

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, November 12, 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 by Jim Colletto-N6TQ on his recent operation from Botswana as A25TQ.

REDXA President's Report

Believe it or not I will be attending this month's meeting! I missed last month due to being in West Virginia to attend my granddaughter's 5th birthday. Thanks to all who "stepped up to the plate" in my absence. While there I had an "eyeball qso" with K4JWA who I met on the air during Field Day. His exchange indicated he was in WV and I mentioned my daughter lives in Barboursville and he told me he did too! He told me to look him up next time I was there so I did. We went out to dinner one night along with W8OI who I had previously met and had a great time "chewing the rag".

As you know this month is time for club elections. I've heard that it looks like the existing elected officials are being "railroaded" to run again but I encourage you to nominate others. We have several new members and several old members who could offer some new blood to the club.

Don't forget to nominate someone you feel deserves the REDXA "Spirit Award". This is basically member of the year. Someone who has



contributed above and beyond the call of duty. All nominations should be forwarded to Jim Selmi/K6JS the chairman for that award. Being last year's winner earned him that title.

CQP went pretty well for me this year. I went back to Glenn county again and had lots of fun. I'm afraid we didn't do very well overall as a club this year but the main thing is to enjoy the contest and to be somewhat "rare dx" for the weekend. I did not do a very good job of rallying the troops this year and promise to encourage a better turn out next year.

Take care and 73, Fred

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 2014

by Ed, K6ELE

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D for Ed, K6ELE

The meeting was called to order at 7:47pm by Vice President Rick, N6GY. There were 20 members and guests present. Guests included our speaker Bob, N6TV and Terry, KK6DQC.

There were no minutes in the September 2014 issue of Sunspots. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Ron, N6IE, seconded by Len, K6ANP and passed.

Terry, KK6DQC submitted his application for membership. He was voted in unanimously.

Old business: none.

New business: Rick announced that the election of officers will take place next month at the regular meeting (November 12). A motion was made by Jim, K6JS to use the current slate of officers as the proposed slate of nominations. Despite discussion, particularly by Rick and others, that some of the nominees may not accept the nomination, the motion was seconded by Ron, N6IE and passed. Raffle took in \$118; \$59 to the club, \$59 to Bob, K6EL the raffle winner.

Jim, K6JS then introduced our guest speaker Bob, N6TV who presented a slide show and demonstration on the use of waterfall displays to enhance your DXing and contest operations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Treasurer Report - October

by Bill, KH6GJV

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

9/30/14 Balance Forward	\$2,451.95
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RECEIPTS

Dues 2014	25.00
Dues 2015	40.00
Raffle (net)	<u>58.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	123.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Badge	35.74
Guest Meal	<u>23.50</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	(59.24)

10/31/14 Ending Balance	<u>\$2,515.71</u>
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I have badges in hand for Wayne AB6WC & John K6VFR. Please get them from me at the next meeting.

Starting to collect dues for 2015. Pay early and pay often!

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

Nov 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Nov 15-17	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
Nov 29-30	CQ WW DX CW
Dec 5-7	ARRL 160-meter Contest
Dec 10	* Holiday Party and Raffle
Dec 13-14	ARRL 10-meter Contest
Dec 21	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
Dec 27-28	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Dec 31-Jan 1	Straight Key Night
Jan 10	NA QSO Party CW
Jan 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jan 17	NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 23-25	CQ 160m Contest CW
Feb 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 14-15	CQ WW WPX RTTY
Feb 21-22	ARRL International DX CW
Feb 28-Mar 1	NA QSO Party RTTY

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

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

On DX'ing

The bands seem to be full of operators, some new, some old, who don't understand or follow the "Best Practices for DX Operating". Some truly don't know. Some truly don't care. They belong to the "me first" mentality. There is and always has been, huge competition in pile ups. There are ways of getting through them. There are timing and frequency techniques THAT WORK. (You don't need 2000k).

Along with the unwillingness to "hang in there", and try and try, comes the frustration factor. Unfortunately many of my generation want the instant gratification.

DQRM (Deliberate interference) is on the rise. Some are delighted by the attention they get by the

"band cops" and others. I call THEM the pigs. You never engage with a pig. He enjoys the attention, and you both wallow in the mud.

The second group feel if they can't get through, they are somewhat inadequate. So if they can't get through, they won't let anyone else.

Others are enjoying a nice rag chew, when a DX station shows up on the frequency they are talking on. So they get mad, and rather than move, they get "even".

(Remember when we were taught to announce "is the frequency in use" and then LISTEN CAREFULLY? Then repeat twice more?)

Other DX stations sometimes can't hear the domestic QSO in progress. Because of LOCATION and ANTENNAs, we all don't hear equally.

The "HAM CRAM" One Day Wonders don't help. Once you get your license you need to practice and continue to learn. The license just opens the door. It doesn't prepare you to operate. I had one "One Day Wonder" (Actually "3 days"-Technician-General-Extra) tell me he had the PERFECT ANTENNA. When I asked him how he knew it was perfect, he said the SWR was 1:1! I asked him if he had ever heard of a dummy load? He admitted he didn't. I told him it too had a SWR of 1:1, but didn't radiate past his front door.

This also means WE need to Mentor. I have 2 hams I am mentoring now, and in turn, I am asking questions of some of the more experienced people. It is, and should be a continuing learning experience.

Sometimes the DX station causes the problem. Since they set the rules, they MUST follow them! Whether they are running split, working continents, working "by the numbers", they must follow the pattern they set, or else announce the change.

You can't be working 5's in USA, and take a Europe call, just because they are loud.

On splits: SSB 5-10 up (or down) is fine. I found one yahoo working SSB up 5-25, effectively tying

up 20khz of spectrum + the 3kz he was calling on???

Please occasionally announce you're call. AND PLEASE say QRZ after EACH successful QSO. Or else we don't know if we should call, and risk QRM'ing the reporting station.

Finally, I want to thank the hams that have helped me. I am sorry for all the hair you pulled out while helping me. Red KF6D(sk), Gary W6GWJ (sk), Hank W6DTV(sk), Bob W6BNB(sk), Chuck N6OJ, Ron N6IE, Al K6RIM, and Len K6ANP (who taught me to LISTEN, LISTEN, then LISTEN SOME MORE!)

73, Rick Sealock N6GY



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MEETING: NOVEMBER 12, 2014

