

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

Our monthly meeting of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will be 11:30 AM on March 11th at Habanero Hots, 1024 E Victor Rd, Lodi, CA 95240

We will be having a raffle to raise money for our awards program, DX Foundation donations, insurance, etc. This will all be based on donated items, so see if there's any gear you're not using any longer, ham-related books gathering dust, etc. To kick things off we will also have a new in-the-box Baofeng HT.

Rich Cutler will be presenting tips on contesting, so plan on attending to see how to improve your game.

See you there!

**73, Dennis NJ6G
President, MLDXCC**

MLDXCC DUES

Our fiscal year runs July through June. While dues are voluntary, you must be a paid up member to qualify for in-club awards. You wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to support your club and might be lucky enough to win a smashing pencil holder or something. Right?

Dues are \$ 15 per fiscal year (July 1st). Dues can be paid at our meetings or mailed to:

Tyler Laursen at 3141 Rushall Court, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 73, Tyler, K6TLR Treasurer

2017 Officers

President: Dennis Moore NJ6G
VP/CC: Steve Allred K6SCA
Secretary: Sue Allred K6SZQ
Treasurer: Tyler Laursen K6TLR
Board members:
 Chuck Tifft W6RD
 Eric Handel KD6MOO
 Ken Anderson K6TA
 Bob Hess W1RH.

Pictures from our January meeting meeting at Mountain Mikes in Martel. Photos by 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 Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved.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.

Treasurer's Report

MLDXCC - January 2017			
Treasurer's Report			
January 1 Balance:	1535.12		
	Income:	Dues - W6DR	15.00
		Dues - K6TLR	15.00
		Dues - K6AAN	15.00
		Donation - K6AAN	5.00
		Dues - N6OGN	15.00
		Dues - KG6SVF	15.00
	Expense		
	:		
January 31 Balance:	1615.12		
Tyler Laursen K6TLR			
MLDXCC Treasurer			

Up-Coming Club Meetings

April - none Visalia DX Convention

May 13

June 17

July 22

August 26

September 16

October 14

November 11

No MLDXCC meeting in Dec.

These dates avoid 'major' contests.

Note; this is tentative. There are many other operating events. These are 'major' events that may influence choice of meeting dates.

Some of these can be focus for us, some will be ones we 'co-operate' or co-ordinate with NCCC, such as NAQP & possibly SS.

Meeting Locations

Mountain Mikes, Martel

Spaghetti Factory, Stockton

Max's, Auburn

Denny's, Cameron Park

Habenero Hot's, Lodi

Thai House Restaurant, Valley Springs

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
SATURDAY MARCH 18 AT THE
SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC
HAMFEST AT THE LOOMIS
HISTORIC TRAIN DEPOT!**

73, CAROL MILAZZO, KP4MD

THE PREZ SEZ.

From The President

I'd like to thank all those who attended the Jan 28th meeting, it was a lively and enjoyable time. Seemed like we all had some catching up to do after two and a half months since our last meeting. We welcomed two new members, Mike K6AAN from Valley Springs and Kevin N6OGN from Stockton. Great to have you join us!

Start digging through your closets and pulling out some items for our raffles we're going to conduct a few times a year. Raffles of donated items help raise money for the club. Ham gear, contest brownies, etc. Money we raise (along with dues) is used to pay for our in-club awards, sponsored plaques, and DX foundation donations. Look for our first raffle to be held at the March 11th meeting.

Lots of contests since our last meeting in January, seems like there was something for everybody. I even managed some QSOs in the French REV contest, first time I've done anything on a foreign contest. Hopefully you all got a chance to get some QSOs in the log and rack up some points for the club and perhaps get yourself some new wallpaper. You may be surprised, just a few contacts may get you an envelope from the ARRL! Six contacts to win 80m SSB for my section two years ago? You bet!

Contesting doesn't always have to be about racking up large numbers of points. They are a great way to get your WAS and DXCC. Sure, you need to learn what the exchange is for each

contest and hopefully you'll submit a log for it, but don't shy away from them because you don't think you have what it takes. Scan around during the contest, find someone with a good signal and listen to a few of their exchanges so you get the hang of it, and answer that CQ. They appreciate the QSO for their points and you just picked up another state or country. You don't need the latest and greatest rig control and logging software. I started out by logging in a spreadsheet then exporting that to a suitable log file. Sure it was slow but I wasn't in it for points, I wanted those countries in my log!

For those of you licensed less than three years, don't forget that many contests have a rookie category. My first wallpaper came from a not-so-serious effort in a CQ WPX contest, logging in Excel and going at an easy pace. Submitted under the rookie category and won first place in 6th call area.

It's time to start thinking about Field Day in June. Although we haven't participated as a club in a number of years, perhaps we should revisit that. Start thinking of a suitable locations and other requirements, and we can begin discussing this at the March meeting. It's a great opportunity for us to observe other club members in action under less-than-optimal conditions and perhaps learn something in the process. I know the Lodi and Stockton clubs have a lot of fun with their efforts.

Vina K6VNA and I are looking forward to Visalia in April. Last year was our first time and we really enjoyed

ourselves. You're missing out if you're not there!

See you at the meeting!

73, Dennis NJ6G

Vice President Report - Steve Allred, K6SCA

Hello all -

Well it's been a crazy, wet winter filled with long work hours. While Sue & I did not have damage from the extreme winter weather, it's been challenge to keep all the antennas in the air with wind gust of 70+ at times. After much encouragement from my bride, I recently purchased a new FTdx3000. Looks like it's going to be a great rig, just need time now to play with it and work DX! Although it does have a nice spectrum display, I still plan on using the SDR IQ as a 2nd receiver / spectrum display. Once you've got used to seeing the signals on a big display and having the ability to point and click the rig for a frequency change, the one in the rig just doesn't cut it. <hihi>

Also don't be discouraged by the solar numbers (or lack thereof). DX is there and often very workable. You just have to catch them when the band is open as the openings are often much shorter in duration and signals weaker than we've had in the past. I was able to work 3B9FR and XT2SE recently but had to really work to hear them. After work hours aren't always conducive to chasing DX.

So, are you working DX and counting it for the DX Marathon? Even though

you've worked them before, it counts new again every year. It's also a great way to pick up band slots if you're chasing 5 band DXCC.

See you at the Visalia DX Convention!

73, Steve / K6SCA

Bio Chuck Tiff, W6RD

I started in Ham Radio early in January of 1963 as WNØEWW from Bismarck, ND. Upgraded to the then Conditional in late June, and was now WAØEWW. Just in time for Field Day! I will never forget that first FD.

I became an Advanced in 1974 and an Extra in April of 1978 just missing the old 1X2 vanity program by a week. Applied for a 2X1 the following year and got AKØT in August 1979. (dAKØTa) on my QSL card back then.

I did a lot of contesting in the late 70's and early 80's (CW & SSB), especially SS. I was the CAC rep for the Dakota Division for a couple years when Tod, K0TO (SK) was the Division Director.

I moved to Modesto, CA in 1987 and in 1996 got the call W6RD. Moved back to ND for 3 years (2004 to 2007) and then back to Modesto in

August of 2007. I am now primarily a DXer, mostly CW. Work and commuting has cut into operating time quite a bit the last few years. Hope to change that going forward.

My work career started as a 2 Way Radio service tech for about 10 years eventually owning my own Motorola and GE shop. In the Late 70's I began working in Broadcast Engineering, both TV and Radio. In late 2000, after more than 25 years in Broadcasting, I had to take a few years off due to health issues. I eventually went back to work in the 2 Way Radio business and then back to Broadcast Engineering. Currently doing part time engineering work for CBS TV in Sacramento .

I am a member of the ARRL, DXCC Honor Roll (345 Mixed), needing P5, SV/A, FR/G and BS7.

My main rig is a FTDX3000 and a Alpha 374.

My antennas are a HB dualband 12/17 yagi (4 elements on each band interlaced) at 68 feet, 40M rotary dipole at 62 feet and a KT36XA at 56 feet. Wire for 30/80 round out the HF antennas. Trying to work something on 160 meters is tough on a 60'X100' city lot.



I am looking forward to serving you on the MLDXCC board.



Various vintage rigs serve as my backups. I love to repair and operate vintage radio equipment (Real Radios Glow in the Dark!)

73 Chuck, W6RD

Editor Notes de Rick, W6SR

First, I would like to comment on the recent passing of our friend, and last MLDXCC President, Shirley Rose, AA6K. Shirley was an officer of this club many times, President, Vice President, and on the board more time than I can remember. He was more than just "an active member" he could always be counted on to step-up and fill an important position, when we had no takers. Yep, Shirley would volunteer to do it.

Up until the end he was our log flogger, making sure our club scores were submitted and counted. Many of our new members probably don't know, that for many years, Shirley, was a care-giver to his invalid wife, who passed-away not too long ago.

Sometimes it seems life is not fair. However, if there is a place on the other-side where one is rewarded for their deeds here, our friend is in that place. RIP OM SK

For the last month or so the rain just kept coming, so many (including me) were inside. Now, it would have been nice if radio conditions were good so we could enjoy our forced sequester. But no, conditions were lousy. I operated most of the NCCC and MLDXCC focus contests with minimum effort, my heart just was not in it.

Like many in our area, we lost a tree in the recent wind and rain storms. A 40' Oak tree just flopped over after the last rain. Fortunately is is 100' from the house, and fell downhill and away from anything important. I need to get a clean-up crew to cut it up and dispose of the wood. No, we don't have a wood burning stove or fireplace. Since ours is a newer home, they are not built with those items build in. You can add a fireplace or stove later, but we didn't. So, if ya' want some wood, come on over and bring your chainsaw.

I haven't worked any new 6M DXCC countries, although I did work several 6M EME stations that wanted to work a California station. And I haven't added any new band countries in the last few months either. Radio things be slow here.

I am starting to build a 2M EME station. I'm starting this project very slowly by building the antennas first, from two old Cushcraft 19 element antenna guys. I swapped some stuff to acquire these and with mods. They should produce the 19dBi need to make the trip to the moon and back. When that's done, I will add a 2m transverter board to my K3, and make sure I can hear people. Lastly I will lean on my friend Norm, N6JV for his help to fabricate a GS-35B ¼ wave shorted-line 2M power amplifier. I will use the same brute-force power supply that I use for the 6M power amplifier. Needles to say, this project is something that will probably take me most of this year to complete. That is, if all goes well.

So why would an old guy like me start another EME project? Well I have always thought that new projects force us to do research and learn something new and that keeps our brain fresh, and gives us something to look forward to.

OK, OK I'm off my soapbox now, CU all at the meeting on the 11th. "If the lord is willing, and the creeks don't rise." And I mean the last part literally...**de Rick, W6SR**

Tube Of The Month de N6JV



The WL-530

By the beginning of WWII in Europe, the British and the United States had been developing their own RADAR systems while sharing information with each other. The British had their Chain Home system that became famous due to its crucial role during the Battle of Britain. The United States developed a similar system at Fort Monmouth, NJ, that was designed to be flexible as they wanted a set that could be fixed or portable. Westinghouse got the contract to make a production version of an experimental tube and they designated it the WL-530 (VT-122). The new tube would be used in the RADAR system designated the SCR-270. The first completed 270 was delivered in early 1939. The 530 is an 8 kW, water cooled triode that could

produce 75 to 100 kW pulses. These used a thoriated tungsten filament which was new to tubes of this size. A pair of 530s produced 150 kW output at 120 MHz with this set. Maximum range was about 150 miles. Four vans hauled all the components and the control shack.

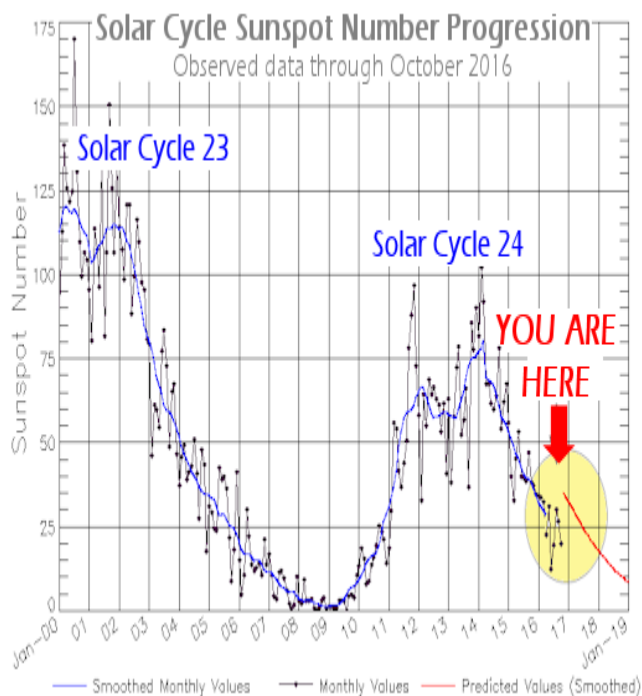
The new sets were delivered to Fort Hancock, NJ, where they were tested before being deployed. The testing must have been done by some hams as they describe aiming at storage tanks off Sandy Hook and while one operator watched the screen, the other climbed the array and banged on the tuning stubs with a long wooden stick until the signal peaked.

The military was not enthusiastic about the new equipment and its deployment was delayed. In Hawaii, younger officers tried to get the system operating in spite of resistance from their commanders. The sets were eventually installed. Sets were also deployed at the Panama Canal and in the Philippines. On December 7, 1941, four of the sets had been deployed around the island of Oahu. The installation at Opana Point on the North Shore was in operation and spotted the Japanese planes heading for Pearl Harbor at a range of 130 miles. Training and experience were in short supply and the information wasn't acted upon in time to prepare an effective defense. You saw the movie.

The frequency of the system wasn't very high and better RADARS were rapidly developed, but the SCR-270

system was in use long after the War. It turns out that the widths of the props on military aircraft of the day were close to a half wave at the 106 MHz operating frequency so they made great reflectors.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes
January 28th, 2017
Mountain Mike's Pizza, Martell

Meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by President Dennis Moore, NJ6G, using the 2015 ARRL gavel. 23 members were in attendance. NJ6G

We went around the room and each member introduced themselves.

Minutes were published in the last newsletter. Steve Allred, K6SCA moved to accept the minutes as published. Eric Handel, KD6MOO second the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was also published in the newsletter. Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to accept the report as published. Carolyn Wilson, K6TDK second the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dennis reminded the members that our dues period runs from July 1st to June 30th of each year. While dues are optional, all members were encouraged to pay dues, as it increases the quantity and quality of awards the club can give. All Officers must be current dues paying members, and any individual must be paid up in order to receive club awards.

Recent club and member awards were announced. MLDXCC won the 2015 SS Gavel, and are likely to be the winner again for 2016 thanks to the efforts of Bob Hess, W1RH for log flogging. MLDXCC was also the CQP Plaque winner. Member Bragging included Norm Wilson, N6JV who logged his 1000th IOTA on CW. Kay Anderson, K6KO showed off her Honor Roll plaque which she recently achieved. Steve Allred, K6SCA, reported that he had recently completed 5 Band WAS.

New Member Applications - It was reported that Bob Naylor, WE6C had had some issues completing the online application on our website. It was asked where those are directed once completed online, and it was reported that they are directed by the site to Bob Hess, W1RH. We had two applications for membership - Michael Dugger K6AAN and Kevin Polhemus, N6OGN. Both applications were approved by the membership.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - Dick Wilson, K6LRN, reported that they have just been checking off the regular attendees against the roster. They are in the process of redesigning the membership application to include the home grid square.

Award Committee - Dennis announced that the chairman - Rich Cutler, WC6H - is in Las Vegas for a conference, and will be contacting the committee members next week when he returns to set up a meeting. The members were asked for their opinion as to the time frame which the awards period should run - calendar or club fiscal year. It was agreed that we should align our awards period with the fiscal year (dues period) to ensure eligibility to receive awards.

Old Business:

Website Updates - We need a picture of Eric Handel, KD6M00

for the website. Also, Steve Allred, K6SCA needs to be correctly identified as Vice President, not as President. Also we need to update the QSL Manager to Chuck Tift, W6RD.

Facebook Page Updates - Dennis reminded the members that we have a Facebook page, and stated that the postings will tend to be more informational, rather than discussion based.

New Business:

Fundraiser Ideas - It was proposed that we hold raffles at our meetings 2 - 3 times per year to increase our funds in order to give more awards, provide catering for a field day event, etc. Jim Varney, K6OK moved that we hold the raffles periodically, and Dick Wilson, K6LRN seconded the motion, which passed. It was also suggested that we might want to consider participating in the Foothills Ham Swap, which will be held in Carmichael at the Elks Lodge as a possible fundraiser.

DXpedition Section for newsletter - Dennis asked for a volunteer to head up a section in the newsletter and to announce on the email reflection when DXpeditions are happening. It was pointed out that newsletter editor Rick Samoian, W6SR already has such a section in the newsletter, with hyperlinks to the various DXpedition websites for more information. Dick Wilson, K6LRN suggested that members who are

serious DXers might want to subscribe to Daily DX or Weekly DX to stay on top of such issues.

Other - Dick Wilson, K6LRN brought up the fact that we have an issue with some people not conforming to the rules. For many club competitions, we now have to submit lists ahead of the competition of all members in good standing and their operating grid square. It is important that if an individual is going to contest from a location other than their home QTL needs to report that grid square to Dick before the list is submitted so that their score will count for the club.

Upcoming Contests Before the Next Meeting:

- February 11th - CQWW WPX RTTY - points should be submitted under NCCC. Exchange is signal report and sequential serial number.
- February 18th - ARRL DX CW - points should be submitted under MLDXCC. Exchange is signal report and state.
- February 25th - NAQP RTTY - points should be submitted under NCCC. This is 100 Watts maximum, and exchange is name and state.
- February 25th - CQWW 160-m SSB - points should be submitted under MLDXCC. Exchange is signal report and state.
- March 4th - ARRL DX SSB - points should be submitted under MLDXCC. Exchange is signal report and strength.

Dick Wilson, K6LRN, reported that February 4th is the NACW Sprint which is just four hours in length. Exchange is name and state, but you cannot park on the frequency which makes the contest fast and furious.

General Announcements:

Vina Moore, K6VNA can make QSL cards at cost for club members. She can use different paper stock for cards that will be sent alone as a postal piece or those that will be sent in groups to a bureau. It was asked about her ability to make shirts and caps with our MLDXCC logo, and it was decided that those items will be sold through the club as a fundraiser, not at cost.

Jim Varney, K6OK, shared information regarding putting up towers over 45 feet high in El Dorado County. A conditional use permit is required, and they treat them the same as a cell tower. Fees are approximately \$1800 along with a \$100 Building Permit and a \$150 fee to Sacramento State to conduct an archeological survey. Norm Wilson, N6JV, reported that Sacramento County is much easier - \$545 for all permits and the inspection, and only a Building Permit is required.

Norm, N6JV also mentioned that his presentation from the last MLDXCC meeting can be found on his website - N6JV.com.

Chuck Tift, W6RD announced that he has a mint condition FTDX-5000 for sale for \$2200. Dick Wilson, K6LRN has a Yaesu FT1000 MP for sale.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on March 11th, location to be announced. It was originally scheduled for March 18th, but NCCC has their awards presentation set for that day.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ
Secretary

Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback

For Sale...

1. Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in unopened carton. Asking \$ 4700.
2. Cable set for Elecraft K-3 to MicroKeyer. Has necessary connections to integrate computer, radio & MicroKeyer. Asking \$ 60.
3. Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder. Good condx, both electrical-ly & cosmetic. Asking \$ 1100.

4. Rotator plate for TX-455 (USTowers) punched for Yaesu rotator. Good condx. Make an offer.

5. Rotator plate for Rohn 25. Appears to be punched for Hy-gain rotator. make an offer.

Contact Dick Wilson.
k6lrn12@gmail.com

From Chuck, W6RD

Items for Sale: HamIV Rotor #1 Latest Series..Unused since rebuild..Controller has added brake delay. Controller cosmetics are a little rough but works 100% **\$250.**

HamIV Rotor #2 Latest Series with pigtail..Was used about 2 years on KT34. In excellent condition. Controller has factory Brake Delay & Jones Plug. Comes with about 75 feet of cable with Plugs. **\$350.**

Alliance HD-73 Rotor and controller. Works well. Has lower mast clamp for mast mounting . Comes with 100 feet of new 6 wire control cable. **\$200.**

I can arrange pickup for everything except the antenna in Sacramento as I am there several days a week.

Chuck W6RD Modesto. 209-247-2952.

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. **de Bob, W1RH**
w1rh@yahoo.co

Norm, N6JV had a bad tree experience during the last windstorm. Looks like he has plenty of firewood for next year.



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>

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming Announced DXpeditions:

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

Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UP-COMING CONTESTS

(complete)

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

<http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given to MLDXCC.

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n6jv@n6jv.com

ARRL Awards Checkers

Ken Anderson, K6TA

(including 160M cards)

Rick Samoian, W6SR

(including 160M cards)

Note: ARRL Card Checkers

can check DXCC, WAS and VUCC Awards.