

# 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 9, 2014** 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 Stu Phillips-K6TU. It will deal with his radio propagation service. Everything you want to know about personalized propagation reports.**

## REDXA President's Report

By the time this newsletter is published the International DX Convention held in Visalia, CA will be a memory. Hopefully those who attended had a great time and one or more of our members won a nice raffle prize or two. Even if no one won I'm sure it was worth the trip to enjoy the camaraderie and all the other benefits the convention offers.

I would like to thank Ron-N6IE for offering to be Field Day Chairman. I fully expect that the rest of us will offer our usual amount of help setting up, operating and taking down of this enjoyable annual event. The Marin Rod and Gun club site has worked well for us for several years and should live up to expectations again this year. While obviously a bit on the early side we might consider returning to Sonoma County in 2015. (Just a suggestion).

I dabbled in the CQ WPX Phone contest March 30-31 and enjoyed some very nice propagation on 10 meters. The thrill of the weekend was working FR5NA on Reunion Island with 100 watts and busting a pileup. Propagation was definitely favoring W6. I had to look outside the shack to make sure he wasn't there. 11,000 plus miles is real DX. Great fun!



Hopefully the rest of you contest types got to enjoy the great conditions. Outside the contest conditions have been super on 10 and 12 meters. I guess we should enjoy it while we can as the sunspot cycle will only go down from now on.

73 and good DX, Fred

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 12, 2014**

by Ed, K6ELE

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by Fred, N6YEU. Board Members present: Bill, KH6GJV; Alan, K6SRZ; Rick, N6GY; Jim, K6JS; Ed, K6ELE

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

1. Fred N6YEU discussed the old DLP projector that is owned by the club and what to do with it since we have no need for it. He had tried to determine a value for it without success. For the present it will be retained to see if it works and what value it has.

2. The online roster was discussed. Bill, KH6GJV said that after tonight he would update the roster eliminating those who have not paid dues for 2014. It was noted that in the past it was the responsibility of the treasurer to maintain and update the roster. It was clarified that our treasurer will be responsible for maintaining the roster and communicating with web master and Sunspots editor when changes are needed.

3. Fred N6YEU discussed the membership application process and the online application. Discussion followed and it was agreed that applications for new membership will continue to be accepted from the online application. The club bylaws require potential new members to attend a meeting and this will be continued for new member applications. This issue was raised as the result of a new application being received online. When the applicant was contacted by email and notified that they needed to attend a meeting, no response was received.

4. Fred N6YEU suggested that the club should spend \$60 for a CAQP plaque each year. Board members approved.

5. Bill KH6GJV suggested we set the club badge fee between \$22-25 as they now cost us \$20. Discussion followed and the Board approved a new badge fee of \$22. As costs rise for the badge it was agreed to round the cost up to the nearest dollar for the badge.

6. Jim K6JS suggested the online application wording be updated to reflect the need to attend a meeting for approval of membership. The Secretary will prepare updated language for the website membership application form and submit to board members for approval.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

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## **MARCH MEETING MINUTES**

by Ed, K6ELE

### **Boulevard Café, Petaluma**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 by the club president, Fred, N6YEU. There were 16 members in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

Fred, N6YEU reported that the club will follow bylaws for new membership applications. The online application will be retained, but potential members must attend one club meeting for introduction. One applicant, who applied online, has not responded to a email request to attend a meeting. His application is on hold.

Treasurer's report accepted as reported in Sunspots. Ron, N6IE volunteered to chair Field Day for 2014. It was discussed whether the club should ask to use the key of a deceased member for Field Day as a memorial.

Fred reviewed the CQAP scores for our club and reported our log rate was higher than our competition. WX6B got the SSB high score for California. Club shirts and hats were distributed to those who had ordered them.

**New Business:**  
No new business

**Club Presentation:**  
A video on the Dxpedition to Desecheo Is. By K5D in 2009 was shown.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

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**Treasurer Report - March**  
by Bill, KH6GJV

**REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT**

2/28/14 Balance Forward		\$2,379.49
RECEIPTS		
Badge	20.00	
Dues 2014	40.00	
Raffle (net)	31.00	
Shirts & Hats	<u>461.00</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		552.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Badge	20.37	
Shirts & Hats	<u>417.72</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(438.09)
CASH FLOW		113.91
3/31/14 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,493.40</u>

Dues are due! Please mail your \$20 (\$25 for family) to the club PO Box or I'll gladly accept them at the meeting!

REDXA  
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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>

**REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:**  
by Doug, WW6D

<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Apr 19-20	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest
<b>Apr 26</b>	<b>VOMARC Hamfest and Flea Mkt</b>
May 10-11	CQ-M International DX Contest
<b>May 14</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
May 24-25	CQ WW WPX CW
<b>Jun 11</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Jun 14-16	ARRL June VHF
Jun 28-29	ARRL Field Day
<b>Jul 9</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Jul 8 - 14	WRTC 2014
Jul 12-13	IARU HF Championship
Jul 19-20	NA QSO Party RTTY
Aug 2-3	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 9-10	WAE DX Contest CW
<b>Aug 13</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Aug 16-17	NA QSO Party SSB

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

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

## How I got Started in Ham Radio

Rick Sealock N6GY "How I Became a Ham".....

I have been licensed in radio for 40 years. Amateur Radio for 26 years.

I hold Commercial NARTE Senior Technician - Master Certification with AM/FM Broadcast Radio Endorsements and have worked at the Pacific Telephone Radio

And Television Operating Center, San Francisco.

I have held Novice, Technician, General, and now Extra Class tickets. Like many others, I got interested in CB radio. Especially Santa Monica REACT (KFR9525 and KIK0588). Then a true Southern Gentleman from South Carolina, Otice "Red" Gallman KF6D (sk) introduced me to "ham" radio. He helped me buy my first radio, a Yaesu 101EX. Later I transferred to San Jose where I was involved in Santa Clara County REACT. When I transferred to Sonoma County, Gary Jackman [KF6JF/ W6GWJ (sk)] tormented me daily until I took and passed my Novice test.

My first HF QSO was with Dr. Robert (Bob) Hisamoto KL7AM (sk) on 10M SSB. We chatted a while. Only later did I find out he was considered the "Father of Japanese Radio". He had formally petitioned Emperor Hirohito to allow "Amateur Radio" into Japan in 1932.

Other interesting QSO's were my first CW (at "about" 5wpm) with Chuck KB6IXB (sk) in April 1987. I also managed to talk to Tom Christian on Pitcairn Isl. on 10M SSB.

I later got my Technician license, then gave up HF while raising our son, who played competitive soccer from age 4 to age 18, when he was invited to try out for the Men's Olympic Development Team in 2005. Meanwhile, I concentrated on VHF/UHF Public Service.

I got re-interested in HF about 4 years ago. I struggled with a Hustler Vertical on top of the roof, learning how to listen, closely, because I couldn't hear very well.. I managed DXCC despite having a dead radio receive for 3 months. (Bad filters). Thanks to Chuck N6OJ who convinced me they were bad, and to Kenwood for replacing the filters free (although they were 3 years out of warranty). Finally early last year, I put up the tower and the 3

ele STEPPIR that I enjoy today.

Currently WAC, WAS, WAS-RTTY, DXCC (240). 5,201 QSO's - 2,446 QSL's.

I am doing SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, JT-65, VHF-SSB/FM, UHF-FM/ATV

I credit Red KF6D(sk), Gary W6GWJ (sk), Chuck N6OJ, Len K6ANP, and Ron N6IE for getting me this far!

A big shout out to all my friends that helped with my tower and antenna work, especially Matt KE6LPO and Frank KG6N!

73

Rick Sealock N6GY

REDXA

ARRL/ARRL VE

NCCC

NCDXF

SKCC

SCRA

SONOMA COUNTY DEPT. of FIRE and EMERGENCY SERVICES/ACS

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**MEETING: APRIL 9, 2014**

