

# 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, September 9, 2015** at Boulevard Cafe & Grill, 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 **Richard Dillman W6AWO** will be giving a talk on the latest happenings at the historic radio station **KPH** in West Marin. Richard is affiliated with the Maritime Radio Historical Society. The ham call they use is **K6KPH**.

## REDXA President's Report

Despite a few hot days recently, fall is in the air. My walnut tree is starting to loose it's leaves. This is hopefully a sign of an early winter or at least a swing out of the summer radio doldrums and an upswing in propagation. Conditions for me have been so bad I have not even been turning on the rig lately. I have only logged a hand full of qsos in the last couple of months. In one month from today the 50th annual California QSO Party will begin. We can only hope conditions will improve greatly by then. I am looking forward to once again having a very enjoyable weekend operating portable somewhere in the wilderness of northern California. I want to encourage each and everyone of you to put in an effort this year no matter how big or small (big is better though, hi!) Activity should be quite high as there is the added incentive of winning a special commemorative coin. (see CQP.org) for full info.

It is not too early to think about club elections. My two year "reign" as president will be ending, along with most of the board of directors and it will be nice to see some new blood take over the duties. A nomi-



nating committee will come up with a list of potential members to run for office. Anyone interested in running for a position please contact me or any board member to throw your hat in the ring.

The joint meeting of NCCC, REDXA and MLDXCC in late October is getting closer to a confirmed location. As soon as I hear from Bob-W1RH I will let you know. See you at the meeting.

73, Fred

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 2015

by Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

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## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

by Fred, N6YEU for Ed, K6ELE

The meeting was held August 12 and was opened around 7 p.m. by president Fred-N6YEU. A visitor was present: John-K6EFR. The treasurers report was given by Bill-W6IYS. Under Old Business there was some discussion on the status of a plaque the club had ordered and Fred updated that. The joint meeting with REDXA, MLDXCC and NCCC scheduled for Oct. 31 is still waiting for a confirmation of a site. W1RH of NCCC is working on this. Under New Business Fred encouraged all members to prepare to do battle in the upcoming California QSO Party to be held Oct.3-4. The raffle was held bringing in \$221.00 \$111 to REDXA and \$110 to the winner (Jack Molinari I think). The program was then presented by Eric Swartz-WA6HHQ of Elecraft. He gave a review of the latest developments with the Elecraft line of amateur radio gear. Fred thanked Matt-KE6LPO and Pia-N6PIA for picking up Eric at the airport and for offering to host him for the night in their guest house. The meeting was adjourned sometime around 9 p.m.

## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

<b>Sep 9</b>	* <b>REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Sep 26-27	CQ WW DX RTTY
<b>Oct 3-4</b>	<b>California QSO Party – 50th year</b>
<b>Oct 14</b>	* <b>REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Oct 16-18	<b>PACIFICON Pac Div Convention</b>
Oct 24-25	<b>CQ WW DX SSB</b>
Nov 7-9	ARRL Sweepstakes CW
<b>Nov 11</b>	* <b>REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Nov 21-23	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
Nov 28-29	CQ WW DX CW
Dec 4-6	ARRL 160m Contest
<b>Dec 9</b>	* <b>REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Dec 12-13	ARRL 10m Contest
Dec 19	RAC Winter Contest
Dec 20	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
Dec 26-27	Stew Perry Topband Challenge

If you have events that you would like to have posted here, PLEASE let me know!

Refer to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more contest information.

Treasurer's Report  
August 2015

by Bill, W6IYS

Bal Brt. Fwd	8/1/15				<u>\$3,355.21</u>
Receipts					
	Raffle (net to Club)	\$111.00			
	Badge (K6TER)	\$22.00			
	Dues (2016)	\$ 20.00			
	Total receipts				<u>\$ 153.00</u>
Disbursements					
	Dinner for Guest Speaker	\$24.50			
	Plaque for S. Bertsch	\$54.38			
	Total Disbursements				<u>\$78.88</u>
Cash Flow					
	8/31/15				<u>\$74.12</u>
	New Bal. 8/31/2015				<u>\$3,429.33</u>

### Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

### October 14, 2015 (2nd Wednesday) -- Monthly Meeting -- "The Origins of Silicon Valley: Roots in Ham Radio"

-- Paul Wesling KM6LH will give his talk from last summer's ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT.

Paul Wesling KM6LH will give his talk from last summer's ARRL Centennial Convention. The story goes back to local Hams trying to break RCA's tube patents, the sinking of the Titanic, Naval ship communications requirements, World War I, Fred Terman and Stanford University, local invention of high-power tubes (gammatron, klystron), WW II and radar, and the SF Bay Area infrastructure that developed – these factors pretty much determined that the semiconductor and IC industries would be located in the Santa Clara Valley.

## The Joys of CQP Portable

As most of you know I enjoy participating in the California QSO Party contest each year operating from a somewhat rare county. I began in 1997 with a minimal operation from Collins Lake in Yuba county. In 1998 I did my first real effort operating from the top of Manzanita Mountain in Modoc county where it snowed about one inch on Friday night. Since then I have only missed two years of CQP portable, both for family commitments.

I have always enjoyed getting out in the wilds and going camping out in nature so it just seemed the way to go for me. I could combine my love of the outdoors with the enjoyment of radio contesting. Every year there seems to be a county that is in need of someone to operate from and I am usually open to heading that way. I have operated CQP/P from 10 different counties a couple 3 different years. I have operated exclusively from public lands, mostly U.S. National Forests and a couple of times on Bureau of Land Management lands. I try to find a location up high with, at a minimum, a good unobstructed view to the east. Camping is allowed anywhere in the national forests not just in designated campgrounds. Of course this means one needs to be self sufficient bringing all that is needed in the way of food, water and toilet facilities (shovel and a roll of TP). I have gone from a canvas tent to a Coleman tent trailer to my current pop up camper on the back of my truck as my "shack".

I begin gathering my equipment a week or so before CQP. This involves loading my camper on back of my pickup and loading my portable tower (just like the club towers used for Field Day) in my utility trailer. I make sure my Honda generator is ready and that my gas can is full. I bring various tools, ropes, tarps etc. I make sure to bring a fire extinguisher along. While I have never been bothered by any "bad guys" (pot growers, etc.) I do bring along my trusty old Savage over-under .22-.410 combo just in case. One year in Lake county I got up Saturday morning just before sunrise and when I opened the tent trailer door to go outside a small black bear was looking up at me. It gave me a bit of a thrill but he was just as scared and ran away.

A couple of days before CQP I basically dismantle my shack. The radio, power supply, tuner, antenna coax, key, keyer etc. are boxed and loaded. The last couple of years I have left home on Thurs-

day to get to my chosen location. Sometimes I just go to the general area I want to be and then look for a site but I also have gone to a specific site that I have been before or have been recommended by another ham who has operated there previously. I enjoy the whole process. The work of gathering and packing isn't real fun but once I head down the highway I can't help but sing Willy Nelson's: "On the Road Again". I spend Friday setting up which like FD takes much longer that is does taking down. Friday night I try to get on and test the antennas and usually check in with the NCCC group on 80 ssb.

Saturday morning the butterflies begin in anticipation of the start of the contest. Will the conditions be good? Will I be heard? Will I make hams happy with a new multiplier? 9 a.m. seems to take forever to arrive but finally the fun begins! I use various strategies but basically try the highest open band and just move around if need be. I spend probably 95% of my time running and occasionally go looking for qsos. I try to do about 50% CW and 50% Phone. It definitely helps to be in a "rare" county as people are looking for you which makes it nice. I only operate barefoot but being in a needed county adds a couple of DB to my sigs, hi!

Once the contest ends I kick back with a cold one and do some take down and finish the rest in the morning after a good nights sleep. I load up and away I go back to civilization with a smile on my face and the question: "Where will I go next year?"

I would highly encourage those of you who enjoy the outdoors and a bit of adventure to give CQP portable a try this year. You won't be disappointed.

73, Fred

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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**MEETING: SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**

