

# 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

VOLUME 30

NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2009

### 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

Ron Castro, N6IE  
1355 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 225  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
ron@n6ie.com

Bob Magnani, K6QXY  
1500 Los Alamos Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
H (707) 538-3801  
k6qxy@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, September 9, 2009** 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 will feature Jerry WA6BXV on Digital Ham Radio.**

### REDXA President's Report

September already. How'd that happen?

Another month has passed while we wait for (1) sunspots and (2) the Glorioso Island DXpedition. It's been hard for me to keep any sort of focus on ham radio recently, but, as the Earth spins toward the Autumnal Equinox, there are faint signs of life on the bands. Up in Oregon, N6TR already logged his first 160 meter EU QSO on the season and down here in Penngrove I'm starting to work DX on 40 and 80 meters. August was the month in which many of us added Yemen (in the form of the 2000 7O1YGF expedition) to our DXCC totals. There's got to be a story there, and I hope the ARRL DXCC Desk will share it with us.

By all accounts, our August 29 social event at the San Francisco Yacht Club was a grand success. I am sorry that obligations to visiting relatives kept me away this year. It's one of my favorite REDXA activities. Thanks, as always, to Al, K6RIM, for making this REDXA tradition possible.

This is the first year (other than the year that I had heart surgery) that I will not be making a trip to Trinity County for the California QSO Party. If anyone is anxious to take up the cause, the call sign W6PZ (The Trinity

County Contest Club) is available. I'll be home in Sonoma County for CQP with a few hours off to attend the UC-USC football showdown in Berkeley.

I've just finished what I hope will be my secret weapon for Sweepstakes, a full sized two-element wire yagi, currently beaming the East Coast. Preliminary tests show that it's 2-3 S units better than my rotary dipole on that band.

At our August meeting, it was proposed that we budget \$700.00 to upgrade from a two- to a three-element SteppIR so both the CW and SSB Field Day stations will have three element antennas. As we did with past SteppIR upgrades, we are trying to raise half of the total with matching funds from the membership. To that end, we have already collected \$140.00.

This month's program features Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, a former REDXA member and Novato resident, discussing ham radio digital communication. Jerry will be demonstrating some of the "basic" digital modes—RTTY and PSK—as well as some of the other techniques that can be accessed through MixW, such as MMSSTV and WinLink.

Jerry spent 30 years doing IT work for USA Today and is currently the North Marin RACES officer for the Marin County Sheriff's office. He's also an avid DXer with 341 confirmed entities to his credit.

Our October program remains open. I've laid in a large supply of popcorn and a few DXpedition videos so we may have a movie night. In November Bruce, W6OSP, will be reporting on the successful (we hope) DXpedition to Midway Island. Midway is high up the most wanted list in EU. A check of my own logs reveals that I still need KH4 on 160, 30, and 12 meters.

Soon we'll be having elections for 2010 REDXA officers. It's been my privilege to hold the president's job for the past two years. The major responsibilities of the president are arranging interesting and relevant programs for our meetings and to write this monthly column. The president also meets with the board of directors to help chart the future of our club and to keep an eye on our finances. My job has been made easier by all the members who step up to make Field Day a success; who pitch in for special events like the Yacht Club party and our holiday celebration; and who volunteer time, money, and materials above and beyond the call of duty.

As a member of next year's board of directors, I will continue to work toward keeping REDXA one of the premier amateur radio clubs in the country.

I'll see you all at Mr. McGoo's on September 9.

## Treasurer Report

by Jim, K6JS

### REDXA TREASURER'S REPORT

7/31/09 Balance Forward		\$2,378.78
INCOME		
Badge	15.00	
Raffle	36.00	
Steppir	<u>140.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		191.00
EXPENSES		
Guest Meal	<u>22.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(22.00)
8/31/09 Ending Balance		<u>\$2,547.78</u>

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 2009

by Doug, WW6D

NO MEETING WAS HELD.

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## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

by Doug, WW6D

President Alan K6SRZ called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, August 12, 2009 at Mr. McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma, CA. In attendance were 25 members and guests. Guests included Garry NI6T (our guest speaker), Devon (harmonic of K6JS), Gary K6SRO and Adam KD6POC.

Alan K6SRZ requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report as published in Sunspots. The motion was made by Chuck N6OJ and seconded. Motion passed.

**Old business.** Remember that the San Francisco Yacht Club evening social (significant others also invited) will be held on Saturday August 29. Details are on the club web site.

**New business.** Alan K6SRZ welcomed potential new members and guests and then outlined the upcoming program schedule: September meeting will feature Jerry WA6BXV on Digital Ham Radio; **October - Program open at this time;** November - Bruce W6OSP on the Midway DXpedition; December - traditional holiday party and raffle.

Bob K6QXY was thanked for the donation of the screen for presentations - it is certainly major

improvement over what the restaurant had been providing!

Alan K6SRZ asked for discussion on a proposal by the Field Day committee to upgrade our SteppIR 2 element antenna to 3 elements. It will be funded partly by private donations and partly by the club. After general approval, it was moved to a Board decision to finalize the details.

Chuck N6OJ reported that the 7O1YGF DXpedition had now received approval by the ARRL. He will facilitate handling of your card(s) - consult him if you have questions.

Fred N6YEU requested that he be allowed to dispose of the club TV and DVD player to charity - this was approved by the membership.

Fred then reminded everyone to "save the date" of October 3-4 for the California QSO Party.

Fred conducted the REDXA Raffle which brought in a total of \$72. The winner for the evening was Frank WA6PXW who took home \$36, leaving \$36 for the club.

The program for the evening was a wonderful look back into the history of radio called "On the Shoulders of Giants" by Garry NI6T (one of the operators of the recent K7C Kure Atoll DXpedition). Edison, Thompson, and Alexanderson were among those highlighted. In particular, the contributions by Steinmetz "the wizard of Schenectady" cannot be underestimated. It included the foremost textbook on alternating current of that era. This text attracted Alexanderson to the states and influenced a generation of electrical engineers. Other lesser know contributors included C.W. Hansell who received patents for crystal control of transmitters, the crystal filter, and a heat-to-electricity converter, and Carter who received patents for the Boutre dipole as well as the famous "folded dipole."

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

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## Monthly San Francisco Section News Summary

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

## Contesting and DX News

by Doug, WW6D

As Fred N6YEU mentioned at the August meeting, mark your calendars for Oct 3rd and 4th. As the premier contest where CA stations are sought after, the California QSO Party is \*the\* most popular state QSO on the contest calendar. Since its first running in 1966, it has steadily grown in popularity over the years to become a "must do" event on the contester's agenda.

Be sure to check the rules on the dedicated web site: [www.nccc.cc](http://www.nccc.cc). Lot of great info there, including the history of the event, software (yes, free!), records and results. Also, check out the "FAQ" for frequencies and related rules questions.

The current "sign up" process is underway for registering your county as a participant. Click on "Counties" on the left side of the page, and scroll down to "the CQP 2009 County Operating Plan". Clicking on 'Plan' will show you the current status of potential activity.

Let's make it a great run from REDXA in CQP this year!

### NAQP RTTY July

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Call	Category	Qs	Secs	NA	Score
N6OJ	SOLP	455	118	2	54,600
K6UM	SOLP	161	65		10,465

### NAQP CW August

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Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Score
N6ZFO	SOLP	80	38	3,120
K6UM	SOLP	212	83	17,596
K6SRZ	SOLP	735	149	109,515
K6RIM	SOLP	727	170	123,590
K6LRN	SOLP	504	130	65,520
AA6YX	SOLP	418	115	48,070
W8NF	SOLP	287	95	27,265
WW6D	SOLP	101	48	4,848

### NAQP SSB August

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Call	Category	Qs	Secs	Score
N6IE	SOLP	408	85	34,680
K6UM	SOLP	150	50	7,500

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Sep 9 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Sep 26-28 CQ WW RTTY  
Oct 3-4 California QSO Party  
Oct 14 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Oct 24-25 CQ WW SSB  
Nov 7-8 ARRL Sweepstakes CW  
Nov 11 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Nov 21-22 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB  
Nov 28-29 CQ WW CW  
Dec 4-6 ARRL 160m  
Dec 9 \* REDXA Monthly Meeting  
Dec 12-13 ARRL 10m

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**Mark Nowell**  
Manager  
W7YV

2210 Livingston Street  
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673 Plum Street  
Novato, CA 94945

**MEETING: SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

