

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

November 2019

Volume 24 Number 11

November Meeting

The November meeting will be held on November 9th at 11:30 at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martel.

From the President - NC6R

PG&E and PSPS....wow!

Ninety six hours without power on 2 different occasions, 36 hours another. In the words of the Grateful Dead "what a long, strange trip it's been". The one good thing that came out of it was I got to hear how much RFI was coming out of my shack and how much was coming from the neighbor. I found out I've got a bad PG&E line at approx 350° that rips up 15 meters and some internal noise abatement of my own to do.

By the time you read this the ARRL CW SS will be over. For a non-CW guy I did OK, had some fun and improved my operating technique. With the help of CW Skimmer, my FL-7000 @ 500 watts

and JK antennas I got some nice contacts in the log. Won't run out and trade in my Alpha 86 Export just yet, but an auto tune solid state amp could spoil a guy.

Our October meeting was held at the Country Café restaurant in Lockeford. Lively conversation could be heard with many MLDXCC members in



attendance. A business meeting was held, reports given and nomination for club officers and directors accepted. After receiving a full slate, nominations were closed. Please make an effort to attend the November meeting in

Martel as elections will be held and club direction for 2020 will be a topic of discussion. Also strategy for SS phone will be discussed as we strive to once again win the medium size club category.

Featured speaker at the October meeting was Bob, N6TV. He gave a great talk the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN). The display showing where you're being heard was found to be most useful. Bob was even able to show several in attendances how they fared against each other during CQP by using RBN reporting. I was very interesting to see how some of the MLDXCC stations stacked up against each other. Sometimes it was location, other times it was the antennas used. Thank you N6TV for driving out our way and doing the presentation.

Also a big shout out to Doug, WE6Z for stepping up as newsletter editor starting at the beginning of the year. Thank you Doug!

Reminder, your participation in the CQ DX Marathon contest is one where any DX you work, whether new or worked in previous year, will count toward your final score at the end of the year. MLDXCC has made a good showing as a club in this event and would gladly receive your score in an effort to improve its overall standing. Thank you for your participation.

For upcoming contest and DX announcements, good website resources to bookmark are -

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

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

That's all for now, it's back to the shack and more ARRL CW SS contacts.

73,

Steve / NC6R

From the V.P. - W1RH

Bob, W1RH

Well, we survived our second year operating from Tehama County for the California QSO Party. Our location was an Air B&B that Dean, N6DE, discovered after hours of searching for the perfect location. Our goal, in 2018, was to break the Tehama County record in the Multi-Single Expedition category and we achieved that goal. We didn't think we had a chance to beat the usual winner in that category, K6QK, which is a team that operates from Imperial County.



Our score in 2018 was 261,000. K6QK, as predicted, beat us with a score of 279,038. Our 2018 team consisted of Martin (AA1ON), Dean (N6DE), Doris (K0BEE), W1RH, and our team leader, Steve (W1SRD). Our antenna system consisted of a 2 element SteppIR at 30 feet, a couple of 80 meter wire antennas, a 40 meter set of phased verticals, a 40 meter inverted Vee, and a low-noise receiving antenna.



After analyzing our 2018 effort, Dean was convinced we could beat the Imperial County group, which has the advantage of being significantly farther south and east, giving them the advantage of an earlier band opening in the morning. We discussed the antennas we used in 2018 and came to the conclusion that the low-noise receiving antenna wasn't needed because the off-the-grid site was so quiet. We also bagged the phased verticals, which just didn't play as well as the inverted vee. We also concluded that we pretty much wore ourselves out prior to the contest erecting so many antennas. So, after a lot of discussion, we decided to use Steve's tower trailer again, but this time with a 40 meter rotatable dipole above the SteppIR. The only other antenna was an 80 meter dipole, so the setup was fairly simple.

I've got to say that the location Dean found is just awesome, with a 360 view to die for. We placed the tower trailer right on the edge of a steep drop-off on the east side of the site. There is not a house within view and the closest power lines are about 5 miles away. The site is super quiet. I remember operating 40 CW and thinking that I have never heard 40 meters so quiet. In short, we had awesome ears and rarely had to ask for repeats.

In 2018, we had some problems with the SPE solid state amplifier that Steve brought. It tripped off several times with the operators not always realizing the amp was off-line. We also had problems with the on-site generator at the house. For 2019, Steve purchased a newer SPE but it burned up (fortunately, as far as CQP goes) just after it was taken out of the box and tested at Steve's station. With only a few days prior to the contest, we decided that I would bring my Alpha 91B along with an Ameritron ALS-1300 solid state amp, as a backup. The owner of the house also purchased a new generator after Steve had complained about the generator performance in 2018. Murphy did not pay any visits this year!

So, I'm happy to say that we ended up with a claimed score of 307,632, and we did it without N6DE on the on-site team this year. I say on-site, because Dean was still of great help analyzing our performance in 2018 and making recommended changes in 2019. We also kept the station running overnight and those 60 or so Q's overnight can make a difference. Martin and I split the overnight shift. We ended the contest with Martin doing the last hour on SSB with a very high rate. Despite all of this, however, our secret weapon was Doris, KOBEE, who kept us fed. I can't say enough about Steve's wife, Doris. She's so supportive and just such a good chef!

The K6QK team, operating in Imperial County, ended with a claimed score of 279,528. We can't claim the win until the official scores come out, but beating the claimed score of the K6QK team (K6ZH, N6EEG, N6ERD and N7CW – all serious testers) feels pretty good.

There was also one additional serious competitor in our class this year and they also operated from Imperial County. N6M achieved a claimed score of 261,060. This was a team of testers from the Arizona Outlaws Contest

Club. I'm guessing they wanted to go head-to-head with K6QK and get the win. Despite being a super group of serious testers, it didn't work out for them this year, but if we go back to Tehama next year, this team will be one that we will want to watch.

Speaking of CQP, one of my volunteer jobs for the Northern California Contest Club is distributing WK6I's Twisted Oak Winery donated wine to the top 20 in-state and out-of-state Single Operator winners. The not-so-fun part of this job is the actual shipping, but it always feels good to present the bottles to the NCCC guys at the meetings. A couple of weeks ago, while visiting my son and his wife in W1 land, I was able to attend a meeting of my former club, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. The president of that club is none other than Dennis, W1UE, and it just so happens that Dennis was the 3rd place winner in the Non-California Category. Besides seeing so many old friends at the meeting, it gave me great pleasure to formally present the bottle to Dennis at the meeting.



As an aside, Dennis, W1UE, is another old friend from my W1 days. We did a few IOTA dxpeditions together and many Field Days. Dennis was also a member of our local club, the Framingham Amateur Radio Association. Dennis who back then was NB1B, was also the

Framingham Postmaster. What I didn't know about Dennis until a couple of weeks ago is that Dennis is actually from California. Jack, W6FB, mentioned to me that Dennis used to deliver mail to Jack's house and was a NCCC member back then.



Enough of CQP and old friends. Let's hope that MLDXCC gets the CQP Club plaque this year.

I'm writing this just following SS CW. We're going for our 5th gavel in the Medium Club Category. I'll be doing a full analysis of where we stand at our meeting this Saturday. It's an important meeting, so please try to attend. Our CW scores appear down a bit from last year, so we need to discuss our strategy for the phone half of Sweepstakes, which is on the weekend following the meeting. I hope to see you there.

From the Secretary - K6SZQ

General Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2019

Country Cafe, Lockeford

Meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 17 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

Steve started by asking for guests and members to introduce themselves. We then went around the room and each person introduced themselves. Steve then reported that Rick Prather, K6LE is a Silent Key. Rick had worked almost 300 countries, from a small city lot with mostly wires. He passed from esophageal cancer - the service will be held at the Santa Nella Veterans Cemetery on October 18th at noon for those who wish to attend. A moment of silence was held in Rick's honor.

September minutes were published in the October newsletter. Ron Eaves, W6RPM moved to accept the minutes as published. Dick Wilson, K6LRN seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was published in the October newsletter. Ron Eaves, W6RPM moved to accept the report published. Dick Wilson, K6LRN seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Steve clarified the Sweepstakes arrangement with NCCC. This year points go to MLDXCC; next

year (2020) they will go to NCCC to commemorate the 50th anniversary. Steve reminded everyone that the CW portion of Sweepstakes is November 2nd -4th, with the SSB portion November 16th - 18th.

Announcements:

- For the solar report, Norm Wilson N6JV gave it a big thumbs down. He says "EME is the new 40m".

- Steve Allred, NC6R mentioned several upcoming contests/events

- o Makrothen RTTY contest this weekend.

- o Pacificon - Weekend of October 18th - 20

- o CQ WW SSB DX - October 26th

- Steve reminded members to turn in their logs for CalQSO, and to assign points to MLDXCC in the large club category.

- For details and a full listing of upcoming DXpeditions, go to ng3k.com and click on "ng3k provided resources" and then click on "Announced DX Operations".

Member Achievements:

- Several members reported working ZK3A - the Tokelau DXpedition - on a variety of bands.

- Ron Eaves, W6RPM has been busy putting up a new 80 m antenna and has made several coils.

- A number of members reported positive experiences with CalQSO:

- o Doug Phillips, WE6Z reported 1264 contacts, including all 58 multipliers; his personal best effort.

o W1SRD reported on the efforts of the Tehema group - their goal was to win the CA multi-single category, and believed they did so, breaking 300,000 points, well more than Imperial County, the usual winner. Steve credited Doris's (AG1RL) cooking as a factor in their winning. Also the off-grid rental in remote Tehema county had a great drop-off and little noise.

o Brandt Woodward, K6BEW made 270 contacts competing in Amador County

o Rich Cutler, WC6H made 2079 Q's despite an amp problem that kept him off the air for about an hour.

o Bob Wilson, N6TV made 1200 Qs - only 56 mults as he missed WY and VE4

o Norm Wilson, N6JV said it was as "disaster" with 20m becoming intermittent. He regaled the group with the tale of rebuilding the amp in the week prior to the contest and his search for just the perfect hex wrench.

o Jim (WB6BET) and Emilia (KI6YTT) Seiferling were somewhat hampered by the 3 major power lines surrounding their home, but each had about 60 contacts (Emilia reported that she had 66).

o Rick Karlquist, N6RK had about 500 Qs working the contest on Sunday only.

o Dick Wilson, K6LRN said he felt fortunate to get on the air for about 10 hours total time - he had 583 Q's - all CW and missed only VE4 for the mults.

o Tony Miller, W6QA stated he was a rookie tester with only 50 contacts, although he did manage to work 32 states in an hour and a half on low power.

o Steve Allred, NC6R reported that although he turned the shack over to Sue (K6SZQ) he managed to make approximately 133 Qs over the course of an hour while she took a rest break, and at one point was registering a rate of 167/hour.

o Sue Allred, K6SZQ made a good effort at the XL category, registering 1050 Qs and missing only the VE4 mult.

Club Achievements:

· None to report

Nominations:

Ron Eaves, W6RPM moved to open nominations for 2020 club officers. Dick Wilson, K6LRN seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Nominations are as follows (with those making the motions in parenthesis)

· President - Steve Allred, NC6R (M - Ron Eaves, W6RPM S - Dick Wilson, K6LRN)

· Vice President - Bob Hess, W1RH (M - Rich Cutler, WC6H S - Steve Dyer, W1SRD)

· Treasurer - Sue Allred, K6SZQ (M - Ron Eaves, W6RPM S - Jeff Stai, Wk6I)

· Secretary - no nominations at first, then Emilia Seiferling, KI6YTT threw her hat in the ring (M - Bob Hess, W1RH S - Sue Allred, K6SQZ)

· Directors - Jeff Stai, WK6I; Rich Cutler, WC6H; and Steve Dyer, W1SRD (M - Bob Hess, W1RH S - Dick Wilson, K6LRN)

Dick Wilson, K6LRN moved to close nominations, and Steve Dyer, W1SRD seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

While not a nominated position, Doug Phillips, WE6Z volunteered to take on the newsletter position if Norm N6JV and Rick W6SR would be willing to mentor him.

Next Meeting:

November 9th - location to be announced. Elections will be held.

Dick Wilson, K6LRN moved to adjourn; Steve Dyer, W1SRD seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m. For the program Bob Wilson, N6TV gave an interesting presentation on the reverse beacon network.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6TLR

Paying Dues:

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues are \$20.00 individual, \$30.00 family

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.

6 Meter EME

Conditions on the Moon have been very good and OH3SR, OZ4VV and A21EME (#125) were worked at N6JV this month. I actually get an endorsement sticker!

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	248
2	K6YK	John Lee	197
3	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	178

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	185
2	K6YK	John Lee	177
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	139

Phone

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	128
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	116
3	K6YK	John Lee	85

Data

1	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	178
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	153
3	KD6WKY	Jerry Olive	133

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

Member Reports

NJ6G was awarded the WAS Triple Play award.

K7QDX made DXCC on 30 meters and completed WAJA (Worked all Japanese Prefectures) on 20 meter FT8.

WA6NHC is now NK7I.

N6JV worked and confirmed D68CCC for #336 on 30 meters and #286 on 80 meters. These two new ones put N6JV over 2900 for DXCC Challenge.

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
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

SS SCORES

These are claimed scores and not necessarily the scores that will be submitted to the ARRL

AA6W	15,276
AF6SA	32,264
K6DGW	3,248
K6LRN	38,016
K6NV	32,412
K6OK	67,064
K7XC	104,082
KE6GLA	45,600
N6GEO	16,188
N6JV	142,096
N6RK	142,262
N6RO	188,908
N6US	86,428
N6ZFO	133,988
NA6O	20,856
W1RH	88,724
W1SRD	166,000
W6RKC	32,016
W7RN	220,780
WC6H	191,896
WD6T	19,964
WE6Z	9,020
WX5S	69,012

Tube of the Month

WE 270A

When Western Electric started producing high power glass transmitting tubes, they needed a smaller tube to fill the requirements of the local AM broadcast stations. In 1932 they marketed the 270A triode. It was rated at 350 watts dissipation and an output of 500 watts. The tube was designed to operate at a very hot so it was made with very thick "Nonex" glass. Forced air cooling wasn't popular yet. The low emission grids were made to operate at low bias for grid modulation. A pair of 270A tubes could produce 100 watts of output in Class A for the lowest possible distortion. Western Electric made their 12A transmitter with this in mind. These tubes were also used in transmitters for police and air traffic control.

The tubes have a unique construction with a special base containing two large pins for the filament and a smaller grid pin. With the plate pin some distance away, these tubes weren't the best at higher frequencies, but were fine for broadcast band. They had a special socket that held the tube like a big glass fuse.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com
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

MLDXCC – Outgoing ARRL Bureau

The Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will provide Outgoing QSL Bureau services to current 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 may 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 club.

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-qs1-service>

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

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.

For sale: Kenwood TS-590S. This one has the Kenwood installed daughterboard to fix the ALC overshoot problem (have paperwork for that). Cosmetically 9/10, no dings or significant scratches. Original box, manual, mic, power cord. \$600 firm. Can meet most members halfway to hand off.

73 Jim K6OK

k6ok@arrl.net or can text me at 916 too oh too 6458

FOR SALE—FROM THE ESTATE OF W6HFM

This is a VK3YNG Sniffer 4, which is one of the best transmitter hunt devices on the market. To get one of these, you need to order it from Australia. I paid about \$300 for mine. This one comes with the beam and I believe we also have some books on transmitter hunting that can be thrown in. This unit works by automatically attenuating the signal as you get closer to the hidden transmitter. An audible tone changes frequency as the signal gets stronger. The club will be doing a transmitter hunt soon. If you want to be competitive, you'll want this. It works on the 2 meter band and also the aircraft beacon location channels. \$200 .



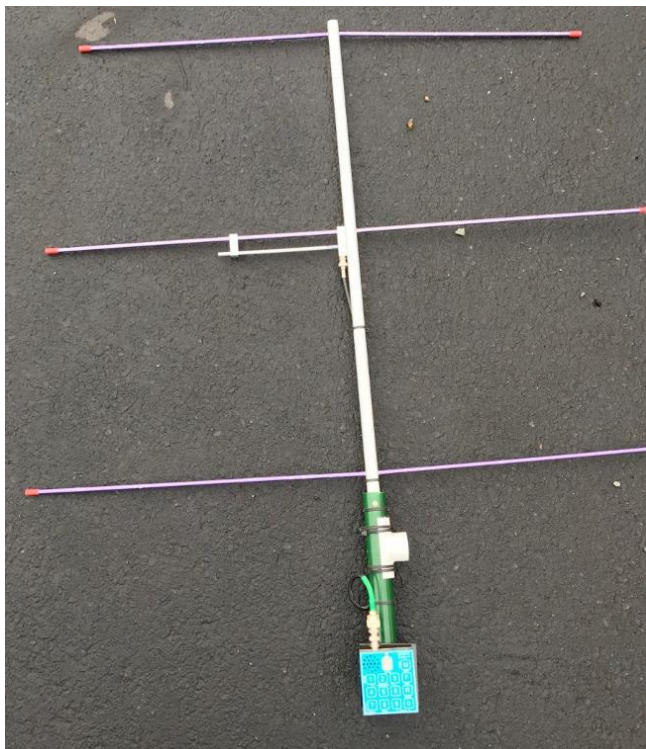
Contact Bob, W1RH w1rh@yahoo.com

Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale:

Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO

M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225

Dennis, NJ6G dennis@mail4life.net



Heil Gold ICM Microphone w/HB-1 Boom, support brack and PTT (beautiful for a base station) (\$100)

New! "The Serial Box" (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

"The Y-BOX" by N6TV – 4-way Elecraft K3/K3S ACC port splitter, Elecraft Amplifier Interface, and Breakout Box

<https://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/13296>



Y-Box

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

2019 Meeting Dates

January 26
Feb - None
March 16
Apr - None
May 11
June 15
July 27
August 24
September 21
October 12
November 9
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.

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.

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given to MLDXCC.

The November meeting will be on November 9 at 11:30 at the Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martel, CA.