

# 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, November 14, 2012** at Cattlemens 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 a presentation by Ron N6IE on Ham Radio by Remote! Don't miss it!**

## REDXA President's Report

Imagine being able to work a rare one or fill a new band/mode slot whenever you want. Technology has progressed to the point where this is a reality and many hams have implemented remote stations across the world. Technology has even progressed to the point we can remotely make QSO's using our smart phones and tablets.

You now can access the airwaves and all you need is an internet connection. It's now possible to monitor the bands from your shack all day while at the office.

It is fun to experiment with remote technologies and to be able to access most, if not all of the functionality of your radio station from afar. The internet has opened opportunities for all of us to experiment with new technologies and innovative ways to enhance our operating experiences. A remote station is also affordable; most of us already have stable and fast internet service. A basic remote setup uses mostly freeware software. You'll be surprised how easy it can be to implement. I hope to



see you all at Cattlemens on Wednesday night for Ron's presentation and the camaraderie of REDXA.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 2012

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

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## OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

October Minutes will appear in next month's Sun-Spots.

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## Treasurer Report

by Saraj, KU6F

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

9/30/12 Balance Forward		\$2,523.22
INCOME		
Dues	0.00	
Raffle	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME		0.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES		(0.00)
10/31/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,523.22</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.

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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

What a great way to kick off the contest season. The 2012 Field results are in and REDXA/MARS placed first in the Pacific Division Category 2A and fifth nationally in 2A. We were the only station west of the Mississippi in the top 5. These are outstanding results and what a great team effort to put up a score like this. Congratulations REDXA and MARS! Everyone should be proud.

We'll have to wait and see how we did in CQP. Kudos to all the members that participated! I hope everyone got their log submitted before the deadline. Thank you all for a fantastic effort.

I hope everyone found time to get on the air for the CQ WW SSB contest. There was plenty of DX activity from around the world, with some pretty amazing scores being claimed. The CQ WW website states they've received approximately 5100 logs, just 48 hours after the end of the contest. The CQ WW CW contest is coming up on Nov 24 and Nov 25.

We close out the month with the ARRL 160-Meter Contest from Nov 30 through Dec 2 for the top band enthusiast.

I want to mention the ARRL 10-Meter Contest, which is coming up the 2nd weekend in December from 0000Z, Dec 8 to 2359Z, Dec 9. I talked about this back in January in which I thought it would be a good contest for the REDXA to enter in the club competition. We would be categorized as a "Local Club" and compete against other similar sized clubs.

Checking results from last year, the Virginia Contest Club took top honors among the 26 local clubs. Their 10 members combined for more than 4 million points and ended the streak of the Midland Amateur Radio Club of Midland, Texas who won the category in three of the last four years.

Ten meters is opening up as cycle 24 comes to its peak which should make this a fun contest. It has world-wide participation with numerous classes of CW only, SSB only, Mixed and Multi categories.

Let's try to clear our calendars and get on the air for some REDXA fun during the ARRL 10M contest. Rules are here: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

The 79th annual ARRL November CW sweepstakes took place last weekend and the SSB sweepstakes takes place next weekend. November 17-19, 2012. The contest period begins at 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

A major change is in store for 2012, because of an administrative change at the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the Ontario Section has been split into four new sections: Ontario North (ONN), Ontario South (ONS), Ontario East (ONE) and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Eliminating the Ontario Section and adding the four new Sections, the total number of Sections required for a Clean Sweep has increased from 80 to 83. The VE3's are very active testers and the usual rare sections are still the hardest to get in the log.

Reprinted from the  
ARRL Contest Update E-Newsletter

November is a busy, busy contest month. With the new, improved, shorter log submission periods, it will be easy to overlook sending in a log. Make sure you submit your log before the next contest rolls around!

Don't forget about the new Ontario sections (ONE, ONN, ONS, and GTA) in November's ARRL Sweepstakes that raise the Clean Sweep bar to 83.

Contest rental stations have been available for years and years - every type of station from primitive cabins to fully-featured turn-key stations. Remote Ham Radio is now making the same access available over the Internet on a subscription basis. Whenever you are operating remote, remember to abide by all of the rules and regulations in the country from which the transmitter operates, along with any rules about remote operation for the contest you choose to enter. (Thanks, Jim N7US)

From the ARRL Propagation Bulletin by Tad K7RA, we learn that the NASA solar cycle prediction has been revised slightly since last month. You may recall that the predicted peak was moved recently from Spring to Fall 2013, and now the

predicted peak has gone down one point, from a smoothed sunspot number of 76 to 75.

#### WORD TO THE WISE

The time to update your logging software is today...NOT FRIDAY AFTERNOON BEFORE THE CONTEST!

#### OPERATING TIP

CQ WW RTTY Director, Ed WØYK, shares the log submission issues experienced by all contest sponsors. "It is apparent that many people do not read the robot email reply they receive. At the bottom of that email, the robot lists the format errors in the log. If you don't understand what the robot is telling you, then simply compare that specific QSO line with the format specified on the Logs web page. The problem should be obvious." Major logging programs like Win-Test, N1MM Logger and WriteLog all create compliant Cabrillo Files. IF you enter your data correctly. For example, if you enter your sent exchange as 'CA 03' in N1MM Logger (which is backwards from the required order for CQ WW RTTY), it will come out in that (incorrect) order in the Cabrillo file. "You can easily edit your Cabrillo file with a text editor. Since it is common to add, change or move the same parameter field in every QSO line, a column editor is invaluable. I recommend the freeware Crimson Editor." So read that robot message! If it tells you there is something wrong with your log do something about it and resubmit it. Double and triple-check your operating category and all of the information for your station. Once you have a happy robot and you are a happy log submitter - save the confirming message in an easy-to-find location. My email software has a folder named "Contest Log Submissions" for all of my log submission confirmation messages. It's easy and helps avoid the dreaded "forgot to send in my log" disease.

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#### **DX News**

by Jim, K6JS

The Six Meter report by Bob, K6QXY

Bob has been receiving ZL video almost every day usually weak, but consistent. On 10/6, he

worked FK8CP @ 0128Z and on 10/16 he worked ZL1RS @ 2352Z with signal reports of 519 to 559. The next day, ZL1RS was in coming in for over 3 hours @ 2317Z. On 10/19 ZL1RS once again had sigs into the West coast for over 2 hours @ 0230Z. The southern hemisphere of the sun is starting to turn down and the overall SSN & SFI are trending down. Bob states solar max was February of 2012 and he expects a sharp decline in solar activity from now on. Solar max for CY 24 was in February of 2012 @ 66.9 SSN. We will still have some ZL & VK openings in late November through December on ESSSP or TEFÉ.

#### A5, BHUTAN

Zorro, JH1AJT, will be active as A5A between November 8-15th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters but with limited spare time operations. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

#### CO8LY (Lost Home and in Trouble)

Dennis, K7BV, received the following from Eduardo, CO8LY, a long time HF and 6m op who has given so many their No.1 Cuba contact [edited]: "Dear Friends, I have sad news, the hurricane Sandy destroyed my house. I've lost everything, I need all I ask for help, please communicate with my manager EA7ADH or send me SMS to my cell 52400814. My mother is very ill and my situation is very difficult. Sorry for the inconvenience. My city Santiago de Cuba was destroyed by the hurricane. Big hug, Eduardo, CO8LY, I'm using tractor, excuse the bad english."

Dennis states,

"I am going to be sending Eduardo some help. Rather than load Eduardo up with a lot of SMS charges, I would be happy to serve as a collection point for others wishing to send help. He is going to need a complete station, accessories, etc. too, it appears. Thanks for your consideration. Drop me a private note if you would like to send something to our buddy....."

73 Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV

PS: Spread the word please."

#### CY0, SABLE ISLAND (Update)

PRESS RELEASE - date October 28th [edited]:

"Ron/AA4VK and Murray/WA4DAN were forced to leave Sable Island around 1915z on Saturday due to the dangerous East Coast storm. The effects of

the storm were already being felt on the island as the sand landing area was flooding due to the rising tide and large breakers.

Naturally we were very disappointed to cut short the DXpedition by four days. We had little choice as we could have been stranded on the island for weeks. Traveling to Sable is always a challenge no matter what time of year it is. We certainly have first-hand knowledge of this! During the 4.5 days of the DXpedition, Ron and Murray logged approximately 13,000 Q's. This DXpedition was highly focused on 10,12 and 15 meters where the most demand existed. Our mono-band yagi's and vertical antennas performed very well in the very strong winds. We had to double stake the guy lines for the antenna masts.

We would like to thank Gerry Forbes, the officer-in-charge on Sable Island, and Maritime Air for safely getting us off the island.

73, Ron/AA4VK and Murray/WA4DAN"

ADDED NOTE: Alan, VE1AWW, is expected to be active again as CY0/VE1AWW sometime this past week or very soon. On his QRZ.com page he stated on October 30th,

"Sorry to one and all for the great delay in QSL replies and email replies. My laptop with logs died just after I was shut down late last June. I now have the computer and logs back. I am headed back to CY0 later this week. I will sort through the backlog out there and post them on my return to the mainland (late December). I will post here (QRZ.com) when back on the island."

His bands of activity are unsure, but he likes to operate on SSB and PSK. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

#### EL, LIBERIA (Update)

Look for the VooDoo Contest Group to once again be active from here between November 17-27th. This is their 24th straight year. Operations will be from a location just South of Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. Their main goal is to be an entry in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Multi-Multi category using the callsign EL2A. Outside of the contest the operators will use their own personal callsigns. Operators mentioned are

Ned/AA7A (EL2ES), Roger/G3SXW (EL2A), Fred/G4BWP (EL2WP), John/G4IRN (EL2RN), Mike/KC7V (EL2MF), Lee/KY7M (EL2LF) and Bud/N7CW (EL2CW). QSL via their home callsign, except EL2WP via G5LP. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog (w/OQRS available) as soon as possible, probably after their return home.

ET, ETHIOPIA (Special Event/Press Release)  
ET3AA - Ethiopian Amateur Radio Club  
Announcement

"In celebration of our dear mentor's passing, Mr. Sidney May (ET3SID), our club will make 10,000 QSOs starting on Tuesday, October 29, 2012, and will end once the QSO count has been achieved. In March 2012, Sid was instrumental in having the ET3AA - Ethiopian Amateur Radio Club set-up as a formal organization. With the students receiving US Ham Radio Call-Signs and four students becoming ARRL VE's, this allowed the ET3AA call sign to be transferred from Sid May's name to the club, therefore allowing the club to continue using the ET3AA call sign. The club is officially re-opened.

Mr. David Collingham (K3LP), working with the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Club, will prepare a color QSL card with our club input and will pay for the cost for printing the QSL cards. Mr. Bob Schenck (N2OO) has agreed to be our QSL Manager for this event. Please do not send prior QSL requests to Bob since he does not have the ET3SID or ET3AA logs except for the brief K3LP visits in Aug. 3-5, 2011 and Dec. 8-13, 2011. We are in the process of setting up a new PO Box for the club and will add the new address information to our website once available.

Please use the DX Code of Conduct. Please be kind and work with our students as we learn and improve our radio operating skills.

Sincerely, ET3AAA - Ethiopian Amateur Radio Club-Dagmawit Solomon <http://et3aa.com/>

EA8, CANARY ISLANDS

Jyrki "Jay", OH6CS, will be active as EA8CUU from Gáldar, Gran Canaria (AF-004, DIE S-005, WLOTA L 0969), during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Single-

Op/Single-Band (??) entry. QSL via OH6CS direct. Outside of the contest, look for Jay to do some 50 MHz CW/SSB-activity as EA8/OH6CS (QTH loc. IL28DD) between November 22-28th. For more details about the station, see:  
<http://personal.inet.fi/cool/sierra/ea8.htm>

FM/TO7, MARTINIQUE

Dimitry, UT5UGR, will be active as FM/KL7WA from Martinique (NA-107) between November 19-26th. Activity will also include the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) signing TO7A as a Single-Op/ Multi-Band entry. QSL via UT5UGR.

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Sergey, R4WAA, will be active as R4WAA/HI7 between November 21-30th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters and the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th). QSL via his home callsign by the Bureau.

JU850, MONGOLIA (Special Event)

Baterdene, JT1CS, reports to look for special event stations to be on the air to celebrate Chinggis Khan's 850th birthday between November 14-21st. Mongolian amateur radio operators will be active using special event callsigns such as JU850AA, etc... QSL via info on (QRZ.com). A "Chinggis Khan Award" will be issued free to those who make three contacts with three different special event callsigns, i.e., JU850AA, JU850DA, JU850DN.... on any mode or bands. Please send your request with QSO detail information to: MRSF at MRSF.MN

KH0, MARIANA ISLANDS

Operators Jussi-Pekka/OH6RX and Esa/OH7WV will be active from Saipan Island (OC-086) during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Multi-2 entry. Callsign and QSL info will be announced later. Time permitting, some operating outside of contest one day before and one day after may take place. Operators have the Saipan Rental Shack for November 22-27th, and will probably use the callsigns KH0/homecall outside of the contest. For more details about the Saipan Rental Shack, see the following Web page at: <http://saipan.rental-shack.com/english/index.html>

OH0, ALAND ISLAND

Operator Tomi, OH6EI, will once again be active as

OH0Z during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Single-Op/ All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via W0MM.

#### PJ5, ST. EUSTATIUS

A team of JA operators will be active as PJ5J from St. Eustatius (NA-145) between November 30th and December 12th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Operations will emphasize the lower bands, especially 160m, and working stations from AS/JA. They will participate in the ARRL 10m Contest (December 8-9th) and possibly other contests during that period. The team plans on at least one station on the air for 24 hours day, and possibly another one or two stations to operate simultaneously according to the band openings. Two stations will have 500w amps and another will operate barefoot. Antennas will be verticals for the low bands (w/beverage) and a Spiderbeam for the higher bands.

Operators mentioned are Takayuki/JA1MZL (team leader), Yutaka/JJ1LIB, Naoki/JN1RVS, Hideyuki/JJ1CBY, Katsu/JA1DXA, Toshihiko/JN1HOW and Isao/JH1ROJ. QSL Manager will be Nao, JA1HGY. Logs will be updated daily to ClubLog and to LoTW after the operation. A OQRS will be available. No Web page was mentioned.

#### PT0S, ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS (Update)

As per the PT0S Web page dated October 31st, from George, AA7JV [edited]:

"Most of the PT0S team is now in Natal. Fred, PY2XB, is going to join us on November 3rd. All our gear has made it and is being stored at the local radio club. Because importation into Brazil can be difficult and slow, we feel that we have passed one of the most worrisome hurdles we've faced. We are now procuring supplies and items that we decided to purchase locally, such as car batteries, camping gear, etc. Local HAM-s, especially Mauricio Barreto, PS7RK, have been incredibly generous helping us to buy supplies and make the final preparations.

We are on schedule to leave for St. Peter and St. Paul Archipelago on November 5th. The weather forecast is favorable, which is good news, as seas can be rough along the 620 nautical mile passage.

We -- and all our gear -- will be travelling on the 70 foot fishing boat Transmar II, along with 8 fishermen. It will be tight and the lighter the seas the more bearable the passage will be.

We are hoping for a good and productive operation, where in addition to getting a lot of calls into the log, the entire community will have fun. We will soon start publishing operating tips and advice on how to work us best. In the meantime, please keep the following in mind: 'THE DX'ERS CODE OF CONDUCT'." -- which is listed on their Web page at: <http://pt0s.com>

#### PZ, SURINAM

Yuri, VE3DZ, will be active as PZ5T from Surinam between November 20-27th. Activity includes the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. Outside of the contest, look for him to be on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign.

#### RI1, ANTARCTICA

RI1ANF/P is quite often active from the Russian Priroda Refuge (WAP RUS-15) which is not too far away from Bellingshausen Base, on South Shetlands. On his previous visits to Priroda Refuge (last Oct. 21-22nd and Oct. 25-28th), Oleg made over 1200 QSOs operating as RI1ANF/P. He will try to activate Priroda Refuge again until the first week of November, so ... stay tuned! QSL via RK1PWA.

ADDED NOTE: Oleg Neruchev, ZS1OIN (UA3HK), will replace Oleg Sakharov as new Chief of Bellingshausen Base (WAP RUS-01) and will be active on all bands, mostly CW, after February 12th as RI1ANU instead of the normally used RI1ANF callsign. More info about the Antarctica is available on the WAP Web site at: <http://www.waponline.it>

#### S7, SEYCHELLES

Hardy, DL8NU, will be active as S79NU from Mahe Atoll (AS-013) between November 9-24th. Activity will be on the HF bands and mostly on CW. QSL via his home callsign.

#### T6, AFGHANISTAN

Ilian, LZ1CNN (ex-YI9LZ), will be active as T6LG from Kandahar during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Single-Op/ All-

Band/Low-Power entry. Ilian will be here until February 2013. Activity is usually on 80-6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL Manager is LZ1ZF. Postal address since September 1st, 2012, for LZ1ZF is: G. Vodenicharov, P.O. Box 25, 3600 Lom, BUL-GARIA. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW. Also, the log for T6LG is now available on ClubLog. TF, ICELAND

Siggi, TF3CW, has announced that he will be active as TF2CW in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via LX1NO. QTH is the TF2LL Borgarnes station.

#### TX5, CLIPPERTON ISLAND (Update)

The 2013 Cordell Expedition to Clipperton Island posted on November 1st that Roman, US5WDX, has joined the TX5Q team:  
[http://www.cordell.org/CI/CI\\_pages/CI\\_Team.html](http://www.cordell.org/CI/CI_pages/CI_Team.html)

#### VU3/P, ANTARCTICA (Update)

Gianni, I1HYW, informs OPDX that Bhagwati Prasad is still active as VU3BPZ/P from the new Indian Base 'Bharati' (WAP IND-04) in Antarctica, until November 22-23rd. The new team will be there around November 15th, and Bhagwati (VU3BPZ) will move on board the "P/S Ivan Papanin", soon after he hands over the Bharati radio equipment. He should be ready to operate as VU3BPZ/MM between December 5-6th and January 2nd (2013). At the moment, during the day light, he is busy doing several duties and Bharati station activities, so it could be that sometimes he cannot operate the radio as per schedule. However, when he gets spare time, he will be on the frequencies as per the following table:

15M Band	21260 +/- 2	0915-1000z	EU, ASIA & Pacific
17M Band	18150 +/- 2	1015-1200z	JA, VU, Asia and Pacific
20M Band	14180 +/- 2	1400-1500z	EU, ASIA & Pacific
17M Band	18150 +/- 2	1530-1615z	EU, North America & ASIA
20M Band	14180 +/- 2	1630-1745z	EU, South America
20M Band	14242	0130-0300z	North & South America

Operations will be SSB for the above

times/frequencies. The Bharati Station (Larsemann Hills, Antarctica) is actually getting 19 hours of daylight; sunrise 2126z, sunset 1554z and Local time = UTC+5 hrs. QSL for VU2BPZ/P is in the printing process. QSL Manager I1HYW will start to QSL about November 15th.

#### ZL7, CHATHAM ISLAND

Just a reminder that Hiro, JF1OCQ/W1VX/ZL1WY, is now active as ZL7A from the Chatham Islands (OC-038) until November 9th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes, with an emphasis on 80 and 6 meters. A beacon will be on 50.117 MHz around the clock. Hiro will use a TS-590S w/ACOM1000 into a Husler vertical for HF, and a FT-100 without a Linear Amp into 4 element yagi for 6 meters. QSL via JF1OCQ, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau (E-mail requests available) or LoTW. NO eQSL. For more details, see: <http://w1vx.net/pedition/zl7/2012ZL7.htm>

#### ZL9, CAMPBELL ISLAND (Press Release)

Ed, VK2ARE, Australian publicity Officer for ZL9HR, sent out the following on October 26th:

"Thanks for your support of ZL9HR - Campbell Island. This update will be short [edited]:"

#### Current Status:

Everything is on schedule; the team is excited and ready to begin their journey to New Zealand. Team members will begin arriving in Invercargill, NZ, on November 22nd.

The majority of our equipment arrived at a storage facility in Invercargill on Oct 18th.

#### Current Schedule:

November 23rd - The equipment will be taken to the NZ Department of Conservation (DoC) Quarantine Inspection station.

November 24th - Everything will be unpacked and inspected; including personal items, once inspected everything will remain at the station until departure.

November 25th - The team returns to the inspection station for DoC briefings on: safety, landing permit conditions and working around the islands wildlife.

November 26th - The team again returns to the DoC inspection station for inspection of personal items not processed on Nov. 24th.

- Equipment will be trucked to Bluff, NZ, and

loaded aboard the boat for departure, currently scheduled at approximately 12:00 (local).

- Several local hams have offered to assist with loading the boat.

With good weather we estimate the voyage will take 40 hours, arriving at Perseverance Harbor sometime between midnight and 06:00 (local) on November 28th.

During the DX-pedition daily traffic with the team will be handled by the designated Pilot stations. We ask the DX community to direct their compliments / suggestions / concerns to the Pilots who will summarize and forward to us via E-mail. We plan to upload photos and logs on a daily basis. The Pilots are listed on the Team page of our web site at: <http://www.campbell2012.com>

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## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Nov 17-19	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
Nov 24-25	CQ Worldwide DX CW
Nov 30-	
Dec 2	ARRL 160 meter Contest (Note dates!)
Dec 8-9	ARRL 10 meter Contest
<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Dec 16	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
Dec 29-30	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night
<b>Jan 9</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Jan 12-13	NA QSO Party CW
Jan 19-20	NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 25-27	CQ 160 meter CW
Feb 9-10	CQ WW WPX RTTY
<b>Feb 13</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Feb 16-17	ARRL Intl DX CW
Mar 2-3	ARRL Intl DX SSB
<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Mar 30-31	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 19-21	Int'l DX Convention - Visalia

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

## Ham Radio by Remote

Ron, N6IE

Imagine sitting on the lanai of a resort hotel in Maui and using your home station to catch that DXpedition you thought you were going to miss! Have time on your lunch hour that you would rather spend checking into your favorite net, or just checking out activity on the bands?

You can do it, and it's surprisingly easy, and inexpensive!

I will do the honors of this month's presentation on a subject that is very near and dear to my heart: Ham Radio by Remote. Since I've noticed a dwindling attendance at recent meetings, I thought the best thing to do is to make the presentation one that will give usable information to just about everyone, not just those who plan to build a full-on remote controlled station like the one I recently completed. I'll talk about that, but I'll also demonstrate how just about anyone can operate their home station from another location, like when you're at work, on vacation on business travel. The best part is that if you have a laptop computer, your cost to make that happen is very close to nothing!

Please come and join us, Wednesday, November 14th at Cattlemens in Petaluma!



November

2012



Conducted by K6JS



### REDXA Honor Roll

#### WARC BANDS

30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	326	W6XA	335	W6XA	327
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
N60J	221	N60J	317	N60J	233
K6ANP	169	N7PIB	167	N6IE	134
N6IE	165	N6IE	165	N7PIB	120
K6SRZ	154	K6ANP	162	K6SRZ	106
AG6V	3	K6SRZ	143	W6SFK	102
W6SFK	36	W6SFK	122	K6ANP	72
N6GY	3	N6GY	8	N6GY	47
		WW6D	6		

W6SFK adds 24 new ones

SFK's new antenna is working fine

W6XA still at the top

#### ARRL DX Challenge

W6XA	2985
K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1770
N60J	1674
N6IE	1256
N7PIB	1123
W6SFK	817

W6SFK moving on up

#### 160 Meters

W6XA	224
W6OSP	177
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	150
K6RIM	55
N60J	57
N6IE	37
N7PIB	15

N6IE enters the fray

#### 1.5K Club

W6XA	1689
K6RIM	1588
K6ANP	1371
N60J	1352
K6SRZ	1124
N6IE	1043
W6SFK	555
N6GY	148

W6XA still at the top

**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	169
W6XA	130
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
W6SFK	2

K6QXY adds another new one

#### RTTY/Digital

N60J	298
K6RIM	253
N6IE	185
W6XA	162
W6SFK	144
K6SRZ	140
K6ANP	123

SFK adds 9 to his total

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:  
[jselmi@hotmail.com](mailto:jselmi@hotmail.com)  
Updated 11-6-12

#### Mobile DX

N7PIB	121
K6JS	71
W6SFK	3

K6JS adds 5 new ones

#### DXCC Mixed

K6RIM	366
N60J	360
W6OSP	353
W6XA	352
K6SRZ	346
W6SFK	246

W6SFK works 24 new ones!!!



## THE ALPHA AMPLIFIER CLUB PROGRAM

### \*\*\*\*A \$475 VALUE FOR EACH MEMBER

When a Club member purchases a new Alpha 9500 Amplifier, within his or her Club, the member receives the following benefits. A \$300 credit toward any additional Alpha product or merchandise they order PLUS free shipping for the 9500 amplifier within the contiguous 48 states. This is a total value of \$475. Please write or communicate your name, shipping information and Club name on all orders stating it as the "ALPHA CLUB PROMOTION". Orders to Molly, WØMOM, phone 303-473-9232 or fax 303-473-9660 or email, [info@rfconcepts.com](mailto:info@rfconcepts.com) .

### \*\*\*\*CLUB CREDITS OF \$200 FOR EACH MEMBER 9500 ORDER

When a Club member purchases a new Alpha 9500 Amplifier, the Club will receive benefits too! The club gets a \$200 credit good toward the purchase of any Alpha product or merchandise they want to buy. They may also donate the accrued credits to anyone or any "not for profit" organization. In that case we will need a written notice to [info@rfconcepts.com](mailto:info@rfconcepts.com).

### \*\*\*\*LOANS OF ALPHA ACCESSORIES

Upon receiving a Club request with details of use, RF Concepts will consider the loan of an Alpha Wattmeter or Dummy Load. This equipment is owned by RF Concepts and will be returned to us upon request. Requests should be emailed to [info@rfconcepts.com](mailto:info@rfconcepts.com) .

### \*\*\*\*ALPHA CLUB EXPERTS-aka "ACE" REPRESENTATIVES

Each Club President may nominate one present Alpha Amplifier owner as their ACE. These folks will be familiar with our amplifiers, may help member installation, answer follow up questions and may attend local events representing RF Concepts. Please send ACE names and contact information to [molly@rfconcepts.com](mailto:molly@rfconcepts.com).

Appointed ACE representatives will be gifted by RF Concepts with appropriate Alpha logo merchandise such as shirts, hats, jackets and/or coffee mugs. They will receive product brochures and be asked their opinions on a variety of RF Concepts topics. We will require confidentiality on all such matters. They will become our Alpha Council of Experts, ACE representatives, on many matters.

### OUR PLAN WILL SUPPORT CLUBS AND ACE REPRESENTATIVES ON AN ONGOING BASIS MAKING THE ALPHA CLUB PROGRAM AN INDUSTRY LEAD.

Rules and requests (there always have to be some, hi, hi):

- Sales to members may not be combined with any other promotion available during this time
- Actual shipping costs for any loans are at the Club expense
- Member Alpha 9500 orders must be received no later than 03/31/2013
- All member and club credits must be redeemed by 02/01/2014
- Credit program may be extended beyond 03/31/2013 depending on response

Co-owner and President, Steve, WA2NFR  
Co-owner and CEO, Michael, AA6DY  
VP and Company Archivist, Molly, WØMOM

## Contest Scores

### CQP

Call	Ops	Class	CWO	PhO	Mults	Time	Score
N6IE		SOFixed HP	703	1228	57	21.3	259,997
K6RIM		SOFixed HP	1044	696	57	21.5	257,868
W6XU		SOFixed HP	864	820	57	21	241,224
K6JS	KU6F K6TTR	M/MCntyExp LP	819	795	58	30	234,494
N6ZFO		SOFixed LP	875	718	57		231,591
W6OSP	WW6D	SOFixed HP	1350	0	56		226,128
K6CTA			113	0	31		10,509
K3FIV/6		SOFixed LP	450	287	52	18	100,048
K6TU		SOFixed HP	413	232	53	09:38	90,259
W6UDS	N6VAW						
N6YEU							
W6GMP							

### ARRL CW Sweepstakes

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Mults	Score
K6MM	SO U HP	12	677	83	112,832
N6ZFO	B	12hrs	661	82	108,404

### CQ WW DX SSB

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Zones	Countries	Score
K6SRZ	SOAB(A)HP	15	923	110	246	879,676
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	12.4	516	96	274	532,060

### CQ WW DX SSB

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Zones	Countries	Score
K6SRZ	SOAB(A)HP	15	923	110	246	879,676
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	12.4	516	96	274	532,060

### CQ WW DX RTTY

Call	Class	Time	Q's	Zones	Countries	Score
K3FIV	SOAB LP	12	284	54	74	121,404

### Oceania DX CW

CALL	Class	Q's	Mults	Score
N6ZFO	SOHP40	13	11	650

## **CQP Soapbox:**

### **From Josh W6XU:**

Replaced my solid state with a full legal OM-Power amp. Good fun playing with a new toy, however typical last minute major station change issues. There were big problems with Icom CI-V which caused Writelog to occasionally log a contact in the wrong mode (RTTY), and the radio to spontaneously flop sidebands between lower and upper, or change freq to 60.0kHz! Wherever I was, I'd copy freq from A to B so if I disappeared, I could just swap VFOs. It all kept me a little busy... No point troubleshooting since I'm taking the old 756PRO out of service shortly.

Unfortunately, my 7 yr old fractured her femur a week ago and will be 6 weeks in a body cast (spica, both legs). Prognosis is 100% recovery, but seems unlikely that I'll get any air time for either SS weekend. If schedules cooperate, I'm thinking about a "do-over" with NAQP.

### **From N6ZFO:**

Wine harvest often interferes w/ CQP but not this year thanks to high temps late in the summer. Thus a semi-serious effort was possible here for the first time. If log checking isn't too brutal the score will set a new Lake County record against AI, AD6E's 214,020 nr from 1999. But it will be close. Some of the 10m SSB Q's were a bit ESP.

Many G's called in during their co-occurring RSGB test; some had v. strong 15-m signals. Other notable DX: 5n7m, Nigeria on 15 cw and V51L, Namibia, on 15 ssb.

N6BY rescued me from a multiplier shortfall by providing NV late Sat on 80 SSB. . Thanks! But no joy on Ms. . . usually an easy catch. SD was scarce; # 16 from KB0WSW on Sat eve and #1 from WD0T on Sunday afternoon. NT called early in the contest. VT was another rare mult just two stations in the log both w/ low received #'s, one late Sunday.

160m . unfortunately, most of the activity is too late for optimum conditions around sunset. Moved WX4G and KH6LC there from 80 SSB both with easy QSO's

**N6IE:** Best band conditions in years. For the first time, I started the contest on 10M. Did 100% run, and all with the remote station. Got calls from South Africa, Kenya and Namibia, plus several EU stations. No doubt CQP is the biggest and most popular of the state QSO parties, and one of the biggest contest events of the year! Thanks for all the QSO's! KB!

### **K6JS:**

*Who invited Murphy to the party? Although Murphy showed up to the party early, he was gone by the start. We ran a low power M/M County expedition from Plumas County. We had a F12 C3 at 50' on a military mast and a windom at 70' in the trees for the CW station. SSB station has a Moseley 33 at 20' with a low dipole. We had 57 mults by 5 pm Saturday, missing only MS. We eventually worked 2 MS stations on 40M SSB in the wee hours of Sunday. Condx's were good for the most part, with many EU stations in the log on 15M. We had S9 noise level from our generator on 40/80, which made it rough to copy the weaker stations. We swapped out generators when we refueled and the noise floor dropped allowing us to work through the night, but we missed some prime time 40M action. Another CQP is in the log and we're looking forward to next year!*

### **K6RIM:**

Conditions decent but not stellar. But good enough for some DX from EU. Was a bit surprised to be called by 5Z4EE on 15 CW. Ten meters was only fair. Missed NT.

### **K6TU:**

Yes, this IS the real K6TU! This year's CQP felt like cooking Thanksgiving dinner... great preparation, look good, tastes good... but the chef lost his appetite...

Came down with a head cold and woke up Saturday morning feeling... not so hot. Even the dog looked at me shaking his head and rolling his eyes. After a week of long days and nights getting the back end of CQP ready to accept logs, I hadn't spent minute one putting everything together for Game Day.

After an hour of remembering all the reasons why I dislike computers in general, Writelog configuration and Windows in particular (especially its broken privileges model)... I gave in 15 minutes before the bell and retreated for more sleep.

Woke up feeling more energetic but mostly missing a voice! Well, that's what CW is for! So I spent the first 4 hours doing CW only. Finally felt like speaking when I hit 40 around dark and had a 90 minute stretch where I was averaging almost 120 Q's an hour. Finished when the XYL called from the East Coast and asked who I was and what had I done with her husband - I sounded like Marlon Brando after a very bad night.

Picked and played today - felt good to give myself permission to just take it easy and as a result, had a lot of fun and, although I would never have believed it, even started getting more comfortable on CW towards the end. Thanks for all the Q's and fills, fills, oh and can't forget... the fills!

#### **W6OSP:**

Missed NT and SK. SD called with 30 minutes left in contest. While conditions could have been better WW6D and I had a good time. Thanks for the Q's and KB.

#### **CW Sweeps Soapbox:**

##### **From Bill N6ZFO:**

This casual effort at 200w (thus "B" class) was just for fun. Out of the gate on Saturday, despite preparation in Fri's practice, the K1EL keyer lost communication with the computer. Took 15 mins to get that straightened out. Then the floodgates opened for a solid 2 hours on 15m at a sustained 90-100 rate.

Often 10 stations calling in almost unmanageable pileups.

---

After a 5-hour a pub visit and dinner, returning at 10:30 local time, 80 meters seemed good and I again experienced a challenging pileup of 10-15 stations at a time that went on and on and on. Apologies to the KBr's who had some trouble breaking through. Often I had to send the call of the chosen station at both the beginning and end of the exchange. Rate was compromised by the difficulty in pulling a call out of the mess. I guess these pileups were partly my timing, having missed 5 1/2 hours Sat evening. But SF section appeared less available this year and I got many thanks for doling it out.

Sunday I was still missing many mults; but between about 0000 and 0200Z added WQ5L (MS), NP4Z, WY7SS, K7UT, and finally VY1EI, NT, on 20m - he was CQing w/ little response. After working a gaggle of Maine stns in CQP, I somehow managed to miss this easy multiplier. But got a Canadian sweep tks to VY1EI and VO1XX and two VE4's who called me.

One frightening moment . . . I wiped out the info from my SD mult and he was gone before I could retrieve it, so had to make a guess. Luckily another SD stn called a few mins later.

Saturday prior to SS I hooked the 240VAC to my new (old) amp and turned it on for the first time. No smoke, but still a little work remains to get it going. Hopefully before the 160m tests.

#### **K6MM:**

Partial effort this weekend. Squeezed a few Qs out of 10M but the band never really came alive. At two points for any QSO, staying on the money bands (15M and 20M) worked best to keep up the rate, except when hunting for needed Mults.

## Mults By Band:

80 = 1  
40 = 8  
20 = 20  
15 = 49  
10 = 5  
Total = 83

All 4 new Ontario sections were well represented. For me, the toughest Mults were NNY and SB. Logged both Sunday morning to complete the sweep.

Seemed like less activity overall compared to last year. Always a challenging but fun contest.

The K3 + ACOM 1000 + 3-ele SteppIR w/40M trombone + G5RV + N1MM worked very well -- no visits from Murphy.

## CQ WW DX SSB Soapbox:

### K6RIM:

Excellent conditions, including 10 meters!

A very part-time effort. Will spend more time in the CW portion, if conditions are as good as they were this weekend.

### K6SRZ:

10 Meters! Wow! I was running EU >100 hour on Sunday morning, a nice complement to the 100s of JAs I ran on Saturday. The low bands pretty much sucked. I spent more time than I had planned, but the conditions on 10 meters were addictive.

DXCC = 108

WAZ = 36 (missed 22,23,34,39)

## CQ WW DX RTTY Soapbox:

### From Jack-K3FIV:

Wow. I had forgotten what it could be like near the peak of a solar cycle. With my usual 100W and a wire, and not very many hours to play, I just ignored the points and multipliers and tried to work more countries/states/zones for RTTY mode and also for 10M.

10M was pretty amazing. Worked a VK. Next contact an EA. Followed by a PY. All in a span of a minute or two. Band was open all the way from Europe to Australia. CQing, got answers from lots of DX too. All with just 100W and a wire dipole, so you know the band was doing great.

Lots of great ops, lots of room with many bands simultaneously usable.

Can't wait for the California QSO Party next weekend - look for K3FIV/6 for (rare) MENDocino county! CW and SSB.

## Oceania DX CW Soapbox:

### N6ZFO:

Worked everything I heard in 1:20 of listening. Most signals were close to ESP but signals peaked up around sunset for VK/ZL. All contacts were VK's and ZL's except for WH6R.

## Help Save Rhombic 209!

REDXA member Adam McLaughlin has offered tours of the historic ex-RCA coast station KPH located at Point Reyes National Seashore. They need support in their restoration work. If you're interested please go to this link.

<https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=20-1122405>

The Maritime Radio Historical Society reported on preliminary field work done to evaluate Rhombic 209, the most historic antenna at either site restored by the MRHS.

209 had a storied career. As a curtain rhombic it was the last receiving antenna in the HF point to point service. As its identifying number suggests, it was aimed on an azimuth of 209 degrees - Tahiti!



**This is the bridle at the Tahiti end of R-209** - Made of 4x4 timber, it supported the antenna and provided a place for the terminating resistor, in the capped white tube, made with 4x4 timber! We will fabricate two new bridles from scratch to replace this one and the one still in the air at the feedline end of the antenna.



This is the bridle at the feed end of R209. It's still aloft - but barely. The curtain wires to the south are still connected. The ones to the north are gone (but recoverable on the ground). The antenna wires connect to a TMC balun, then to Heliax for connection with the receiver multicouplers.

**Crews capable of working on such antennas, let alone understanding them, are thin upon the ground these days. But we solicited the help of one of the best, CalSites, who have helped us with antenna work in the past. They have determined that Rhombic 209 can be restored. We have determined that we will spend a large portion of our carefully husbanded bank account to restore the antenna.**

**Bill Ruck, MRHS Maintenance, will be the lead person directing work on the antenna.**

**But we need your help as well.**

**The work on Rhombic 209 and on transmitting antennas at the Bolinas site will essentially empty our bank account. That's okay, that's what it's there for. And after all the funds in that account came from many of you who contributed for just such a purpose.**

**Once the antenna work is done we will still need to fund the purchase of parts and materials for ongoing repair and maintenance. And that's where you come in once again.**

**If you're a True Believer and feel you can help us with our antenna restoration projects and The Cause in general, please click on the button below and donate what you can.**

**Thanks!**

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**MEETING: NOVEMBER 14, 2012**

