

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, December 12, 2012 at Cattlemens 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 will be our annual REDXA Holiday Party, when we invite family and non-ham friends to join us!

REDXA President's Report

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us again. This month brings our annual REDXA Holiday Party, when we invite family and non-ham friends to join us, I hope we pack the house. We forgo our regular presentation and instead have our big holiday prize raffle with items donated by various ham radio sponsors and by several of our club members. Be sure to get plenty of tickets. Another tradition is the naming of our REDXA Spirit Award winner for the year. This is a meaningful award that we look forward to presenting to our next deserving member. Let's all have a great time this Wednesday evening at Cattlemens.

This year was my first as president of REDXA. I have been honored to serve as your president. Unfortunately I had some personal challenges in April but Ron N6IE stepped in and covered for me for which I thank him. Due to these challenges I also missed the Visalia DX convention, where I had planned to network with other hams to book future presentations. REDXA is one of the best regional ham radio associations and I



hope to carry on that tradition and see our club remain vital and active.

The most difficult task facing REDXA officers is securing speakers for our monthly meetings. I am still looking for programs for our April 2013 meeting. January 2013 will be our joint meeting with the NCCC at the China Wok in Vallejo, the presentation to be announced. February we'll see K6SRZ speaking on his experience at Conway Reef, 3D2C and March is looking to be K6UFO and his QRP contesting feats.

Another difficult task is getting articles for Sunspots. We continue to need articles; technical, DXpeditions, contest experiences, field / equipment reviews and any other articles of interest to members so we can continue to improve the quality of Sunspots. Don't be bashful – please contribute to the clubs newsletter if you can. Sunspots' deadline is the first Tuesday of each month.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 2012

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

President Jim K6JS called the meeting to order at 08:15 pm, November 14th 2012 at the Cattlemens Restaurant in Petaluma. There were 20 members in attendance.

He mentioned the Club would be participating as a club in the ARRL 10M Contest on December 8th and 9th.

You will have the opportunity to work Phone, CW, or Mixed. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>
Please send your scores not only to ARRL, but a copy to Jim at bigjim_94928@yahoo.com

He apologized for "losing" the minutes of the last

meeting, sent him by Saraj KU6F, who took them, and sent them to him before departing for Australia on vacation.

Jim was asked about our score at CQP, and he said he didn't know. He tried "mining" the logs, but didn't come to a figure that was accurate. He did mention that in FIELD DAY we had placed 1st in Pacific Division Category 2A, and 5th Nationally. (We were the only station west of the Mississippi in the top 5.) :-)

Alan spoke about the KPH station and their Rhombic 209 antenna, built sometime in the late 1930's. They are trying to restore it. He requests anyone interested come out to visit when they are open on Saturdays and sign in on the log, thereby showing an interest in the station to the National Parks Service. They need to show support for the site, and raise \$4,000 to repair portions of it, or lose it forever. All visits and or donations greatly appreciated.

Doug WW6D commented that it was a great tour, and that he thinks we would all enjoy it.

This months meeting was elections month. The motion was made to re-elect all the officers to their respective current positions. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously with no votes against.

Ron N6IE gave a very enjoyable presentation about the various ways we could operate our HF stations remotely.

Whether "vacation" remotely, point to point remotely, or using another hams station remote, using WIFI, 3G/4G, Cable, the Internet, or 900 Mhz like he does. He did a slide presentation showing the methods, equipment, and processes to make that happen. He also offered to waive his usual consulting fee to any member that was interested in setting that up, HI HI!

The 50-50 raffle was won by Chuck N6OJ, netting him \$42, and the club \$41.

The meeting was concluded at 9:10.

Treasurer Report

by Saraj, KU6F

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

10/31/12 Balance Forward		\$2,523.22
INCOME		
Raffle	<u>41.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		41.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>(0.00)</u>	
11/30/12 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,564.22</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.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

Contesting

by Jim, K6JS

Tis the Season of contesting!

The year is just running by, and now we are full swing in the holiday season, searching and pouncing on holiday deals. Over the past few months we have enjoyed quite a bit of contesting and DX chasing. We've been very competitive and put up some nice scores in Field day, CQP and the 10 meter contests. The CQP and the Sweepstakes contests are now completed for this year and we can certainly affirm that contest season is upon us. There is not much time left in 2012, but just enough for the 10 meter contest as well as a pair of very good 160 meter contests (ARRL 160 and the Stew Perry).

DXCC Reminder: the end-of-the-year tally with the DXCC Desk is approaching. Be sure to keep your DXCC records up to date!

Bob K6QXY has now confirmed 170 DXCC countries on 6 meters! A truly remarkable accomplishment. On November 7th he worked EA8/G8BCG CANARY Island on an EME Qso for DXCC #170 after several years of skeds.

Note: ARRL 10 meter contest ended right at the deadline for this column. Look for members' results next month.

I write this a few hours after working a couple hundred QSOs in the ARRL 10 meter contest, where conditions were frustrating. It was a pleasure to hear and work so many REDXA members in the contest. Friday night was a worked all REDXA on back scatter. I logged at least 10 REDX'ers and heard many others. If we submit over 10 logs we will be competing in the Medium club category. One of the caveats of the local club category (<10 logs) is a 35 mile circle. The medium club (>10 and <50 logs) category supports the traditional 175 mile circle.

Conditions were frustrating to say the least with an SFI hovering around 100. It's hard to believe that I missed most if not all 0 and 7 call areas, while Texas was almost non-existent. I did manage to get 233 Qso's and 77 multipliers for a score of 64,372. 185 CW and 48 SSB QSO's. The numbers break down with 17 California, 15 Florida, 13 Ohio stations and 64 DX Q's. The remainder consists of stateside multipliers. Stations were there one minute and gone the next. A few VK's and ZL's ended the evening Saturday night, but no JA's up to that point. Sunday conditions improved and it was nice to get the JA opening at the end of the contest.

Logs due:
10M RTTY 12-15
ARRL 160 Jan 1 2013
ARRL 10M Jan 8th 2013


REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Dec 8-9	ARRL 10 meter Contest
Dec 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Dec 16	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
Dec 29-30	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night
Jan 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jan 12-13	NA QSO Party CW
Jan 19-20	NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 25-27	CQ 160 meter CW
Feb 9-10	CQ WW WPX RTTY
Feb 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 16-17	ARRL Intl DX CW
Mar 2-3	ARRL Intl DX SSB
Mar 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Mar 30-31	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 19-21	Int'l DX Convention - Visalia

See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more Contest Schedules.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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MEETING: DECEMBER 12, 2012

