

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, May 13, 2009 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
feature Rick "The Locust" Hilding, K6VVA,
telling us "How Not to Build a Remote Station" and
also relating a bit of his experiences contesting from
the British Virgin Islands as VP2VVA.**

REDXA President's Report

A Little Bit of Luck!

Sunday Morning April 19, 2009. I'm walking across the parking lot of the Visalia Holiday Inn, site of the annual International DX Convention. Also in the parking lot is our friend and REDXA Treasurer Jim Selmi (K6JS). So we start talking and I tell Jim that I'll soon be hitting the road back to Penngrove, but I want to stick around long enough to see who will win the convention raffle grand prize of an ICOM 7700.

"Oh," says Jim, "I already won it."

"Ha Ha" I say, thinking that Jim is making a joke. After all, I was at the banquet the night before and did not see the grand prize be awarded. Lots of other raffle prizes were awarded before the featured speaker. When the speaker finished, I and a lot of other attendees figured that was the end of the evening's activities. I went back to my room thinking the big prize would be awarded in the morning.

In fact, the big ICOM rig was awarded later that evening and the winner was really our own K6JS.



Congratulations Jim!

This month REDXA meeting features Rick “The Locust” Hilding, K6VVA, telling us “How Not to Build a Remote Station” and also relating a bit of his experiences contesting from the British Virgin Islands as VP2VVA.

Rick’s title is funny, but the subject is very relevant to ham radio today. All of us dream of having a home station “out in the country” and free from TVI/RFI and antenna restrictions. But for many of us, that’s just not possible. An alternative would be to locate our station on some inexpensive rural property and control it from home over land line or microwave link and suitable software. There’s been lots of work in this area, but there’s lots more to be done. Rick has been researching the problem for years and has been experimenting with a remote station at a rural California location known as “Locust Peak”.

This should be an entertaining and useful presentation.

I don’t know how many REDXA members are not ARRL members or how many of you are up for ARRL membership renewal, but if the number is five or more, here’s something that may be of interest:

The ARRL is sponsoring a “Springtime Membership Booster” for ARRL affiliated clubs, of which REDXA is one. If we can recruit new ARRL members or document membership renewal for current members for a total of five or more, the club will win a copy of the 2009 ARRL Handbook, which can later be raffled off. Further, for every new member, REDXA will retain \$15.00 of the membership fee and for every renewal \$2.00.

There’s more information at [HYPERLINK
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/forms/cluba
pp.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/forms/cluba pp.pdf)

If you fall into any of these categories, let me know and I’ll see about claiming our reward.

I’ll see you all at Mr. Magoo’s on May 13.

73, Alan/K6SRZ

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER’S REPORT

3/31/09 Balance Forward		\$3,230.99
INCOME		

Dues	100.00	
Raffle (April)	<u>37.50</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		137.50

EXPENSES		
FD Steppir Cables/ ARRL literature	290.00	
Meals	22.00	
NCCC CQP Plaque	<u>45.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(357.00)
4/30/09 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,011.49</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 APRIL 2009

by Doug, WW6D

The Board of Directors met at the QTH of club president Alan, K6SRZ on April 8, 2009 prior to the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm by Alan, K6SRZ. Board members present were Jim KE6UAR, Jim K6JS, Al K6RIM, Ron N6IE, Bob K6QXY and Doug WW6D. Guest was Bruce W6OSP, CW Field Day station “captain”. The main purpose of the meeting was to address renewals, upcoming programs, Field Day, and potential contributions by the club to specific DXpeditions.

Renewals. Jim K6JS reported that we have made progress in getting some past members to renew as well as long standing members. He distributed the latest roster to the Board. Other BOD members would help in this effort.

Programs for the upcoming months. Alan requested that Board members direct any possible program of interest to him. He presented the breakdown for the next few months:

May — VP2VVA by “the Locust” K6VVA plus a bonus on Remote Control operations.

June — Field Day preparation and presentation by Field Day committee.

July — World Premier of the ultimate Field Day video by K6SRZ.

August — “The Giants of Radio -- A History of Radio Technology” by Garry NI6T.

September — open.

October — open.

November — K4M Midway DXpedition.

December — Tradition Holiday Party and Raffle.

Field Day Update. Jim KE6UAR, with assistance from Ron N6IE, reported to the Board that progress has been made on this year’s Field Day. The combined Marin ARS and REDXA effort will be 2A + GOTA station. MARS will provide the GOTA station, VHF/UHF station (potentially) and computer networking; REDXA will provide the SSB and CW stations. SSB station captain will be Ron N6IE and CW station captain will be Bruce W6OSP. Jim KE6UAR will be setting up a work day at QTH of Fred N6YEU for loading the trailer. Actual Field Day Setup will begin Friday June 26 with operations beginning at 11 am Saturday June 27. It was noted that last year’s score could have been improved significantly had we gone after more bonus points — and Jim UAR will be looking into how we could do that.

Club donations to specific DXpeditions. REDXA recently received a request from the upcoming Midway DXpedition. After some discussion, the Board decided to stay with the current policy of making our budgeted donation to DXpeditions in general through the Northern California DX Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm, April 8, 2009 at Mr. McGoo’s Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 27 members and guests. Guests included Skip AF6AC from Vacaville, CA and Devon, YL harmonic of K6JS.

Alan K6SRZ requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer’s report as published in Sunspots. The motion was made by Chuck N6OJ and seconded by Al K6RIM. Motion passed.

A brief break in meeting was taken to sing Happy Birthday to Ron N6IE — 60 years young! He successfully blew out the candles and then we all shared in a bit of his cake for dessert.

Old business. None.

New business. President Alan K6SRZ started with a brief recap of the BOD meeting (see Board of Directors minutes elsewhere in this newsletter).

The BOD meeting point regarding individual funding of DXpeditions by REDXA was discussed briefly and the past policy explained. Members were encouraged to make individual contributions to a DXpedition that they would like to support or to NCDXF.

Jim K6JS has a new roster of members. If you would like a copy, send an email to Jim.

Fred N6YEU conducted the REDXA Raffle which brought in a total of \$75.00. The winner for the evening was Matt KE6LPO who took home \$37.50, leaving \$37.50 for the club.

The program for the evening was “What has the ARRL done for you this past year?” presented by club member and ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Bill KH6GJV. Besides an enlightening slide show, Bill also recapped the latest on Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) as well as his role in the section. An interesting point of the talk was that he is aware of the ARRL’s current emphasis on emergency communication, which, while very important, is only one aspect of Amateur Radio. He encouraged everyone to stay active, particularly with a club, and participate in club activities. He also stated that on the section level, he is looking for a Public Information Officer — any one interested should contact Bill directly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

The 60th annual International DX Convention held at Visalia, CA is now history -- and history making in terms of raffle winnings by club members! As many of you already know, Jim K6JS won the Grand Prize, an ICOM IC-7700! Chuck N6OJ won a Yaseu FT-450 and this will enable Chuck to get on 6 meters!

It was a fun convention with many REDXA members present including some past members as well. Attendance was virtually the same as last year's (700+) despite the economy. Programs were quite interesting (I particularly enjoyed the presentation on a 40 meter 4 square). The exhibit rooms were packed the entire time (even on Friday afternoon) and the keynote speaker K0DG Scott Redd was excellent. Sunday morning breakfast program was the just-completed K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition -- a top notch operation from the beginning. My understanding is that room reservations for next year's convention begin on June 2 -- but the best place to get info on all convention happenings is dxconvention.org.

Field Day is just around the corner -- make sure you have June 26-28 blocked out on your calendar!

CQ WW WPX SSB

Call	Category	Qs	Pfxs	Score
AA6YX	SOABLP TB/Wires	521	298	268,498
K6LRN	SOABHP	316	230	169,740
N6IE	SOABHP	1009	369	515,124

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

May 2-3	7th Call Area QSO Party
May 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 23-24	CQ WPX CW
Jun 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 13-14	June VHF QSO Party
Jun 20	Kids Day
Jun 27-28	Field Day
Jul 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
July 11-12	IARU HF World Championships
Aug 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

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MEETING: MAY 13, 2009



NCDXF PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION NCDXF ELECTION

At its Board of Directors meeting on April 17, 2009 in Visalia, CA, the Northern California DX Foundation elected Bruce Butler, W6OSP, as President and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, as Vice President.

Outgoing President Len Geraldi, K6ANP, and Vice President Al Burnham, K6RIM, remain on the board as Directors.

Information pertaining to the Northern California DX Foundation is available at <http://www.ncdxf.org>

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

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