

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, June 9, 2010 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 preparation for Field Day including an in-service on N1MM, to be given by Chuck N6OJ, as we are changing logging programs for use on Field Day.

REDXA President's Report

It's Field Day Time Again!

No matter what your major interest in Amateur Radio is, the one activity that seems to bind most of us together is the annual ARRL Field Day event. Every year since 1933 (except during the WWII years) hams from across the country have been getting together under simulated emergency conditions to sharpen their communications and organizational skills, test equipment and antennas and share good times with fellow hams.

For many of us, Field Day was our first real introduction to the world of Amateur Radio. For me, the year was 1963 in that seemingly endless period when new hams had to wait between passing the Novice test, and actually getting the license in the mail. Since I didn't have my ticket yet, I couldn't operate in Field Day, but I could act in two other useful support positions: as a 'logger' or a 'duper', and for the less busy stations, both at once. Our club, the Penn Wireless Assn., operated W3SK as 5A Class in the rolling hills of Bucks County in southeastern Pennsylvania. By today's standards, 5A is a pretty ambitious undertaking for a club, but back then, especially in those pre-computer days when as many as three people

were needed to make one station work, the op, the duper and the logger, we had to field a small army of people to make a competitive run.

For those of you too young to remember, the ‘duper’ kept a running list of stations contacted, usually on a large sheet of cardboard divided into 26 alphabetical columns that corresponded to the first letter after the district number in the call worked. On the busier stations, each column was sub-divided into the 10 districts and the call was recorded in a place where it could be quickly referenced. During operations, there was a constant stream of chatter between the op and duper about if a particular call needed to be worked, meanwhile, the logger dutifully logged the call, time, class and section.

Since I was one of the ‘newbies’ I got assigned duping/logging duties in the wee hours of Sunday morning on the 6 meter AM station, not by any means the busiest area of the Field Day site. I can still remember trying to stay awake, consuming warm soda and cold hot dogs as the first rays of the morning sun became visible.

An amazing array of equipment made it to Field Day that year, from companies like Hallicrafters, Drake, Johnson, and Heathkit (the 6-meter station featured a Heathkit Shawnee transceiver). We even had a vintage Central Electronics CE-10B SSB exciter and a 2-meter Gonset Communicator that I don’t think made a single QSO the entire weekend! Power was supplied by a finicky WWII surplus trailer-mounted generator that worked—well, most of the time.

All of our hard work paid off, and when the operating stopped, our club president, Bill Prenskey, W3HMM (SK) proudly hung a piece of paper on a tree at the site with our QSO total in big red crayon numbers: “715”.

I still think back on that beautiful weekend, and on the more than thirty Field Day events I have participated in since and marvel at the things that have changed, and even more importantly, at the things that have not. The purpose of Field Day is still the same: to stay proficient in the operating practices we may be called on to use “when all else fails”. The camaraderie, the learning experience for both novices and ‘old pros’ alike, the sharing of new ideas about how to do even better next year and a chance to spend a weekend away from the normal routine while sharing our great pursuit of ham radio—those are the things that have never changed, and I pray never will.

The things that have changed though are pretty cool, you have to admit! Gone are the J-38 keys, vacuum tube radios, ‘slide-rule’ dials made of pulleys and string, the drifting, the chirping and the uncomfortable WWII hard-plastic ‘head vice’ headphones. Gone too

are the human loggers and the dupers, replaced by slick, fast, user-friendly computer interfaces that took their place, that allow us to work stations twice as fast while letting us see real-time scores, and even sending our CW messages with the touch of an “F” key. The new skill-set is less about understanding how a 600 VDC power supply works and more about serial-port interfaces, TCP/IP wireless networking and web-applet log submission. One of the things that won’t change is the need for resourcefulness—the “Field Day Fix” will remain an enduring piece of our ham radio legacy.

Onward to Field Day 2010!

At our June meeting, we’ll discuss plans and strategies and do our best to inspire as many of you as possible to join us and the members of the Marin Amateur Radio Society at the Marin Rod and Gun Club the weekend of June 26th. Chuck, N6OJ will give us a demonstration of the N1MM logging program that we will be using for the first time this year and we’ll also view the video of last year’s event, produced by Alan, K6SRZ. At this year’s FD, we’ll have even more operating opportunities to accommodate a wider variety of operating skills since we will be running as Class 3A, plus GOTA. I hope you’ll join us!

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER’S REPORT

4/30/10 Balance Forward		\$3,257.27
INCOME		
Badge	15.00	
Commcat	20.00	
Raffle	26.50	
Sale TS-820	100.00	
TOTAL INCOME		161.50
EXPENSES		
Insurance	320.00	
NCDXF	500.00	
PO Box (1 year)	60.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(880.00)
5/31/10 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,538.77</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 2010

by San, N7PIB

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

MAY MEETING MINUTES

by San, N7PIB

The May 12, 2010 meeting was called to order by president Ron, N6IE, at 7:45 P.M. at Mr. McGoos's Restaurant in Petaluma. Total attendance was 19, including one guest, Alice, the XYL of K6ZWB. The minutes and financial reports were moved for approval by Chuck, N6OJ, seconded and approved.

There was no old business to discuss.

Under new business after discussion regarding the Club's tradition of donating \$250 per year to the NCDXF, it was moved by Chuck, N6OJ, seconded and passed to donate \$500. this year to make up for the fact that the Club had failed to make a donation during the 2009 calendar year.

After discussion and input via email from the NCCC it was also moved, seconded and passed to move the annual joint dinner meeting from January to February each year.

The raffle was won by Rich, W6UDS, with the Club and him each getting half of the \$53 total pot.

There will be a work party on May 22 to prepare the Shorty-40 for this year's Field Day.

The proposed program schedule for the next few months is as follows:

June meeting--preparation for Field Day including an in-service on N1MM, to be given by Chuck N6OJ, as we are changing logging programs for use on Field Day.

July meeting--Steve on real time propagation.

August meeting--wrap-up of Field Day.

September meeting--a rally for CQP.

October meeting--DX home/vacation rentals.

A new membership form is now on-line courtesy of Jim Selmi, K6JS.

The program was a showing of the new video by James Brooks, 9V1YC, on the DXpedition to Midway, K4M. The video presented a very fine balance of the operations from Midway, life on the island, and the history of the island. Midway is home to about 60-70 people, including six federal employees, short-term volunteers and about 45 Thai support staff. This

is a very comfortable place from which to operate with excellent accommodations, food and operating positions, however, getting to and from the island is very difficult and the operating window is only about three months each year--while the Laysan albatross are vacationing elsewhere.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Field Day is nearly here! Hope you can make it to the June meeting and hear how the hard-working Field Day Committee (KE6UAR, W6OSP, N6IE, W6UDS) have been preparing for this favorite club event.

In particular, I would suggest going to the N1MM web site (www.n1mm.com) since we will be using their software this year. Their web site has been recently revamped and reflects the ongoing support for this versatile software package. And the price is right -- free!

Once you are on the main page, click on "Support" then scroll down to "Instructional Videos" and click on that. There are currently three by Larry K8UT and they are all short (less than 4 mins). If you really don't have time, click on the one called "Launching N1MM Logger for the First Time" (since the computers at the Field Day site will already be pre-loaded with the software).

Another good tutorial is under "Documents" then select "Quick Start Guide".

My initial impression of N1MM was -- wow, this is overwhelming. However, after looking over the Quick Start Guide and installing on my Windows XP computer, I had it up and running in about 30 minutes. If you have been using CT, NA, or Writelog, the keying interfaces are the same as is the rig control.

So, take a look on your own, and better yet, come see the demo at the meeting. Hope to see you out there for 2010 Field Day!

CW Manchester Mineira

Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
N6ZFO	SOSB(20m)	14	11	506

CQ WPX CW

Call	Class	Qs	Pfxs	Score
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	376	243	166,941
WW6D	SOABLP	108	89	17,444

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

June 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
June 12-14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day
July 10-11	IARU HF World Championship (and WRTC 2010)
July 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
July 17	NA QSO Party RTTY
July 17	CQWW VHF Contest
Aug 7-8	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 21-22	NA QSO Party SSB
Sep 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Sep 25-26	CQ WW DX RTTY

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MEETING: JUNE 9, 2010



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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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>