

# 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 31

NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2010

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

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, November 10, 2010** at Gourmet Garden Restaurant, (the old Carrows) 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 our President who is going to report on several places around the world that are available to folks of average means for contesting, DX'ing or for enjoying a relaxing get-away while finding out what it's like to be on the other side of the pile-up.

### REDXA President's Report

#### Adventures in Paradise

A gentle trade wind sways the majestic palm trees hugging a secluded, sandy beach as the spray from the surf pounding on the shore fills the air. I rise from my comfortable lounge chair on the shady deck of the beautiful villa and saunter at a relaxed pace down the hallway to a room on the right, passing the hand-carved wooden sign that proclaims "through these doors pass the world's most dedicated hams". As I turn the switch, I hear the fans on the powerful 8877 linear amplifier start to whirl and the radios on the desk come to life. I look out the window and see a flock of colorful birds gently dipping and swirling about the massive tower supporting an awe-inspiring array of antennas aimed at some unseen distant shore.

Signals from around the world begin to fill the room as the love of my life enters, bringing me a cold beer in an icy glass she has just filled. The clear droplets of condensation begin to stream down the side of the glass as I tune the dial on the transceiver, looking for an open frequency. I raise the glass to my lips and take a long, slow sip.

It tastes *good*.

Finding an empty frequency, I press the microphone switch and casually call CQ, signing an exotic prefix followed by "...portable, N6IE...". Suddenly, the passband of the radio is filled with many voices calling out to me from the four corners of the world. Life doesn't get much better than this!

Just a pipe dream? Perhaps, but it can be reality thanks to the efforts of a few dozen dedicated hams who have built and maintain ham radio QTH's for rent in exotic places. At this month's meeting, I'll have a report on several such places around the world that are available to folks of average means for contesting, DX'ing or for enjoying a relaxing get-away while finding out what it's like to be on the other side of the pile-up. From utilitarian contest shacks to exotic bed and breakfast resorts, you'll see them all and find out how to book a vacation of a lifetime. From the beautiful Greek Isles to picturesque Hawaii, from the frigid shores of Prince Edward Island to the tropical paradise of the Caribbean, we'll find something for everyone whether you're a 'pedal to the metal' multi-multi contest rock star or just a casual rag-chewer! Even if you never visit any of these places, you'll at least get to see some of the shacks that you have most likely worked many times. Join us Wednesday for a breath-taking tour of "Exotic DX QTH's for Rent".

At least a couple of those QTH's have been very busy since 10/10/10 when the Netherlands Antilles gave rise to four new DXCC entities. Improving band conditions gave us all an opportunity to add those to our country counts, even though we were "two down" from the entities that were deleted. Bruce, W6OSP was at PJ7E doing some operating...and maybe a little bird watching, too. If you Google: PJ7E W6OSP and click on the first link, you'll see a few of the exotic "birds" he was probably looking at. Bruce, I know it was a tough job, but someone had to do it!

Band conditions getting better? I think so! This past weekend 10 was wide open, better than I've heard it in years. Conditions on 10 CW were *so* good (here's where Ed McMahon says "how good were they, Johnny?") that I heard a W4 calling CQ....and I was listening to him on my dummy load! Honest!

See you all Wednesday at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma...

## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

9/30/10 Balance Forward		\$2,216.03
INCOME		
Badges	45.00	
Dues	60.00	
Raffle	<u>45.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		150.00
EXPENSES		
Badges	<u>25.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(25.00)
10/31/10 Ending Balance		<u><u>\$2,341.03</u></u>

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 2010

by San, N7PIB

The Board of Directors met at the Gourmet Garden on October 13, starting at 6:45 P.M. All board members were present.

Alan, K6SRZ, was selected to chair the Spirit Award Committee.

Jim, K6JS, agreed to become our new contest chairman. The REDXA coffee mugs will cost \$3.30 each plus a \$85 setup charge. The cost for 72 mugs will therefore be \$322.60. The treasurer indicated that we have adequate funds for this expenditure, and it was duly approved by the Board.

We need to find a current copy of the REDXA by-laws so they may be updated with the latest membership amendment, approved at our prior general membership meeting.

We need to come up with items for the December holiday party raffle. Josh, W6XU, agreed to head up the procurement group effort.

A slate of officers and directors for the coming year was discussed. All current members, with the exception of the Secretary, have agreed to be available to serve for the coming 2011 year. A replacement for the Secretary needs to be found.

# OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

by San, N7PIB

The October meeting of REDXA was called to order by President Ron at 7:45 P.M. There were 30 members and guests in attendance. Several members recounted their experiences in activating such counties as Colusa and Plumas for the Cal QSO Party. Alan, K6SRZ, had a particularly poignant account of first trying to operate from Treasure Island in San Francisco county, then Tehama county, and finally home to Sonoma county from which he appeared to have set a new county record.

Under old business: Jim, K6JS, was announced as our new Contest Chairman. Coffee mugs in commemoration of our 30th anniversary will be awarded to all members who submitted more than 100 qsos for the Cal QSO Party. As part of the December meeting there will be a silent auction for the screw driver antenna that has been exhibited at several of our recent meetings.

Under new business: New members who were inducted included Anthony Duckworth and Rick, N6RNO, who have become full dues paying members. For the Cal QSO Party all members who scored over 150,000 points will receive a bottle of wine in recognition of their effort. In the absence of any volunteers Ron, N6IE, has agreed to present the program on vacation DX rentals himself.

Jim, K6JS, conducted the raffle which was won by Anthony, our new member. The total intake was \$90, split half and half with the Club.

Our presentation was a combination of a Field Day video for 2010, produced by Alan, K6SRZ, and a rerun of his video of the 2004 T33C DXpedition to Banaba Island.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

## Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Contest season is in full swing! The traditional ARRL Sweepstakes (longest running contest in history?) runs this month -- great opportunity to improve your operating skills and measure the changes in propagation for this cycle 24. And there's a good chance 10 meters will be open!

DXCC Reminder: the end-of-the-year tally with the DXCC Desk is approaching. Perhaps the easiest way to update your totals is through Logbook of the World (LoTW).

## California QSO Party

Call	Class	CW Qs	PH Qs	Mlts	Score
N6RXA	SOLP-PH	0	100	25	4,950
N6IE	SOHP-MXD	637	987	57	221,331
WW6D	SOHP-MXD	440	161	52	85,228
K6ANP	SOHP-MXD	464	167	54	92,772
K6RIM	SOHP-MXD	1024	614	55	236,500
K6CTA	SOHP-CW	177	0	38	20,178
N6OJ	SOLP-PH	0	1018	58	118,088
KE6LPO	SOLP-PH	0	171	45	15,390
W6PZ	SOHP-MXD	1154	903	58	305,544
(op K6SRZ)					
NM6E/5	MSLP-MXD	80	147	49	26,166
KU6F	SOLP-PH	0	104	26	5,408
N6ZFO	SOLP-MXD	745	309	58	165,474
KE6UAR	SOLP-PH	0	247	47	23,218
N6PIA	SOLP-PH	0	200	42	16,800
W6UDS	SOHP-MXD	170	combined	48	17,664
N6VAW	SOHP-MXD	100	combined	30	6,690
K6JS	SOHP-MXD	500	718	55	161,480
N6YEU	SOLP-MXD	683	403	57	162,735
(Del Norte County Expedition)					
KD6OTC					144
AG6V					8
NI6T	33% of 345,506 to REDXA				114,017
W6JTI					111,141
W6OSP					134,585
W6XU					262,624

Total logs = 24

Total score = 2,308,135

## CQ WW SSB

Call	Class	Qs	Zones	Ctrys	Score
K6LRN	SOABHP	497	88	184	373,456

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- Nov 6-8 ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting
- See redxa.com — new meeting QTH!*
- Nov 20-22 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- Nov 27-28 CQ WW DX CW
- Dec 3-5 ARRL 160 meter Contest
- Dec 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting
- Dec 11-12 ARRL 10 meter Contest
- Dec 18-19 Stew Perry Topband Challenge

# Our Meeting Location

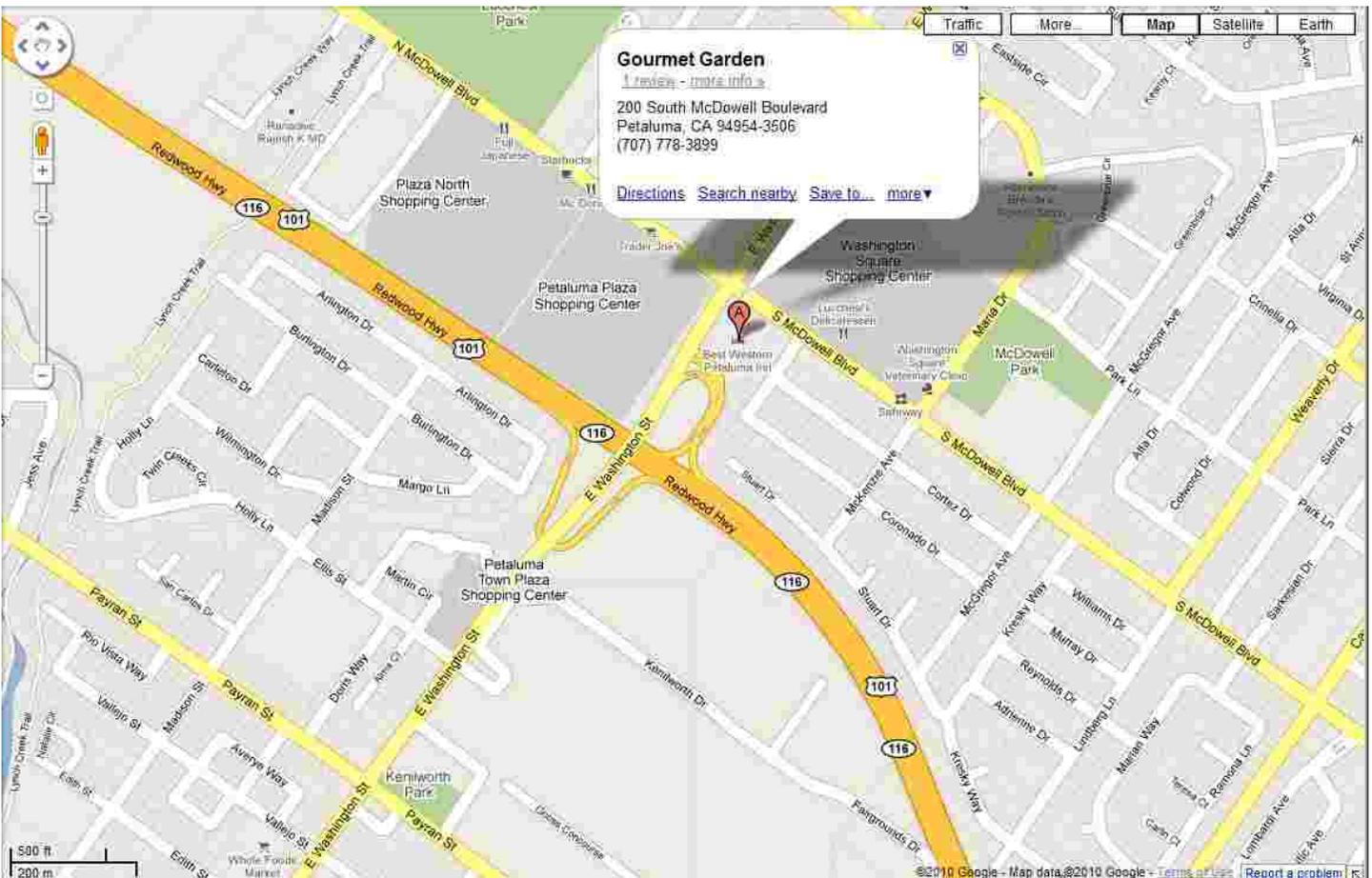
The REDXA meeting will be held at:

**GOURMET GARDEN, PETALUMA**  
(All you can eat Asian and some American food)  
\$11.99 plus tax tip and beverage  
Happy Hour 6:00 PM in bar, meeting at 7:00

Which is our old meeting location,  
formerly known as CARROW'S.

200 South McDowell Blvd.

Directions:  
Get off 101 at the East Washington Exit  
Go east until you come to McDowell Blvd.  
Gourmet Garden is on the right



## 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: NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

