

THE NUGGET



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

October 2018

Volume 23 Number 10

From the President NJ6G

I'd like to extend my thanks to Jeff WK6I and xyl Mary for hosting such a wonderful NCCC BBQ at the Twisted Oak Winery tasting room in Murphys on Sept 23rd. We were able to see many members of MLDXCC who have a hard time making our regular meetings, and this gave us an opportunity to catch up. We conducted a short but very productive meeting, voting in eight new members and discussing plans for CQP.

CQP is this weekend! I hope everyone has cleared their calendars and tuned up their gear for the most exciting contest of the season. Enthusiasm is high as we attempt to reclaim the crown as top club in California. Several county expeditions are planned by those who wish to venture out of the home shack to activate rare counties. Last year was my personal best in the contest and I'd like to top that. Hopefully band conditions are favorable.

Did you know that last year in CQP 36 new county records were set, and 25% of those were

set by MLDXCC members? Several of those

Next Meeting

Next meeting is Oct 13th, 2018
11:30 AM – Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell
11974 CA-88, Jackson, CA 95642
Outgoing bureau QSL cards will be collected from paid members. We will also begin officer nominations for the next term.

We are always on the lookout for new places to hold our meetings, or for volunteers to help make arrangements. Please contact the Activities Chair, Vina K6VNA if you can help out! vina@sign-tek.com

were by members setting up in parking lots and parks. Take a look at some of the county records here, you may find that some of them are within your grasp. <http://www.cqp.org/Records.html>

Pacificon is coming up the weekend of October 19-21 in San Ramon. K6VNA and I will be there with a club table set up, please be sure to drop by to say hello or sit for a spell and talk about what we do.

New Members

Please welcome the following new members!

Karen Officer – K6KSO

Tracy, CA

Ed Stevens – N6XMA

Stockton, CA

Dave Hardwick – N6LHL

Stockton, CA

Dean Wood – N6DE

San Jose, CA

Annette Lewis – N6ACL

Stockton, CA

Kyle Dopkus – K6KDD

Stockton, CA

David Jaffe – K6DAJ

Shingle Springs, CA

Steve Miller – WL7YQ

Elk Grove, CA

VP6D Ducie Island is also coming up quick, beginning the same weekend as Pacificon and running for two weeks (Oct 20 – Nov 3). We are proud to have a couple of our club members going on the DXpedition, Steve W1SRD and Chris N6WM. Be sure to work them!

Our October meeting will be held in Martell on Oct 13th at 11:30 AM at Mountain Mikes Pizza. We will be collecting your outgoing bureau QSL cards so get busy filling them out and take advantage of one of the benefits of being a paid member. See the Outgoing QSL Bureau section later in this newsletter.

We will begin nominations for club officers at the October meeting, elections to be held in November. If you're interested in having a hand in running the club, please step up and volunteer. We can use the help.

Looking forward to November, MLDXCC will be defending its title as reigning ARRL November Sweepstakes Medium Club champion. We've won the gavel three times in a row, let's go for four! Watch the reflector for more information.

73, Dennis NJ6G

Sept 23 Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2018

Twisted Oak Winery, Murphys

Meeting was called to order at 12:29 p.m. by Dennis Moore, NJ6G. 29 members were in attendance.

Rick Eversole N6RNO moved to accept the minutes of the Aug 25 meeting as published in the Sept 2018. John Litz NZ6Q seconded the motion which passed unanimously. John Kozusko WD6EIW moved to accept the July Treasurer's report as published in the MLDXCC reflector, Bob Officer N6TCE seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Dave Sanders K6TQ moved to accept the August Treasurer's report as published in the MLDXCC reflector, Doug Phillips WE6Z seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The regular dues reminder was given.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

The entry category for the California QSO Party was discussed, and a recommendation was made for which category to enter. (This information will be made public after commence-

ment of CQP.) John Kozusko WD6EIW moved to accept the recommendation. Dick Wilson K6LRN seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

New Business:

John Litz NZ6Q informed the club of the joint Lodi/Stockton-Delta club meeting scheduled for October 11th in Stockton.

Jeff Stai Jeff WK6I informed club of FT8 Contest Mode test Thursday Sep 27th with new version of WSJT-X

New Member Applications

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

- Karen Officer – K6KSO (in attendance)
- Ed Stevens – N6XMA (in attendance)
- Dave Hardwick – N6LHL (in attendance)
- Dean Wood – N6DE
- Annette Lewis – N6ACL (in attendance)
- Kyle Dopkus – K6KDD
- David Jaffe – K6DAJ
- Steve Miller – WL7YQ (in attendance)

Upcoming Events:

- CQ WW RTTY DX – Sep 29/30
- California QSO Party – Oct 6/7
- MLDXCC Meeting Oct 13th
- Pacificon – Oct 19-21 San Ramon

DX News:

- Dennis stated the next DXpedition will be VP6D October 20th through November 3rd to Ducie Island. Two MLDXCC members – Steve Dyer W1SRD and Chris Tate N6WM will be team members.

Next Meeting:

Will be held Oct 13th. Club officer nominations and QSL card collection, location to be announced.

Rick Samoian W6SR moved to adjourn the meeting, and Doug Phillips WE6Z seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. NCCC BBQ was the activity of the day.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Moore – NJ6G - President

From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC - Sept
2018

Treasurer's Report

Sept 1 Balance		2088.54
Income:	WL7YQ Dues	20
Expense:	No Activity	
Sept 30 Balance		2108.54

Tyler Laursen
K6TLR
MLDXCC Treasurer

Paying Dues:

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. This is a change from last year. If you paid dues through 6/30/2018, those dues have been extended through the end of this year.

Beginning Jan 1st, 2019, 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

Dits and Dahs

New member Annie N6ACL received the plaque for Pacific Division Winner, 2017 ARRL November Sweepstakes Multiop LP Phone. Way to go Annie!

Sue K6SZQ reports that the evening 20M propagation allowed her to work seven ATNOs into Europe in about 20 minutes, most on the first call. Was it the JK antennas, or could it be that a YL voice provides a 10dB advantage?

Dennis NJ6G received the plaque for Pacific Division Winner, 2017 ARRL November Sweepstakes LP Phone.

Doug WE6Z finished the base installation for his AB-577 mast. Plans are to use it as an 80/160 vertical.

John K6YK worked TO6OK on Sept 25 for #315 on 40 meters!

Do you have something you'd like to see here in Dits and Dahs? License upgrade? Call sign change? New equipment? Send it to the editor!

November Raffle

We will be conducting a raffle at the November 10th meeting, please bring something for the table to help support the club!

Coffee and Steel

Submitted by Bob Hess W1RH

John, K6YK, came up to me at the NCCC BBQ and said he had something for me...."RH" coffee cups.

Why did John have "RH" coffee cups?

Well, his wife was cleaning and was about to throw them out. John noticed and told her that he knew someone who would want them.

Turns out they came from Restoration Hardware, but they look just great sitting on the operating table at W1RH.



In September, Tyler (K6TLR) and I drove down to the US Tower factory, in Woodlake, which is northeast of Visalia. We picked up two heavy duty 38 foot crankup towers. One for me and one for Ken, N7KD, a good friend who lives in Gardnerville, Nevada.

This will be tower #3 for me and will be supporting a SteppIR 4E (10-20 meters, 4 elements, 32 foot boom). 38 feet might not sound like a very high tower, but it really is about optimum for 10-20 meters from my location, just below the top of a very steep north-south ridge.

Jim, K6OK and a MLDXCC member, will be doing the engineering for the tower permit process and for my own peace of mind, since the tower will be on the edge of a very steep drop off.



Murphys Meeting

Submitted by Norm N6JV

Quite a gathering in Murphys for the Sept 23 NCCC BBQ



Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	243
2	K6YK	John Lee	205
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	172

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	197
2	K6YK	John Lee	196
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	131

Phone

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	158
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	106
3	K6YK	John Lee	106

Data

1	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	156
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	128
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	119

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

Tube of the Month N6JV

6D22

If you ask a tube collector what he knows about the 6D22, he would probably reply "What is a 6D22"? In my research, I have never found any equipment that actually used one. I found an advertisement in CQ magazine of March, 1946, for the tube so I know about when it was made. In that same CQ issue, another tube, the 4-250A, has an advertisement. Both tubes are high power VHF tetrodes. Perhaps this is a case of a great idea that came out at the worst time. It's



like being the favorite horse in the Kentucky Derby only to run against Secretariat and ending up in a claiming race at Golden Gate Fields. The 4-250A and its beefed up brother, the 4-400A, are still being used today after 70 years. My 6D22 is an orphan but one of the best looking tubes in the museum.

The 6D22 is a beam tetrode made by Raytheon that can deliver a KW up to 60 MHz. I might have made an amplifier with it, but I can't find a spare tube. Popular no, rare yes.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

MLDXCC Website update

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.

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!

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>

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-qsl-service>

ARRL Awards Checkers

Ken Anderson, K6TA
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

The NOAA Solar Update

Click the link below to display the latest NOAA solar predictions.

2018 MLDXCC Meeting Dates

January 27
February - None
March 10
April - none (Visalia)
May 12 – *Canceled*
June 16
July 28
Aug 25
Sep 23
October 13
November 10
December - 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.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/weekly-highlights-and-27-day-forecast>

UPCOMING Events

CQP – Oct 6

MLDXCC Monthly Meeting – Oct 13

Pacificon – Oct 19-21

CQ WW DX SSB – Oct 27-28

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>

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.

Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale:
Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO
M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225

SDRplay RSP1 – New in box - \$80
Dennis, NJ6G dennis@mail4life.net

New! "[The Serial Box](#)" (S-BOX) 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

From Tom K5RC

Giving the Clubs first dibs on:

Array Solutions Custom 4-Yagi Stack Match for 15M plus Controller

Array Solutions Custom 4-Yagi Stack Match for 10M plus Controller

DX Engineering RR8-HP 8 Position Coax Switch and Controller

See <http://www.w7rn.com/for-sale-10-2018/> for details and photos

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

From Bob N6TV

I have two Alpha 87A amplifiers for sale, both in perfect working condition. I believe this amplifier is one of the finest that Alpha ever made, especially for fully silent QSK CW.

I am the original owner of the first, purchased new. It has the original Eimac 3CX800 tubes, only driven by a little old contestor on weekends (used a few times a year). Treated with kid gloves for its entire lifetime. \$2,800 plus shipping.

The second I acquired used / refurbished from RF Concepts over six years ago (someone traded it in for a 9500). This 87A has the Alpha Max auto-tuning option installed. It also has a new blower, which was professionally installed by RF Concepts exactly 5 years ago. \$2,900 plus shipping.

Both amps are very clean, in perfect working condition, and put out full power on all bands with 45-55W drive. Both have exclusively been used in a non-smoking home, with no pets. I am happy to hand-deliver either or both to the SF Bay Area to save shipping costs. I can also bring them to the NCCC Meeting in Sunnyvale, Tuesday Oct. 9th, if you let me know in advance.

73, Bob, N6TV

From Chuck W6RD

I have the following items for sale:

Yaesu FTDX-3000D. I have 2 of these and this is my backup one, very little use. DVR and 300Hz roofing filter options. Excellent radio. Original box, manuals and cables. \$1250.

Yaesu FT-847 160 thru 440 All Mode plus Satellite. optional CW filter. Original box and manual. \$875.

Alpha 374. Original Bandpass Alpha amp. 80 thru 10. 3 8874's. Hypersil Transformer. Grid and Plate overload protection was standard on these. Not so on later Alpha's. Easy legal limit. Light weight (54Lbs.) \$1200.

YC-257/3CPX1500A7 . Good used tube, tested by BEST Inc. KA4LBI. \$375.

I have a pair of Eimac 3-500Z's I am selling them as used, but they may be NOS. I recently tested them in a TL-922. \$250. for the pair. Selling as a pair only.

I have lots of amplifier parts, Tubes, Sockets, Tank Coils, and transformers. Contact me for information at w6rd@arrl.net

I can deliver to a MLDXCC meeting or arrange to meet within a reason distance of Modesto.

ARRL Pacific Division

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