

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

July 2019

Volume 24 Number 7

From the President NC6R

ATTENTION!! We are looking for a news letter editor. Due to work commitment, Dennis, NJ6G needs to step down. If you've got the skills, we've got a need. Please join me in thanking Dennis for his service.

The MLDXCC meeting for June was held at Mountain Mikes Pizza in Martel. Attendance was brisk and conversation diverse. Fred, K6IJ provided the program with a demo of remote radio via his Flex Maestro which was controlling his rig at home...thank you Fred.

It was great to see Ken (K6TA) & Kay (K6KO) in attendance at the meeting. You guys have been missed!

New Members

Please welcome the following new members!

George "Skip" Chraft – N6NFB
Lodi, CA

Well, how did Field Day 2019 go for you? Good results? Interesting challenges? K6ODS and I had made plans to run the "1E" class, but the day before I came down with a bad cold. Say what you want about FT8, but when you can hardly talk and generally feel like poo, you can sit in the chair and push a button. After I expending all the energy I could muster, the log totaled 87 entries spread out between 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 & 160. Yes, 10 meters was actually open...if for only 6 Q's.

Have you participated in any of the recent contests? Chasing Parks on the Air or Summits on the Air (SOTA)? Also don't forget the CQ DX Marathon contest where any DX you work, whether new or worked before counts toward you final score at the end of the year.

How about new DX in the log? I was fortunate this past month to log two all time new ones (ATNO), Conway Reef and Market Reef.

Mark your calendars for July 20th as it's that time again for the NAQP RTTY contest. This is always a fun one, so don't miss out.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is July 27th, location TBD

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

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

Regarding DX and Contest, here's a couple of website to check and bookmark as they contain a lot of good information about upcoming events.

Upcoming DX operations -

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

Contest calendar dates -

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

See you at the July meeting on the 27th.

73 and good DX! - Steve / NC6R

From the Secretary K6SZQ

General Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2019

Mountain Mike's Pizza, Martell

Meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 19 members were in attendance, and 3 guests (one of whom was later voted in to membership).

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.

May minutes were published in the June newsletter. Doug Phillips, WE6Z moved to

accept the minutes as published. Dave Sanders, K6TQ seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was published in the June newsletter. Bob Hess, W1RH moved to accept the report as read. Doug Phillips, WE6Z seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

George "Skip" Chraft, N6NB submitted an application for membership. Steve asked Skip to tell the group a little about himself. Jim Seiferling, WB6BET and Emilia Seiferling KI6YYT nominated Skip for membership. The membership approved Ron's application.





Announcements:

- Bob Hess, W1RH mentioned that Dick Wilson, K6LRN is battling cancer. The doctors have told him it is treatable, but the treatment is aggressive. Dick and Carolyn K6TDK are in the Bay Area with family and for treatment. We will miss them but be keeping Dick in our thoughts and prayers.
- For the solar report, Steve mentioned that rather than watching the spots report, just get on and listen to the radio
- Members reported results for recent contests:
 - In the recent CQ WW WPX CW, Norm Wilson, N6JV had 1.6 million points, Rick Karlquist N6RK had about 1.5 million.
 - Bob Hess reported that Jay Harmon KE6GLA won the Rover category in the VHF contest; John Lee K6YK stated that he had also done well in the contest.
- Steve Allred, NC6R mentioned several upcoming contests/events
 - All Asia CW is this weekend.

- ARRL Field Day is June 22nd (next weekend)
- CQ WW VHF is July 20th
- NAQP RTTY is also July 20th
- Steve asked us to remember Ed Stevens, NCXMA who became a Silent Key. Ed was an active participant in Cal QSO, and passed away from a heart attack. It was noted that at the time he was on the Museum Ship Lucid, doing what he loved. A moment of silence was held to honor Ed's memory.
- It was announced that there are 25 DXpeditions occurring between now and the July meeting. For details and a full listing, go to ng3k.com and click on "ng3k provided resources" and then click on "Announced DX Operations".

Member Achievements:

- Several members reported logging Conway and Market Reef as All Time New Ones.
- Norm Wilson, N6JV reported that the Marathon results were out and he had place 1st in California.
- Bob Hess, W1TH announced that he had made it 29 years with CBS without getting fired, which brought laughs from the crowd. Congratulations to Bob on your retirement.
- Sue Allred, K6SZQ reported achieving DXCC.

Club Achievements:

- None to report

Next Meeting:

July 27th - location to be announced. This is a joint meeting with NCCC. Program is expected

to be Bob Wilson, N6TV who will speak on using serial ports with your radio system.

Norm Wilson, N6JV moved to adjourn; Brian Matthews, W6BRY seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m. For the program, Fred Honnold, K6IJ gave a demonstration of using the Flex Radio Maestro for remote operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ – Secretary

EDARC Field Day

Submitted by Bob Hess W1RH

Attached are some Field Day pictures. Steve, W1SRD, set this station up at the El Dorado County ARC site, which was off of Mormon Emigrant Trail, at 6,600 foot elevation. Antenna was Steve's 2 element SteppIR on his mobile crank-up tower which formerly belonged to Joanna, K6YL, and Rick (SK), N6DQ. The radio is a K3. We made about 650 Q's, on 15 and 20....most on 20 and most Q's made by W1SRD.



SPECIAL EVENT STATION N6T – GOLDEN STATE STAR PARTY (GSSP)

June 29 thru July 3, Michal Warzecha (WA6RZ) will be attending the Golden State Star Party near Adin California and running a special event station, call sign N6T (Night Telescope). It will be active intermittently between local sunrise and sunset (unless it is cloudy, astronomy will take priority).

Additional details listed at

www.qrz.com/db/N6T.

Location Specs

Maidenhead Grid: CN91

County: Modoc

Frequencies (CW and SSB)

40m: 7.030 and 7.185

30m: 10.115

20m: 14.030 and 14.230

6m: 50.130

The Star Party is a yearly event at Frosty Acres Farm. The location is well away from city lights and is blessed with some of the darkest skies on the West Coast. If you are interested in setting up a QSO, please email Michal: wa6rz@yahoo.com. He will happily help club members work this location.

QSL: Michal's call (WA6RZ) with SASE. Logs will be downloaded to LOTW.

Information on GSSP:

<http://goldenstatestarparty.org/>

Dits and Dahs

From Norm N6JV - With the help of W6SR and W6DE, we figured out how to make the WAS LOTW function work. When we ran it, I had qualified on LOTW for 9 band WAS. *Way to go Norm!*

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!

From the Treasurer K6TLR

Tyler's busy paying the bills. Look for the June Treasurer's report in the August newsletter.

Paying Dues:

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

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

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

New Contest – WW Digi

For immediate release. June 29, 2019.

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation ("WWROF"), in collaboration with the Slovenia Contest Club ("SCC"), is pleased to announce the first annual World Wide Digi DX Contest ("WW Digi"). The new contest taps into the excitement being generated by the new digital modes pioneered by Joe Taylor K1JT and the WSJT-X development team. The contest will occur over

24 hours on August 31 and September 1, 2019 using the FT4 and FT8 modes on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter bands.

WW Digi will utilize a distance-based scoring system to measure operators' abilities in making DX contacts across the 6 HF amateur radio bands. Contacts will earn points based on the distance between grid square centers of the two stations. This will encourage operators to seek out long distance weak signal contacts that highlight the technical advantages of the new digital modes.

To encourage activity across all bands, a multiplier will be given for each new 2-character grid field contacted on each band. The final score will be the product of the total contact points times the number of grid fields contacted. There should be plenty of strategy required to balance distant QSOs and the need to work all available grid fields. Single and multi-operators are welcome to operate as much or as little of the 24-hour contest period as they wish.

The contest has been designed to enable making contacts utilizing standard WSJT-X software behavior, making it easy for non-contesters to participate. At the same time, the contest supports some new techniques that will encourage operating innovation, such as permitting stations to work up to three "QSO streams" on a band at one time. Robotic operation is specifically prohibited in order to keep the human element as part of the game. The full rules and other information are available on the WW Digi DX contest web site at <https://ww-digi.com>

It is fitting that the World Wide DX contest series be expanded with a fourth mode, Digi, to support evolution into ham radio's future. Accordingly, with WWROF's sponsorship of the World Wide Digi DX Contest, there will now be similar worldwide DX contests at the end of four successive months, August through November.

Serious contesters and casual participants alike can make ham radio history and have fun as the hobby pioneers the exciting world of digital communication. WWROF hopes the WW Digi DX Contest will attract new digital operators into contesting.

Plaques will be awarded for top scorers. Please contact the WW Digi Contest Director Ed Muns, WOYK at plaques@ww-digi.com to sponsor an award. Electronic certificates will also be available for download for anyone that submits a log. The goal is to have results available on the web site within 90 days after the end of the contest.

About WWROF

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation is dedicated to improving the skills and fun of amateur radio operators around the world by utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research, promoting international friendship and goodwill.

WWROF is a non-profit, donor-supported, organization which sponsors this contest and provides the infrastructure for log submission, log checking, and other services in support of many popular radio contests. Please visit wwrof.org for more information.

About SCC

The Slovenia Contest Club has a long tradition of supporting digital contesting with its annual RTTY Championship contest held the last weekend of August. For more information about SCC please visit <http://lea.hamradio.si/scc/>

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	219
2	K6YK	John Lee	179
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	156

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	167
2	K6YK	John Lee	161
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	126

Phone

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	113
2	NC6R	Steve Allred	100
3	N6WM	Chris Tate	79

Data

1	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	144
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	130
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	123

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

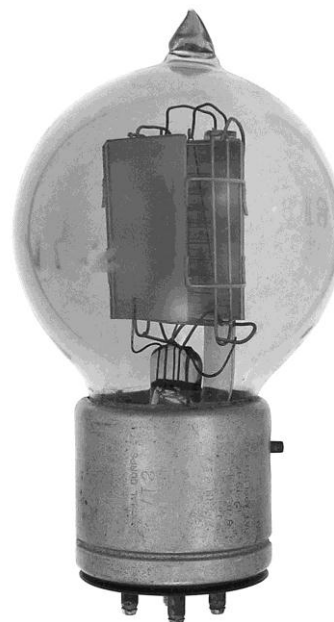
MLDXCC Website update

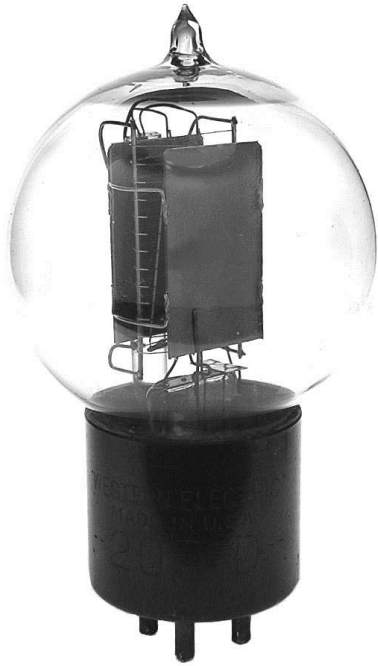
Norm, N6JV would like to update the "member's stations" section of our website. Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved. So please send Norm a photo of your smiley face at your station, as well a photo of your antenna system. Let's get our website current.

Tube of the Month N6JV

WE 205D & E

During WWI, Western Electric was contracted to produce tubes for the military. Since 1914, they had been making a small tube for use as a telephone repeater. They needed a small transmitting tube, so they used the same general design and designated it the VT-2 or CW-931 (Navy). The VT-1 was a smaller triode for use as a detector. After the war, the VT-2 was given the commercial number 205A. This tube went through stages of improvement until it became the 205D and finally E. The "E" tube had special pins to reduce contact noise. The engraved metal shell base was only used for the VT-2. The early tubes had gold plated pins. The 205D had a dissipation of 14 watts and with its mu of 7, was also an excellent audio tube. The tube had a rod or glass arbor that supported the components of the tube. That gave the tube stability and helped prevent microphonics.





When “talking movies” became popular, Western Electric produced audio amplifiers that used the 205{*} tubes for use in the theaters. Today these tubes and the amplifiers are in demand by audio collectors/users and even components for the amplifiers are very expensive. In 1924 the 205D cost \$7.50. I have seen recent asking prices of \$1,000 for a good tube and \$600 for a working tube with a broken arbor.

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.

Due to recent ARRL changes in the outgoing bureau, look for a revised policy to be announced by the club.

For more information regarding the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qs1-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

IARU HF World Championship – July 13-14

SDARC Monthly Meeting – July 11

CQWW VHF Contest – July 20-21

NAQP – RTTY – July 20-21

MLDXCC Monthly Meeting – July 27

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

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

UPCOMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming DXpeditions.

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

MLDXCC Reflector

The MLDXCC reflector is maintained at groups.io. Visit <https://groups.io/g/mldxcc>

We also maintain a spotting reflector at <https://groups.io/g/MLDXCC-Spots>

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

For sale: Kenwood TS-590S. This one has the Kenwood installed daughterboard to fix the ALC overshoot problem (have paperwork for that). Cosmetically 9/10, no dings or significant scratches. Original box, manual, mic, power cord. \$600 firm. Can meet most members halfway to hand off.

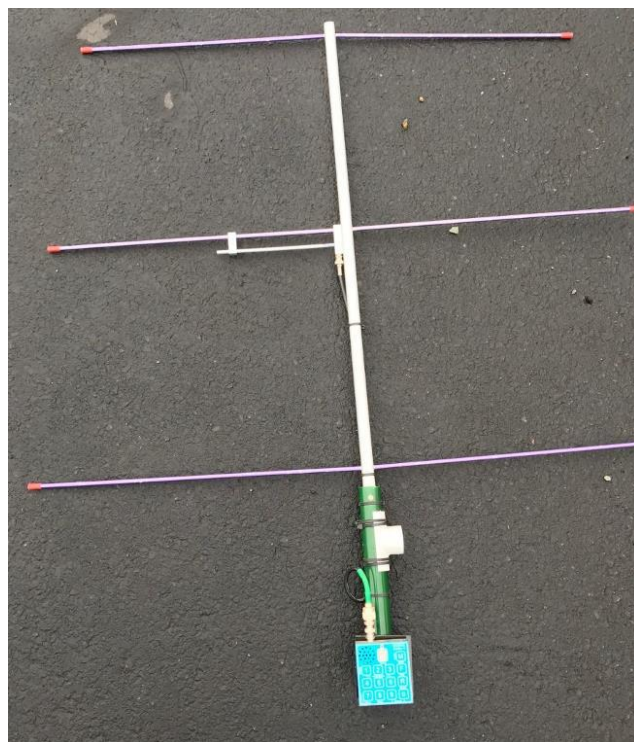
73 Jim K6OK

k6ok@arrl.net or can text me at 916 too oh too 6458

FOR SALE—FROM THE ESTATE OF W6HFM

This is a VK3YNG Sniffer 4, which is one of the best transmitter hunt devices on the market. To get one of these, you need to order it from Australia. I paid about \$300 for mine. This one comes with the beam and I believe we also have some books on transmitter hunting that can be thrown in. This unit works by automatically

attenuating the signal as you get closer to the hidden transmitter. An audible tone changes frequency as the signal gets stronger. The club will be doing a transmitter hunt soon. If you want to be competitive, you'll want this. It works on the 2 meter band and also the aircraft beacon location channels. \$200



Heil Gold ICM Microphone w/HB-1 Boom, support brack and PTT (beautiful for a base station) (\$100)



Contact Bob, W1RH w1rh@yahoo.com

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

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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