

SUNSPOTS



REDWOOD EMPIRE DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 750531, Petaluma, CA 94975

A DX and Contest-minded Amateur Radio Club serving the California coast north of the Golden Gate Bridge

VOLUME 29

NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2008

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

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

VICE PRESIDENT:

Jim Robinson, Jr., KE6UAR
16820 Lauri Lane
Occidental, CA 95465
H (707) 874-3958
jcr3jr@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Doug Bender, WW6D
3638 Hemlock Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
H (707) 526-5131
ww6d@aol.com

TREASURER:

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

DIRECTORS:

Al Burnham, K6RIM
409 Summit Drive
Corte Madera, CA 94925
H (415) 924-6783
k6rim@pacbell.net

Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV
PO Box 4151
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
H (707) 544-4944
kh6gjf@arrl.org

John Tagliaferri, KE6ZSN
2515 Linda Vista Avenue
Napa, CA 94558
H (707) 255-3698
karzmmrmm@aol.com

CONTEST CHAIRMAN & WEBMASTER:

Doug Bender, WW6D
3638 Hemlock Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
H (707) 526-5131
ww6d@aol.com

EDITOR:

Steve Bertsch, K6SAB
673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945
H (415) 898-5159
sabertsch@gmail.com



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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at Mister McGoo's 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 has not been determined as of publication deadline.

REDXA President's Report

First, a big "thank you" to all the members of REDXA who stepped up to help us purchase the two-element SteppIR that we have been borrowing for Field Day.

As I write this, our October meeting program is still up in the air. It's not just REDXA that's having trouble filling programs. I receive newsletters from other Northern California amateur radio clubs in Northern California, and all too often they are listing their upcoming programs as "to be arranged".

A big part of the problem is that too few Northern California hams have gone on Dxpeditions lately and the Dxpedition travelogue is mainstay of ham radio programs. I will shortly be doing some friendly arm-twisting to one of my friends who will leaving soon for an IOTA/lowband expedition to New Guinea.

But, to keep it interesting, I'll be videotaping my CQP county expedition and showing it at our meeting. I'm also hoping that any of you who are on the air for CQP—whether as a county expedition or from your home QTH—will shoot some video or still pictures (.jpgs). If you can get them

to me a day or two before the October 8 meeting, I can include them in the program.

After October, we have three programs set. In November, Bob, N6TV, will be discussing CW Skimmers; December is our Holiday party; and January will feature a symposium on the K3 radio as part of our joint meeting with NCCC. After that, there are many blanks on the calendar to be filled.

I spent some of last weekend down in Berkeley watching Cal football and some more time on the air for the CQP RTTY test, hoping to complete my RTTY DXCC. Although I can't see Russia from Penngrove, I did communicate with Russia (and about 40 other countries). Who knows where this will take my political career.

During the football game my cellphone went off with a message from an unfamiliar area code. So I ignored it. Then the same number popped up on my son's phone. So I called back. It's a good thing that I did because the call was alerting me to a small boat sailor-ham who was having a medical emergency in the South Pacific. Paul, A35RK, acted as net control while I and two other physician-hams (Arnie, N6HC, and Jeff, K6JW) attempted to make a diagnosis. We can all be thankful that we are not an eight-day's sail from the nearest hospital.

I can't be more specific than that—at least not until I hear that there has been a happy ending and that the sailor in question gives me permission to share the story. The incident does demonstrate once again what a marvelous tool ham radio can be. Indeed, for this sailor, it was the only tool they had. Stay tuned.

Paul, A35RK, will be visiting relatives in Rohnert Park next month and I'm hoping he can come by Mr. McGoo's for a drink and an eyeball QSO.

L'shana tovah

Happy 5769

73, Alan/K6SRZ

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report was not received in time for publication in Sunspots.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 2008

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING SCHEDULED.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, September 10, 2008 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 32 members and guests. Guests included Todd KB6CGE and his YL Michele, Rick N6RNO, Bill KI6GOO and Devin, Jim K6JS's daughter.

Old business. Alan K6SRZ opened the business meeting by asking for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots. (Please note that the call for Dr. Jim Kennedy in last month's minutes was incorrect - it should have been noted as K6MIO/KH6.) Bob K6SEM so moved and it was seconded by Chuck N6OJ. Motion passed.

New business. Alan updated the group on the current status of a potential DXpedition to Desecheo Island. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has jurisdiction over the landing permits, etc. for the island, has received proposals from 10 groups and will begin the review process on September 26. After approval of one group, it is still anyone's guess as to when the actual operation can take place. Odds are that it will not occur this year but hopefully in 2009.

The purchase of the second SteppIR antenna for the club has been completed. This one is the 2 element model which was offered to the club at a substantial discount. Through the efforts of Bruce W6OSP and Rich W6UDS and a subsequent email board meeting, the purchase was approved. A "grass roots" effort was made to supplement the purchase so that the club treasury's contribution would be minimal. Those individuals who donated directly to the purchase of this antenna were Al K6RIM, Len K6ANP, Doug WW6D, Ron N6IE, Rich W6UDS, Bruce W6OSP, Jim K6JS, 'Pink' W6FQS, Alan K6SRZ and Phil K6PHD. The club heartily thanks these individuals!

Alan K6SRZ then read the membership application for Todd KB6CGE. He was voted in unanimously. Welcome Todd!

Rick N6RNO (the "Rhino") is this year's chairman of the California QSO Party committee. He presented a short program on participation and urged REDXA to get on the air and perhaps activate some of the rarer

counties.

Fred N6YEU conducted the REDXA raffle. \$124 was collected. The winning ticket was Matt KE6LPQ who won \$62. The club thus retained \$62.

The program presented was an introduction to and an update on activities of the Northern California DX Foundation by Len K6ANP, President NCDXF with help by Al K6RIM, VP NCDXF. For more information, check out their website at ncdxf.org.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Field Day Article

REDXA & the Marin Amateur Radio Society Field Day article with an image by Marilyn, N6VAW, appear on page 20 of the October issue of QST Magazine. Thank you Doug, WW6D, and Jim, KE6UAR, for all the time and effort in writing an informative article, which was severely shortened for QST. Also, thanks to Bruce, W6OSP, for directing us through the maze of editors at the League to get to the right person!

Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

Sweepstakes results from last year are now being reported and some REDXA members are being recognized. Alan, K6SRZ operated W6KW on CW to win first place Sacramento Valley section. He also went on to operate W6PZ to place first in the San Francisco section for phone.

In DX news, several people have commented that 160 meters is the best they have heard in years. K6SRZ recently worked OJ0B on 160!

Any other reports from any of you? If so, please email, call or see me at the meeting. It's fun to promote your efforts and it inspires other members to follow your progress.

North American Sprint CW (September)

Call	Class	Qs	Mlts	Score
K6SRZ	SOABLP	218	46	10,028

CQ World Wide RTTY

Call	Class	Qs	St/ Prov	Ctrys Zones	Score
K6SRZ	SOABHP	156	47	52 47	43,125
K6CTA	SOABHP	45	40	56 36	38,940
K6RIM	SOABHP	419	97	114 53	216,216

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- Oct 4-5 California QSO Party
- Oct 8 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
- Oct 25-26 CQ World Wide Phone
- Nov 1-3 ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 12 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
- Nov 15-17 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- Nov 29-30 CQ World Wide CW
- Dec 5-7 ARRL 160m Contest
- Dec 9 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
- Dec 13-14 ARRL 10m Contest
- Jan 14 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
- Jan 24-25 CQ WW 160m CW
- Feb 7-8 CQ WPX RTTY
- Feb 11 * REDXA Monthly Meeting
- Feb 14-15 ARRL Intl DX CW
- Feb 21-22 CQ WW 160m SSB
- Feb 21-22 NA QSO Party

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

Here is the link for the News Summary:

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**

Mark Nowell
Manager
W7YV

2210 Livingston Street
Oakland, CA 94606
(510) 534-5757 • 800-854-6046
(510) 534-0729 Fax

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

673 Plum Street
Novato, CA 94945

MEETING: OCTOBER 8, 2008

