

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

February 2023

Volume 29 Number 2

Treasurer's Report

1/1/2024 Opening Balance \$2,169.07
Income \$210.00
2023 Dues - Paypal \$40.00
2023 Dues - Checking \$170.00
Expenses \$70.00
PO Box Rental \$70.00
12/31/2023 Ending Balance \$2,309.07



Sue Allred, K6SZQ

Secretary's Report

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes

January 27th, 2024

Los Hermanos Restaurant, Sutter Creek

Meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by President Steve Allred, NC6R. 10 members and 1 guest were present; 3 additional members joined via Zoom.

Steve welcomed everyone. Rich Cutler, WC6H introduced his guest, Greg Mitchell, N7GM. Each member then introduced themselves. Steve then announced that Kay Anderson, K6KO had passed away on January 11th.

The minutes of the December 16th meeting were published in the January newsletter. It was moved and seconded that those minutes be

accepted as published; motion passed unanimously.

The December treasurer's report was published in the January newsletter. However, Treasurer Sue Allred, K6SZQ noted that there was a math error and read the corrected report. Skip Chraft, N6NFB moved to accept the report as read. Jim Venneman, WX6V seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

It was noted that Sue Allred, K6SZQ has submitted the paperwork to the ARRL to change the club trustee. Paperwork has been processed, and our new club trustee, Steve Dyer, W1SRD is listed as such in QRZ.

New Business:

None

Announcements / Discussion:

- Steve Allred, NC6R listed several upcoming contests, and reminded members they can find all contests at contestcalendar.com/index
- Steve also gave a quick run-down of the upcoming DX opportunities, and reminded everyone that our own Steve Dyer is currently on the TX5S Clipperton Island DXpedition, which is winding down. Several of the attendees indicated that they had a QSO with them, either as an ATNO or a new band slot.

Next Meeting:

February TBD (possible date may conflict with NAQP RTTY)

March 16th – will be held in Loomis as it coincides with the Sierra Foothills ARC

Hamfest/Swap. Location to be announced once confirmed.

Adjournment:

Norm Wilson, N6JV moved to adjourn the business meeting and move to the presentation; Rich Cutler, NC6H seconded the motion, which passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:15.

Presentation:

Dave Engle, W6DE gave a presentation on DX Labs and provided some good tips on using all the features on this general logging program

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ for

Lee Gravesen, KM6VNZ ,Secretary





K6KO

Kay Odell Anderson passed away Thursday, January 11, 2024, in Lodi, CA at the age of 81 years old. She was born in Winfield, Kansas on April 22, 1942, the daughter of the late Esther Odell (Bell) and Horace Odell.

Kay was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Kenneth Owen Anderson of Pine Grove, CA; a stepson, Howard (Susan) Anderson of Siler City, NC; a stepdaughter, Kathryn (Scott) Priller of Elkridge, MD; and her grandchildren, Travis, Jacob, Rachel, Isabel, and Walter.

Kay spent her early childhood traveling from town to town in Kansas and Nebraska for her father's work. Her family settled in Anthony, Kansas when she started school. After graduating from Abilene Kansas High School in 1960, she attended Kansas University and the Automation Institute of Kansas City. She moved to Missouri to work with Missouri National Life Insurance. In 1974 she moved to Palo Alto, California and began working at Philco-Ford Corp. That same year, while working together, Kay met her husband, Ken. They married in 1977. From 1982-1984 the two moved to England while working with Ford Aerospace. During their time there they enjoyed traveling throughout Europe. Kay continued to work in her field for 20 years; she retired from Lockheed Martin.

In 1996, Kay and Ken moved to Amador County. Kay earned her amateur radio license and was active in the Ham Radio Community with Ken. She spent time participating in the Amador County fair, where she entered many of her fruit preserves and needlework and won many first-place ribbons. She was also passionate about genealogy research and had chronicled her and Ken's family's lineage.

Kay will be remembered by her family as thoughtful and generous with a wicked dry sense of humor. She loved spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. She loved being Nana. Her spirit will forever be in their hearts and will be dearly missed by all of them. Kay and Ken will be interred together at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Pine Grove, California.

NEW ELEMENT ASSEMBLIES FOR THE 6-METER LFA.

I built my 7 element LFA beam about 15 years ago in order to work 6-meter EME. It worked better when I moved it into the country. Before the TX5S DX-pedition to Clipperton Island, I noticed the second director didn't look like it should. I found that the plastic insulators I had used, were starting to degrade. I had planned on replacing all the element mounts, but Winter is a bad time for antenna work. I got to work and made a prototype clamp assembly and replaced the mount on that bad director. When the TX5 came on 6-meter EME, some Europeans were calling them and I copied several. I also decoded the TX5, but no QSO.

I have constructed all 8 clamp assemblies and now all I need to do is climb the tower and bring the antenna down I want to do that job only once because I don't think I have very many tower jobs left in me. Volunteers are few around here. N6JV



8TH ANNUAL LOOMIS HAMFEST LOOMIS HISTORIC TRAIN DEPOT, LOOMIS, CA

The date is set for Hamfest 2024!

Mark you calendars, [in ink](#), for Saturday, March 16th, 2024!

Join us for the first Hamfest of 2024 at the historic Loomis Train Depot. We will have plenty of coffee and donuts for you to enjoy while you shop for gear at our Club Table and swap meet, attending our presentations. **Come on out rain or shine!!**

WHERE

Historic Loomis Train Depot
5775 Horseshoe Bar Road
Loomis, CA

WHEN

Saturday, March 16, 2024
Buyer 7:00 AM – Noon

April 12, 13 & 14, 2024



The 75th Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club and to be held at the Visalia Convention Center.

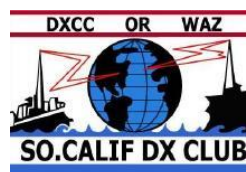
The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Attend the traditional Saturday night banquet where great friends and good food are met with lively

presentations. The Sunday breakfast buffet has ample selection and variety. Visit the manufacturers' midway where you can talk to the people who design and use the latest and best equipment.

Do you have a great idea for a program? Want to be a vendor? Are you a DX station that needs assistance? Please see the contact page to e-mail the appropriate person for your questions.

The International DX Convention has been proudly sponsored alternately by the Southern California DX Club & Northern California DX Club for the past 75 years.



DELETED COUNTRIES

Netherland Antilles, St. Maarten, Saba, and St. Eustatius

Dutch Antilles was a group of Islands consisting of Curacao, Bonaire, Saint Eustatius, Saba, Sint Maarten, and Saint Barthelemy, in the Southeastern Caribbean Sea off of South America. It became the country of Curacao and Dependencies in 1954 and was dissolved on 10/10/2010. The islands are still the possession of the Kingdom of Netherlands however their legal status has changed. A few of the islands were also known as the ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao). Aruba gained independence in 1984.

The islands were discovered in 1493 by the Spanish and were conquered by the Dutch in 1634. At that point Dutch colonists began to settle on the islands. At that time the Dutch also came into possession of what is today the British Virgin Islands, St. Croix, Tobago.

Colonial rule ended after WWII. The British and America occupied the islands with the Dutch permission which spurred the demand for autonomy. In 1954 the UN declared the islands decolonized. Aruba split off in 1984. The remaining islands unhappily remained as political surrogates of the Netherlands until they voted for total independence. Eventually the region was divided into three autonomous ones, Curacao, Aruba, and the BES islands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba).

Initially, Saint Eustatius, "The Golden Rock" was a major trading partner with the US colonies but was devastated by the British and its economy never recovered. Centuries later, when oil was discovered in Venezuela the economies of the islands boomed. Dutch Shell Oil company established refineries in Curacao and the US processed oil on Aruba. The refineries were closed in the 1980s and the economies collapsed again. Now the islands are supported mostly by tourism.



Thanks to the Southern California DX Club Newsletter

Tube of the Month

B

In 1921, the American Radio and Research Corporation (AMRAD) developed a cold cathode, half wave, rectifier called the “S” tube for use in low power electrical devices. The next year, a former AMRAD employee named Charles Smith came up with a way to make home refrigerators. He was approached by a WWI veteran named Laurence Marshall who was an engineer and was interested in starting a company to make the refrigerators with Smith. Their new business became the American Appliance Company. Before any refrigerators were made, they realized that they should switch over to products in the hot radio/communications industry. Smith was familiar with the S tube, so they successfully acquired the rights to it from AMRAD.

In 1925, the helium filled, full wave, B rectifier was announced. Business was good but another company claimed that they had the rights to the name American Appliance Company. After only a month in production, they had to change the name on the tubes and adopted “Raytheon MFG Company”. The first B tubes were marked “Raytheon” following the popular trend to have catchy trade names like pliotron or kenotron. Raytheon caught on and the newly re-branded tubes were standard in many receiver AC power supplies. The B rectifier operated at voltages as high as 350 volts at 60 ma and was often referred to as the B-60. To compete with the new RCA rectifiers, the B was replaced by the BH rectifier that would handle 85 ma and was less costly to produce. It looked like a mushroom as seen in the third example.

Within two years of the first sale of the B tube, RCA decided to change the rules for radio makers and required only RCA tubes were to be used. Raytheon was about out of business and had to ally with Union Carbide to produce receiving tubes labeled Eveready-Raytheon and also bought Acme-Delta Co., a maker of transformers and other auto and power equipment. In WWII, Raytheon demonstrated their ability to mass produce magnetrons and became one of the largest military contractors.

The first example is a B tube with the American Appliance Company name. These were produced for about one month. The second example with slightly different construction is marked Raytheon MFG Company and was made in larger quantities. Early examples had only American Appliance Company printed on a paper label,

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

Norm N6JV



Astron PS LED Backlight Upgrade

Up until a few years ago Astron power supplies had incandescent backlights on the panel meters, and those are notorious for burning out and leaving your meters in the dark.

Astron offers LED backlight circuit boards so you can upgrade the old incandescent lamps. I replaced the meters on my RS-50M supply and it's working FB. This isn't just for the linear power supplies, switching power supplies with blown incandescents can be fixed as well.

LED circuit boards are only 3 bucks, I ordered 4 and they were delivered from Astron in just a few days for less than 20 bucks total including shipping.

Removing the meters so you can open them up requires unsoldering two wires, and once you get the meters disassembled there is also a bit of soldering inside them. If you're not comfortable disassembling the meter to replace the circuit board you can buy new meters with LED backlighting for 22 bucks each. You'll still need to unsolder a couple of wires in order to get the old ones out, and solder the wires to the new meter, but that isn't too difficult.

Link to Astron replacement parts:

<https://www.astroncorp.com/shop>

Link to video showing replacement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AgHPL11uH0>

de Dennis, NJ6G

Club Log Standings 2024

Overall

1	NK7I	Rick Bates	176
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	168
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	161

CW

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	127
2	W6DR	Dave Ritchie	107
3	K6YK	John Lee	99

Phone

1	K6YK	John Lee	43
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	19
3	WU7W	Richard Palio	14

Data

1	NK7I	Rick Bates	170
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	166
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	143

Awards Checkers ARRL

Rick Samoian, W6SR

(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Postal Increase

Product	Price before Jan. 24	Price after Jan. 24
Letters (1 oz.)	66 cents	68 cents
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	63 cents	64 cents
Domestic Postcards	51 cents	53 cents
International Postcards	\$1.50	\$1.55

*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.

Product	Price before Jan. 24	Price after Jan. 24
International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.50	\$1.55

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

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

Upcoming Events

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

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

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>

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.

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

Kenwood TS-590S with power cord, microphone, dust cover. \$700.00

Yaesu FT-897 with power cord and microphone. HF output is good, VHF/UHF output does not work (separate antenna out). \$350.00

(209)329-2951 dsmoore63@gmail.com

73, Dennis NJ6G

COAX FOR SALE

For Sale: 272 feet of 1 ¼" Andrew Superflex VXL6 Heliac. \$750, connectors available. Brand new, still on original 5' diameter spool. All or nothing, no cutting to shorter lengths. Good for long run to antenna field. 0.146 dB attenuation per 100' at 30 MHz. 0.996 dB attenuation per 100' AT 450 MHz. I will deliver with-in most of Northern California (distance and location negotiable) for cost of gasoline. This will take a pick-up truck or large flat-bed trailer to move. Pick-ups with a 5' bed you will risk breaking your cab back window, plan accordingly. Dave, W6DE, 530-409-7877

I wish to purchase an antenna tuner, specifically an Ameritron ATR-30 or Palstar AT2K.

***May consider other tuners if they will handle full power and have multiple inputs. What have you got in that's excess to your needs?

Please reply to my email address, or phone (530) 672-2885 to keep reflector traffic down.

Thanks de Rick, W6SR

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/>

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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