

# 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**

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

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, July 9, 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 by Alan-K6SRZ on his DXpedition to Banaba T33C.**

## REDXA President's Report

Well another successful Field Day is behind us. I believe a good time was had by all who attended. Hats off to Ron-N6IE for his organizational and operating skills on putting on this challenging event. Thanks to all who were there to set up, operate and to take down. Thanks to Marilyn-N6VAW for arranging lunches on Friday and to Cal (sorry I forgot his call) from Marin for the dinner and breakfast. Participation seemed to be a bit down this year and I can only guess as to why. I hate to say it but amateur radio is a "greying" hobby. Hopefully REDXA can manage a few more Field Days in the future.

I enjoyed my time operating and got a kick also from helping man the GOTA station. It was fun to help the newer ops get their feet wet learning to operate and to get their confidence levels up. I also had a short rag chew with a ham in Barboursville, WV which is where my daughter lives. We have arranged to have an "eye-ball" qso next time we go back there. What a hoot!

I have been struggling to come up with programs and fortunately



Alan-K6SRZ came through this month. The good news is I now have the next three months (Aug., Sept. and Oct.) covered with interesting subjects. Hopefully you won't need to impeach me!

I will not be at this month's meeting due to a scheduling conflict. I promised my wife to go camping this week and neglected to double check my calendar and later realized that it was REDXA week. To keep peace in the family I decided not to cancel the reservations. I'm sure all will go well and I will be back for sure in August.

Take care and 73, Fred

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 2014

by Rick, N6GY for Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

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## JUNE MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY for Ed, K6ELE

President Fred N6YEU called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, June 11th, 2014 at the Boulevard Cafe in Petaluma. There were 12 members in attendance.

Doug WW6D passed around a Equipment list for items to be sold for Bruce W6OSP (SK). Members interested should contact Doug at ww6d@arrl.net.

Ron N6IE presented the particulars of the joint REDXA – Marin Club Field Day plans. We will be using the Marin Club call of W6SG this year for CW and SSB Stations and W6KB for the GOTA Station. Any member licensed since Field Day last year, any member INACTIVE on HF, and anyone non – licensed may operate the GOTA Station. Ron is still looking for a GOTA Station captain to oversee that station.

Fred N6YEU talked about his mini dxpedition to Isle of Palms South Carolina, where he operated as N6YEU/4. He got to use AA4V's station and made over 300 contacts, including WX6B, N6GY, and others in California.

The meeting was concluded at 8:00 pm.

## Treasurer Report - June

by Bill, KH6GJV

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

|                         |              |                   |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 5/31/14 Balance Forward |              | \$2,454.40        |
| RECEIPTS                |              |                   |
| Dues                    | <u>20.00</u> |                   |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS          |              | 20.00             |
| DISBURSEMENTS           |              |                   |
| None                    | <u>0.00</u>  |                   |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS     |              | ( 0.00)           |
| CASH FLOW               |              | 20.00             |
| 6/30/14 Ending Balance  |              | <u>\$2,474.40</u> |

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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>

## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Jul 9</b>  | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Jul 8 - 14    | WRTC 2014                      |
| Jul 12-13     | IARU HF Championship           |
| Jul 19-20     | NA QSO Party RTTY              |
| Aug 2-3       | NA QSO Party CW                |
| Aug 9-10      | WAE DX Contest CW              |
| <b>Aug 13</b> | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Aug 16-17     | NA QSO Party SSB               |
| Sep 6-7       | All Asian DX Contest Phone     |
| <b>Sep 10</b> | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Sep 27-28     | CQ WW DX RTTY                  |
| Sep 27-28     | Texas QSO Party                |
| Oct 4-5       | California QSO Party           |
| <b>Oct 8</b>  | <b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b> |
| Oct 10-12     | PACIFICON 2014                 |
| Oct 25-26     | CQ WW DX SSB                   |

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.

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## Excitement in Ham Radio

by Ed, K6ELE

What keeps you interested in ham radio? Well, one of the things I found out that really excites me is contesting. I have been a casual contester for the last several years, mainly to pick up DX as I was working for my DXCC 100 award. My best contest so far was the CQ WW WPX contest. This is a 48 hour contest where amateurs around the world contact as many other amateurs and prefixes as possible. I started the contest Friday afternoon soon after it started. I had planned on working maybe 4-5 hours of the contest over the weekend. Well, by Sunday afternoon I had set in front of the radio for a total of 19 hours and made 347 contacts, 338 of which were DX stations.

After the contest I thought about why I spent so much time in the contest. I realized that contesting for me was much like taking my boat out through

the Golden Gate into the Pacific Ocean salmon and tuna fishing. That was challenging and sometimes



conditions made it quite exciting coming back in through what is known as the “potato patch.” That is area just off of Pt. Bonito what becomes quite rough with outgoing tides, swell, and wind. In those conditions piloting my 26ft. catamaran took skill and knowledge of the water conditions in that area. That skill and knowledge was developed over 35 years of going out the gate in the boats I have owned. Alas my ocean boating days ended in 2012 when I sold my boat as it was time to find less physically challenging activities.

Contesting has let me experience some of that same excitement I got in running my boat in challenging conditions. Contesting is challenging in its own way. Picking out the contact in the QRM, getting the exchange right, and logging it correctly, that is exciting for me when I can accomplish that. I learn more about my radio, how to set filters, etc. and when the various bands give me the best propagation from my QTH. I learn more about operating techniques and my logging software with each contest.

I know contesting is not for everyone and some operators even complain about the bands being taken up during contests. I doubt I will ever become a serious contester as some are, but for me it’s another aspect of amateur radio that keeps my interest. There are many contests on throughout the year. The ARRL lists their contests in QST and on the ARRL website. The WA8BNM contest calendar at (<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>) is a good source of contest information.

## **REDXA Begali Paddles to be auctioned July 9**

After consulting with Club President Fred N6YEU, it has been decided that the Redwood Empire DX Association Custom Key - Serial #119, made by Begali Keys will be auctioned at the upcoming Wednesday July 9 meeting. You need not be present to bid – but you must have a proxy attend on your behalf if you wish to do so.

PAYMENT IN FULL is expected on auction close. Cash or check only.

The paddles are the “Contour” model with nickel finish:

<http://www.i2rtf.com/html/contour.html>

and are engraved with the REDXA logo and the words:

The Redwood Empire DX Association  
Christmas 2011

Serial No 119

Bidding will start at \$200 with proceeds going to the W6OSP estate.

Photos available; if you have any questions, contact Doug WW6D at: [ww6d@arrl.net](mailto:ww6d@arrl.net)

73, Doug WW6D

## **Field Day Photos and Videos - 2014**

by Marilyn, N6VAW

### **Photos:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/47704029@N02/sets/72157645447877682/>

### **Videos:**

Bill

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEAEA4MK\\_ro](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEAEA4MK_ro)

Saraj

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfq2Lp8TJPE>

Jim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibVSwbldTlc>

Ron

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVbC8ojCOLE>

Rem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6frZsAcooU>

Dave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgsM9EbLs9I>

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**MEETING: JULY 9, 2014**

