

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

March 2023

Volume 28 Number 3

From the President

Storms, Storms, and more Storms, the rain and wind – it keeps a comin! The wind that has been really messing with antennas. Some of our fellow operators have been dealing with snow loading and tower failure. Twice this year I have had to change the shear bolt in my Yaesu Rotor. To put this in perspective, in the last eight years I have had the shear bolt break three times, two of them this year. This is what we do, we keep our stations running come rain or shine. Hopefully by April we can get back to some more normal weather.

This weekend will be one of the first Hamfest/swap meets of the year. Hope all of you can get out and rub elbows with some of your fellow hams. It looks as if the weather will be good, and I would encourage all to support our fellow hams that sell at the swap meet. The meet will be held at the Historic Loomis Train Depot, 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis CA. The meet is sponsored by the Sierra Foothills ARC. There will always be some fun goodies to look at buy. Of course, after the meet we will have a short MLDXCC lunch.

Hope to see you there,

73, Greg

From the Treasurer

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report -February 2023

1/31/2023	Opening Balance		\$3,030.57
	Income		\$90.00
	2023 Dues - Paypal	\$90.00	
	2023 Dues - Checking	\$0.00	
	Expenses		\$0.90
	PayPal Fees	\$0.90	
2/28/2023	Ending Balance		\$3,119.67

From the Secretary

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes as reported by
Secretary, Bob Hess, W1RH

The February general meeting of the Mother
Lode DX/Contest Club was held on February
25th, at The Break Room, in Shingle Springs.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by
President Greg Glen, NR6Q.

Introductions

The following were in attendance and introduced
themselves:

Greg Glenn – NR6Q (President)

Rick Eversole – N6RNO (Vice President)

Sue Allred – K6SZQ (Treasurer)

Bob Hess – W1RH (Secretary)

Steve Allred – NC6R (Director)

Rich Cutler – WC6H (Director)

Steve Dyer - W1SRD (Director)

Norm Wilson – N6JV (Newsletter Editor and
Webmaster)

Jay - KE6GLA

Roger - W6WHU

Dave – K6TQ

Lee – KM6VMZ

Bob – W6RC

Rick – W6SR

Rick – NK6I (Zoom)

Barry – K6ST (Zoom)

Jim – K6OK (Zoom)

Mark – WC3W (Zoom)

Approval of Minutes

The January minutes were published in the
February Nugget newsletter. Member, Rick
Samoian, W6SR, moved to accept the minutes as
published. Vice President, Rick Eversole,
N6RNO, seconded the motion. It passed
unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The January Treasurer's report was published in
the February Nugget. Treasurer, Sue Allred,
presented her report stating that the current
MLDXCC balance is \$3030.57. A motion to
accept the Treasurer's report was made by
Webmaster, Norm Wilson, N6JV, and seconded
by Member, Rick Samoian, W6SR. The motion
passed unanimously.

Old Business

President Greg Glenn reiterated that the Club is
still looking for a newsletter editor and thanked

Webmaster, Norm Wilson, for acting as the temporary Nugget editor.

New Business

President, Greg Glenn asked Secretary, Bob Hess, to introduce three new-member applications.

1 – Will Shattuck, KN6TZK, Visalia

2 – Lee Gravesen, KM6VMZ, Volcano

3 – Richard Jackson, NC6RJ, Nevada City

President, Greg Glenn, asked for a vote of the members in attendance. All three were voted in unanimously.

Treasurer, Sue Allred, reminded the membership that the 2023 membership dues are due.

Barry Bettman, K6ST, invited MLDXCC members to attend the Sierra Amateur Radio Society on Saturday, March 4th (in-person or via Zoom) with a presentation on the current solar cycle.

Secretary, Bob Hess, noted that a 2022 ARRL Sweepstakes MLDXCC win is looking promising.

MLDXCC Focus Contests

President, Greg Glenn, noted that the ARRL DX CW and Phone contests are MLDXCC Focus Contests.

Treasurer, Sue Allred, asked Secretary, Bob Hess, if the ARRL Contest Eligibility List was up to date. Secretary Hess noted that it was up to date as of the November, 2022, ARRL Sweepstakes Phone Contest.

There was also significant discussion regarding the CQ DX Marathon.

President, Greg Glenn, noted the upcoming ARRL DX Phone contest and the Russian DX contest.

DX

There was significant discussion regarding the recent 3Y0J dxpedition to Bouvet Island. Of those in attendance, W1SRD, W1RH, N6JV, and NK7I, were able to make successful QSO's with this dxpedition.

President, Greg Glenn, noted the following current or upcoming dxpeditions:

3B7M (St Brandon), 9G4X (Ghana), 9U4WX (Burundi), VU4T (Andaman Islands), CY0S (Sable Island), T33BA/T33BB (Banaba), T30TTT (Tarawa Island, Kiribati), V26EI (Antigua), HD8M (Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos Islands), 5J01EA (Providencia Island, San Andres), C5C (Gambia), Vatican, FT8WW (Crozet)

Next Meeting

Vice President, Rick Eversole, noted that the next meeting will be held in Loomis, 11:30 AM, at the Pizza Factory, near the Loomis Hamfest.

Motion to Adjourn

President Greg Glenn asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Approved, with the meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM.

Presentation

The speaker was Mark Wohlschlegel, who runs the CQ DX Marathon program. Mark, presented from his QTH in Florida, via Zoom.

Member Input

NK7I

After a failure of his KPA1500 amplifier (limiting the station to 500 watts for this DX team period), Rick, NK7I, reports good success with the 3B7M St Brandon DXpedition, ending up in 4th place on the Clublog Zone 3 (US) leaderboard.

N6JV

I worked the 3B7M on 12 meters and FT8WW on 10 meters for new band countries. Six meters have been very good with openings to VK/ZL, JA and South America. Enough new grids have been collected to apply for the VUCC 1000 grid level which was approved in a few hours. Credits were also sent in to LOTW for the WPX award and I now have credit for 5850 confirmed CW prefixes.



Before the winter storms, I removed the 30-meter beam and got it fixed. This latest blow showed that I didn't do a good job. After the last maintenance session, I had problems using my right arm for 2 weeks. I may wait till summer.



The storm also blew over several eucalyptus trees. The wood will keep the fireplace going next winter



SOUTH BAY SWAP MEET

The Electronics Flea Market opens on April 16, 2023. This is the 3rd Sunday in April since April 9 (2nd Sunday) is Easter. The location is parking lot 3 at West Valley College in Saratoga:

West Valley College
14000 Fruitvale Ave
Saratoga, California 95070

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

Tube of the Month

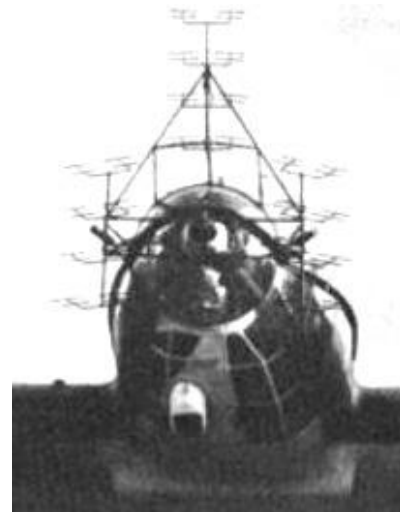
S1/3iII

Early in WWII, the German military had fielded several good operating RADAR systems. What they didn't have and wanted was to equip aircraft. Land based RADARs were very heavy and bulky. The RF section of the RADAR wasn't very large or heavy, but the conventional pulse modulators were a real problem. The Hohentwiel RADAR transmitter was intended for aircraft use but a new system of pulse modulator was needed. Many types of modulators were tried including thyratrons, but were unsuccessful. Early tubes were intended to be detectors. Attempts were made to make them more sensitive by adding different gasses. When too much gas was inserted, it became a switch and the thyatron was born. Adding mercury, argon or neon would make a tube that could be used as an industrial switch or as a power supply rectifier. These tubes were not fast enough to be used in pulse. The German firm AEG (Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft) was contracted to develop a thyatron that contained helium as that gas had showed promise to be useful in high-speed switching. The [S1/3iII](#) thyatron had a large anode and a barium-strontium-oxide cathode to handle high current in 2 μ s pulses. The tube was designed to handle 500 amps at up to 1000 pulsed volts. The filament was rated at 8 volts at 7 amps. Useful life was 1000 hours. The tube was so successful that it remained in production after the war.

The modulator was driven by an AC voltage of about 1000 volts AC at 500 Hz. This voltage was sent through a diode to produce DC pulses at 500 Hz. The DC pulses charged a capacitor through an RC circuit that was set to accumulate enough voltage to trip the thyatron after 10 pulses. The discharge was in line with a pulse transformer that increased the voltage on the transmitter to about 10,000 volts at a 2 μ s pulse rate. This simple thyatron system was much lighter and the principle of modulation is still commonly used today with helium and hydrogen tubes.



The Hohentwiel system, which operated up to 600 MHz, was first installed in the Junker JU-88 Schnellbomber. It was as fast as many of the early fighters. The JU-88 with the RADAR was intended for use as a night fighter. The RADAR's antennas varied with frequency and continuous refinements. The photo is of an early version with a Christmas tree of elements in 3 groups. The top bay was for transmit and the other bays for receiving. The receiving antennas are pointed slightly outward so the pilot could turn the plane from side to side for the best signal. The antennas did slow the plane a bit. This RADAR system was code-named Lichtenstein.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

Deleted Countries – French India

French India

France had 5 small enclaves in what is today modern India. They were established much in the manner that British did. First, a French company would build a factory and then France would station soldiers there to “protect” them. The enclaves were Pondichery, Karikal, Yanaon, Mahe, and Chandernagor. France also put several trading posts in other villages.

The French trading companies began to appear in the mid-1600s. The first colony was established in 1673 at Pondichery, then Yanon, and Karaikal in the 1700s. In 1741 France attempted to establish a territorial empire and was met with strong resistance from the British, effectively ending their hopes. Subsequently the French and British had skirmishes over the next 110 years.

The Independence movement and ultimately the independence of India put the kibosh on any attempt for France to hold the colonies. At the same time France was going through the “Why do we have colonies?” debate and ultimately most of the French possessions reverted back to original owners. Fortunately, the Antarctic possession stayed under their being no one lived there to start with. We do not know why Guadeloupe Island, Saint Martin, and others remain a department of France. Maybe they voted to stay with their benefactor. The question stands, why do some possessions become separate entities and what happened to them? Other than the DXCC rules there are some places that fit in the criteria but are not given separate status (e.g. The Pribilof Islands though it is 200 miles from any other US land.) That might be a good article to write.



Thanks to the Southern California DX Club Newsletter

W-51 BASE ASSEMBLY

At a recent club meeting, someone asked about the base for a W-51 tower. When I put my tower up, K6OK came up with a design for the cage. As I recall the hole was 48 inches square, so the cage was about 40 inches on all three sides. Cage size will vary with soil type. After having bad experience with bailing wire tied rebar, I wanted to make a welded cage. Rebar is sold as standard and as weldable. Price is almost the same. I cut all the pieces to length and formed them into squares with a welding fixture I welded together out of scrap angle and flat stock. The fixture was carefully assembled to guarantee a 90-degree corner.



The #8 rebar was held in place with a pair of vice grips and welded where they met with 6011 welding rods. The 6011 is very hot and doesn't mind any rust. After the three larger squares were assembled, the three smaller ones were done. The smaller squares were welded to the mid points on the sides.



The corners of the frame were made with #4 (1/2 inch) rebar and the 3 assemblies were welded to the

vertical corners. The diamond configuration was necessary as the W-51's base fixture would fit into the hole in the middle.



The hole required a 20-pound jack hammer and a son who works for food. Wilton soil is only slightly less hard than the cement. The 2X4 frame in this shape allows it to be secured with construction stakes without making the sides crumble into the hole.



The mounting plates were punched at a steel company and welded to the heavy rebar by a certified welder (not me). After attaching the plate assemblies to the tower, Pieces of rebar were welded to keep the shape during the cement pour.



Dear Amateur Radio & DX Enthusiast,

Do you want to meet and mingle with all your DX friends? Are you saving money for yet another tower, rig or amp? Would you like to talk with some of the top Vendors in ham radio? Then Join us next year for a fun event: The 74th International DX Convention in Visalia, CA., April 21-23, 2023.

IDXC 2023 – co-sponsored by the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) and the Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA) will be held at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. IDXC is the premier DX Convention in the United States, and is attended by hundreds of serious DXers and Contesters looking to improve their skills, upgrade their stations and spend some quality hands-on time with the vendors' latest equipment offerings. If you're interested in getting involved in DXing, this a great place to start!

Convention Highlights:

- A full 2.5 Day program: Friday (April 21); Saturday (April 22); 1/2 day Sunday (April 23)
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars on both Friday & Saturday
- Excellent Keynote Speakers
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall offering all the latest gear Friday and Saturday
- ARRL QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes from ICOM, Yaesu, Elecraft, and others
- Special Sessions: Contest Forum; DX Forum; ARRL Forum; YL Forum
- Optional training on Friday: DX University and Contest Academy
- Eyeball QSOs with your DXing friends, or make some new ones!
- Optional Saturday Visalia Tour (for your non-ham guests)
- **IDXC Registration is now open and Hotel rooms are available!**
- **For more information and to register, visit our website at: dxconvention.com**

IDXC 2023 will be the biggest and the best International DX Convention yet, and we hope you'll be able to join us to enjoy it all!

73,

Clay Cougar - N5YJZ
Ned Stearns - AA7A
Paul Ewing - N6PSE
IDXC 2023 Co-Chairs

info@dxconvention.com



7TH ANNUAL LOOMIS HAMFEST LOOMIS HISTORIC TRAIN DEPOT, LOOMIS, CA

All of us here at the Sierra Foothills ARC are eager to see you all
Mark your calendars for March 18, 2023!

First swap of the year!

Get your stuff, grab your wallet and get ready for a super swap!

We'll have donuts, coffee, Hamfest door prizes, a club table, media coverage, Elmer tours, a test table, sellers, buyers, and much more.

WHERE

Historic Loomis Train Depot
5775 Horseshoe Bar Road
Loomis, CA

WHEN

Saturday, March 18, 2023
Buyer 7:00 AM – Noon
Sellers 6:00 AM

Club Log Standings 2023

Overall

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	173
2	K6YK	John Lee	165
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	163

CW

1	K6YK	John Lee	140
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	112
3	K6OK	Jim Varney	104

Phone

1	WE6Z	Doug Phillips	102
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	91
3	KE6GLA	Jay Harmon	86

Data

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	151
2	W6DR	Dave Ritchie	149
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	142

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
International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.40	\$1.45

2023 Meeting Dates

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

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

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-qs1-service>

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/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.

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

NC6R has a TS-50, AT-50 tuner, mic & power cable that he is offering FREE to a young ham that would like to get on HF but doesn't have the resources to do so.

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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