The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

You are all invited to this year's NCCC Summer BBQ and Joint MLDXCC Meeting on Saturday 26th August!

This year the BBQ will be held at Norm N6JV's QTH at 10170 Reigi Road, Wilton, 95693 ~ Noon Social; 1:00+/_ pm Lunch

Not only will you enjoy some great food and company, Norm maintains a transmitting tube museum that has over 1200 transmitting tubes. The collection has some of the oldest and largest tubes manufactured.

The cost to attend is only \$20 and if you bring your XYL, YL/Partner then you just pay \$30!

Please signup using the link below, and you can either pay now using PayPal or choose to pay at the door. If you just want to come along and not eat, you can also signup, so we get a good count of who's coming! Please sign up by Aug 20th! https://www.memberplanet.com/events/nccckb/august

2017 Officers

President: Dennis Moore NJ6G VP/CC: Steve Allred K6SCA Secretary: Sue Allred K6SZQ Treasurer: Tyler Laursen K6TLR

Board members: Chuck Tifft W6RD Eric Handel KD6MOO Ken Anderson K6TA Bob Hess W1RH.

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 Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved.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.

August Treasurer's Report:

Paypal has been working awesome and seamlessly. If you haven't paid your dues yet, you may still do so via the below methods:

- Paypal at MotherLode-Club@gmail.com (Please select "Pay Family and Friends")
- Mail to MLDXCC Tyler Laursen, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
- Here is a list of members that have paid for the 2017-2018 year. If you feel that you have paid, and are not listed here, please please get in contact with Tyler via email at Tyler.Laursen06@gmail.com. I want to make sure everyone is accounted for :)

AD6E AE6Y KOBEE K6AAN K6BEW K6DN K6KNS K6KO K6LR K6LRN K6MM K6SCA K6SZQ K6TA K6TKD K6TLR K6VNA KE8FT KG6SVF KI6CG KR6N NJ6G NR6Q W1RH W1SRD W6DR W6RD W6SR WC6H WD6EIW

MLDXCC - June 2017

Treasurer's Report

MLDXCC - June 2017			
Treasurer 's Report			
July 1 Balance	\$1,949.44		
	Income:	K6LRN - Dues	15
		K6TKD - Dues	15
		W6SR - Dues	15
		W6SR - Donation (Thank You!!)	5
		WD6EIW - Dues	15
		KD6WKY - Dues	15
		K6KO - Dues	15
		K6TA - Dues	15
		NR6Q - Dues	15
		NR6Q - Donation (Thank You!!)	10
		AD6E - Dues	15
		K6KNS - Dues	15
		K6DN - Dues	15
		W1SRD - Dues for '18-'19	15
		AG1RL - Dues for '18-'19	15
	Expense:		

July 31 Balance	\$2,159.44	
Datance		
Tyler Laursen K6TLR		
MLDXCC Treasurer		

Up-Coming Club Meetings

August 26
September 16
October 14
November 11
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 Country Café, Lockeford



Country Café in Lockeford



July Meeting (1) Max's, Auburn



July Meeting (2) Max's, Auburn

Attention: Dennis Moore NJ6G President, MLDXCC

I am writing to you to introduce a new project sponsored by the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC). The project is called the **NCDXC Elmering Project.** Unlike other license preparation programs or 'ham crams' it is intended to actually get Technician or new General class licensees on the air on the HF bands. It consists of three key components or tracks. There a couple of introductory classes that point out the many facets and pleasures of HF operation and give a brief orientation on how our classes. will be taught. Track I is a series of classes aimed at helping an applicant pass the General class exam. Track II teaches basic HF operating skills, equipment selection and station building. Track III covers advanced HF operating techniques, antenna design, propagation and understanding equipment specifications. Many classes will be taught using Power Point presentations brought to each participant using WebEX. The Cisco WebEx application allows a user at home to view the presentation and participate in a two way audio stream without the need for any special software other than the computer's operating system. WebEX supports Windows, Mac OS and Linux. Classes will be posted on the NCDXC web site for later review. Some classes will be taught by the Elmer at his or her own shack. These classes allow the participant to actually get on the air and try out the skills that are learning. All classes are completely free.

Currently posted on the NCDXC web site (ncdxc.org Please click the Elmer Project tab) is a flyer describing the project and a slide show offering much more detail and a list of classes. Shortly there will be a one page description of each class posted to the

web site and a page answering frequently asked questions. There will also be a sign up page that permits users to sign up for as many classes as he or she wishes. Class date and time will be given on the sign up page. The classes themselves will be posted about a week ahead of the date on when the class will be taught.

Much effort has gone into making the NCDXC Elmering Project as useful a learning experience as possible. Our 13 instructors have many years of experience in their subjects and will strive to make each class fun and interesting. All are good and patient teachers and they operate frequently on the HF bands as DXers, Contesters and rag chewers. Some enjoy designing and building their own equipment as well. We want everyone participating in the project to succeed. There are no dumb questions.

All that is needed for most classes is a notebook and a pencil. For the General class license classes please also bring a copy of the ARRL General Class License Manual and a calculator to each class. Classes will commence in late September 2017. New information will posted regularly on the NCDXC web site. Please check in from time to time and see what is new.

I hope that you will mention the NCDXC Elmering project at your August and/or September club meeting and include the above information in your club newsletter. I have attached a improved copy of the Power Point slide show that is up on

the NCDXC web site in case you wish to use it for any purpose.

Thank you and best 73,

John Eisenberg K6YP NCDXC Elmering Project Jeisenb558@aol.com

The SFM ARC would like to announce that we will once again be running our 10 week CW for beginners course.

This course will be 10 weeks long held once a week for 2 hours (7PM until 9PM) each Wednesday evening in Carmichael. If you, your club members, or someone you know are interested in taking our CW class we encourage you to sign up NOW. This class is made available to EVERYONE that wants to take it. You do NOT need to be a licensed operator to join our class. We have locked a start date for the class, we will begin Wednesday evening September 13th (Ending November 15th).

Everyone can benefit from this course! For those with no Morse Code knowledge this is an excellent course where you or your friends will be taught the complete International Morse Code alphabet, numbers, prosigns, how to adjust and send on a Morse Code straight key and more interesting general information than one brain can store! The goal of our course is to have all students up to speed around week 6, and on the air! This is also a great opportunity for those of you who may have already taken our course before. This class offers a chance for returning students

to brush up on their code, increase their speed, build on-air confidence and get a better understanding of the 'pro-signs' that CW radio ops use onair.

The CW class is \$50 for new members, and only \$20 for returning members who bring their previously supplied Morse Key and Oscillator. As always, as a new student you will receive a FREE Morse Code straight key and a Code Oscillator to keep at the completion of the course. These items are worth more than \$40 by themselves.

Now for the important part... This is a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE COURSE! We will Limit the amount of students who are able to take this course. Therefore it is very important that you make your payment AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to secure your seat in this class. We do not take walk-ins at the door.

To make payment by check you must FIRST send an email to admin@w6sfm.com to indicate that you are interested and you are going to make your payment. We will hold your seat for 7 days from your email while we await your payment to come:

If you prefer, you may also pay via PayPal or Credit Card. PayPal and CC payments will be charged an extra \$2.00 for credit card processing fees. If you would like to make your payment this way please send an email to admin@w6sfm.com to request an electronic payment you can make on-line.

If you have ANY questions please do not hesitate to email us back at your convenience. Thank you and we hope to see you at our next class! 73,

Michael N6MQL President W6SFM SFM ARC

From The President

System upgrades at work, visitors from out of state, and hosting family events conspired to keep me off the air for much of the summer but things have started to turn around. I've been able to get on during the day when things slow down to start adding to the log.

NAQP is in full swing, with the RTTY and CW weekends done and SSB yet to come. These are a good warm-ups for CQP which is a little over one month away. Start making plans for a strong effort for CQP, things may be changing and we'll need to be ready to face new challengers.

Field Day was fun in June, and even though we didn't have an organized event I managed to see many of our members taking part in other clubs' activities. The Lodi and El Dorado clubs had great turnouts at their events and I was glad to be able to attend both of those, ranging from the heat of the valley to the pleasant conditions in the mountains. Even though I didn't hear

K6SCA, I heard from yet a 3rd FD site that I stopped at on Hwy 88 that Steve was busy making contacts using the club call, K6AO. Thanks Steve for getting that on the air!

I finally got the tilt-over for my tower installed, had to do some corrective

work from the base installation. Pneumatic chisels are nice to have when you need to remove a little excess concrete. Now I just to figure out how to get the tower over to the base and mounted.

I took down my windowline-fed doublet and replaced it with a ladderline doublet in an inverted vee. Gave me better tuning across all the bands but I'm still dealing with an RFI issue that prevents me from using the amp on 80m. I've had great success with this type antenna before but it just doesn't work very well at this QTH, although my whole time here has been at a solar minimum. I really need to get that tower up with a proper antenna.

I did homebrew a 20m rotatable dipole out of some fishing rods and hand-wound coils, I'm very happy with that. Next step is to turn that into a two element beam, need to gather a few more parts. If I get time I'll do a write-up on that.

The memorial service for Shirl Rose AA6K in Stockton on July 29th was very well attended. It was great to see so many hams in attendance, and his daughter welcomed all of us. He meant a lot to his family and this club, and will be missed my many. I hope to see many of you at the combined NCCC/MLDXCC BBQ at

Norm's house on August 26th. We've got some new members to vote in, and some things to discuss.

73, Dennis NJ6G

<u>Vice President Report - Steve</u> Allred K6SCA

As we've all observed, DX contacts on the HF bands have been challenging of late. However, don't tell that to the folks running the new FT8 digital mode. Several of our members including myself have made numerous contacts using this new mode. The interest is high and the contacts fast and furious. Although most of my contacts have been within North America, there's been a smattering of DX for good measure, all while running about 20 watts.

Thanks to some sage advice from fellow MLDXCC members, a couple of new pieces of equipment now reside in the shack as well. There's an Alpha 86 (complete with vacuum relay upgrade)



and a Palstar/Kessler AT Auto tuner. The Alpha 86 is reported to be an "export" model with frequencies segments listed instead of the "HF bands" on the selector switch. Drive power of 50 watts gets you legal limit on all bands.

The AT Auto, once fully integrated into the system, the will follow the radio while tuning for minimum SWR as you move around the band. Its main benefit as I envision will be on 80 meters where the SWR curve is quite narrow.



Also remember our next meeting will be Aug 26 at N6JV / Norm's place. This will be a joint MLDXCC / NCCC BBQ and meet and greet. Make sure you contact Ian at: w6tcpian@gmail.com to get your name on the list.

73 and Good DX,

Steve, K6SCA

Editor Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi All

Well.... I could make this a really short report and just say it's been too hot to do much outside, radio conditions have not been great and that would be it. But I guess that would not be enough, huh?

Because we don't have content, the newsletter has been published every two month for most of this year. We need more information for our newsletter! Yes, this is NOT the DX or Contest Season, but many of you have been working 6M E-skip. Right? And how about the NAQP or other state QSO parties? Lets see more input, OK?

Not much DX or contests to report from here. I worked the NAQP CW part-time for the NCCC. Nothing new on 6M EME. But 6M using FT8 has been productive, if not super exciting, with many new grids added.

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Too hot to do any work on the 2M Power Amp. Also, this is the Sports Car Season so we have been on several runs with the Cameron Park Corvettes. Something to do when propagation is poor, Hi Hi

CU all at the Norm's farm on the 26th......de Rick, W6SR

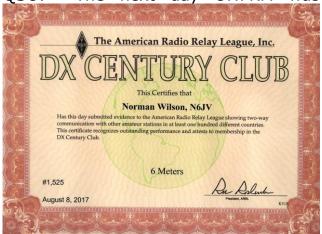
Six Meter DXCC

At the beginning of summer, I had worked and confirmed 95 countries on With the new WSJT-X 6 meters. program using JT65, I was able to work SM7FJE, OZ1IEP and MM0AMW and 4V1G on CW before e-skip died for The EME antenna from the vear. Sacramento had been re-assembled, so decided to give it a try from Wilton. The noise was very hiah Sacramento, but Wilton was another story and I was optimistic.

The push up mast with the 7 element LFA antenna was set at about 22 feet. It was just enough to clear trees. I put it in the only place I could see moon rise as it cleared the house. The GS35b amplifier was wired up and

tested so I waited for the next moon opening which occurred on July 24. I had no remote indicators for elevation or azimuth installed, so had to set the azimuth with a compass and the elevation with an angle level. I knew where the moon would be when my best window for the antenna would occur.

The first schedule was with ZS4TX who has a very large station in South Africa. I first saw his signal at a very low elevation, so I was confident we could work. When the moon elevation was about 18 degrees, I started calling and we very quickly completed the QSO. The next day OH7KM was



scheduled with the same results. Very strong signals were heard from both stations.

I was now at 101 worked. The OH7 quickly sent me a QSL and the ZS4 uploaded his data to LOTW. A fast lunch trip to Shingle Springs for card checking with W6SR finished the job.



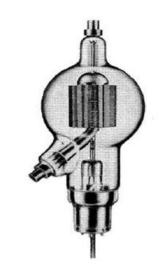
The antenna has been modeled on EZNEC, so I have a good idea where the most optimum position is. The next opening I will be ready for and I'm setting up schedules now. Another "bucket list" item behind me.

de Norm, N6JV

Tube Of The Month de N6JV Tube of the Month The 1000T

The EIMAC Company produced a series of glass power triodes for all power levels from the 25T to the 2000T by about 1943. Many of the tubes, at least up to the 450TH size, were widely used by the military in WWII and became very popular with hams after the War when they became surplus. The very large tubes, the 1500T and 2000T, may not have been used by the military to any extent. The 1000T also seems not to have had a military history and today is one of the most uncommon of the EIMAC power triodes.

The 1000T was always a mystery to me as the advertisements for the tube always showed it with a stem sticking out of the base like a lolly pop stick.



I always wanted to at least see one to examine that stem. When I was able to add one to the collection, there wasn't a stem, but there was a hole in the middle of the base. That stem was obviously important to EIMAC who always illustrated it. A clue may be the use of the old 4 pin bayonet "50 watt" socket. That socket was used with power tubes like the 250TH which had a filament that drew 50 watts. When they made the 450TH, with its 90 watt filament, they wired the filament leads in parallel to carry the current. The 1000T tube drew 116 watts and had the same parallel filament leads. I believe the increased heat combined with the poor air circulation in the socket required forced air cooling in the base and the air stem was required to cool the filament seals. The larger triodes used a special heavy duty base that had an air tube molded into the ceramic. Even if the tubes were available in surplus, the hassle of adding a small air pump would not have been a popular feature.

During the War, research on a new tetrode line of tubes in this power class culminated in 1947 with the offering of the 4-750A/4-1000A and that may have sealed the fate of the old triode. Today it's just rare and beautiful.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

I know this is not exactly contest/DX info. But I'll bet the boys would like to see a REALLY great homebrew project that will remind all of us of "the good old days"! This transceiver, power amp and power supply were constructed by KG7TR

73, John, K6YK



Hi Power tranceiver, & power amp.



HF Tranceiver, front



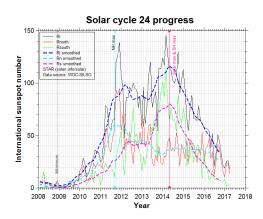
HF Transceiver, rear



HF Transceiver, bottom

I don't know about you, but the quality of this work is so much better than my

Halicrafters receiver of the 1960's. ...ed



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club General Meeting Minutes July 22, 2017 Max's, Auburn

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Vice-President Steve Allred, K6SCA. 16 members were in attendance, and 1 guest.

We went around the room and each member introduced themselves.

Since there was no newsletter published this month, the minutes were read aloud. Norm Wilson,N6JV moved to accept the minutes as read. Dick Wilson, K6LRN seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Steve noted that the situation reported in the newsletter regarding the complaint against the club member who was operating outside his license class has been resolved thanks to diplomacy by Bob Hess, W1RH, and resulted in the

individual upgrading to the Extra class, so this is no longer an issue.

Treasurer's report had been sent out on the reflector. Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD moved to accept the report as published. Rick Samoian, W6SR seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Steve reminded the members that our dues period runs from July 1st to June 30th of each year. While the \$15.00 dues are optional, all members were encouraged to pay dues, as it increases the quantity and quality of awards the club can give. Our club funds also help to cover club insurance and donations to help fund various DXpeditions. All Officers must be current dues paying members, and any individual must be paid up in order to receive club awards. Since our treasurer, Tyler Laursen, K6TLR was not at the meeting to collect dues, so members were reminded that they can mail them in or pay with pay pal.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - no report

Award Committee – no report

Old Business:

Sue Allred, K6SZQ stated that she had sent an inquiry regarding having an informational/membership booth at this year's Pacificon. We have not yet received a response, so there are no details. However, any members who would be willing to help staff the booth

were encouraged to contact our president Dennis Moore, NJ6G.

New Business:

Recent club/member awards and bragging:

Greg Glenn, NR6Q reported his stats for the 2016 IARU HF World Championship. He was #1 in the 6 IARU zone and #5 in the US and Canada in the Single Op category.

Member Reports on Recent Contests/Events:

- IARU Greg Glenn, NR6Q reported that he had improved his score from last year, and probably stands about #3 in the US.
- Steve Allred, K6SCA announced that our QSL Manager, Chuck Tift, W6RD will be busy he and Dave Marson used the MLDXCC club call - K6AO - for field day and made over 900 contacts in a six hour period, mostly on 20 meters.
- Dave Sanders, K6KNS reported that El Dorado ARC also had good efforts on their field day event. The break for dinner and a meeting did kill the run of Qs, so next year they will probably rotate operators out for dinner.
- Steve Allred, K6SCA reminded members to begin preparing for CQP - checking antennas, updating logging programs if needed, etc. Jerry KD6WKY stated that he will be

doing a county expedition to ensure Del Norte County is on the air for CQP, and wondered if his points will count for the club.

Member Reports on New Equipment:

Steve Allred, K6SCA reported that he swapped out the pin diodes for vacuum relays in his new Alpha 86.

Upcoming Contests Before the Next Meeting:

- August 5th NAQP CW August 19th NAQP SSB
- August 21st (Monday) Solar Eclipse QSO Party

Upcoming Events Before the Next Meeting:

- The Shirl Rose AA6K Memorial Gathering will be held on July 29th in Stockton. Details will be sent out on the relfector.
- Rick Taven, N6XI has invited all to the Sierra Chapter BBO to be held July 30th in Truckee. Information was sent out on the MLDXCC reflector.
- The NCCC BBQ/joint meeting is planned for August 26th, location will be Norm Wilson's QTH in Wilton. Event should be starting around noon - watch for more details.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be the NCCC BBQ on August 26th.

Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to adjourn the meeting, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD seconded the motion which passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. We then proceeded with the program, which was an informative presentation by Rick Samoian, W6SR and Norm Wilson, N6JV on 6m DXCC and the new digital modes.

Respectfully submitted,

MLDXCC Secretary, Sue, K6SZQ

Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback

Astron RS-50 PS For Sale

Purchased from Shirl AA6K to help him clear out his shack but I prefer one with meters. It was loud when I got it but much quieter since I tightened all the loose hardware. Output is clean, no measured AC ripple on filter caps or output.

\$120.00 OBO Dennis NJ6G dennis@mail4life.net

For Sale...

Thought the K3/P3 was sold to overseas buyer, but the cost of getting it imported changed his mind so back up for sale is: K3-100 (4K S/N) with K3S synthesizer upgrades. (Main & Sub) , KRX3A, 13,6,2.7 and .4 khz filters in the Main RX, and 2.7khz in Sub. KXV3B, KDVR3, KOI3A, (no ATU, he had a SteppIR) \$4200+ New.... \$2750 . Shipped CONUS

P3 with SVGA and TX Monitor \$1190 new \$750. Shipped CONUS (K3 must sell first for the P3 to be available separately).

K3/P3 combo \$3400.Shipped CONUS Other Items still for sale:

Yaesu FT-2000 100 watt. In very good condition with Box, Manual and AC cord. This has had very little use. \$1150 shipped CONUS

Elecraft KAT500F Factory Built tuner in excellent shape with Aux cable, Serial Cable, Keying cable and manual. \$450. Firm Plus shipping.

There will be a few more items later after I get them checked out.

Chuck, W6RD w6rd@arrl.net

For Sale...

4 element StepIR 20-6M Antenna-

Works great, element covers are a bit discolored from sun, but otherwise looks good. Asking \$1300, when purchased new \$3000. Local pickup in San Fernando Valley K6YRA@socal.rr.com

For Sale...

- 1. Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in unopened carton.
 Asking \$ 4700.
- 2. Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder. Good condx, both electrically & cosmetic. Asking \$ 1100.

Contact Dick Wilson. k6lrn12@gmail.com

I've been thinking about selling my K2/10 and getting a KX2, but have decided to cool that idea for awhile.

Have tried any of the new JT-65 modes, like FT-8?

No. Tried JT65 for awhile, it's a great mode when you want to work stations you can't hear, but it wasn't my thing. FT8 is 4X faster, still not my thing

Have you reached a milestone in your life (Bday), or HAM career (40 years licensed), any recent Contest wins or DX awards?

77 on 2 Jun 2017. 63 as a ham 12 Jul 2017. 50 years married to Andrea in Dec 2017

Do you have a recent shack/antenna photo?

No. Not much to photograph at home ... K3, P3, wire on fence. I

also run remote to W7RN, lots of photos available there, but I use it, I don't own it.

Or is there any significant event in your family that you wish to share with the club? Please do so.

Not sure I've renewed for this year. I really count on some sort of alert ... as I said, I'm 77. [:-)

73, Fred ["Skip"] K6DGW

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 (approximate), (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

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 upcoming 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

http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.ht ml

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given to MLDXCC.

2016 Officers of the MLDXCC

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dennis@mail4life.net

Vice Prez, Steve Allred, K6SCA k6sca@volcano.net

Secretary, Sue Allred, K6SZQ

sueallred@volcano.net

Treasurer, Tyler Laursen, K6TLR

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Director, Bob Hess, W1RH

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Nugget Editor, Rick Samoian, W6SR <u>ricksamoian@outlook.com</u> Webmaster, Norm Wilson, N6JV n6jv@n6jv.com

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.