

THE NUGGET



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

February 2019

Volume 24 Number 2

2019 Dues Reminder

Please pay your dues for 2019. Dues are \$20.00 individual/\$30.00 family and may be paid via PayPal to MotherLodeClub@gmail.com. Use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Give to a club officer at a meeting, or mail to Tyler Laursen K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

From the President NC6R

Hello MLDXCC

Were you part of that great MLDXCC meeting last Saturday? If not you missed a great presentation by MLDXCC member Steve, W1SRD on Ducie Island. He had many pictures, some stories about the operation and even an audio file of gentleman working him from a mobile. Although the mobile operator eventually got him in the log, there were many things to learn about how to call or rather how not to call DX. The first one is to listen to the DX op, then second, time your call when he (DX) is listening for you! It doesn't do any good to call on top on

him. Thanks goes to W1RH for securing Steve as a speaker.

Rich, WC6H did a great job with the awards presentation. Many of our members walked away with some sharp looking wall plaques for their efforts. Thank you Vina, K6VNA for making quality plaques.

As a reminder, dues for the 2019 year are now due and payable. \$20 per person, \$30 per family. You must be a member in good standing to be eligible for club awards.

Also thanks goes to Bob, N6TCE for his report on the increasing number sunspots. It looks like we're starting to see an uptick in solar activity which is good news for Contesters and DXer's alike.

Are you working DX? As I reported during the

New Members

Please welcome the following new member!

Brian Mathews – W6BRY

Valley Springs, CA

meeting, there's approximately 50 active DX stations presently on the air. Many of are not often on the air and in fact they may be an ATNO (all time new one) for many of us.

DX listed at -

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

Also remember to check the contest calendar as there's many upcoming contest during the next couple of months.

Contest calendar listings at -

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

The March meeting will be held in Auburn, coinciding with the Loomis swap meet. Keep an eye out for the meeting location as we work to secure a venue. Meeting location announcement will be made on the MLDXCC website and reflector.

73 and good DX! - Steve / NC6R

2018 Club Awards

The 2018 MLDXCC Awards Presentation took place at the January 26th 2019 meeting at Country Café in Lockeford. Awards were

Next Meeting

March 16 – Auburn Area, location TBD. Watch the reflector, our Facebook page, or the mldxcc.org website for updates!

Due to the busy contest season MLDXCC normally does not hold a February meeting.

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

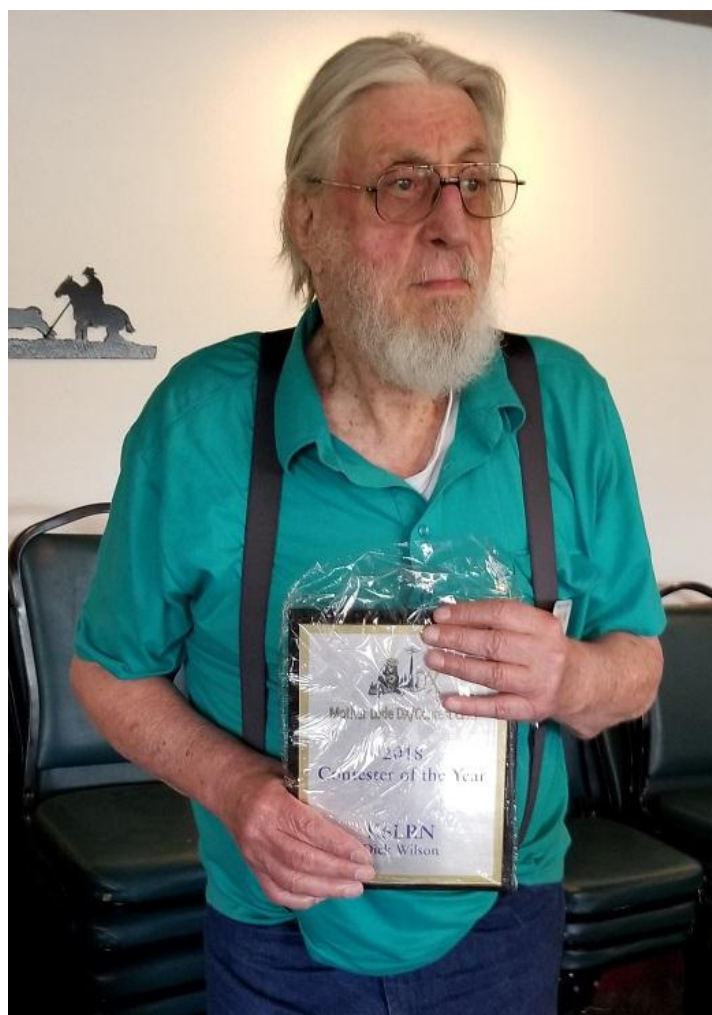
presented as follows:

Lifetime Achievement Award Rick Samoian W6SR

SS CW HP Station W7RN, operator Bob Wilson N6TV

SS CW LP Jim Singer N6JS

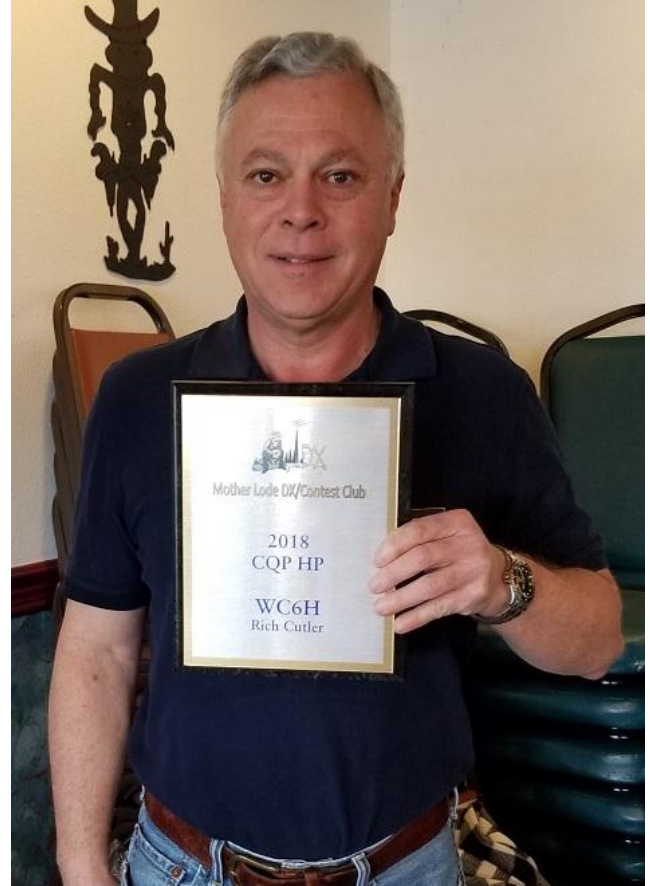
SS SSB HP Station W7RN, operator Marshall Thomas WX5S



Contester of the year: It's a tie! Stefan Nicov AF6SA and Dick Wilson K6LRN



Volunteer of the year K6VNA Vina Moore



CQP HP Rich Cutler WC6H

CQP LP Andrew Faber AE6Y



CQP Single-op county expedition Steve Miller WL7YQ/6 (Picture with Dan Miller KD0WAP)

SS SSB LP Steve Miller WL7YQ



CQP Single-op multi county expedition K6T operators AA1ON, N6DE, W1RH, K0BEE, W1SRD



**CQP Multi-single Fixed K6AO @ NC6R operators
KI6MTV, NC6R, WE6Z**



CQP top YL Emilia Seiferling KI6YYT

Congratulations to all on a fine effort in 2018!

From the Secretary K6SZQ

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2019
Country Cafe, Lockford

Meeting was called to order at 11:57 a.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 29 members were in attendance, and 7 guests, 1 of whom who was later voted in as a new member.

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.

Minutes were published in the December newsletter. John Lee, K6YK moved to accept the minutes as published. Dennis Moore, NJ6G seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was published in the January newsletter. Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD moved to accept the report as published. Chuck Tift, W6RD seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Brian Matthew, W6BRY submitted an application for membership. Steve asked him to stand and tell us a little bit about himself. Dick Wilson, K6LRN and Dennis Moore, NJ6G then nominated Brian for membership. The membership approved Brian's application.

Announcements:

- Bob Officer, N6TCE was asked to give a brief solar report. Bob indicated that although there were 14 days with no sunspots in the month of January (57%), it is getting better. He noted that sunspots have been increase in the last few days, with 18 in the beginning and 27 that morning.
- Steve mentioned several upcoming contests:
 - CQ WPX RTTY on February 9th-10th
 - ARRL International DX CW on February 16th - 17th
 - CQ WW SSB 160 on February 22nd-24th
 - NAQP RTTY on February 23rd - 24th
- Doug Phillips, WE6Z was asked to share a little about his experiences participating in the CQ 160 CW contest that started Friday and goes through the weekend. Doug mentioned that this was his first contest since putting up a new tower (only 105 feet!) and that had already worked most of the states, several of the provinces and a number of countries. He was having a blast.
- It was announced that there were 48 DXpeditions occurring between now and the March meeting. For details and a full listing, go to ng3k.com and click on "Announced DX Operations".

Member Achievements:

- Sue Allred, K6SZQ participated in NAQP last weekend as her first contest, and made 694 contacts. She mentioned that the 10 hours of operation were the longest she has ever seen Steve (NC6R) sit in his shack without being behind a radio!

- Doug Phillips, WE6Z announced that he had achieved 5 Band WAS and only needs 5 more states on 160 meters to add a 6th Band!
- Norm Wilson, N6JV stated that he is trying out a new antenna called an EWE (pronounced "U" as in female goat) - sort of a "poor man's beverage" It is a form of the receiving loops. His antenna is 16 feet up and 40 feet across, and becomes a pair of phased verts. Norm is using it on 160m, and currently has 209 countries on 160.

Club Achievements:

- CQ Marathon results were shared with the group. Congratulations go to Norm Wilson N6JV and Rick Prather, K6LE. Norm placed #1 unlimited and #1 for zone 3. Rick again placed #1 in the Formula 100 category. Steve, NC6R emphasized that every log (even the small ones) counts for the club category, and thanks to a number of members submitting their logs, MLDXCC placed #5 in the World (moving up once spot from last year).

Awards Presentation:

Rich Cutler, WC6H presented the awards to the various members. Included were numerous awards for Sweepstakes and CQP achievements, a tie for Contester of the Year to Dick Wilson, K6LRN and Stefan Nicov AF6SA, and Lifetime Achievement to Rick Samoian, W6SR.

Next Meeting:

March 16th - location to be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. For the program, Steve Dyer, W1SRD spoke about his experiences with the Ducie Island DXpedition.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary

From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC – January
2019
Treasurer's Report

Jan 1 Balance		2725.40
Income:	Dues - W6RC	20
	Dues - WB6BET & KI6YYT	30
	Dues - WJ6N	20
	Dues - N6JV	20
	Dues - W6INP	20
	Dues - KE8FT	20
	Dues - W6BRY	20
	Dues - K6OK	20
	Dues - K6DN	20
	Dues - K6TLR	20
	Dues - N6GHZ	20
	Dues - WE6Z	20
	Dues - N6XI	20

Expense: Awards -448

Jan 29 Balance 2547.40

Tyler Laursen
K6TLR
MLDXCC Treasurer

Paying Dues:

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

Dits and Dahs

Sue Allred K6SZQ made 694 contacts in the January NAQP SSB contest. This was her first contest! Steve better get busy building another shack.

Doug Phillips completed 5BWAS and only needs 5 states to finish out 160M.

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!

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

2017 ARRL SS Gavel

The gavel for winning the 2017 ARRL November Sweepstakes Medium Club Category arrived this week. This was the third consecutive win, and

we've already added a fourth consecutive win to that total for 2018! Great job MLDXCC!



Club Log Standings

Overall

1	K6YK	John Lee	101
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	94
3	WU6W	Rick Palio	65

CW

1	K6YK	John Lee	79
2	WU6W	Rick Palio	39
3	N6JV	Norm Wilson	35

Phone

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	32
2	WU6W	Rick Palio	11
3	K6YK	John Lee	10

Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	74
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	58
3	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	57

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

W1SRD Presents on Ducie Island VP6D

Thanks to Steve W1SRD for a great presentation on VP6D. Lots of great tips about working DXpeditions!



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 N6JV

RD2Md2

At a meeting of the Tube Collectors Association several years ago, a ham from Germany gave me a small tube. What it did wasn't immediately obvious to me. He said it was a WWII German magnetron. I found the basic data on the tube and later found a document that covered the planning meetings of the German scientists working on RADAR during the war. The Dutch had translated it to English and it showed a diary of the work they had in progress. In February, 1943, a British Sterling aircraft was shot down and its RADAR system was largely intact. The Germans then learned that they were in trouble with this new technology. It was much better than theirs. The plane crashed near Rotterdam so the project's code name was "Rotterdam".

The RD2Md2 is a 4 watt magnetron that was developed for use as a local oscillator in a super heterodyne circuit at RADAR frequencies. The RD2Md2 was incorporated into the "Rotterdam" design. The tube had a knob on the top so it could be plugged into the equipment that held the magnets. Lots of British and American aircraft were being shot down, so teams of technicians scavenged whatever they could use. The new "Rotterdam" RADARs had many British parts and tubes until the factories could make clones. Even if the aircraft was a total loss, the magnets in the RADARs might have survived as

they were incorporated into the German equipment. Apparently, very good magnets were in very short supply in Germany.



The RD2Md2 tubes were also used in a microwave frequency receiver called the Korfu.

The Germans located these receivers along the English Channel and at strategic points like the Eiffel Tower in Paris to spot allied aircraft. They also could note the frequency that was being used to help coordinate counter measures in the next raid. The RD2Md2 was not very reliable and was replaced by a U.S. type 723 reflex klystron after they captured an American B24 bomber that had crash landed. A new German klystron was developed in a matter of days. The Germans also enjoyed flying the B24 “with altered markings”. I think the war ended before they could clone the B24.

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-qs-l-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 – Feb 7

CQ WPX RTTY – Feb 9-10

REDXA/NCCC Joint Meeting – Feb 13

Stockton Delta ARC Monthly Meeting – Feb 14

ARRL CW DX – Feb 16-17

CQ WW SSB 160M – Feb 22-24

ARRL SSB DX – Mar 2-3

NA RTTY Sprint – Mar 10

Loomis Hamfest – Mar 16

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 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 contester 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 Bob W1RH

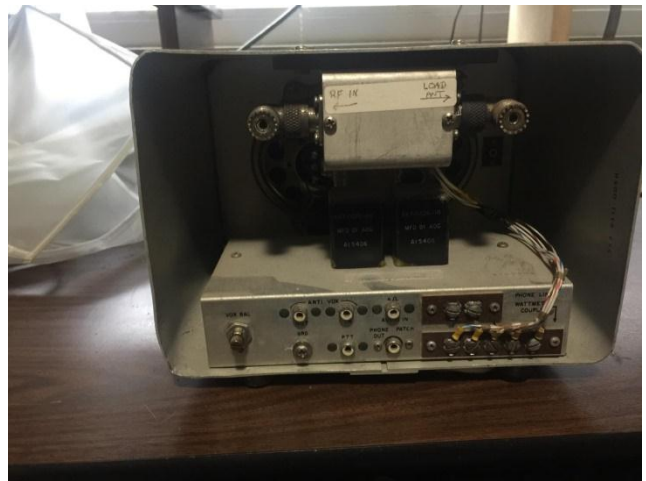
The wife of Norm, WB6RVR (SK) has a Collins S-Line for sale. \$1,000 or best offer for all. Pictures attached.

75S-1 #7999

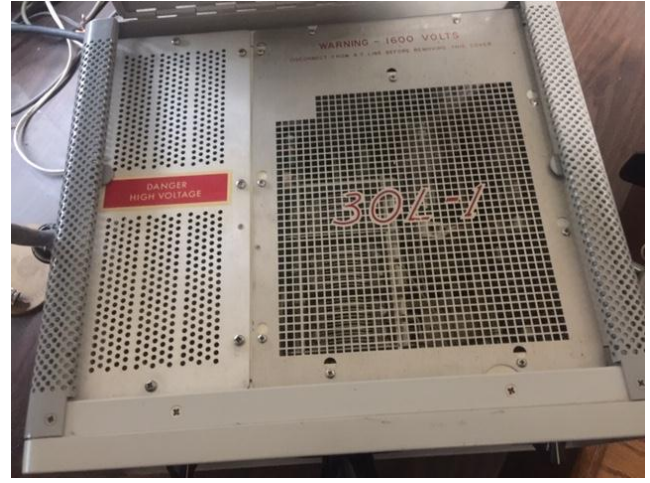


325-1 #2686

516F-2 #3439



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



Send offers to Bob W1RH

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



Rick K6LE has the following items available
Get ready for 2019!

I have had a change of plans and have a Tri-Bander and Rotator available

Beam:

Hy-Gain TH-3 JR not used since I got it used from W6RD.

Also will throw in a 12 and 17 Meter rotatable, trapped dipole.

Great starter beam for someone.

\$175

Rotator:

Yaesu G-450XL. Good condition. Also unused for several years.

\$150

Contacts: K6LE@mac.com 209 324-5700

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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