

SUNSPOTS



REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750531, 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, June 11, 2008 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 Field Day Preparation presented by Jim KE6UAR. It will include last minute details and a map on getting to the site.

REDXA President's Report

For those who missed it (and for those who were there), Jim Brown's (K9YC) excellent presentation to the May REDXA meeting is now up on his Web site <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish> as a PDF. There are many other useful documents on the site. It's definitely worth checking out.

Field Day weekend—this year June 28-29--is one of the more enjoyable events of the Ham radio year. This month's meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning and logistics. Bruce, W6OSP, and his crew of volunteers have already done lots of work to insure that this year's event will again be a success. As always, we can use volunteers for setup and tear-down.

It's been 48 years since I did my last Field Day in Marin at a site in Corte Madera that is now covered with houses. For the past eleven years—with only a single break to attend the hamfest in Friedrichshafen, Germany—I've captained the CW station of the East Bay ARC. Except for a few years when Bill, N6ZFO, and David, K6DAJ, joined me, I've been the *only* CW op. I suspect that the combined forces of REDXA and the Marin ARS will include a few more CW operators than that.

The East Bay club is still counting on me to put the W6CUS CW station on the air this year, which leaves me conflicted. On the one hand, my move to Sonoma County and election as president of REDXA have changed my loyalties. On the other hand, the East Bay Club *really* needs CW operators with HF contesting experience.

Since a big part of Field Day is the public relations aspect, it behooves me to show the public how a modern amateur radio station works. I have a Field Day style station that I developed for California QSO Party county expeditions. The East Bay club's site gets a lot of traffic from the general public: on one side are the kite enthusiasts [if you haven't seen the kites at the Berkeley Marina, you're missing a treat] and on the other are the users of the dog park. All around the site are picnickers and young couples doing what young couples do.

I try to get my FD station up and running on Friday evening. I switch to SSB and point the beam over the pole and—sunspots willing--let the visitors listen to QSOs with Europe. And, I like to point out that I'm powering the station with a solar panel and an RV battery. Field Day is the probably the single most important event for recruiting new amateurs to radio contesting.

Probably, I'll be hopping back and forth between my Berkeley QTH and the Rod and Gun Club, and, of course I invite others to join me.

Next month REDXA is privileged to have a visit from antenna and propagation expert Dean Straw, N6BV, speaking on the topic "Propagation 101"

And speaking of propagation... Although the HF bands have been poor lately, there have been a few bright spots. Just a few days ago, Hawaii was coming through loud and clear on 6 meters and there were nice openings to Europe and Middle East during the recent WPX CW contest. The redesigned DX Summit Web site <http://www.dxsummit.fi/> is once again featuring up to date propagation data.

I'll see you at Mr. Magoo's.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 2008

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING SCHEDULED.

MAY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm, May 14, 2008 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 22 members and guests. Guests included Frank WA6PXW, Paul W6XA (ex-AE6H and one of the REDXA Co-founders), Ron KG6KTP and Jim K9YC (our guest speaker).

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the April meeting and Treasurer's report as printed in Sunspots. Motion was seconded and passed.

There was no old business.

New business. Jim KE6UAR provided an update for Field Day. We are still looking for a 3rd station captain – if interested please contact Jim ASAP. The focus for this station will primarily be VHF/UHF. There is a possibility that the Marin Amateur Radio Society will provide this station. An "equipment prep" day will be scheduled soon so that we can load up antennas, cables and related equipment onto Jim's trailer. This day will be coordinated with Fred N6YEU as most of the equipment is at his QTH.

Program for next month's meeting will be Field Day Preparation presented by Jim KE6UAR. It will include last minute details and a map on getting to the site.

Bill KH6GJV polled the group for interest in next year's Dayton Hamvention. There was some interest so Bill will look into it.

Fred N6YEU noted that the ARRL now has a CD available with lots of free software including a contest simulator etc.

Fred N6YEU conducted the REDXA raffle. \$50 was collected. The winning ticket was Al K6RIM who won \$25. The club retained \$25.

Jim K9YC then presented a very interesting program for interfacing your computer(s) with your ham gear for digital modes, voice equalizers, etc. Proven techniques and diagrams were presented. For more information, check out Jim's web site at <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/K9YC/K9YC.htm>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

4/30/08 Balance Forward		\$3,415.95
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
Raffles	25.00	
TOTAL INCOME		45.00
EXPENSES		
Meals	22.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(22.00)
5/31/08 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,438.95</u>

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

Here is the link for the News Summary:

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

CQ WorldWide WPX Contest, CW

Call	Class	Qs	Pfxs	Score
K6LRN	SOABHP	250	208	103,376
K6RIM	SO(A)ABHP	635	356	431,472
K6SRZ	SOABHP	1349	506	1,293,842
WW6D	SOABLP	85	137	9,590

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

May 14	REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 11	REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 14	ARRL VHF QSO Party
Jun 28-29	Field Day
Jul 9	REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jul 12-13	IARU HF World Championships
Aug 13	REDXA Monthly Meeting

Field Day Directions

This month is Field Day. If you are planning to come operate or help set-up or tear-down, please make sure you let us know so we can plan the event. We need help to get all 3 towers up Friday afternoon. Much of the set-up will be identical to last year so we will have a speedier time of it. We can still use more help.

From San Rafael and points north:

-- Take Hwy 101 south to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Turn on 580 toward Richmond. Just before 2 miles, take the last exit before the bridge. (Francisco Blvd) If you miss the turn, you will cross the bridge and pay a toll to return. At the stop sign, cross under the freeway, and turn left at the "T" at the end.

-- From East Bay, take the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and exit the first off ramp on the Marin side.

-- From south Marin, the Larkspur turn off over to 580 and then take the last exit before the bridge. (Francisco Blvd) If you miss the turn, you will cross the bridge and pay a toll to return. At the stop sign, cross under the freeway, and turn left at the "T" at the end.

To re-cap. We will be operating 3A from the Marin Rod and Gun Club right on the bay. This is a great site and we should do very well.

Set up will begin at 11 AM sharp on June 27nd. We need all the help we can get. The contest starts at 11 AM on Saturday June 28rd and is over Sunday at 11 AM. There should be plenty of operating time.

Please E-Mail either Jim (jcr3jr@yahoo.com), Rich (w6uds@idlehour.org) or Bruce (w6osp@aol.com) with any questions or comments regarding Field Day and please RSVP for dinner on 6/28.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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MEETING: JUNE 11, 2008

