

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, March 12, 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 a DVD presentation of the February 2009 K5D- Desecheo Island DXpedition.

REDXA President's Report

I have been enjoying the much needed rain and some pretty nice propagation as I am sure most of you are. I have been working on programs and have one set for April, one that wants to do a program but date not confirmed and two others I'm still waiting to hear from. As nothing developed for this month I went ahead and "rented" a DVD from the NCDXF library managed by Dick-K6LRN. I picked the K5D Desecheo DXpedition which should be enjoyable. I hope this meets with everyone's approval.

It's time to think about Field Day preparation and to come up with a Chairman so be prepared for a discussion on that matter. Jim-KE6UAR has decided to retire after many years and deservedly so. Thanks for a great run Jim!

Also, the REDXA shirts and caps are at the embroiderer and should be ready by the meeting so those of you who ordered shirts/caps don't neglect to bring cash and or a check to pay for them. I have misplaced the quote but as I recall the shirts were \$27 or \$28 and the caps were \$8. We did incur an additional charge for a new logo set up as they couldn't



find the file in their computer. I expect the prices should be close to what I have here but I haven't received the final bill yet. If I can get final prices before the meeting I will post them on the reflector.

73 and good DX! Fred

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 2014

by Rick, N6GY for Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY for Ed, K6ELE

President Fred N6YEU called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm, February 12th, 2014 at the Boulevard Cafe in Petaluma. There were 28 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Fred started the meeting congratulating the 31 REDXA Members who were in the log for Amsterdam Island, FT5ZM.

He mentioned there had been a good response toward members ordering REDXA Shirts and Hats. The shirts were \$23 and the hats are \$8.

He mentioned with sadness the passing of Bruce Butler W6OSP. He sent condolences and a card on behalf of the REDXA Club. He entertained a motion to send \$250 out of the Club treasury to the Northern California DX Foundation in Bruce's name.

The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. He further requested we pass a hat to take a collection from the members present to equal another \$250 to be dedicated in Bruce's name. The hat was passed, but came up to only \$190. A motion was then entertained to donate the Club's portion of the 50-50 raffle to make up the difference. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

He also stated some members wanted to change the name of the Clubs annual Spirit Award to the Bruce

Butler Award. He didn't want to name it the W6OSP award in case someone took the call down the road. After some discussion, the idea was tabled for now.

Rich W6UDS mentioned the Club insurance had expired. It is needed in 3 weeks for Field Day. Treasurer Bill KH6GJV said it had been paid on June 15th. There was some question as to what year? Jim K6JS will check into it.

There were some applications to join REDXA. One application was from a person who has never attended a meeting. Most of the members have no idea who he is. He has been asked by both Fred N6YEU and Bill KH6GJV to attend a meeting, but has declined to do so. The discussion ensued that did we want to let anyone in who applies? Past history shows we have excluded membership in the past. The BYLAWS were read to the membership, and it was clear that the procedure for membership was not being followed correctly. Fred N6YEU said he would contact the individual, and explain the situation.

On another note two members Gary and his wife Rose have resigned from the Club, citing frustration on getting on the Club Roster, and not receiving the on-line Club "SUNSPOTS".

There was a request by a group going to Tromelin Island FT5TA trying to solicit funds from the Club. It will be explained to them the Club does not fund directly, but contributes to the Northern California DX Foundation, who does.

Fred then announced that a 2m all mode transceiver and a 2m four element beam had been donated to the Club by Chuck N6OJ. The equipment will be kept at Fred N6YEU's barn for member usage.

Bob K6QXY then gave a short talk on winter 6 Meter propagation.

Bill KH6GJV gave a short talk on the ARRL Centennial nationwide celebration with the many special event stations working as W1AW/0-9.

The 50-50 raffle was held, netting member Bill WX6B \$91.

The presentation on the C82DX Mozambique Expedition was presented by Robert K6RB and Rusty W6OAT.

The meeting was adjourned at around 8:45.

Treasurer Report

by Bill, KH6GJV

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

1/31/14 Balance Forward		\$3,077.95
RECEIPTS		
Donations (W6OSP)	232.00	
Dues 2014	120.00	
Raffle (net)	91.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		443.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Awards (NCCC-CQP)	60.00	
Donation (W6OSP)	573.00	
Guest Meals	80.50	
Misc. (Shirts & Hats)	427.96	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,141.46)
CASH FLOW		- 698.46
2/28/14 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,379.49</u>

Dues are due! Please mail your \$20 (\$25 for family) to the club PO Box or I'll gladly accept them at the meeting!

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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>

Contesting

by Jim, K6JS

There have been some changes in the ARRL Contest Branch following the January 23rd resignation of Mike DeChristopher, N1TA, as ARRL Contest Manager. Former Contest Branch Manager, Sean Kutzko, KX9X, catches us up on the situation. "Since Mike's resignation, a team of ARRL staffers, including former Contest Managers Dan Henderson, N1ND and myself, have come together to address the needs of the Contest Branch until a replacement is found. Dave Patton, NN1N, is managing this team.

"Our efforts are directed as follows:

- 1) Eliminate the backlog of overdue awards certificates and plaques;
- 2) Keep normal day-to-day Contest Branch functions running on schedule;
- 3) Restore the "customer service" side of the Contest Branch to superior levels.

"With the help of several ARRL staffers in the Awards Branch, we have sent out over 5,000 awards certificates in the last two weeks, including the 2012 CW and Phone Sweepstakes, the 2012 September VHF Contest, the 2012 August UHF Contest, the 2013 RTTY Roundup. 1,100 certificates for the 2012 10 Meter Contest were just sent to the ARRL mail room and should go out by the middle of the week. In addition, plaques for the 2012 CW Sweepstakes and 2013 RTTY Roundup were shipped. 2012 Phone Sweepstakes plaques were ordered last week and will be shipped within three weeks. We will continue to aggressively work on the backlog of overdue awards and hope to be caught up soon. You are welcome to monitor our awards progress at www.arrl.org/plaques-and-certificates which is updated regularly.

"We do not foresee any delays in publication of contest results online or in QST. In addition, several results tables, log checking reports and databases have been uploaded to www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles in the last two weeks.

"Finally, we are working together to take care of customer service inquiries to the Contest Branch and reply as rapidly as possible. We are disappointed with the delays in communications and awards fulfillment that testers have experienced.

The past few months have not been up to ARRL standards; we apologize for this and are working

hard to correct it.

"If you have any specific questions or inquiries of the ARRL Contest Branch, feel free to contact either Dave Patton, NN1N at nn1n@arrl.org or Sean Kutzko, KX9X at kx9x@arrl.org at any time. We thank you for your continued patience while we address these issues." (ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager, Sean Kutzko, KX9X)

Updated rules for the 2014 CQ WPX Contests have been posted, including a new category - Multioperator, Single-Transmitter, Low Power. The rules have also been reformatted in a similar fashion to what was done for the CQ World Wide Contest rules last fall. The intent is to clarifying longstanding positions for the contest. (Thanks, CQ WPX Contest Director, Terry N4TZ)

The WRTC-2014 committee has announced three of the four sponsored teams for this coming July's competition:

The "Latitude 13" team of Tom Georgens, W2SC/8P1A/8P5A and Dave Mueller, N2NL/NH2T. So named because the locations from which the two operators usually compete are both at 13 degrees latitude.

"RadioTeam Azores" sponsored by the Azores Tourism Association consists of contesting legends Martti Lane, OH2BH, and Ville Hiilesmaa, OH2MM, both frequent operators from the Azores. The "Brazil-Bulgaria Friendship Team" is sponsored by a consortium that includes The Araucaria DX Group, Triumph IESA Infrastructure AS, the Sao Paulo section of LABRE, K1LZ, and the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA). They have appointed Soni Leite, PY1NX, and Atasnas "Nasko" Koitchev, LZ3YY/LZ9R, as their team.

The fourth and final Team Sponsorship will be made available through an auction to be conducted March 8, 2014. Anyone interested in participating in the auction should contact WRTC Chairman, Doug Grant, K1DG, as quickly as possible to register.

DX Engineering is now the exclusive source for KD9SV Products Low Band receive transformers, preamplifiers, antenna switching units and other products. KD9SV Products for Low Band receiving antenna systems are well-known and have been used by DXers and contesters for over 25 years. JVC Kenwood has purchased the E.F. Johnson Company. EFJ has been manufacturing radios for a

long time and you'll see the hamfest vintage equipment tables loaded with Johnson Rangers and Vikings and Thunderbolts while their Matchbox antenna tuners are still doing the job in antenna systems across the land. Lately, EFJ has been better known for its P25 VHF/UHF equipment used in public safety communication systems.

Bill K3WA found this interesting QSOMap web site in development that will take ADIF or LoTW logs and create a world map with pins. You apply various filters such as band, mode, and so forth. Bill used it to map out his QRP DXCC contacts, for example.

To celebrate 35 years of the founding of the Cayman Amateur Radio Society, its members have been authorized by the ICTA to use ZF35 prefixes through January 19, 2015. Make sure your CTY files are updated to handle the new prefixes!

Tom K1KI discovered this article about scanning your brain on overload. Does this count as a decoder?

If you have an old URL for the AMSAT website, you may find incomplete website and broken links. Following a hacking incident some time ago, the new site (www.amsat.org) was rebuilt and is operating properly. Refresh your bookmarks, if necessary. (Thanks, AMSAT VP of Operations, Drew KO4MA)

Web Site of the Week - Ian G3NRW has updated the Band Utilization Charts for 30 meters, 60 meter UK allocations, and 160 meters. He asks to be notified by email if you know of anything that needs updating. He reminds us that these charts are not band plans, they are just indicators of actual band utilization.

WORD TO THE WISE

Jump ball - what happens when a North American Sprint QSO ends and several stations call to make the QSO and acquire the frequency. See the Operating Tip section for more about Sprint-style operation.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Terry W8ZN and Andy K1RA activated the Grid Pirates Contest Group call sign K8GP as a rover in the ARRL January VHF Contest and put together a musical video exploration of the highways and byways on their route. The full story is online, too. The rarely seen Beamed Phantasatron tube would certainly have made a nice final amplifier in the shack. Very final. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

Speaking of tubes, the Los Boludos website shows a whole family of uses for vacuum tubes! (Thanks, George K5TR)

RESULTS AND RECORDS

The extended writeup by Jeff K1TEO for the ARRL September VHF Contest has been published on the Contest Results Articles page. Part of the catching up process noted above, Log Checking Reports are now available for the 2013 ARRL June VHF and August UHF contests.

While some ARRL RTTY Roundup log submitters received "late" notices from the email log-handling robot software on the final day before the deadline, all RTTY Roundup logs were accepted through Friday, February 7th. If you have any question about whether your log was accepted, check the ARRL's Logs Received page to be sure your log is listed there.

OPERATING TIP

The North American Sprint contests are different than the usual contests and take a little getting used to for new sprinters. Here are a few tips:

Call CQ! If the action is just too fast and furious, find a clear spot and call CQ. Somebody will find you! Don't forget that after calling CQ results in a QSO you have to move 5 kHz before you can CQ again or 1 kHz to call someone else.

At the end of a CQ, follow your call with "NA" on CW or "Sprint" on phone so other sprinters don't assume you're calling some other station.

If you can set up your logging software this way or just remember to do it, follow the sprint conventions sending your call sign in the exchange: If you called CQ and are responding to a caller, send their call followed by your call, number, name, and QTH. If you are responding to a CQ'ers exchange, send your call at the end of your exchange. Doing so alerts the other sprinters that you will be inheriting the frequency and...jump ball!

Don't forget to acknowledge that you received the information in the exchange. On CW, send "R" or something long enough to be heard through the din. On phone, "Thanks" will do. If you don't acknowledge or send something too short (like a single "dit") the other station may not log your QSO, resulting in a Not-In-the-Log (NIL) for you!

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

Double-up on tower safety in the winter! Faults and failures don't wait for good weather and sometimes you just have to climb in the cold. If you do, Kelly

Hill from RCR Wireless wrote up this helpful article about cold weather tower work. (Thanks, Eric W3DQ)

How much air flow is enough through an amplifier tube or tube chimney? Roger K8RI suggests just start by measuring pressure drop across the tube using the simple manometer design in the ARRL Handbook. If the pressure drop is right, then by definition you have the right amount of air flow. You might not want to run a blower at full throttle all the time since they can be pretty noisy. Roger's solution is to use a temperature sensor in the exhaust air to control a high/low setting for the blower. A switch to put the blower on HIGH will be helpful during digital operation.

John G4ATA's nice web page on low-band 4-squares and other arrays has been updated after a period of inactivity. He has plans for a new 4-square on 40 meters for a portable operation in the CQ WPX Phone contest and will be testing it during the preceding Russian DX Contest.

During my recent visit to the Arecibo Observatory, I noticed some new antennas at the bottom of the big dish shown in the photo at right. I dropped an email to Dr. Jim Breakall, better known as WA3FET, who explained his latest project. "There are 3 crossed-dipoles for 5.1 MHz and another 3 for 8.175 MHz forming an array that will beam energy up to a net mesh reflector that will hang from the 3 big towers. This "cassegrain" reflector will then reflect energy back down to the 1000-foot dish and beam 100s of megawatts up to the ionosphere to modify it. Each of the dipoles is fed from a 100 kW transmitter giving a total transmitted power of 600 kW. With the gain of the dish even at HF, that produces 100s of megawatts." I wonder if he could split the difference and get on 40 meters during Sweepstakes!

Three projects caught my eye in recent emails from the Instructables website. The first is a Foot-Operated Hold-Down Tool that I can easily see being used in the antenna shop. Anyone who has hauled a big piece of equipment in the trunk will get some ideas from the article on Configurable Cargo Blocks. And if you really want to protect your bike-mounted radio, our favorite Pelican case makes an appearance in this handlebar-mounted basket for radio geeks! (Thanks, Frank KR1ZAN)

Any teachers of analog circuit design reading this issue? I know you're out there...I have been such an instructor and enjoyed this flyer from Analog

Devices features their tools for helping students effectively learn analog design. Whether you use the Analog Devices gear or not, there is plenty to consider about the types of tools to use.

For HFTA users who haven't dealt with MicroDEM in a while, HFTA's author, Dean N6BV observes that USGS changes the data access websites for terrain data fairly frequently. This causes MicroDEM to fail or get the wrong stuff. Dean suggests "that you do a complete re-install of MicroDEM -- I suggest that you first uninstall the version you have on your computer now. Then go to www.usna.edu/Users/oceano/pguth/website/microdem/microdemdown.htm and download the "Complete MICRODEM Install". Run it, followed by downloading the latest executable microdem.exe. This should properly install all the various files that MicroDEM needs to function properly." John VA7JW has written an impressive how-to guide for HFTA and MicroDEM beginners that is worth reviewing. There is also a Potomac Valley Radio Club webinar on the process that has been archived by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation. USGS has confirmed that they have discontinued the GeoTIFF data format that contained the needed .GIF file, as a cost-cutting measure. For the moment, at least, you can still get un-updated GeoTIFF. The default format is ArcGrid, just as it used to be direct from USGS, but you can modify your data request to change to GeoTIFF. (Thanks, Pete N4ZR)

Technical Web Site of the Week - This Microwaves & RF magazine article on using origami paper-folding techniques to compress antennas is a great example of innovative thinking.

CONVERSATION

The Boundary Problem, Part One

As technology continues to drive widespread change throughout ham radio, radiosport is by no means immune. In fact, radiosport is on the "bleeding edge" of those changes in many instances. While adopting and inventing new technology is an important aspect of radiosport -- and of ham radio, generally -- it also presents continual challenges to our assumptions about how competitions are defined and organized.

A lot has changed since the early days of contesting when the edgy technology discussions were about 2 meter AM alerting channels and learning to hold the logging pencil while you sent code with a Halli-

crafters HA-1 electronic keyer and single-lever paddle. Yet by and large, our categories are still more or less as they were a half-century ago with the sometimes-grudging addition of "assisted" classifications that create more confusion than clarity. Onward into the 21st century -- do the new technologies of ubiquitous data and computer-controlled multi-radio shacks require a completely new game? Certainly, novel types of contests can and will be created but it's still necessary to agree on the basic definitions and relationships. That's usually where the trouble, er, fun begins. Addressing these questions is the topic of this multi-part series with the intent of encouraging discussions of where and how we go forward from here.

The basic architecture of radiosport contesting is defined by the following things; boundaries, the information that crosses them, the equipment within those boundaries, and the operation of that equipment.

Boundaries are the standard lines-on-a-map that have been around a long time. For instance, the CQ World Wide Contest rules require all of the equipment to be within a 500-meter diameter circle and the ARRL's Affiliated Club Competition rules specify a 175-mile diameter circle for Unlimited and Medium clubs. Circles seem popular! We understand physical boundaries but what about other types? Abstract sorts of boundaries might also apply to off-site computing services or data-sharing in cyberspace somehow. Future contests will have to address these and similar issues.

Information means any data or signals pertaining to other stations participating in the contest. This is a more inclusive way of referring to all of the radio signals, spotting information, Internet messages, telephone calls, etc that relate to what a station is doing, on or off the air. Contest rules can limit what information can be produced (power limits, bands of operation), what information can be received (limits on spots and non-radio communications like telephone calls), and specify what information must be exchanged and recorded. Contest rules can restrict the information allowed to cross boundaries, as well, and in either direction -- either incoming or outgoing.

Equipment is any device or program used to generate, process, transmit, or receive information.

Another broad group, this includes everything from the antenna to the software used to log contacts.

Some contests place no restrictions on equipment -- use whatever you have. Other contests restrict the use of certain types of equipment, such as automated decoders or lockout devices. Stations consist of equipment within a boundary defined by the contest sponsor.

Operation is the exercise of a control function on any of the equipment or use of information to affect a submitted log or score. In other words, how the equipment and information are used in order to produce the contest entry. Operators are the entities (human or otherwise) that engage in operation. Well, duh! Why that fine distinction? Some contests might restrict the use of automated devices that perform control functions, such as spotting other stations. Or perhaps the rules specify whether the operator must be physically located within the station boundary.

That's plenty to get us started. It seems awfully basic but so are bricks and that's what buildings are made of. Creating a sturdy building requires good bricks and a plan for using them. And that's where we will pick up the thread next time!

73, Ward NØAX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the ARRL Contest Update.

DX News

by Jim, K6JS

4S, SRI LANKA (Update/Reminder). Sigi, DL7DF, will lead a team of operators to activate Sri Lanka (AS-003) between March 10-23rd. Operators mentioned are Manfred/DK1BT, Csaba/DH7KU, Tom/DJ6TF, Manfred/DK1BT, Georg/DK7LX, Wolf/DL4WK, Sigi/DL7DF, Juergen/DL7UFN, Frank/DL7UFR, Jan/SP3CYY and Leszek/SP3DOI. Pilot station for this DXpedition is Bernd, DF3CB. A callsign has not yet been announced (possibly 4S7DFG, 4S7FRG and 4S7LXG).

Activity will be on 160-6 meters using several stations operating CW and SSB. One station will be exclusively dedicated to RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. Equipment will consist of 4 transceivers (3 x K2, 1 x FT857D), 2 x 18 m lowband vertical, a delta-loop vertical for 40m, a delta-loop vertical for 30m, 2 spiderbeam for 20/17/15/12/10m, a 5 element yagi for 6m and some beverage antennas. QSL via

DL7DF, direct or by the Bureau. They will upload the full logs of the DXpedition to LoTW within 6 months after the DXpedition. For more details and updates, visit:

<http://www.dl7df.com/4s7/index.php>

5H, TANZANIA. Arne, OH2NNE, is once again active as 5H2DK from from Sanya Juu until March 23rd. He states that he will use the "same setup as last time. Hope for less QRN on 40m. If so, I will also try to be QRV on 80m." Activity will then be on 80-10 meters on SSB only. Suggested frequencies are: 3790, 7120, 14250, 18150, 21250, 24950 and 28450 kHz. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct. Log will be uploaded to ClubLog, LoTW and his Web page. For more details and updates, see:

<http://www.saunalahti.fi/arnyl>

5H3MB, Tanzania – Mar 14 to Apr 11 – QSL via LotW – Op: IK2GZU from Ilembula; QSL also OK via IK2GZU, Buro or direct

5V7, Togo – Mar 23 to Mar 31 – QSL via Home Call PA3CWN – Op: F5MVB as 5V7MP and F5AOW as 5V7BJ; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct (US\$2 or 1 IRC, w/ SAE)

7P8PB, Lesotho – Mar 14 to Apr 03 - QSL via LotW, EI7CC – Op: EI7CC; from 7P8CC; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via EI7CC, EI Buro or direct

8P, BARBADOS. Alex, DD5ZZ, is now active as 8P9BZ from Dover Beach until March 13th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using mainly the Digital modes with an an IC-7000 and a MP1 mobile antenna. QSL via DD5ZZ, by the DARC QSL Bureau or direct.

9J, ZAMBIA. A group of operators are QRV as 9J2T until March 17. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via I2YSB.

9X, RWANDA. Nick, G3RWF will be QRV as 9X0NH from Kigali from March 3 to 12. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW with some SSB. This includes being an entry in the upcoming BERU contest. QSL to home call.

BP0, TAIWAN. Members of the Amateur Radio Taipei (ART) will be active from BU2AQ's QTH as BP0P during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th) as a Multi-2 entry. Operators mentioned are: Tang/BM2AAV, Zhang/BV1ED, Eddie/BV2DD, Evan/BV2KS, Lee/BV2NT and Lee/BX2AB. QSL via BP0P. The team will be active between March 28-30th, on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL also OK via ART QSL Service.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE. Gerard, ZS6AYU, will once again be active as C91GR from Bilene between March 16-19th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters, usually CW only, using a Cushcraft R7000 vertical and 350 watts. QSL via ZS6AYU, direct or by the Bureau.

FR, Reunion – Mar 07 to Mar 15 - QSL Via OK2KG – Op: OK2KG as FR/OK2KG
Bands/Mode: 40-10m; CW SSB; holiday style operation; QSL OK via Buro or direct

FR, Reunion – Mar 16 to Apr 08 – QSL via F5MNW – Op: F5MNW as FR/F5MNW –
Band/Modes: HF; CW

HP, PANAMA (IOTA Op). Operators Simone/IK5RUN and Danio/I5OYY will arrive in Panama on March 14th, and depart on April 2nd. They will live aboard and sail the Caribbean Sea on the Catamaran "Cush", and plan to activate two Panamanian islands (possibly more). Simone informs OPDX that they will be active as HP2/IK5RUN and HP2/I5OYY from the San Blas Province IOTA Group (NA-170, San Blas Archipelago) and the Colon-Veraguas North Province IOTA Group (NA-202). The skipper of the "Cush" is also a ham radio operator (Claudio, IZ5VTC), but is not interested in operating. Activity will be holiday style on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They will use a TS-480 with 200w and an IC-7000 with an amp into vertical and wire antennas. They will also have a little yagi for 6m. QSL HP2/IK5RUN via IK5RUN direct with a SASE + 3 USDS or use the ClubLog OQRS (Preferred). QSL HP2/I5OYY via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW. For more details and updates, visit: <http://www.ik5run.it/hp2.html>

MJ5Z, Jersey – Mar 14 to Mar 16 – QSL via LotW, M0CFW – Op: M0CFW - QRV for Russian DX Contest and BARTG RTTY Contest; QSL also OK via M0CFW

OA, PERU. Hutch, NK0S (HL9HP, YS9HH, HP1XHH), will be active as OA4/NK0S from the Radio Club of Peru club station between March 12-25th. Activity will be holiday style primarily on SSB, but possibly some CW and Digital. He will upload his log to LoTW after his return. QSL via his home callsign.

PZ, SURINAME. Will, ON4AVT will be QRV as PZ5VC from Saramacca from March 1 to 28. Activity will be on the HF bands using mainly PSK31/63. QSL to home call.

TO7BC, Mayotte - Mar 21 to Apr 04 – QSL via DL7BC – Op:DL7BC – Bands/Modes: 20-10m, perhaps 40m; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct; QRV for CW WPX SSB Contest

T8, PALAU, David, VK3BY will be QRV as T88XT from Malakal Island, IOTA OC-009, from March 8 to 14. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using SSB. QSL to home call.

VK9NF, Norfolk Is. – Mar 15 to Mar 22 – QSL Via K8NF – Op:NL8F Bands/Modes: mainly digital; may use VK9N/NL8F

TX6G, Austral Is – Mar 20 to Apr 01 – QSL Vis LotW, G3XTT – Ops:G3BJ G3SVL G3TXF G3WGN G3XTT G4JKS G4TSH from Raivavae I (OC-114) – Bands/Modes: all bands; CW SSB RTTY; 3 stations; K3s + amplifiers; beach vertical arrays; QSL also OK via G3TXF and ClubLog OQRS

VK9MT, Mellish Reef – Mar 28 to Apr 09 – QSL via M0URX OQRS available

VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND. Operators K7CO and K7CXN will be QRV as VK9X/K7CO from March 1 to 11. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL direct to K7CO.

SOUTH SHETLANDS ISLANDS. Alexander, RX0QM is a member of the 59th

Russian Antarctic Expedition and is going to be QRV as RI59ANT beginning March 10 on Base Bellingshausen. QSL via operator's instructions.

VU4K, Andaman Is – Mar 23 to Mar 30 – QSL via W4VKU OQRS – Op:W4VKU from Port Blair – Band/Modes: HF; SSB RTTY

XU, CAMBODIA. John, KF0RQ will be QRV as XU7ACQ from Phnom Penh from February 25 to March 21 while on a family visit. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and digital modes. QSL to home call.

ZL7, Chatham Is. – Mar 13 to Mar 26 – QSL via OE2SNL Ops:OE2SNL as ZL7/OE2SNL from OC-038; Bands/Modes: 80-10m; focus on RTTY, also CW

ZL7AAA, Chatham Is – Mar 20 to Apr 01 - QSL via VE7NY OP:ZS1FJ VE7NY OE2SNL ZL1GMB. Band/Modes: HF; SSB CW RTTY

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS. W1AW Centennial Stations W1AW/7 in Idaho and W1AW/4 in Kentucky are QRV until 2359z on 11 March. In addition, W1AW Centennial Stations W1AW/7 in Arizona and W1AW/8 in Ohio will be QRV starting at 0000z on March 12. They will be active until 2359z on March 18.

Thanks to OPDX, NG3K and ARRL DX Reports

Propagation de K7RA

The Spring Equinox is only two weeks away! Hope for continued high solar activity here at the peak of the cycle. Plenty of great 10 meter propagation is in store.

Average daily sunspot numbers were up for the recent reporting period (February 27 through March 5) and average daily solar flux decreased slightly, compared to the previous seven days. Average daily sunspot numbers increased nearly 29 points to 202.4, and average daily solar flux was off a little more than four points to 162.9.

The latest predictions for solar flux over the near

term have steadily declined over the past ten days. The predicted average solar flux for the ten day period between March 7-16 was 161.5 in the February 25 forecast, 156 in the March 1 outlook, 138.5 on March 3, 135.5 on March 5, and 132 on March 6.

Predicted solar flux is 145 on March 7, 135 and 130 on March 8-9, 125 on March 10-11, 130 on March 12, 135 on March 13-14, 130 on March 15-17, 135 on March 18-20, 145 on March 21, 155 on March 22-24, and peaking at just 160 on March 25-27. It then declines to a low of 120 on April 11-13.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on March 7, 12 on March 8, 10 on March 9-10, 8 on March 11, and 5 on March 12 through April 4.

The revision is a smoothed sunspot peak of 69 late last summer (2013) from 67 earlier in the same summer in the report a month earlier. These numbers are only recently known because the smoothed sunspot number uses a whole year of data. If activity continues to increase, then it will drag this smoothed maximum further out, perhaps to early this year. But there definitely is a strong second peak happening now, stronger than the first.

The average of daily sunspot numbers for February 2014 was the highest of the current solar cycle at 174.6. In fact, the last time it was higher was the month of September 2002, when it was 206.4.

We've been running our own smoothed 3-month moving average of sunspot numbers, and now that February is over we know the average for the three months centered on January 2014: 138.5. This is also a high for this solar cycle. You may recall that this cycle seemed to have an earlier peak based on this moving average toward the end of 2011, when the averages centered on September through December 2011 were 98.6, 118.8, 118.6 and 110. Compare that to this most recent peak, with these 3 month averages centered on August 2013 through January 2014: 77.4, 91.2, 102.9, 123.7, 123.3, and 138.5 mentioned earlier.

Sunspot numbers for February 27 through March 5 were 227, 279, 177, 170, 191, 171, and 202, with a mean of 202.4. 10.7 cm flux was 175.7, 170.6,

164.6, 161.3, 161, 158, and 149.1, with a mean of 162.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 24, 13, 7, 5, 7, 8, and 7, with a mean of 10.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 15, 10, 6, 3, 6, 8, and 6, with a mean of 7.7.

Thanks to ARRL Propagation report de K7RA

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club will hold their annual Hamfest on Saturday, April 26th, 8 am to 12 noon. The swap meet features indoor and outdoor spaces, breakfast, VE testing session, station demos and a Fox Hunt. They will have a special exhibit of vehicles that support emergency communications, radio control helicopter using 70cm and an on the air demo of FreeDV digital voice on HF.

Where:

Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building
126 First Street West
Sonoma
For info: 707-935-7441

Admission: FREE

Breakfast: \$8.00

Talk-in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 pl)

map: www.vomarc.org

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST)

Remember to change your clocks this weekend.

Daylight Saving Time happens this Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 AM, and should move their "local clocks" forward 1 hour to 3:00:00 AM local time. Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00 AM. European countries will switch to DST on March 30th. For the history and details about DST, as well as an interesting map of the world (showing the countries who observe DST), see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time

<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/dst/2014.html>

ADDED NOTES: Hopefully, all amateur radio

operators know not to change their GMT/UTC/ZULU clocks. However, since most operators usually set their computers to local time, some may have to change their settings on "some" ham radio software (ex. logging, propagation, DXTelnet, etc..) programs.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Mar 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 29-30	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 4-6	Visalia Int'l DX Convention
Apr 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 19-20	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest
Apr 26	VOMARC Hamfest and Flea Mkt
May 10-11	CQ-M International DX Contest
May 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 24-25	CQ WW WPX CW
Jun 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 14-16	ARRL June VHF
Jun 28-29	ARRL Field Day

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.

Honor Roll Page Update

The REDXA Honor Roll published in Sunspots was started in hopes of sparking members' interest in some friendly competition amongst club members and it has spurred some additional activity since its inception. If you're interested in joining, please send me your numbers and to get your call on the list.

Honor Roll Page:

The REDXA Honor roll page published in Sunspots is a friendly, fun page to track club members DX accomplishments and to foster activity within the club. The honor roll has increased activity within the club and inspired folks that have worked them all to become more active. It is self sustaining, meaning members send in their accomplishments to me, I will not solicit them. Please contact me if you want to track other categories (grid squares, counties, etc). We've had good participation from our small, but active club.

Rules for the REDXA Honor Roll Listings.

Provide me with your total DXCC worked counts for the categories listed below. (including deleted). WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters. The 1.5K Club is your total for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10. Your call will be in bold when you reach 1.5K. Countries do not count until HQ Awards Committee takes action and announces a start date for a new country. I will manage the rest.

Six Meter Report

by Bob, K6QXY

Bob, K6QXY reports the magic band is starting to come alive finally. On 2/12 he worked ZL1RS @ 0005Z, VK4MA @ 0133Z, FK8CP @ 0208Z and ZL1RS @ 2304Z. For Valentine's day he worked ZL1RS @ 0038Z again. On 2/19 he got lucky with some F back scatter and F2 direct to KP4EIT @ 1806Z, V31LF @ 1811Z, HR/K2LCT @ 1814Z and he heard the TI2NA/B & YS1YS/B. A few hours later ZL1RS @ 2142Z, ZL3NW @ 2228Z, ZL3JT @ 2233Z were in the log. On 2/22 CE2AWW was heard @ 2151Z and the next day he worked FK8CP @ 2233Z. The next day, beaming 200 degrees, he logs KH7Y @ 1952Z, LU7YZ @

2119Z, CE2AWW @ 2123Z, ZL3NW @ 2225Z on a skewed F2 layer back scatter. The 24th sees CE2AWW back in the log @ 2155Z. Once again hearing FK8CP @ 0320Z the very next day. On the 28th Bob reports hearing strong MUZAK sigs at 47.9 & 48.2 MHZ via Tran-Equatorial Propagation (TEP) to South America. These MUZAK channels originate from Chile and are a good indicator for TEP. He later works CE2AWW @ 2136Z with an RST of 519. March starts off with hearing FK8CP again on 3/2 @ 0114Z and on the 4th LU7WF & LU7YS @ 2020Z are heard. This link is not yet extending far enough to the North.

Six Meter DXCC standings by U.S. Call Area

Call Area	Call	DXCC
(1)	K1TOL	186
(2)	K2ZD	187
(3)	W3JO	160
(4)	K4MM	160
(5)	W5OZI	169
(6)	K6QXY	173
(7)	W7GJ	191
(8)	K8MFO	156
(9)	W9RPM	132
(0)	NW0W	150

CANADA

VE1YX 183

WORLD

ON4GG 252



REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS					
30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	326	W6XA	335	W6XA	327
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
KC6AWX	258	N6OJ	322	N6OJ	252
N6OJ	238	KC6AWX	307	KC6AWX	263
W6SFK	177	W6SFK	246	W6SFK	164
K6ANP	169	N7PIB	167	N6IE	134
N6IE	165	N6IE	165	N7PIB	120
K6SRZ	154	K6ANP	162	K6SRZ	106
AI6II	14	K6SRZ	143	N6GY	77
K6JS/m	10	N6GY	116	K6ANP	72
N6GY	7	K6JS/m	45	K6JS/m	26
		AI6II	41		

W6SFK adds 24 new ones! Jumps 3 spots up.

SFK adds 15

W6SFK adds 15 new ones

ARRL DX Challenge	
W6XA	2985
K6RIM	2530
KC6AWX	2336
N6OJ	2231
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1770
W6SFK	1466
N6IE	1256
N7PIB	1123

N6OJ passes K6ANP for the 4th spot

160 Meters	
W6XA	224
W6OSP	178
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	150
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	59
KC6AWX	49
N6IE	37
N7PIB	15
W6SFK	9

KC6AWX adds 22, Inv L is workin'!

1.5K Club	
W6XA	1689
K6RIM	1588
KC6AWX	1434
N6OJ	1420
K6ANP	1371
K6SRZ	1124
N6IE	1043
W6SFK	878
N6GY	148

OJ passes ANP again

Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.
 Provide me with your total countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Countries do not count until HQ Awards Committee takes action and announces a start date for a new country.

Six Meter DXCC	
K6QXY	173
W6XA	130
KC6AWX	15
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
N6OJ	5
W6SFK	2

N6OJ enters the fray on the magic band

RTTY/Digital	
N6OJ	304
KC6AWX	302
K6RIM	253
W6SFK	208
N6IE	185
W6XA	162
K6SRZ	140
K6ANP	123
N6GY	86

W6SFK gets 19 new ones!

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:
Jselmi@hotmail.com
 Updated 3-7-14

Mobile DX	
N7PIB	121
K6JS	113
W6SFK	3

K6JS adds 2 new ones - Vroom!

DXCC Mixed	
K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6OSP	353
W6XA	352
KC6AWX	348
K6SRZ	346
W6SFK	288
AI6II	241
N6GY	232
K6JS	212

W6SFK works 6 new ones

Contest scores

NAQP RTTY

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Mults	Score
K6LRN	SOLP	9:36	569	191	108,679
W6SFK	SOLP	7:30	575	174	100,500
K6TU	SOLP	10	580	173	100,340
K6SRZ	SOLP	3:45	209	107	22,363
N6ZFO	SOLP	3:15	193	105	20,265
K6ELE		4.5	121		9,317

K6ELE – First contest for NCCC

K6TU - FlexRadio 6700, SteppIR DB18E at 50',80m broadband dipole at 50' FlexControl & K6TU Control iPad App - Solid effort with full BIC time.

K6LRN – Thanks for all the Q's

N6ZFO - With only a short time available I swept through the bands as quickly as possible starting about 2130Z, just catching the end of 10m. The bonus of following the crowd down-band is some very good rates . . . a couple times the rate meter hit 140. Had to quit too early for 80m, so score is low. Got a few 599's, and one or two who responded "TU BILL . . ." but in general ops were fairly proficient. Glad to catch Hiram on a couple bands from FL.

K6SRZ - I got on to give the participation multiplier, but stayed a little longer (between basketball, olympics, and dinner with XYL).

CQ WW RTTY WPX

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Pfx	Score
W6SFK	SOAB HP	8:00	441	234	184,861

ARRL DX CW

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Mults	Score
K6RIM	SOUHP	17.6	693	339	704,781
N6YEU	SOLP		589	219	386,973

K6RIM - The propagation numbers for the contest period looked discouraging, but I found conditions good to excellent on all of the bands. From the West Coast, 40M had good EU openings during the evening. 20M opened early to EU and stayed open in the afternoon and evening. Even had some decent morning openings on 10M to EU. But found little activity from Africa.

Normally, I run HP with an Alpha 9500. Recently, I acquired an Elecraft KPA500 as a backup amplifier, and I used the KPA500 during the entire contest. So I ran 500 watts instead of 1,500. How much difference could I detect? Virtually none! The little KPA500 performed like a champ and I never found myself wishing for more power.

N6YEU - I had a ball. Very good condx.

ARRL DX SSB

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Mults	Score
K6RIM	SOUHP	10.9	453	255	346,454
N6YEU	SOAB LP		264	124	98,208

N6YEU - Nice to see ten meters open so well both days.

K6RIM - Solar storms caused generally poor propagation EXCEPT for 10 meters, which had great openings from the West Coast to EU.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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MEETING: MARCH 12, 2014

