



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

December 2021

Volume 26 Number 12

From the President – NC6R

Merry Christmas MLDXCC!

I'd like to thank the officers and board who made my 3 terms as president a successful adventure. My congratulations go out to the new MLDXCC officers and board who have been voted in for 2022.

I'm encouraged when I see the camaraderie and unity we as a club display. When you think about it, it's quite testimony to you as members. When you assemble that many competitive spirited people together in one setting, but yet are still able to unite for the good of the club, it's very encouraging.

For those of you who may not know, 2021 marks the 25th year MLDXCC has been a club. Given the performance we just achieved in the ARRL SS contest, what a fitting tribute it would be if we were to win our 7th in a row! So far the score looks to be in our favor. Thank you to all of you who submitted your score on behalf of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club!

Were you able to get on and make contacts for the 10-meter contest? Conditions were somewhat discouraging for me. Sadly, it may prove to be one of the lowest contact counts I've ever had.

How are your DX contacts & Marathon numbers? There continues to be a lot of workable DX available as the bands are coming alive with the upswing in the solar cycle. MLDXCC has been as high as #4 in the world, but somehow we slipped some last year. I have hope that once again we can climb that ladder of achievement. Remember the Marathon allows DX contacts to be counted "as new" every year. So even if you've worked them in the past, they count as a new contact again this year!

As always, here are websites to view upcoming contest and DX announcements -

Contest calendar dates are listed at https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html

DX operation announcements can be found at - <u>https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html</u>

73 & good DX,

Steve / NC6R

From the V.P. - W1RH

I am really pleased to report some good news in this last article for the Nugget as the MLDXCC VP.

Based on preliminary scoring, we have won our 7th ARRL Sweepstakes gavel in a row!

Here's how it looks:

As is nearly always the case, everyone loses some points after log checking, which results in the lower score after log checking and that is the case for all of our SS operators.

We do have one issue. The ARRL has not accepted the log Fred, N6US, because his call sign is not on our Eligibility List. Generally, if the call sign not on the list can be associated with a call sign that is on the list, then the points can be included in the club score. In this case, Fred's KH7Y and K6IJ call signs are on our Eligibility List. I have sent a request to the ARRL Contest Branch to reconsider Fred's N6US big 93,316 point score be added to our list after log checking.

Nevertheless, even if Fred's score is not counted, we're looking very good after preliminary log checking.

Preliminary	Raw				Disqualified	Qualified
Score	Score	Club	CW Logs	SSB Logs	Logs	Logs
4,313,994	4,609,710	MLDXCC	24	23	1	46
3,022,852	3,459,176	SCCC	30	21	2	49
2,919,496	3,074,808	SECC	27	18	2	43
2,511,856	3,271,198	AOCC	26	17	6	37
2,412,204	2,594,508	MRRC	26	18	3	41
2,020,698	2,288,420	TCG	21	19	2	38

It's very interesting to take a close look at the disqualified logs. In most cases, it's due to:

- The station is outside the Club's circle
- The station had a late log entry
- The station is not on the club's Eligibility List

MLDXCC President

I took a look at the Arizona Outlaws raw scores and preliminary post log checking scores. If you look at their numbers in the chart, above, you'll see that AOCC dropped from 3rd place to 4th place after preliminary log checking. In their case, they had two logs thrown out because they were submitted after the deadline. They also had one Check Log, two logs appearing to be from outside the club circle, and two logs not on the club's Eligibility List.

There's just no excuse for a log to be submitted after the deadline. Both the Mad River Radio Club and the Arizona Outlaws had two logs each thrown out because they were late. THAT is why contest clubs should have a flogger. There were some huge scores thrown out for this reason.

The Eligibility List issue can be a fuzzy issue and in the case of the Arizona Outlaws, I think they may have a case to reinstate at least one of the two logs that were disqualified for this reason.

Here's another way to look at this:

Contest	Preliminary	Raw	Points
Club	Score	Score	Lost
MLDXCC	4,313,994	4,609,710	295,716
Southern California Contest Cluib	3,022,852	3,459,176	436,324
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	2,511,856	3,271,198	759,342
South East Contest Club	2,919,496	3,074,808	155,312
Mad River Radio Club	2,412,204	2,594,508	182,304
Tennessee Contest Group	2,020,698	2,288,420	267,722

The Arizona Outlaws lost a whopping 759,342 points due to station logging errors and disqualified logs. Wow!

In our case, and if we're successful in getting Fred's log qualified, our number of points lost will be around 205,000...all due to logging errors on the part of the operators. We did not have any "golden" logs. I'm not going to list our individual points-lost

numbers but suffice it to say that some operators
were better than others.

One more comment: Contest Club Ontario had 53 logs submitted and two disqualified, bringing them down to 51 logs. One of the qualified logs had only two points! Had that station elected to not submit his log, Contest Club Ontario would have edged the South East Contest Club and come in at third place in the Medium Club category.

Again, everything above is based on the ARRL's preliminary log-checking. The final numbers, and perhaps rankings, will most likely change.

Here's a look at the actual posting from the ARRL:

Eligibility list uploaded at 2021-10-31 00:32:31

55,300	N6GEO	
137,614	N6JV	
142,722	N6RK	
6,880	N6RO	
197,064	N6TV	
0	N6US	pperator is not on the club eligibility list
66,768	N6XI	
140,104	N6ZFO	
133,056	W1RH	
190,848	W1SRD	
20,160	W6BRY	
99,766	W6EU	
24,440	W6RC	
30,096	W6RKC	
191,688	WC6H	
197,374	WD6T @N6R0 WD6T	
124,334	WE6Z	
53,950	WX6V	

114,072 K9JM

All eligible members n	nust live and	onerate	within a
All eligible members n	nust nve anu	operate	within a

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

175 mile radius of CM98oj.

2021 SS CW

13,66	54	K6DGW
	82,458	K6LRN
	89,474	K6MM

85,116 AE6Y

83,664 K6OK

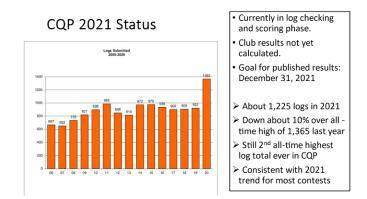
2021 SS Phone	2,236	AB1U	W6RKC
	68,572	AD6E	
	138,776	K0BEE	K0BEE W1SRD

- 51,520 K2RD
- 54,668 K6LRN
- 21,896 K6MM
- 19,072 K6NV
- 115,702 K6OK
- 26,740 K6TQ
- 67,782 K9JM
- 57,288 KE8FT
- 140,436 N6JV
- 75,614 N6RK
- 13,260 N6XI
- 162,120 NC6R
- 168,100 NR6Q
- 108,564 W1RH
- 109,726 W1SRD
- 55,664 W6LP NC6R
- 271,152 W7RN WX5S
- 270,648 WC6H
- 19,152 WD6T
- 14,694 WX6V

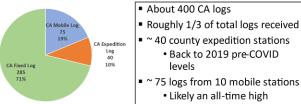
4,313,994

Now, a few comments about the California QSO Party:

If you missed our December meeting, you missed some great PowerPoint slides, from CQP Chair, Dean, and N6DE. Dean's slides are below.



CQP 2021: CA Log Observations



About 400 CA logs

- ~ 40 county expedition stations Back to 2019 pre-COVID levels
- ~ 75 logs from 10 mobile stations • Likely an all-time high

CQP 2021: TRAVEL Impact

- Lower COVID risk during CQP 2021 compared with 2020
- More National Forests and CA parks open during CQP 202



Positive Travel Impacts	Negative Travel Impacts
More Expeditions by CA residents	 Several CQP 2020 participants were QRT during CQP 2021
 More Expeditions by nonCA residents Added compared to 2020: K0EJ from TN, K7ZOO from AZ, K6WSC from AZ, K6KST from NV. KC7XE (K6L) traveling back to CA from UT 	 Pent-up demand to travel on vacation Real examples: Mexico, Italy, East Coast, cross-country, W7 states
vacation, AA1ON from MA to join K6T expedition)	 Pent-up demand for local family gatherings & birthday parties within CA
More Mobiles	Expedition planning has become more
 More Multi-Ops at fixed stations and expeditions 	challenging: forest fires, land access, poor air quality, hot weather

CQP 2021: Other Observations

Great CA County Coverage Most 58 County Sweeps by nonCA stations since 2011

✓ Improved US/VE Mult Coverage Most 58 US/VE Mult Sweeps by CA stations since 2018

✓ Rules & plaque changes produced positive results

✓ One-day Expedition was a hit Club competition changes worked well
 Emphasis on expeditions, mobiles, engaging new contesters, youth and YLs
 Bonus points created energy and interest

More club scoring fairness and recognition

MLDXCC is going to be happy with its club results



Next Meeting

Date: January - TBD

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Presentation: TBD

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - November 2021

10/31/2021 Opening Balance	\$	2,698.06
Income 2021 Dues - checking 2022 Dues - checking	\$20.00 \$20.00	\$40.00
Expenses Sympathy card - K6SRZ Donation to NCDXF	\$4.30 \$250.00	\$254.30
11/30/2021 Ending Balance	\$	2,483.76

From the Secretary - KI6YYT

General Meeting Minutes

December 4th, 2021

Los Hermanos Restaurant, Sutter Creek

Meeting was called to order at 12:43 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 11 members and 2 guests were in attendance in person; 2 additional members by Zoom.

Steve welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was then held in honor of Jim Seiferling, WB6BET who became Silent Key in November.

October minutes were published in the October newsletter. Bryan Mathews, W6BRY moved to accept the minutes as published. Rich Cutler, WC6H seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The October treasurer's report was published in the November newsletter. Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to accept the report as published. Skip Chraft, N6NFB seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sue Allred. K6SZQ then read the November Treasurer's report. Beginning Balance of \$2698.06 with \$40 income from dues. Expenses were \$250 Donation to Northern California DX Foundation and \$4.30 for a sympathy card for an ending balance of \$2483.76. Skip Chraft, N6NFB moved to accept the report. Greg Glenn, NR6Q seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Sue also mentioned that 2022 dues will be coming due January 1, 2022.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Sue Allred, K6SZQ stated that 2022 dues will be coming due January 1, 2022. All the various methods to pay are listed in the newsletter. She reminded us that we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as a club last year, and moved that Founding Member Ken Anderson, K6TA and wife Kay, K6KO be granted Life Membership. Bob Hess, W1RH seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

We then passed out ballots to all paid members in good standing. 2022 club officers elected were:

- President Greg Glenn, NR6Q
- Vice President Rick Eversole, N6RNO
- Secretary Bryan Mathews, W6BRY
- Treasurer Sue Allred, K6SZQ
- Director Steve Allred, NC6R
- Director Steve Dyer W1SRD
- Director Rich Cutler, WC6H

Member Achievements:

Steve went around the room and had each member tell something of note that they had accomplished recently either in the DX or contest realm.

Announcements:

- Steve announced several upcoming contests for the next several weekend.
- Steve also announced some good upcoming DX - the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Ogasawara and Comoros are all expected to be active over the next few

weeks. Steve reminded everyone collecting DX contacts for the Marathon contest that we still have time to claim a few more!

Presentation:

Bob Hess, W1RH gave a recap of the Cal QSO results and a recap of preliminary results for the November Sweepstakes. It is looking like MLDXCC will win the Medium Club Category for the 7th year in a row.

Next Meeting:

January - date and location to be announced.

Randy Keen, K6TVT made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Samoian, W6SR seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By Sue Allred, K6SZQ

For Secretary - Emilia Seiferling, KI6YTT

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: <u>motherlodeclub@gmail.com</u>. 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	N6JV	Norm Wilson	220	
2	NK7I	Rick Bates	210	
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	203	
C۷	v			
1	К6ҮК	John Lee	153	
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	151	
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	135	
Phone				
1	NC6R	Steve Allred	135	
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	120	
3	К6ҮК	John Lee	113	
Data				
1	NK7I	Rick Bates	203	
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	186	
3	N6JV	Norm Wilson	179	

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

<u>Member Reports</u>

NK7I reports that at long last, his Elecraft K4D with tuner, is on the way to North Idaho and may arrive by the time this is read. Great things are expected. It was a LONG wait (over a year).

Further, that he was able to work SV2RSG/A (Mt Athos) on 40M FT8 for an ATNO. At 312 entities worked, an ATNO is as rare as Athos.

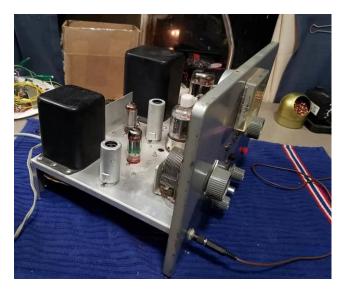
Some snow has fallen and the temps are dropping (highs in the low 30's) and the views are even more spectacular. Winter is mode commencing, sitting by the wood stove, grazing and napping. Thankfully the solstice is in another week (21 Dec 21) so the days will be longer (now about 8 hours of daylight). Merry Christmas to all and to all, gud DX.

Rick NK7I

Doug's Heathkit DX-40 project

This month's project was restoring a Heathkit DX-40 back to operating condition. I've always wanted a DX-20 or DX-40, and my friend had this one, surplus to his needs, so he gifted it to me. The outside is in decent condition with the normal scratches and a couple dings. I opened it up and inspected it. It was very well built, and the electrolytic capacitors were replaced in the 1980s. Other than that, it was all original. I replaced the filter capacitors and several wax paper capacitors. I pulled all the tubes and tested them, then brought it up slowly on the variac. To my surprise, everything came to life. All I had to do was Deoxit the band-switch and meter switch. I hooked it up to the dummy load and wattmeter and saw 40 to 45 watts out on my custom ground FT-243 crystals for 40 meters. I call that a success! I think I'll pair it up with a Hallicrafters S-40B.







Doug WE6Z

By request I'm sending the NEW Ham's Night Before Christmas that I jumped out of bed to compose this week. Like I said the best ideas come when I'm asleep.

This was debuted on the W6KAP repeater HT Net 12-17-21.

Ham's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas And all through the shack CQs were a'calling And answering back

The XYL and harmonics Were soundly asleep Waiting for Santa His appointments to keep

And I with my cocoa And Morse paddle in hand Was taking that last Tour of the band

When out on the lawn There arose such a racket I jumped from my chair And threw on my jacket

As I went to the door To see what had occurred A knocking I thought A knocking I heard

There at the door	His reindeer crashed into
Just as I feared	My DX array
Stood an old man	
With twigs in his beard	His team was not injured
U U	Except in their pride
A jovial round fellow	They would quickly untangle
There could be no dispute	And take it in stride
I knew it was Santa	
In a soiled red suit	Saving on toroids
	Proved such a fool
A sould on his head.	
A sack on his back	Three of the Reindeer
So full it hung low	Wound up in the pool
Filled with packages marked	
"From H R O"	As he brushed himself off
	Debris was a'fallin'
His eyes held a twinkle	A wire , a coil
His whiskers not fake	Even my balun
He said he was sorry	
There had been a mistake	He said not to worry
	I'd soon work a SOTA
His computerized sleigh	When Rudolph's antlers
Was controlled from on high	Could be pulled from my rotor
But over my house	
Had received RFI	The jumble of metal
	And feedline and wire
As he rounded my corner	Would all be repaired
His sleigh went astray	And put back up - higher
The MLDXCC Newsletter	9

After cookies and milk And a lengthy ragchew I made a 'sked' with North Pole Then Santa was through

A warning he gave 'Er he rose to his sleigh "Don't even think about transmitting 'Till I'm far far away"

He said "73"

And a hearty "thank you" And with a tug of his beard Up the chimney he flew

My 7300

Came back to life

The signals were strong

The signals were rife

The speaker was blaring

His voice from great height

"Happy Christmas to all

And to all a good night"

Ernie Kapphahn

W6KAP 2021



A good picture for a caption contest!

I say, "Well, we got her up, now we just have to straighten her up"~!

K6YK

CLUBLOG

Please don't forget to upload your contest logs for the year to Clublog.

CQ Magazine's Annual DX Marathon

Starting January 1 of each year, the DX Marathon is the perfect answer for the DX-er who needs that extra incentive to get on the air every day! Simply work as many countries and CQ Zones as you can in each calendar year, regardless of the band or mode. Each country and zone counts only once, so you can concentrate on working new ones rather than working the same ones on multiple bands and modes. Many awards are given for the top overall scores in four classes plus top scores in modes, bands, US call areas and more! Details of the extensive award list are available <u>here.</u>

Complete contest rules for 2021 can be found here

Submission information and the 2021 score sheet are available <u>here</u>

Helpful hints to improve your 2021 score are available <u>here</u>

https://www.dxmarathon.com/

If you need any assistance submitting your Marathon score, send an email to the email reflector, and we'll help you out!

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

Ken Anderson, K6TA (DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M) Rick Samoian, W6SR

Tube of the Month

80B

The 80B is one of my favorite tubes in the museum collection. I am always looking for different tubes and occasionally I find one that I have no idea what its designation is, and with this tube, I had no clue except that it looked EIMAC. Experimental tubes were often not marked in any way and may have never had a number. After several years, I discovered that the tube was an 80B. During a search of EIMAC production documents, a loose

photo of this tube was found with the note "80B" written on the back. The photo was dated May, 1942. The next piece of data turned up in a search of EIMAC patent applications. The patent applications never have a tube number, but 2,368,812 from 30 June, 1942, showed the 80B. From the patent, we can assume that the grid was made of platinum. The reason for the patent seems to be the unique shape of the plate. It looks like a finned football and was designed to efficiently dissipate the heat from its center. Anyone who has pushed an 811 too hard has seen the center of the plate melt. Some years passed before the next time I found the 80B being mentioned. A document was produced by EIMAC when they were trying to

defend to the U.S. Government, the amount of money they had devoted to research and development during WWII. They listed all the common production tubes with the quantities they produced along with the developmental tubes. The 80B was listed and showed a total production of 1. It is obvious why no one was familiar with the tube as the only one in existence was on my shelf. The football shaped plate was incorporated in EIMAC's very successful, high power RADAR tube, the <u>527</u>. Too bad it isn't a stamp or coin as it would be worth a lot more than the \$5 I paid for it.



Visit the museum at <u>N6JV.com</u> 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/weeklyhighlights-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 <u>https://groups.io/g/mldxcc</u>

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.h tml

<u>Classifieds</u>

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.

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.

New! "<u>The Serial Box</u>" (SBOX) by N6TV – Combination Serial Port Splitter, ACOM / Elecraft / SPE Amplifier Interface, FSK/CW/PTT keying interface, and Breakout Box

https://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/13971

Serial Box



Serial Box

"<u>The Y-BOX</u>" by N6TV – 4-way Elecraft K3/K3S ACC port splitter, Elecraft Amplifier Interface, and Breakout Box https://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/13296



© 2018 N6T

Y-Box N6TV

Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners? Contact Vina K6VNA <u>vina@sign-tek.com</u>

Not giving up...just making space.

Print issues of QST and CQ magazines...whole years. Offer 1994 ARRL Handbook Hard Bound offer 1995 ARRL Handbook Soft Bound offer FT-890 'AT' w/manual & mobile bracket (AT may or may not work) \$250/offer FT-1000 MP with filters, accessories & box \$995/offer (ex WZ6Z radio) 50' coax with center & end insulators for dipole...new, never outdoors- \$60/offer Satellite & old DirecTV dish...free Old Novice & Tech License Guides, Operating Manual IMAC (old - unknown condition) with kb & mouse...??? Email: <u>k6lrn@arrl.net</u> Thanks & 73, Dick

FOR SALE: \$200.00 - Complete CDE HAM III Series 2 antenna rotor system. The controller has the LED dial light modification and includes about 50 feet (or more) of the 8 conductor rotor cable and the original factory owner's manual. The system operates just fine.

For questions: Bill - N6GHz in Camino at (530) 409-9782. N6GHZ@ARRL.NET







FOR SALE: \$100 - HP 8640B 0.1 to 512 MHz signal generator (military version). The generator performs right on with up to +20 dBm RF output (in CW mode). It has FM and AM modulation. The picture shows it at 500 MHz and 0 dBm output.



For questions: Bill – N6GHz in Camino at (530) 409-9782 N6GHZ@ARRL.NET

2021 Meeting Dates

January -23^{rd} Zoom Feb - none March -20^{th} Apr -17^{th} May -15^{th} June -19^{th} July -24^{th} August -28^{th} September -18^{th} October -23^{rd} November -13^{th} Dec - none

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



<u>Area Clubs</u>

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

Pacific Division Director Kristen A. McIntyre K6WX <u>k6wx@arrl.org</u>

Pacific Division Vice Director Vacant

East Bay Section Manager Jim Siemons, W6LK jim@siemons.com

Nevada Section Manager John Bigley, N7UR <u>n7ur@arrl.org</u>

Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A <u>ah0a@arrl.org</u>

San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV <u>kh6gjv@arrl.org</u>

Santa Clara Valley Section Manager James Armstrong <u>nv6w@arrl.org</u>

Sacramento Valley Section Manager Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD kp4md@arrl.org

San Joaquin Valley Section Manager John Litz NZ6Q john@litz.com

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The MLDXCC Newsletter

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