

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

VOLUME 38

NUMBER 3

MARCH 2017

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Bill Sirvatka, WX6B
PO Box 3602
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
billys95404@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Gabe Krupa, KJ6AZU
PO Box 750273
Petaluma, CA 94975
kj6azu@bluekelp.com

SECRETARY:

Rick Sealock, N6GY
1372 Miramonte Place
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
rickseal@sonic.net

TREASURER:

Bill Zaner, W6IYS
4661 Valley Quail Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
w6iys@arrl.net

DIRECTORS:

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ
210 Nila Mae Way
Penngrove, CA 94951
H (707) 665-5790
doctore@well.com

Josh Fiden, W6XU
4590 Timber Lane
Occidental, CA 95465
H (707) 874-3940
w6xu@arrl.net

Fred Leoni, N6YEU
9627 Westside Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448
H (707) 431-8202
n6yeu@aol.com

CONTEST CHAIRMAN:

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

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 8, 2017 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 by President Bill, WX6B, who will talk a bit about DX, Club Log and upcoming Dxpeditions for 2017.



REDXA President's commentary

Hello REDXA Members!

As I write this editorial I am reminded that one if not the most difficult parts of this job is to get a presenter to drive to Petaluma California. I've exhausted all my options locally and I guess the weather, work and drive is too much for many of those in the Bay Area who would be likely to visit us in the month of March. Since there is a sense of failure on my part I have decided to be the guest speaker this month and if time permits I have resorted to a short DVD on a past Dxpedition.

In my "Great" "Huge" presentation, I will be following John/K6MM's footsteps regarding why we do what we do. If you look at the demo-

graphics of our club we have quite a variety of talent, skills, age and knowledge regarding amateur radio. It's always a difficult thing to choose a subject that will inform, educate and entertain everyone. So, we do what we can to keep you enlightened and awake at each of our meetings. This month I'd like to talk a bit about DX, Club Log and upcoming Dxpeditions for 2017. If you look at the name of our club we really are a DX club. For whatever reason, we are driven to chase the elusive DX and strive for that Honor Roll award. We spend a great deal of time, energy and money to log in a new 59 or 599 contact in our log book and share the excitement of working something new. I can't explain it and frankly there may not be a logical reason for why we do this. We are a very exclusive niche and we embrace this hobby for many personal reasons. So, it will be my goal to educate some of the new/younger hams with regards to various Dx tools that are at our disposal, how to dissect some of the information in Club Log and where to look for the upcoming and rare Dx in 2017/2018. It is a nice refresher for some and I always look to our quaint group for their input and knowledge that they need to keep sharing with the younger members in this hobby.

As I look past March we still have quite a good line up of speakers and just today Dx Engineering contacted me to set up a Skype program which has never been done. So I will be doing all I can to maintain the excitement and passion we have for this unique hobby. We have Elecraft, Ian Parker, Kristen McIntyre, Jim Brown, Michael DG1CMZ/W6, possibly Paul N6PSE and Jim Colletto, Field Day planning meeting, Fred with NPOTA, a short presentation by Robert Devine KC6AWX from the Qsl Bureau and whatever else I can dredge up. It's challenging but we'll keep you coming back for more.

Lastly as my elmer mentioned to me this week..... sometimes it's just nice to BS with the guys and share stories and lies. Don't lose sight of the fun factor of our group and getting to know one another!

WX6B

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 2017

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 2017 MEETING MINUTES

by Bill, WX6B

Bill Zaner discussed the usual funds in our accounts and that he would arrange to send flowers to KE6UAR/Jim Robinson's home. He mentioned only 50% of members are paid up and they need to send in their dues. John Miller our guest presenter did a great job talking about "Why we do what we do"!

I talked to Dan the owner of Boulevard Café and he's not going to charge us for any corkage fee if we bring in our own wine. If our group would like a menu change they should discuss this with me so I can pass it on to Boulevard Café.

Jim Selmi is going to see about getting a second table for the Visalia DX Convention for us. Steppir will be offering free shipment of their equipment by bringing it to Visalia if you order by mid March.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

Here is the link for the News Summary:
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Mar 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 25-26	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 21-23	Intl DX Convention Visalia
Apr 29	VOMARC Hamfest
May 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 19-21	Dayton Hamvention 2017
May 27-28	CQ WW WPX CW
Jun 10-12	ARRL June VHF Contest
Jun 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 24-25	ARRL Field Day
Jul 8-9	IARU HF World Championship
Jul 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jul 15-16	North American QSO Party RTTY
Jul 29-30	RSGB IOTA Contest
Aug 5-6	North American QSO Party CW
Aug 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 19-20	North American QSO Party SSB

If you have events that you would like to have posted here, PLEASE let me know!

Refer to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more contest information.

Dues Reminder

For those who have not yet paid their annual dues, please remember to do so at the upcoming March meeting. Dues are \$20 for single members, \$25 for a family and \$18.50 for full time students under 18. You can make your payment by check or cash. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can mail your dues to: REDXA, PO Box 750834, Petaluma CA, 94975-0834. All checks should be made out to "REDXA".

Bill, W6IYS
Treasurer

GROWING HAM RADIO - WRONG EMPHASIS

Several organizations take great pride in the number of people who take their test preparation, often one day classes. And, they point out the large proportion of those who pass their ham exams. (One Day Wonders!) They fail to take into account the LARGE proportion of newly licensed hams that NEVER do anything with their new license, and often fail to upgrade, before their license expires. I feel the emphasis must be put on those that pass AND become active hams!

Some say that the equipment is too expensive. My first radio was a Yaesu FT-101E that cost me three months salary to purchase in 1972. Think what three months salary will buy you TODAY!!!! Usually a complete station with a tower, antenna, tuner, etc.!

Others say they only got licensed in case of emergencies. How well prepared will they be if an emergency happens? With no knowledge of how to adequately work their radios, antenna basics, or propagation factors, they become what we in the Emergency Services Field call "convergent volunteers". They are only useful under the direct supervision of more experienced hams, trained in Emergency Services. Having someone who doesn't know how to operate their or others equipment is NOT AN ASSET!

Some say they just want to contact their family and loved ones. In an emergency, they KNOW that their cell phones will be all but useless. They will be dismayed to find that the VHF-UHF bands will be clogged with emergency traffic. They will find the repeaters and simplex frequencies will be unavailable to them because of the large amounts of traffic, and those that want to know the latest of what's going on. Even HF (which requires greater knowledge of bands and propagation) will be confusing to them.

The answer lies in supporting the new hams with help ("Elmering") and support. We need to introduce them to the fun and rewards in rag chewing, chasing DX, emergency preparedness, antenna building, chasing DXpeditions, working short and long "skip", and/or participating in ham club activi-

Bal. Brt. Fwd.	2/1/17				<u>\$3,367.92</u>
Receipts					
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$	54.00		
	Dues	\$	345.00		
	Total receipts				<u>\$399.00</u>
Disbursements					
	Guest Dinners	\$	50.00		
	Annual Contribution to NCDXF	\$	250.00		
	Flowers (KE6UAR) SK	\$	82.84		
	Total Disbursements				<u>\$382.84</u>
Cash Flow					\$ 16.16
Balance 2/28/2017					<u>\$3,384.08</u>

ties like Field Day, bicycle rides, and special events, amateur television, packet, just to name a few. The list is endless! We can help them find the equipment that meets their needs and budget.

So, find a new ham and let them know of YOUR availability. The GREATEST certificate I ever received was the ARRL "ELMER AWARD". I have it prominently displayed in the center of my wall. All the DXCC, Contest Winner, WAS, WAC certificates ("wall paper") are displayed off to the sides, as is proper.

Rick Sealock N6GY
REDXA Recording Secretary
Sonoma County Department of Fire and Emergency Services/ACS South County Assistant Unit Leader
ARRL Volunteer Examiner

Visalia DX Convention Banquet Dinner Seating

The Visalia DX convention is just around the corner on April 21st to 23rd. KH6GJV Bill already filled one table for the Saturday night banquet dinner.

I'm organizing another table of 8, we have 3 spots left.

Please send me your call and name to get a seat at a table. **Email jselmi@hotmail.com.**

Current status:
N6IE
K6JS
K6ANP
K6RIM
WA6ECH

The 68th Annual Visalia International DX Convention

The 68th Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club. Will be held at the Visalia Convention Center April 21st – 23rd 2017.

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Don't forget the raffle prizes which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention!

REDXA always has a large representation at this annual convention with upwards of 20 members making the trip south. Don't forget your REDXA badges, hats and shirts.

The beautiful Visalia Convention Center, will once again host the IDXC. The Convention Center has 17 meeting rooms and 2 Board Rooms, which allows for several concurrent presentations.

The Center can easily handle 80 to 100 Vendors in their Exhibit Hall, as well as a banquet for 1,000 attendees.

There is ample free parking in the area and convenient shuttle busses running to nearby hotels.

Food and beverage needs will be catered by the recently remodeled Marriott Hotel, which is the host hotel immediately adjacent to the Convention Center.

Don't miss the Saturday Banquet Presentation on

the **The Funny Side Of Radio**, by Bob Beebe, GU4YOX.

Tickets and rooms are still available. For you procrastinators, rooms always become available on the NCCC email list a week or 2 before the event. For additional information check out their website <http://www.dxconvention.com/>

We hope to see a lot of REDXA members in Visalia.

Jim, K6JS

Contest Scores

by Jim, K6JS

ARRL DX Contest, CW 2017 Feb 18

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
K6JS	660	227	28:31	449,460
K6ANP	589	178		313,992
K6RIM	408	209		255,816
K6MM	375	158	11	177,276

SO Unlimited LP

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
K6CTA	135	115		46,575
N3RC	28	18		1,512

SOAB HP

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
K6SRZ	441	223	13	307,560
W6SFK	151	101	6:00	45,753

M/S HP

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
N6ZFO & N0KQ	433	130	15:15	168,870

ARRL RTTY Roundup 2017 Jan 7

Single Op HP

Call	QSOs	St/Prov	Ctries	OpTime	Score
W6SFK	1068	55	20	16:41	80,100
K6SRZ	721	53	18	14:43	51,191
K6LRN	347	46	23	9.75	23,943

Single Op LP

Call	QSOs	St/Prov	Cntries	OpTime	Score
N6OJ	410	49	11	12	24,600

SO Unlimited HP

Call	QSOs	St/Prov	Cntries	OpTime	Score
N6IE	1535	54	40	22.5	144,290
K6MM	631	54	27	15.5	51,111

SO Unlimited LP

Call	QSOs	St/Prov	Cntries	OpTime	Score
K6CTA	121	33	6		4,719

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2017 Jan 27**Single Op LP**

Call	QSOs	St/Prov	Cntries	OpTime	Score
N3RC	121	33	4		10,767

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	QSOs	St/Prov	Cntries	Op Time	Score
K6SRZ	295	44	12	6	46,920
N6IE	205	46	10	2.8	30,968
K6MM	185	49	9	6	28,014

North American QSO Party, CW 2017**Single Op LP**

Call	QSOs	Mults	OpTime	Score	Team
K6SRZ	953	182	10:00	173,446	NCCC Tm#2
N6ZFO	755	184	9:30	138,920	NCCC Tm#2
K6RIM	513	138		70,794	NCCC Tm#4
K6LRN	357	119	~7.5	42,483	NCCC Tm#4
N6IE	142	54	2.5	7,668	
W6SFK	87	56	2.5	4,872	
K6MM	25	20		500	NCCCTm11
K6CTA	16	13		208	
NM6E	9	5	2	45	NCCC Tm#8
K6JS	3	3	0:05	9	

North American QSO Party, SSB 2017**Single Op LP**

Call	QSOs	Mults	OpTime	Score	Team
N6IE	1206	153	10	184,518	NCCC Tm#1
K6SRZ	1030	154	10:00	158,620	NCCC Tm#1
N6ZFO	642	137	9:10	87,954	NCCC Tm#2
K6MM	511	113	6.5	57,743	NCCC Tm#2
K6LRN	363	119	8.25	43,197	NCCC Tm#4
N3RC	71	33		2,343	NCCC Tm#8
NM6E	45	27	6	1,215	NCCC Tm#6
K6JS	40	23	1.0	920	

BARTG RTTY Sprint 2017 Jan 28**Single Op HP**

Call	QSOs	Pts	Mults	Op Time	Score
W6SFK	111	28	6		18,648
K6ELE	11	9	1	.45	99

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 2017 Feb 11**M/S LP**

Call	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score
K6CTA	30	26		1,326

SOAB HP

Call	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score
WQ6K(N6IE)	1710	638	29.5	2,973,718
W6SFK	760	320	12:49	519,680
K6LRN	351	226	10.5~	212,892
AK6M(K6MM)	331	199	7.5	146,464
K6SRZ	203	146	5	56,648
K6RIM	128	96		22,656

SOAB LP

Call	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score
N3RC	66	51		4,437

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**

Nick Scotto
Manager
AK6DX

2210 Livingston Street
Oakland, CA 94606
(510) 534-5757 • 877-892-1745
(510) 534-0729 Fax
oakland@hamradio.com

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: MARCH 8, 2017

