

# THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

## The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

August 2022

Volume 27 Number 8

### **From the President – NR6Q**

Greetings,

Summer is coming to an end and we are now entering the contest season once again. Our club did well in the 2022 International DX phone contest held on March 6. With 29 logs we had a total score of 5,872,224 with a total of 29 logs submitted. While this is not one of our focus contests, we still scored within the top 20 for medium clubs. Congratulations to all who participated and keep up the good work.

The California QSO party is coming up the first weekend in October. The MLDXCC group always does very well in this contest. Please consider running from a “rare” county this year and help make a good showing for the club. This will be the 57<sup>th</sup> running of the CQP and I encourage everyone to participate. This is a great contest if you are new to contesting. If you are operating from within the State of California, you are the DX, as those outside the state will want to work California stations for points. If you operate from an underrepresented County, your station contact will be very valuable to those outside of California. So, get out there and light up a

County and help MLDXCC stay on top in this contest. This should be a fun event for everyone.

In November we have the ARRL Sweepstakes. This is one of our big ones. In the next month or so we should talk about strategy and how we can do even better than last year. As you all may remember we were number 1 for medium club category with a score of 4,258,330. You can bet that our friends down in So Cal are not going to go down without a fight. Also, of note we would have beaten some of the clubs that entered in the unlimited category. This year let’s see if we can get a few more logs in and up our average. Is it possible to get to 5,000,000?

As many of you know we are now doing “in-person” lunch meetings once a month. Please come out and join us. We have been averaging about 15 participants every month and it is a great time to meet with old friends and make some new ones. Hey, bring a new ham!!

Looking forward to seeing all of you next month at our club meeting!

73, Greg Glenn, NR6Q

## **Next Meeting**

**Date:** September - 17<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

**Presentation:** TBD

## **MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ**

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - July 2022

6/30/2022 Opening Balance		\$2,627.32
Income		\$20.00
2022 Dues - Paypal	\$20.00	
2022 Dues - Checking	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$0.00
7/31/2022 Ending Balance		\$2,647.32

## **From the Secretary – W6BRY**

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club  
General Meeting Minutes

Brian Mathews, W6BRY

## **CLUB Dues**

**2022 dues are due!**

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues are \$20.00 individual, \$30.00 family

PayPal – Send to: [motherlodeclub@gmail.com](mailto:motherlodeclub@gmail.com).  
Use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mail to the Treasurer - Sue Allred K6SZQ, 17610 Red Mule Rd. Fiddletown, CA 95629

## **Club Log Standings**

### **Overall**

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	217
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	217
3	NK7I	Rick Bates	207

### **CW**

1	K6YK	John Lee	144
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	128
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	112

### **Phone**

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	113
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	108
3	K6YK	John Lee	102

### **Data**

1	NK7I	Rick Bates	195
2	W6DR	David Ritchie	193
3	N6JV	Norm Wilson	192

*Club Log Standings are based on worked entities during the calendar year.*

## **Member Reports**

ATNO: 5R8LH (Elvira in Madagascar) 17M Long path  
Doug WE6Z

### **Tracking Elvira 5R8LH**

I hope all are taking advantage of Elvira being in Madagascar this month (as 5R8LH). She is nearly at the antipode (the furthest away on earth) and it's a challenge (more so as far north as I am). It's also not a common location though I wouldn't call it 'rare' (like Monaco last month). She intends to be there until the end of the month (about 2 weeks more). Some data point tidbits that I've assembled (in no order);

She does not appear to have a consistent daily pattern; favors the higher bands (15-12, some 10); tends to work mostly EU because of propagation but DOES pay attention to US calls when they appear. That is CRITICAL for us in the west.

High band propagation has not been in our favor; but so far, I've added (FT8 only), 20, 17 and 15M bands (had 10M CW). Also a few single decodes on 30 and 40M here but not enough for a complete QSO (she hears me VERY well, just doesn't have enough oomph). My local lightning events have not helped me, it's been a struggle, but in the possible realm.

What YOU want to do (besides tracking her current activity) is pay attention to long path (20/17 after dark) and for the low bands, her morning gray line (HUGE opportunity) which is almost our evening gray line (where magic, happens).

She appears to have a modest station (low power, probably dipoles or a simple beam) so the real trick is to hear her; she WILL hear you. She does not have crushing signals on the west coast. Don't worry about lower than 40M, she hasn't been there (probably unlikely for here anyway).

Again, while she isn't going out of her way to work non-EU, she does jump on it when it appears. So try, if you hear her.

The usual DX spotting lists indicate that she is not spotted on the list often; PSKReporter (if it's not running behind) seems to be more responsive to her appearances. She MAY appear on a band for a short time, then move off to another; you have to pay attention, lots of BIC time.

She DOES take long breaks every few callers (up to about 20 min, sometimes longer); she DOES have internet (it's how I know she heard me, I saw her spot) and she DOES upload to Clublog (eventually, tick tock, hurry up!). And she clearly takes some time off of radio, sometimes her day, sometimes her night; no pattern. (Is there a lot to do there?)

She does not use multi-stream, but one caller at a time. She does use phone, but prop hasn't blessed us here.

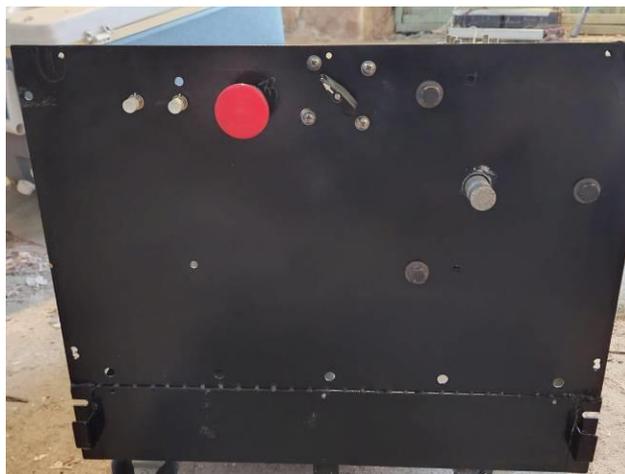
So I hope this helps for adding Madagascar into your log. Good luck and get in there!

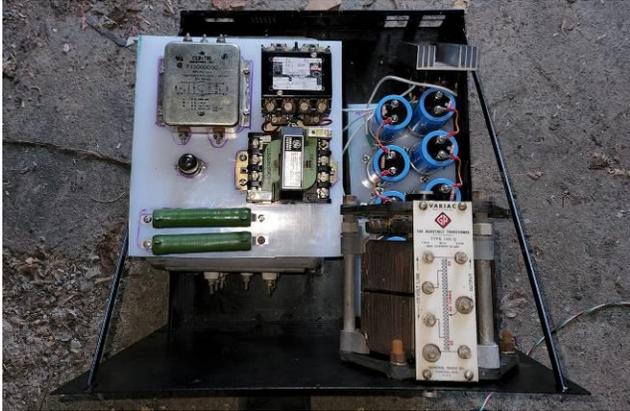
73,

Rick NK7I

## Doug's 4-1000 Power supply project

I'm making some slow progress on the amplifier power supply. I have the transformer and variac mounted along with various switches and buttons on the front panel. I have the logic board and capacitor board fabricated and populated with parts. I have most of the boards mocked up. The next steps are mounting the boards in their appropriate positions and then final wiring. It seems that fabrication and hardware takes so much more time than wiring...





## State & Province QSO Party Calendar

<https://qsoparty.eqth.net/index.html>

73,

Steve / NC6R

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## **ARRL Contesting Certificates**

If you have participated in ARRL Contests by submitting your log, enter your call sign and see your available certificates. You can view and download them. The certificates show where you placed in the contest.

<http://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php>

## **Awards Checkers ARRL**

Rick Samoian, W6SR



Doug WE6Z

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## **Tube of the Month**

### **4CX600J – 4CX600JA**

In 1958, EIMAC announced the [4CX250B](#) as the latest iteration of the old 4X150A which was first introduced in 1947. Many versions of this tube were made to meet a number of applications. In 1971, a more powerful tube was introduced using the basic format. The 4CX600J/8809, soon followed by the [4CX600JA/8921](#), were designed to be amplifiers with very low intermodulation distortion in AB or AB1 mode. The large anode cooler permitted a dissipation of 600 watts. With a maximum of 3000 volts and drawing 600 ma, a single tube could deliver 1000 watts output. A pair would make a very good 1500-watt amplifier. These tubes have low input capacities and were recommended for use with solid state drivers. The 4CX600J has an anode diameter of 2.08 inches and the 4CX600JA has a diameter of 2.52 inches. The added size of the JA allows it to operate at full power with reduced back pressure. The J version requires .81 inches of water while the JA gets by with only .21. The lower required cooling is

especially useful in aviation and other high-altitude applications. The two tubes are electrically identical. EIMAC made unique ceramic chimneys for these tubes.

The oversized cooler feature must have been a success because in a few years, EIMAC added a 2.08 diameter cooler to their ruggedized [4CX250R](#) and named it the 8930 which was rated at 350 watts of dissipation.



Visit the museum at [N6JV.com](http://N6JV.com)

Norm N6JV

## **MLDXCC Focus Contests**

The following lists all contests in which MLDXCC would appreciate your efforts.

ARRL SS CW/PH  
ARRL DX Phone\*  
ARRL DX CW\*  
ARRL 10M\*  
ARRL 160M\*  
California QSO Party

\*Proposed and approved at the November 12, 2016 MLDXCC general meeting.

Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) announced their focus contests at their August 2018 meeting. This list can be found in the Aug 2018 NCCC newsletter.

ARRL RTTY RU  
CQ WPX RTTY  
CQ WPX SSB  
CQ WPX CW

## **The NOAA Solar Update**

Click the link below to display the latest NOAA solar predictions.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/weekly-highlights-and-27-day-forecast>

## **UPCOMING DX and DXpeditions**

Click the link below to display upcoming DXpeditions.

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

## **MLDXCC Reflector**

The MLDXCC reflector is maintained at groups.io. Visit <https://groups.io/g/mldxcc>

We also maintain a spotting reflector at <https://groups.io/g/MLDXCC-Spots>

We are also on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com>

## **UPCOMING Events**

For the latest contest info, click on the following link:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

## **Classifieds**

*Members are requested to review their classified ads each month for accuracy and to resubmit their ads or confirm their desire to keep it running in the next issue.*

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I have a 2 section crank up mast I'd like to sell. It has a tilt over mast with 2 wall brackets, 1 straight and 1 at 45\* with base plate. Top of mast has guy torque arms. I've had 3 different antennas on it. The last antenna was an M2 KT-34. Total height is approximately 43 ft. Nested is 27 ft.

Contact info: Cell 209-933-1109

Thank You

Dave KG6SVF





## **Swapmeets**

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### **The Northern California Swap**

Thursday evenings at 8 PM local on the N6ICW  
repeater system 147.195 +123

Join Armand WB2ZEI and the group to buy, sell,  
or trade amateur radio related gear. Check-ins  
and visitors welcome.



**Sixteenth Annual  
Sacramento Valley  
Hamfest!**



Hi-Tech

Saturday, Sept 17, 2022



Liquidators

0700 to 1200 Hours

Presented by Western Placer Amateur Radio Club

65 McBean Park Dr. (Hwy. 193) Lincoln CA



Bandstand Parking Lot  
Lots of Good Stuff!



Drawing Prizes!



Vendor Setup 0600

Buy and Sell

Ham Radio Related Stuff Only  
No Inflation - Same price every year!  
\$10 per space-Approximately 9' x 12'  
Bring Your Own Tables



Hamfest Info at [WWW.WPARC.US](http://WWW.WPARC.US)

Talk-in Frequency  
147.300 (+) 67 Hz



Please Support Our Sponsors

<https://wparc.us/>

**PACIFICON<sup>SM</sup> 2022**

**San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon, CA 94583**

**IN PERSON!  
Friday through Sunday  
Oct. 14-16, 2022**

<https://www.pacificon.org/>

Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?  
Contact Vina K6VNA [vina@sign-tek.com](mailto:vina@sign-tek.com)

**2022 Meeting Dates**

January – none  
Feb – none  
March – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Apr – 16<sup>th</sup>  
May – 14<sup>th</sup>  
June – 18<sup>th</sup>  
July – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
August – 27<sup>th</sup>  
September – 17<sup>th</sup>  
October – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
November – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Dec – TBD

*Dates are arranged to accommodate major contest dates.  
Meeting dates are subject to change. MLDXCC  
traditionally holds a mid-year combined meeting with  
NCCC.*

**Area Clubs**

Northern California Contest Club -  
<https://www.nccc.cc>

Lodi Amateur Radio Club -  
<http://www.lodiarc.org>

Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club -  
<http://www.w6sf.org>

Pizza Lovers 259 -  
<https://www.pl259.org>

El Dorado Amateur Radio Club -  
<http://edcarc.net>

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club -  
<http://www.w6ek.org>

Redwood Empire DX Association -  
<http://www.redxa.com>

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

<http://calaverasars.org/>

Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Electronics  
Society (TCARES)

<https://tcares.net/>

*Please contact the editor to have your club listed here.*

## **ARRL Pacific Division**

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## **The MLDXCC Newsletter**

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