

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 9, 2012 at Cattlemen'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
given by Bob Wilson, N6TV. He will be presenting a
tutorial on the Reverse Beacon Network.**

REDXA President's Report

Reverse Beacon Network (RBN)

by Bob Wilson N6TV

Our May presentation will be given by Bob Wilson, N6TV. He will be presenting a tutorial on the Reverse Beacon Network. The RBN is a revolutionary new idea with a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when they hear them and how well they are heard. The RBN is not a traditional spotting network. It is comprised of volunteer skimmer stations some of which operate 24/7 while others only operate occasionally.

RBN allows you to see band openings in near-real time on an animated map. You can call a quick CQ, and see which reverse beacons hear you, and the strength of your signal. You can also compare your signal with those of your friends and competitors, in near-real time or historically. You can instantly find out what stations from a given country or zone



has been heard, at what times and on what frequencies. You can see when you've been spotted, who spotted you, and how loud you were. If you wonder how your signal stacked up during last weekend's contests, the Signal Comparison Tool will give you real, quantitative data. Tell it what stations you want to compare based on signals heard by a given reverse beacon on a certain band at a certain time.

The RBN is another tool for testers and DXers as new technology continues to be integrated with our hobby. Please join us at Cattlemen's in Petaluma for some camaraderie and an exciting presentation by TV Bob.

The 63rd International DX convention is now history. I haven't heard if the REDXA raffle luck rubbed off on any members that attended. We've had a few big winners the last few years. I was unable to attend this year due to family matters.

We will be meeting at Cattlemen's restaurant in Petaluma this month. The membership voted to try a new venue. I presented the membership with numerous venue options and Cattlemen's came out on top. This is a one-time trial unless the membership votes to move permanently. I will let you all know if we decide to change our future meeting location. Please check our website and Sunspots for additional information. I hope to see you all at Cattlemen's restaurant in Petaluma on May 9th.

73, Jim K6JS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING APRIL 2012

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

Vice President Ron N6IE called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm, April 11, 2012 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. There were 23 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Ron explained President Jim K6JS would not be present because of a death in his family. A sympathy card was passed and signed by the attendees.

A motion was made to accept the March minutes as published in "SUNSPOTS" and the Treasury Report as well. Seconded and passed.

Ron announced the May meeting would feature Bob N6TV. The June meeting would be about Field Day.

Old Business- because of the negotiations in process, this meeting was held at Gourmet Garden, but the next meeting we will try to get it at Cattlemen's in Petaluma per the members wishes.

Alan K6SRZ is replacing Rick N6RNO as the NCCC CQP "Czar". He will try to get the CQP results posted to the REDXA reflector asap. He may be looking for volunteer log checkers after this year's CQP. He requests all logs be submitted in Cabrillo format soon after the upcoming CQP in October.

There was some discussion on cut off dates.

New Business-

Field Day -Jim KE6UAR is co-captain of the upcoming Field Day with Doug from the Marin Club.

Jim is leaving the country for a month, planning to return in early June. He requests that others do the advanced planning necessary before the Field Day Event. They have already decided to put up three towers, two with STEPPIR's and one with the "Shorty Forty" with the newly purchased M2 6M 3 element beam on top.

Wire antennas would be added as needed.

We only have two more meetings before Field Day, and the June meeting is shortly before Field Day. Jim requests that club members meet at the Marin Rod and Gun Club on Friday June 22nd at 11am to put the towers up. He will be going to Fred's to get the antennas and club equipment on the 15th.

We will be running 2A. Ron N6IE would oversee the SSB - Bruce W6OSP would do the same for CW. The Marin club would do the 6M VHF.

There would be no GOTA station this year unless the Marin Club provided it.

N1MM would be the logging system used, because of it's success in the past.

Also a new, quiet generator will be provided for FD by the Marin Club, allowing it to be placed closer to the operating positions.

Jim K6UUW reminded members of the upcoming VOMARC breakfast/swap meet at the Sonoma Vets Building on Saturday April 28th. Talk in on 145.350 (pl 88.5) repeater.

The 50-50 raffle was held and collected \$61. Jim KE6UAR took home \$30.

The presentation was done by Chuck N6OJ regarding LOTW. He covered the basics of how to get started. He also said that most modern logging programs work well with LOTW, some only requiring 4 mouse clicks to upload.

He displayed a slide show that covered the important parts, including one that showed even a cave-man could do it. Bruce W6OSP was not amused. Chuck then showed a collated slide show of some of the pictures he took on his South Pacific Cruise, visiting the Marquesas, the Kiribats, Cook Island, Bora Bora, and Tahiti.

The meeting ended at 9:12pm.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

Treasurer Report

by Saraj, KU6F

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

3/31/12 Balance Forward		\$3,289.67
INCOME		
Raffle	33.00	
TOTAL INCOME		33.00
EXPENSES		
Engrave 2011 REDX Spirit	27.00	
Top Club 2011 CQP Plaque	50.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(77.00)
4/30/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,245.67</u>

REDXA membership renewal is due. Please submit your dues to Saraj, KU6F, 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.

Contesting

by Jim, K6JS

Here are a few upcoming contests to keep you busy.

On tap for this weekend are:
The New England QSO Party, 10-10
International Spring CW Contest
NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder
ARI International DX Contest
7th Call Area QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
Rounding out the month we have the CQ CW WW
WPX Contest, 0000Z, May 26 to 2359Z, May 27

DX News

by Jim, K6JS

There's still plenty of time to work the group in Yemen if propagation to the West coast is in our favor and we can bust the East coast wall. Hopefully the civil unrest in the country won't impact the team. Good luck!

YEMEN, 7O. A group of operators are QRV as 7O6T from Socotra Island, IOTA AF-028, until May 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with six stations active simultaneously. QSL via UA3DX.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Daniel, ZS6JR and Dior, ZS6JD, are QRV as C91JR and either C91JD, C91DJ or C91DN, respectively, from a park lake near Shai Shai until around May 14. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly 80 and 6 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.

SWITZERLAND, HB. Members of the Tera Radio Club will be QRV using special event station HB100FLP from May 7 to June 9 during the 100th anniversary of the Railway Lugano. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via HB9OCR.

JORDAN, JY. Paolo, IK0BOU is QRV as JY9ET from Amman. Activity is generally on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB from around 1400 to 2100z daily and at anytime during the weekends. QSL via M0OXO.

BULGARIA, LZ. Special event station LZ67VZ will be QRV from May 5 to 9 to commemorate the World War II Bulgarian General Vladimir Zaimov. Activity will be on the HF bands, including EME on 70 cm and 13 cm. QSL via operators' instructions.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Frans, PC2F is QRV using special event station PC25HR from May 6 to 28 from the Hertog Reijnout pumping stations as part of Holland's National Windmill Day. QSL to home call.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station R1945HS is active during the month of May in remembrance of the end of WW II 67 years ago. QSL direct via RW6HS.

UKRAINE, UR. Members of the Crimean Contest Radio Club are QRV using special event call EM67J until May 15 in remembrance of the end of WW II 67 years ago. QSL via K2PF.

GIBRALTAR, ZB. Operators Mike, ZB3M and Ed, ZB2ER will be QRV as ZQ3M and ZQ2ER, respectively, from May 5 to June 10 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. QSL both calls direct via ZB3M.

Six meter report from Bob K6QXY.

Bob continues to work numerous ZL's, VK's and into the Pacific around 2300z to 0000Z. Bob states this is the end of the F2/TEP season and the start of the ES season. I wish I could hear just one of these stations :)

Propagation report from K7RA

Solar activity revived over the past week, with a big increase in sunspot numbers. On Friday, April 20, the daily sunspot number reached 162, and four days later on April 24 the number reached 169. This level of activity was not seen since last fall, when the daily sunspot number reached 173 on September 16, 184 on October 21, and 208 on November 9.

Average daily sunspot numbers more than doubled over the previous week's average, rising 73 points to 144.7. Average daily solar flux was 133.9, an increase of nearly 29 points.

Associated with all this was a rise in geomagnetic activity, peaking with a planetary A index of 35 on Tuesday, April 24. The geomagnetic activity increase was due to several solar flares launched from new sunspots.

The latest forecast shows solar flux of 115 on April 27, 110 on April 28, 105 on April 29-30, 100 on May 1-2, 95 on May 3, 105 on May 4, 110 on May 5-6, 115 on May 7-8, 120 on May 9, 130 on May 10-12, 135 on May 13, 140 on May 14-17, 135 on May 18-21, followed by 130, 125, 120, 115 and 110 on May 22-26 and 105 on May 27-31.

Predictions for planetary A index are 10 on April 27, 5 on April 28 through May 1, 8 on May 2, 5 on May

3-7, 8, 12, 15 and 10 on May 8-11, 5 on May 12-19,
12 and 10 on May 20-21, and 5 on May 27-31.
Thanks to ARRL, OPDX, K7RA and QRZ DX.
Additional information can be found online.

Have fun and enjoy the chase...

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:
by Doug, WW6D

May 4-6	EMCOMM Reno, NV
May 5-6	7th Call Area QSO Party
May 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 26-27	CQ WPX CW
Jun 9-11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
Jun 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 16-17	All Asian DX Contest CW
Jun 23-24	ARRL Field Day
Jul 1	RAC Canada Day Contest
Jul 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jul 14-15	IARU HF World Championship
Jul 21-22	NA QSO Party RTTY
Aug 4-5	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 11-12	WAE DX Contest CW
Aug 18-19	NA QSO Party SSB
Aug 19	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY

See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for
more Contest Schedules.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be meeting at

Cattlemen's Restaurant

in Petaluma this month.



March 2012



Conducted by K6JS



REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS					
30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	320	W6XA	333	W6XA	323
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
N6OJ	221	N6OJ	317	N6OJ	233
K6ANP	169	K6ANP	162	K6ANP	72
K6SRZ	145	K6SRZ	131	W6SFK	55
AG6V	3	W6SFK	70	K6SRZ	38
W6SFK	3	N6GY	8	N6GY	5
WW6D	2	WW6D	6	AG6V	2
		AG6V	2	WW6D	1

XA still at the top

W6SFK moving on up

W6SFK jumps in the fray

ARRL DX Challenge	
W6XA	2980
K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
N6OJ	1674
K6SRZ	1605
W6SFK	275
N6VAW	248

W6XA pads his lead

160 Meters	
W6XA	222
W6OSP	176
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	143
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	57

W6OSP adds two new ones

1.5K Club	
W6XA	1688
K6RIM	1588
K6ANP	1371
N6OJ	1352
K6SRZ	1124
W6SFK	387
N6GY	148

W6XA added a couple new ones

Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.
Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or 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	168
W6XA	130
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
W6SFK	2

K6QXY adds KHONA for a new one

RTTY/Digital	
N6OJ	298
K6RIM	253
W6XA	145
K6SRZ	128
K6ANP	123
W6SFK	117

OJ adds a new one this month.

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:
jselmi@hotmail.com

Mobile DX	
K6JS	66
W6SFK	3
5 new ones for K6JS	

DXCC Mixed	
K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6XA	352
W6OSP	350
K6SRZ	245
W6SFK	175
OJ is creeping up	

ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be meeting at
Cattlemen's Restaurant
in Petaluma this month.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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Manager
W17YN

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673 Plum Street
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MEETING: MAY 9, 2012

