

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

November 2021

Volume 26 Number 11

From the President – NC6R

Some time back I was asked to write down my thoughts relating to the pursuit of DXCC. Here are some points I believe you will find helpful.

1. Set your goal and stay focused on achieving it.
2. Find an Elmer(s) you can relate to.
 - a. Ask your question(s) then listen to the wisdom being offered.
 - b. Be respectful of the Elmer's time.
3. Upgrade to Extra Class.
 - a. How frustrating would it be for you to hear that rare DX station you need calling CQ, only to have them operating in a part of the band where your license doesn't allow you to go?
4. Be active in the contest.
 - a. Many of the "not often heard" DX stations become active, "tuning up" just before a contest. You can't work them if you're not on the air.
 - b. If you're not breaking through a pileup, move frequency. Remember you're striving to log all the DX contacts you can. The more you work, the greater the odds of working that new one.
5. Work the bands.
 - a. Tune around the band looking for DX contacts; don't rag chew.
 - b. Use the spotting networks to your advantage.
 - c. Work the high frequency bands (10, 12, 15, 17) when they're open. Propagation on those bands can be very productive.
 - d. Yes, WARC bands do count for DXCC, just not for the initial 5 band DXCC award. That can be a later goal.
6. Band conditions change everything. The DX contact you could not work yesterday might be the new one you log today. Don't give up!
7. Upload your log to LoTW frequently!
 - a. How do you gauge your DXCC progress if you're not getting your contacts confirmed?
8. Listen, listen, and listen some more.

- a. Make sure you know the call of the DX station before you call. Get it right. The spots aren't always correct.
 - b. Is he working split? Usually up, but how many KHz?
 - c. Is he calling by zone or a specific geographic area?
 - d. Use the same phonetics as the DX station. This is what he's accustomed to hearing. You can't afford to have your callsign logged incorrectly!
9. Above all have fun!

From the V.P. - W1RH

I'll start this off by saying that our great Nugget editor, Doug (WE6Z) is probably really thankful this Thanksgiving because he will no longer have to wait for my VP articles (since I'm at the end of my 3-year term as VP)!

My articles are generally about the contest side of our DX/Contest club and this month will be no different. I will add that as I'm writing this, that I'm on 17m FT8, trying to fill in a few band modes. With that said, I do not even have an antenna for 17 or 12 meters. I realized last week that I had not made one contact this year on 17 or 12. Knowing that our Prez, NC6R, really wants us to compete in the DX Challenge, I decided to see what I could do with a 4:1 SWR, using my Force12 C19XR 10-15-20 meter beam. As a result, I've added 14 DXCC Entities, with Fiji being the latest. I really do need to get an antenna up for this band.

One nice feature of Digirite, which is the software I use for FT8/4, is that it is designed for contesting and, as such, will highlight needed mults. In this case, I set up a log every year in Writelog, called DXCC 2021, and as needed "mults" come up, I see them right away, click on them, and hopefully work them. Digirite is really a great program for FT8. You

As always, here are websites to view upcoming contest and DX announcements -

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>

73 & good DX,

Steve / NC6R

MLDXCC President

have two windows. One is the waterfall, and the other is the "contest" window which just shows stations calling CQ and stations just ending a contact. If it is a needed DXCC Entity (in this case, Digirite sees it as a mult), it's highlighted. Very nice.

Now, back to the contesting mode.

During CQWW SSB weekend, I realized that my 40 meter KLM rotatable dipole had a very high SWR and was completely unusable. I called Tyler, K6TLR, and he got up here on the Friday prior to Sweepstakes CW to climb the tower. He found a coax choke where the inner had cracked and had filled up with moisture. I happened to have a brand new, albeit it 20 year old, W1JR 5 KW balun sitting on the shelf, so we quickly installed that. Problem solved.

Fast forward to SS SSB weekend and Saturday morning, prior to the start of the contest, I found a high SWR again on 40 meters. This time, it was around 4:1. I quickly threw up a very temporary 40 meter dipole, but it cost me the first hour and a half of the contest. I did manage to make 137 Q's on 40, so I suppose it was worth losing the first hour and a half. Others have told me; however, that the first hour yielded superb runs, so perhaps it was the

wrong decision. I made a score of 112K with about 14 hours of operating time, which was 1K higher than last year.



One more comment about my own SS SSB effort. I had a third spectrum display up on the Flex so I could keep an eye on 10 meters. When I saw some activity, I decided to call CQ on 10. Got one almost immediate answer from a guy in Illinois, a Tech, who didn't have a clue about the contest but wanted to work me. Another minute or two of CQ's brought in no Q's, so I moved back to 20. 10 meters can be a gold mine in SS, with the Techs and the regular testers if the band is open, and it appeared to be, but there was no one home. I took a look at my 2011 log this morning and saw that I had 317 Q's on 10 meters that year, giving me a total of 1086 Q's, with a total claimed score of 171,588, in 14 hours of operation. Hopefully, next year will be the year for 10 meter activity in Sweepstakes.

We have some super claimed scores in this year's Sweepstakes contest:

SS CW

Call	Claimed Score
WC6H	202944
WD6T	201358
N6TV	198744
W1SRD	198408
N6JV	147906
N6RK	145962
N6ZFO	145250
W1RH	137592
WE6Z	133464
K9JM	117600
W6EU	101426
K6IJ	93316
K6MM	92960
K6OK	89040
AE6Y	87412
K6LRN	86100
N6XI	67782
N6GEO	62370
WX6V	54780
NZ6Q	45708
W6RKC	30240
W6RC	27456
W6BRY	22464
K6DGW	16800
AA6W	13761
NC6R	9400
K6MR	8800
N6RO	7396
AF6SA	4366

SS SSB

Call	Claimed Score
W7RN	285936
WC6H	285264
NC6R	175392
NR6Q	174004
N6JV	150728

KOBEE	142096
K6OK	118192
W1SRD	113046
W1RH	112382
N6RK	77616
AD6E	71100
K9JM	69678
KE8FT	62244
W6LP	60768
K6LRN	56406
K6TQ	30076
K6NV	22984
K6MM	22168
WD6T	20002
WX6V	15390
N6XI	13668
N6RO	1144

AD6E	71100
WX6V	70170
N6GEO	62370
KE8FT	62244
W6LP	60768
NZ6Q	45708
W6RKC	30240
K6TQ	30076
W6RC	27456
K6NV	22984
W6BRY	22464
K6DGW	16800
AA6W	13761
K6MR	8800
N6RO	8540
AF6SA	4366

Combined SS CW/SSB Totals

Call	Claimed Score
WC6H	488208
W1SRD	311454
N6JV	298634
W7RN	285936
W1RH	249974
N6RK	223578
WD6T	221360
K6OK	207232
N6TV	198744
K9JM	187278
NC6R	184792
NR6Q	174004
N6ZFO	145250
K6LRN	142506
KOBEE	142096
WE6Z	133464
K6MM	115128
W6EU	101426
K6IJ	93316
AE6Y	87412
N6XI	81450

It was just great to see the awesome scores from Rich (WC6H), Matt (WX5S, using the fabulous W7RN station managed by K5RC), Bob (N6TV), Steve (W1SRD), Steve (NC6R). Also, for those who worked both contests, just look at the WC6H, W1SRD, and the N6JV scores.

I also want to thank those who just got on the air to work a few of our members. It really is a team effort to win the SS Gavel and we just may have done it for the 7th year in a row, giving our departing president, Steve (NC6R) a great send-off.

Last, but not least, I heard the sad news, just prior to SS SSB, that we lost our long-time friend and member Jim, WB6BET. We'll miss Jim, a regular attendee of our meetings. I do want to dedicate our SS efforts this year to Jim and give my best wishes to Jim's wife, and long-time MLDXCC member, Emilia (KI6YYT), our current MLDXCC Secretary.

Bob W1RH

Next Meeting

Date: December – 4th

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Presentation: TBD

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - October 2021

9/30/2021	Opening Balance	\$2,658.06
	Income	\$40.00
	2021 Dues - checking	\$20.00
	2022 Dues - checking	\$20.00
	Expenses none	\$0.00
10/31/2021	Ending Balance	\$2,698.06

From the Secretary - KI6YYT

No meeting notes, as the meeting has been moved to December 4th.

Emilia Seiferling, KI6YYT

CLUB Dues

2021 dues are due!

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 the Treasurer - Sue Allred
K6SZQ, 17610 Red Mule Rd. Fiddletown, CA
95629

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	215
2	NK7I	Rick Bates	206
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	195

CW

1	K6YK	John Lee	143
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	130
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	106

Phone

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	134
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	119
3	K6YK	John Lee	112

Data

1	NK7I	Rick Bates	200
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	186
3	N6JV	Norm Wilson	177

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

Member Reports

For the June 2021 ARRL VHF+ contest I was awarded first place in Sacramento Valley, low power category.



Jay – KE6GLA

Rick, NK7I in (far) North Idaho reports that he now has 300 LOTW confirmed entities (plus two from the deleted list) of 311 worked. The much wanted ATNO has become more rare and elusive.

He has replaced the coax feedline up his tower; a relay in the SteppIR switch box at the antenna too; a general spruce up as well. A slice was discovered in the coax and the previous Nevada based sunlight (UV) was not kind to the cable jackets.

The tower tilt winch failed half way up, creating some interesting issues to resolve, that added a couple hours effort.

All but the 40M bands are working properly on his SteppIR DB36/80 (80-6M) now. The issue cause is known but must wait until spring, when it comes down for painting and new rotor and control cables too. The fall late sunrise and early (4 PM) sunset makes for a lot of rushed

activity to get things done; the days are just too short.

Repair completion was past dusk; just in time for the first snowfall (1/2") of the season to arrive (washed away by rain the next day). (The propane tank is full, so is the wood shed and the pantry with freezer are close to ready; local wild game meats included; the pillows are fluffed for a long winter snooze. A guest room is also ready.)

In the past month, DX has been good in the Northlands, Africa in particular has been very good. Rick was able to make and confirm (Clublog) 18 band mode slots with 7P8RU (Lesotho), 6 with 3DA0WW (Kingdom of Eswatini, formerly Swaziland), 4 new slots were added with C5C (The Gambia) but Rick admits to struggling with TL7M (Central African Republic), gaining only 3 contacts (not ATNO) at this time (due to limited activity at TL7M each day). Somalia has been heard but the 30M conditions were too meager for that ATNO; hope continues (there is only ONE licensed ham in Somalia; he and Ethiopia are the last two AF entities needed).

19 additional slots with HD8R (Galapagos) were added in to his existing count too; as well as the Maldives team and Rodriguez Island for added flavor. It was an active month of DXing with some serious chair time spent.

The increase of sun spots has been very helpful and the cycle shows great promise with hints of it being above average.

Of the 264 licensed hams in Boundary county (population ~13,000), Rick is only one of two DXers. HF reception conditions continue to be

excellent (-120 dBm or quieter noise floor), except for random power line noise (seasonal).

The recent solar storm (and CME) allowed some aurora borealis lighting up the nights near his home; but it was seen some hours after he visited a prime viewing location, while he was back home sleeping. He hopes that will continue to be a part of this solar cycle; it seems a fair trade off to squashing the bands for DX (but disappears faster than DX).

Rick NK7I

The current project I'm working on is a Collins S-Line station. 75S-3, 32S-1, and 516F-2. It's almost all the way up and running. I just have to fix the meter circuit on the receiver, and then do some on the air testing.



Doug WE6Z

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

Tube of the Month

7092 – TB5/2500

When the [7092](#) was introduced in 1959, it was promoted as the world's most compact radiation-cooled high-powered industrial tube. At 10 inches tall and 6 inches in diameter, it is an impressive tube and the square shaped plate is a seldom seen feature. It was made in Europe for use in RF-industrial heating and ultrasonic oscillators and amplifiers. Its filament requires 6.3 volts at 32.5 amps and the maximum dissipation is 800 watts. The amplification factor is 22 and it can operate up to 50 MHz. It can use plate voltages as high as 7000. The TB5/2500 designation is a code commonly used in Europe. This code can easily be translated to give us conservative ratings. The "T" stands for a triode. A "Q" would mean a tetrode. The "B" indicates a thoriated tungsten filament and the "5" is plate kilovolts. The 2500 indicates output watts in class C telegraphy.



The 7092 was made for some decades. Amperex in France supplies a very complete data sheet for this tube. Because the tube was made for industrial purposes that do not require that the DC voltages be filtered, the data is separated into sections for use with unfiltered single-phase supplies and unfiltered 3 phase supplies. I am unsure what the ratings would be if a filtered DC supply was used, but I would guess that 4 to 5 KV should perform well in a ham amplifier. The only mechanical problem is the base that requires cable clamp type attachments on the electrodes especially for the filaments running at 32.5 amps.

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

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 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>

UPCOMING Events

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

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

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.

The Northern California Swap

Thursday evenings at 8 PM local on the N6ICW repeater system 147.195 +123

Join Armand WB2ZEI and the group to buy, sell, or trade amateur radio related gear. Check-ins and visitors welcome.

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
N6TV

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

Not giving up...just making space.

Print issues of QST and CQ magazines...whole years.
Offer

1994 ARRL Handbook Hard Bound offer

1995 ARRL Handbook Soft Bound offer

FT-890 'AT' w/manual & mobile bracket (AT may or may not work) \$250/offer

FT-1000 MP with filters, accessories & box \$995/offer (ex WZ6Z radio)

50' coax with center & end insulators for dipole...new, never outdoors- \$ 60/offer

Satellite & old DirecTV dish...free

Old Novice & Tech License Guides, Operating Manual

IMAC (old - unknown condition) with kb & mouse...???

Email: k6lrn@arrl.net

Thanks & 73, Dick

FOR SALE: \$200.00 - Complete CDE HAM III Series 2 antenna rotor system. The controller has the LED dial light modification and includes about 50 feet (or more) of the 8 conductor rotor cable and the original factory owner's manual. The system operates just fine.

For questions: Bill - N6GHZ in Camino at (530) 409-9782. N6GHZ@ARRL.NET





FOR SALE: \$100 - HP 8640B 0.1 to 512 MHz signal generator (military version). The generator performs right on with up to +20 dBm RF output (in CW mode). It has FM and AM modulation. The picture shows it at 500 MHz and 0 dBm output.



For questions: Bill – N6GHZ in Camino at (530) 409-9782 N6GHZ@ARRL.NET

2021 Meeting Dates

January – 23rd Zoom
 Feb – none
 March – 20th
 Apr – 17th
 May – 15th
 June – 19th
 July – 24th
 August – 28th
 September – 18th

October – 23rd
 November – 13th
 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>

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society
<http://calaverasars.org/>

Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Electronics Society (TCARES)
<https://tcares.net/>

Please contact the editor to have your club listed here.

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The MLDXCC Newsletter

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