and in more games than we expected.

The most obvious change was simply the sheer speed advantage that it conferred compared to human operator. Even giving the human operator the best possible outcome in every situation, assuming perfect timing sync as a new signal was tuned in, and so forth, CW Skimmer could extract call

signs from 100 kHz of band about 15 times faster. But that was thinking too small, only considering the software as an accessory for one operator.

The Reverse Beacon Net started out as a way for individual stations to see how they were being heard there instead of what they could hear here. Novel, indeed, but not really all that different from a regular QSO except that the RBN can give you real signal reports with resolution of 1 dB. As more and more skimmers are added to the network, something very interesting has begun to happen.

Multiple CW Skimmer stations around the world are now working together, listening to all the bands, all the time - 24/7/365. There are currently a few dozen around the world, mostly in North America and Europe but more are being added all the time and all continents are represented. While not calibrated to the accuracy of a laboratory instrument in most cases, we are now watching a worldwide propagation monitoring network come to life! In a couple of years, no matter where you are, one or two CQs or TEST transmissions will generate a snapshot of propagation from your location to every populated region on the planet...in about 10 seconds. This is simply unprecedented - consider the effects on just two areas of amateur technology.

First and most obviously, propagation can now be assessed in real-time to a degree completely unavailable before. Furthermore, the data is logged and available for analysis. This forms a crucial and previously-missing link between propagation models and propagation as it actually occurs. To be sure, HF propagation testing was done many years ago in academia and by the military but the breadth and depth of the RBN data is completely new. For example while comparing K1TO and NP3A, you can clearly see the 10 meter band opening to Europe from the two different areas as the world turns.

Coupled with validated QSO databases such as public contest logs and solar-geomagnetic data from NOAA databases, amateurs can begin to look for "interesting" propagation that models miss. Other propagation assessment tools, like K1JT's WSPR protocol and its companion network, WSPRNet, can be added to the mix. Perhaps someday, data

from Logbook Of the World - the world's largest database of validated point to point communications data - will be available, as well.

Another great use of automated reception reports is in antenna and antenna system design. No longer limited to test range data (at best), hams can now ask and answer questions such as, "What is the right height for my antenna for the path to..." and "Does my new design perform better or worse than..." and a million other questions for which answers are rarely precise and usually completely unavailable. Who can look at the comparisons and not be struck by the different signal levels of the stations?

We have been given a gift, the power of which we are just being to sense. When new types of data become available for analysis and are combined with new forms of visualization, we know that good things happen. Unexpected things. Explanations of mysteries. Better still, new explanations for what we thought we understood. Best of all, we will ask new questions!

The world of Amateur Radio is changing, in part due to these new tools. I look forward to new science being "done" by amateurs, resulting in new understandings of the world in which live and an exciting future.

73, Ward NØAX

Thanks to the ARRL Contest Update

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## **DX News**

by Jim, K6JS

DXCC NEWS. Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the following operations are approved for DXCC credit:

9X0XA - Rwanda; 2013 Operation

T6TM - Afghanistan; Current operation

VU7AG – Lakshadweep Islands; November 20th-December 10th, 2013

ZS8C and ZS8Z – Prince Edward and Marion Islands

Deadline Reminder!. Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports: "This is a reminder to all DXCC program participants that the

deadline for the 2013 calendar year ends on Tuesday December 31, 2013. In order to appear in the Annual Listing, published in the electronic version of the DXCC Yearbook, you must have your submission postmarked no later than December 31, 2013. Since the DXCC workload usually peaks around this time each year I recommend that applicants not wait until the last minute to get their submissions in. Besides being the heavy period for DXCC, keep in mind that it is also around the holidays so the post office can contribute to any delays in getting mail to DXCC." For more and complete details, see the DXCC Blog at:

<http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-blog>

**K9W WAKE ATOLL** "The Wake Atoll Commemorative Team wants to thank the DX community for the outstanding response to 'The Forgotten 98 Commemorative DXpedition'. Also, we need to express our gratitude to our hosts on Wake, the United States Air Force. Our DXpedition was warmly welcomed and their support was invaluable.

The final QSO percentage per continent are Asia 32.3%, Europe 26.9%, NA 35.3%, OC 3.1%, SA 1.8% and AF 0.6%. The Team is extremely pleased to have distributed the QSOs to much needed parts of the world, especially EU which has the most difficult path to Wake Island. There were 53,765 CW, 38700 SSB and 7562 Digital QSOs.

The Team has uploaded all 100,000 plus QSOs into ClubLog and the printed QSLs are in transit to the QSL Manager, Joe, AA4NN. Most, if not all, corrections have been made to the Clublog upload. Please use <[info@wake2013.org](mailto:info@wake2013.org)> for possible problems with the ClubLog upload.

As mentioned on our website, the use of OQRS is highly recommended. It is an efficient and faster method for returning your QSL.

<<http://wake2013.org/pages/qs1.html>>

Please support our Sponsors and the various worldwide DX Foundations and local clubs. Those contributions, as well as, your individual donations provided the necessary funding for this extremely expensive DXpedition. Without this unwavering assistance, Wake Island would still be high on the 'Most Wanted List'. All of us in the DX community owe them (and you) a hearty round of applause!

Happy Holidays to all! -- 73, Lou N2TU and the Wake 2013 Commemorative Team"

John Miller will make a presentation on this DXpedition at our January joint meeting with the NCCC on January 8th, 2014.

**IRCS ABOUT TO EXPIRE (Reminder/ADVICE).** Jess, KR4OJ, informs OPDX readers: "As most everyone knows, IRCs purchased after Jan 2009, are due to expire on Dec 31, 2013. I had several & went to my local post office to cash them in. Of course, they had no idea what an IRC was, and had never heard of them. After some phone calls, they finally acknowledged them, but DID NOT want to redeem them for full value.

To save yourself some time & to get the full current value of your IRCs, in the USA, (\$1.10) go to the following USPS bulletin, print and carry it with you. You can get \$\$\$, however I just swapped mine for the new 'Universal' Forever Stamp."

[http://pe.usps.com/text/imm/immc3\\_020.htm#ep392074](http://pe.usps.com/text/imm/immc3_020.htm#ep392074)

**W100, UNITED STATES (Special Event).** A special ARRL bulletin (ARLX013) reports: "The FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign W100AW during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year. Contacts made from the Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the IARU HF Championship will use W100AW, with portable designators as appropriate. The "W1AW WAS" operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, not W100AW.

Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW. Contacts with W100AW will be worth 100 points in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. To help kick off the ARRL Centennial, special W100AW activity will begin at 0500 UTC on January 1, 2014 (midnight in Newington), and will include participation in ARRL's Straight Key Night; one CW station will use Hiram Percy Maxim's straight key. Activity will continue throughout New Year's Day."

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated

points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the Logbook of the World (LoTW) system.

W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only W1AW portable operations. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

INFO: <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

Thanks to ARRL DX, OPDX and DX Coffee.

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## DX Operations for January 2014

1A, SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA (Update). An "international team" of operators led by Francesco, IK0FVC, will be active as 1A0KM from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) between January 2-7th (2014). QSL via IK0FTA. Log will be uploaded to LoTW. 1A0KM operation supports the DX-Code of conduct. Online log facility will be also available. Also, a Web page is now up and running, but with limited info at: <http://www.1a0km.org>

CARIBBEAN TOUR. Operators Mek/SP7VC, Ted/SP3IPB and YL Kate/SQ7OYL plan to activate a few islands in the Caribbean between January 11-30th. The tentative schedule and callsigns are as follows:

January 11-12th - Martinique; callsigns are FM/SP7VC, FM/SP3IPB and FM/SQ7OYL.

January 13-14th - St. Lucia (J6); No activity planned.

January 15-16th - Dominica; callsigns J79VC and

J79PB.

January 17-18th - Guadeloupe; callsigns FG/SP7VC, FG/SP3IPB and FG/SQ7OYL.

January 18-22nd - Montserrat; callsigns VP2MPG and VP2MTK.

January 21st - Antigua; callsigns V26/SP7VC and V26/SP3IPB

No details on what bands and modes they will use. QSL via their home callsigns. Watch for updates on Mek's Blog page at: <http://www.sp7vc.dxing.pl/>

AFRICAN TOUR (Update/Reminder). Operators Mathias/DJ2HD and Ulmar/DK1CE, will once again be active as V5/DJ2HD and V5/DK1CE from Namibia between now and January 18th (2014). This is just one part of their 4x4 trip through different African countries. Activity will be holiday style on CW, SSB and RTTY, but will also include a SSB entry in the DARC 10m Contest (January 14th). During this time frame, Mathias and Ulmar will also travel to and be active as 7P8DJ and 7P8CE, respectively, from Lesotho between December 22-24th. Their plans also include to be active from South Africa (as ZS/DJ2HD and ZS/DK1CE). Mathias/DJ2HD and Ulmar/DK1CE will be joined by Wolfgang/DH3WO and will be active from Botswana between December 24-30th, signing A25DJ, A25CE and A25WO, respectively. QSL all callsigns via their home callsigns, direct or by the Bureau.

5Z, KENYA. Marc, ON4EZ, will be active as 5Z4/homecall from between December 22nd and January 6th. No other details were provided.

5Z. KENYA, Scott, WA5A is QRV as 5Z4/WA5A from Ruaka until about January 28. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands. QSL to home call

6W7SK, Senegal – Jan 03 to Jan 21 – QSL via LotW – Operation on 160-10m; QSL also OK via F6BLP, REF Buro or direct + eQSL

C9. MOZAMBIQUE, Operators John, ZS5J and Beth, 2W0VOW are QRV as C91J and C91B, respectively, from Ponta de Ouro until January 6. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

DU. PHILIPPINES Mike, W6QT is QRV as DU3/W6QT from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until March 2014. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. David, BA4DW, is expected to be active as E51CDW during a holiday style operation from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) between January 21-27th (2014). He informs OPDX that his activity will be on the major HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via BA4DW.

FT5Z, AMSTERDAM ISLAND (Press Release: Dec. 21, 2013): "Amsterdam Island DXpedition - All the equipment the Amsterdam Island DXpedition team shipped to New Zealand is now aboard the MV Braveheart. All our documentation – sanitation inspections, hull inspections, de-ratting certification, and bio-security clearance – has been completed.

The vessel will be fueled for its voyage to Australia on December 23rd. On December 24th, fresh produce for the initial voyage will be taken aboard. The crew will celebrate Christmas Day at home with their families and then on December 26th, at 1400 local time, during high slack water, the vessel will sail for Fremantle, Australia.

The Braveheart will sail around the north cape of New Zealand's north island, across the Tasman Sea, across the Great Australian Bight, and up the west coast of Australia to the port of Fremantle. Additional provisions will be taken aboard in Australia and the vessel will be re-fueled for the voyage to Amsterdam Island and back.

FT5ZM team members will begin arriving in Fremantle on January 9th. There will be team meetings, toasts, and shopping trips. Our good VK6 friends have acquired some additional supplies for us and we will take these aboard. The team will board the Braveheart on January 14th, configure our maritime mobile station, and sail for Amsterdam Island on January 15th.

You will likely hear from us one more time before we leave our respective countries and fly to Australia. However, as always, thank you to the amateur and DX community for your support and interest. Visit our website frequently for late breaking news and updates. We've not yet reached our financial goals, but with your continued support, that goal is in sight.

73 – Ralph – K0IR"

HI. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Operators Andrey, RU4LG, Dmitry, RA4LB, Serge, UA4LGS and Pavel, UA4LL are QRV as HI8/home calls until January 7. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They may also participate in the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest. QSL to home calls.

JD1. MINAMI TORISHIMA, Take, JG8NQJ/JD1 has been active on 15 meters using CW around 0000z and then using SSB around 0600z. QSL via JA8CJY.

PJ4, BONAIRE. Steve (ex-9M6DXX and 9M8Z. Also G4JVG and KH0UN) informed OPDX this past week: "After moving to Bonaire just over 3 weeks ago, I finally received my licence today [December 9th]. My new call is PJ4DX. I'm QRV using an FT-950 and a low Spiderbeam, plus a 40m quarter-wave vertical with elevated radials. All equipment is kindly loaned by Peter, PJ4NX, until my own equipment arrives from Malaysia early in 2014. Future plans are for higher power, a higher beam and an 80m antenna. QSL information is via Tim, M0URX, OQRS (preferred), direct, or via the RSGB Bureau. Logs will also be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog on a regular basis."

OH0. ALAND ISLANDS, A group of operators are QRV as OG0A until January 13. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW, with some SSB and RTTY used occasionally. QSL via operators' instructions.

S7. SEYCHELLES, Igor, UA3DJY is QRV as S79ACR from Mahe Island. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

SV/A, MT. ATHOS. "The Daily DX" is reporting that Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A, the only active station from Mount Athos, has lost all of his antennas during a big wind storm last week. Apollo does not know when he will have the time to get something back up in the air. The SteppIR crashed into the garden. SV2ASP is currently in Corinth, Greece, for the olive harvest.

V5, Namibia Jan 02 to Jan 18, QSL via Home Call DJ2HD Calls used V5/DL9NDS and DJ2BQ as V5/DJ2BQ.

VK0E, HEARD ISLAND. A press release was posted by Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK, on December 15th, on the Heard Island Web page at: <http://www.heardisland.org>

Excerpts from the press release state that "Following his visit to the Australian Antarctic Division offices in Hobart, Tasmania, Expedition Organizer Dr. Robert Schmieder made the final decisions that will define the expedition. The expedition is scheduled for Jan., 2015." A group will use the Belgian vessel Cmdr. Fourcault, taking a team of 35 persons and sail from Capetown, South Africa, directly to Heard Island. After landing, the team and equipment will be off-loaded by helicopter onto the island, and the team will stay at the island for 30-days, providing support, emergency capability, and movement of personnel and supplies to various locations on the island. Following recovery of the team and equipment, it will return to Capetown. The entire journey will take about 50 days.

The team will be made up of several sub-teams, each with its own goals: mountaineering team, cryptobiology team, marine science team, documentation team, and the communications team who will use amateur radio to make up to 150,000 individual contacts worldwide using the callsign VK0EK, and provide real-time reporting of data and images to the internet, including automatically updating websites that display the activities of the team.

The expedition will be carried out under the auspices of Cordell Expeditions, a nonprofit research organization that has done expeditions to remote islands for more than 30 years. For further information, please contact Dr. Schmieder at <[schmieder@cordell.org](mailto:schmieder@cordell.org)>, and visit the expedition Web site at <[www.heardisland.org](http://www.heardisland.org)>.

XU7, CAMBODIA. Alex, M6CFW, will once again be active as XU7AEU from Phnom Penh between January 9-14th. He states, "I'll be taking some antennas for different bands and will try for some phone contacts as well as my normal PSK working - sorry I still haven't learnt CW to a good enough standard. This time I'll be taking a Yaesu FT-897D with me as my trusty Icom probably won't survive another flight (thanks Emirates). I'll try to operate for several hours each evening (UTC+7), and maybe a few hours to suit North & South America." If like last time, Alex will post his log to eQSL

immediately, Clublog at the end of the trip and LoTW. QSL cards are available direct via his home callsign of M6CFW in England, along with a self addressed envelope and 2 euro or 2 USDs or a valid IRC. If you are in the UK you can just send an SASE. CARDS WILL NOT BE SENT VIA THE BUREAU.

XT2AW - Burkina Faso – Jan 26 to Feb 28 - QSL via M0OXO - CW SSB; holiday style operation

ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS. Pete, K8PGJ, will be active as ZF2PG on the sunny Grand Cayman Islands (NA-016) during the week of January 11-19th (2014). Activity when not diving will occur on 10 thru 20 meters SSB during the morning and afternoons on weekdays, and he hopes one night on 40 thru 160 meters. Pete plans to activate the Caymans for the NAQP Contest on 10 thru 160 meters. LoTW will be utilized and QSL to his home callsign.

Many thanks to the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, ARRL DX Bulletin, NG3K and DX Coffee.

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## Propagation de K7RA

Average daily sunspot numbers for the past week declined from 114.6 to 107.4, and average solar flux went from 138.8 to 139.2. This is comparing the period from December 26 through January 1 with the previous seven days.

The average daily sunspot number for the entire year of 2013 was 97.1, the highest since 2003. For 2008-2013 the yearly average was 4.7, 5.1, 25.5, 80.1, 82.3 and 97.1.

We've also been tracking a 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers, and the value for October 1 through December 31 was 123.7, the highest since December 2002 through February 2003, when it was 128.9.

The average daily sunspot number for October through December at 123.7 was even higher than the values for the first peak of the current solar cycle in late 2011. Back then the three month averages ending in November and December were

118.8 and 118.6.

The average daily sunspot numbers for the three month periods ending in February through December 2013 were 80.7, 85.2, 106.4, 106.4, 97.5, 85.6, 77.4, 91.2, 102.9 and 123.7. This is a moving average, rather than a quarterly average. So each average includes another new month as it drops off an old one.

Predicted solar flux for the short term is 165 on January 3, 170 on January 4-5, then 175 and 170 on January 6-7, 165 on January 8-9, then 135, 140 and 135 on January 10-12, 145 on January 13-14, 150 on January 15-18, 145 on January 19, 140 on January 20-21 and 135 on January 22-24.

Predicted planetary A index is 10 and 8 on January 3-4, then 5 on January 5-22, then 10 and 8 on January 23-24.

OK1HH predicts active to disturbed geomagnetic conditions on January 3-4, quiet to unsettled January 5, quiet on January 6-9, quiet to unsettled January 10, quiet to active January 11, quiet to unsettled January 12, and mostly quiet on January 13-17.

Clark Stewart, W8TN of Hurricane, West Virginia pointed out that the call ZM9ODX mentioned in the final propagation bulletin for 2013, ARLP053, actually belongs to a New Zealand special event station. It is not located on the subantarctic Auckland and Campbell islands, as K6TTD thought. Ed Callaway, N4II of Boca Raton, Florida also pointed this out.

W8TN has a nice blog devoted to amateur radio. Check it out at <http://w8tn.blogspot.com/>.

Randy Crews, W7TJ of Spokane, Washington sent in an observation on the current solar cycle:

"The year 2013 will have the highest average Solar Flux of Cycle 24, 123 vs. 120 approximately for 2012. Fourth Quarter of 2011 was still the highest quarter of Solar activity in Cycle 24 with an average SF of 147.7 vs. 142.7 for the fourth quarter of 2013. It looks as if we will see a carry over effect into the New Year.

"The big difference has been the SIZE of sunspots, not the number. Comparatively, we have had the same number of sunspots each month of this year. (Usually about 10-15 spots per day.) In October, November and December there was a dramatic increase in the size of the sunspots, raising the solar flux to values in the 160 to 175 range and igniting 10 and 12 meters. Currently there is a very large sunspot rotating into view on the left side of the Sun.

"Sunspots are important, however as this cycle has demonstrated - size does matter. Twenty small sunspots can be present, however if they are small, increases in solar flux will be anemic, and the higher bands will suffer. The key is solar flux, and CERTAINLY NOT the lagging indicator of smoothed sunspot numbers which will show a peak long after it occurs. Kind of like showing up for the Rose Bowl in Pasadena two months after it's played or put another way, you can be running Europeans on 10 Meters with a SF of 175, and the Solar Cycle peak might be 'officially' noted as happening three months later when the Solar Flux is 95, and your sweating talking to Europeans on 15 meters - hardly an accurate depiction and certainly having no bearing on amateur's operating plans for either contests or DXing."

NASA released an updated solar cycle prediction, which you can see at <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>. The difference from last month is they have upped their estimate for smoothed sunspot number at the maximum from 65 to 67. Also, last month they said "The smoothed sunspot number has been flat over the last four months. We are currently over four years into Cycle 24."

This month that same paragraph was changed to "The smoothed sunspot number has been rising again towards a second peak over the last three months. We are currently over five years into Cycle 24."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web

page at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for December 26 through January 1 were 96, 107, 95, 119, 93, 136, and 106, with a mean of 107.4. 10.7 cm flux was 124.7, 130.6, 134.5, 137, 142.9, 145.3, and 159.6, with a mean of 139.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 3, 3, 5, 3, 6, and 12, with a mean of 5. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 3, 4, 4, 2, 6, and 11, with a mean of 4.6.

Thanks to the ARRL propagation report and K7RA

Thanks to the ARRL DX News, Propagation De K7RA and KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80

## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Jan 8</b>  | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Jan 11-12     | North American QSO Party CW    |
| Jan 17-19     | ARRL VHF Contest               |
| Jan 18-19     | North American QSO Party SSB   |
| Jan 24-26     | CQ 160m Contest CW             |
| <b>Feb 12</b> | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| 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      |
| <b>Mar 12</b> | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Mar 29-30     | CQ WW WPX SSB                  |
| Apr 4-6       | Visalia Int'l DX Convention    |
| <b>Apr 9</b>  | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Apr 26(?)     | VOMARC Hamfest and Flea Mkt    |

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

Refer to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more contest information.

## Contest Scores

### ARRL 10 Meter

#### M/S HP

| Call  | CW  | SSB | QSOs | Mults | Time  | Score   |
|-------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|---------|
| K6SRZ |     |     | 1382 | 205   | 20:33 | 922,500 |
| N6IE  | 291 | 277 | 568  | 203   | 11:00 | 352,814 |
| K6RIM | 262 | 242 | 504  | 159   | 9.60  | 243,588 |
| AI6II |     |     | 347  | 105   |       | 129,570 |
| K6CTA | 142 |     | 142  | 75    |       | 42,600  |

#### SO CW HP

| Call | CW | SSB | QSOs | Mults | Time  | Score   |
|------|----|-----|------|-------|-------|---------|
| K6JS |    |     | 736  | 101   | 21:26 | 297,344 |

#### SO Mixed LP

| Call  | CW  | SSB | QSOs | Mults | Time  | Score   |
|-------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|---------|
| N6ZFO | 849 | 373 | 1222 | 194   | 26:00 | 803,548 |
| N6YEU | 220 | 196 | 416  | 118   | 12:00 | 150,096 |

<http://wwrof.org/category/webinar-archive/>



### 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   | 250 |
| N6OJ   | 233 | 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 |
| K6JS/m | 10  | K6SRZ  | 143 | N6GY   | 77  |
| N6GY   | 7   | N6GY   | 116 | K6ANP  | 72  |
|        |     | K6JS/m | 45  | K6JS/m | 26  |

KC6AWX adds 20 new ones!

W6SFK adds 5 new ones

N6GY adds 30 more

#### ARRL DX Challenge

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| W6XA   | 2985 |
| K6RIM  | 2530 |
| KC6AWX | 2336 |
| K6ANP  | 2131 |
| N6OJ   | 1805 |
| K6SRZ  | 1770 |
| W6SFK  | 1328 |
| N6IE   | 1256 |
| N7PIB  | 1123 |

KC6AWX movin' on up

#### 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 |
| K6ANP  | 1371 |
| N6OJ   | 1367 |
| K6SRZ  | 1124 |
| N6IE   | 1043 |
| W6SFK  | 802  |
| N6GY   | 148  |

W6SFK moving up

**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.



|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| K6QXY  | 173 |
| W6XA   | 130 |
| KC6AWX | 15  |
| K6RIM  | 14  |
| K6ANP  | 6   |
| W6SFK  | 2   |

K6QXY adds 2 new ones, AWX moving up



|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| N6OJ   | 302 |
| KC6AWX | 302 |
| K6RIM  | 253 |
| W6SFK  | 189 |
| N6IE   | 185 |
| W6XA   | 162 |
| K6SRZ  | 140 |
| K6ANP  | 123 |
| N6GY   | 86  |

N6OJ and KC6AWX tied for First

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:

[jselmi@hotmail.com](mailto:jselmi@hotmail.com)

Updated 1-4-14

#### 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 |
| N6GY   | 232 |
| K6JS   | 206 |

K6JS worked 5 new ones!!! N6Gy enters the fray.

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