

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 33

NUMBER 7

JULY 2012

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

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

VICE PRESIDENT:

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

SECRETARY:

Rick Sealock, N6GY
1372 Miramonte Place
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
rickseal@sonic.net

TREASURER:

Saraj Cory, KU6F
1283 Mark West Springs Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
ku6f@arrl.net

DIRECTORS:

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

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

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

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) 320-1591
sabertsch@gmail.com

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the Rockville Grill Restaurant, Fairfield. If you need directions, please call one of the club officers.

11 am — Gathering
— Lunch and Meeting
— Program

PROGRAM: We have a fantastic presentation by Paul Ewing on the 706T DXpedition to Yemen. We also are planning a short CW Pileup Shootout and CQP Updates from Alan, K6SRZ.

REDXA President's Report

Field Day was another big success. After a nice 2 hour nap on Sunday afternoon and a good night's sleep, I began reflecting back on the 2012 joint REDXA and Marin Amateur Radio Societies Field Day. The entire weekend ran like a well-oiled machine. We also broke the 12,000 point barrier which I believe may be a first for us!

A big thank you goes out to this year's organizing team. Things would not have run so smoothly without the expertise of both clubs and the willingness for all the members to step up and get the job done.

Jim KE6UAR commented about Bruce, W6OSP and his efforts on the committee; "Without Bruce's good ideas and remembering the many little things we always forget, I really doubt if Field Day would run as smoothly. I don't think he wants an official title but "Anchor" comes to mind. I personally doubt if I could do my job every year without his expertise and thoughts."



This was my first Field Day with REDXA in a long time and I was mightily impressed with the turnout for setup on Friday and crew that stuck around to tear down and pack up the gear on Sunday afternoon. The only issue occurred during dismantling the antennas; one of the three elements of the SteppIR antenna did not fully retract when we homed the elements. We resolved it by switching parts from the second Stepp-IR and all was well. Jim Robinson said he found “2 broken wires at the connector on the down-lead cable where it plugs into the quick-connect box. Although not consecutive wires, they were of the same group to control a single motor. I repaired them and then ohm'd out all wires for both control cables and all was well.” He also patched the cable sheath with vulcanizing tape where it was torn. Jim will also re-assemble and test all the gear before he returns it to Fred, N6YEU who stores all the equipment until next year. The club can't thank you enough for your continual efforts.

A few additional thank you's are in order:

To Fred for the storage of our antennae.

To Marilyn for picking up the food on Friday and Rich for his efforts and coordination with MARS and the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

To John Tag for his annual muscle work placing the towers.

To our Marin cook, Matt and his crew - The meals were outstanding!

To Doug for his networking and help with the computers.

To Wally for driving back down to help with the tear down and eke out the last 15 minutes on 15 CW.

And to all the great ops who kept the rate above 70 Q's per hour for 24 hours.

A great effort by all and lots of fun.

I hope to see you all at the Joint meeting in Fairfield on July 28th. We have a fantastic presentation by Paul Ewing on the 7O6T DXpedition to Yemen. We also are planning a short CW Pileup Shootout and CQP Updates from Alan, K6SRZ. Carpools are being arranged on the Yahoo REDXA1 reflector.

73, Jim K6JS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 2012

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

President Jim K6JS called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm, June 13, 2012 at the Cattlemans Restaurant in Petaluma. There were 19 members in attendance.

Jim mentioned that there had been three new possible additions to the club ranks, including one former member.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting as posted in “SUNSPOTS”.
Seconded and carried.

As the Treasurers Report wasn't filed to “SUNSPOTS” in time for publishing, it will be published and voted on at the next meeting.

Jim awarded bottles of wine to those who qualified. Some paid to have their bottles opened, and shared with the rest of us. The wine was still excellent. Jim is negotiating with Cattleman's to include a scoop of ice cream with the price, and with the restaurant at the corporate level to lower the price further.

The next meeting will occur on SATURDAY July 28th, and held with the “Mother Load DX Club” and “NCCC” in Fairfield INSTEAD of our monthly meeting at Cattleman's. Particulars will be announced in “SUNSPOTS” and the REDXA Reflector.

The program will feature Paul N6PSE and his DX-pedition to Yemen.

Field Day 2012:

Jim K6JS announced that he and Rich would be working out the field day dinner situation, but that it still will only cost members \$5, like last year.

He then introduced Jim KE6UAR who thanked the

members for all the pre-planning for field day that went on while he was gone. It was mentioned that REDXA was not doing a GOTA station this year, that perhaps the Marin Club would.

A signup sheet was passed around the 19 members present for put up, operate, and tear down jobs. See last month's minutes for tower/(three) and antenna particulars.

ClubLog was mentioned, and that members must upload their logs at least once a year, or else they are dropped off the ClubLog REDXA results. It was also mentioned REDXA was one of few clubs with meetings and a member publication every month.

The fifty fifty raffle was won by W6OSP for \$25 with the club netting \$25.

The meeting was ended at 8:50 p.m.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

Field Day 2012 Photo Links

Photos by Marilyn, N6VAW
<http://marilyn.henfast.com/g1/FieldDay2012SetUp>
<http://marilyn.henfast.com/g1/FieldDay2012SatSun>

Photos by Jim, K6JS
<http://www.flickr.com/x/t/0094009/photos/23273691@N06/>

Photos by Saraj, KU6F
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ku6f/>

Photos by Rick, N6GY
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/80389930@N08/>

Treasurer Report

by Saraj, KU6F

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

4/30/12 Balance Forward		\$3,245.67
INCOME		
Antenna Sale N1AL	75.00	
Dues	70.00	
Raffle	<u>38.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		183.00
EXPENSES		
CQP Plaque	50.00	
Guest Dinners (April)	57.00	
Hays QRRL Premium	<u>300.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(407.00)
5/31/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,019.67</u>

REDXA membership renewal is due. Please submit your dues to Saraj, KU6F, 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.

Treasurer Report

by Saraj, KU6F

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

5/31/12 Balance Forward		\$3,019.67
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
Raffle	<u>25.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		45.00
EXPENSES		
Field Day Food	96.66	
Field Day MR&G	<u>275.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(371.66)
6/30/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,693.01</u>

REDXA membership renewal is due. Please submit your dues to Saraj, KU6F, 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.

Contesting

by Jim, K6JS

Summary of Field Day 2012 by Jim Robinson KE6UAR

We broke the 12,000 barrier which I believe may be a first for us!

We've had our fun. Now it comes down to the scores. After 3 days of set-up, operate, and tear-down, we had a lot of operators and made a lot of points. I made a few corrections in the logs and compiled the bonus points.

Now for the scores

We made 3704 Q's on the 2A stations

We made 5428 points on the 2A stations

We made 80 Q's on the GOTA station

We made 120 points on the GOTA station

With our power multiplier we earned 11096 point for operating. (hopefully I got this right.)

Our bonus points earned us 930 points

Media Publicity	100
PIO Table	100
W1AW Bulletin	100
Public Location	100
Alternate power	100
Educational Activity	100
Emergency power	200
GOTA bonus	60
Youth participation	20
Web submission	50

That makes a grand total of 12,026 FD points.

I want to thank all of the participants. Everything went smoothly throughout. Our only hitch was the Stepp-IR antenna not retracting the elements during disassembly. However that was resolved by switching parts from the second Stepp-IR and all is well. Dinner Saturday evening and Breakfast Sunday morning was appreciated by all. Much thanks to Matt for his effort. And thank you to Marilyn for the sandwiches Friday. Thank you to all the photographers. Please look over the photo links and recall the event while relaxing.

I don't have the call signs and names of all of the participants, so please make sure everyone knows that their help was greatly appreciated. We couldn't have done all we did without plenty of hams.

DX News

by Jim, K6JS

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

9X0PY – Rwanda; Operation for: December 24, 2011 through January 7, 2012

S21YD – Bangladesh; Operations for: 1994, 1995, 1998, and 1999

If you've had any of these operations rejected please send an E-mail to bmoore@arrl.org to be put on the list for an update. (When responding please include the Reference number on your credit slip to help expedite retrieval. (This number can be found in the upper right hand portion). PLEASE Note. Bill states, "Due to heavy E-mail, I may not be able to reply all messages. Please see your LoTW account to confirm the update or, check your numbers on the daily listing at: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-standings>"

DXPEDITION VIDEOS OF THE WEEK.

With more and more DXpeditions putting their videos on YouTube and other Web services.

2011 - MU/PA9M Guernsey:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5qNOwB7xZg>

2011 - 4W6A Atauro Island (Timor Leste)

DXpedition:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SC8o__1x7o

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sIHDCZiwG8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX7mtztXsuY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhhlX1rwA1k>

2009 - K5N Dxpediton to Rare Grid EL58:

(Part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLgdlAZXPfc>

(Part 2)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZAt6RrQEjc>

(Part 3)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52v2qgzH9Nw>

MALPELO UPDATE. QSL Manager Bob, N2OO, reports, "if you worked HK1MW,

HK1N, HK1T or HK6F in January 2012, then you really worked MALPELO. These four men were the advance team setting up the gear for the HK0NA DXpedition. During that time, they operated using their home calls without using a portable identifier. These QSOs count for Malpelo! Special photo QSLs have been printed and are now available via N2OO. Go to <<http://df3cb.com/oqrs/n2oo/>> for OQRS (direct and bureau) or <www.qsl.net/n2oo/history/qsl-n2oo.htm> for direct mail information, etc."

You can't have a DX report without mentioning the Locust's bid to activate P5.

P5 "CW ONLY" & IOTA AS-197 PROJECT

HISTORY...

During the past 6 years, I have had more than 50 cordial telephone conversations with D.P.R.K. personnel seeking official permission to operate from P5. Along with email proposals and discussions in this matter, substantial efforts have been made to obtain a P5 license.

For more than a year now I have now been working with an NGO Organization which is well respected in the D.P.R.K. as a result of Humanitarian work they have done in P5 for many years. I have personally donated several thousands of dollars to this organization and another NGO specifically for both Food and Medical related relief projects to the people in need within the D.P.R.K. Representatives from both organizations personally supervise the final delivery and distribution of agricultural, food and medical related items in the D.P.R.K. to ensure the integrity of the donation programs.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS...

For several months now my NGO contact and I have been discussing a possible new venue which would be mutually beneficial in helping to accomplish each of our objectives in the D.P.R.K.

A longstanding goal has been to combine the need for a "CW ONLY" P5 Expedition with the first time activation of at least one P5 IOTA "NEW ONE". I believe an opportunity now exists to combine these

goals in conjunction with unique "Cultural" and "Humanitarian" objectives which have been formulated for review by D.P.R.K. Authorities. There is strong support from the NGO in this effort.

CLARIFICATION...

I need to make it very clear than I am *NOT* seeking any donations at this point, but rather only an indication of the level of potential contributions for the related "Humanitarian" purposes likely required in order for approval of this project and issuance of a P5 license.

Although I will be paying ALL my own expenses for the Expedition, a quite large "threshold" amount for the "Humanitarian" part of the proposal has been established which may be necessary for this P5 Project to succeed. NO future donations will come to me personally, but rather be directed to the very well-respected NGO specifically earmarked for the D.P.R.K. relief part of the P5 Project proposal AFTER the Expedition has concluded. There are some remaining details yet to be finalized.

THE CHALLENGE...

WRITTEN APPROVAL from at least four separate D.P.R.K. Ministries and entities (including the D.P.R.K. Military) is necessary in order for this to happen. Based upon a detailed review of several previous P5 Expedition attempts that did not result in getting on the air, a key objective in this matter is to minimize potential failure upon arrival at the final destination in P5.

It has been a very long 6 years thus far, but I believe the time has finally come to "fish or cut bait". I've espoused that "Ham Radio Operators" are known to be generous contributors to Humanitarian causes. Being able to provide an indicator of this to the D.P.R.K. Authorities up-front can potentially make the difference between another "No", or finally "YES" in obtaining the desired P5 license.

Another purpose of this Expedition is to hopefully further "open the door" for a future Multi-Operator venue in P5, as well as activation of the other 3 remaining P5 IOTA "NEW ONES".

PREPARATION...

My FIVE 2011 IOTA Expeditions to NA-041,

NA-066, NA-091, NA-184 and NA-242 ("NEW ONE") were also used to fine-tune operational matters as well as test antenna designs for P5 use in a small venue footprint most likely acceptable to the D.P.R.K. Authorities. The plan is 4 days QRV with 200 watt radios and "Verticals near salt water". I have all the radio, antenna and computer equipment necessary for this expedition, including two KPA500 amplifiers (approval for use of the amps in P5 is questionable at this time).

Thanks very much in advance for your possible participation in the Humanitarian aspect of this P5 "CW ONLY" and IOTA AS-197 Project. For Any Updates, Check TWITTER <http://twitter.com/k6vva> and the INFO UPDATES webpage. <http://www.k6vva.com/p5/p5infoupdates.html>

PLEASE READ ANY INFO
UPDATES BEFORE PROCEEDING

GO HERE TO INDICATE YOUR
INTEREST LEVEL
<http://www.k6vva.com/p5/p5interest.html>

73...

Rick, K6VVA * The Locust
FOC (First Class CW Operators' Club)
NCCC Co-Founding Member
P.S. This is NOT a solicitation for contributions or donations, but only an inquiry to obtain an idea as to the possibilities of achieving the minimum "threshold" amount set forth in the proposal to hopefully make this "Cultural & Humanitarian" endeavor also become a reality for P5 "CW ONLY" and first time activation of IOTA AS-197.

Six Meter Report from Bob, K6QXY

Bob, K6QXY states the "E" season has been terrible so far on 6 meters with a few notable exceptions!

His highlights include:

5/31 JL8GFB @ 0604Z
6/2 HI3TEJ @ 1620Z, KP4EIT @ 1625Z,
6/3 KL7NO @ 0526Z
6/5 KH6HI/B @ 1919Z
6/9 KH6HI @ 2149Z
KH6HI @ 2243Z,
KH7Y @ 2300Z
6/13 JE1BMJ @ 2123Z
6/23 JE1BMJ @ 2144Z
6/29 W7IV/KL7 @ 0039Z

On June 10th he had a big day as Europeans are very rare on 6 meters! He managed to work PA2M @ 1725Z, ON7GB @ 1743Z , DL6YHR @ 1743Z. Sounds like Bob enjoyed the 20 minute opening to EU. Again on June 29th, another very rare EU opening again as he was able to work ON4GG @ 1651Z and SP3RNZ @ 1754Z.

On June 28th he worked FJ/W6JKV @ 2132Z for his last Caribbean country and Six meter DXCC # 169. The opening was very short and only lasted ~ 10MIN. They only worked a few W6,s !

Bob says that Regular "sporadic-E" 1 & 2 hop to USA, but all in all a very poor ES season except for the Europeans and the FJ, which is new one for him.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Jul 11	<i>* No Meeting!</i>
Jul 14-15	IARU HF World Championship
Jul 21-22	NA QSO Party RTTY
Jul 28	<i>* Joint REDXA/MLDXCC Meeting</i>
Aug 4-5	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 8	<i>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</i>
Aug 11-12	WAE DX Contest CW
Aug 18-19	NA QSO Party SSB
Aug 19	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY
Sep 1-2	All Asian DX Contest SSB
Sep 8-10	ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
Sep 12	<i>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</i>
Sep 15-16	WA State Salmon Run
Sep 29-30	CQ WW DX RTTY
Sep 29-30	Texas QSO Party
Oct 6-7	California QSO Party
Oct 10	<i>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</i>
Oct 27-28	CQ Worldwide DX SSB
Nov 3-5	ARRL Sweepstakes CW
Nov 14	<i>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</i>
Nov 17-19	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
Nov 24-25	CQ Worldwide DX CW

See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more Contest Schedules.

Tri Club Meeting Announcement

The first tri-club meeting with NCCC, MLDXCC, and REDXA will be held Saturday, July 28 at the Rockville Grill at 11:00 AM in Fairfield, CA.

PROGRAM

Main Presentation: "The 706T DXpedition to Yemen" (by Paul, N6PSE)

Also Planned: A short CW Pileup Shootout (K2RD) and brief CQP Update (K6SRZ)

FOOD CHOICES & COST

For food selections and cost, please refer to the MLDXCC website:

<http://mldxcc.org/meetings.html>

REGISTRATION

Since attendance is limited to 80 for this meeting, guarantee your seat by signing up NOW using the Registration Form on the NCCC website:

<http://www.nccc.cc/trimeeting.html>

The Attendee list shown on that page will be updated daily.

This should be a fun meeting and a chance to make some new ham radio friends from around the greater Bay Area.



June 2012



Conducted by K6JS



REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS

30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	326	W6XA	335	W6XA	327
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
N6OJ	221	N6OJ	317	N6OJ	233
K6ANP	169	N7PIB	167	N7PIB	120
K6SRZ	154	K6ANP	162	K6SRZ	106
AG6V	3	K6SRZ	143	W6SFK	87
W6SFK	12	W6SFK	104	K6ANP	72
WW6D	2	N6GY	8	N6GY	5
		WW6D	6	AG6V	2
		AG6V	2	WW6D	1

XA still at the top

W6SFK moving on up

SRZ adds 68 new ones!

ARRL DX Challenge

W6XA	2985
K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1770
N6OJ	1674
N7PIB	1123
W6SFK	325
N6VAW	248

K6SRZ passes slips by OJ

160 Meters

W6XA	224
W6OSP	176
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	150
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	57
N7PIB	15

K6SRZ adds seven new ones

1.5K Club

W6XA	1689
K6RIM	1588
K6ANP	1371
N6OJ	1352
K6SRZ	1124
W6SFK	387
N6GY	148

W6XA added a couple new ones

Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.
Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or 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	168
W6XA	130
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
W6SFK	2

K6QXY adds KH0NA for a new one



N6OJ	298
K6RIM	253
W6XA	162
W6SFK	133
K6SRZ	140
K6ANP	123

SFK moving on up.

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:

jselmi@hotmail.com

Updated 6-14-12

Mobile DX



N7PIB	121
K6JS	66
W6SFK	3


N7PIB King of the mobiles in the Redwood Empire

DXCC Mixed

K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6XA	352
W6OSP	350
K6SRZ	346
W6SFK	217

SRZed is moving on up

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**

Mark Nowell
Manager
W7YN

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

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: JULY 28, 2012

