

# 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, June 12, 2013** 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 a Double Header: Club Log For DXers & DXpeditions: Why Bother? and 2013 Dayton Hamvention: The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly by John K6MM.**

## REDXA President's Report

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Marin Rod and Gun Club for Field Day 2013. Mark your calendars for June 22nd and 23rd. We can use all the help we can get with setup on Friday 6-21, starting at 11 AM, operating and tear down on Sunday. Please come out and join the camaraderie of REDXA and MARC for Field Day 2013.

I've been swamped with my high school senior's numerous activities. We've had senior proms, numerous award's nights and many playoff softball games. The St. Vincent Lady Mustangs repeated as North Coast Section Division 5 Softball Champions.

We look forward to seeing you all at the July meeting for a great presentation from John Miller, K6MM. A look at ClubLog and the Dayton Hamvention 2013.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 2013

by Rick, N6GY

NO MEETING WAS HELD AS A QUORUM  
DIDN'T EXIST

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### MAY MEETING MINUTES

by Rick, N6GY

President Jim K6JS called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm, May 8, 2013 at the Boulevard Cafe in Petaluma. There were 27 members and 5 guests in attendance.

A motion was entertained to accept the minutes of the April meeting and the Treasurer's report as published in the last "Sunspots". Motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Jim asked for a volunteer to be Club Treasurer, as the previous person appointed last month has declined. After much hesitation Bill KH6GJV accepted the position.

A report was given by Chuck N6OJ about the new club badges. He reported that Palm Grin Engraving would make badges with the "raised" redwood tree that most members preferred for \$13 a badge for the pin type, \$14.20 for the magnetic attachment. That announcement was greeted favorably.

Jim K6JS asked for a show of hands as to how many would be participating in the California QSO Party in October. The majority of the members present raised their hands.

Jim commented on the Visalia DX Convention that had 15-16 members of REDXA present. He felt it was a "fantastic" venue that was centrally located downtown, within easy walking distance of restaurants and coffee shops. The location, food, and service were good. The only negative he witnessed was problems with wireless microphones.

He reported that the antenna project for Steve K6SAB was almost ready, only lacking rotor cable. Ken N6KM volunteered the cable. Members should contact Rich W6UDS to participate in the work

party to remove the old antenna, and build and install the new. A sign up sheet was passed around. The job would happen some time after Field Day.

Jim asked for guests to introduce themselves. Ken W6HF and his wife Luci KL1WE did so.

Jim stated that the vote to have the club be financially responsible for half of the cost passed 30-3. He contacted M2 and was given a list of their vendors. Mark at HRO was able to sell the antenna to the club for \$1250, a savings of \$249 off full retail. Jim made the purchase and managed to pick up the antenna at the Visalia Convention. Jim said the antenna would be used at Field Day. He says that REDXA and the Marin Club were very competitive during Field Day and this antenna would help. He acknowledged that Field Day was not a true Contest, but the Club placed top in the 2A category again this year. He was asked if a GOTA station was planned for this year's Field Day? He deferred to Jim KE6UAR Field Day Chairman. Jim stated it had not been decided.

Jim K6JS said that he had printed copies of "SUNSPOTS" the Club paper, and they were available in the back of the room along with copies of the National Contest Journal.

He stated future presentations would include an ELECRAFT presentation, as well as one on CLUB LOG presented by K6MM.

He had an application to join the Club given to him by Rockwell WW1X. He read from the application several of Rockwell's achievements. A motion was made with Rockwell present. No vote was taken?

The 50-50 raffle was held and won by Elliot K6ILM who won \$81.

Jim then passed a hat to defray the cost of the Club's purchase of the 40 Meter Beam, earlier mentioned, from HRO.

Rockwell WW1X then gave his presentation on "REMOTE HAM RADIO" ([www.remotehamradio.com](http://www.remotehamradio.com)).

## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

4/30/13 Balance Forward		\$2,400.03
INCOME		
Dues	20.00	
MARC Steppir	676.00	
Raffle	81.00	
Steppir Collection	213.00	
TOTAL INCOME		990.00
EXPENSES		
Insurance	300.00	
USPS PO Box	78.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(378.00)
5/31/13 Ending Balance		<u>\$3,012.03</u>

### 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

Jun 8-10	ARRL June VHF
<b>Jun 12</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Jun 15-16	All Asian DX CW
Jun 22-23	ARRL Field Day
<b>Jul 10</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Jul 13-14	IARU HF World Championship
Aug 3-4	North American QSO Party CW
<b>Aug 10</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Aug 17-18	North American QSO Party SSB
Aug 24-25	Hawaii QSO Party
<b>Sep 11</b>	<b>* REDXA Monthly Meeting</b>
Sep 14-16	ARRL Sept VHF
Oct 5-6	<b>California QSO Party</b>
Oct 26-27	CQ WW SSB

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

## Contest Scores

by Jim, K6JS

### CQ WW WPX CW

Call	OPERATOR(S)	STATION	CLASS	QSO's	PREFIXES	SCORE
KY0W	K6SRZ	K6SRZ	SO(A)ABHP	1424	608	1,842,240
K6LRN	K6LRN	K6LRN	SOABHP	537	360	498,960
N6ZFO	N6ZFO	N6ZFO	SOABHP	620	360	465,840
K6RIM	K6RIM	K6RIM	SO(A)ABHP	203	180	102,600
AK6M	K6MM	K6MM	SO(A)ABHP	279	169	66,755

## 6 Meter News

by Bob, K6QXY

Bob still gets many days of ZL video and some sporadic E to Trans-equatorial propagation links into South America.

On 4/4 he worked FK8CP @ 0159Z and on 4/7 he snagged ZL1RS @ 0151Z and FK8CP again @ 0158Z.

Three days later, on 4/7 he worked CE2AWW @ 2029Z on a sporadic E to Trans-equatorial propagation link.

The next week on 4/13, he worked CE2AWW again @ 2125Z and heard the XE2HWB/B @ 1948Z on Es. LU9EHF @ 2042 and CE4WJK @ 2051 were in the log with 5X5 signals on SSB.

A couple days later, on 4/15, CE2AWW was worked again @ 2100Z and HC2UA @ 2123Z. This is W6NF's new location in HC land. Later on he was able to get FK8CP @ 2352 with a very strong signal on SSB.

A couple weeks later on 4/27, ZL1RS was in the log @ 2352Z with a 559 report via CW. He worked him again on 4/29 @ 0008Z.

Bob says 6 meter propagation will start to shift to the North Pacific in May with the start of the sporadic E season.

Many thanks Bob for your monthly reports!

## Field Day Directions

This month is Field Day. If you are planning to come out and 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. Other than the new M2 40M beam, 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 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 21st. We need all the help we can get. The contest starts at 11 AM on Saturday June 22nd and is over Sunday at 11 AM. There should be plenty of operating time.

Please E-Mail either Jim (jcr3jr@yahoo.com) or Rich (w6uds@idlehour.org) with any questions or comments regarding Field Day and please RSVP for dinner ASAP.



I participated this year in the 3rd annual World Wide Day of YL's HF Contest, May 18th-19th, 2013. As my shack is still in pieces since last CQP, I was invited to hide out at the shack of Josh Fiden, W6XU. If you know me, you know I love to contest, but what with family obligations, don't get the opportunity very often. I started late, went like mad for about 12 hours, ended "early" calling it a grand wonderful way to finish when I still had a voice.

If you listened in that weekend, you know the bands were horrid. The noise level was ridiculous. But I wore my headphones, pointed the 20M beam east, called CQ 20, CQ DX, CQ Day of the YL, and happily worked the subsequent pile up. It was like pulling straws out of the ether. There was the occasional booming signal, but mostly hissing air with the threads of a pile up of voices on the other end. The Notch Filter was my friend.

I worked 326 QSO's amounting to 44 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Germany, Argentina, Cuba, Netherlands, Guatemala, St Lucia, Uruguay, Japan, Hawaii, and 5 Canadian provinces. Tragically, I only worked 4 YL's. Happily everyone was thrilled to work me. There were a few QRP's, several portables (getting ready for field day), a troupe of very young boy scouts in Texas who gave my voice a break by playing "pass the mic", a good number of mobile stations, West Virginia, and a few OM's who said they'd never QSO'd with a YL -- really? All in all, I had a total blast and got to enjoy working with a K3. I worked mostly 20M. By the time the Sun and I were ready for 40M, my voice was shot, so I worked a few more and signed off, a very tired and happy KU6F.

My friend, Carine Dubois, F5ISY, with Sandra HK3JJB, Petra DF5ZV, Katie WY7KRA, Dunia EA8MT, and Helga IN3FHE, brainstormed this annual HF event one evening on the air to promote YLs activity around the world. The bands worked are 3.5 - 7 - 14 - 21 - 28 MHz and just this year for the first time VHF also but outside the relays, of course. Modes : CW, SSB, RTTY. Awards are issued to all participants (SWLs also) who has contacted or heard for the 33 points with YLs (pdf file): Our page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/YLs-Love-Ham-Radio/290410121089740>.

Hope we have better conditions for next year's contest.

73, Saraj KU6F



Remember your dad telling you to dig a hole in the backyard to China?

Well, I do.

Turns out he was wrong.

<http://www.freemaptools.com/>

Use "Map Tunneling Tool"!

73, Rick N6GY

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**MEETING: JUNE 12, 2013**

