

THE NUGGET



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

June 2018

Volume 23 Number 6

From the President NJ6G

The radio has been silent most days this month, only turning on occasionally to check into a nightly net. Just too much going on at work and around the property to spend time on the air. From the reports it sounds as if conditions were pretty good to Europe during the CQWW WPX CW contest, so hopefully you were able to pick up some new ones or post a good score. My call sign picked up some ATNOs but since it was on loan to somebody else during the contest I can't put them in my log. Ah well, at least my call made it through.

On the equipment front, I picked up quite a load of aluminum from Don N6DA's estate. The KT34 I went over to pick up is in pretty sad shape and need lots of new parts, to the point of being unsalvageable, but I also picked up a new M2 15M antenna, a couple 10M antennas of unknown pedigree, and a 2M Ringo that needs work. It really just turned into a case of helping his XYL clear out her backyard. From another estate I

picked up a Heil headset to go with my Kenwood TS-590 for field day.

The KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition begins later this month so be prepared to get them in your log. Baker Island is currently #5 most wanted so there will be plenty of activity around this one.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for WRTC 2018 coming up in July. Our very own club members Andy AE6Y and Rick N6XI will be competing in this so hopefully you can get them in

Next Meeting

Next meeting is June 16, 2018
11:30 AM – Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell
11974 CA-88, Jackson, CA 95642
Program will be Field Day Plans for local clubs

We are always on the lookout for new places to hold our meetings, or for volunteers to help make arrangements. Please contact the Activities Chair, Vina K6VNA if you can help out! vina@sign-tek.com

the log and push them to a high finish. It may be tough from the west coast but let's give them all the support we can!

Our next meeting is June 16th at Mountain Mikes Pizza in Martell. Topic will be Field Day plans of local clubs. Hope to see you there!

73, Dennis NJ6G

Dits and Dahs

Norm Wilson N6JV took first place in the 2017 ARRL 160 - SOHP for the Pacific Division. Congratulations Norm!

Rich Cutler WC6H took first place in the 2017 November Sweepstakes Phone - SOHP for the Pacific Division. Congratulations Rich!

Dennis Moore NJ6G took first place in the 2017 November Sweepstakes Phone - SOLP for the Pacific Division. My first plaque!

Norm Wilson N6JV confirmed his 5400th prefix on CW for the WPX award. That is amazing!

Do you have something you'd like to see here in Dits and Dahs? License upgrade? Call sign change? New equipment? Send it to the editor!

From the Treasurer K6TLR

May Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer reports that there was no activity between the period of May 1st – 24th.

May 1st Balance: \$2038.54

May 24th Balance: 2038.54

Paying Dues:

Paypal – Send to: MotherLodeClub@gmail.com. use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mail to K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

ARRL Field Day 2018

June 23-24, 2018

1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday

El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club AG6AU

Coordinator: Dave, K6KNS

FIELD DAY SITE LOCATION

Location: N38° 40'05.20", W120° 17'32.97"

Elevation 6600' on Mormon Emigrant Trail.

The Field Day Site is approximately 23 miles from Pollock Pines. From HWY 50 take Sly Park Road south. Turn left on Mormon Emigrant Trail (AKA County Road 16 or NF Road 5). Then drive approximately 17.3 miles straight to the site. Look for our signs.

Additional information:

The Field Day Site is about 6.5 miles west of Hwy 88 and 2.4 miles west of the Silver Fork Rd. For those who want to know, the site is a proximately 17 miles by air from Pollock Pines and 2.5 miles by air from the Leek Springs Lookout.

ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio

come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

Potluck Dinner: Please bring a dish to share (baked potatoes will be provided)
(Plates and eating utensils will be provided)
Bring your own drinks.
Bring a chair.

The Field Day site is not an improved campsite; no water.

There is room for tents, trailers, RV's, etc. for overnight camping.

A porta-potty and hand wash station will be on site.

Insect repellent is recommended

You must have a campfire permit to use a stove, lantern, charcoal barbeque, or wood campfire outside of a developed campground or recreation area. The permit is your agreement to follow the campfire restrictions and regulations in effect (free on-line):

<http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/>

A radio operation sign-up schedule is available prior to FD. Operating a field station is encouraged whether it's your own or you share with someone (sign-up). Or bring your own radio(s), antenna(s), power (battery, gas generators,

solar) and practice setting up for SSB, CW, Data, Satellite, FM simplex, etc. 100w max TX.

The object of the ARRL Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

If you have any questions, please contact me.
Dave Sanders, K6KNS
eprd2016@pacbell.net

Lodi Amateur Radio Club

The Lodi club plans on repeating their setup from last year. It is on private property near Lodi, please contact Jim Seiferling WB6BET for details.

From Jim: We will have an all weekend inclusive meal package for \$20, with the main dinner, catered by De Vinci's, Saturday evening.

Lunch will be hot dogs and maybe a custom omelette bar Sunday morning.

My plans are to be an 11A setup. We'll see if we can do it. Should be fun.

Ed. Note: I visited both the LARC and EDARC Field Day operations last year, both groups were having a lot of fun. I would be hard pressed to choose one over the other.- Dennis NJ6G

ARRL News

05/31/2018

Videos of some Hamvention 2018 forums are available in the YouTube Dayton Hamvention 2018 videos playlist. Among those available are the **TAPR Forum**, the **SDR Forum**, and the **HamSCI Forum**. — Thanks to George Byrkit, K9TRV

05/31/2018

The World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 (WRTC 2018) Organizing Committee reports that all of the station sites it's selected for the July event in Germany "are perfect for the competition."

"After the final check, all sites for WRTC 2018 are now confirmed," a WRTC 2018 news release said this week. "The inspections proved that there are enough very well-suited sites with no topographical or interference problems." The aim of the exercise is to ensure a level playing field for all competing teams in terms of location.

Ulrich Weiss, DJ2YA, and Frank Neumann, DM5WF, carefully inspected more than 80 possible WRTC 2018 sites in the region around Muehlberg, Jessen, and Jueterbog. "When measuring the angles to the horizon in all directions with a theodolite, we didn't detect a single ground elevation of more than 1° among the occasional rises at the horizon," Weiss recounted. "Furthermore, we paid special attention to make sure that the Fresnel zones around the antenna locations are plain and clear of obstructions."

Neumann noted that five sites did not meet their criteria and will be replaced with back-up sites that they also inspected. "Of special interest was the North America direction with its great number of potential DX contacts," he added.

Supporting the inspection team were Andreas Thron, DL8UAT; Wolfgang Tretschock, DL2RSF, and Andreas Winter, DK4WA.

2018 MLDXCC Meeting Dates

January 27
February - None
March 10
April - none (Visalia)
May 12 – *Canceled*
June 16
July 28
Aug 25
Sep 15
October 13
November 10
December - 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.

In addition to the topographical evaluation, all sites were checked for possible interference issues, from such sources as high-voltage power lines, wind energy facilities, or railway lines. Using an Icom IC-7300 equipped with an active antenna specially designed for noise floor measurements, the team checked all sites for any kind of interfering noise. The individual sites are separated from one another by at least 1 kilometer.

“Doing these checks in temperatures of well over 90 °F was quite a feat,” Weiss commented, “and occasional bypassers shook their heads when observing a car with a strange number plate and an unusual contraption mounted on its roof parked on the side of the road.” He said that driving to all 80 sites in 3 days covered more than 600 kilometers (approximately 370 miles).

05/30/2018

Legendary rock guitarist Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, of the Eagles is featured in a just-released set of ARRL audio and video public service announcements promoting Amateur Radio. ARRL will provide the 30- and 60-second PSAs to Public Information Officers (PIOs) to share with their Section’s television and radio stations. The ARRL Media and Public Relations Department also will provide these announcement files directly to interested television and radio outlets. The announcements are available for downloading from the ARRL website for members to use in promoting Amateur Radio at club meetings and public presentations, such as ARRL Field Day June 23 – 24 (PSAs specifically for ARRL Field Day also are available).

Walsh, who visited ARRL Headquarters last year for taping, wanted to deliver two main messages in his PSAs: get involved in Amateur Radio, and become a member of ARRL. The messages highlight the tremendous service that radio amateurs provide to communities, and convey how ARRL advocates on behalf of Amateur Radio on a wide range of legal and political issues.

An ARRL Life Member and long-time radio amateur, Walsh personally has been a strong supporter and advocate of ARRL and Amateur Radio, and his ham shack is just as impressive as his home recording studio. “I want to give back to the hobby that has given me so much enjoyment,” he said.

The setting for the PSAs was W1AW, which Walsh was especially eager to revisit. The occasion also offered him with an opportunity to see equipment he’d donated to W1AW years earlier. Walsh’s past on-the-air forays on W1AW have always attracted enthusiastic pileups. While at W1AW, he spent some chatting with station manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, about the station’s operations. Walsh is a well-known collector of vintage Amateur Radio equipment.

Creating the videos were Media and Public Relations Assistant Michelle Patnode, KC1JTA; freelance videographer/photographer Chris Zajac, and former Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, who also recorded a tag line for ARRL Audio News with Walsh.

Tips for getting audio PSAs on the air are available on the “Placing Audio PSAs” web page.

05/23/2018

Five new ARRL Section Managers have been declared elected to begin their first terms of office on July 1. Section Manager (SM) election ballots were counted in the Indiana and Northern Florida Sections on May 22 at ARRL Headquarters. Other candidates faced no opposition during the spring election cycle.

In Indiana, James “Jimmy” Merry, KC9RPX, of Ellettsville, was declared elected in a very close race with Brian G. Jenks, W9BGJ, the Indiana Section Traffic Manager. Merry received 451 votes, and Jenks, of Fort Wayne, received 438 votes.

Merry has been the Affiliated Club Coordinator in Indiana since 2005, and is presently serving a fifth term as president of the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club. Incumbent Indiana SM Brent Walls, N9BA, decided not to run for another term after helming the Indiana Field Organization since July 2016.

In Northern Florida, Kevin Bess, KK4BFN, outpolled Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, 564 to 447, to succeed current SM Steve Szabo, WB4OMM. Bess, of Edgewater, is a Northern Florida Assistant Section Manager, and a member of the Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team and of the Florida Contest Group. Szabo opted not to run for a third term of office after serving since July 2014.

Oregon also will get a new Section Manager this summer. David Kidd, KA7OZO, of Oregon City, was the sole candidate for the post. He has been an Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. Kidd will take the reins of the Oregon Section from John Core, KX7YT, of Portland, who did not run for a new term after serving for the past 2 years.

In the East Bay Section, Jim Siemons, W6LK, will begin an 18-month term as SM on July 1. Because no candidates were nominated by the September 8, 2017, deadline, nominations were resolicited. Siemons, of Walnut Creek, California, was the only nominee to succeed

incumbent SM Jim Latham, AF6AQ, of Livermore, who has served as East Bay Section Manager since 2008 and did not run for a new term.

In New Mexico, Bill Mader, K8TE, of Rio Rancho, will become the new SM there in July. He, too, was the only candidate after nominations had to be resolicited, and he will serve an 18-month term. He follows incumbent SM Ed James, KA8JMW, of Edgewood, who did not run again after serving since 2015.

Several incumbent Section Managers were unopposed for new 2-year terms starting on July 1. They are Ron Morgan, AD9I (Illinois); Bill Crowley, K1NIT (Maine); Jim Kvochick, K8JK (Michigan); Paul Gayet, AA1SU (Vermont), and Patrick Moretti, KA1RB (Wisconsin).

MLDXCC – Outgoing ARRL Bureau

The Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will provide Outgoing QSL Bureau services to paid club members. The policy is as follows:

The club will cover packaging, shipping, and the \$7.00 ARRL fee. Members will be responsible for the \$1.15 per ounce fee, payable to the club. A scale will be provided at the designated meetings to weigh the cards.

Twice per year, at the March and October meetings, members will bring their outgoing cards (or have delivered by another club member) to the meeting for collection and collating.

All regulations set forth by the ARRL must be met, including:

- Members must be ARRL members to use outgoing bureau.
- Must provide proof of membership (QST mailing label, ARRL membership card)
- Cards need to be sorted according to ARRL requirements when brought to

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>

Please contact the editor to have your club listed here!

club.

I would anticipate that the after-meeting program at those meetings would be dedicated to weighing, merging the cards, and making sure the paperwork is in order.

For more information regarding the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

Tube of the Month

6C21

At the beginning of WWII, RADAR was in its infancy. When a practical magnetron was produced, the Radiation Lab at M.I.T. started a project to develop a RADAR system that could direct anti-aircraft artillery. By 1944, the SRC-584 operating at 3 GHz with a 250 KW output was first fielded. The pulse modulator used three 6C21 triodes in parallel to key the magnetron. The 6C21 was developed by EIMAC based on the 450T tube with features that would allow it to handle 30,000 VDC at 15 amps. The 6C21 was also made by Machlett, GE and Westinghouse due to the high demand.

Early sets had their problems with the 6C21. Feedback from the Anzio Beachhead indicated a high failure rate. It is unknown which manufacturer made the tubes that were failing, but EIMAC continued to make improvements on the tube such as stronger grids and heavier internal support structures which led to higher reliability.

After the War the 6C21 became available in surplus, but the characteristics were not generally known for ham use. Bill Orr typed a special data sheet which recommended the same basic parameters as the 450TH. The first example is an EIMAC and the second is a Machlett.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Website up-date

Norm, N6JV would like to up-date the “member's stations” section of our website. Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved. So please send Norm a photo of your smiley face at your station, as well a photo of your antenna system. Let's get our website current.

ARRL Awards Checkers

Ken Anderson, K6TA
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

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 Events

7QP – May 5-6

NEQP – May 5-6

NCCC May meeting – May 12

Dayton Hamvention – May 18-20

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>

Classifieds

Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale:

Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO

M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225

SDRplay RSP1 – New in box - \$80

Dennis, NJ6G dennis@mail4life.net

From K6KM's estate, we have the following items for sale:

(5ea) Rohn GB-45 guy bracket, (2ea) Rohn 45 rotor plate, (1ea) Rohn GB-55D guy bracket,

missing some hardware, (2ea) BLP, (6ea) Misc. guy wire assemblies. Don't know length but can verify if necessary. (5ea) PLP Big Grip BG-2144 1/4 inch, (2ea) Phillystran Big Grip HPTG-670001 / BG-MS-2755 3/8 inch, (1ea) 20 foot mast - quarter inch wall (approximate), (1ea) 15 foot mast - quarter inch wall (approximate). Also have a large lot of ICE grounding/surge protection items.

Most if not all of this stuff can be available at the Saturday MLDXCC meeting, with advance notice. I will deliver at the meeting. Rick, W6SR, will determine pricing and take your money.

Bob, W1RH W1RH@yahoo.com

Bill N6GHZ is looking for an 811-A tube for his Collions 30L-1 amp, let him know if you have one you're willing to part with.

n6ghz@arrl.net

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

Dick K6LRN has the following items for sale:
Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in un-opened carton. Asking \$4700.

Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder. Good condx, both electrically & cosmetic. Asking \$1100.

Dick, K6LRN k6lrn12@gmail.com

Doug Murray has the following items for sale:
Astron VLS-35M DC power supply

0-40 VDC metered 5-32VDC (front panel adjustable), 0-40 AMP metered, , 3-27AMP current limiting (front panel adjustable) \$125.

Econco Rebuilt/tested (zero hours) 3CX3000A tube \$500.

3CX3000A Socket: \$75.

FILAMENT XFMR:

7.5VAC 52A \$95.

50 AMP Filament choke: \$50.

HV XFMR:

Tapped PRI:220 VAC input

SEC. 5230-5670-6800-7480VAC 3AMP
\$350.

Doug – N6BU

209-286-9583

Rick W6SR has the following available:

Ameritron AWM-30 Peak reading
SWR/Wattmeter

DuneStar 300-21 15M 200W band-pass filter
DuneStar 300-21 160M 200W band-pass filter
10GHz slot antenna with a magnetic base.

Bird slugs:

1ea 25W 200-500MHz

1ea 50W 100-250MHz

2ea 250W 100-250MHz

1ea 500W 50-125MHz

2ea Transco KW "Y" relay/switch 28V "N" connectors"

1ea KW HF-VHF relay/switch 28V "N" connectors"

1ea Icom 211 2M all mode 10W radio works
100%

1ea Landwehr 2M mast mounted (switched)
pre-amp, .5dB noise figure 12V
relay.
750W non-switched, 150W switched.
3 element 2m Cushcraft Yagi.
7 element M2 430-450 yagi.
Make offer on each, pick-up in Placerville, or U
pay shipping.
Please contact me directly (530) 344-9085 or e-
mail. Please no "not to all" group e-mails.
For more info or pics etc.

FT-1000MP - Purchased several years ago from
K6TA and was used as the mult radio in a
two/MP SO2R setup. Full set of Yaesu filters. -
\$750

FT-1000MP - Has long been used as my run ra-
dio. Full set of Inrad filters. - \$775

Bob
W1RH

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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