

# THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

## The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

June 2023

Volume 28 Number 6

### Presidents Report

Many of us in the Amateur Radio community got our start while we were relatively young. I had a few Elmers in my in my teenage years, some have passed, and some are still alive and kicking, many are now in their 80s. Tony Rasmussen, AH6HK (SK) gave me my technician license test to get me started. Cliff Kurtz, N6ZU (SK) helped me build my first linear after I got my general class license, a pair of 3-500 tubes, and Fred Coe WB6ASU helped me study for my Radio Telephone 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> class which I passed all before I reached the age of 18.

Today we have very few young hams coming into the hobby. This is evident not only on the ham bands but in the communications industry as a whole. We really need to get more younger folks interested in amateur radio or I suspect the hobby is going to die. While the ARRL reports an increase in licensed hams, fewer and fewer are active. By far most amateurs in the US are over 65 years of age. In the 1970s the number of licensed hams was less; however, a much larger percentage of the general population base knew what amateur radio was. Today if you ask most

people about amateur radio, they either have no idea or think it has something to do with CB radio. We need more outreach.

As we discussed in the last club meeting, we need to actively seek out those that may have an interest in our hobby and get them into our club.

As some of you know I am running around the county training folks on the latest LMR technologies and best practices. 20 years ago, when I did these kinds of training sessions, I would say that close to 20% of the attendees were hams. Today maybe 1 out of 30 is a ham, and it shows. Many of the folks that call themselves technicians do not know ohm law, and some do not know the difference between a positive and negative number, yet they are attempting to build radio infrastructure for our first responders. Amateur radio affects so much more than just the ham bands, it is a great feeder for the radio industry in general. So, if you have the chance to reach out to a young skull full of mush that is curious about amateur radio or electronics in general, bring them along. If you do not run into that person, make sure you talk up the hobby. We need more hams. NR6Q

## Treasurer's Report

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report -May 2023

4/30/2023

Opening Balance  
\$3,269.07

Income  
\$100.00

Club Award from CQP  
\$100.00

Expenses

\$0.00

5/31/2023

Ending Balance

\$3,369.07

## May Meeting

The May meeting of the MLDXCC was held on May 13 in Martel officiated by NR6Q.



After the officer's reports were made, discussions took place on DXCC issues, membership recruitment and the future of the Visalia convention.

## Rockall

On May 31, I worked MM0UKI on Rockall Rock which is IOTA EU-189. It is considered the rarest IOTA as only one small operation has ever operated from there. The rock is 17 meters high and I have seen photos of waves near covering it. The three operators had to wait until the swell wasn't too bad and do a jump and scramble. No sandy beach to land on. The first to land was washed into the sea three times before getting a hand hold.

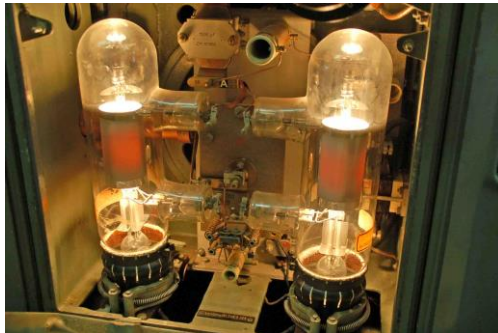
Rockall is located 300 KM West of the Outer Hebrides islands of Scotland. A total of 7227 QSOs were made over 4 days on the rock. As it doesn't count for a DXCC, financial support is small and all money received through QSLing will go to charity. de N6JV



## Tube Of The Month

### RS329

While searching through an archive of WWII equipment, I found some photos that showed some Telefunken [RS329](#) triodes. For many years I have had an RS329 in my museum collection, but never knew what it was used in. The RS329 is a 500-watt dissipation tube with a maximum anode voltage of 3000 volts at 450 ma. The tube was rated for full power at 30 meters but could be operated at reduced levels to 5 meters. The tungsten filament runs on 23 volts at 13.5 amps. The base has three banana plug sized jacks for the filament and cathode. At about 13 inches tall, this is one of the largest German tubes I have.



The transmitter I found is a Telefunken 1.5 KW multi-mode short wave unit with the ability of being remotely operated from 2 to 12 MHz. The RS329 tubes were in the final amplifier. This transmitter was first built before WWII but only a few were used by the Germany military. Eventually some of these units were procured by the Swiss Military where they were used for many years. The transmitter was designated type G1,2K by the Swiss.



The unit sitting on top of the transmitter is a VOX or voice activated exchange circuit similar to what we use with modern gear. One of the pull-out units under the amplifier contains a pair of [RS282](#) tubes and a rotating switch that sets bias according to the transmission type desired. Full break-in is difficult enough today with very fast relays, but in the late 1930s, a tube made a very fast switch. When the VOX detected audio on the phone line, it activated the transmitter and switched the bias on the amplifier tubes with the RS282 tubes. An audio oscillator could be remotely keyed to send CW at near full break-in. Photos of the transmitter are with the permission of cdvandt.org. de N6JV

## Deleted Countries – French West Africa

From 1895 to 1958 French West Africa was a federation of eight French colonial territories in West Africa: Mauritania, Senegal, French Sudan (now Mali), French Guinea (now Guinea), Ivory Coast, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Dahomey (now Benin) and Niger.

The regions were the territories claimed by France and started under military rule. Eventually the whole regions was transferred to a single governor stationed in Senegal. One of the first actions taken by the new government was to abolish slavery.

In 1940 when France fell to Germany the region was divided between Free France and the Vichy government, puppets of the Nazi regime. Up to this point, with the exception of a few cities, the people of these regions were not considered citizens rather they were subjects who essentially had no rights and could not own land. After WWII this changed and the region slowly morphed into the countries we have today but first they became smaller federations.

The area was some 1.8 million square mile, mostly desert. There were 10 million people living there and, at the time of the break up that number grew to 25 million. As well as desert there were tropical regions highlands, and mountainous areas.

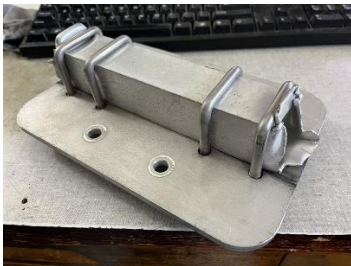


Thanks to the Southern California DX Club Newsletter

## 5-Element LFA2 Antenna

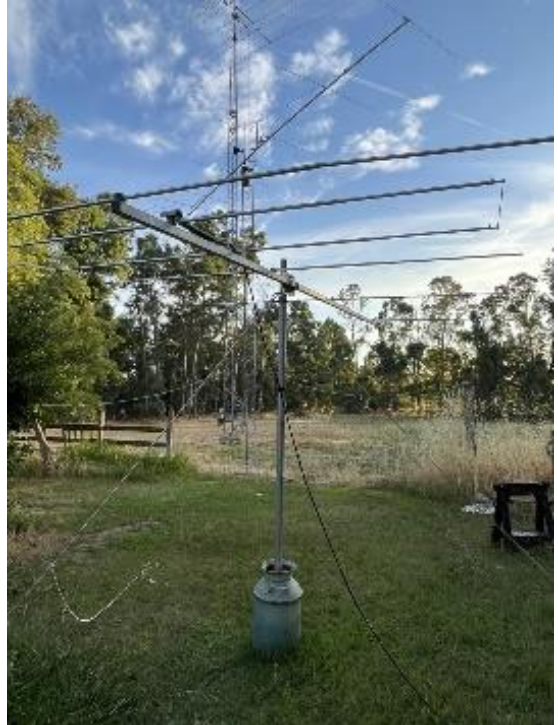
I have a 6-meter 4-element yagi at the top of my LM470 tower. It has done a fine job for many years, but I know it has some mechanical problems and with the popularity of FT8, it doesn't have enough bandwidth and at 50313, the SWR is going up. I started looking at replacing it with a 5-element LFA (Loop Fed Array) that would have a wider response. I have built EME antennas for 6 and 2 meters with excellent results. I used to have a good supply of aluminum, but it has been depleted especially the smaller sizes.

This winter, we were all hit by the big wind storms. A friend in San Jose had a big 8 element LFA on his tower that didn't survive the 85+ mph winds that hit his hill top QTH. The boom snapped off at the mast clamp.



He said there was enough material left to make a 5-element and it was free. Such a deal. GOKSC invented the LFA design and has provided the specifications for many of the antennas for the home builder. The reflector, driven loop element and the three directors were all in perfect shape. The positions of the elements as well as the individual lengths of the elements are all different than the original design. The boom had to be turned over for the new fasteners. The final length was about 15 feet.

Testing was done at 10 feet and the SWR was 1.1 to 1 or better for 600 KHz.



The antenna will be at 80 feet and a popular perch for a lot of birds. To protect the feed points from the bird droppings, a shield was fashioned from a piece of outdoor plastic conduit. Now I need to fold over the tower and get it into the air. de N6JV

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## Club Log Standings 2023

### Overall

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	222
2	K6OK	Jim Varney	210
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	208

### CW

1	K6YK	John Lee	177
2	K6OK	Jim Varney	126
3	N6JV	Norm Wilson	115

### Phone

1	K6YK	John Lee	123
2	WU7W	Rich Palio	111
3	K6IJ	Brian Mathews	108

### Data

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	203
2	W6DE	Dave Engle	191
3	W6DR	Dave Ritchie	189

## Awards Checkers ARRL

Rick Samoian, W6SR

(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

## Postal Increase

Product	Price before Jan. 22	Price after Jan. 22
Letters (1 oz.)	60 cents	63 cents
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	57 cents	60 cents
Domestic Postcards	44 cents	48 cents
International Postcards	\$1.40	\$1.45

Product	Price before Jan. 22	Price after Jan. 22
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International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.40	\$1.45
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## MLDXCC Focus Contests

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

ARRL SS CW/PH  
ARRL DX Phone\*  
ARRL DX CW\*  
ARRL 10M\*  
ARRL 160M\*  
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

## 2023 Meeting Dates

January 21, Martell  
February 25, Shingle Springs  
March 18, Loomis  
April, No meeting—DX Convention in Visalia  
May 13, Martell  
June 17, Shingle Springs  
July 22, Shingle Springs  
August 26  
September 16  
October 21  
November 11  
December 2

## 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

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

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

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## South Bay Swap Meet

The [Electronics Flea Market](#) will be on Sunday, July 9, 2023. The location is parking lot 3 at West Valley College in Saratoga: West Valley College 14000 Fruitvale Ave Saratoga, California 95070. Parking=\$3.

The hours are from 6:00 am until 12:00 Noon.

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## 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.*

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Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?  
Contact Vina K6VNA [vina@sign-tek.com](mailto:vina@sign-tek.com)

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Kenwood TS-990 and SP-990 speaker.  
I am the original owner. Bought from DX Engineering (2015).  
Works perfectly. Never required service and cover never removed. No scratches, no scuffs, no dings. Non-smoking shack.

Includes:

Power cord  
7-pin DIN cable  
13-pin DIN connector (cable attached)  
Original Instruction Manual  
Spiral bound Instruction Manual (from radiomanuals.com)  
Spiral bound In-Depth Manual (from radiomanuals.com)  
Circuit Diagram Sheets  
SP-990 Speaker (w/ audio cable)  
RT Systems USB-63 Programming Cable and Disc  
**No microphone.** No boxes.

\$3,700

My QTH is in Folsom if you want to come here.  
If all possible I would rather not ship due to weight, packaging costs, insurance, and shipping fees.

Contact me at: [oldfsp@yaoo.com](mailto:oldfsp@yaoo.com) I can supply photos if desired.

Dave Sanders K6TQ  
Folsom, CA  
EDCARC / MLDXCC / NCCC

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For Sale:



ICOM 7200 with LDG AT-100 PROII Auto Tuner.

The 7200 is in excellent condition, works 100%.  
Has the power cord, mike, original manual, front handles.

The tuner has the ICOM cable, works automatically with the 7200.

\$500. Will meet within a reasonable distance.

John Lee K6YK  
209-244-1369, [k6yk@juno.com](mailto:k6yk@juno.com)



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## **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>

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

<http://calaverasars.org/>

Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Electronics  
Society (TCARES)

<https://tcares.net/>

## **ARRL Pacific Division**

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