

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, April 11, 2012 at Gourmet Garden 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 feature Chuck N6OJ, whose topic will be LOTW, as well as pictures from his Pacific Island Cruise.

REDXA President's Report

PSE QSL OM!

Ron, N6IE, pinch-hitting for President Jim

Ever since my first day as a Novice I have enjoyed sending and receiving QSL cards. Cards from everywhere, including not just the exotic DXCC entities, but from hams wherever they happen to be operating, even if it's just from across town. Over the years, I have found many of the cards to be very creative, unusual and often offering some insight into the location and the operator. Long ago, I ran out of wall space to display them on.

In the early days of ham radio, QSL'ing a first-time contact with any station was considered proper etiquette, and you could pretty much count on getting a card if you asked during the QSO. DX stations would often QSL even without the SAE + green stamp. The cards were a nicety, but also a requirement for numerous awards including the coveted DXCC.



Part of the challenge of QSL'ing was getting the proper address, and many folks remember the big book with the winged horse on the cover, which was the primary source. Every US and Canadian ham was listed along with some DX, but many countries wouldn't share their information, making the search for the right address a challenge. Although the book was updated and published quarterly, if you didn't have the latest copy, you often got old, out-of-date addresses. QSL managers, QSL nets and QSL bureaus, both incoming and outgoing, all became part of the scheme in what often became a long process.

One big thing that has changed over the years is the cost, especially in many parts of EU where an airmail letter costs close to \$3.00 USD. There was always the chance that your green stamp could get stolen by a corrupt postal worker in a foreign country, and although the incidence of this is less than in the old days, it still goes on. Add the cost of outgoing postage, envelopes and card printing, and the fact that many QSL requests go unanswered, and the cost of getting a basic DXCC has soared. Not to mention all the trees that have been sacrificed in the process!

Well now, thanks to computers, the internet and the ARRL, we have a much better, faster and more accurate way of confirming our QSO's: Logbook of The World, or "LoTW". I have been using the service for a few years now, but I'm still overwhelmed at the complicated series of events it requires to initially sign up, and to use all of the various facets of LoTW. At our April meeting, we will have QSL expert Chuck, N6OJ give a presentation on how to get started with LoTW and how to use it to get the most benefit. Bring your questions for what should be a very important session, Wednesday, April 11th!

IMPORTANT MEETING INFO NOTICE

At last month's meeting, we discussed having our next meeting at Cattlemen's, however since President Jim asked to be excused this month for a family matter, we decided to hold our meeting at our regular location, The Gourmet Garden, 200 S. McDowell, Petaluma. If all goes well, we'll try Cattlemen's for the May meeting. See you all there!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 2012

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

President Jim K6JS called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm, March 14, 2012 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. There were 27 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Jim announced that the April meeting would feature Chuck N6OJ, whose topic would be LOTW, as well as pictures from his Pacific Island Cruise.

The May meeting would feature Bob N6TV. The June meeting would be about Field Day. The July meeting would be a possible joint meeting with the Mother Load DX and Contest Club at a "neutral" location?

Jim asked for a show of interest for attendance at that meeting, probably to be held in some place like Benicia.

The members approved.

Announcements:

Alan K6SRZ is replacing Rick N6RNO as the NCCC CQP "Czar". Jim K6JS will get last years CQP totals and distribute his wine, as he promised, to deserving members.

The Valley of the Moon ARC is having their annual hamfest, swap meet, and pancake breakfast coming up on Saturday April 28th.

The "SUNSPOTS" Web Site was recently hacked and down for three or four days. There was discussion about moving the site to another host. One possible host would charge \$5 a month, but provide member only access and confidentiality. There was some discussion about what might be added to the web site such as back issues of "SUNSPOTS" and more member information. Doug WW6D stated that we should list no more than members calls and first

names, for privacy. It was agreed to wait and see if further issues crop up before making a final decision.

A current membership roster was distributed by our Treasurer Saraj KU6F.

PLEASE pay delinquent dues as soon as possible either in person or by check addressed to the club at her address.

John K6MM passed a copy of the NCJ (National Contest Journal) magazine around and told us how much he liked the contest aspect of the articles.

Awards from last month's NCCC Award Banquet:
Alan K6SRZ won the KB2500 Award
Ron N6IE won the KB1000 Award
John K6MM won four awards, including best webmaster award.

Motions:

A venue change was discussed for future meetings:

1. "The Sunflower Center" all Vegan cuisine-no interest.
2. "Mr. McGoo's" - increased price to \$27 per person, same menu - no interest.
3. "City Limits-101 Casino" - \$50 for room, \$28 per person - good service and food, but pricey.
4. "Graziano's" - \$29.50 to \$50 per person - no interest.
5. "Sally Tomatoes" - \$50 for room \$23 per person - food unimpressive.
6. "Volpis" - unsatisfactory.
7. "Sheriton Hotel" Petaluma - Too expensive
8. "Doubletree Hotel" Rohnert Park - \$40-\$45 per person
9. "Elks Lodge" Petaluma" - Too expensive
10. "Cattleman's" Petaluma - \$19.99 to \$29.99 per person depending on menu selection. Individual meal charges-Full Bar -Very willing to negotiate. Would provide larger room for Christmas Party. Would move Bar into party room-no charge.
11. "Gourmet Garden" no changes.

A motion was made to hold a meeting at Cattleman's Petaluma to see if it will work, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to make an expenditure of \$100

to match the Marin Club's expenditure to purchase a 6 meter beam for Field Day. Bob K6QXY would spearhead a VHF station there. There was discussion about mounting the 6 Meter antenna above the 40 Meter beam, the possible availability to rotate the 6 Meter Beam, the possible use of a separate tower, and the availability of extra personnel to put an extra tower up. The motion to spend the money was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to accept the minutes and treasurer's report as reported in the last issue of "Sunspots", seconded and approved.

The fifty-fifty raffle of \$46 was won by Catherine, YL of Steve K6SFK

John K6MM gave his slide show and talk about the Dayton Hamvention titled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly".

The meeting was ended at 9:25 pm.

Treasurer Report

by Saraj, KU6F

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

2/29/12 Balance Forward		\$3,203.67
INCOME		
Dues	40.00	
Raffle	46.00	
TOTAL INCOME		86.00
EXPENSES	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(0.00)
3/31/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,289.67</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.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Apr 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 20-22	Int'l DX Convention, Visalia
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 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.

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: APRIL 11, 2012



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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ATTENTION REDXA MEMBERS

We are meeting at the regular
location, **Gourmet Garden**,
for our
**APRIL REDXA Regular
Monthly Meeting!**