

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

The next meeting of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will be held November 11th, 2017 at 11:30 PM at Mt Mike's Pizza in Martel. The address is 11978 HWY 88.

We will be discussing CQP and Pacifcon, and voting on a slate of officers for next year's board.

2018 MLDXCC slate of officers - All those currently holding positions were willing to run again, with the exception of the Nugget Editor. John Kozuko, WD6EIW and Greg Glenn, NR6Q were nominated for director positions.

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.

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 Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved.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.

From The President

Contest season is in full swing and DXpeditions seem to be everywhere. Keep an eye on the clusters to see who's being worked from the west coast. I use dxwatch.com, another good one is dxsubmit.fi.

The 2017 California QSO party has come and gone, all over but the waiting for results. I'd like to thank everyone who jumped in to generate points in our battle with SCCC, the number of logs submitted for our club was very encouraging. I'd especially like to thank those who headed out to rare counties to get them activated. Tyler K6TLR, Bob W1RH, Bob N6TCE, and Jerry KD6WKY all left the comforts of home to activate counties. Jerry went all the way to Crescent City to activate Del Norte! Ric WO4O flew in from Florida to run Rick W6SR's station for the weekend. Perhaps Rick should fly to Florida to participate in the FL QSO party?

ARRL Sweepstakes is next. We won the gavel in 2015 and 2016, can we repeat? The CW portion is Nov 4-5, phone is Nov 18-19. We will again be entering in the Medium Club category. In this category we are limited to 50 logs combined, and if we exceed that limit we are then moved into the Unlimited category. This is different from how CQP operates! The club can't tell you to not submit your log, but our log flogger can advise as to whether we need your points or not. If you're unsure if your submission

will put us over the limit, please ask if the club needs the points.

A BIG change in ARRL contests going forward is the newly-shortened time limit to submit your logs. In previous years you had 15 days to submit your logs. Now it is ONLY 5 DAYS! Don't miss that deadline! This applies equally to both sections of the sweepstakes.

Jeff WK6I and I have been working on cleaning up the reflector and making sure our members are on it. One of the problems is that email addresses on the roster are not accurate, so please make sure Tyler K6TLR has the correct information. You can also check with me to see if I have it correct. To date we have added over 20 club members to the reflector.

Don't be shy about putting DX spots on the reflector. If you hear or work one of the DXpeditions put it on the reflector, we may see it in time to also nab them.

Don't forget club officer elections will be held at the November 11th meeting. Nominations opened at the October meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for office, please let me know. We currently have nominations for all officers but if you'd like to run we can also throw your name in the ring.

Speaking of club officers, Rick W6SR has been managing the newsletter for many years and would like to have someone take it over. Please contact him if interested to see what's involved.

That's all for now, see you at the meeting!

73, Dennis, NJ6G

Vice Prez Report

Hello, Steve NC6R here.

As we get ready to close out this calendar year by holding elections for club officers and board positions at the next meeting, there's a couple of items that I'd like to address.

First, as a club we've added several new members to our roll recently. I'd personally like to welcome each and every one of you. Please become involved in MLDXCC by attending meetings, contributing your contest scores and submitting your DX contacts to Club Log and CQ Marathon under the MLDXCC name. While I enjoy the daily camaraderie of our repeater brethren, MLDXCC is a DX & Contest Club. As such, it will only continue to flourish as an award winning club with your support.

Secondly (speaking of support), I'd like to broach the subject of MLDXCC dues. I'm of the opinion that dues and membership are synonymous. You don't get the right to be a member of a local service club (Lyons, Rotary, Kiwanis) without paying dues. If this seems objectionable to some, sorry brother, but the "sweat equity" and pride of involvement you will receive from a small yearly monetary investment in MLDXCC will pay you big dividends. The knowledge you'll receive from just being around others who have accomplished what you're striving to do is invaluable!

Question, as the close of 2017 approaches, how's your DX Marathon contacts looking? Even though you've worked them before, DXCC countries count as new again every year. Also remember that your FT8 contacts can

be counted toward your DXCC total under the "data" heading in Club Log. Looking forward to seeing you at Mt Mike's in Martel on Nov 11th.

73,

Steve / NC6R - V.P. MLDXCC

October Treasurer's Report:

MLDXCC - Oct 2017			
Treasurer's Report			
Oct 1 Balance	\$2,269.44		
	Income:	WEDE - Dues	15
		W6DE - Donation	5
		Raffle Income	118
		N6JS- Dues	15
		N6JS- Name tag	20
		W6RKC- Dues	15
		WJ6N- Dues	15
	Expense:	P.O Box	48
		N6JS Nametag	19.9
		NC6R Nametag	19.9
Sept 30 Balance	\$2,384.64		
Tyler Laursen K6TLR			
MLDXCC Treasurer			

A couple of my passions include off roading, camping, and hiking in the

mountains. I also find ham radio thoroughly entertaining and intriguing. I originally got into ham radio for the emergency safety communications aspect. Being that a major goal for every time I go out into the mountains is to get lost. I figured I needed to make sure I had a 99% success rate of having emergency communications if a situation called for it. Little did I know, that the girl I was dating at the time that I got my Tech License, belonged to one Bob Hess (W1RH). Fast forward 2.5 years and I have learned so much about repeaters and ham radio in general from Bob that it has started bugging me that more backwoods adventurers don't have their ham licenses. Every once in a while, you hear stories of people getting lost, or stuck in snow storms, or getting altitude sickness, or other horrible scenarios that takes lives. These could easily be levied if more people had the ability to use ham repeaters while away from cell reception. So, I started setting up Ham Information Tables at different off-roading events. By the 3rd event, I had enough of the same feedback, "I don't know anything about electricity or radios, and don't even know where to begin to study for the license exam." So, I did something about it and created an online course for the Technician Exam.

<http://myoffroadradio.com/index.php/author/k6t1r/>

Sure, there are ham cram classes, and a few other online courses out there, but there isn't anything for the average layperson. Hams tend to be

the ham hobbyist. The average ham tends to be an electrical engineer or have some kind of background in electricity or extreme efficiency production. Which is awesome and will continue the hobby forward, but that also gives ham radio a false façade barrier to entry. The class I developed takes ham radio information, and reproduces it in terms, analogies, and anecdotes that are familiar and relatable to your average person that has no clue what an ohm is, or that an antenna is actually designed for specific frequencies.

de Tyler, K6TLR

Up-Coming Club Meetings

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.

New members that have joined MLDXCC since the last newsletter. Welcome!

AI6JZ Bill Fenech
KH2TJ Todd Remington
N0KQ Bill Spickler
N6JS Jim Singer
W6SXA Mark Cloud
WO4O Ric Morton
WQ6X Ron Fitch

Meeting Locations

Mountain Mikes, Martel
Spaghetti Factory, Stockton
Max's, Auburn

Denny's, Cameron Park
Habenero Hot's, Lodi
Thai House Restaurant, Valley Springs

**October MLDXCC/NCCC Meeting
location, Lodi**



Photos by N6JV

**Del Norte County CQP-Dxpedition
by Jerry Olive, KD6WKY**

After working a County Expedition in Yolo County just west of Winters, CA with local friends for several years, I decided to try another county. I wanted to work another county by myself so I could focus on CQP and not the group dynamics associated with the K6Y CE over the past few years.



Working a County Expedition is fun, but like all groups, there has to be a good fit to make it work.

I spent some time throughout the year emailing with Bob Norin W7YAQ o Sisters, OR who has driven to Del Norte County to work CQP many times. We discussed working together but as October got closer Bob informed me he had several personal events before and after CQP and it would be really great if I committed to Del Norte County so he could work CQP from what turns out to be his only weekend home in October. When I told Bob I'd made plans to do a County Expedition in Crescent City, his wife was pleasantly relieved.



In June 2017 on our way to Seattle, my wife Cora and I drove north via Crescent City and spent a few days there relaxing and looking around. I had done a map recon on Google Maps ahead of the trip and made notes to see what was there when I got in town. On the way out, we drove north on US-199 to I-5 at Grants Pass, OR which was a lovely drive and the best part of the trip.



I made reservations at the Quality Inn and Suites in Crescent City a few weeks ahead of CQP calling the hotel directly and speaking to the duty desk manager Hannah about what I was going to do and why I was going to Crescent City. Hannah was very helpful and booked the reservation acknowledging everything and assuring me there would be no problems. Great!

On the approaching CQP weekend I packed up and headed north from Vacaville via Chico, then Medford, then south to Crescent City. My car is a 2008 Honda Civic GX that runs on Compressed Natural Gas. When driving long distance, a route plan following the fuel source is necessary. Santa Rosa PG&E is the last fueling station going north on US-101 so I couldn't get to Crescent City and back without refueling. That made the trip a bit of an adventure because I had never driven north of Redding in my car. After Chico, the next place I could buy CNG was Medford OR, 224 miles away. My vehicle range is about 280 miles on paper at 40 MPG. I was able to work a good run of 45 MPG from Chico to Medford only burning five gallons so everything turned out fine with room to spare. Same exercise from Medford to Crescent City and back to Medford, 222 miles round trip. As it turned out I would have had to drive home via Medford, OR anyway due to the massive fires in Sonoma County on Monday. Enough about that.



I set up my Super Antenna™ YP-3 on 20 meters and my Buddipole™ on 40 meters in the vertical configuration.

Both antennas were over 100 feet away from the building with no overhead wires close by. I made sure to use plenty of ground stakes and guy the masts well. That paid off Saturday night when it got pretty windy.



I started out on 20 meter SSB with little success only making 23 contact in about 90 minutes. Reconfiguring the YP-3 to 20 meters CW changed that and the log started filling up nicely. I just left the antenna there the rest of the contest. Glad I had a compass with me to make sure I oriented the direct of the antenna east.

Editor Notes de Rick,W6SR

I have been MLDXCC newsletter editor for almost 15 years, and have enjoyed it. But, it's time for a new (and younger) perspective to take-over the helm. If you have an interested in taking over as editor, please contact our president. I will be happy to help you as required to get you started.

I was able to play, and that's all I did in the CQWW Phone Contest. I find that I am constantly comparing the propagation today with 1965, when I was first licensed. And the difference is today it sucks! Technology has made

a huge difference in making things bearable. But given the choice, I'll go back my old tube stuff, and good propagation in a heartbeat.

CU all the on the 11th.....**de Rick,W6SR**

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club General Meeting Minutes

**General Meeting Minutes
October 14th, 2017
Richmaid Restaurant, Lodi**

Meeting was called to order at 12:53 p.m. by President Dennis Moore, NJ6G. 19 members and 1 guest were in attendance.

We went around the room and each member introduced themselves.

Minutes of the September meeting were published in the last newsletter. Steve Allred, NC6R noted that secretary Sue Allred, K6SZQ had found an error in her September minutes. They should read "12 members were in attendance", not 212. He then moved to accept the September minutes as amended. Norm Wilson, N6JV seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The Treasurer's report was published in the newsletter. Norm Wilson, N6JV moved to accept the report as published, Tyler Laursen, K6TLR seconded the motion. It 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, which will be given in November. Dennis noted that there are instructions on how to pay via Paypal in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - no report

Award Committee - Chairman Rich Cutler, WC6H read the list of awards that will be given in November.

Old Business:

Dennis gave a CQP Report, and reminded members to submit their logs. To date, MLDXCC has 3.6 million points, while the Southern California Contest Club has 3.3 million points.

New Business:

Club Officer nominations - all those currently holding positions were willing to run again, with the exception of the Nugget Editor. John Kozuko, WD6EIW and Greg Glenn, NR6Q were willing to be nominated for the director position.

Recent club/member awards and DX bragging

Dennis Moore, NJ6G reported nine new DX contacts. Dave Engle, W6DE reported that he had achieved 80 meter DXCC, 5 Band DXCC and Worked All States Triple Play.

Member Reports on Recent
Contests/Events:

CQP current points standing
reported earlier in the meeting.

Member Reports on New Equipment:
Norm Wilson, N6JV reported a new
prop pitch rotor

New Member Applications

The following were proposed as
new members and approved by the
membership:

Ron Fitch - WQ6X
Jim Singer - N6JS
Mark Cloud - W6SXA
Bill Spickler - N0KQ
Rick Morton - WO4O

Upcoming Events:

Makrothen RTTY Contest is
October 14th - 15th.
Pacificon - October 20th -22nd
in San Ramon.
CQ WW SSB DX Contest is October
28th - 29th.
ARRL CW Sweepstakes is November
4th - 5th.
ARRL SSB Sweepstakes is November
18th- 19th
CQ WW CW DX Contest is November
25th - 26th.

DX News:

Bouvet Island 3Y0Z - January
2018 - the #2 most wanted
Baker Island KH1 - June 2018 for
10 days - #4 most wanted Kevin
Rowett, K6TF will be on that
DXpedition.
Refer to NG3K.com for current DX
operations

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be
November 11th, most likely in
Martell. Details will be
announced. At that time we will
have club officer elections and
Club Awards.

Norm Wilson, N6JV moved to
adjourn the meeting, Steve
Allred, NC6R seconded the motion
which passed. Meeting was
adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The
raffle drawings were then held
and Tyler Laursen, K6TLR gave a
talk on his CQP DXpedition to
Alpine County.

Respectfully submitted,

**Steve Allred, NC6R taking
minutes for Sue Allred, K6SZQ
Secretary**

**Member News, Items For Sale
& Feedback**

**I have the following items for
sale.**

Ameritron AL-811, LDG AT600ProII
tuner, Daiwa CN-801 SWR meter.
\$600.00 for the set or make offer on
individual pieces.

M2 RC2800PX Rotator Controller, from
the shack of W6RJ (SK), owner of
HRO. Very good condition. \$300.00
**Dennis NJ6G,
dennis@mail4life.net**

For Sale...

4 element StepIR 20-6M Antenna-
Works great, element covers are a bit
discolored from sun, but otherwise

looks good. Asking \$995, when purchased new \$3000. Local pickup in San Fernando Valley K6YRA@socal.rr.com

For Sale...

1. Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in unopened carton. Asking \$ 4700.
2. Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder. Good condx, both electrical-ly & cosmetic. Asking \$ 1100.

Contact Dick Wilson.

k6lrn12@gmail.com

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.com

A good friend of mine passed away and I am handling his radio equipment. Please review the list below, and contact me if

your are interested. Thanks, Jim Marshall.

jmarshall1945@yahoo.com

ICOM IC-7600 hf transceiver	\$1,600
ICOM IC-R7000 receiver	\$400
TOKYO HL-1.5 KFY (1500 watt linear amp)	\$1,200
ALPHA 76A (1500 watt linear amp)(3x8874)	\$1,200
KENWOOD TS930S hf transceiver	\$400
POWER MASTER vswr meter	\$150
YAESU FL-2100B (1200 watt linear amp)	\$400
EICO 720 transmitter (xtal control)	\$50
RF CONCEPTS RFC 4-110 100 watt UHF amp	\$150
MIRAGE 2meter 160 watt amp	\$175
MIRAGE rfc4-110 (70 cm 100 watt amp)	\$150
KENWOOD 742A vhf/uhf transceiver(no out)	XX
COMTEST SYSTEMS 3100 service monitor	\$1,500
LEADER LBO522 20 mhz oscilloscope	\$50
ELENCO F1000 frequency counter	\$50
SIMPSON 260 multimeter	\$20
FLUKE 111 multimeter	\$50
BIRD 43P wattmeter w/8 slugs	\$250
ASTRON VS-50M 50 amp power supply	\$65
ASTRON RS-20M 20 amp power supply	\$25
US TOWER (55' tower w/motor)	\$1,500
STEPP-IR DB42 antenna (80 thru 6 meter)	\$2,000
STEPP-IR 4E antenna (disassembled)	\$750
CUSHCRAFT R7 vertical antenna	\$150
2 meter multielement yagi	\$50
70cm vertical antenna	\$50
ICOM 70cm repeater w/cabinet	\$150
OAK HILLS OHR100A (30 meter qrp xcvr)	\$100
OAK HILLS WM-2 (QRP wattmeter)	\$50
VIZ WV-120B (power line monitor)	\$25
EICO 1140 (resistor and capacitor box)	\$25
K7NV Prop Pitch rotator & controller	\$2,000
Signalink USB Sound Card interface	\$50
Straight key	\$15

lambic paddle
BIRD 8085 (50 watt dummy load)

\$30
\$30

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.

2016 Officers of the MLDXCC

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(including 160M cards)

Rick Samoian, W6SR

(including 160M cards)

Note: ARRL Card Checkers

can check DXCC, WAS and VUCC Awards.