

# 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

**VOLUME 33**

**NUMBER 6**

**JUNE 2012**

**CLUB OFFICERS:**

**PRESIDENT:**

Jim Selmi, K6JS  
7470 Monique Place  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
H (707) 664-9769  
jselmi@hotmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Ron Castro, N6IE  
1355 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 225  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
ron@n6ie.com

**SECRETARY:**

Rick Sealock, N6GY  
1372 Miramonte Place  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
rickseal@sonic.net

**TREASURER:**

Saraj Cory, KU6F  
1283 Mark West Springs Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
ku6f@arrl.net

**DIRECTORS:**

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ  
210 Nila Mae Way  
Penngrove, CA 94951  
H (510) 540-8790  
doctore@well.com

Josh Fiden, W6XU  
15885 Coleman Valley Road  
Occidental, CA 95465  
H (707) 874-3940  
w6xu@arrl.net

Bob Magnani, K6QXY  
1500 Los Alamos Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
H (707) 538-3801  
k6qxy@aol.com

**CONTEST CHAIRMAN:**

Jim Selmi, K6JS  
7470 Monique Place  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
H (707) 664-9769  
jselmi@hotmail.com

**EDITOR:**

Steve Bertsch, K6SAB  
673 Plum Street  
Novato, CA 94945  
H (415) 320-1591  
sabertsch@gmail.com

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.redxa.com/>

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, June 13, 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 for the evening will be  
devoted to Field Day planning and logistics.**

## REDXA President's Report

Can you believe it's already June with Field Day around the corner? Field Day is June 23rd and 24th this year. It is always one of the more enjoyable events of the Ham Radio year. This month's meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning and logistics. Once again Bruce, W6OSP, and the Field Day planning committee have already done lots of work to insure that this year's event will once again be successful. The Field Day committee has everything in place to facilitate a fine effort this year and as always, we need as many hands as possible for setup and take down.

Marin was where I first experienced Field Day back in 1974 as a newly licensed novice. My elmer, W6FQS invited me to join the Marin Amateur Radio Club at the Boy Scout's Camp Tamarancho near Fairfax, Ca. I remember the thrill of working SSB and CW through the evening hours. Invite your friends or family down to experience what Field Day is all about. Who knows maybe it will spark an interest.



For those who missed it (and for those who were there), Bob Wilson's (N6TV) excellent presentation to the May REDXA meeting was an informative talk on using the Reverse Beacon Network. We learned how to use the RBN to check our antennas and how to improve our chances of breaking a skimmer generated pileup. Additionally, we were shown how we can easily be spotted and how we could improve our contest scores using the RBN. In summary, his recommendations are to use computer generated CW to make sure the skimmers copy you; call spots a little off frequency to break the pileups and only monitor skimmers within your geographical area, plus any spots of yourself. You can call CQ on CW, check the RBN, rotate the antenna and repeat and you can compare signal levels received by the RBN. Many thanks go out to Bob for the great presentation. We appreciate his making the long trip up from San Jose.

I'm still looking for a program for August, let me know if you have any ideas. Looking forward, September will be a special CQP presentation by club members. Several members have participated in County Expeditions over the years in CQP. We'll have a presentation of REDXA CQP expeditions through the years and also rally the membership to participate in CQP 2012. We can also discuss ways to maximize our points for another run at the CQP club competition. The club had a tremendous effort last year and fell just shy of winning the club competition. We can win the CQP club award, it is well within reach. Did you know the CQP Club Competition plaque has been sponsored for many, many years by REDXA?

I'm looking forward to next month as REDXA, MLDXCC and the NCCC will have a joint meeting on Saturday, July 28th. We are privileged to have confirmed Paul, N6PSE for an awesome presentation on his experience with the 706T DXpedition to Yemen. We should arrange carpools on the Yahoo! email reflector for this special meeting.

REDXA CQP participation wine will be distributed at the June meeting. The final scores have been posted and I was finally able to calculate the winners.

I worked with Cattlemens management to insure

checks are distributed much earlier and I was successful in getting a scoop of ice cream for dessert added at no additional cost. Additionally, I'm working to reduce the per-meal bill a few dollars.

I hope to see you at the Marin Rod and Gun club for Field Day.

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 2012**

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS SCHEDULED

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## **MAY MEETING MINUTES**

by Rick, N6GY

Prior to the meeting, Jim went over the menu which consists of:

Choice of entrée =

TERIYAKI CHICKEN – Chicken breast marinated in Cattlemens own homemade teriyaki sauce.

BROILED SIRLOIN STEAK – 10 oz. HARRIS RANCH top sirloin steak, hand cut.

GRILLED ATLANTIC SALMON – Filet grilled with side of creamy dill sauce and fresh lemon.

SPINACH & CHEESE RAVIOLI – Jumbo spinach and ricotta cheese ravioli served with pesto sauce.

All served with baked potato (butter - sour cream and chives), all you can eat salad, sourdough bread, ranch style beans, and coffee or tea.

Price including tax and gratuity was \$25.48.

President Jim K6JS called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm, May 9, 2012 at the Cattlemens Restaurant in Petaluma. There were 26 members in attendance.

Jim thanked the Club for the condolence wishes and cards he received on the passing of his father last month. He also thanked Ron N6IE for running last month's meeting in his absence.

A motion was made to move our future meetings to CATTLEMENS, seconded, and carried.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as posted in "SUNSPOTS". Seconded and carried.

It was mentioned member Donna AG6V was in the latest issue of "CQ MAGAZINE"!

Jim Selmi mentioned he had attended a joint planning meeting with the Marin Club over upcoming Field Day last Monday. We will be operating "2A" as planned earlier, with a 6 meter station as well. We were advised by members to place the 6 meter antenna BELOW the "shorty forty" antenna for good propagation.

Rich W6UDS reminded everyone we need a maximum effort to put up, as well as take down all antennas for Field Day.

BBQ catering is being negotiated for the Field Day, as last years excellent caterer is moving to Alaska and won't be available.

The June meeting will be about Field Day. The July meeting will be a joint meeting with "The Motherload Club", NCCC, and REDXA. It will be held SATURDAY JULY 28th at the BLUE FROG GROG AND GRILL at 1740 Travis Blvd. Fairfield.

Fred N6YEU gave out information that he had sold two of the club antennas, a 4 element 20m and a 5 element 15m. And netted \$115 for the club. Still left are : two 4ele 10m, two 5ele 10m, one 4ele 15m, two 5ele 15m, one HAMPRO antenna with 33ft boom, one 3ele 20m, and parts for two 40m antennas and one 10ele 2m antenna. They will be offered to REDXA members first, then advertised to the NCCC club.

Alan K6SRZ gave a power point presentation on 2011 CQP, listing the winners of various awards and their scores. K6RIM, W6XU, N6IE, and N6TV all won wine for their scores. N6TV had 1,560 QSO's!

The feature presentation was given by Bob N6TV about the REVERSE BEACON NETWORK, and using CW SKIMMER as a handy tool for propagation checks.

The fifty fifty raffle was won by N6GY for \$39 with

the club netting \$38.

The meeting was ended at 9:30 p.m.

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## **Treasurer Report**

by Saraj, KU6F

### **REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT**

Updated information will be given at the upcoming meeting.

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.

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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>

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## **Contesting**

by Jim, K6JS

CQWW WPX CW is now in the logs. 15 meters was the place to be, which seemed to be open all through Saturday night. The results on 3830 show 15 meters was the workhorse band for most stations.

Alan, K6SRZ posted an impressive score in the CQ WW WPX CW contest. He piloted his home station using the call KY0W, cranking out 2072 Q's and close to 4.7 million points in 34 hours. He says his DXCC count for the contest was 108. Alan mentions "DX summit shows 22 spots for KY0W, almost all on 15 meters--it's been a long time since the band was in such good shape. On the other hand, 80 meters, which is arguably my strongest band from Penngrove was mostly a waste of time." He says "it's been a long time since I have QSYed to improve my rate from 80 back to 15 in the middle

of the night!" He made over 1000 Q's on 15 meters alone.

Al, K6RIM handed out the rare K6 prefix and had a great time while logging close to 1.8 million points in just over 23 hours of operating. 15 meters was also his money band, he said it was "unbelievable, open late PM into EU, Middle East, etc. Wow!" It doesn't get much better... DX and CW... Perfect!

John, K6MM joined in on the fun as AK6M. He made over 1300 Q's and 2.1 million points in 30 hours of operating. His soapbox reads like this. "Yes, dear, I'll be there soon". "Pull weeds? "Sure. Just a few more minutes".

Closed the shack door, called CQ and 30 hours later found over 1300 Qs and 2M+ points in the Log -- a personal best for me in this one." He states conditions were awesome on 15 meters and 20 meters stayed open all night.

Ron, N6IE experienced the great propagation using the call WQ6K. He managed 896 Q's and over 1.2 million points in over 20 hours of operating. Ron did manage to get in on the spectacular conditions Friday night and most of Saturday during the day. He said "Friday night, I was copying EU on short path and long path at the same time, and I kept receiving my own last "dit" via around the world skip. He also states "15 and 20 were amazing!"

Field Day while not really a "Contest" probably draws out more hams and potential hams than any other ham radio related event. Further, it attempts to show off all the various aspects of ham radio. This year we will be operating 2A plus 6 meters. Our own 6 meter guru Bob, K6QXY will mentor us with the details of the magic band.

The club will use N1MM contest logging software again this year. You can familiarize yourself by visiting their web page and watching the N1MM video tutorials.

Another good tutorial is under "Documents" then select "Quick Start Guide".

We look forward to seeing you at Field Day.

## DX News

by Jim, K6JS

**VK0H, HEARD ISLAND.** Dated May 15th: "After 5 months of planning, Cordell Expeditions is pleased to announce a DXpedition to Heard Island, Territory of Australia, in early 2014. We have assembled a core team, arranged for the vessel, and are awaiting the landing permit and radio callsign. Initial team members, collaborating organizations, and other resources will be announced in the near future. The expedition will be multi-disciplinary, with three major activities: Communications, Environmental Science, and Documentation. We will be active on all bands and all modes, implement a variety of innovative real-time communications technologies, and field a variety of scientific projects that are designed to observe and document some of the unique resources on this extraordinary island. We will use the latest version of DXA ([www.cordell.org/DXA](http://www.cordell.org/DXA)) for real-time online presentation of log data, images, and video from Heard Island.

This project follows the very successful expedition to Heard Island carried out by this group in 1997. Details of that operation can be seen at [www.cordell.org/HI](http://www.cordell.org/HI). The website for the 2014 DXpedition is [www.cordell.org/HD](http://www.cordell.org/HD).

We invite your participation in this project, as a potential team member, supporter, or eventually as a callsign in our radio log! If you have a particular interest in Heard Island or may be interested in joining the expedition, we invite you to contact us.

For information, please contact the Expedition Leader, Dr. Robert Schmierer at [schmierer@cordell.org](mailto:schmierer@cordell.org)."

After getting limited team member contributions requested beyond their personal hotel, food and airline tickets (about \$2,800.00), we are still in the hole about \$25,000.00, so your individual contributions are greatly really needed. A complete 7O6T Finance spreadsheet was put together detailing all income and expenses for this trip and will be shared with NCDXF upon our return in hopes of getting their support.

You can submit your QSL Card request direct or via the bureau. Each will be responded too in a timely manner. In saying this, it takes a lot more time to process the manual requests. In order to provide an expedited QSL service, here are a few adjustments that we are making to our website ([www.yemen2012.com](http://www.yemen2012.com)):

- Adding PayPal payment for electronic QSL Card confirmations. No need to send QSL cards, once you “valid date and time” of your QSO’s online and make a payment, these cards will be sent out first.
- Adding key space for major sponsors to the website

We want to thank the DX Community for their hard work, patience and willingness in making this DX-pedition a major success. We are all on our way home at this time.

### Six Meter Report

Bob, K6QXY reports we are well into "ES" season. He shares a handful of his DX highlights such as numerous Q’s to KH6 Land during the past month. He also has worked JA, UA0 TV at 49.750Mhz, HI3, KP4 and KL7. Bob says “that's the “real" DX. He works lots of single and double hop "ES" to various parts of U.S.” Bob says it” looks like a slow season so far.”

Let me know if we have any volunteers to write articles for Sunspots or help out with the current columns.

## REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

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 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 11-12	WAE DX Contest CW
Aug 18-19	NA QSO Party SSB
Aug 19	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY
Sep 1-2	All Asian DX Contest SSB
Sep 8-10	ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
Sep 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Sep 15-16	WA State Salmon Run
Sep 29-30	CQ WW DX RTTY
Sep 29-30	Texas QSO Party

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

## Field Day Directions

This month is Field Day. If you are planning to come operate or help set-up or tear-down, please make sure you let us know so we can plan the event. We need help to get the towers up Friday afternoon. Much of the set-up will be identical to last year so we will have a speedier time of it. We can still use more help.

### **From San Rafael and points north:**

-- Take Hwy 101 south to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Turn on 580 toward Richmond. Just before 2 miles, take the last exit before the bridge.

(Francisco Blvd) If you miss the turn, you will cross the bridge and pay a toll to return. At the stop sign, cross under the freeway, and turn left at the "T" at the end.

-- **From East Bay**, take the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and exit the first off ramp on the Marin side.

-- **From south Marin**, the Larkspur turn off over to 580 and then take the last exit before the bridge.

(Francisco Blvd) If you miss the turn, you will cross the bridge and pay a toll to return. At the stop sign, cross under the freeway, and turn left at the "T" at the end.

To re-cap. We will be operating 2A with an additional 6 meter station from the Marin Rod and Gun Club right on the bay. This is a great site and we should do very well.

Set up will begin at 11 AM sharp on June 22nd. We need all the help we can get. The contest starts at 11 AM on Saturday June 23rd and is over Sunday at 11 AM. There should be plenty of operating time.

Please E-Mail either Jim ([jcr3jr@yahoo.com](mailto:jcr3jr@yahoo.com)), Rich ([w6uds@idlehour.org](mailto:w6uds@idlehour.org)) or Bruce ([w6osp@aol.com](mailto:w6osp@aol.com)) with any questions or comments regarding Field Day and please RSVP for dinner by 6/20.

## Visalia IDXC 2011 program

John Miller, K6MM, "The PJ7E DXpedition:  
Chaos In The Caribbean"

Bob Heil, K9EID, "What Are All Those Knobs?"

Randy Rowe, N0TG, "Sable Island Or Bust: The  
CY0 DXpedition"

Tom Taormina, K5RC, "Building Your Dream  
Station Without A Divorce"

Paul Ewing, N6PSE, "Intrepid DX: YI9PSE &  
T6PSE"

Michael Wells, G7VJR, "Club Log" and T32C op

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, "ZK2A - Niue: The Rock  
Of Polynesia"

Mike Staal, K6MYC, "6M EME With JT65"

Ned Stearns, AA7A, "Voodoo Contest Group  
Moving On" - in memory of K5VT

Dean Straw, N6BV - "Seeing The HF Big Picture  
With VOAAREA"

Emcee: Chip Margelli, K7JA

Featuring: Tom Berson, ND2T: "VP8ORK  
DXpedition to South Orkney Islands" Local guy

Featuring: Bob Grimmick, N6OX: "TJ9PF  
DXpedition To Cameroon"  
bob@N6ox.com also t32c

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Wayne Mills, N7NG  
Bernie McClenny, W3UR  
Rusty Epps, W6OAT  
Bob Locher, W9KNI  
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Internet Resources  
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DX Awards - History and Current -- QSLing

GO HERE to see the Full Course Outline  
<http://www.dxconvention.org>

General info/questions:

Convention Co-Chairman:  
Mel Hughes, K6SY & Carl Gardenias, WU6D \*\*

Program Chair:  
Jeff Wolf, K6JW \*\*

DX station liaison:  
Joe Locascio, K5KT \*\*

Vendors/Raffle Prizes:  
Cathy Gardenias, K6VC \*\*

RV liaison:  
Vic Sadesky, KI6VC \*\*

Webmaster:  
Jim Shryne, N6DHZ \*\*

\*\* Editor note: I am unable to make the names  
listed under "General info/questions" as clickable  
e-mail links. President Jim may be able to supply  
their e-mail addresses at the upcoming meeting.



June 2012



Conducted by K6JS



### REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS					
30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	326	W6XA	335	W6XA	327
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
N6OJ	221	N6OJ	317	N6OJ	233
K6ANP	169	K6ANP	162	K6SRZ	106
K6SRZ	154	K6SRZ	143	W6SFK	87
AG6V	3	W6SFK	104	K6ANP	72
W6SFK	12	N6GY	8	N6GY	5
WW6D	2	WW6D	6	AG6V	2
		AG6V	2	WW6D	1

XA still at the top

W6SFK moving on up

SRZ adds 68 new ones!

ARRL DX Challenge	
W6XA	2985
K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1770
N6OJ	1674
N7PIB	1123
W6SFK	325
N6VAW	248

K6SRZ passes up OJ

160 Meters	
W6XA	224
W6OSP	176
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	150
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	57
N7PIB	11

K6SRZ adds seven new ones

1.5K Club	
W6XA	1688
K6RIM	1588
K6ANP	1371
N6OJ	1352
K6SRZ	1124
W6SFK	387
N6GY	148

W6XA added a couple 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.

Six Meter DXCC	
K6QXY	168
W6XA	130
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
W6SFK	2

K6QXY adds KHONA for a new one

RTTY/Digital	
N6OJ	298
K6RIM	253
W6XA	162
W6SFK	133
K6SRZ	140
K6ANP	123

SFK moving on up.

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:  
[Jselmi@hotmail.com](mailto:Jselmi@hotmail.com)

Mobile DX	
N7PIB	121
K6JS	66
W6SFK	3

N7PIB King of the mobiles in the Redwood Empire.

DXCC Mixed	
K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6XA	352
W6OSP	350
K6SRZ	346
W6SFK	217

SRZed is moving on up

## CQ WPX CW

Call	Op	Class	Qs	Pfxs	Score
KY0W	K6SRZ	SO(A)AB HP	2072	892	4,699,056
AK6M	K6MM	SO(A)AB(TS) HP	1301	698	2,113,544
K6RIM	K6RIM	SO(A)AB HP	1035	646	1,779,084
WQ6K	N6IE	SO(A)AB HP	896	585	1,264,770
K6CTA	K6CTA	SO(A)AB HP	500	386	543,488
K6LRN	K6LRN	SOAB HP	?	?	486,640

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**MEETING: JUNE 13, 2012**

