

# 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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### CLUB OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT:

Ron Castro, N6IE  
1355 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 225  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
ron@n6ie.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

Josh Fiden, W6XU  
15885 Coleman Valley Road  
Occidental, CA 95465  
H (707) 874-3940  
w6xu@arrl.net

#### SECRETARY:

San Smith, N7PIB  
PO Box 624  
Vineburg, CA 95487  
H (707) 939-1242  
n7pib@att.net

#### TREASURER:

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

#### DIRECTORS:

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ  
210 Nila Mae Way  
Penngrove, CA 94951  
H (510) 540-8790  
doctore@well.com

Bob Magnani, K6QXY  
1500 Los Alamos Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
H (707) 538-3801  
k6qxy@aol.com

Wally Pugh, N6AD  
109 Alta Drive  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
H (707) 769-1065  
n6ad@comcast.net

#### CONTEST CHAIRMAN & 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, September 8, 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 NCCC's Rick "The Rhino", N6RNO, who has graciously agreed to be the featured speaker to get our 'juices flowing' for the California QSO Party and rally us to a successful group effort.**

### REDXA President's Report

The excitement of the California QSO Party is beginning to build! Following our success in Field Day, REDXA members once again will get to show their communications prowess by taking to the bands in the contest that makes California stations the ones everyone wants to work. This will also be our opportunity to break out of our perennial #2 ranking among California clubs. Two years ago, we had a record number of logs submitted (total of 27) which I believe was due to the great rallying effort of NCCC's Rick "The Rhino", N6RNO. Last year, despite having the highest point total in our club history, we were down 10 logs. Rick has graciously agreed to be the featured speaker at our September meeting, to get our 'juices flowing' and rally us to a successful group effort.

As we have always heard, the secret to winning the club competition in CQP, or any other contest for that matter, is "logs, logs, logs"! Get as many club members on the air as possible and make sure we get the logs submitted to NCCC with credit to REDXA. This is another wonderful opportunity for folks who are new to contesting to get advice from the more experienced members and get valuable hands-on learning. If you have never done a contest, CQP is the perfect way to start. It doesn't



require a “monster-class” station and the best part is that California ops are the stars for the weekend! 100 Watts and a dipole can generate a pile-up, and in general, CQP is a very ‘laid-back’ contest compared with the more frenetic events like Sweepstakes or CQWWDX.

There are plenty of opportunities for portable or mobile operations from some of our more exotic counties like Del Norte, Sierra, and surprisingly enough, Napa and San Francisco. There was only one log submitted from Napa last year from our own Bruce, W6OSP and only two logs from SF. Sonoma was well represented with 10 logs, three of which were in the top dozen Single Op scores.

This year, we want to expand our opportunities in the club competition by inviting NCCC members to submit their logs for REDXA. NCCC is the sponsor of the event and not eligible to compete as a club, but its members can submit their scores to other clubs, provided they meet the qualifications for club competition membership as defined by the ARRL. I looked into those rules and they require that anyone submitting a log in club competition to reside within 175 miles of a “designated center” and be a “member in good standing” of the club, but it does not seem to bar associate members, special members or anything other than full, regular voting members to submit logs in the clubs name.

After some e-mail exchanges with the REDXA Board of Directors, I will propose at the September club meeting that we create a new class of member, that of “Member in Good Standing By Acclamation” which will be a non-dues-paying associate membership that requires only that a prospective member submit a CQP contest log for REDXA’s credit, and be voted in by a voice vote of the regular members at a subsequent meeting and that their home QTH be within a 175 mile radius of a “designated center”. There would be no need for an application or for the prospective member to be present at a club meeting. The “designated center” would be the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, which would give us coverage of all of Sonoma County and cities ranging from Redding to Fresno, including Reno, NV. This will give us access to some top-drawer contesters and allow us to fairly compete for the top spot in the CQP club competition.

There is some precedent for such a membership as I learned two years ago when I received an e-mail and found out (after-the-fact!) that I had been voted in as a “Member by Acclamation” to NCCC after submitting a high score in a RTTY contest to NCCC’s credit.

Please join the fun in the CQP contest, 1600 UTC Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through 2200 UTC Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. And don’t forget, if you submit a log

with 100 QSO’s, you will be eligible for the special REDXA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coffee mug to be awarded at our annual Christmas meeting this year.

Briefly, on to another topic, I was happy to see the enthusiastic turn-out and positive comments about our use of Gourmet Garden as the venue for our August meeting. For those of you who were not there, we took a vote and got an overwhelming approval from the membership to make Gourmet Garden our regular meeting place for all of our future meetings, including next week’s September meeting. There was a big line at the cash register when we left, but I will be working with the manager to set up a system where REDXA members can pay in advance and exit without waiting in line...maybe a ticket system like we used to have. I hope to see you all at the September meeting!

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## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER’S REPORT

7/31/10 Balance Forward		\$2,104.03
INCOME		
Badge	15.00	
Dues	20.00	
Raffle	46.00	
TOTAL INCOME		81.00
EXPENSES		
Meals	22.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(22.00)
8/31/10 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,163.03</u>

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 2010

by San, N7PIB

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED.

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## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

by San, N7PIB

The August 11 meeting of REDXA was called to order at 7:42 P.M. by President Ron, N6IE at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. There were 32 members and guests in attendance. Guests included Jim Sexton, K6JNS, John Shappell, KM6XO and Rich Frates, KF6SZA.

The treasurer’s report indicated a beginning balance of \$2514.65, minus Field Day expenses of \$388.22 and several other minor expenses, resulting in an ending balance of \$2101.03. The minutes for the July

meeting and the treasurer's report were moved for approval, seconded and passed.

Under Old Business: we are still looking for a contest editor to replace Doug, WW6D.

Under New Business: a new 6m-160m full power antenna was displayed that will be put up for silent auction at our annual Christmas party. Details may be obtained from Ron, N6IE.

For our 30th anniversary a suggestion has been made that we should have a special award either for working 100 QSOs in the Cal QSO Party and/or 30 DX countries by the end of the year.

Future programs are a rally for the Cal QSO party for our September meeting (details elsewhere); Alan, K6SRZ, presenting a Field Day wrap-up for our October meeting, and AN0N (i.e. we still need a volunteer) on vacation DX sites for our November meeting.

The 50/50 raffle was won by N6RXA, benefiting to the tune of \$46.

Our program was presented by Paul Ewing, N6PSE, who discussed the recent YI9PSE DXpedition from the vicinity of Erbil in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, aka Iraq. With direct flights from Vienna to Erbil, one can set foot in Iraq without ever having to visit Baghdad. With a goal of 50,000 Qs the group made 50,401 contacts, some of which were even with our members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

The new venue of the Gourmet Garden appeared to have been a great success with an enthusiastic show of hands to continue meeting there for our September meeting. In addition to the already reasonable buffet price, there is a senior discount available as if any members of REDXA would qualify!

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## Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Unless you've been under a rock the past few months, you should be well aware that next month marks the 45<sup>th</sup> running of the California QSO Party Oct 2-3. And for the past 8 years, the MLDXCC has come in first place, REDXA in second.

**2010 is the year for the upset!** By some calculations, all we need is an additional 10 logs submitted (compared with last year) with at least 100 QSO's and we could do it!

Simply put, merely getting on the air, making a few

QSO's and, most importantly, submitting your log will do wonders for the club's overall score and boost your morale! Also, on checking the 'county list' today (Aug 31), I noted that Mendocino does not show any concerted effort along with Colusa, Sutter, Sacramento(!) and Alameda(!). Launching a county expedition could also go a long way toward helping the club total.

Bob K6QXY reports that sporadic E season is essentially done. But, notwithstanding, he has worked several Earth-Moon-Earth stations, including KL7/KB7Q, IS0/I0JU, PA3HP, and TF3CY. Also, tropospheric ducting has allowed him to work several in KH6 land. He monitors the KH6HME/B beacon to note the potential of that propagation mode.

Further, Bob has skeds with Z31RM and YL3AG set up to possibly work two more for his 6 meter EME DXCC total. Good luck, Bob!

Again, I encourage all of you to try to get on the air the first weekend of October — it will be a blast!

### NAQP CW - August

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Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6RIM	SOLP	627	158	99,066
K6LRN	SOLP	453	139	62,967
K6CTA	SOLP	455	113	51,415
WW6D	SOLP	179	73	13,604

### NAQP SSB - August

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Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6LRN	SOLP	277	95	26,315
W6PZ	SOLP	463	108	50,004
(op K6SRZ)				
VP9/NM6E		501	90	45,090

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### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Sep 8 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
*See redxa.com — new meeting QTH!*  
Sep 25-26 CQ WW DX RTTY  
*Oct 2-3 California QSO Party*  
Oct 13 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Oct 30-31 CQ WW DX SSB  
Nov 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Nov 27-28 CQ WW DX CW  
Dec 10 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting

## Our Meeting Location

The REDXA meeting will be held at:

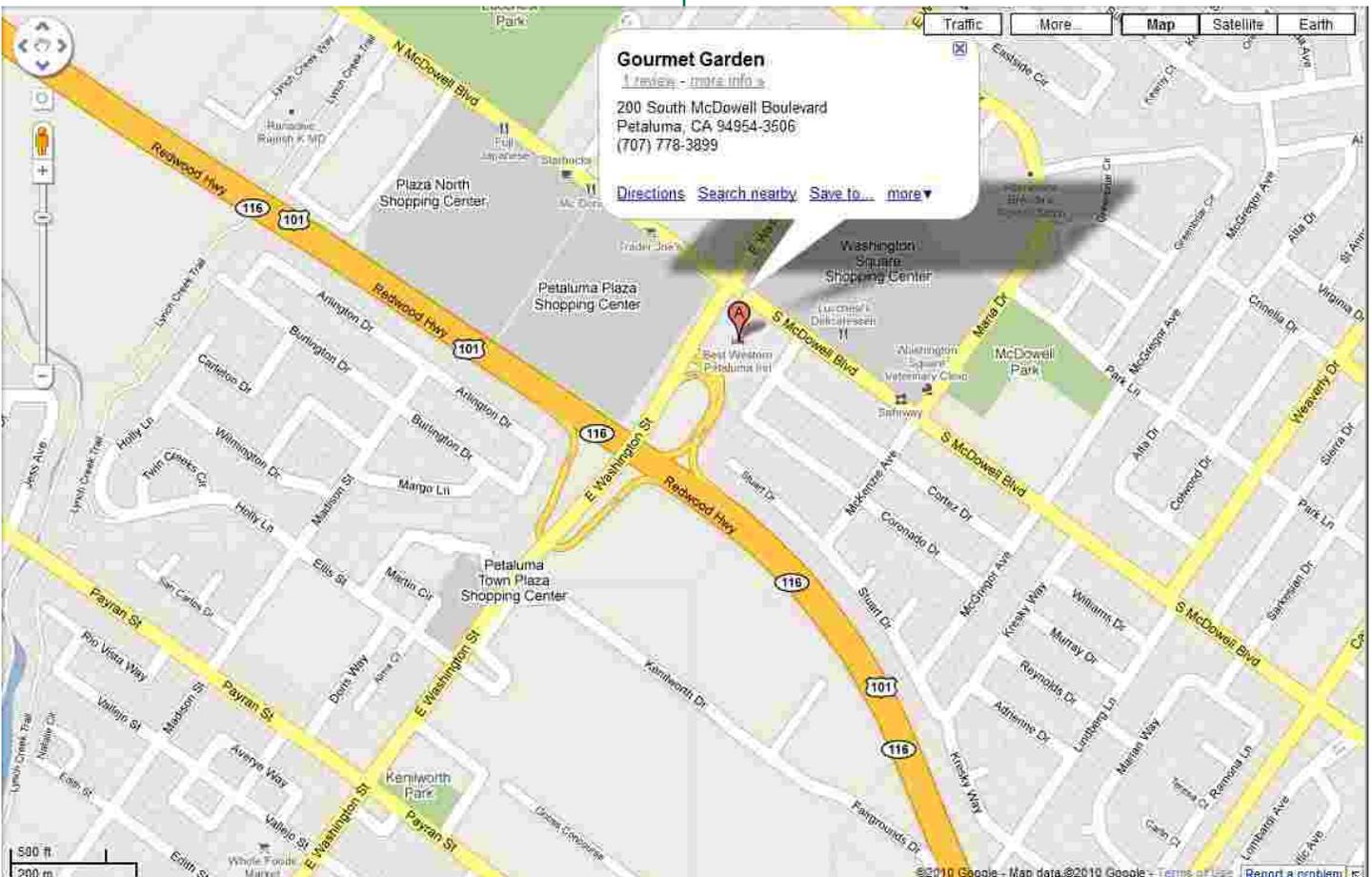
**GOURMET GARDEN, PETALUMA**  
(All you can eat Asian and some American food)  
\$11.99 plus tax tip and beverage  
Happy Hour 6:00 PM in bar, meeting at 7:00

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



## Swap Shop

### For Sale:

SteppIR Biggir III 6-40 M vertical (32') with 80M base loading coil, controller box, interface cables, Y-cables. Includes mounting pipe in the ground if you can get it out! Located in Petaluma, east side, pick-up only. Paid \$1,400, asking \$1,150 or best offer. Contact Jim, N6JWP, 707-778-6640 or jim@marincc.com

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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>

673 Plum Street  
Novato, CA 94945

**MEETING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**



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**Mark Nowell**  
Manager  
W7YN

2210 Livingston Street  
Oakland, CA 94606  
(510) 534-5757 • 800-854-6046  
(510) 534-0729 Fax

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