

SUNSPOTS



REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750531, 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, December 10, 2008 at Mister McGoo's 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 our annual Holiday party!

REDXA President's Report

It's traditional for columnists to write some sort of end-of-the-year summary. Here's my effort.

This year was my first as president of REDXA. Because it was a relatively painless experience--thanks to the help and cooperation of all of our members--I have re-upped for 2009. I will again be counting on you to keep REDXA among the finest regional ham radio associations.

The most difficult task facing REDXA officers is securing speakers for our monthly meetings. The generally poor HF propagation of the last few years has meant that fewer of the local DXpeditioners have gone out to rare and exotic locations, making for slim pickings for DXpedition programs. But in their place have been other fascinating programs. At this point, I'm looking for programs for March 2009. And, I repeat my pledge that if I can't come up with a program for a meeting, I will personally juggle, tell jokes, and maybe even bring my banjo. You've been warned.

REDXA membership has remained constant, even grown a bit, over the past year. We have welcomed several new members and, sadly, mourned a few silent keys.

In June, the combined REDXA/MARS Field Day effort resulted in W6SG's first place finish in class 2A for the San Francisco Section, second in the Pacific Division, and 21st overall for the USA and Canada. After Field Day, REDXA members stepped up (no pun intended) to help purchase our very own SteppIR yagi for use in future Field Days and other activities.

In August we again had a very successful social event at the San Francisco Yacht Club, with thanks again to Al, K6RIM, for helping make these events possible.

In November, we had a national election. Change was the theme. How much change will happen remains to be seen. The new administration will be making appointments to the FCC. Let us hope that a newly constituted FCC will not lose sight of amateur radio, especially oversight of on-the-air conduct. Riley Hollingsworth has retired. He was a real champion for amateur radio. But, a casual perusal of the racist and profane chatter on 75 meter SSB (the so-called "pig farmers") or the mentally unbalanced rantings on 14.275 MHz demonstrate that there is much to be done.

In the coming year we can all be ambassadors for ham radio in general. A substantial portion of the population now considers ham radio to be some sort of amusing anachronism that is insignificant when compared to cell phones or the Internet. We know this isn't true.

In October, I had the opportunity to provide medical aid to Jan, KF4TUG, who was aboard a small sailboat in the Solomon Islands. I mentioned this at one of our meetings. More recently, I had the chance to share the story with a group on non-hams who were discussing the future of telemedicine. The response was amazing! They all agreed this was a great story and yet seemed surprised that ham radio was still (still!) being used to provide medical help at a distance. I recall that in my youth (when I became a ham) that such stories were fairly common. I used to read about hams saving the day in publications like "Boys Life".

Here's to a healthy and Happy 2009. I look forward to seeing you at our holiday gathering at Mr. McGoo's on December 10. There will be no corkage...

*Love and joy come to you
And to your Wassail too
And God bless you and send you
A happy New Year
And god send you a happy New Year*

73,
Alan

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

10/31/08 Balance Forward		\$2,856.26
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
Raffles	34.00	
StepIR	150.00	
TOTAL INCOME		204.00
EXPENSES		
Guest Meal	22.00	
NCDXF	250.00	
Xmas Gifts	425.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(697.00)
11/30/08 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,363.26</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 2008

by Doug, WW6D

The Board of Directors met at Mr. McGoo's restaurant on November 12, 2008 prior to the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order at 5:58 pm by President Alan, K6SRZ. Board members present were John KE6ZSN, Al K6RIM, Bill KH6GJV and Doug WW6D. The main purpose of the meeting was to address end of year items.

Alan K6SRZ and Al K6RIM proposed that the Holiday party gift certificates remain as budgeted for last year's; specifically, Ham Radio Outlet GC's of 2 each \$100, 1 each \$75, 1 each \$50, 1 each \$25 and Ladies Prize of \$75. Total budget is \$425. It was so moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

The REDXA Spirit Award was discussed and a committee of Al K6RIM and Doug WW6D will accept nominations and make the necessary purchases.

The slate of officers was reviewed (see regular business meeting for listing).

Programs for the upcoming months were presented by Alan K6SRZ. January: Joint meeting with NCCC and panel review of Elecraft K3 transceiver. February: P29NI DXpedition presented by Alan AD6E. Board members were encouraged to propose other programs and pass them onto Alan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm, November 12, 2008 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 32 members and guests. Guests included Bob W6RGG, Ken N6KM, Rick N6XI, YL friend of Pink W6FQS, and guest speaker Bob N6TV.

Old business. Alan K6SRZ opened the business meeting by asking for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots. Chuck N6OJ so moved and it was seconded by Alan K6KLL. Motion passed.

New business. Election of officers: the slate, as published in the October issue of Sunspots was presented:

President: Alan K6SRZ
Vice President: Jim KE6UAR
Secretary: Doug WW6D
Treasurer: Jim K6JS
Director: Al K6RIM
Director: Ron N6IE
Director: Bob K6QXY

Alan then asked for nominations from the floor; none were made. It was then moved by Chuck N6OJ that the slate of officers be accepted by acclamation. Seconded by Bob K6SEM. Motion was approved unanimously.

Fred N6YEYU reported that he is re-organizing and revamping the club's antenna storage at his QTH. Since the club has now settled on the SteppIR antennas for Field Day, many of the other antennas are now redundant. He would like the Board to decide what to do about this excess equipment.

Al K6RIM moved that REDXA approve the \$250 budget item for its annual donation to the Northern California DX Foundation. It was seconded and approved.

Fred N6YEYU conducted the REDXA raffle. \$68 was collected. The winning ticket was Dave AA6YX who won \$34. The club thus retained \$34.

The program for the evening was an update of the CW Skimmer presentation that Bob N6TV showed at the Visalia DX Convention this past April. New to the discussion was the Perseus software defined radio which can capture an entire 800 kHz of spectrum up to 30 MHz. With a laptop running the software, Bob gave a live demo of a previous recorded contest.

The CW Skimmer has touched off a great deal of discussion regarding its use during a contest. Bob

presented the various points-of-view on this as well as how to add this capability to your station. For more information, go to: www.kkn.net/~n6tv

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Lots of activity the past few weeks from REDXA members. Several have been heard during the Sweepstakes events both CW and SSB weekends. And many of you took advantage of somewhat good propagation during CQ Worldwide CW considering ol' sol is still pretty quiet.

Bob K6QXY has now confirmed 150 DXCC countries on 6 meters! Truly a remarkable accomplishment.

I hope all of you have the grandest of holidays!

ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Score
K6RIM	SOHP U	1097	80	175,520
K6LRN	SOHP B	501	79	79,158
W6PZ	SO	872	80	139,520
(op K6SRZ)				
K6ANP	SO	201	73	29,346
N6ZFO	SOLP A	613	78	95,628
W6XU	SOHP U	1171	80	187,360
N6YEYU	SOLP A	593	77	91,168
WW6D	SOLP A	93	47	8,742

ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Score
K6RIM	SOHP U	1100	80	176,000
K6CTA	SO	75	37	5,550
W6PZ	SOHP U	1241	80	198,560
(op K6SRZ)				
K6LRN	SOHP B	400	79	63,200
AA6YX	SOLP A	491	77	75,614
N6YEYU	SOLP A	461	73	67,306
W6XU	SOHP U	1520	80	243,360

CQ World Wide CW

Call	Class	Qs	Ctrys	Zones	Score
N6YEYU	SOABLP	301	122	55	145,140
N6IE	SOABHP	444	168	88	301,312
K6RIM	SOAB(A)HP	580	265	102	570,318
K6ANP	SOAB(A)HP	938	314	129	1,160,217
WW6D	SOABHP	68	41	32	13,578
K6LRN	SOABHP	431	171	83	302,006


Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Dec 5-7 ARRL 160m Contest
Dec 10 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
Dec 13-14 ARRL 10m Contest
Jan 14 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jan 24-25 CQ WW 160m CW
Feb 7-8 CQ WPX RTTY
Feb 11 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 14-15 ARRL Intl DX CW
Feb 21-22 CQ WW 160m SSB
Feb 21-22 NA QSO Party

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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NCDXF PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

NCDXF ELECTION

At its Board of Directors meeting on November 18, 2008 in Albany, CA, the Northern California DX Foundation elected the following officers and directors:

President	Len Geraldi, K6ANP
Vice President	Al Burnham, K6RIM
Secretary	Tom McShane, NW6P
Treasurer	Bruce Butler, W6OSP
Director	Dave Pugatch, KI6WF
Director	Chuck Ternes, N6OJ
Director	Glenn Vinson, W6OTC
Director	Steve Merchant, K6AW
Director	Ken Anderson, K6TA
Director	Tim Totten, N4GN
Director	Glenn Johnson, W0GJ

After 35 years of dedicated service, Rusty Epps, W6OAT, chose to retire from the board.

Information pertaining to the Northern California DX Foundation is available at <http://www.ncdxf.org> >

Northern California DX Foundation
by: Al Burnham, K6RIM, V.P.

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: DECEMBER 10, 2008

