

# The Nugget



## Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

### The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

#### **MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM**

Our monthly meeting for the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will be October 22nd at 11:30 AM at the Country Cafe in Lockeford. They are located at 18700 N Hwy 88 next to the Chevron Station.

There are three menu options to choose from. Prices include coffee/tea/iced tea and tip. Please bring exact cash if possible to make things easier on our treasurer.

1. The Lockeford Burger: With either potato salad or fries. \$17.00
2. The Chef's Salad: \$15.00

3. Bacon, eggs, hash browns, biscuit: \$14.00

Please RSVP with your menu selection to me at [dennis@mail4life.net](mailto:dennis@mail4life.net) NLT Tuesday, Oct 18th so I can relay it to the restaurant.

Our guest speaker for this month is Harold Wilkinson, W0HJW. He's coming up from Hanford to do a presentation on remote operating. This will probably be different from other remote operating presentations you may have seen. Harold is net control for the Golden Bear Net on 80M, and has stations in both Hanford and Sparks NV. During net he seamlessly switches between his stations so he can get better coverage and you really can't

tell the difference in stations except for signal strength. I've also heard him do net control from his iPad in a Starbucks in Hawaii. If you want ideas on how to set up your station, don't miss this one.

This is also going to be an important meeting for several other reasons. The future of CQP, November sweepstakes, Board officer nominations & CQP discussion.

See all of you there!  
**73, Dennis NJ6G, President**

### **MLDXCC DUES** CALL FOR 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 1<sup>st</sup>). Dues can be paid at our meetings or mailed to Carolyn Wilson at P.O. Box 273, Somerset, CA 95684-0273. 73, Carolyn, K6TKD Treasurer**

### **2016 Officers**

Dennis Moore - NJ6G President  
Open - Vice Prez  
Dick Wilson - K6LRN Secty  
Carolyn Wilson - K6TKD Treasurer  
Steve Allred - K6SCA BoD  
Rick Casey - W6RKC BoD

Bob Hess - W1RH BoD  
Ken Anderson - K6TA BoD  
Shirl Rose - AA6K (ex)President

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### **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. BTW: Please keep your photo size to less than 1MB.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

**Balance September 1, 2016: \$1691.12**

Income: Dues +- donation N6GEO \$20.00

Expenses: Plaque (AA6K) \$52.95

**Balance July 31, 2016 \$1658.17**

### **Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer** **Up-Coming Club Meetings**

Nov. 12.  
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

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## **THE PREZ SEZ.**

From the President

Just back from Pacificon, short stay due to commitments but had a chance to see a bunch of great people. A couple new toys, an Elecraft tuner for myself and a 2m/440 Icom rig for K6VNA's car. Happy anniversary to my xyl, my shopping is done.

We've got a busy couple of meetings coming up on us, this October's is one of the busiest. There as much kerfuffle about us seemingly walking away with our (15th? 16th?) CQP win, which by all accounts is won by the sheer strength of our club. We have a dedicated group of contesters who want to see us succeed and we apparently do! I'm proud to be associated with you all. Back to the point, we will be discussing the current state of CQP, our role in it, and determining if changes should be made to increase competition.

Pending changes to CQP, we may be shifting our focus to Sweepstakes. We won the medium club category last year and it will be a bit tougher this year. We caught everyone by surprise so they'll be expecting us this year. As we nearly maxed out the number of

entries, that means the only way for points to go up is to increase individual points. I hope we can all jump in and get some good scores. Please make sure you run your scores past Bob W1RH who is taking on the role of log flogger for this (and CQP). We need to make sure all of our ducks are in a row regarding max entries and eligibility. Speaking of eligibility, we now have to submit a club roster prior to Sweepstakes with our correct operating QTH, so please make sure Dick K6LRN has your updated address information.

Lastly, we will begin nominations for club officers at the October meeting, with elections in November. All offices are open. You may nominate yourself, so please consider taking a role in leading your club.

## **73 and Good DX! Dennis NJ6G**

Well I am no longer a citizen of California. My brother-in-law, Tom drove me to SFO on Friday Sept 30th and escorted me up to the security complex. When Jennifer made my reservation she had me Identified as an invalid needing a wheelchair and let me tell you that the TSA complex is easy in a wheelchair.

The flight was a nonstop to Boston and I was in 1st class. Unfortunately, it was an old bird and the seat cushions were original so I currently a severe case of sore butt! Additionally, it was quite cool in the cabin so I had to put

on my Harris Tweed coat and wear it on the plane.

Anyway, I am here and trying to recover. I am presently at my son-in-law's parents place in Mass. Jennifer just had baby Henry ( 3rd grandson ) at Beth Israel hospital in Boston so it'll be 2 to 3 weeks before we get organized into a permanent abode. I'll keep everyone posted."

**Shirl/AA6K**

### **Editor Notes de Rick,W6SR**

So what I have been doing with myself the last month? I have worked an additional 7 countries on 6M EME (the last few were, ZS6NK, FW5JJ, I8KPV, YL2AO, E51WL) pushing my total count to 77, just 23 more for DXCC!

Also, operated CQP, only 500 QSO's but then again I don't really like most domestic contests. I also operated the 10GHz contest, which is the reason I didn't attend the September meeting.



Gotta' set your priorities. Right?

Above is a picture of the "old guy" with my 2' dish while operating from Bald Mountain just east of Zamora. Best DX

479km with 4.8W, not bad for X-Band. Most of the 10GHz radio equipment is HB except for a highly modified DEM Transverter, and a Yaesu 817 exciter, which are all mounted on the back side of the dish.

About 2 years ago I started playing around with RTTY. I say playing because I don't send for any cards. I just put them on LOTW and hope they get a QSL match. With casual operating I have worked 204 countries, and have 172 confirmed on RTTY. Now I must admit that 4 or 5 of them I did request a card, or did OQRS. Because I needed that country for the DXCC Challenge Award. But, I was amazed just how many RTTY guys use LOTW and how well they QSL. So if U still need your DXCC, try RTTY and use LOTW. It worked for me.





The end of September, Karen and I spent 3 days in Half Moon Bay with our Corvette Club. It was a lot of fun but super crowded driving on route 1. In the photo we are ordering lunch and drinks somewhere in Half Moon Bay.

On October 24 I will be having surgery to repair a hernia that I sustained while helping Fred, K6IJ get his antennas up. My doctor told me that at my age I need to watch how, and how much, I try to lift in the future. Cause" there is only so many times they can repair this old body. Crap! This getting old stuff is no fun. Or is it just me that has a problem?

C U ya' all October 22nd.....**de Rick,W6SR**

### **Tube Of The Month de N6JV**

#### **THE GOLDEN VT The First Legal Triode**

Before World War I, the only triode that was legally available to the amateur radio operator was the de Forest Audion. This ended in 1916 when the Marconi Company sued de Forest for patent infringement of the diode Fleming valve. Marconi couldn't make the triode as it infringed on de Forest's patent. Other tubes such as the Cunningham Audiotron were in circulation but they weren't legal due to patent infringement. Nothing was legal for amateur use. Private use of radio stopped when the war began. Later production for the military produced some much better tubes.



When the war ended all the patent judgments went back into effect and commercial production again stopped. This insanity was finally ended in 1919 when Marconi made de Forest and the Moorhead Company of San Francisco an offer they couldn't refuse. Moorhead had been making the SE-1444 triode for the military that was very successful. They were used in the Navy flying boats used in the first trans-Atlantic flight in 1919. Moorhead teamed with de Forest to use his triode patent and Marconi extended them the Fleming patent to make receiving tubes. Marconi would handle the sales for the coalition. The resulting tube was called the Marconi VT. The glass they used gave the tubes a golden color and they are still referred to as the Golden VT. The Golden VT had both de Forest and Marconi markings and the note: "Licensed for amateur and experimental use only". We were finally legal.

**Visit the museum at N6JV.com  
Norm N6JV**

## **Mother Lode DX/Contest Club Meeting Minutes and Attendees.**

### **Minutes from MLDXCC Meeting 9/10/2016**

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM by Acting President Dennis Moore.

Minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved by voice vote.

Introductions were made.

New member Andy Herrera KK6DQD was voted in.

Discussion of California QSO Party was started. Bob Hess (W1RH) volunteered to 'flog' both CQP & ARRL Sweepstakes.

Moved, seconded & approved to present President Shirley Rose AA6K a plaque thanking him for service.

Bob made announcements about SS, importance of posting to 3830scores.com, reminded us about NCCC BBQ picnic to be held at N6RO's on September 18 & asked about scheduling for 2017.

Discussed meeting venues & speakers without resolution.

Business meeting adjourned for Bob Hess' talk on AM broadcast QSLs, SWL & related

The attendee's list from September 10th, 2016 meeting

#### **List of attendees**

Verne	K6DN
Bob	W1RH
Bob	KR6N
Dave	K6KNS
Jordan	WC6J

Aaron	KK6MCY
Brandt	K6BEW
Carolyn	K6TKD
Dick	K6LRN
Dennis	NJ6G
Vina	K6VNA
Norm	N6JV

Respectfully submitted,

**Dick Wilson K6LRN/Nj6G  
Secretary MLDX/CC**

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

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**Fred, K6IJ has 50' of Rohn 55' with guy brackets, and Phil-lystrand guys , contact him for his new reduced price.**

**[k6ij@volcano.net](mailto:k6ij@volcano.net)**

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#### **N6JV:**

N6JV has moved to Wilton, California and Comcast has been dropped. All email must go to N6JV@N6JV.com I am now located at 10170 Reigl Road, ton 95693. I also have a dedicated e-mail server, so my connecting problems should go away.

Last week the hole for the LM-470 was ready for concrete. Jim, K6OK, was kind enough to come by and lend a hand. The mixer started pouring and we started tamping and spreading the concrete. The hole required 19,000 pounds of concrete! I don't think it's going to fall over. Next week I will try and drag the tower over and get it vertical. The antennas have been re-built and ready to go.



**73, Norm**

**N6JV@N6JV.com**

**<http://N6JV.com> (MUSEUM)**

### **For Sale...**

1. Hy-Gain TH-11 beam. Covers 10-12-15-17 & 20. Disassembled. Have new trap boots. I need space...make me an offer.
2. Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder. Good condx, both electrically & cosmetic. Asking \$ 1100.
3. Rotator plate for TX-455 (USTowers) punched for Yaesu rotator. Good condx. Make an offer.
4. Rotator plate for Rohn 25...appears to be punched for Hy-gain rotator...make an offer.

**Contact Dick Wilson.**  
**[k6lrn12@gmail.com](mailto:k6lrn12@gmail.com)**

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### **From Chuck, W6RD**

Items for Sale:HamIV Rotor #1 Latest Series..Unused since re-build..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.**

KLM LP-1030 10 to 30 Mhz Log Periodic. 32 foot 3 inch boom. Needs some TLC but is all there. **\$250.**

Dentron MT-2000 2KW tuner. Works great. **\$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 mate), (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](mailto:w1rh@yahoo.co)

### **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 up-coming 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**

**President, Dennis, NJ6G**

[dennis@mail4life.net](mailto:dennis@mail4life.net)

**Secretary – Dick, K6LRN**

[k6lrn@arrl.net](mailto:k6lrn@arrl.net)

**Treasurer, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD**

[k6tkd@arrl.net](mailto:k6tkd@arrl.net)

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### **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.**