

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, March 12, 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 by Robert Vallio, W6RGG, ARRL's Pacific Division Director and recently one of the operators on the BS7H Scarborough Reef Dxpedition. Bob will be speaking on the topic "What your ARRL membership can do for you".

REDXA President's Report

The good news is that I will not have to juggle or tell jokes to entertain you at our next meeting. Slowly but surely I've been recruiting speakers. Our next program features Robert Vallio, W6RGG, ARRL's Pacific Division Director and recently one of the operators on the BS7H Scarborough Reef Dxpedition. Bob will be speaking on the topic "What your ARRL membership can do for you". Please join us March 12 for this entertaining and informative presentation.

Perseverance Furthers

If you ever dabbled in Oriental religions or philosophy, you'll recognize that phrase as coming from the "I Ching" or book of changes. The change that I'm looking for is for PG&E to fix that \$#@!* pole that has been wiping out 20 meters during cloudless daylight hours at my QTH. I've been after them to fix the problem since October.

My first attack on the problem was to track the noise on my car radio and apparently isolate it to a group of poles about a quarter mile away. After much pleading and cajoling, PG&E came out and pronounced the poles within normal limits. [if you're having PG&E QRN problems, your quest

begins with a call to 800 743 5000] Then the January storms came. Trees, antennas, and power poles were blowing in the wind. PG&E did not have the time for ham radio.

After PG&E got caught up, they consented to send out their telecom specialist. The telecom specialist has a nice setup: a diesel truck (no ignition interference) with a variety of radios, antennas, and spectrum analyzers. After a few hours, the telecom guy thought he had found the problem in a pole near the Penngrove firehouse. The pole was duly repaired with absolutely no effect on the QRN.

So this week the telecom guy came back to my place. This time he hooked his spectrum analyzer to my radio and took a snapshot of the interference. The he drove around until he found a noisy pole that matched the spectral pattern. Surprise! It was coming from the same group of poles that I had isolated using my car radio months before.

It turns out that the telecom guy is learning to play the guitar. What a coincidence: I used to teach guitar. My last words to him were “if you fix this, you’ll get free lessons!” I’ll keep you posted. Perseverance—I hope—will further.

Meanwhile, by the time you read this, The concrete will be poured for the base of my tower and the SteppIR folks up in Washington should have shipped the kit to expand my two-element SteppIR to a three-element version (the original two-element antenna was used on the K7C Kure Dxpedition back in 2005).

Finally, the results of last October’s California QSO party are now online at <http://www.cqp.org/Results-2007.html> Note that three REDXA members—yours truly K6SRZ, K6RIM, and W6XU—are among the top 20 and winners of a special bottle of wine.

73, Alan/K6SRZ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 2008

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING SCHEDULED.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm, February 13, 2008 at Mr. McGoo’s Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 21 members and guests. Visiting us this evening were Jim, a prospective ham and currently SWL (introduced by Bruce W6OSP) and John (introduced by Josh W6XU).

Motion by Alan K6KLL was made to approve the minutes from the January meeting and Treasurer’s report as printed in Sunspots. Motion was seconded by Len K6ANP and passed.

There was no old business.

New business. President Al K6SRZ appealed to the membership to help provide programs and prospective speakers.

Fred N6YEU conducted the REDXA raffle. \$34 was collected. The winning ticket was Len K6ANP who won \$17. The club retained \$17.

The program for the evening was a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation of “DXpedition Medicine” by our own President Alan K6SRZ. A well-planned DXpedition must include this aspect in the organization of a successful venture.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Treasurer Report (corrected)

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

12/31/07 Balance Forward \$2,578.31

INCOME

Badges 12.00

Dues 2008 (569.00) 438.00

Misc-NCCC PayPal 22.00

Raffle 97.00

TOTAL INCOME 569.00

EXPENSES

Badges (27.34) 17.28

Meals-inc NCCC PayPal 44.00

Office Supplies 1.71

Postage 33.62

TOTAL EXPENSES (106.67) (96.61)

1/31/08 Ending Balance \$3,171.64 \$3,050.70

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

1/31/08 Balance Forward \$3,050.70

INCOME

Dues 2008 380.00

PayPal 22.00

TOTAL INCOME 402.00

EXPENSES

Badges 70.00

TOTAL EXPENSES (70.00)

2/29/08 Ending Balance \$3,382.70

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

A couple of events are coming up -- DXers and Contesters take note! The 59th International DX Convention will be held April 25, 26 and 27 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia, California. This year, it will be sponsored by the Southern California DX Club. It will include several programs about DXpeditions that have taken place this past 12 months, DX Forum, Contest Forum, and several vendors showing off their wares. Pre-registration deadline is March 23 which will save you \$10 off of the full convention price.

The other event of interest is the upcoming Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest Saturday May 3rd from 8am to 1pm. I personally can attest that they have the best Hamfest breakfast in Northern California! Of course they will have their Swap meet so bring your unneeded stuff and set up a table! Also, included will be a VE Testing session, station demonstrations and a fox hunt. For more information, go to vomarc.org and click on Hamfest.

ARRL International DX -- CW

Call	Class	Qs	Mults	Score
K6ANP	SOABHP	798	298	612,864
K6RIM	SOABHP	422	220	278,520
WW6D	SOABHP	164	87	42,804

North American QSO Party, RTTY

Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6CTA	SOLP	148	72	10,656
K6UM	SOLP	144	66	9,504

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

Here is the link for the News Summary:

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

NCDXF PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

NCDXF NOW ACCEPTS PAY-PAL

The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting PayPal for NCDXF contributions and for the additional purposes of processing supplies, orders and assisting in the payment of equipment sales.

The web site for the Northern California DX Foundation is available at <<http://www.ncdxf.org>>

Northern California DX Foundation
by: Al Burnham, K6RIM, VP

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673 Plum Street
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MEETING: MARCH 12, 2008

