

# 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, January 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 be by N6PSE on ST0R DXpedition to Southern Sudan.**

## REDXA President's Report

It is my honor to be leading this fine organization after having enjoyed many years of membership in the best DX and contesting club in the world. I'll do my best to make sure we have a series of great programs and guest speakers in the coming months.

A little bit about myself. I was born and raised in San Rafael and started in amateur radio during the summer of 1973 at the young age of thirteen. Originally Elmered by REDXA member W6FQS and receiving my novice license in 1974 with my original call WN6IKQ. Two years later upgrading to General at the FCC offices on 555 Battery Street in downtown San Francisco. I can still remember the ferry ride to the City and then sweating through the written and CW tests like it was yesterday

I have stayed active in radio throughout the years from different locations in Northern and Southern California. I eventually settled in Peta-



luma in the early nineties. I heard about REDXA and decided to attend a meeting in the mid-nineties. I was immediately welcomed by all and knew I had found a great bunch of folks. One of whom, Chuck, N6OJ mentored me to Extra class status.

I always look forward to our socializing time before our meetings as it is full of opportunities to meet with old friends and develop new ones who possess a wide spectrum of personalities and talents. Let's continue to welcome new members and make them feel as welcome as each of you did for me many years ago.

Our club has been in existence for over thirty years; quite a feat. We have so many high quality ops in our ranks who have helped build us from a small group of founding members to our thriving membership of today. We owe them a debt of gratitude, as well as to our current members who are our future.

It is important to recognize the accomplishments of the past club officers who have made a personal investment in REDXA over the years. You gave your time and energy to make REDXA a better club. Every one of you deserve our thanks and gratitude. I'd like to congratulate Ron, N6IE and his crew for a job well done throughout his tenure as president.

In addition, I'd like to acknowledge our newer members Saraj, KU6F and Rick, N6GY and appreciate them for stepping up and filling the Treasurer and Secretary roles, respectively.

Sunspots is the most widely received communication vehicle for our club. Every member gets a copy and we all look forward to receiving it every month by email. Feel free to submit an article for publication in Sunspots. We are always looking for more content. Potential articles should be received before the third of each month.

We also have our Yahoo! Groups Email reflector, REDXA1, that has become a fairly active communication tool for many of us. Consider signing up for this group if you haven't done so already. Lastly, some of members monitor and chat on 146.49 simplex, join us if you happen to be in range. We

are also exploring newer technologies like Facebook. Friend us on Facebook and help make the page become more active. Better yet, come to a meeting for some old school social networking in person.

Additionally, we used to have an annual social event at the San Francisco yacht club which was organized by Al, K6RIM. It was always a fun and informal gathering. I'm curious if there is any interest in reprising a bash or picnic outside of our regular meetings.

Sadly, we lost one of our members KD6OTC, Dorothy Davidson. She was always very nice and cheerful and we'll miss seeing her bright smile. Dorothy had set the record in 2001 CQP for being the "First to 58" in state and held the record for many years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time.

I'm also interested in your suggestions for programs and speakers. Maybe you'd like to do a program for us? Any help is appreciated.

I hope to see you all in January for N6PSE's presentation on ST0R DXpedition to Southern Sudan.

Let's all look forward to cycle 24 and continuing the fine traditions of this club.

Happy New Year,  
73,  
Jim  
K6JS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 2011

by Wally, N6AD

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

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## DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Wally, N6AD

President Ron N6IE called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm, December 14, 2011 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. In attendance were 42 members and guests. Ron requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report as published in Sunspots. Both were moved for approval, seconded and adopted.

### Old Business:

None

### New Business:

Ron welcomed the new Board of Directors:

President	Jim K6JS
Vice President	Ron N6IE
Secretary	Rick N6GY
Treasurer	Saraj KU6F

Directors	Alan K6SRZ
	Bob K6QXY
	Josh W6XU

The Spirit Award was presented to Fred N6YEU.

President Ron provided us with a heartfelt farewell speech, capping his eventful and inspired leadership during his past two years as club President. The hobby has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years and it is nice to think that maybe REDXA contributed in

some small way. Ron encouraged us to be ambassadors of Ham Radio.

### Upcoming Meetings:

January	N6PSE on ST0R DXpedition to Southern Sudan
February	Joint meeting with NCCC
March	Open

The raffle of gift certificates, coffee mugs, hats etc was great fun. The grand prize of the engraved Bengali key was won by Bruce W6OSP.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

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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>

## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

11/30/11 Balance Forward		\$2,083.72
INCOME		
Dues	40.00	
Raffle	793.00	
Wire Surplus	59.75	
TOTAL INCOME		892.75
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES		(0.00)
12/31/11 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,976.47</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 Contest Scores

by Jim, K6JS

#### ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Call	Class	QSO's	Mults	Total
K6SRZ	M/S HP	2054	221	1,349,868
K6MM	M/S HP	1504	207	1,012,230
N6ZFO	SO MIXED LP	1368	188	v829,456
K6RIM	M/S HP	825	183	518,256
N6YEU	SO MIXED LP	915	148	425,648

#### ARRL 10 Meter Soap box

N6ZFO Says:

- More Indonesian stations than I've seen in any contest.
- Right at close there was a great W1, W2 opening with S9+ signals (SSB). In 20 mins, had a rate of 180/hr, mostly 1's.
- Eu a little slim, but better on Sunday morning, although brief, maybe 30 mins. here.
- On CW on Saturday, somehow worked 49 states, missing only NM. No NM on Sunday either, CW or

SSB.

-- Worked a P48 station on cw Saturday who was sending the same number Q after Q.

K6MM says:

I was hoping the Band would live up to our expectations -- and it did. My personal best in this contest.

This was blast. The Good Old Days Are Back -- at least for now!

I like this "one Band, Two Mode" contest. Big challenge was to decide how much time to spend on CW vs SSB, in order to optimize mults. I decided on a 2:1 split in favor of CW, which worked well for me.

Other than short openings to Europe, the rest of the World was loud and clear in the Bay Area.

My log shows:

- All States on CW
- 46 States on phone (missed MT, UT, WA, WY)
- 11 Europeans: CT, CU, EA, EI, F, G, GI, GW, LZ, ON, PA
- A lot of LP and QRP stations -- most were easily copiable throughout the day
- Also worked a ton of 2x3 call signs -- as well as just about every station in Texas. :>)

Hope you had fun too. Thanks for the KB Qs.

N6YEU says:

Great conditions both days. Lots of fun!

## Contesting and DX News

by Jim, K6JS

Our last club effort in CQP shows we can deliver some big scores. As the logs will hopefully show, we have proven that we are capable of giving the MLDXCC a run for their money in the CQP CA club competition. CQP will continue to be our focus as a club contest, but, if there is enough interest, our club could compete in other future contests in the small/mid sized club category. Let me know if you're interested and if you have any suggestions as to which contest would be best to enter.

The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary new idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well.

Check it out at this link.

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/>

Tim Allen -- star of the Home Improvement, Toy Story, The Santa Clause and Galaxy Quest, just to name a few -- stars in Last Man Standing, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of Last Man Standing -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January. Additional info here. <http://www.arrl.org/news/em-ham-radio-in-hollywood-em-comedian-tim-allen-stars-as-radio-amateur-on-new-tv-show>

The episode airing on January 17 will introduce Mike Baxter as KA0XTT. According to Last Man Standing Producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, Mike will have a QSO on the show. "We had two Amateur Extra class staff members complete a QSO on 10 meters and we recorded it," Amodeo explained. "Unfortunately, we were set up on a stage that is basically a Faraday cage. The very QRP signal made it radio-to-radio. We varied the Receiver Incremental Tuning to give it a little extra SSB

sound, but I don't think the signal made it much past the stage walls. The recording will be on the show. We thought our ham viewers would get a kick out of it. Non-hams will think it's just distorted."

With the coming of more sunspots, comes more DX. And when more amateurs are working DX, that means the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department -- especially the DXCC Desk and the ARRL Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus -- goes into high gear. Read more it at the link below.

[http://www.arrl.org/news/view/2011-sees-tremendous-increase-in-dxcc-applications?utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=twitterfeed](http://www.arrl.org/news/view/2011-sees-tremendous-increase-in-dxcc-applications?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed)

I've enjoyed writing the contesting and DX articles, contest scores and developing the REDXA honor roll page for Sunspots. I never imagined the honor roll page would be so popular (mostly behind the scenes). I receive a lot of emails, especially from the founding members and enjoy their banter and competitive spirit. If only there were another 300 entities for them to work. If anyone is interested in taking over some of these items, please let me know. I didn't have much time over the holidays for the articles, so check your favorite resources for contest and DX information.

Happy New Year,  
Jim  
K6JS

## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

Jan 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jan 14	NCJ NA QSO Party CW
Jan 21	NCJ NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 27-29	CQ 160m Contest CW
Feb 4	NCJ NA Sprint CW
Feb 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 11	FISTS Winter Sprint
Feb 11-12	CQ WW WPX RTTY
Feb 18-19	ARRL Intl DX Contest CW
Feb 24	CQ 160m Contest SSB
Feb 25	NCJ NA QSO Party RTTY
Mar 3-4	ARRL Intl DX Contest SSB
Mar 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Apr 20-22	Int'l DX Convention, Visalia

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





January

2012

Conducted by K6JS



### REDXA Honor Roll

#### WARC BANDS

##### 30M

W6XA	320
K6RIM	319
N6OJ	221
K6ANP	169
K6SRZ	145
AG6V	3
WW6D	2
N6VAW	1

##### 17M

W6XA	333
K6RIM	329
N6OJ	317
K6ANP	162
K6SRZ	131
N6GY	8
WW6D	6
AG6V	2

##### 12M

W6XA	323
K6RIM	294
N6OJ	207
K6ANP	72
K6SRZ	38
N6GY	5
AG6V	2
WW6D	1

OJ adds 11 new ones

N6OJ adds 3 more

Old Junk snags 26 new ones!!

#### ARRL DX Challenge

W6XA	2969
K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
N6OJ	1674
K6SRZ	1605
N6VAW	248

N6OJ is moving up

#### 160 Meters

W6XA	219
W6OSP	174
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	143
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	57

3 new ones on the top band for OJ

#### 1.5K Club

W6XA	1686
K6RIM	1588
K6ANP	1371
N6OJ	1352
K6SRZ	1124
N6GY	148

N6OJ adding a few new ones

**Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.**  
Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Countries do not count until HQ Awards Committee takes action and announces a start date for a new country.



K6QXY	167
W6XA	129
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6

W6XA is creeping up on the magic band



N6OJ	298
K6RIM	253
W6XA	145
K6SRZ	128
K6ANP	123

OJ adds a new one this month.

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:

Jselmi@hotmail.com

#### Mobile DX



K6JS	61
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12 new ones...Gotta love sunspots and 10/12 meters!

#### DXCC Mixed

K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6XA	352
W6OSP	350
K6SRZ	245

OJ is creeping up

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**MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2012**

