

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

June 2019

Volume 24 Number 6

From the President NC6R

Have you ever been to Wimpy's Marina near the town of Walnut Grove? That's where the last MLDXCC meeting was held and for an out of the way place, we had a great turnout! Twenty one were in attendance with seven (7) of them being guests!

Steve, why the heck would you hold the meeting way out there you ask? Because after the luncheon meeting was over, Bob, W1RH gave us a fantastic tour of the BIG towers and transmitters located at Walnut Grove. Ever stare straight up at a 2,000 ft tower? Makes a guy wonder just how many stacked HF mono band antennas you could mount up there!

Also during the meeting Doug, WE6Z shared about building his 630 meter transmitter. At present he's loading it up into his 160 vertical and making contacts. Great job on the project Doug!

Have you made plans for Field Day yet? Last year K6ODS and I did a multi/single running the generator/ solar class and had a blast. It's a

great way of exposing new (or returning) people to the hobby while getting them some "on the air" time.

You may remember Jordan WC6J, a featured speaker at a prior meeting. He spoke about activating summits on the air (SOTA). As of this writing MLDXCC member John, K6YK is no longer "whale dung" (his words), but has achieved the rank of "shack sloth" for compiling over 1,000 points as a SOTA chaser. Quite an achievement when you consider many of the summit activations only count for 1 or 2 points.

Did you participate in any of the recent

New Members

Please welcome the following new members!

Dan Levien – KN6AZZ

Pine Grove, CA

Michal Warzecha – WA6RZ

El Dorado Hills, CA

contests? Are you working any of the new modes? How about chasing Parks on the air or SOTA's? Please consider sending Dennis NJ6G our newsletter editor a short write up and let him know of your achievement.

Here's a couple of good website to check out and bookmark as they contain a lot of good info about upcoming contest and DX operations.

Upcoming DX operations -

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

Contest calendar dates -

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

That's all for now....73 and good DX! - Steve / NC6R

From the Secretary K6SZQ

General Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2019

Wimpy's Marina, Walnut Grove

Meeting was called to order at 11:58 a.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 14 members were in attendance, and 7 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.

March minutes were published in the May newsletter (There was no April meeting). Bill Ress, N6GHZ moved to accept the minutes as published. Rich Cutler, WC6H seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was not published in the May newsletter so it was read aloud. Beginning

balance was \$2759.10. \$30 income from dues, and \$200.00 expense for ARRL Insurance brought the ending balance to \$2589.10. Jim Singer, N6JS moved to accept the report as read. Bob Hess, W1RH seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Dan Levien, KN6AZZ submitted an application for membership through the website. Steve

Next Meeting

The next meeting is June 15th, 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

read the details of his application. Steve Allred, NC6R and Rick Casey, W6RKC nominated Ron for membership. The membership approved Ron's application.

One of the guests, Michal Warzecha, WA6RZ then submitted his application for membership. Steve asked him to tell the group a little bit about himself. Bob Hess, W1RH and Bill Ress, N6GHZ then nominated Michal for membership. The membership approved Michal's application.

Announcements:

Emilia Seiferling, KI6YYT noted that the exam question pool is changing soon, so if you are thinking of upgrading your license, you may want to do it sooner rather than later.

Steve Allred, NC6R mentioned several upcoming contests:

Several states have upcoming QSO parties - Arkansas is today and Kentucky on June 1st.

CQ WW WPX CW on May 25th - 26th.

Steve announced that there is a current DXpedition to Wallis & Futuna - several people mentioned that they had worked them.

It was announced that there were 14 DXpeditions occurring between now and the May meeting. For details and a full listing, go to ng3k.com and click on " ng3k provided resources" and then click on "Announced DX Operations".

Bob Hess, W1RH mentioned that he will be helping Steve Dyer, W1SRD and the South Orkney DXpedition group set up the tents in a practice run at W1SRD's QTH in Placerville, and could use some help. The tents were obtained from the Heard Island DXpedition group.

Member Achievements:

New member Michal Warzecha, WA6RZ announced that he had just received his endorsement for 200 DXCC entities.

Doug Phillips, WE6Z shared that he had just recently made his first contact on 630 m. He had loaded his 160M vertical for operation on 630m. Steve suggested that members check out Doug's QRZ page as he makes a lot of cool stuff.

Doug Mercer, KA6MEL is getting ready for field day, having just installed a pneumatic mast on his trailer.

Club Achievements:

None to report

Next Meeting:

June 1st - location to be announced. Program is expected to be Bob Wilson, N6TV who will speak on the Reverse Beacon Network.

John Lee, K6YK moved to adjourn; Jim Varney, K6OK seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m. For the program, Bob Hess W1RH took the group on a tour of the nearby Walnut Grove transmitter site.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary

FT8 Program Startup

I usually run 3 programs while operating FT8. WSJT-X, JAlertX, and N3FJP Amateur Call Log. They all require opening in the right order to allow proper rig control and communication into the call log. Instead of manually opening them one at a time I wrote a small batch file that launches everything in the proper order. Everything between the dashes is in a plain text file named ft8.bat that resides on my desktop. Double-clicking it starts the process. There may be another or easier way to do it, but this works flawlessly for me.

rem @echo off

rem WSJT-X

```

cd C:\WSJT\wsjtx\bin\
start wsjtx.exe

rem AC Log
cd "C:\Program Files (x86)\N3FJP Software -
Affirmatech\Amateur Contact Log\"
start ALog.exe

rem JT Alert
cd "C:\Program Files (x86)\HamApps\JTAlert\"
start JTAlert.exe /wsjtx

```

exit

Modify the directory lines and start lines for your particular applications. Note that directory lines that contain spaces require quotation marks, as shown above.

Dennis NJ6G

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.grz.com/db/N6T.

Location Specs

Maidenhead Grid: CN91
County: Modoc

Dits and Dahs

Norm N6JV worked CP1GJ in Bolivia on 6 meter EME for #119 on 6!

Dennis NJ6G had FT8 QSOs on all 11 bands between 160m and 6m on May 31 on just one wire: a Palomar Bullet End Fed Antenna. K3, 100 watts, KAT500 antenna tuner.

Norm N6JV has just passed 100,000 QSOs uploaded to LoTW.

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!

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/>

WE6Z Low Band Station

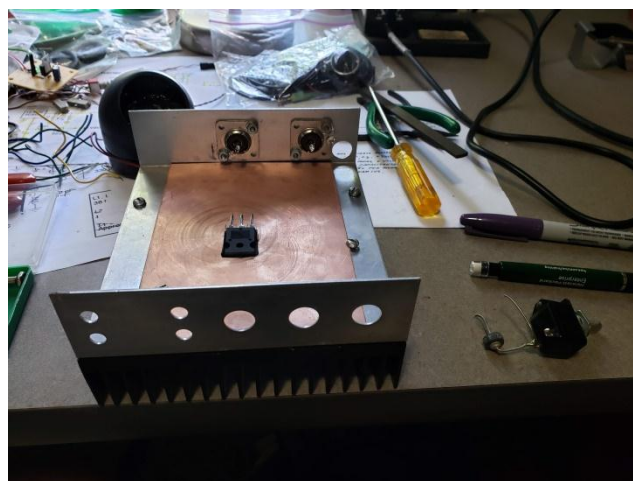
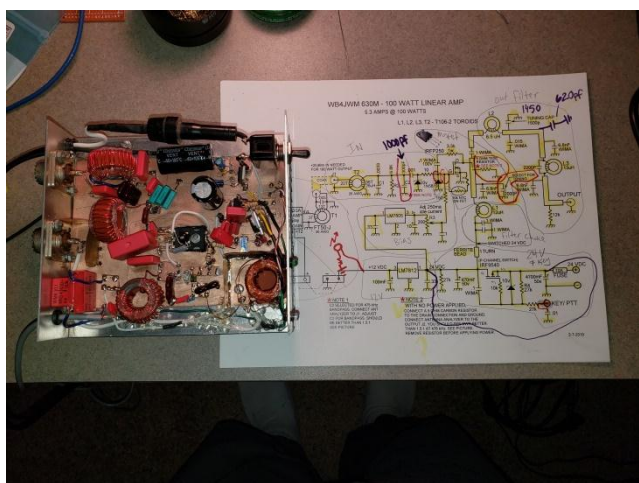
I'm making progress on the 630 meter band. I got my variometer installed in a bucket and at

the base of the tower. I did make one CW contact with W7IUV using my homebrew 8 watt transmitter.

In the quest for 5 watts EIRP I started building a 100 watt linear amplifier for 630 meters based on the design by WB4JWM.

I also have received a 630 meter version of the SoftRock RXTX (SDR transceiver) so that I'll be able to do digital modes. I hope to put that on the air in the next few weeks.

Doug WE6Z





WA6NHC Station Update

After a YEAR of the US tower HDX-555 sitting on the trailer from being hauled up from Minden, NV, the tower foundation is being dug and poured this week.

While the concrete sets (28 days), I will install the lightning grounding, trench and run two conduits to the tower (one 3" for control/coax, the other for a 120V outlet to power the up/down winch and a WiFi camera). When that has been completed, reassembly of the SteppIR DB36 (80-6M) will begin, including some overhaul/refreshing of some components (along with the purchase of interface cables for the radios, misc 'stuff'). [The tower has a prop pitch rotator and a Green Heron controller.

An electrician will pass the electrical work I put in place (make the actual connections) plus extend a second 240V into the new shack space (below).

It ALL goes well I hope to raise the tower at the end of June, with the antenna raising not long after that; not in time for Field Day this year.

THEN I get to partition part of the garage for a new shack room, move the existing temporary (2 years) station in and FINALLY get to use the Elecraft KPA1500 (I'll keep the KPA500 for backup). The Pacific Inland Northwest SHALL be heard! A shack computer will allow remote control of the entire station (as I have now).



If there is time left before winter:
 * Build a new 160M Inverted L (with a proper counterpoise this time) with a tuning circuit so it will resonate on 160 and 80M (giving me an option of vertical or rotating horizontal on 80M, or diversity reception). [FULL legal power 160-

6M with two antennas, with the optional 6M elements, a ridiculous amount of gain.

* Install two RBOG (Reversible Beverage On Ground) antennas for low band reception.

Once all that is done, then I can hunt down a few remaining noise sources and eliminate them.

[While the 160M inverted L works (for now, on all bands at least as well as the R-7), it is set up Field Day mode, no real counterpoise but it was enough that I collected enough stations on Top Band for DXCC last winter. I was bored, that gave me something to do.



Future plans include adding a large inverter and battery bank to power the station (except the 240V amps) since the garage isn't on the house generator (it's only a 15 KW, when it dies, it'll be

upgraded to 25K to feed the entire house). Solar is possible, but with only 4-5 hours of sunlight in the winter (plus snow), unlikely. My new Davis wx station has solar measurement ability, so I'll monitor that this winter.

Now all that is needed, is propagation and a few strong backs to muscle all the larger items into place.

73 from North Idaho,
Rick nhc

K6TQ Station Progress

After obtaining my building permit for my first ever tower, I got the hole dug. Tashjian needed a month to build my TW51 which I'll pick up on Wednesday (May 29). Once I build the concrete forms and place the rebar base, I'll be ready to pour. While the concrete sets, I'll order the antennas, rotator, etc.

Dave Sanders K6TQ
Folsom, CA

Shack Sloth K6YK

Well, I guess the presentation at the Loomis meeting got K6YK going on SOTA. I made the 1000 points to become a "shack sloth" today. I don't know what I was before that, (whale dung?)....

I'll say one thing about SOTA, it's good receiving practice, those mountain goats have some of the weakest signals!

Item No. 2, see photos. Does anyone have one of these in their junk box? I don't, but it looks real old ! Somebody had a good sense of humor.

73, John K6YK



de Rick, W6SR

From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC – May
2019
Treasurer's Report

May 1 Balance	2589.10
Income:	No activity
Expense:	No activity
May 24 Balance	2589.10

Tyler Laursen
K6TLR
MLDXCC Treasurer

W6SR Staying Busy

Hi gang

I have attached a photo of my (recently received) 5BWAS plaque with endorsements for 6,17, 30 & 160M. BTW: All states on 17, 30 and 5 states on 80M were worked in the last 3 months via the FLEX 6500 remote station at K6IJ's place.

So..... there really is an Amateur Radio life in a antenna restricted community...

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

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	219
2	K6YK	John Lee	176
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	147

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	164
2	K6YK	John Lee	158
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	122

Phone

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	112
2	NC6R	Steve Allred	97
3	K6YK	John Lee	79

Data

1	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	134
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	128
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	116

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

6949

I have recently added a new large tube to the museum collection. It is an RCA 6949 from about 1958. There were several large, high power tubes that have been built, but they were often low frequency. RCA had some applications for a very high power tube that could be used into VHF. One serious problem with high power tubes is the drive requirement. In order to reduce the drive needed, they added deflection plates similar to those used on the 813 and 6146. The plates are held at filament potential and the tube is called a beam triode. Development started in the mid-1950s with the designation. A2332(*). The tube was designed to have a dissipation of 400,000 watts and output power of 500 KW up to 75 MHz. The maximum plate voltage is 20,000 volts and maximum current is 60 amps. The filament is 7.5 volts at 1100 amps. The plate, grid and filament are all water cooled and the plate requires about 88 gallons per minute at full dissipation. The tube is 40 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds.

The military were the first to develop applications for the tube. The AN/FRT-32 was a 300 KW VHF set designed for scatter propagation. The AN/FRT-33 was a 300 KW HF set with a frequency range of 4 to 30 MHz. These sets were developed by Continental Electronics. A pair of these tubes was used for a million watts of output at the VLF site in Jim

Creek, WA. As switch tubes, they were employed in the linear accelerators at Berkley



and Yale.

RCA made an attempt to market an amplifier for super power AM transmission. The BTH-250A used two 6949 tubes in an ampliphase configuration. Finding a market for this equipment was a problem as the U.S. limited AM stations to 50 KW. The only foreign buyer was station XERF in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico. In 1959 the equipment was installed and was heard from Antarctica to Russia. They wanted to improve their programming, so they hired a young disk jockey from Brooklyn, NY named Bob Smith. He became very popular and profits were way up. Late at night, they liked to really crank up the juice. With their new success, they came to the attention of powerful people who wanted in on the action. After a gun fight that shot up the studio, the station changed hands and Smith moved back north. In a few years, he was able to become associated with the 50 KW station XERB in Tijuana, BC. He was able to re-create the persona he had developed at XERF. Wolfman Jack was back. AH-WOOOOO.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Focus Contests

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

ARRL DX Phone*

ARRL DX CW*

ARRL 10M*

ARRL 160M*

ARRL November Sweepstakes

California QSO Party

*Proposed and approved at the November 12, 2016 MLDXCC general meeting.

Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) announced their focus contests at their August 2018 meeting. This list can be found in the Aug 2018 NCCC newsletter.

ARRL RTTY RU
CQ WPX RTTY
CQ WPX SSB
CQ WPX CW

ARRL Contesting Certificates

If you have participated in ARRL Contests by submitting your log, enter your call sign and see your available certificates. You can view and download them. The certificates show where you placed in the contest.

<http://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php>

MLDXCC – Outgoing ARRL Bureau

The Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will provide Outgoing QSL Bureau services to current paid club members. The policy is as follows:

The club will cover packaging, shipping, and the \$7.00 ARRL fee. Members will be responsible for the \$1.15 per ounce fee, payable to the club. A scale will be provided at the designated meetings to weigh the cards.

Twice per year, at the March and October meetings, members may bring their outgoing cards (or have delivered by another club member) to the meeting for collection and collating.

All regulations set forth by the ARRL must be met, including:

- Members must be ARRL members to use outgoing bureau.
- Must provide proof of membership (QST mailing label, ARRL membership card)
- Cards need to be sorted according to ARRL requirements when brought to club.

The after-meeting program at those meetings would be dedicated to weighing, merging the cards, and making sure the paperwork is in order.

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

ARRL Awards Checkers

Ken Anderson, K6TA
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

The NOAA Solar Update

Click the link below to display the latest NOAA solar predictions.

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

UPCOMING Events

Lodi ARC Monthly Meeting – June 6

ARRL June VHF Contest – June 8-9

NCCC Meeting – June 11

SDARC Monthly Meeting – June 13

MLDXCC Monthly Meeting – June 15

ARRL Field Day – June 22-23

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

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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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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