

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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CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

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

VICE PRESIDENT:

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

SECRETARY:

San Smith, N7PIB
PO Box 624
Vineburg, CA 95487
H (707) 939-1242
n7pib@comcast.net

TREASURER:

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

DIRECTORS:

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

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

Wally Pugh, N6AD
109 Alta Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954
H (707) 769-1065
n6ad@comcast.net

CONTEST CHAIRMAN & WEBMASTER:

Doug Bender, WW6D
3638 Hemlock Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
H (707) 526-5131
ww6d@aol.com

EDITOR:

Steve Bertsch, K6SAB
673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945
H (415) 898-5159
sabertsch@gmail.com

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, March 10, 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
by Eric Swanson on public and emergency services.**

REDXA President's Report

January 12th, 2010 was an unremarkable day for most of us here in northern California, yet for millions of people in the Island nation of Haiti it was a horrible day of disaster. Haiti had not yet fully recovered from a series of three hurricanes (Gustav, Hanna and Ike) and a tropical storm (Fay) that had hit within a period of a month just 17 months earlier that left nearly 800 dead, 300 missing and tens of thousands homeless. Then, just before 5:00 pm, Port-au-Prince was rocked by a 7.0 quake and some three dozen aftershocks in the ensuing 24 hours that killed an estimated 230,000, injured more than 300,000 and left one million people homeless.

The massive amount of devastation can be attributed to the proximity of the quake, just two miles from the principle city, poor building codes, lack of public safety personnel and basic infrastructure, all underscored by abject poverty. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with a per-capita GDP of \$1,300, ranked 157th in the world and less than 3% of our GDP here in the U.S.

For those of us on the north coast of California, the Haitian disaster was a grim reminder of the threat we live under every day in 'earthquake country'. Our abundantly wealthy society with its advanced public safety



resources and high-grade infrastructure would certainly blunt the effects of a similar size quake as it did in October of 1989, but that is no reason for any one of us to become complacent.

One of the valuable lessons of the 1989 Loma Prieta quake was the extent to which our communications system can become overloaded under the stress of a major event. That lesson has been repeated numerous times in other U.S. disasters such as the Oklahoma City bombing, 9/11, Katrina, the terrible flooding last year in Iowa and scores of other emergencies from the 1964 Alaska earthquake to the recent events in Haiti. In every case, Amateur Radio was there to help fill the gaps and make a difference.

The ham radio community has a long and proud record of helping “when all else fails”! This willingness to donate our time, talents and resources has earned us the respect of community leaders, not only here, but around the world, and has been one of the leading justifications for the continued use of the valuable radio spectrum that has been allotted to us. Our infrastructure-independent, decentralized communications system, backed by our years of experience and deep interest in technology is a winning combination that benefits our communities.

That being said, I have to ask the question: what are we each doing individually to maintain our readiness and are we prepared should a major disaster, natural or otherwise, strike us here? Our stellar performance in Field Day demonstrates that we have certain abilities that would be called into play in a specific set of circumstances. We have operating talent, but even more important, we have acquired the logistic support abilities needed to plan, coordinate and execute a major communications event. All of that experience will be valuable when a real disaster occurs, but let's be honest...when the ‘real one’ hits, we won't have a year to plan for it, knowing it will be on a specific date, and we probably won't have the easy access or favorable conditions like we do at our Field Day event. We'll be left to improvise with what we have under the conditions that exist and to work with other hams in our area to provide services to the community wherever, whenever and however we can.

Folks who are regular members of the various amateur radio emergency organizations probably have extensive plans on what to do in the event of a disaster and I salute them, but for the majority of us who are DX'ers, contesters and rag-chewers...what would we do if a disaster struck tomorrow? How would be of service to our communities? Where would we go and what jobs would we be able to perform without getting under foot? How would we lend our many years of experience, our equipment and ourselves to the effort on short notice? Those are questions that I ask myself when I read about events like the recent one in Haiti.

I know I'm not alone in asking.

Hopefully, those questions and more will be answered at our meeting this month when our guest speaker will be Eric Swanson WB6MVT, South County Unit Leader of the Sonoma County Auxiliary Communications Service. Eric will tell us about our local ACS, what it does and how it works with other organizations and agencies. Bring your questions and comments for what should be an informative meeting. I hope you join us!

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

1/31/10 Balance Forward		\$3,157.03
INCOME		
Dues	300.00	
Raffle	32.50	
TOTAL INCOME		332.50
EXPENSES		
Steppir Upgrade	324.32	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(324.32)
2/28/10 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,165.21</u>

REDXA membership renewal is due. Please submit your dues 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 2010

by San, N7PIB

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

by San, N7PIB

President Ron, N6IE, called the February meeting to order at 7:40 PM after our usual fine dinner at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant in Petaluma. There were nineteen members in attendance and one guest--Ken, N6KM from Sonoma. After commenting that the solar sunspots are beginning to show signs of a return, Ron called for a motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting, which was duly moved by Chuck, N6OJ, seconded, and passed.

Old business: None

New business: None

Our member Bruce Butler, W6OSP, presented a program on the recent K4M DXpedition to Midway Island. The slide and video presentation gave us a good perspective on how this DXpedition came to pass, especially in light of the departure delays from Honolulu, and from the standpoint of the chief financial officer for the DXpedition. Bruce pointed out that 50 percent of the support for the DXpedition came from the Northern California DX Foundation.

The raffle was won by Doug, WW6D, with half of the total proceeds of \$65 going to the Club.

Future programs announced were a program by Eric Swanson in March on public and emergency services and an April program on demonstrating ham shack automation software by Ron, N6IE, to be assisted by any members who may have expertise in the operations of Logic8, HRD, or any other logging and/or contesting software.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

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

Visalia pre-registration is due March 20. At this year's convention, the Friday afternoon session will include *two* Contest Academy classes, one for beginners and one for advanced contesting techniques. Check out all the convention details at dxconvention.org.

CQ 160m CW

Call	Category	Qs	St/Ps	Ctrys	Score
K6CTA	SO	225	45	9	30,000
K6SRZ	SO(A)HP	638	55	29	162,708

CQ WPX RTTY

Call	Category	Qs	Pfxs	Score
N6IE	SOABHP	1126	519	1,399,224 (WOW!)

ARRL DX CW

Call	Category	Qs	Ctrys	Score
AA6YX	SOABLP	472	143	201,201
K6ANP	SOAB(A)HP	296	164	138,528
K6LRN	SOABHP	745	229	511,815
K6SRZ	SOAB(A)HP	807	270	653,670
N6YEU	SOABLP	322	116	112,056
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	841	307	773,640
WW6D	SOABLP	184	84	46,368

NA Feb Sprint SSB

Call	Category	Qs	Mults	Score
K6LRN	SOHP	138	37	5,106

NA Feb Sprint CW

Call	Category	Qs	Mults	Score
N6ZFO	SOLP	238	40	9,520

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Mar 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 14	NA Sprint RTTY
Mar 27-28	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 16-18	Int'l DX Convention Visalia
May 1-2	7th Call Area QSO Party
May 8	CQ-M DX Contest
May 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 15	Manchester Mineira AA CW
May 29-30	CQ WW WPX CW
June 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
June 12-14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day

SONOMA HAMFEST

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC) will have its annual Hamfest on May 1st. We will start serving a pancake, egg, sausage breakfast at 8:00am. There will be a swap meet, station demonstrations, emergency vehicle display and a fox hunt. It will be a great gathering of hams from all around the bay area.

Hope to see you there.

Jim, K6UUW, president VOMARC

Ron Smith KC6PEY is now a Silent Key

Memorial Services will be held on
March 6, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of
Maura Lehan, 2538 Pleasant Hill, Sebastopol, Calif.

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: MARCH 10, 2010



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



Mark Nowell
Manager
WITYN

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

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