

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

March 2022

Volume 27 Number 3

From the President – NR6Q

Hi All,

It was great to see everyone at the meeting in Loomis. I was pleasantly surprised that so many members were able to attend despite the weather. We had a productive meeting. I was excited to learn that I was 2nd place in the Phone only category in CQP. Sue K6SZQ was 4th place

in that category as well. I'm looking forward to more excellent in person meetings in the future. If you have any suggestions for speakers or locations please send them to Rick Eversole, N6RNO. Thanks and hope to hear you in the WPX contest.

73, Greg Glenn, NR6Q

Next Meeting

Date: April 16th

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Presentation: TBD

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - February 2022

1/31/2022	Opening Balance		\$2,540.11
	Income		\$160.00
	2022 Dues - Paypal	\$40.00	
	2022 Dues - Checking	\$100.00	
	2021 Dues - Checking	\$20.00	
	Expenses		\$46.72
	Zoom Share Fee	\$37.48	
	Box Rental		
	Sympathy Cards	\$9.24	
2/28/2022	Ending Balance		\$2,653.39

From the Secretary – W6BRY

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes

December 4th, 2021

Los Hermanos Restaurant, Sutter Creek

Meeting was called to order at 12:43 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 11 members and 2 guests were in attendance in person; 2 additional members by Zoom.

Steve welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was then held in honor of Jim Seiferling, WB6BET who became Silent Key in November.

October minutes were published in the October newsletter. Bryan Mathews, W6BRY moved to accept the minutes as published. Rich Cutler, WC6H seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The October treasurer's report was published in the November newsletter. Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to accept the report as published. Skip Chraft, N6NFB seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sue Allred, K6SZQ then read the November Treasurer's report. Beginning Balance of \$2698.06 with \$40 income from dues. Expenses were \$250 Donation to Northern California DX Foundation and \$4.30 for a sympathy card for an ending balance of \$2483.76. Skip Chraft, N6NFB moved to accept the report. Greg Glenn, NR6Q seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Sue also mentioned that 2022 dues will be coming due January 1, 2022.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Sue Allred, K6SZQ stated that 2022 dues will be coming due January 1, 2022. All the various methods to pay are listed in the newsletter. She reminded us that we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as a club last year, and moved that Founding Member Ken Anderson, K6TA and wife Kay, K6KO be granted Life Membership. Bob Hess, W1RH seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

We then passed out ballots to all paid members in good standing. 2022 club officers elected were:

- President - Greg Glenn, NR6Q
- Vice President - Rick Eversole, N6RNO
- Secretary - Bryan Mathews, W6BRY
- Treasurer - Sue Allred, K6SZQ
- Director - Steve Allred, NC6R
- Director - Steve Dyer - W1SRD
- Director - Rich Cutler, WC6H

Member Achievements:

Steve went around the room and had each member tell something of note that they had accomplished recently either in the DX or contest realm.

Announcements:

- Steve announced several upcoming contests for the next several weekend.
- Steve also announced some good upcoming DX - the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Ogasawara and Comoros are all expected to be active over the next few weeks. Steven reminded everyone collecting DX contacts for the Marathon contest that we still have time to claim a few more!

Presentation:

Bob Hess, W1RH gave a recap of the Cal QSO results and a recap of preliminary results for the November Sweepstakes. It is looking like MLDXCC will win the Medium Club Category for the 7th year in a row.

Next Meeting:

January - date and location to be announced.

Randy Keen, K6TVT made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Samoian, W6SR seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ
For Secretary - Emilia Seiferling, KI6YTT

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club
General Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2022
Pizza Factory, Loomis

Meeting was called to order at 12:13 p.m. by President Greg Glenn, NR6Q. 10 members were present.

It was determined that the minutes from the last meeting (December 2022) were not published in the newsletter; Sue Allred K6SZQ will forward those on to Doug Phillips, WE6Z to be included in the next newsletter. They will then be approved at the April meeting.

Sue read the February treasurer's report. Beginning Balance of \$2540.11 with \$160 income from dues. Expenses were \$37.48 for our share of the zoom account fees and \$9.24

for sympathy cards for an ending balance of \$2,653.39. Norm Wilson, N6JV moved to accept the report as read. Rick Eversole, N6RNO seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Steve Allred, NC6R noted that we had not presented club awards in some time due to the limitations of not being able to meet together. There was some discussion about awards, and it was the general consensus that having internal club awards (in addition to specific contest awards) was a beneficial thing. Steve and Rich Cutler, WC6H will get together after the WPX contest next weekend and propose awards to be given.

New Business:

Sue Allred, K6SZQ reminded everyone that 2022 dues are now due. All the various methods to pay are listed in the newsletter. She also stated that she will be sending out reminders and asking those who no longer want to belong to let her know; the club roster is at over 150 members, with probably only 25% or so of those actively participating in the club. We had some discussion about doing a roster purge, and if we had a need for an "Associate" class of membership with no dues. We agreed that we always have an open door policy for people who want to come to the meetings purely for the social aspect to attend as guests.

Greg mentioned that Bill Sirvatka, WX6B (current president of REDXA) has sent him an email suggesting a joint meeting between REDXA, MLDXCC and NCCC and suggested a zoom meet-up. Consensus among those at the meeting was that we would be interested in a hybrid Zoom/In-Person meeting, but not a Zoom only event. Greg and Vice-president Rick

Eversole, N6RNO will get back to Bill and work towards finding a date and place.

Rick mentioned to the group that as the new Vice-President he is responsible for meeting locations and presentations. He asked that anyone with suggestions for either talk with him.

Greg shared some information and statistics from the recent World-Wide DX contest that Bob Hess, W1RH has emailed him. MLDXCC did well - over 5 million points.

Announcements:

- Rick Samoian, W6SR announced that he is looking for a straight piece of Rohn 45G if anyone knows of something available.
- Several of the members reported that they had some success with the Loomis swap meet held earlier that morning, despite the sprinkles.

Next Meeting:

April 16th - location to be announced.

Rick Eversole, N6RNO made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jay Harmor, KE6GLA seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ
For Secretary - Brian Mathews, W6BRY

CLUB Dues

2022 dues are due!

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 the Treasurer - Sue Allred K6SZQ, 17610 Red Mule Rd. Fiddletown, CA 95629

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	184
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	169
3	NK7I	Rick Bates	140

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	109
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	98
3	K6YK	John Lee	98

Phone

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	93
2	NC6R	Steve Allred	91
3	WE6Z	Doug Phillips	70

Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	155
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	143
3	NK7I	Rick Bates	122

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

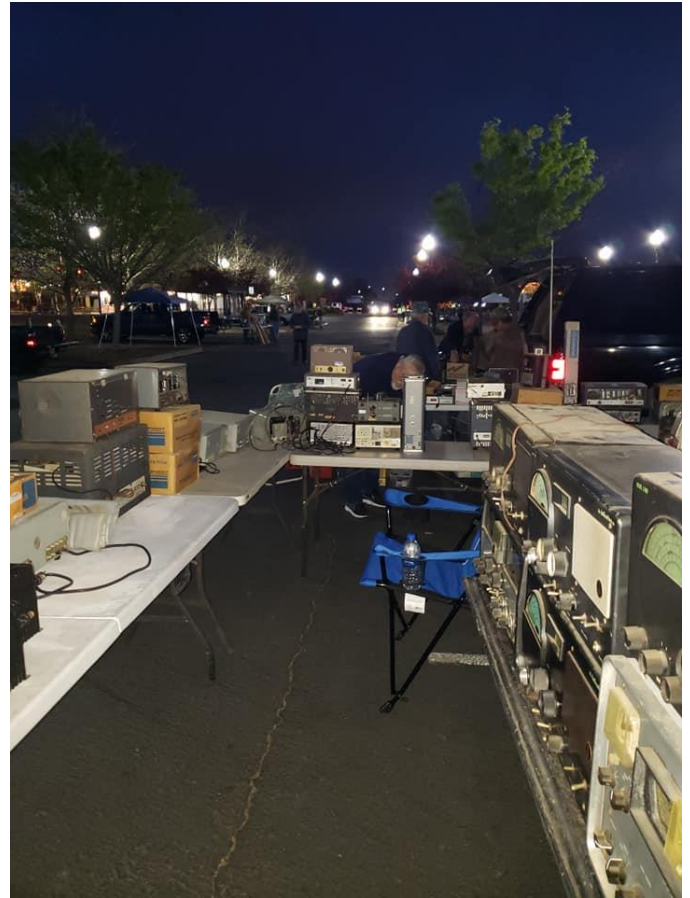
Member Reports

An ATNO for me - EX0QR in the log.
73, Steve / NC6R

ATNO: EX0QR Kyrgyzstan, S79VU Seychelles, and
Macao XX9ET.
Doug WE6Z

Loomis swap meet

The Loomis swap meet was a success. Fortunately, the rain held off for most of the day. It was very well organized. I heard that there were 55 volunteers that helped setup, monitor, and break down the event. It started to rain around 10:30 and within about 20 minutes most people packed up and headed out. Attendance was excellent, and I heard that some people had to park a quarter mile away and walk in. I sold a few things and got to catch up with quite a few friends. A lot of fun was had by all.





Doug WE6Z

State & Province QSO Party Calendar

<https://qsoparty.eqth.net/index.html>

73,

Steve / NC6R

Helping Blind Hams

Gary Johnson, NA6O

March, 2022

There are a lot of hams who are blind or with very limited sight but they manage to have a great time on the radio. They're organized, and participate in many events. There's a contesting group that uses the name BRAILLE during NAQP CW contests, and there's a groups.io group called *blindhams* with quite a few members. The reason I got involved with all of this is because I had a good friend whom some of you might remember: Summer Hartzfeld, VE5SDH. Summer was blind from birth and only got started in ham radio later in her adult life, but quickly took to

CW and became a highly skilled operator. She was a member of CWops and also FOC.

In 2018, I designed and built a few special semiautomatic keys (bugs) that were made entirely of wood, called WoodBugs, and Summer got serial number 1. I even put her callsign on it in Braille. Summer used it regularly on the air and called it "finger candy." Sadly, she passed away from cancer in 2019. Her key was returned to me but I quickly found another worthy recipient: Dave, W4CI. Dave is also blind, is another FOC member, and had actually met Summer. And he, too, is a very skilled bug driver. So that was a match made in heaven. We've even had a number of WoodBug to WoodBug QSOs over the years.



Dave, W4CI, the capable owner of WoodBug S/N 1.

Recently it came to pass that I had a spare radio, a very nice Kenwood TS-590S. It turns out that this is not only the best transceiver value but it's also the most handicapped-accessible radio on the market.

Kenwood offers the Voice Guide System module (VGS-1) that also works in the TS-570. With that installed, the rig can announce key presses, frequency, S-meter readings, and all sorts of useful information. It's a cleanly-integrated solution, very nicely designed and easy to use as is the rest of the radio. Nearly every blind ham I've run into owns this rig.

Since the radio was excess to my needs, I got ahold of Dave and asked him to find a worthy blind ham to whom I might donate the rig. He initially contacted *Handi Hams* (handiham.org, part of the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute) but they weren't able to locate someone with the appropriate needs. Luckily, Dave knew of a fellow not far from his QTH in Florida: Tom Moore, KF4YEY. Tom is fully blind and a good CW op. But like many blind folks, he doesn't have a ton of money to spend on radio gear, so we agreed that this was a good match. I shipped the radio off to Dave, and he helped Tom get it set up. After getting it connected to his laptop, Tom was on the air with it right away and says he's having a great time.

I plan to stay involved as an advocate for blind hams everywhere. The important lesson here is that there are many hams, maybe new or unfortunate, handicapped or not, who can benefit from your excess equipment, your help, and your encouragement. That's real ham spirit in action.



Tom, KF4YEY, trying out his new TS-590S. He can operate it with his eyes closed :-). Photo by W4CI. Yes, blind people take photographs!

Gary Johnson, NA6O

Tube of the Month

808

In late 1936, RCA announced a new triode to compete with the new tubes being made by EIMAC and Taylor Tubes. The [808](#) used high voltage like the EIMAC tubes and would deliver over 200 watts output. The tube would run very hot at higher power and the envelope was made to maximize the dissipation. The full ratings were only to 30 MHz, but the low output capacity allowed it to be used in

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>

Awards Checkers ARRL

Ken Anderson, K6TA

(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR

some of the WWII VHF transmitters. The Navy designated the 808 as the 38808 which was easy to remember. The plate was made of tantalum in the original tubes but some other manufacturers made the plate from graphite. Although designed for high frequency, the Navy used the 808 in some WWII SONAR sets. Many tubes in the late 1930s, including the 808, were made with 7.5-volt filaments. Most post war transmitting tubes used 5 volts or 6.3 volts on the smaller types. After the war it became difficult to find filament transformers for 7.5 unless you wound your own. The 808 was not popular with

hams who could get another surplus tube that could be run well into the VHF range at full power.

Although not a popular tube after the war, it appears that its unusual shape lived on as it was incorporated in 1937 with the RCA 806 which is obviously a clone of EIMAC's 250TH.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

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

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 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>

UPCOMING Events

For the latest contest info, click on the following link:
<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

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.

The Northern California Swap

Thursday evenings at 8 PM local on the N6ICW repeater system 147.195 +123
Join Armand WB2ZEI and the group to buy, sell, or trade amateur radio related gear. Check-ins and visitors welcome.

Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?
Contact Vina K6VNA vina@sign-tek.com

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club
Presents

HAMFEST 2022

Saturday, April 23rd,
8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Featuring:

- Swap Meet (indoor and outdoor spaces)
- Breakfast (pancakes, sausage and eggs)
- VE Testing Session (advance registration required)
- Station Demos
- Fox Hunt
- And more!



First Congregational Church of Sonoma
252 W Spain St, Sonoma
Talk in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 PL)
For info: valleyofthemoonarc@gmail.com

Admission: FREE
Breakfast: \$10.00

<http://www.vomarc.org>



2022 Meeting Dates

January – none
Feb – none
March – 19th
Apr – 16th
May – 14th
June – 18th
July – 23rd
August – 27th
September – 17th
October – 22nd
November – 19th
Dec – TBD

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>

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

<http://calaverasars.org/>

Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Electronics
Society (TCARES)

<https://tcares.net/>

Please contact the editor to have your club listed here.

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The MLDXCC Newsletter

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