

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, October 12, 2011 at Gourmet Garden 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 feature Glen Elmore, N6GN who will be doing the 'dry run' of his presentation for Pacificon on Paper Antennas.

REDXA President's Report

CQP!

2011 CQP is now in the history books, although the log counting is still going on. What a great surprise it was to hear 10 meters finally open, almost like 'the old days', at least from an activity standpoint. In the Noon hour on Saturday, I had a hard time finding a place on the phone band to operate, and I observed QSO's going on well above 28.500, which is unusual. The only things that were missing were the big openings to Europe and Asia, which we used to see every morning back in 2002. But at least there is now solid evidence that Cycle 24 is here! CQP activity seemed to be greater than last year's record participation, so I predict we'll see more logs and more QSO's on more bands. There were still multipliers that were hard to come by, such as VT, NT, ND, ID and SD, but all were active at some point, just not enough to give sweeps to everyone.

Club Call
W6K B

Sonoma County was well represented, in fact there were more signals on than I can ever remember due to a lot of REDXA members, especially our newer members, who were inspired enough to jump into the fray! Going over my log, I worked 14 different SONO stations, most of whom were REDXA members. I'm sure there were more, but timing and propagation caused me to miss them. Of course there were several REDXA members who traveled to other parts of the state to activate rare counties, and I'm sure we'll hear some of their exciting stories at the next meeting.

Now the big push: **Please get your logs in and be sure to list Redwood Empire DX Assn. as your club!** Last year we had 24 logs submitted with our highest cumulative score ever, but this year, I hope to beat that. As of this evening (Monday 10/3) I counted 14 logs submitted for REDXA with 1.3M points, and MLDXCC had 7 logs with 0.88M points, but it's still very early and many of the multi-op stations have yet to clean up their logs and submit them. Regardless of the final score, REDXA members put on a spectacular effort and we all have a lot to be proud of!

Club Election

As I announced at the last meeting, we have almost a full slate of candidates for next year's REDXA officers and directors, and I'll be announcing them at this month's meeting. Still missing as of this writing is club Treasurer. If you're interested in supporting by taking on this job, I would love to hear from you! You don't have to be a financial whiz-bang and it won't take up much of your time. The basic qualifications are:

1. You can balance a check book.
2. You have a pulse.
3. You can count to 20 without taking your shoes and socks off.
4. You have fewer than 6 felony convictions (but we're flexible on this!)

Seriously, keeping track of transactions and dues, paying bills as they come due, making a monthly treasurer's report and maintaining the club membership roster are the main jobs involved, and you'll get plenty of help from the other officers if needed. Please, if you're interested, call me or send me an

email by next Wednesday's meeting!

Speaking of next Wednesday's meeting, we have a fun night in store. Glen Elmore, N6GN will be with us doing the 'dry run' of his presentation for Pacificon on Paper Antennas. He'll describe a new single wire feedline and special "launchers" and will demonstrate a broadband, lightweight, paper antenna providing 40 to 60 dB of signal improvement on 432 MHz and above! Plus, we'll see other inexpensive DIY projects using simple materials, including an all band (80m-3cm) antenna and a coax alternative. You won't want to miss this one, so please join us at the usual place: The Gourmet Garden in Petaluma at 6:00 pm Wednesday!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 2011

by Wally, N6AD

A meeting was held to establish the slate of new officers for 2012. Candidates for all offices except that of Treasurer were identified for a December vote.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

by Wally, N6AD

President Ron N6IE called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm, September 14, 2011 at the Gourmet Garden in Petaluma. In attendance were 23 members and one guest. Ron requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report as published in Sunspots. Both were moved for approval, seconded and adopted.

Old Business:

Ron recapped the August 20 opening of Leo Laporte's podcast station in downtown Petaluma. There was a great turnout and despite some annoying local QRN it was a huge success. An Icom 7800 as well as a vintage Collins broadcast transmitter added to the spectacle. Thanks to all who attended.

Correction: The call of our presenter for October, Glenn Elmore N6GN, was stated incorrectly in the September minutes as K6GN.

New Business:

Member dues -- Another friendly reminder to mail your \$20 to Treasurer Jim Selmi K6JS at 7470 Monique Place, Rohnert Park CA 94928

Request from former member Bob Locher W9KNI for CQ DX Marathon plaque sponsorship -- This item was dismissed due to lack of response from the membership.

Marin Amateur Radio Club Annual Picnic -- We were all cordially invited to attend this September 25 event at Miwok Camp in Novato.

Additional CQP prizes -- Treasurer Jim K6JS offers:

Any club member in good standing who assigns CQP points to REDXA will receive 1 bottle of Merlot if he or she:

- 1) Makes ≥ 500 Q's in 2011 but made < 500 Q's in 2010.
- 2) Increases score by 15% in 2011 if ≥ 500 Q's were made in 2010.

Chuck N6OJ reported that Ham Nation <http://twit.tv/hn> is in need of advertising. Contact Chuck for details.

Upcoming Meetings:

October - N6GN on paper antennas for 432 mHz and above

November - Eric Schmidt WA6HHQ on new Elecraft products

December - Christmas party and REDXA elections

January - N6PSE on ST0R DXpedition to Southern Sudan

The raffle was won by Len K6ANP, who took home half of \$90.

The main feature of the evening was presented by Dick Eversole N6RNO, Chairperson for the California QSO Party scheduled this year for 1600 UTC Oct 1 to 2200 UTC Oct 2.

Highlights:

* CQP sponsor NCCC has made a big effort to

involve California clubs, European operators

* Number of submitted logs goes up every year -- should be over 1000 this year

* CQP wants pictures of your remote operation!

* Dual county operation -- you need 2 QSOs, one for each county, to make it good

* Awards -- see <http://www.cqp.org/Awards.html> for info on certificates, plaques, T-shirts, wine

* Mother Lode DX and Contest Club is still the one to beat!

* Remember to submit your log by October 31

* Have fun!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

8/31/11 Balance Forward		\$1,778.91
INCOME		
Dues	300.00	
Raffle	45.00	
TOTAL INCOME		345.00
EXPENSES		
Meals	17.14	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(17.14)
9/30/11 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,106.77</u>

REDXA membership renewal is due. Please submit your dues ASAP. Dues can be mailed to me via my home address, which is current on or QRZ.com mailed to the REDXA P.O. Box or given to me personally at our regularly scheduled meetings.

Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

REDXA Contest Scores

by Jim, K6JS

California QSO Party

CALL OPR	CLASS	QTH	QSOs		MULTS	SCORE
			CW	SSB		
K6JS K6JS, KU6F, K6TTR	MS CEHP	Plumas	341	948	58	169,302
N6YEU N6YEU	SO CELP	Lassen	507	554	57	149,853
NI6T K6SRZ, K6VLF, K9YC, N3ZZ, NI6T, W6GJB, WB6HYD	MM CEHP	Tehama	1468	2043	58 ¼ pts to 500,674	125,169
K6MM K6MM, N6DE, K6TD	MS CEHP	San Fran	550	550	55 ½ pts to 151,250	75,625
KE6UAR KE6UAR	SO CELP	Del Norte		323	55	35,530
K6RIM K6RIM	SO FHP	Marin	1008	698	58	256,360
W6XU W6XU	SO FHP	Sonoma				241,224
N6IE N6IE	SO FHP	Sonoma	687	952	57	225,834
W6OSP W6OSP	SO FHP	Napa	921		56	154,728
K3FIV K3FIV	SO FLP	Mendo	443	327	57	112,632
K6CTA K6CTA	SO FHP	Marin	608		55	100,320
K6ANP K6ANP	SO FHP	Sonoma	393	300	53	94,287
N6ZFO N6ZFO	SO FLP	Lake	385	246	56	92,232

NA Sprint CW

STN	CLASS	QSOs	MULTS	SCORE	Team #2
N6ZFO	SO LP	226	44	9,944	
K6MM	SO LP	209	41	8,569	

Contesting and DX News

by Jim, K6JS

The contest season is warming up as the 45th running of the CaQP is in the log. This popular contest rings in the season with plenty of activity. Additionally, this month has numerous State QSO party contests, as well as the Oceania DX and NA Sprint RTTY. If that's not enough there is the Stew Perry contest on the top band and the CQ WW SSB contest to close out the month. Plenty of contests and sunspots to keep us all busy through the month.

It appears REDXA members had an integral part of activating upwards of 10 counties and handing out well over 13,000 SSB and CW Q's during the California QSO Party. These are preliminary numbers as many REDXA logs are still outstanding. We had county expeditions from N6YEU who trekked to Lassen County, not far from my location in Plumas County. He endured strong winds and came very close to losing the tower and 2 element Steppir, not to mention his pickup and camper, which were inline if they had come down. Jim, KE6UAR ventured to Del Norte County near the Oregon

border. Jim drove nearly 700 miles, close to 14 hours of driving roundtrip to get to his remote county. He braved rainy conditions throughout the weekend while putting Del Norte County on the air. Alan, K6SRZ was part of an M/M that activated Tehama County, while K6MM, John tried to activate San Francisco County, but ran into resistance from the owner of an RV park. I once again activated Plumas County, which has been an annual trip for many years. We added an additional op this year, one of our own, Saraj, KU6F joined in on the fun. The weekend went very smooth for us and was enjoyed by all. We've been able to increase our score every year as our systems and skills get better. It's a tremendous amount of work, but well worth it. Another great effort from our club, kudos to all who participated!

In the July issue of Sunspots (www.redxa.com/jul11ss.pdf) I wrote about a nice SO2R unit that is available in kit form. The YCCC (Yankee Clipper Contest Club) (www.yccc.org/index.html) still has a few SO2R boxes (www.k1xm.org/SO2R/index.html) available if anyone is interested. Contact Dennis, W1UE at

so2rbox@verizon.net

ARRL Facebook Page: 20,000 Fans Strong

With more than 20,000 fans on Facebook, the ARRL Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ARRL.org) is the number one spot for hams on the Internet's most popular social networking site. Not only is the ARRL page the most popular Amateur Radio page on Facebook, it is attracting many young -- and not-so-young -- hams to share their opinions and ham radio-related news with other hams.

According to Facebook demographics, more than 460 people between the ages of 13-17 are fans of the ARRL's page, with 74 percent of users below the age of 55 (Facebook breaks down its statistics in age groups of 13-17, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54 and 55+). Since September 2010, hundreds of users post their own comments on the page, make a comment on a post or "like" a comment each week. The ARRL has been active on Facebook since July 2010; since that time, the page has been viewed almost 14.5 million times by fans and non-fans alike. The ARRL also has a Logbook of the World Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LogbookOfTheWorld). Premiering in June 2011, this popular page has almost 1000 ham fans.

"We are excited to have such a strong presence on Facebook," said ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, who serves as the Chief Administrator of the ARRL's Facebook pages. "Through our page, we try to showcase Amateur Radio fun by using interactive status updates, articles from the ARRL website and photos from events that are happening all around the world. Personally, I really enjoy seeing what other hams have to say about their love and enjoyment of Amateur Radio."

While US hams make up the vast majority of users on the League's Facebook pages, hams from all over the world -- including Indonesia, Italy, Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Spain, the Philippines, Germany, France, Greece, Turkey, Australia, Argentina, India, Norway, Belgium, Portugal and Brazil -- are active, too. "Facebook only gives us the top 20 countries represented that visit our page, but I know from personal interaction with hams that

we have more than just those 20 countries visiting us every day," Keane explained. "We invite hams to 'like' the ARRL and the LoTW Facebook pages and leave comments. Joining Facebook is free, and you just might be surprised at who you'll find on the site."

On The DX Front

We are just over a couple weeks past the autumnal equinox in the Northern hemisphere. Look for increasing enhanced HF conditions as a result, as we move from Summer conditions with its associated atmospheric noise and daytime absorption. Luckily, the increased sunspot activity should continue as well, providing us with good conditions for DX and the upcoming contest season.

The rising sunspot numbers have produced some good conditions on bands that have been previously dead. For instance, 10 meters and 12 meters have been OUTSTANDING and with the SFI running well over 100, these higher frequency bands have been producing a lot of good DX... especially noteworthy is the amount of RTTY activity and Alan, K6SRZ working 29 new entities in one day on 12 meters!

If you are interesting in some more wallpaper, the CQ DX Marathon is a year-long activity encouraging DXing on the HF bands. Competition begins anew each January 1st. Details are available on the CQ magazine website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com) and on the DX Marathon website.

CQ magazine is pleased to announce a significant expansion in the number of DX Marathon plaques to be awarded each year. Presently, the Northern Illinois DX Association sponsors the only two plaques - one for the top Unlimited Class score and one for the top Formula Class score. Starting with the announcement of the 2011 Marathon results in the June 2012 issue, DX Marathon Administrator John Sweeney, K9EL, says additional plaques will be awarded for the following top scores:
Top CW score - Plaque sponsored by Bencher, Inc.
Top SSB score - Plaque sponsored by the Collins Amateur Radio Club in Memory of Art Collins, W0CXX.

Top Single band scores (10,12,15,17,20,30,40,80) -
Plaque sponsor wishes to remain anonymous.

Top Continental scores - Plaque sponsor wishes to
remain anonymous.

Please check the DX Marathon website
(www.dxmarathon.com) for details on the new
plaques and qualifying scores.

From the team on Market Reef OH0.

MARKET REEF WITH NEW BLOOD - OCTOBER 4

They now have three complete stations, squeezing
all available power from the wind generator charged
plant. The overall target is set at 50,000 QSOs, and
they have decided not to leave the reef before that
goal is accomplished.

The wind is gathering momentum but the team is
safe."

From the gang on Christmas Island.

We have now been operating for four days and have
passed the 50,000 QSO milestone. There is still
almost 3 weeks to go, so those who are still needing
us on various bands and modes have many opportu-
nities still to come. This bulletin is by way of a
summary of what has been done and what is
planned.

Bear in mind that this has turned out to be some-
thing of an unplanned Field Day style operation, and
we now have no expectations of our container of
equipment arriving while we are here on Christmas
Island.

Instead, the team hand carried just over one metric
tonne of equipment (poles, cables, radio gear,
computers, etc) to the island. We are ex- tremely
grateful to all those who loaned equipment at short
notice to help enable the expedition to take place
and be successful. Inevitably we have had teething
problems, as we have a variety of amplifiers, Micro-
ham routers, etc. where we would, ideally, like to
have standard equipment and interfaces. Fortunately
the transceivers are consistent as Yaesu came to our

rescue with the loan of ten FT-450D radios at very
short notice.

Antenna-wise, we have two-element vertical dipole
arrays by the sea for 20 through 10, quarter-wave
verticals with elevated radials for 30 and 40, a
quarter wave vertical with ground radials for 80 and
a 15m high T antenna with ground radials for 160.
We also have two Beverage receive antennas for
160 and now have additional vertical dipoles for 10,
15 and 20 to allow us to retask the low band stations
as second stations on those bands when LF is
closed. We are continually refining our antenna
systems within the limits of the wire, poles and coax
that we have here, though the second tranche of
operators who arrive in a week's time will bring
more.

We started our SSB operations at the weekend with
an entry in the Oceania SSB contest in which we
believe we have comprehensively beaten the previ-
ous contest records. We will not, however, be
entering the CW leg as this would undoubtedly lead
to a lot of unnecessary duplicate contacts as we will
by then have been very active on CW on all bands.

There has been high demand for Christmas Island,
especially on LF and also on 10 and 12 where, for
many years, there has been little or no propagation.
So far the sunspots have been helping those bands
along, with 10m being our QSO leader to date. We
have pretty much been working all comers to clear
the decks so that we can begin to focus more on
Europe where band openings are much more limited
than to the US and Japan. We would appreciate
cooperation from those two areas - US and Japanese
stations should find plenty of opportunity to work us
on all bands. We did have to delay starting our
RTTY operations - our original plans would have
allowed us to be on RTTY right from the start. The
good news is that RTTY is now well under way on
several bands. If 10m continues to play well, we
may even show up on FM!

On 160, we made our first European contacts last
night, Italy and Germany and at our sunset and
Russia, Ukraine and Finland at our sunrise. Hope-
fully these openings will improve over the next
week or two. 80m shows a similar pattern but with
longer openings, but right now only our topband

station has access to the Beverages.

We will continue to make regular updates on our website and Michael G7VJR will no doubt update Twitter while he is here (he leaves with the first group next week). The online log on ClubLog is getting a very high hit rate, as expected - we are uploading logs twice a day, at 7am and 7pm local time here. The Internet connectivity from the hotel is turning out to be better than we had anticipated (since our site visit a year ago the hotel has installed a satellite Internet), and not only does this make log uploading easier but has meant that we have been able to follow everyone's feedback better than expected - we are grateful for that and it feeds into our daily team meetings. There is a feedback facility on the t32c.com website, which is the best way to reach us.

As of Oct. 7th they currently have 60k QSOs, 56% on CW, 40% on SSB and 4% RTTY, with an effort to increase the RTTY percentage.

Of the 60k QSOs, 54% have been with NA, 24% AS, 17% EU, 3% SA & 2% OC. We have worked EU on 160m on both the sun rise and sun set paths.

Finally, for that small but enthusiastic group of 6m EMEers, we are still hoping to give this mode a go in the second two weeks of the expedition, but cannot at this time make any guarantees.

Speaking of enthusiastic 6 meter EME'ers...

Our own, Bob, K6QXY is at it again, following the X1.9 CME flare impact on Sept. 26. He worked YN2N, YS1AG and TI7/N5BEK. He also worked FK8CP on Transequatorial propagation on Oct. 3rd. Bob also shares an article about Solar cycle 24 elsewhere in this edition.

4W6, TIMOR-LESTE. The 4W6A team is now QRT as of September 26th. They made 41361 QSOs with 13255 unique call signs (18954/CW, 21191/SSB and 1216/RTTY). Remember the QSL Manager is M0URX. QSL direct (w/SAE plus 1 IRC or 2 USDs), by the Bureau, or LoTW. The entire log will be uploaded to LoTW as quickly as possible after the end of the operation. Direct or Bureau QSLs may also be

requested using the M0URX Online QSL Request Service (OQRS). There is a link from the 4W6A Web site at: <http://www.4w6a.com>

I hope you all had a chance to work the 3D2R and 4W6A expeditions. They should both be QRT by the time this goes to print. They made more than 70,000 Q's between the two of them. Look for numerous DX stations near the end of the month as they get prepared for the CQWW DX SSB contest. Here is a partial list of some stations that will be active this month.

A52 Bhutan

Andy UA3AB (A52AB), Ralph K0IR (A52IR), Paul W8AEF (A52PP), Pat W0BM (A52PC) and Glenn W0GJ (A51B), along with their wives, will be in Bhutan. In the CQWW SSB Contest, look for A52IR on 75M, A52PC on 40M, A52PP on 20M, A52AB on 15M and A51B on 10M. They will be on other bands/modes outside of the contest. October 25 - November 1. QSL to home calls.

5N, NIGERIA. Bodo, DL3OCH (ex-5N0OCH), will be active as 5N7Q from Abuja between October 3-15th. He is there for maintenance work on a broadcast station. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using one of the largest fully rotatable short wave antennas in the world (his antenna gain is over 20 dbi on all bands). Modes will be CW and SSB. QSL via DF8DX.

5X, UGANDA. Nick, G3RWF, will once again be active as 5X1NH from Uganda starting November 23rd for three weeks. Activity will have an emphasis on low bands using a new amp. QSL via his home call sign.

A7, QATAR. Members of the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club (LARC) in cooperation with the Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS - A71A) will once again be active as A71DLH from here between October 22-29th. Their activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and the Digi modes. Operators for this year's 2011 operation are Mustapha/DL1BDF, Wolfgang/DK2DO, Bernd/DL2NTC, Michael/DB4XN, Michael/DF4HR and Sven/DG3HT. They will send their QSLs via the DARC Bureau or QSL via their QSL Manager DL0LH. Online log will be available at:

http://www.dl0lh.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=114

C6, BAHAMAS. Rich, N0HJZ, will be active as C6ARW from Grand Bahama Island between October 27-31st. Activity will be on 160-10 meters (no 30/17/12m) using CW and SSB. Operations will also include the CQWW DX SSB Contest as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via his home callsign direct.

CN, MOROCCO. Jim, W7EJ, will once again be active as CN2R during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All Band/High-Power entry. QSL via W7EJ.

SV5 - DODECANESE: Martin, ON4PO will operate as J45PO October 23 to Nov 3. No other details given. QSL to home call.

T6LB (WB8LES) is expected to be on the air in October, working 40/20. Check QRZ.com for times/frequencies.

TLØCW - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: This is Rudi, DK7PE and he will be in Bangui October 26 to November 3. He told OPDX that this is not a real "tourist place" and is very expensive. He will focus on 160/80 CW. More info available on his website at: <<http://www.roody.de>>. QSL to home call.

PJ5 - SABA/ST. EUSTATIUS

Wlodek, SP6EQZ and Janusz, SP6IXF will be active from St. Eustatius as PJ5/homecall October 19 to November 4. They will work all HF bands with CW/SSB/RTTY using two high power stations with wire antennas, verticals and a Spider-beam. Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog during the operation. QSL to the respective home call.

TI8, COSTA RICA. Operators Keith/W4KTR, Eddie/K4UN, Bob/W4BW, Lex/W4XO, Carlos/TI2KAC, Juan Carlos/TI2JCY and TI2ZM will be active as TI8M from Costa de Pajaros, during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 29-30th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via TI2KAC, direct preferred but bureau "OK". Look for activity before the contest on 160-10 meters.

TK, CORSICA. Operators Mario/DJ2MX, Simon/DJ4MZ, Maththias/DK4YJ, Ulf/DK5TX, Christoph/DK9TN, Luise/DL2MLU and Bernhard/DL6RAI will be active as TK/homecall between November 23-28th. Activity will include an entry in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Multi-2 category using the callsign TK4W. QSL TK4W via OQRS (Online QSL Request System) and QSLs for TK/homecall via their home callsign. For more details, see: <http://www.dq4w.de/2011/tk4w>

TO7, MARTINIQUE (NA-107). Dim, UT5UGR, will once again be active as TO7A during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Single-Op/ All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL TO7A via UT5UGR.

TO7, MARTINIQUE (NA-107). Dim, UT5UGR, will once again be active as TO7A during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL TO7A via UT5UGR.

TX5, MARQUESAS ISLANDS

(Update/Reminder). Alex, UT5UY, wants to remind OPDX readers that an international team of operators will be active from Hatiheu, Nuku Hiva (OC-027) between October 19th and November 1st. Activity will be on all bands and modes including an entry in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 29-30th). Operations mentioned are on 160-10 meters (including 30/17/12m bands) on CW, SSB and RTTY, using 4 stations on the air at the same time on different bands and modes. The following callsigns will be used:

TX3T □ Activity between October 16-19th and November 1-4th, will be from Papeete, Tahiti (OC-046) -- before and after their Marquesas operation.

TX7M □ The main callsign for their activity between October 19th and November 1st, will be from Hatiheu, Nuku Hiva (OC-027), Marquesas Island.

TX5A □ Their callsign for the CQWW DX SSB Contest from Hatiheu, Nuku Hiva (OC-027), Marquesas Island.

Finally, anyone up for an African Safari and a little contesting?

V5, NAMIBIA (Ops Needed!). David, GI4FUM, of the CQ DX African Safaris, is planning a DXpedition to Namibia next year in March and is looking for operators. He states that their host will be Andre, V51B, in Orange- mund in Southern Namibia. The whole adventure starts in early March and includes a sight seeing tour before ending up at Oranjemund for 10 days of operating prior to being an entry in for CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 24-25th). There would be the opportunity to do some sight seeing in Namibia before returning home via Cape Town. If interested in joining David's group, send an E-mail to: gi4fum@arrl.net

For more details, visit the CQ-DX African Safaris Web site at: <http://www.3da0ss.net>

Have Fun and Good DX.
Jim K6JS

REDXA Calendar of Upcoming Events: by Doug, WW6D

Oct 8	FISTS Fall Sprint
Oct 12	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Oct 14-16	Pacificon – Santa Clara
Oct 29-30	CQ WW DX SSB
Nov 5	ARRL Sweepstakes CW
Nov 9	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Nov 19	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
Nov 26-27	CQ WW DX CW
Dec 2	ARRL 160 m
Dec 10	ARRL 10 m
Dec 14	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Jan 11	* REDXA Monthly Meeting
Feb 8	* REDXA Monthly Meeting

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

Angus Annan, MM1CCR

by Marilyn, N6VAW

My acquaintance had her cousin visiting from Scotland. He is Past President of the RSGB, the Radio Society of Great Britain. He is Angus Annan, MM1CCR, from Blairlogie, Stirling, Scotland. He is retired from the University of Stirling as their IT. He attended the MARS picnic at Miwok Meadows last Sunday along with many members of REDXA and thoroughly enjoyed meeting all those present. We especially thank Ron Castro and his wife, Jeanie, and Bill Hillendahl for making the trip down to China Camp. Rich and I met with Angus again today and took him on a tour of the MARS clubhouse in Mill Valley, pictures attached.

Groupe Intellex Associate, Angus Annan, has been elected by the RSGB to serve as President for two years commencing January 2006.

Angus is best known within Groupe Intellex for his leadership of IT Strategy consultancy projects for Universities and Higher Education Colleges. In the world of Amateur Radio he is more widely known as MM1CCR. He was Chair of the RSGB EMC Committee and he has already served on the Board of the Radio Society of Great Britain for several years.

The world of Groupe Intellex (with our interest in radical approaches to broadband technology) overlaps with some of the interests of the RSGB with concerns about how Ofcom may seek to change the regulatory framework for Amateur Radio and worries about experiments with Powerline Broadband (PLT) by telecoms companies. This technology has the potential to cause interference in the HF spectrum and may also have an impact on reception of broadcasts using the new DRM system.

The RSGB represents a huge body of knowledge about RF Propagation throughout the available spectrum with many members also working at the professional level in radio technologies. The RSGB has also established a charity, the Radio Communications Foundation, (RCF) which administers the Radio Amateur Exams and promotes the educational objectives of the Society. The RSGB and the RCF are particularly concerned with efforts to

interest young people in careers in Science and Engineering and to reverse the trend away from these subjects in Higher Education.

Angus Annan brings to the RSGB Presidency a thorough understanding of his members' concerns and the need to promote their contribution to education and the advancement of scientific understanding, as well as the practical and social advantages of radio communications for the UK in the 21st Century





September

2011



Conducted by K6JS



REDXA Honor Roll

WARC BANDS

30M

K6RIM	319
W6XA	319
N6OJ	215
K6ANP	169
K6SRZ	145
AG6V	3
WW6D	2
N6VAW	1

W6XA ties it up and N6OJ is creeping up

17M

W6XA	333
K6RIM	329
N6OJ	314
K6ANP	162
K6SRZ	131
N6GY	8
WW6D	6
AG6V	2

W6XA takes the lead

12M

W6XA	311
K6RIM	294
N6OJ	207
K6ANP	72
K6SRZ	38
N6GY	5
AG6V	2
WW6D	1

W6XA at the top again

ARRL DX Challenge

W6XA	2946
K6RIM	2530
K6ANP	2131
K6SRZ	1605
N6OJ	1598
N6VAW	248

Al dethroned again by W6XA

160 Meters

W6XA	217
W6OSP	174
K6ANP	158
K6SRZ	143
K6RIM	55
N6OJ	54

Even W6OSP can't reign supreme.

1.5K Club

W6XA	1678
K6RIM	1588
K6ANP	1371
N6OJ	1332
K6SRZ	1124
N6GY	148

Paul knocks K6RIM from the top.

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	167
K6RIM	14
K6ANP	6

K6QXY works another new one.

RTTY/Digital

N6OJ	297
K6RIM	253
W6XA	132
K6SRZ	128
K6ANP	123

N6OJ adds 4 new ones this month.

Send your REDXA Honor Roll updates to:

Jselmi@hotmail.com

Mobile DX



K6JS	49
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DXCC Mixed

K6RIM	366
N6OJ	357
W6XA	352
W6OSP	350
K6SRZ	245

July 2011 Report to Six News KH6/K6MIO July 7, 2011 Solar Cycle

Although for a while things were looking up, a number of rather discouraging thoughts

have evolved in the professional circles since my last report.

As far as current solar activity is concerned, it was up and down, but up on the average, but still running behind the most recent NOAA consensus prediction of an R_s max of about 90 in May 2013. The Sun's southern hemisphere activity continues to be about half that of the north. Figure 1 shows that the overall sunspot index continues to be running below the expected smoothed values that would lead to a maximum for R_s of 90. (Note that in Figure 1 the blue values are *not* smoothed and the red values are smoothed less than 12 months.)

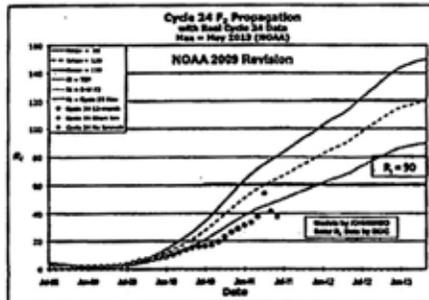


Fig 1: Cycle 24 Solar Activity With Actual Data.

In addition to counting sunspots and groups to get R_s , there is another indicator that shows when solar maximum will or has occurred. Although the local magnetic field in a sunspot is quite high (typically a few thousand gauss), the overall average global field is only a couple of gauss or less. This is basically the weak dipolar field that runs from pole to the other pole and then loops out into space and comes back at the first pole. Thus, the field direction is outward at one pole and inward at the other pole. This field reaches its highest value (positive at one pole, and negative at the other) somewhere around solar minimum.

As solar maximum approaches, the value of the field near the poles diminishes, more or less steadily, and then, rather near solar maximum, the strengths of the northern field and the southern field pass through zero (not always at the same time), the field polarity changes sign (direction), and then the strengths slowly start building up again, but in the opposite directions.

The well-known solar physicist, Leif Svalgaard, recently noted that the Stanford University measurements of the northern solar hemisphere average polar field show (see Figure 2) that it may be only months away from passing through zero and reversing. He has been quoted as saying, "Welcome to solar max!" The implication is *that later this year* (2011) the north polar field may pass through zero and not in mid 2013, as the NOAA panel predicted.

In Figure 2, the orange circle on the left shows how the values crossed each other during the maximum period of Cycle 23. The orange circle on the right shows the situation in June 2011. Note that the 2011 points in the right-hand circle (outlined in red) are *not* smoothed, so they have a lot of scatter; these will smooth out when more data become available. Nevertheless, if the trend continues, it looks like the northern hemisphere crossing is just several months away.

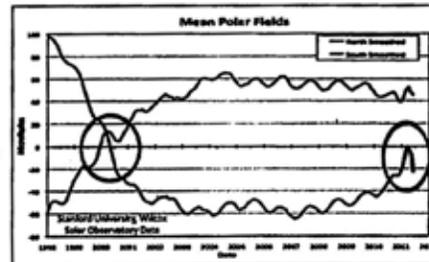


Fig 2: Current Mean Polar Magnetic Field Polarity Change Data.

If this turns out to be right, it may mean the northern hemisphere, which beat the south to Cycle 23 minimum by well over a year in 2007-08, may actually 'on time' having had more like a 'normal' 11.5 year cycle, while the south is still dragging on. This could lead to a prolonged, rather weak, overall solar maximum as north and south reach max out at different times, perhaps a year or two, or more, apart.

Even more ominous is a series of reports just published by teams at the US National Solar Observatory (NSO). These show evidence that two different, generally-seen, effects, which would normally herald the early beginnings of what would become Cycle 25, *have not been seen yet*. Based on history, they should have been seen by now.

This is coupled with a third NSO report showing that, over the last 13 years, the strengths of the sunspot (high) magnetic fields have been gradually, but systematically, *diminishing*. If this continues, the sunspots *may disappear altogether* sometime in the next ten to fifteen years. Frank Hill, Director of the NSO Global Oscillation Network Group (GONG) summed this all up by saying, "If we are right, this could be the last solar maximum we'll see for a few decades."

Now there's a downer! Hopefully, it won't turn out that way. But, it is clear that no matter what happens, its way beyond what we currently understand.

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