

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Our next meeting is **Saturday, February 25th** at 12:00 noon.

Where: The February meeting of the Mother Lode DX / Contest Club will be at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell on February 25 at 11:30AM. Mountain Mike's is where the old Round Table Pizza was formerly located. It is in the Amador Plaza shopping center with SaveMart on Highway 88, just west of Highway 49. See the club's website at <http://www.mldxcc.org/> and click on "meetings" for a map and more information.

What: our meeting will feature the STOR South Sudan DXpedition film. It is not often that a DXpedition is present on the day that a new nation comes into existence. The uncertainties and confusion attendant with setting up a new government should make for an interesting dxpedition film. With more than 120,000 QSOs, I know many of you made contact with STOR ops. Join us in Martel on the 25th and see the guys you worked!

2012 Meeting Dates:

March 17th, Martell
April – No meeting
No December meeting.



MLDXCC JANUARY MEETING

2012-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH
Vice President – Dana, N6DW
Secretary – Kay, K6KO
Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD
Director – Ray, ND6S
Director – Shirl, AA6K

The International DX Convention is scheduled for April 20-22, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA USA

See follow the hyperlink below to the convention webpage for all the information and to register.
<http://www.dxconvention.org/index.html>

FROM THE PREZ

As I write this, ARRL DX CW is going strong but I'm not in it this weekend, at least at this point. I'll explain later.

It appears, and thanks to Dana, N6DW, for this, that MLDXCC is now not only registered in ClubLog but is at the top of the heap in both the "worked" and "confirmed" categories, as you can see, below:

Club DX League

Worked Confirmed
 No Date Filter 2012 2011 Last 12 months Last 36 months

The league below is based on the club memberships configured by Club Log users, and should be interpreted with care if the number of members in a club is much less than the full membership expected. For this reason I do not display clubs having fewer than 15 members in Club Log, and only callsigns that have had QSOs within the last 12 months are considered to be active. Last updated: Sun, 19 Feb 2012 16:49:10 +0000.

Tip: You can click the headings to sort the table.

Position	Club Name	Members in Club Log	Average Years QRV	Average DXCCs	Average slots
1	MLDXCC - Mother Lode DX and Contest Club	16	22	196	978
2	DXE - Grupo DXE	19	10	190	805
3	REDXA - Redwood Empire DX Association	22	19	189	778
4	EUDXF - European DX Foundation	46	12	187	1019
5	CWOps - The CW Operators' Club	93	18	178	918
6	TCDXA - Twin City DX Association	47	22	177	879
7	GDXF - German DX Foundation	98	15	168	961
8	CDXC - Clipperton DX Club	105	12	166	886
9	MHDXA - Mile High DX Association	20	20	165	796
10	ADYG - Araucaria DX Group	35	14	165	696

Club DX League

Worked Confirmed
 No Date Filter 2012 2011 Last 12 months Last 36 months

The league below is based on the club memberships configured by Club Log users, and should be interpreted with care if the number of members in a club is much less than the full membership expected. For this reason I do not display clubs having fewer than 15 members in Club Log, and only callsigns that have had QSOs within the last 12 months are considered to be active. Last updated: Sun, 19 Feb 2012 16:51:28 +0000.

Tip: You can click the headings to sort the table.

Position	Club Name	Members in Club Log	Average Years QRV	Average DXCCs	Average slots
1	MLDXCC - Mother Lode DX and Contest Club	16	22	163	770
2	TCDXA - Twin City DX Association	47	22	154	692
3	REDXA - Redwood Empire DX Association	22	19	147	505
4	CWOps - The CW Operators' Club	93	17	145	685
5	DXE - Grupo DXE	19	10	143	522
6	GDXF - German DX Foundation	97	15	141	752
7	NCDXC - Northern California DX Club	41	22	140	572
8	EUDXF - European DX Foundation	46	12	139	762
9	MHDXA - Mile High DX Association	20	20	139	640
10	MWA - Minnesota Wireless Association	24	23	134	603

To be fair to everyone, we really need more of our members to submit their logs, but this is really a nice way to enter the race!

Thanks to K6TA, W6SR, K6KO, K6LRN, W6RKC and the rest of you for

submitting some really impressive logs, as shown, below in the "worked" category:

No Date Filter
 2012
 2011
 Last 12 mths
 Last 36 mths

Filter by club/continent:

League for MLDXCC - Mother Lode DX and Contest Club - 16 members

Rank	Call sign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	4	2	70	DXCCs	Slots	Range
1	K6TA+3	209	295	1	332	300	340	323	332	301	320	3	0	1	1	341	2758	55 yrs
2	W6SR	167	260	0	316	276	338	307	332	272	319	60	0	2	0	341	2649	46 yrs
3	W6RKC+2	128	215	0	274	239	334	266	308	220	277	27	0	2	1	341	2291	48 yrs
4	K6KO+2	153	242	0	312	253	332	271	296	233	288	1	0	1	1	338	2383	14 yrs
5	K6LRN	37	134	0	235	3	329	165	266	113	220	2	0	0	0	337	1504	48 yrs
6	W6RH	24	122	0	187	34	245	38	234	40	231	9	1	1	0	319	1166	47 yrs
7	W6DE	15	32	0	146	17	236	26	211	15	167	2	0	0	0	319	867	31 yrs
8	K6MM	41	112	0	211	145	296	181	234	163	180	6	0	1	1	314	1571	53 yrs
9	W6RFF	35	109	0	230	184	278	179	232	147	147	2	0	0	0	314	1543	14 yrs
10	N6GS	7	56	0	122	36	189	159	140	96	118	3	0	1	0	272	927	21 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	4	2	70			
11	A6BK	18	70	0	125	32	199	94	168	69	108	4	0	1	0	251	888	8 yrs
12	N6DW+2	7	41	0	130	29	159	42	125	23	131	2	0	0	0	222	689	34 yrs
13	N6JV	24	88	0	146	0	174	0	145	0	125	0	0	0	0	195	700	4 yrs
14	A6DE	2	28	0	91	0	120	0	134	0	92	0	0	0	0	158	467	12 yrs
15	K6C	2	5	0	9	0	42	0	28	0	8	0	0	0	0	51	94	1 yrs

I see that I am ahead of K6MM and tied with W6DE in the "worked" category, but both are well ahead of me in the "confirmed" category. Looks like I need to spend some money on postage! This is the beauty of Clublog; it lets you form your own competition within or outside of a club.

In other news, I sent the letter we discussed at our last meeting, thanking the CQP committee, NCCC, and REDXA for the nice plaque, ranking us the #1 Club in California for the 2010 California QSO Party. Got a nice email back from Jim Selmi, K6JS, thanking us for the nice note. Jim read it to the gang at their last meeting, which was their joint meeting with NCCC.

And, regarding joint meetings, I also wrote both REDXA and NCCC regarding joint meetings with the clubs. Have yet to get a response from NCCC (been about a month now), but Jim said that REDXA would definitely like to do a joint meeting and/or lunch/dinner in Visalia. If we did a joint meeting up here, it would probably be in the Fairfield area. We can talk about this at the meeting this coming Saturday.

Priorities can sure change for a contester when he relocates from the East Coast to the West Coast! ARRL DX was a contest I put a lot of effort in year after year when I lived in the Boston area. Euro runs just seemed to go on and on. One thing I'll never forget is trying to pull some of the Euro's out of the noise and then copying "0.1" watts in the exchange. Grrrr!!! I usually did this contest at AA1ON's terrific station and we always placed well and had a lot of fun.

Out here, I just can't get into ARRL DX, although I always get on to at least give out a few points. Might be doing it next year at AA1ON or perhaps somewhere else in the world.

I suppose we should have geared us as a club for DXCW. Maybe for SSB?

So, why am I not cranking the dits and dahs this weekend? Well, besides contesting and DX'ing, I am big-time into repeaters. I'm the trustee for the El Dorado club and have been hip deep into a repeater rebuilding project for several months now. Besides almost all new hardware, it includes

linking our 6 meter, 2 meter, and 440 repeaters together via 420 MHz links and adding IRLP, Echolink, and an autopatch to the system of linked repeaters. Much of the infrastructure is in now in place and I, along with others on our team, have been focusing on programming the controllers.

Our club will be providing communications for a major bicycle race, on May 20th, the route of which will be a grueling one going up and down the Western slope of El Dorado County. Between our three repeaters, there is nothing we can't cover, since all three are at different locations, but we must have them linked to do this properly. THAT's the reason I am not doing my favorite ham radio activity this weekend (CW!). Got to get this project done!

See you all at the next meeting!

de Bob,W1RH

FROM THE VP

Hope all of you are making lots of Q's, picking up a couple of rare ones and generally burning up the ionosphere. Contests have been fun as always. I worked at N6RO for NAQP SSB and we broke their station record, even though most of us were new to the station. I got to play a little CQ WPX RTTY which is always a free for all. There has also been much DX activity. I have heard (and worked some) Malpelo Island, Reunion,

Ascension, Niue, West Kiribati, Wallis & Futuna, to name a few.

Following in that vein, our meeting will feature the STOR South Sudan DXpedition film. It is not often that a DXpedition is present on the day that a new nation comes into existence. The uncertainties and confusion attendant with setting up a new government should make for an interesting dxpedition film. With more than 120,000 QSOs, I know many of you made contact with STOR ops. Join us in Martel on the 25th and see the guys you worked!

Dana Phillips, N6DW

January 2012 Treasurer's Report

Balance January 1, 2012:	1425.85
Income:	
Dues: W6FI, WK6I, N6JV, K6KO, AF6OP, W1RH, K6LRN, W6SR, K6TA, K6TKD, W6RKC	165.00
Radio/laptop case	30.00
Donation from K6KO & K6TA	195.00
Expenses: P.O. Box rental	42.00
Balance January 31, 2012:	1578.85

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer

BIO..... Kirby..... AF6OP



MLDXCC NEW MEMBER KIRBY

I Grew up in Mansfield Ohio, and was the local. paperboy for years. I still fold the paper as I did then to toss it.

After after several years of odd jobs, and working as an electronics technician. I worked my way through college, and in 1980 I Graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. In 2008 I retired from Intel (as Principle Engineer) after 27-1/2 years where I worked in many facets of computer chip engineering, as well as software.

I Reside in Shingle Springs, CA., my QTH is on top of a hill about 1300ft. My alternate QTH is on Donner Summit at 7000ft in the community with the highest avg snowfall in North America, 6 foot blizzards are routine.

IC706MKIIG and AH-4 tuners are main rigs at the moment.

I am married with 2 teenagers.

Hobbies:

Restore Antique Tube Audio/Radios -Collect and listen to Vinyl LPs on McIntosh MC60's/75s, Fisher, Sherwood, and Bell amplifiers, I have a high end Turntable. CD's just don't even come close in my opinion. Keeps the shack warm in winter too. Old Zenith Radios/TVs are a passion

The Color TV in my shack is a Zenith hybrid Tube rig too that I learned electronics on Chassis 14A9C50). Have a '53 B+W Zenith also.

Love adventure sports, sailing, whitewater, jeep expeditions, skiing of all sorts. My avalanche beacon transmits on 457kHz, see if you can hear me.

Play a lot of golf, still a duffer - but improving.

Play Classical Guitar, not great but sounds OK to most.

My dog is a very energetic Brittany

Became a Ham in 2009, I passed all three exams the same day.

Current project is a Rohn 55 Tower at 45' on top of hill with 22 degree avg slope above three valleys, which simulates very nicely on HFTA. Putting a 3el SteppIR on top, with a M2 Orion 2800 DC rotor and a Green Heron Controller. Feedlines are two runs - 250' of 7/8 Heliac in conduit underground. Foundation, ten cubic yards total, and two sections are up, with first section half in concrete. Working on structural design for

gin pole and plan to complete project in Feb 2011. Someday I'll get a second radio, but for now I am focusing \$\$ on antenna.

Well, the tower and steppir are on the air now. Needless to say I am very happy with the performance. The Orion rotor and Green Heron controller is very nice, and the antenna really moves after the ramp up, so changing heading is quick and easy. The hilltop location is great and tower placement was picked based on HFTA simulations, to optimize polar propagation into Europe, and it is great getting 5x9 or better consistently while running barefoot 706 vs before on the random wire or too low dipole

The thing I miss-estimated (cost wise wise) was lightning suppression. Although I had rods every 16 feet to each radial and a ground ring planned, I didn't appreciate single point ground meant at the utility entry, not the shack, and the bonding of tower and house ground systems together. So many more ground rods and 750 feet of number 2 solid tinned copper in the ground, plus a very beefy commercial grade two stage Joslyn whole house surge and an additional 150 ft to all coax and control wire runs, dozens of Cad-Welds, Andrew ground kits, coaxial and line surges at house and tower, I feel much better when the thunderstorms come over. Overall I have more bucks into the lightning thing than the antennae, but it was the right thing to do.

All the heliax is hanging from Andrew coax blocks on 3/8 stainless threaded rod, on tower and around house or in conduit in public areas and looks very neat. Even the XYL approves.

So - for all the busting rocks, roots, getting poison oak from roots, trenching, pumping concrete, and wrestling with heliax and

Rohn 55, and running conduit above garage and into shack, I decided it's reward time.

I am now interested in purchasing a new K3 kit and my XYL is cool with that too.

After that - who knows? I need a better solution for 40-80, so an inverted "V" or sloper is a possibility. I'll give em' a try and if I don't like it, I can take it down since I have five more sections of tower, I can put up somewhere else to hang slopers/inverts off of.

Two years into the hobby and having fun ... **de Kirby, AF6OP**

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

Tube of the Month GS-35B (ГЦ35Б)

The cost of new tubes available for amateur radio applications has gone through the roof. The 8877 even when a commercial pull, will run about \$300. A new one is the house payment. When the Soviet Union fell apart, different tubes began appearing for sale. The Eastern Europeans were quick to establish marketing for these tubes. The cost was relatively low and new commercially made amplifiers for hams were produced. The favorite is the GS-35B. It is large, heavy (6 lbs), powerful, rugged and cheap. The tube was intended for UHF applications up to 1000 MHz and its specifications reflect that use. As a ham amplifier tube, the ratings can be pushed. The published dissipation of a GS-35B is 1500 watts, but 2500 watts is considered appropriate. The conservative maximum anode voltage of 3000 volts can easily be pushed to

4000 volts and although it is common to push them to 4300 volts, explosions have been common at the higher voltages. The large copper anode radiator may be removed and replaced by a water jacket.

In operation, the GS-35B will put out 1500 watts on 6 meters with less than 100 watts drive. Sockets are available, but the cost is twice the cost of the tube itself. It's easier to just cut a hole in the chassis and bolt it down on its grid ring.

<http://home.comcast.net/~n6jv/gs35b.html>



Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi All,
Not much going on here the past month, just cleaning and de-cluttering things in preparation to putting our home on the market. 10 acres is too much for us to keep-up, and Karen's knee is giving her fits walking around the hilly terrain. Oh well, I guess we are just getting old. What I will really hate is not having the antenna farm and beverages. I hope we will find someplace that will allow a single tower, and has a 1/2 acre or so to spread-out.

From Jan 30th, till Feb. 4th we were in Los Angeles visiting kids and grandkids; tiring but lots of fun.

DX? Yeah, I worked a few more band countries the past couple of weeks, OH0R on 160 and, as well as the 5V7V on 12M and a few more scattered about. But all in all, conditions were not good during the month of January.

A few days ago I up-loaded my log, and a few contests, to ClubLog, and I am now sitting at #28 in DXCC Logs. BTW: The MLDXCC is sitting in the #1 position, and our own K6TA, is #2 in the DXCC League, Wow! W1RH's talk at the last meeting inspired me to do it!

Finally, welcome to our new member Kirby, AF6OP.

Enough for now, see you all at the meeting on the 25th.....**de Rick, W6SR**

**Member
news/feedback/Announcements
and Items For Sale**

I made a few Qs in XE RTTY & WPX
RTTY **de Dick, K6LRN**

Today I received a certificate for the 2011 ARRL International DX Contest. It reads AA6K SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER PHONE FIRST PLACE, As there was no mention of a Section or Division I am obviously the Supreme Being of the low power world (hi, hi). **73 de AA6K Shirl**

Meeting Minutes, 28 January 2012.

President Bob, W1RH, called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM at Colina de Oro, Shingle Springs, CA with 15 members and 1 visitor present.

Officers' Roll Call. Present were President Bob; Dana, N6DW, Vice President; Carolyn, K6TKD, Treasurer; Kay, K6KO, Secretary; Shirl, AA6K, Director; Rick, W6SR, Newsletter Editor; and Norm, N6JV, Webmaster.

Introductions. Guest Kirby, AF6OP, Shingle Springs, was introduced.

Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The 12 November minutes were approved with the following typo corrections: K6TA, not K7TA, placements in 160m test, and K6KTV, not K6KTB, as a Silent Key. The 12 November

Treasurer's report was approved as it appeared in the October *Nugget* newsletter.

Silent Keys. None were reported.

Recognition of Achievements. This month's achievements will be detailed in the 25 February meeting minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Letter to NCCC. Bob, W1RH, composed a letter to the NCCC thanking them for the plaque presented to MLDXCC for 1st Place, California QSO party. Letter was approved by those present. A copy will be placed in the Club correspondence files.

Future Meeting Dates and Venues. The 25 February and 17 March meetings will be held at Mountain Mike's Pizza, in the Amador Plaza Center (between SaveMart and Big 5 Sporting Goods) in Martell. Shirl, AA6K, offered the new video on the STOR DX-pedition for February's program. There will be no April meeting since most members will be attending the International DX Convention in Visalia. Jack, KF6T, will research a place in or near Auburn for the 19 May meeting.

Membership and Dues. It was confirmed that dues will be voluntary for 2012, with further discussion later in the year for 2013 dues. Dana, N6DW, is working on a comprehensive membership listing, showing the names and calls of previous years' members.

MLDXCC Website. Norm, N6JV, reported on the current upload problem. The fix will be in by next week, but currently he has no access to the server.

NEW BUSINESS

MLDXCC/NCCC Joint Meeting. Bob, W1RH, will contact the NCCC regarding scheduling of the meeting. Past years' NCCC attendance has been down due to the scheduling of a July NCCC meeting two weeks prior to the joint meeting. Bob will request that the NCCC make the joint meeting its July meeting so that NCCC attendance will be greater.

MLDXCC Contest Participation. Norm, N6JV, suggested entering the All-Asian Contest as a club; Jeff, WK6I, reported that the All-Asian had no club competition category.

REDXA Meeting. Interest was shown for a combined meeting with the Redwood Empire DX Association, and it was even suggested that such a meeting be combined with NCCC as well. The concept of a combined hospitality suite or Saturday lunch at Visalia would also be a good way to meet the other club members; however, Visalia is a southern California event this year, and it would be too late in the scheduling of same to include anything this year.

Visalia Contest Dinner. Ken, K6TA, reported that the Friday night Contest Dinner is still on the agenda for the IDXC this April. It is expected that Steve, K6AW, will again organize.

ClubLog. Dana, N6DW, will be the ClubLog Custodian for the Club.

New Members. Kirby, AF6OP, expressed interest in joining the Club, and he was welcomed by all members present.

Miscellaneous. Rick, W6RKC, advised that the ear buds sold at Walmart were an acceptable and economic substitute for the \$30-\$40 ear buds sold by Sony. Dave, W6DE, offered help with DXLab.

Program Presentation. Bob, W1RH, presented data and answered questions regarding ClubLog.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 13:25.

List of those present.

CALL	NAME	QTH	MLD XCC	NCCC
K6KO	KAY	PINE GROVE	X	X
K6TA	KEN	PINE GROVE	X	X
KI6CG	GEORG E	GRASS VALLEY	X	X
W6CH	RICH	VALLEY SPRINGS	X	X
N6JV	NORM	SACRAMENTO	X	X
W6RFF	JETTIE	ROSEVILLE	X	X
N6DW	DANA	GRANITE BAY	X	X
W6DE	DAVE	PLACERVILLE	X	X
K6TKD	CAROLY N	OMO RANCH	X	X
K6LRN	DICK	OMO RANCH	X	X
AA6K	SHIRL	STOCKTON	X	X
K6TKD	CAROLY N	OMO RANCH	X	X
W1RH	BOB	LOTUS	X	X
AF6OP	KIRBY	SHINGLE SPRINGS	X	X
WK6I	JEFF	MURPHYS	X	X
KF6T	JACK	AUBURN	X	X

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

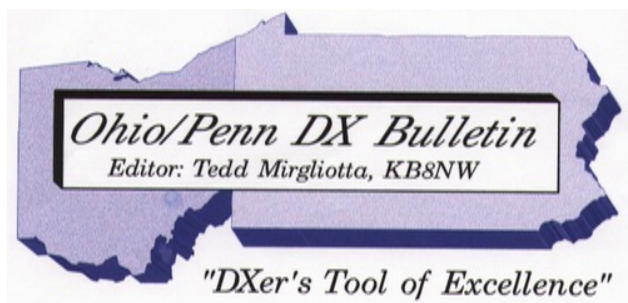
Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming Announced DXpeditions:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>



OPDX Bulletin 1050
February 20, 2012

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 10509
BID: \$OPDX.1050
February 20, 2012
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, K1XN & GoList, NJ1Q & ARRL DX, KH2AR/W4, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, N4AA & QRZ DX, N4JF, KH6BZF, N6VR, AC8G, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX (60m News), K9EL, W9ILY, AT International, DF7ZS, DK8JB & The DX News Letter, DL1SBF, DL2VFR, DxCoffee.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, G3SWH, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, RK3DSW, RSGB IOTA Web Site, VA3RJ & ICPO, VE3DX, VHF-DX-Portal, VE7MID and XE2AA for the following DX information.

EDITOR'S SPECIAL NOTICE:

This week's bulletin was sent out earlier than normal to accommodate the late ARRL DX CW Contest announcements. Also, we wanted to provide the readers with a consolidated listing of the ARRL DX CW Contest participants.

2011 CQ DX MARATHON NEWS (High Claimed Scores)

John, K9EL, DX Marathon Administrator, reports: "High Claimed scores for the 2011 DX Marathon sponsored by CQ Magazine are now available on the DX Marathon Web site

www.dxmarathon.com

Thanks to everyone for the big increase in participation. Final scores will be published later this year in CQ Magazine."

2012 RWWPSKC

Most operators will be active in the ARRL DX CW Contest this weekend, but we just wanted to remind you that the Russian World-Wide PSK Contest is also this weekend between 2100z Friday, February 17th, and 2100z Saturday, February 18th. Types of modulation are: BPSK31, 63 and 125. The output power should not exceed 10 watts on 160 meters and 100 watts on other bands. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time. Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Read more about the rules of the contest at:

http://www.epc-ru.ru/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=562&Itemid=192

Adjustment of MixW for Russian WW PSK Contest:

http://www.epc-ru.ru/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=568&Itemid=192

3DA, SWAZILAND (Update from G3SWH)

Just a reminder that Phil, G3SWH, and John, G3OLU (aka EA5ARC), will be active as 3DA0PW from the Hawane Resort in western Swaziland between February 21-29th. The Hawane Resort has a well equipped station with Elecraft K3 transceivers, ICOM IC2KL

amplifiers, an A4S at 24m, an A3WS at 20m, a wire 4 square for 40m and a vertical for 80m complete with 30 x 20m long radials. Activity will be on CW only on all bands 80-10 meters. There will be no 160, 60, 6 meters or EME activity. Propagation permitting, they plan to have two stations on the air for as many hours every day as is possible.

Their main objective is to work as many European, North American and ROTW stations on as many different bands as possible and hope to make at least 15,000 QSOs. QSL via G3SWH, either by the OQRS facility on Phil's web site

www.g3swh.org.uk (preferred)

direct with SAE and adequate return postage, or by the Bureau. Subject to a good InterNet connection, there will be an online log on Phil's Web site and on Clublog as well as daily uploads to LoTW. There is more information available at:

<http://www.g3swh.org.uk/3da0pw.html>

5P, DENMARK (Contest and Special Event)

Operators Joergen/OZ0J and Daniel/OZ5BD will be active as 5P12EU during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Multi-Op/Single-TX entry. QSL via OZ0J. This special event callsign is to celebrate that Denmark is the Chairman of the European Union between January 1st and June 30th, 2012. There are 27 countries presently in the European Union. This special callsign will be used between the above dates. For more details, see the following Web page at:

<http://www.5p12eu.dk>

6O, SOMALIA (Update)

By the time you read this, Darko, J28AA/E70A, who was active as 6O3A this past week from Hargeisa, will be going QTH on February 20th. Last Wednesday, Darko installed a station in the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication that will have the callsign 6O3SL (the suffix "SL" stands for SomaliLand). He will also train some local amateur radio operators for future

operations. The club station was equipped with a donated Icom IC-735 and wire antennas. Look for 6O3A to take part in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Lower- Power entry. QSL via K2PF. For updates (under news), online, and pictures, check out the Bosnia and Herzegovina Contest Club's Web page [BHCC] at:

<http://bhcc.ba>

9M0, SPRATLY (Update)

Members of the Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitter Society (MARTS) and the 9M4SDX Team will be active as 9M0L from Pulau Layang Layang Island (**Swallow Reefs - AS-051**) near Sabah, East Malaysia, between April 10-24th. The current team consists of Tex-san/9M2TO (Project Coordinator), Neoh/9M2CLN (Team Leader Malaysia), Tack-san/JE1CKA (Team Leader Japan), Hajime/7K4QOK, Takuto/9M2/JE1SCJ, David/9M2PX, Yasuma/9M8YY, Nigel/G3TXF, Joe/JA1LZR, Naoyuki/JK1FNL, Hiroyuki/JP1TRJ and Yutaka/JQ2GYU. QSL direct to 9M2TO: 9M0L TEAM PENANG, PO BOX 125 GPO 10710, Penang Island, MALAYSIA or by the Bureau to Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitter's Society (MARTS). More details will be forthcoming. A Web page is up but still under constructions at:

<http://9m0l.legendchew.com>

A2, BOTSWANA (DXpedition Update)

Operators Frosty/K5LBU (A25CF), Keith/VE7MID (A52KW), Don/VE7DS (A25DS) and Joel/N5JR (A25JR) will be active from the Lotsane Safari Lodge between March 18-27th. The group plans to be active in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 24-25th) as A25HQ. They will have about 3 rigs and a log periodic plus wire antenna covering 160 meters and up. It was also mentioned that they would use an inverted L with amp and a beverage antenna. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS

Look for the E51M DXpedition that is going to North Cook Islands to also be active as E51MCW from Rarotonga, South Cook Islands,

between April 11-14th, after their operation on Manihiki (see OPDX.1044). Activity will be on all bands, including 60m, using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via DJ8NK, direct or by the Bureau. Online QSL Requests Service (OQRS) for the Bureau and direct cards can be made after April 20th. For more details, see the E51M Web page at:

<http://www.manihiki2012.de>

EF8, CANARY ISLANDS

Juan, EA8CAC, will be active as EF8R during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via LoTW.

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Operators Fred/AB1OC and XYL Anita/AB1QB will be active as FO/homecall from **Bora Bora, French Polynesia (OC-067, DIFO FO-003, WLOTA 0430)**, between February 18-24th. Fred states, "This is not a formal DXpedition, it is just some time to relax and do some operating in 'vacation mode'." Fred and Anita will have an Icom 7000, a couple of vertical antennas and a 2 element beam for 10 and 12 meters. They plan to be active on all bands from 40-10 meters, including 30/17/12m, conditions permitting. Operations will be on PSK, RTTY, SSB and JT65HF. QSL via LoTW, eQSL or their home callsigns.

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Operators Edwin/HI3K, Tino/HI3CC, Franky/HI3TT, Ezequiel/HI3EPR and Yukon John/KL7JR will be active in the ARRL DX SSB Contest as HI3K (March 3-4th) as a Multi-Single entry from Lomas del Toro in Santiago (Lomadeltoro Contest Team's HI3CCP station):

<http://www.lomadeltoro.com>

QSL via KB2MS. See QRZ.com for details.

IOTA DINNER BANQUET (Visalia Convention)

The 17th annual Islands On The Air (IOTA) Dinner will be held in conjunction with the 63th annual Visalia International DX Convention on Friday, April 20th, in the Plaza Room of the

Holiday Inn Hotel, 9000 W. Airport Drive, Visalia, CA 93277, phone: 559 651-5000. See the DX Convention Web site for details on the DX Convention at:

<http://dxconvention.org/>

This dinner is open to all who are active in the IOTA program or want to see beautiful pictures of far away islands. If you do not wish dinner, you may sit and enjoy the IOTA program following the dinner. The program agenda is as follows:

1730 - 1830 Doors open, socializing and eyeball QSOs

1830 Welcoming & Introductions by Rick, K6VVA Dinner served, buffet style
1845 IOTA Programs/Speakers: RSGB IOTA Program Manager - Roger, G3KMA; Cezar, VE3LYC; Martin, G3ZAY; Rick, K6VVA and Mike, K9AJ.

2200 Closing

The dinner will be served buffet style in the Plaza Room at a cost of 33 USDs per person (service charge and tax included). The buffet menu will contain entrée choice of beef or chicken along with salad, vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, and a beverage (coffee, ice water, or ice tea). Vegetarian meal is available with two weeks notice. Wine and liquor can be purchased separately from hotel staff.

Reservations and advanced payment will be required this year. Prepayment must be received 10 days in advance; by April 10, 2012. Please send your check to N6VR's address below. He will confirm by E-mail receipt. At this time, buffet service is set for 50 persons. And, as in previous IOTA dinners, admission is free for those wishing to watch the programs without dinner. Paid attendees will have priority seating.

For additional information regarding this event, please contact:

Ray Benny, N6VR - IOTA Dinner Coordinator
462 South Reed Road, Chino Valley, AZ 86323
Phone: 928 848-2158

rayn6vr@cableone.net

Or, Will Costello, WC6DX

Phone: 831 375-8133

wc6dx@sbcglobal.net

As a note, the Holiday Inn has no rooms available. Check the NCDXC Website for other motels. You may ask the NCDXC Convention coordinators if they have any rooms reserved for foreign guests if you reside out of the USA.

IOTA NEWS

AF-042. (POSTPONED!) Members of the "Invoker Team" that were expected to be active as EG3INT/7 from **Alborán Island** (WLOTA 1061, ARLHS SPA-145, DIE S-001, DME 04013, WW GRID IM85LW) this past week announced on (QRZ.com) (February 14th) - "POSTPONED: The team has just received a message from the authorities informing the trip must be postponed due to the boat having to undertake other priority commitments."

EU-029. Operators Dominic/ON4AZP, Michel/ON4CAQ, Francois/ON6VP, Herman/ON7FH and Maurice/ON7KS will be active as 5P5Y from **Lolland Island** (DIA SJ-015, WLOTA 2773) between April 29th and May 5th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL via ON4AMM, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-047. Robert, DK2RO, will be active as DK2RO/p from **Spiekeroog Island** between February 20-24th. Activity will be holiday style on all HF bands, propagation permitting. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. He plans to upload his log to LoTW.

EU-103. Members from the Papa Lima DX Group (EI0PL) will be active as EJ0PL from **Saltee Island** during the second full weekend of April. QSL via EI5JQ. More details will be forthcoming.

EU-127. (Update to OPDX.1049) The DD4T DXpedition to **Helgoland Island** (GID/DID N-014, WLOTA 0518) between June 3-10th, now has a Web page at:

<http://www.dd4t.eu>

NA-189. (Update to [OPDX.1048](http://www.opdx.com)) A team of 10 operators, from the Aguas-calientes Amateur Radio Club, will be active as XF1AA from **Isabel Island** (in the Jalisco/Nayarit IOTA

group) between March 16-21st. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Operators mentioned are Enrique/XE2AA, Ben/XE2AU, Ismael/XE1AY, Jorge/XE2AMS, Armando/XE2AMZ, Vertiz/XE2AY, David/XE2AUD, Juan/XE2AI, Fidel/XE2ARM and Ramiro/XE2ARV. QSL via IT9EJW.

J3, GRENADA

Harry, AC8G, will use the J37K callsign during a visit to the island between March 1-4th. After some repairs to the beam, he should be on by mid day on the 1st. Since he will be in the ARRL DX SSB Contest during the weekend, he plans to work non-USA/Canadian stations on March 1st and 2nd. QSL to AC8G direct with SASE. Logs will be put in LoTW shortly after his return to stateside.

J7, DOMINICA

Brian, K1LI, will be active as J7Y from **Dominica (NA-101)** between February 25th and March 13th. Activity will mainly be focused on the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 3-4th). QSL via his home callsign.

KH6BZF PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (February 20-26th)

Feb/20th	AN	Feb/23rd	AN
Feb/25th	AN		
Feb/21st	AN	Feb/24th	AN
Feb/26th	AN		
Feb/22nd	AN		

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

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=====
=====
NORMALITY                                GEOMAG
K Values      Alpha                        -----
-----
AN    - Above Normal                       Quiet
K=0-1         0-7
HN    - High Normal                         Unsettled
K=2          8-15
LN    - Low Normal                          Active
K=3         16-29

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BN - Below Normal Minor Storm
K=4 30-49
DIS - Disturbed Major Storm
K=5 50-99
VRY DIS - Very Disturbed Severe
Storm K=6-9 100-400

LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY

Look for the following stations to be active during the South America Lighthouse Weekend (February 24-26th):

3G3L - Faro Punta Lutrin (CHI-071)
CE1DY - Faro Concordia Directional (CHI-101) **XR1FC** - Faro Punta Caldera (CHI-065) **XR2FPC** - Faro Punta Caraumilla (CHI-014) **XR4AC** - Baliza Alto Capellania (NORTE4, NAC-208B) **XR2BPA** - Baliza Puerto Aldea (NAC-135) **XR4CA** - Faro Cabo Carranza (CHI-005) **XR4LR** - Baliza Espigon Puerto Rapel (NAC-208A)

For complete details about the South America Lighthouse Weekend, go to:
<http://www.grupodxb.com.ar/faros2012/index.htm>

MJ0, JERSEY

Mat, F5SHQ, will be active as MJ0ASP during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry. QSL via LoTW.

KH2/NH2, GUAM

Dave, N2NL, will be active as NH2T from **Guam (OC-026)** during ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Assisted entry. He is expected to be here until the summer of 2013. Dave will be active (outside of contests) as KH2/N2NL and during all contests as NH2T. QSL via LoTW or via W2YC.

OA, PERU

Fred, DL1NL, is once again active as OA4/DL1NL from Lima, Peru, until early March. Activity will be during his spare time on 160-10 meters CW, with some SSB, from the Radio Club Peruano station (OA4O). QSL via DL1NL, by the Bureau or direct. No LoTW or eQSL.

OH0, ALAND ISLAND

Pekka, OH2TA, will be active as OH0X during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th)

as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via LoTW or to OH2TA.

P4, ARUBA (Update)

Helmut, DF7ZS, will be active as P4/DF7ZS from **Aruba (SA-036)** from P40V's QTH between March 21-27th. Activity will be casual, but main operations will be during the CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 24-25th) using the callsign P41P. QSL P4/DF7ZS via DF7ZS. QSL P41P via W3HMK.

QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (dated February 17th)

A61K via EA7FTR IP2ANT via
IK2QPR SN51LTL via SQ5LTL
CT9/DL5AXX via DL5AXX IQ5VZ via
I5DOF V5/DC8QT via DC8QT
EM0UBC via UR4UXD K7UGA via
K7BHM YT16IARU via YU1EA
HF35APAS via SP9YI PA6NB via
PA7JWC ZX2B via PY2MNL
HF70TWARDY via SP8MI PI4VPO via
PA2CNR

NOT THE QSL MANAGER. DF80L and/or DF90L are not and have never been the QSL Manager of **EX2A**. It seems that some databases have gotten this information wrong. EX2A has no QSL Manager at all according to his Web site on QRZ.com.

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: CX9AU, LX1EA, OH6LNI, OH8X, PI4DX, VE2JM, YU5A and ZM4G

QSL RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 4C1JPG, 4L3Y, 5R8AX, 5U5U, 9J2QQV, 9N7MD, A65BP, BV0EXPO, BN100, BO100, BU100, BX100, BQ100, BV100ROC, BM100, BW100, CR2X, CU2KG, CY0/VE1AWW, EA9IE, EI8JX, JT1RF, KP2B, OH2BH, OH0X, OJ0B, OJ0X, P29FR, PJ5/DL7VOG, RU0ZM, RZ0AF, T32C, TA3D, TU2T, TX3T, TX7M, TY1KS, V63T, VK0TH, VR2EH, VR2XMT, XU7UJR, YB6NE, YC1KI, YC1YU, YC2BGI, YD1XUH, YE1ZAW, YG1CRR, ZA1UT and ZF2OE

QSL RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: 4L4CC, 5B4AJC, 7Z1HL, A65CA,

**HB0/DL5SE, R1ANP, TA2/DL2JRM,
TA7/KM8W, TF/DF6QV, TO3GA, UF0A and
V5/DJ4BO**

V2, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Norbert "Bert", DL2RNS, reports that he will be active as V25NS from here before he heads to Montserrat (see [OPDX.1045](#)). QSL via DL2RNS, direct or by the Bureau.

V3, BELIZE

Operators John/WC0W, George/K5PI and Mike/N7MH will be active as V31TP during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via WC0W.

The following stations are expected to be active in the
ARRL DX CW Contest
(February 18-19th, 2012)

Thanks to Bill, NG3K, for providing OPDX readers with the following consolidated listing of the participants in the 2012 ARRL DX CW Contest. For a more detailed listing (and up-to-date changes/corrections) in HTML format, please visit Bill's Web page at:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxc2012.html>
(By callsign)

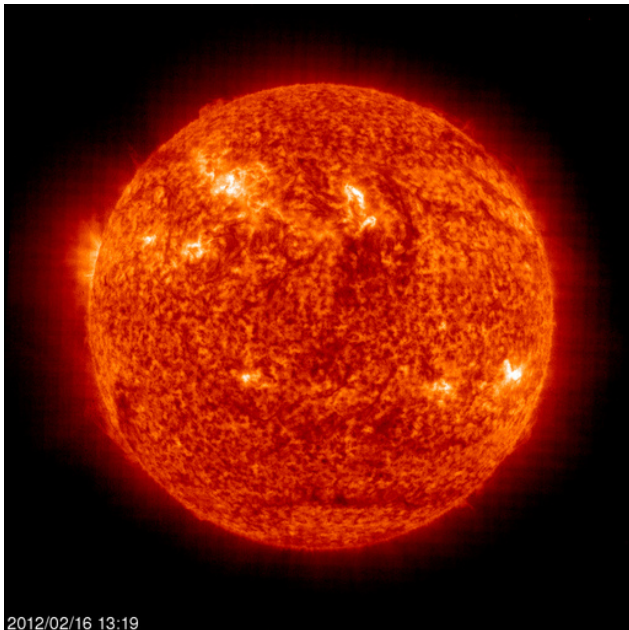
<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxcd2012.html>
(By entity)

Contest	DXCC	Class
QSL	Entity	
Callsign	Entity	
Route		
3B8GY	Mauritius	M/? SP2JMB
3V8SS	Tunisia SOAB LP	LoTW; QSL via LX1NO
5P12EU	Denmark	M/S OZ0J
5Z4EE	Kenya	SOAB HP NV7E
6O3A	Somalia	QSL via E77E or K2PF
6Y2T	Jamaica	SOAB VE3DZ
8P5Y	Barbados	M/S K9CS
C6AKQ	Bahamas	M/S N4BP Direct

C6ANM	Bahamas	M/S	LoTW
CO6LP	Cuba	SOSB 160M	CO6LP
CQ3B	Madeira	SOAB LP	OM7JG
CR3A	Madeira	SOAB HP	CT3EE
CR3L	Madeira	M/2	DJ6QT
E51NJB	South Cook Islands	SOAB LP	LoTW; QSL via N5JB
EE5E	Spain	M/S	LoTW
EF8R	Canary Islands	SOAB	LoTW
EF8USA	Canary Islands	SOAB	LoTW
FP/W6HGF	St. Pierre & Miquelon		W6HGF
FW0NAR	Wallis & Futuna		HA0NAR
J38A	Grenada	SO	LoTW
J88DR	St. Vincent	SOAB LP	G3TBK; QSL Buro or direct
JW	Svalbard		
KP2MM	Virgin Islands	SO	LoTW
LX7I	Luxembourg	M/S	LX2A
M5E	England	M/2	G0CKV
MJ0ASP	Jersey	SO LP	LoTW
NH2T	Guam	SOAB	LoTW
NP4Z	Puerto Rico	SOAB	N4AO
OH0X	Aland Island	SOAB	LoTW; QSL via OH2TA
OH0Z	Aland Island	SOAB HP	W0MM
OZ7A	Denmark	M/S	LoTW; QSL via OZ7A Buro
P49Y	Aruba	SOAB	LoTW; QSL via AE6Y
PJ4X	Bonaire	M/2	LoTW; QSL via W1MD direct
PZ5RO	Surinam	M/S	AI2N
T6MO	Afghanistan	SO LP	K9GY
TF3CW	Iceland	SOSB	LX1NO
TG8/W0OR	Guatemala	SO	W0OR
TO5X	Martinique	SOAB HP	LoTW;
QSL via UA3DX			
V25AA	Antigua		AA9A;
QSL via Buro or direct			
V31RR	Belize	SOAB	AI4U
V31SG	Belize	QRP	LoTW;
QSL via K0UU direct			
V31TP	Belize	M/S	WC0W
V31WW	Belize		W2OX
Direct			
V31YN	Belize		LoTW;
QSL via DJ4KW,	Buro/direct		
VP5OU	Turks & Caicos	M/S	LoTW;
QSL via N7OU			
VP9/W6PH	Bermuda	SOAB LP	W6PH
Direct			
WP3C	Puerto Rico	SOAB LP	W3HKN
XW4XR	Laos	SOAB LP	
E21EIC			
ZD8Z	Ascension Island	SO	AI4U
ZF2AM	Cayman Islands	SOAB HP	LoTW;
QSL via K6AM,	Buro/direct		

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ARRL Solar Update 02/17/2012



We are more than halfway through the winter season, and today -- February 17 -- is 58 days after the winter solstice. Propagation should improve as we approach the vernal equinox on March 20, which is just 32 days from now. Solar activity is still in the temporary doldrums, with sunspot numbers below 100, but the weekly average of daily sunspot numbers rose this week by more than 15 points to 55.6. Sunspot numbers for February 9-15 were 33, 51, 62, 80, 59, 64 and 40, with a mean of 55.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 99.2, 110.8, 112.3, 110.4, 108.4, 107.4 and 104.6, with a mean of 107.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 4, 4, 8, 10 and 22, with a mean of 8. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 4, 3, 3, 7, 8 and 18, with a mean of 6.7

There was a geomagnetic storm on Wednesday, February 15 (UTC). Early in the UTC day (Tuesday night in North

America), the planetary K index went to 5 and the planetary A index was 22. The College A index in Fairbanks was estimated at 46, which is quite high. The disturbance was probably from a CME a few days earlier. Aurora in North America was seen as far south as Minnesota.

The latest forecast has solar flux about 65 points lower than last month's prediction for the [ARRL International CW DX Contest](#) this weekend. The latest predicted flux values are 105 on February 17-18, 100 on February 19, 110 on February 20-21, 115 on February 22-26, 110 on February 27-29, and 105 on March 1-3. The predicted flux values go back to 115 on March 14-16 and again on March 20-24. The predicted planetary A index for February 17-19 is 5, 8, 8, and then 5 on February 20-March 1.

The [latest sunspot cycle prediction](#) from NASA is in, and it doesn't look good. Two weeks ago, NASA released a revised prediction stating the cycle should peak in late 2013 at a smoothed sunspot number of 96. The latest outlook estimates a peak in early 2013 at 63, about 35 percent lower than the prediction from two weeks ago. We hope it isn't true.

Tom Little, WA9BOT, of West Frankfort, Illinois (EM57), reports: "On Wednesday, January 25, I heard a couple of 6 meter QSOs. While I heard no call signs, I was able to determine the stations were in New Mexico and Florida. They were using 50.165 MHz. I heard another QSO at 50.150 MHz, but could not pick up a call sign as what I heard was only one side of the QSO. I am new to 6 meters, and just

recently put up a 5 element beam. I am waiting for a good opening." Thanks, Tom.

Dan Bates, N5TM, of Katy, Texas, wrote: "ZL1RS was loud into South Texas on 50.105 MHz starting around 0230 on February 8, and lasted for about an hour. I personally worked Bob three times, twice on CW and once on SSB. He also worked WD5IYT, and many others. At times, he was S9." That's loud!

Jon Jones, N0JK, of Wichita, Kansas, writes: "FK8CP had an extensive opening on 50 MHz to the Midwest on February 12. States hearing and working Remi included Arkansas, California, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. This was an E-s link to TEP opening. FK8CP peaked up to 5x9 in Kansas and Ohio between 0200-0220 on February 13."

Not all articles about solar activity in the popular press are accurate. Leave it to Britain's Fleet Street tabloids to make normal solar activity sound like the end of the world. Of course, the Sun is massive and the amount of energy involved in solar events is huge, but check the headline for this article: [Massive Sunspot that has DOUBLED in Size in Recent Days Could Send Solar Storms Careering toward Earth](#). You'll note that these journalists reserve the right side of paper for the really substantial news. Note they get their information from the Spaceweather website, but check the [archive](#) in the upper right corner, dialing back to February 11.

Yes, the sunspot doubled in size, twice actually.

All times listed are UTC, unless otherwise noted.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via W1AW every Friday.

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)
For the latest contest info. click on the following link:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

February 2012

- + NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 24
- + CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 2200Z, Feb 24 to 2159Z, Feb 26
- + North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26

March 2012

- + ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4
- + Idaho QSO Party 1900Z, Mar 10 to 1900Z, Mar 11
- + North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11
- + SKCC Weekend Sprint 0000Z-2400Z, Mar 11
- + Wisconsin QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12
- + BARTG HF RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
- + Russian DX Contest 1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18
- + Oklahoma QSO Party 1300Z, Mar 17 to 0100Z, Mar 18 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 18
- + Virginia QSO Party 1400Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 18 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 18
- + AGCW VHF/UHF 1400Z-1659Z, Mar 17

Contest	(144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Mar 17 (432)
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1600-1800 local, Mar 17
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 19
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 24 to 2400Z, Mar 25

ARRL Sixth District QSL Bureau

P.O. Box 970 Fairfax, CA., 94978-0970
Comments or questions on this bureau's operation may be directed to kc6awx@arrl.net See the W6 Bureau-home.

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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