

THE NUGGET



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

March 2019

Volume 24 Number 3

From the President NC6R

Hello MLDXCC

I hope all of you are planning to make the next meeting on March 16th in Auburn. At present, Bob W1RH is securing a location and speaker. I'm told it will be another great presentation on a DX Expedition. Meeting location to be announced on the MLDXCC website and reflector.

Just before the meeting will be the Loomis swap meet. Come to the swap and stay for the meeting. You are missed when you're not there!

I see many of you were involved in several of the recent contest. Did you participate in one of the 160 CW / SSB contests? My schedule didn't allow me to do so, however I did have a lot of fun in the CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest. When the contest was over, LoTW showed several new countries confirmed and to my surprise WAS on RTTY!

Once again I'd like to thank Rich and Vina, K6VNA for a great job with the awards. Many of our members walked away with some sharp

looking wall plaques that were presented during the last meeting.

During the January meeting, Bob, N6TCE also reported on the increasing number sunspots. Hopefully we're going to see an uptick in solar activity. That's good news for contesters and DXer's alike.

Are you working DX? As I reported during the January meeting, there's approximately 50 active DX stations presently on the air. Many are not often heard. They may even be an all time new one (ATNO) for you, so get 'em in the log. DX listings can be found at - <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

Also, mark your calendar for the CQ WW WPX Contest. It will begin at 0000Z, Mar 30, continuing through 2400Z, Mar 31. This will be a great time to increase your marathon score! Contest calendar listings are at - <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

73 and good DX! - Steve / NC6R

Next Meeting

March 16 – Auburn Area, location TBD.

This month's presentation will be:

Jordan, WC6J

Region Manager, Sierra Nevada

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

Hiking up to a summit for a SOTA operation is much like operating QRP in the "run" mode in a contest. Jordan has been very active on the peaks and operates just like a contester, with good rates. SOTA has rules, just like contests have rules. For instance, the final trek to a summit must be on foot. Antennas must be light and efficient and Jordan has built many. Jordan will tell us all about SOTA. He has lots of pictures and is a terrific speaker.

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

W6SR Thanks

Yesterday, W1SRD and I had lunch, at which time he presented me with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the MLDXCC. I wish to thank the officers and members of the MLDXCC for this award, I am humbled to be so honored by our club. A lifetime achievement usually means you have completed your body of work, and you are now resting on prior accomplishments. Well I'm not quite done yet! While it's true that I don't have a big station, or

any station at the home QTH, I am hooked up via a remote FLEX 6500 at K6IJ's. Fred has kindly taken pity on this old DXer and let me use his remote station when he is not contesting or looking for a new one. Currently it's only 100W to a G5RV at 90', but it works very well considering everything. In the future we have plans to add my KPA-500 and a remote H/P tuner to the mix. So if you hear "W6SR" in a pile up it's not a "slim or ghost", it's me trying for the last 4 states I need on 80M to complete 5BWAS all via lotw or giving out points in a contest. BTW: I just read the newsletter, and I think that Dennis has done an outstanding job editing and producing our club newsletter. 73 and thanks to all, C U in the pile-ups, hopefully for a long time.....de Rick,W6SR

You can find Hams everywhere!

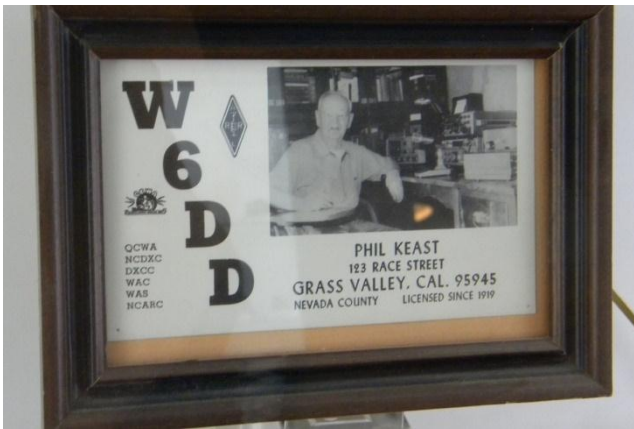
During the holidays Steve and I headed off for a long weekend away in Grass Valley. While exploring the area we visited the Empire Mine.



We were checking out the displays in the visitor's center, and we come across a case full of electric cables and drill bits.



The placard said the items were donated by Phil Keast, and at the bottom of the case – what do we see but a QSL card for Phil Keast, W6DD.



After the trip, I am scrapbooking the photos from the trip, and I decide to google Phil and see if I can find out how he might have been associated with the mine. Imagine my surprise when Google leads me to the Nevada County Amateur Radio Club website.

Turns out that Phil Keast got into Ham Radio at a young age. In 1910, he was the young son of a miner in Grass Valley. When the family visited relatives in Oakland, young Phil discovered that their neighbor across the street had a crystal receiving set. He was fascinated with the ability to use Morse code and a spark transmitter to listen to the naval station on Yerba Buena Island communicating with all the ships coming into

San Francisco. That’s all it took for him to be hooked on ham radio!

In 1914, Phil made his own crystal detector set and put up an antenna in the tress near the North Star Mine (part of the Empire Mine properties) where his father worked. Later he began experimenting with small radio transmitter. Phil had created the first radio station in the Gold Country!

Phil’s radio adventures were put on hold when the US entered World War I in early 1917, because all civilian radio operations (both transmitting and receiving) were forbidden. But a year after the war ended, Phil applied for a license from the Department of Commerce and was granted the call sign 6DD. The really cool part is that his license application was signed by Guglielmo Marconi!

Phil passed away in 1990, and for a time his spark gap radio was lost. It was later found at the North Star mine and was restored by a NCARC member. It is believed to be one of six in existence and one of four in operating condition. The transmitter is on permanent display in the lobby of the Nevada County Rood Building. (I sense another getaway weekend in Grass Valley is in our future!) Phil’s family allowed the Nevada County Amateur Radio Club to honor Phil’s memory and use W6DD as their club call.

From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC – January
2019
Treasurer's Report

Jan 30 Balance	2547.4
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Income:	Dues – N6DE	20
	Dues - K6KSO & N6TCE	30
	Dues – N6GEO	20
	Dues – K6LE	20
	Dues - N6XI	20
Expense:	Awards shipping	-8.30
Feb 28 Balance		2629.10

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

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	173
2	K6YK	John Lee	136
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	124

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	137
2	NA6O	Gary Johnson	122
3	K6YK	John Lee	122

Phone

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	79
2	NC6R	Steve Allred	73
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	68

Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	98
2	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	88
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	77

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

MLDXCC Website update

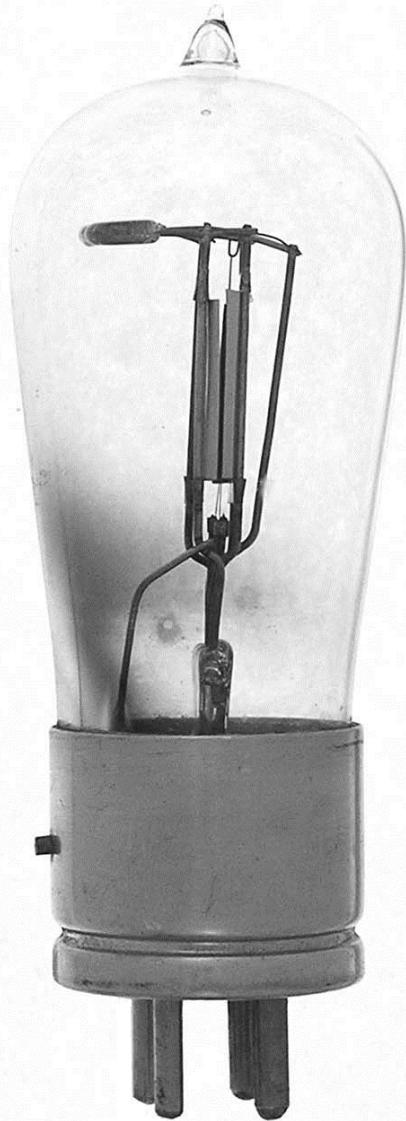
Norm, N6JV would like to update the “member's stations” section of our website. Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved. So please send Norm a photo of your smiley face at your station, as well a photo of your antenna system. Let's get our website current.

Tube of the Month N6JV

HK-5

Several years ago, I was contacted by a family who lived in a nearby town. They had several tubes they wanted to sell. The wife’s father, who was a tube collector, had died. Many of the most interesting transmitting tubes had been sold before the father’s

death. The remaining tubes had some valuable types, but nothing that I needed for the museum collection. I agreed to try and sell off the tubes on eBay. As I was packing up the tubes, I noticed an old tube that I thought was a rectifier and had overlooked. As soon as I examined it closely, I was



amazed that such a tube had ever existed. It was a small Gridless Gammatron that had to have been made by Heintz & Kaufman back in the early 1930s. The family insisted that I add it to my collection. Eventually, most all the tubes were sold and that family was pleased with the profit.

The Gridless Gammatrons have been the subject of some of the previous articles that I have written. See:

<http://n6jv.com/museum/articles/gammatron.pdf>.

They were designed in a way that didn't infringe on several existing patents including the triode. RCA held the triode patent and sued H&K, but H&K won in court.

If you look closely, you can see the filament mounted very close to one plate. The purpose of the Gammatron project was to develop very high power transmitting tubes. The HK-5 obviously wouldn't have much output. The only use I can imagine for this small tube would be for demonstrations of this technology. It's much easier to haul a 5 watt transmitter to a meeting than one running a KW. In my research, I have only identified 4 other HK-5s that exist in other collections.

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 – Mar 7

Daylight Saving Time begins – Mar 10

NCCC Monthly Meeting – Mar 12

SDARC Monthly Meeting – Mar 14

MLDXCC Monthly Meeting – Mar 16

Loomis Hamfest – Mar 16

CQ WPX SSB – Mar 30-31

Visalia IDXC – Apr 12-14

ARRL Rookie Roundup – SSB – April 14

World Amateur Radio Day – Apr 18

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

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 an Alpha 87A amplifier for sale in perfect
working condition. I believe this amplifier is one
of the finest that Alpha ever made, especially for
fully silent QSK CW.

I acquired this amp used / refurbished from RF
Concepts over six years ago (someone traded it
in for a 9500). It 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.

This amp is very clean, in perfect working
condition, and puts out full power on all bands
with 45-55W drive. It has exclusively been used
in a non-smoking home, with no pets.

I am happy to hand-deliver it to the SF Bay Area
to save shipping costs. I can also bring it to the
NCCC Meeting 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 for the package. Pictures
attached.

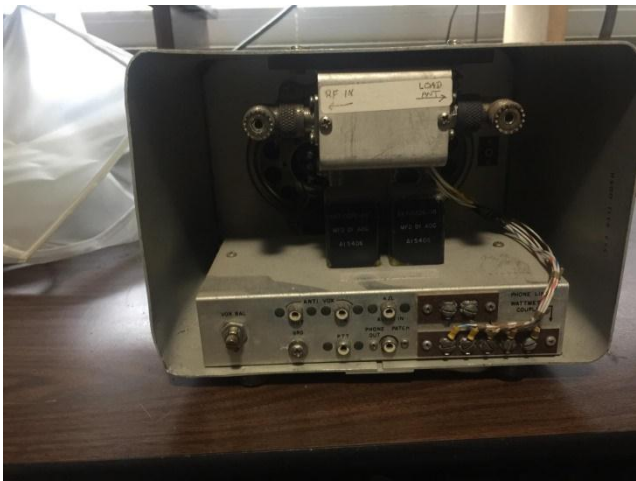
75S-1 #7999



32S-1 #2686



516F-2 #3439

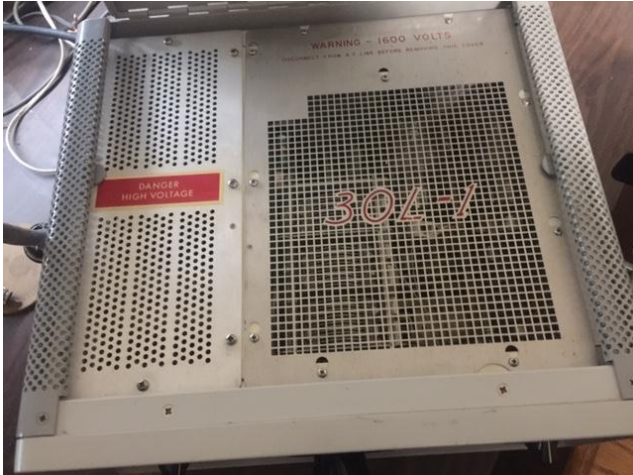


Send offers to Bob W1RH

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

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





From Mike N6ZW

I'm getting rid of the Ameritron AL-1200 1500 Watt 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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