

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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CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Fred Leoni, N6YEU
9627 Westside Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448
H (707) 431-8202
n6yeu@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

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

SECRETARY:

Ed Essick, K6ELE
90 Coleman Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901
e.essick@comcast.net

TREASURER:

Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV
PO Box 4151
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

DIRECTORS:

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ
210 Nila Mae Way
Penngrove, CA 94951
H (707) 665-5790
doctore@well.com

Josh Fiden, W6XU
4590 Timber Lane
Occidental, CA 95465
H (707) 874-3940
w6xu@arrl.net

Jim Selmi, K6JS
7470 Monique Place
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
H (707) 664-9769
jselmi@hotmail.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, May 14, 2014 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 "REDXA Show and Tell" Please bring an item to share with the club. This could be a rare DX QSL card that you are proud of and the story behind it, maybe an old rig or cw key or other ham item you are proud of. ANY item or story you would like to share will be appreciated.

REDXA President's Report

Here we are in May already and that means Field Day is just around the corner. We will be operating at our usual location in Marin County at the Rod and Gun club at the west end of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge just around the corner from the infamous San Quentin Prison. I would like to see as many of you as possible attend this major club event. We always seem to have a few die hard operators but it is also nice to have members drop in just to say hi even if they don't get on the air.

It was nice to see several REDXA members at the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio club Hamfest in Sonoma a couple of weeks ago. I was there but unfortunately had a bad experience which I will mention at the meeting. This had nothing at all to do with the VOMARC club!

There has been some discussion on the reflector about a joint meeting with NCCC,MLDXCC and us sometime this summer. We can talk about it at the meeting. Also, Josh brought up the subject of his missing the gathering we had at the Tiburon Yacht Club each summer. WE might want to talk about an alternative to that fine event.



I'm sure several of you have been participating in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. The object is to work various ARRL positions from the basic member up to the upper echelons of the ARRL plus all the various W1AW/portable stations in all the 50 states. I know that Saraj/KU6F and Alan/K6SRZ operated from the Nevada station last week. Band conditions have been quite poor at my qth lately but hopefully they will improve! Take care and see you at the meeting! 73, Fred

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING APRIL 2014

by Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

by Ed, K6ELE

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by the club president, Fred, N6YEU. There were 17 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Old Business:

Fred, N6YEU discussed the bylaws for new membership applications. Bill, KH6GJV, suggested we discuss tonight and vote on the bylaw change at the next meeting. Discussion followed. Rick, N6GY made a motion to set the membership applications as stated in the current club bylaws. The motion was seconded by Len, K6ANP and was approved.

Fred, N6YEU, announced that club shirts and hats were available for those who had not picked them up.

Alan, K6LL, announced that NCCC glass mugs were available for those who participated in the NCCC phone or CW sweepstakes.

New Business:

Al, K6RIM, had some excess ham gear that was donated to the club. It was auctioned off to members of the club and the proceeds donated to the club. Several pieces of gear were not auctioned and the club president will look into selling it online or a hamfest.

Ron, N6IE, gave a field day update. He said that there would be a meeting with MARS in the next several weeks to discuss field day. Field day will be held at Marin Rod and Gun club. Fred, N6YEU, suggested that we might want to move field day to Sonoma in 2015.

Chuck, N6OJ, announced that he had a satellite station for sale for \$800.

Kevin, K6TD won the raffle and donated the \$74 proceeds to the club.

It was also noted that there would be a triclub contest challenge for the upcoming Ontario QSO party on April 19-20. Software was developed to allow members to report contacts and scores in real time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Club Presentation:

The presentation of the evening by Stu, K6TU. His presentation was on propagation predictions for contesting and DXing. He has developed software that allows the user to get predictions based on a specific QTH considering terrain, ground conditions, and station equipment.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

Treasurer Report - March

by Bill, KH6GJV

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

3/31/14 Balance Forward		\$2,493.40
RECEIPTS		
Auction	25.00	
Dues 2014	40.00	
Raffle (net)	74.00	
Shirts & Hats	56.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		195.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Guest Meal	23.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(23.00)
CASH FLOW		172.00
4/30/14 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,665.40</u>

Dues are due! Please mail your \$20 (\$25 for family) to the club PO Box or I'll gladly accept them at the meeting!

REDXA
PO Box 750834
Petaluma, CA 94975-0834

DX News

by Jim, K6JS

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Robert, M0RCX plans to be QRV as 3B8/M0RCX until May 27 while on a family vacation here. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using SSB, PSK and JT65. QSL to home call.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Dave, K3LP plans to be QRV as EX/K3LP until May 5. Activity is in his spare time. QSL to home call.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Sam, F6AML plans to be QRV as TO6A from Les Saintes, IOTA NA-114, from May 5 to 20. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Stan, EI6DX will be QRV as FO/EI6DX from Bora Bora, IOTA OC-067, from May 7 to 18. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via RX3RC.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Toshi, JP1IOF and Yoshi, JE2EHP will be QRV as JD1YBT from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from May 3 to 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FM. QSL JD1YBT via JP1IOF.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Miho, JJ2VLY and Yutaka, JQ2GYU will be QRV as NH0J from May 6 to 11 from the rental shack on Tinian, IOTA OC-086. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JJ2VLY.

GREENLAND, OX. Bo, OZ1DJJ plans to be QRV as OX3LX from Aasiaat Island, IOTA NA-134, from May 5 to 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using primarily CW. QSL via OZ1PIF.

DODECANESE, SV5. A large group of operators from the DX Plus Hellenic Radio Amateur Team will be QRV as SX5LA from Levitha, IOTA EU-001, from May 3 to 11. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via SV2FWV.

CRETE, SV9. Uli, DJ9XB will be QRV as SW9XB from May 6 to 16. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using RTTY. QSL to home call.

CAMEROON, TJ. Nicolas is QRV as TJ3SN and has been active on 30 meters around 2100 to 2300z as well as 12 meters around 1300 to 1500z. QSL via IZ1BZV.

CORSICA, TK. Julien, F4FJZ is QRV as TK4QL until October. Activity is mainly on 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events:

by Doug, WW6D

May 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
May 24-25	CQ WW WPX CW
Jun 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jun 14-16	ARRL June VHF
Jun 28-29	ARRL Field Day
Jul 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jul 8 - 14	WRTC 2014
Jul 12-13	IARU HF Championship
Jul 19-20	NA QSO Party RTTY
Aug 2-3	NA QSO Party CW
Aug 9-10	WAE DX Contest CW
Aug 13	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Aug 16-17	NA QSO Party SSB
Sep 6-7	All Asian DX Contest Phone
Sep 10	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Sep 27-28	CQ WW DX RTTY
Sep 27-28	Texas QSO Party

If you have events that you would like to have posted here, let me know!

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

"Sitting Around the Global Campfire"

by Jock Elliott-KB2GOM

QST "Op-Ed" June 1994.

As a son of a professional soldier, later turned itinerant teacher, I've seen enough packing crates and moving boxes to last me a lifetime. A medley of new schools, new friends and new locales was interesting as a child, but has underscored my need as an adult for deep roots and stability.

Yet, at odd times, my contented life as husband, father, and high-tech publicist is occasionally punctuated by vagabond cravings. Without warning, ancient wanderer genes kick in, triggering an itch to travel beyond the horizon, to share a camp-fire in some exotic place, to swap stories with other care-free spirits. Still, there's nothing I treasure more than an evening with my family by the familiar hearth. Ambiguity reigns supreme: I'm a nomad who wants to be home for dinner, an adventurer who'd rather not stray far from the armchair.

Radio has come to my rescue. It lets me wander the globe at will from the cottage on Pickering Lane. My family can even share the adventure if they want.

For the broad view, international broadcasting is perfect: I can hear the news from across the oceans-- direct, without the interference of stateside news analysts-- virtually any time I want. BBC, Radio France International, Deutsche Welle, Radio China International, Radio Habana Cuba: I have my choice of languages, cultures, perspectives and correspondents. I can sample the smorgasbord of world events from any angle I choose.

Yet, good as it is, international broadcasting has one major limitation--as a listen- only medium, it lacks the personal touch. I can't interact with the person on the other side of the microphone.

Fortunately, there's Amateur Radio. With a few yards of aluminum tubing, a modest investment in electronic gear and enough electricity to power a bright reading lamp, I can set off on the Great Adventure on my own. I key the mike, call CQ and launch into the unknown. There's no telling where my signal will be heard or who will hear it. When another ham returns my call, or I respond to a signal, it could be from down the street, across the continent, or half a world away.

We're like traders on an ancient caravan route, not knowing what chance encounter may take place at the next watering hole. Nomads of the airwaves, vagabonds of the ether, we travel light--all we have to offer others is our call sign, a signal report and what we might reveal of ourselves. We meet on the airwaves and gather at the global campfire. We can choose to tarry at the fire and swap yarns, or we can give the radio amateur's version of a nod of acknowledgement. But whatever the exchange, the currency has been a moment of mutual understanding and connectedness.

I savor the different accents I hear on the air. Often I try to picture the person I am talking to and what his physical environment is like. Sometime I look at an atlas to get a better idea. Having swapped pictures a time or two with other hams I find my imaginings are almost always wrong, but the exercise is fun none-the-less.

Despite the efforts of the ARRL to cloak radio in rational scientific explanation, the truth is deeper. Radio is almost magical in the way it affords us the opportunity to communicate with people we prob-

ably not otherwise meet. I used to believe that contesting and rapid-fire DXing were a supreme waste of the power of Amateur Radio, but I've changed my thinking. When a contact takes place, whether it's a long conversation or a quick swapping of signal reports, whether the signals are booming or are so difficult to copy that it requires endless patience just to exchange call signs, in that instant, something special happens--we enlarge the circle at the global campfire. In his excellent memoir, Phillip Caputo relates a tradition of the desert nomads of North Africa. The wanderers of the desert hold that the hospitality of the campfire is sacrosanct. No matter what bitter enemies you might be, if you ride up and claim the hospitality of the campfire, the keeper of the fire is obligated to grant it to you. And you, in turn, are obliged to visit no ill upon your host--you are an honored guest at the fire. When you meet again, you may choose to do each other in, but not when the hospitality of the fire has been granted.

I think this is a tradition that should be honored in ham radio. When we fellow Gypsies of the airwaves meet at the global campfire, through long-haul DX or the local repeater, we should treat each other as honored guests, regardless of license class, irrespective of previous radio background.

In listening around the bands, it seems that most hams behave that way, treating each other with extraordinary courtesy. A few, however, do not, and I think it hurts all of us. So, when we meet again on the air, I hope we will offer each other the hospitality of the campfire and extend it to all others. Look for me, I'll be the one in the armchair...

Amateur Radio Propagation Guru Says Extended Solar Ebb May Lie Ahead

Amateur Radio propagation and solar phenomena authority Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, said in an April 27 webinar, "Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?" that most solar scientists believe several low solar cycles lie ahead, ushering in periods of diminished HF propagation, especially on the higher bands. Luetzelschwab, who maintains K9LA's Amateur Radio Propagation Web Site and pens a regular "Propagation" column for NCJ, stopped short of concluding that we'll experience a

Maunder minimum -- an extended period of very few or no sunspots. As the Marshall Space Flight Center's "Solar Physics" web page explains, early sunspot records indicate that the Sun went through an inactive period from about 1645 to 1715 -- called the Maunder minimum after the scientist who discovered it -- when very few sunspots were observed.

"Right now there's nothing bulletproof to say we're heading into a Maunder minimum, so we're just going to have to wait and see," Luetzelschwab told the webinar, sponsored by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF). "It sure looks like something inside the sun changed around the peak of Cycle 23. There's lots of evidence that we're entering a grand solar minimum. But I don't think any of the solar scientists are 100 percent sure that we're going to see a Maunder-type minimum." A grand solar minimum, he explained, is an extended period of low sunspot activity that is not as severe as a Maunder minimum.

Many solar scientists believe that Cycle 24 -- the current solar cycle -- is the weakest in years, and that this portends even less sunspot activity in the future. Some even have predicted outright that a Maunder minimum is around the corner.

In the hour-long presentation, Luetzelschwab reviewed the conclusions of research published by several solar scientists, raising various scenarios for what might lie ahead in terms of sunspots and related HF propagation. If a Maunder minimum were to occur, he predicted "we'll probably have some pretty good low-band propagation. Most everybody believes the low bands are better at solar minimum." But he conceded that a lot of factors come into play when trying to foresee what will happen from one solar cycle to the next and how it will affect radio propagation.

"We need to gather some really good data" over the next 10 years, Luetzelschwab concluded, adding that the additional data will provide evidence one way or the other.

My Introduction Into Ham Radio

by Bill, WX6B

I was at a business meeting not too long ago and was asked by one of my female business associates about the antennas on my company car. I tried to shrug it off as one of my hobbies where I talk to various people on the radio around the world. Being a business meeting this peaked the interest of the other 12 people surrounding me and I couldn't escape the barrage of further questioning like; what do you talk about, can't you just use a cell phone and why do you do this? So I obliged them all and answered the questions to the best of my abilities without looking like some weird middle aged old man that didn't have anything better to do. At one point the guy next to me bumped me on the elbow and said that my old hobby has now been replaced by Facebook. Perhaps these days the younger generation has replaced this wonderful hobby with Facebook, texting or the internet.

So this leads me to how I got sucked into such an interesting hobby and who's to blame for the countless hours and dollars one spends to either talk, text or use morse code to communicate with a perfectly good stranger somewhere on the planet.

As a small child I can recall those first few crystal or satellite radios that my father brought home to me from one of his many sales trips. I had three sisters who I tried to avoid and I would sneak into my room, take one lead and attach it to the heater, another lead to some wire and place the single ear piece into my tympanic membrane and move the little lever up and down until I found some huge AM station in the bay area. Chances were that KGO would be the loudest and I would play around with this on those dark nights listening to some voice in a far away place. Eventually I would open one up, break it and never know how to get it to work again until my father showed up with the latest one for me to try out. At the time my father worked for a small company called Andrew Corporation and we had countless spools of some black coax that sat around the side yard with no purpose for me at the time. I only wish that I had access to that stuff as an adult now!

As we know this disease is a progressive one and the next logical step was 11 meters. Once again I

blame my dad for that first crystal controlled, upgraded and much larger radio where I could actually be the one talking now and no longer subject to just listening. As they say nowadays OMG... How far could I reach out and talk? How could I buy or assemble a new antenna or amplifier so that would further my goal of extending my signal? Little did I know that my station was now interfering with all those old t.v. antennas that once lived on rooftops. The phone rang one Sunday afternoon while the neighbor was trying to watch something called a Superbowl. He told me to shut it down because he could hear me and see lines on that old black and white t.v. I followed those instructions by lowering my power to 50 watts thinking life would be good. This was shortly followed up by the knock on the door. I'll let you imagine how this ended.

This story continues throughout life. I snuck an 11 meter vertical on the top of the 5 story dorm room and wow what I could achieve with that. Then once again came the knock on door with the ROTC boys from Oregon State staring at this skinny little kid. I lost that battle.

Finally my neighbor WB6EZN said it was time for me to advance the ranks and join the "HamWorld" and get away from all that crazy stuff. He introduced me to the Drake Twins and something called an L4B linear amplifier. Wooo hooo. Picture that transformation from 11 meters and 100 watts.

Now as a "semi-adult" the world is a different place. There is cable and satellite t.v., I live on a hill at 1200 feet and have a job that affords me newer and better equipment. The knocks on the doors have dwindled down to the nutcase neighbor who hears voices in her head, phone and speakers and wants to know why I have 3 large towers. I am frequently asked if I talk to E.T., there are days when the wife places trays of food under the door and I find that my fingernails need trimming. It's been a great ride and that excess RF probably isn't any worse than that stuff they now smoke freely in Colorado. Who knows what the next transformation will be but you know that there is always something new on the horizon with Amateur Radio.. Best wishes and good DX from a fellow ham with that incurable disease...



REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS

30M		17M		12M	
W6XA	326	W6XA	335	W6XA	327
K6RIM	319	K6RIM	329	K6RIM	294
KC6AWX	258	N6OJ	322	N6OJ	252
N6OJ	238	KC6AWX	307	KC6AWX	263
W6SFK	184	W6SFK	256	N6YEU	187
K6ANP	169	N6YEU	209	W6SFK	185
N6IE	165	N7PIB	167	N6IE	134
K6SRZ	154	N6IE	165	N7PIB	120
N6YEU	101	K6ANP	162	K6SRZ	106
AI6II	14	K6SRZ	143	N6GY	77
K6JS/m	10	N6GY	116	K6ANP	72
N6GY	7	K6JS/m	45	K6JS/m	26
		AI6II	41		

W6SFK adds 7 new ones. N6YEU enters the fray.

SFK adds 10 and YEU is moving on up

W6SFK adds 21 new ones. N6YEU takes the 5th spot

ARRL DX Challenge

W6XA	2985
K6RIM	2530
KC6AWX	2336
N6OJ	2231
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1770
W6SFK	1547
N6IE	1256
N7PIB	1123

W6SFK adds 81 points.

160 Meters

W6XA	224
W6OSP	178
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	150
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	59
KC6AWX	49
N6IE	37
N7PIB	15
W6SFK	9
N6YEU	3

KC6AWX adds 22, Inv L is workin'!

1.5K Club

W6XA	1689
K6RIM	1588
KC6AWX	1434
N6OJ	1420
K6ANP	1371
K6SRZ	1124
N6YEU	1106
N6IE	1043
W6SFK	878
N6GY	148

W6SFK adds 40 points and N6YEU is on the board

Rules for REDXA Honor Roll Listings.
Provide me with your total 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	173
W6XA	130
KC6AWX	15
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6
N6OJ	5
W6SFK	2

N6OJ enters the fray on the magic band



RTTY/Digital

N6OJ	304
KC6AWX	302
K6RIM	253
W6SFK	219
N6IE	185
W6XA	162
K6SRZ	140
K6ANP	123
N6GY	86

W6SFK gets 11 new ones!

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:

jselmi@hotmail.com

Updated 5-2-14

Mobile DX



N7PIB	121
K6JS	113
W6SFK	3

K6JS adds 2 new ones - Vroom!

DXCC Mixed

K6RIM	366
N6OJ	360
W6OSP	353
W6XA	352
KC6AWX	348
K6SRZ	346
W6SFK	293
AI6II	241
N6GY	232
K6JS	212

W6SFK works 5 new ones

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: MAY 14, 2014



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**

Nick Scotto
Manager
AK6DX

2210 Livingston Street
Oakland, CA 94606
(510) 534-5757 • 877-892-1745
(510) 534-0729 Fax
oakland@hamradio.com

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