

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

April 2019

Volume 24 Number 4

From the President NC6R

MLDXCC –

Were you at the last meeting? We had a large turnout with many members and guest in attendance. A big thank you goes to Tyler for finding a great location right across from the Loomis swap meet. A pizza & salad buffet was available for those hungry after hunting swap meet treasures.

Jordan, WC6J was our featured speaker at the meeting. He is the Sierra Nevada manager for Summits on the Air and gave a great talk with

pictures of some of his adventures. He gave information on how we can participate either as a “mountain goat” (activator) or a “shack sloth” (chaser).

Steve, W1SRD spoke about his upcoming DX trip to South Orkney Island. Currently it is #16 of the most wanted DXCC entities. The trip is planned for 15 days starting in February of 2020. Website for donation and information can be found at <https://sorkney.com>

Regarding sunspot activity, all in attendance at the meeting were in agreement that the sunspot numbers have not been great. However there have been a number of DX operations active recently. Were you able to get them in the log?

DX Convention in Visalia is April 12-14th. If you’re planning to attend but have not yet registered, DX / Contest forums and vendor area on Saturday are open to everyone, free of charge.

By the time you’re reading this the CQ WPX SSB contest will be over. How did you do? At the May meeting we’d like to hear about your success &/or failures during the event. By

Next Meeting

There is no meeting in April due to the Visalia DX Convention The next meeting is May 11, Location TBD

Watch the reflector, our Facebook page, or the mldxcc.org website for updates!

We are always on the lookout for new places to hold our meetings, or for volunteers to help make arrangements. Please contact Bob Hess W1RH if you can help out! w1rh@yahoo.com

sharing your experiences we all become better operators!

Upcoming DX operations -

<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

Contest calendar dates -

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

73 and good DX! - Steve / NC6R

W6SR Stays Busy!

Hi All

3 weeks ago we added my Elecraft 500W PA and Elecraft antenna tuner to the remote Flex 6500 at K6IJ's QTH. That made short work of completing my 5BWAS, even though I was only using only one antenna. A simple, but effective, 80M 1/4 wave vertical on all band. Two weeks ago, I thought I would try to complete WAS on 30M, since I had only 2 confirmed states on 30M. In the past two weeks, I have worked 49 of 50 states, and confirmed 47 of those, all via LOTW. These were all worked on FT8, using 200W and the 80M vertical.

Oh.....did I mention that during this two week period I also worked a few DX stations? Including: YB, V31, 9M2, 9M6, LU, E76, UA0, BA, FO, PY, HK, VP8, UN7, UF8, EA, 6W/IV3FSG, VR2, E6ET, plus a boat-load of JA's and run of the mill Caribbean stations. For the record I'm not a fan of FT8, but it does let us QTH challenged HAMS stay in the thick of things.

I guess 3Y0 is the next big DX on the table, and I do need them, but only on 160, 30,17 & 12M. Hi Hi.

Hope all that need them for a new one make it into their log.....73 & gud DX de Rick, W6SR

From the Secretary K6SZQ

General Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2019

Pizza Factory, Loomis

New Members

Please welcome the following new members!

Ronald Eaves – W6RPM

Valley Springs, CA

Meeting was called to order at 12:29 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 21 members were in attendance, and 10 guests.

Steve started by asking for guests and members who had not attended in a long time to introduce themselves. We then went around the room and each member introduced themselves. January minutes were published in the February newsletter (There was no February meeting). Rick Eversole, N6RNO moved to accept the minutes as published. Rick Samoian, W6SR seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was published in the March newsletter. Bob Hess, W1RH moved to accept the report as published. Rick Eversole, N6RNO seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



Steve NC6R leads the meeting

Photo by Norm N6JV

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Ronald Eaves, W6RPM submitted an application for membership. Steve read the details of his application. Steve Allred, NC6R and John Lee, K6YK then nominated Ron for membership. The membership approved Ron's application.



Looks like a good crowd!

Photo by Norm N6JV

Announcements:

- Dr. Carol Milazzo, who is the ARRL Section Manager made a few remarks. She asked for a show of hands of ARRL members and was pleased to see that many were in attendance. She also shared about an upcoming course for the General Exam to be held in Sacramento by the Sheriff's Department.
- Steve Allred, NC6R mentioned several upcoming contests:
 - CQ WPX SSB on March 29th - 31st. This is a NCCC focus contest.
 - ARRL Rookie Roundup on April 14th
 - 7QP on May 4th & 5th
 - NEQP is also May 4th & 5th
- It was announced that there were 30 DXpeditions occurring between now and the May meeting. For details and a full listing, go to ng3k.com and click on "ng3k provided

resources" and then click on "Announced DX Operations".

- Steve Dyer, W1SRD, was asked to talk about the next DXpedition that he will be part of the team. They will be going to South Orkney Island about this time next year. South Orkney is the #16 most wanted entity, and has not been activated in a decade. Steve mentioned that the price tag for the trip is \$325K, and the team has been fundraising. You can check out their website at <https://sorkney.com/> for more information or to donate.

Member Achievements:

- Rick Samoian, W6SR announced that he achieved 5 Band WAS, all on LOTW contacts.
- Steve Allred, NC6R announced he had completed 160 m WAS and RTTY WAS.

Club Achievements:

None to report

Next Meeting:

May 11th - location to be announced. (No meeting in April due to the Visalia DX Convention).

Steve Dyer, W1SRD moved to adjourn; Jim Singer, N6JS seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m. For the program, Jordan Heichman, WC6J spoke about Summits on the Air. Jordan is the Sierra Nevada Manager of the SOTA group, and encouraged us to check out their website at sotawatch.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary

From the Treasurer K6TLR

Tyler's busy paying the bills, look for his March report in the May Nugget next month!

Paying Dues:

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Beginning Jan 1st, 2019, dues are \$20.00 individual, \$30.00 family

Paypal – Send to:MotherLodeClub@gmail.com. Use the Friends and Family option.

Dits and Dahs

John Lee K6YK got XR0ZRC Robinson Crusoe Island on 40m for number 318 on that band!

Doug Phillips WE6Z worked 5V7EI, Togo on 160M on Sunday 3/24 for his farthest contact so far on 160M. Great work Doug.

Chuck Tiffit W6RD had W6SR (our club card checker) check his card for SV2ASP/A Mt. Athos. When ARRL completes the credit process it will be #347 all time and 337 current. Not many places in the world Chuck hasn't talked to!

Norm Wilson N6JV worked the following new band countries in March: 5V Togo (160), 5X Uganda (80), and 9H Malta (40)

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!

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mail to K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Club Log Standings

Overall

1 N6JV Norm Wilson 206

2 K6YK John Lee 160
3 WU6W Rick Palio 130

CW

1 N6JV Norm Wilson 152
2 K6YK John Lee 141
3 NA6O Gary Johnson 122

Phone

1 N6JV Norm Wilson 110
2 NC6R Steve Allred 93
3 NJ6G Dennis Moore 71

Data

1 K7QDX Michael Steiner 119
2 N6JV Norm Wilson 119
3 NJ6G Dennis Moore 98

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

MLDXCC Website update

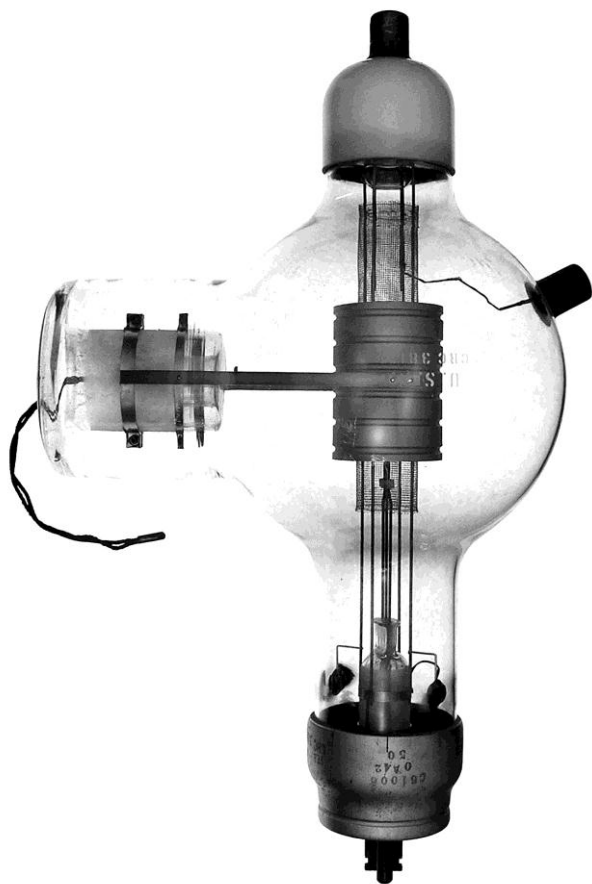
Norm, N6JV would like to update the "member's stations" section of our website. Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved. So please send Norm a photo of your smiley face at your station, as well a photo of your antenna system. Let's get our website current.

Tube of the Month

861

Tubes from WWII that have increased the most in value are usually types that are useful as audio amplifiers. The 861 or VT19 is an exception. It is a 400 watt dissipation tetrode that was first produced in 1929. It is capable of operating up to 20 MHz at full power. Most tubes in 1929 couldn't do that. During the 1930s, the U.S. military was designing

equipment that was eventually used during WWII. The 861 was used as the final amplifier in a series of very large and heavy Navy transmitters like the TAJ, TBK and TBM. These transmitters had typical outputs of 500 watts and weighed 600 pounds. Not that bad if the power supply was included, but this was just the transmitter. It needed a motor generator that supplied all voltages that probably weighed



more. A 5 HP motor drove the generator. If you wanted AM, you needed a speech amplifier and modulator that were almost as large.

There is a group of amateurs that like collecting and operating this old military gear on the ham bands. A large radio room and fork lift are useful. The 861 tubes are now in demand as many of the old tubes have become gassy after

70 to 80 years. I don't think they have made any new ones since the end of the War when surplus tubes were very easy to find.

The 861 uses a "250 watt" socket assembly and has the grid out the top and the plate out the side. The extra side connection is for the screen grid. Overall length is 17.22 inches. In use, the tube was inverted from how this example is shown. Inverting the tube shortened the grid lead and kept it away from the plate.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Focus Contests

The following lists all contests in which MLDXCC would appreciate your efforts.

ARRL DX Phone*

ARRL DX CW*

ARRL 10M*

ARRL 160M*

ARRL November Sweepstakes

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

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.

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

UPCOMING Events

Lodi ARC Monthly Meeting – Apr 4

NCCC Annual Awards Meeting and Election of Officers – Apr 9

SDARC Monthly Meeting – Apr 11

Visalia International DX Convention (IDXC) – Apr 12-13

ARRL Rookie Roundup – SSB – Apr 14

World Amateur Radio Day – Apr 18

Valley of the Moon Hamfest (Sonoma) Apr 27

For the latest contest info. Click on the following link:

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

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

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

Jim Singer N6JS has these items available

Bird 500 watt dummy load , air cooled. \$ 100

RF Applications P-3000 digital RF/VSWR indicator with cables.... \$250.00

TE systems 6 meter RF power Amp model 0552G 375 Watt 50 MHZ .. \$ 450.00

SECO model 107B Tube Tester . \$ 25.00

Astron 35M power supply... \$ 90.00

KENWOOD TS-790A Dual Band all mode

VHF/UHF Transceiver with SP 31 speaker & mic

\$ 900.00

I will deliver these. Any question please email me. I'm good on QRZ JIM...N6JS

From Bob N6TV

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

I acquired this amp used / refurbished from RF Concepts over six years ago (someone traded it in for a 9500). It 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. This amp is very clean, in perfect working condition, and puts out full power on all bands with 45-55W drive. It has exclusively been used in a non-smoking home, with no pets.

I am happy to hand-deliver it to the SF Bay Area to save shipping costs. I can also bring it to the NCCC Meeting if you let me know in advance.

73, Bob, N6TV

From Bob W1RH

The wife of Norm, WB6RVR (SK) has a Collins S-Line for sale. \$1,000 for the package. Pictures attached.

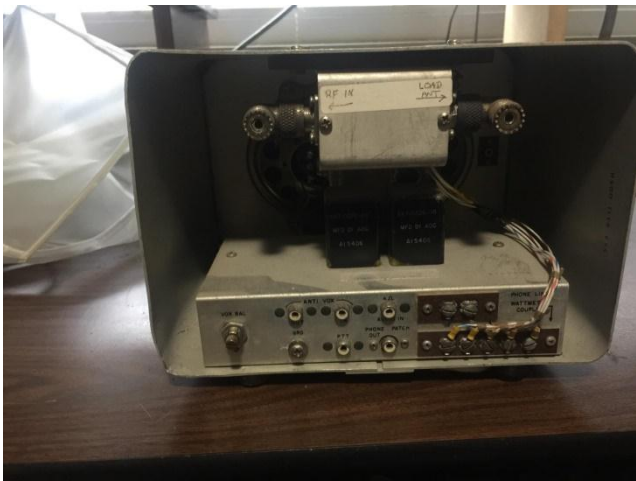
75S-1 #7999



32S-1 #2686



516F-2 #3439

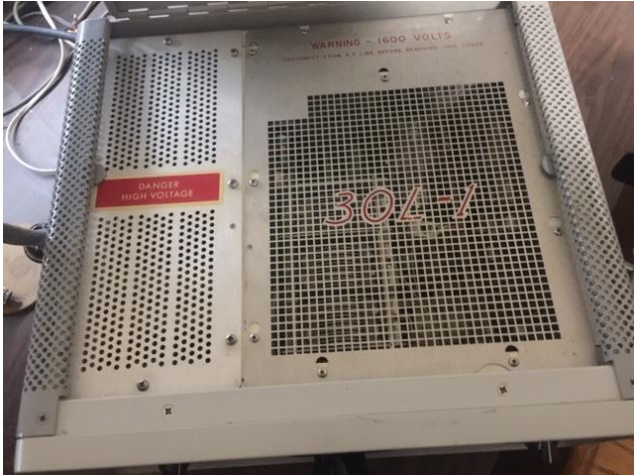


Send offers to Bob W1RH

AI N6ADT has a Collins 30L-1 Amplifier for sale, 600.00. For more info contact AI at wb6ruu@gmail.com

There is a antenna switch box and a phone patch box with no serial #s.





From Mike N6ZW

I'm getting rid of the Ameritron AL-1200 1500Watt linear, using the 3CX1200A7 ceramic tube. This amp was only used approx. 3 years on Sunday morning 15m net. Was used other times on 20m but not much. Tube has approx. less than 100 hours of use on it. Included with it is the full QSK unit, Ameritron QSK-5. This unit is NEW never used. Will listen to reasonable offers. PICK-UP only in Lodi. Use email please as hearing aids not good for telephone. n6zw@comcast.net

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

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