

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

May 2019

Volume 24 Number 5

From the President NC6R

MLDXCC –

Did you get a chance to attend the DX convention in Visalia? If not you missed a really great event! There were a record number of first timers in attendance, many who were of the younger crowd. It was really great to see their excitement.

I had the privilege of sitting in several of the forums with some of the newer hams. Some of

the questions they asked simply left me amazed. Had I taken for granted how much “ham” lingo we speak? It served to remind me that when talking to a newer ham or newer club member, they may not know or understand all our terminology. Make sure to clue them in.

One of the forum speakers at the DX Convention was MLDXCC member Steve Dyer, W1SRD. He spoke on “Training Your Weakness Using Contest Super Simulator”, a very interesting topic to be sure. Steve also spoke about his upcoming DX trip to South Orkney Island. Currently South Orkney is #16 on Club Logs most wanted DXCC entities list. The expedition is planned for 15 days, starting in February of

Next Meeting

The next meeting is May 11th at 11:30 AM at Wimpy’s Marina, 14001 Walnut Grove Rd, Walnut Grove CA.

Program is a Walnut Grove tower tour.

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



2020. It would be great to help support one of our own by helping to put this rare entity on the air. The donation and information website can be found at - <https://sorkney.com>

Also at Visalia, Dave AA6YQ was scheduled to make a forum presentation on his excellent logging software suite, DX Lab. However at the last minute a situation arose preventing him from participating. MLDXCC member Dave N6DE stepped in the gap and did a nice job filling in as a presenter.

As you may remember, Jordan WC6J was our featured speaker at the March meeting. Have

Dits and Dahs

Norm Wilson worked T77C San Marino on 6 meter EME for #118 on 6!

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!

you been following any of the SOTA activations on their web page? During his talk he gave out information on how we could participate either as a “mountain goat” (activator) or a “shack sloth” (chaser). It’s another way to keep active on the air during this lull in the sunspot cycle.

FT4, a new digital mode, was recently made available by Joe Taylor K1JT. While not a replacement for FT8, it’s meant as an enhancement for digital contest use. As announce by Joe – “it’s a more contest-friendly digital mode that can compete with RTTY-contesting QSO rates while preserving many of

the benefits of FT8. “ Additional information on this new mode can be found at: [http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT4 Protocol.pdf](http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT4_Protocol.pdf)

Have you been participating in any of the recent contests? There’ve been a number of late. Please consider sending a short write up to Dennis NJ6G our newsletter editor and let us know how you did.

Here is a couple of website to check out and bookmark. 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

Nevada Energy

Today was a Monumental Day... The NV Energy lived up to their promise.

In an effort to eradicate some horrible power-line noise, I contacted NV Energy beginning in March and after 4 calls was connected to the person in charge of my area. She was great, listened carefully, asked questions, and said she would meet me at our home on April 11th. She arrived with a troubleshooter and a line man, spent an hour inspecting the problem. She took one look at the dilapidated 50 year old power-poles near our home and shook her head at what she saw.



poles that are 5 ft higher from the T connection 1000ft away and everything between to the pole in my front yard.

They even replaced the drop lines from the pole to our master breaker panel to make sure they solved the problem. Happy, professional men doing a job they love saved Ham Radio for me.



For the first time ever from this location I can actually hear the background noise on each band, listen to FM Repeaters without a never ending crackle wiping it out, copy the KJ6KO CM88 VHF/UHF beacons without straining to listen thru S9 noise. 6M is suddenly very quiet in all directions! Maybe I can work the remaining FFMA grids this summer now that I Can Hear again!

She made me a promise to have a crew come out and Completely Replace the FOUR Poles in question including Modern Hardware and a brand spanking new Transformer that feeds me and my neighbor.



I was stunned as I never expected that kind of response at all!... but... I am here to tell the tale that at 7:30AM today a crew of 4 men and 4 trucks did exactly that. They installed brand new

The 4 guy crew did a bang up job! It was fascinating to watch the careful intertwined aerial ballet of two men in bucket trucks, one guy drilling the required holes, and the 4th doing all the ground work supporting it all. I can't thank you guys enough for your professionalism, Hard Work, and Joy of a job well done!





Finally, Thank You NV Energy for delivering on your promise, I can't express my gratitude enough for doing the right thing.

73s de Tim - K7XC - DM08jh... sk
Adapt, Overcome, Succeed!

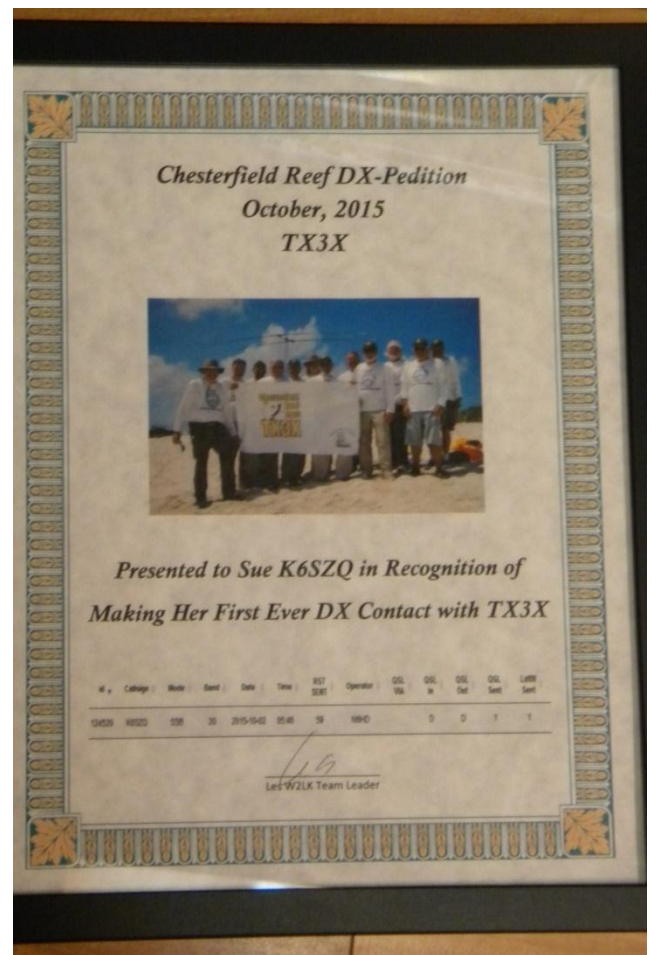
A Surprise at Visalia

A week or so before Visalia, I received an email from Gene Spinelli, K5GS. He was working on the South Orkney DXpedition Donor log, and something prompted him to go back and look at the log from the Chesterfield DXpedition. Gene

noted that in the contact info I had thanked them for "my first DX contact ever!"

Gene was surprised, and inquired if TX3X was REALLY my first DX contact. I explained how in the beginning I was only working the DXpeditions, and then started looking for rare DX. We chatted back and forth, and he signed off with "see you in Visalia".

Little did I know that Gene would have a surprise waiting for me - he created a custom plaque commemorating that first DX contact with a picture of the team, the contact log info, and signed by the DXpedition team leader. What an amazing gift! Now I just need to get NC6R to free up a little wall space in the ham shack!



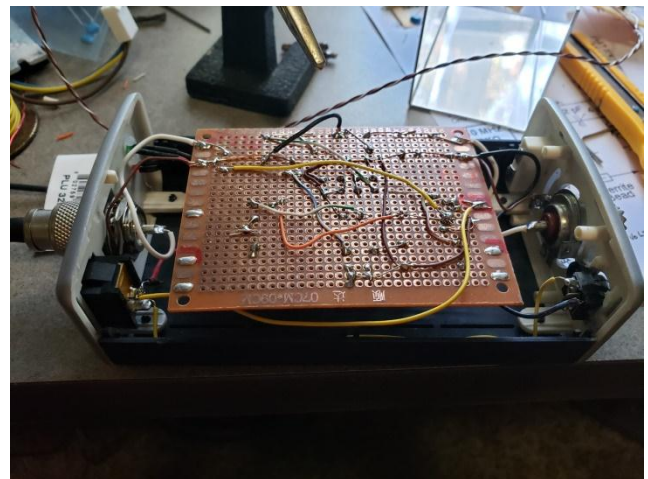
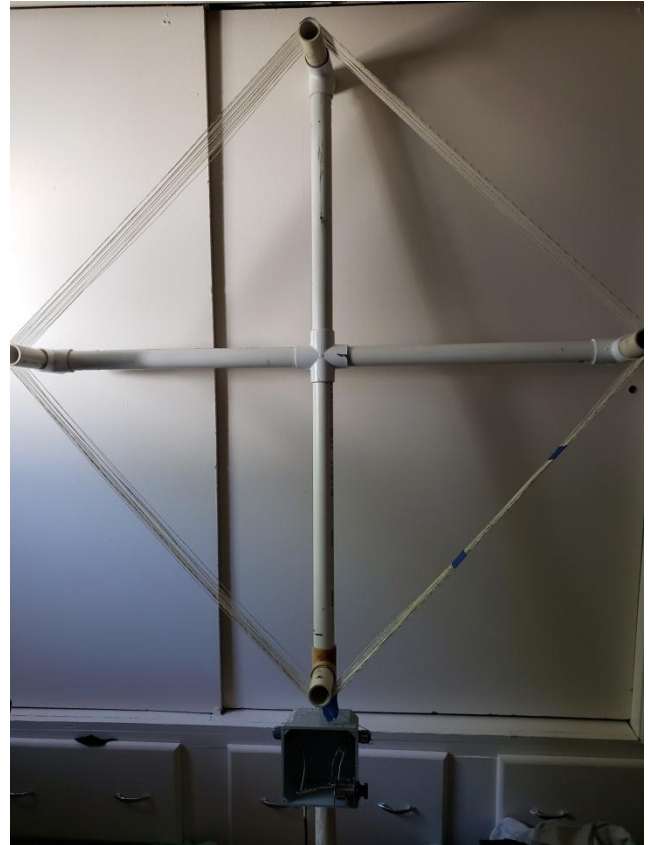
Sue Allred, K6SZQ

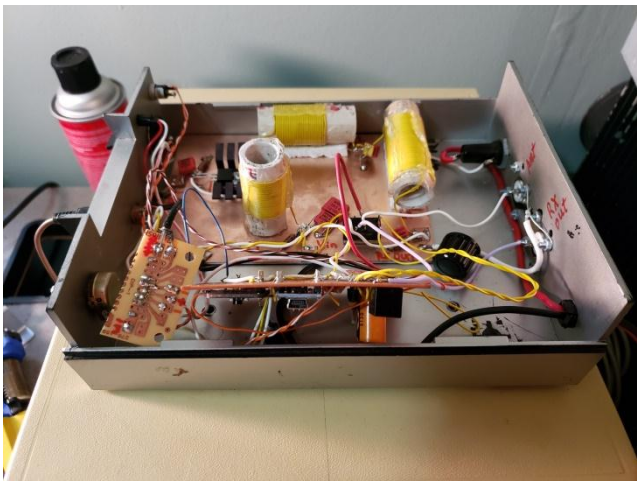
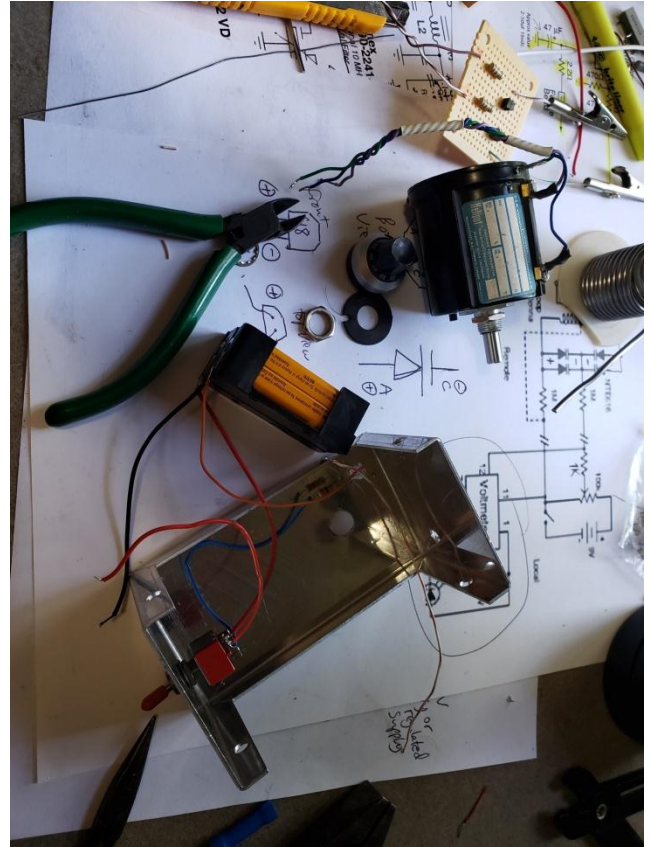
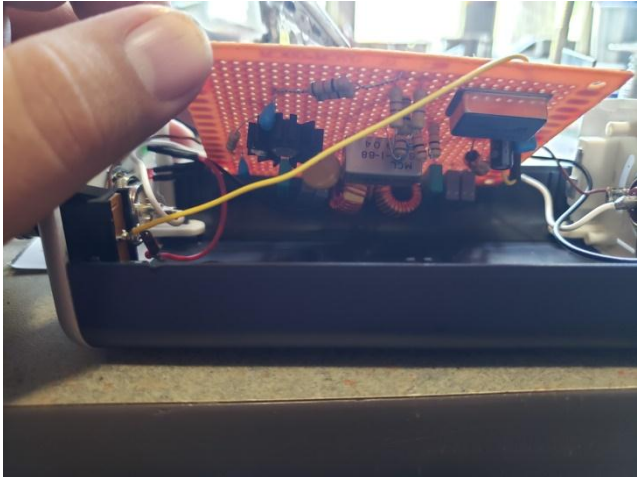
WE6Z Low Band Station

I didn't make it to Visalia.

However, I have been having fun building things on my vacation. This "Spring Break" I finished up my 630 meter CW transmitter. It uses an IRF510 mosfet, and puts out about 8 watts. I measured and tested an old WW2 variometer with my 160 meter vertical. I was able to resonate my vertical on 475Khz with about 220uH of inductance. I built a VLF up-converter. And I built a 16 turn, 4ft receive loop for VLF. I hope to be on the 630 meter band soon.

Doug WE6Z





Visalia Pictures

Bob N6TV did his usual great job of capturing images from the Visalia IDXC. Here are a few, the rest can be found at <https://bit.ly/Visalia2019>

See anybody you know?





WB6KBZ	
Dues – W6RPM	20
Overpay – W6SR	20
Dues – K6TVT	20
Dues – KE6GLA & KG6PNP	30
Dues – KD6TMZ	20

Expense:

Mar 27 Balance 2759.10

Tyler Laursen
K6TLR

MLDXCC Treasurer

Tyler’s busy paying the bills, look for his April report in the June Nugget next month!

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

From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC – March
2019
Treasurer's Report

Feb 28 Balance 2629.10

Income: Dues – 20

Club Log Standings

Overall

1 N6JV Norm Wilson 218

2	K6YK	John Lee	173
3	WU6W	Rick Palio	136

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	159
2	K6YK	John Lee	156
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	122

Phone

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	111
2	NC6R	Steve Allred	94
3	N6WM	Chris Tate	77

Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	128
2	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	126
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	103

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.

Dits and Dahs

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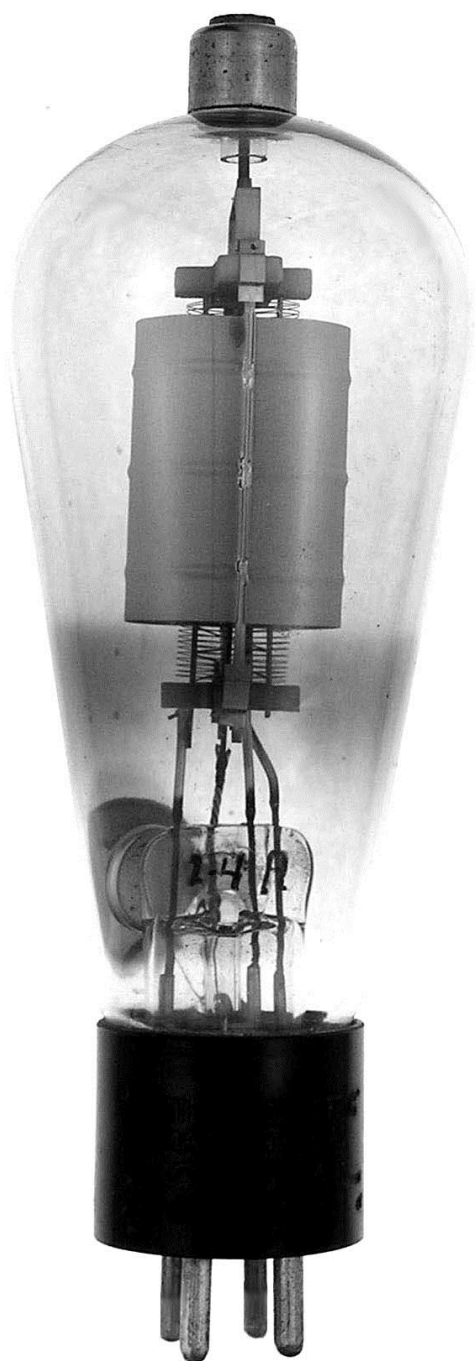
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Tube of the Month N6JV

WE 282A

Western Electric started promoting tubes for amateur radio in the early 1930's. I found a 1933 catalog for the suggested tubes and a price list. The classic tubes that now demand big prices were there but the most expensive tube was the 282A at \$31. I wasn't familiar with this small tube, but the reason for the price required some research. In 1933, \$31 was a fortune.

The 282A is a 70 watt tetrode and was designed to be used in a transmitter for a new commercial application. The new “App” was aircraft phone communication. The size and weight of a plate modulator wouldn't work well in aircraft so screen modulation was used. The tubes had large screen grids to optimize this mode. The Western Electric transmitter was the WE 13A. It used a 205D as a crystal oscillator driving a 282A buffer/multiplier that drove a pair of parallel 282As in the final. The modulator was also a 205D. The 13A ran 50 watts of AM output and was one of the first “idiot boxes” used in communications. Everything was pre-tuned to three available frequencies from 2250 to 6500 kHz. One knob selected the crystal and the coil units needed for the stages. A single 40 foot antenna was used for all channels. Within a few years the transmitter was improved with more features. The 13C added 500 kHz for emergencies especially at sea where all ships monitor 500 kHz. For operation on 500 kHz, a 250 foot trailing wire antenna needed to be deployed and the CW mode could be used.



In 1937, Amelia Earhart had her new twin engine Lockheed Electra 10E equipped with the 13C transmitter including the trailing wire antenna. The three frequencies were 500, 3105 and 6210 kHz. On Earhart's around the world flight, the transmitter worked well. At one point in the

trip, she and her navigator Fred Noonan got tired of reeling the trailing wire antenna in and out by hand so they decided to strip it out and save some weight. They reasoned that they didn't need the antenna because on 500 kHz they could only use CW and neither of them knew Morse code. As they flew from New Guinea to Howland Island, they had intermittent communications with a ship that was sent there to provide navigation assistance. The plane's receiver had its best reception on the highest frequency, but the direction finding (DF) loop didn't work on the higher range. The Coast Guard cutter only had DF capabilities on 500 kHz. OOPS!

The 13C with its expensive tubes worked as designed, the Coast Guard performed professionally and people are still looking for Amelia after 80 years.

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 – May 2

7QP – May 4

NEQP – May 4

SDARC Monthly Meeting – May 9

MLDXCC Monthly Meeting – May 11

NCCC Meeting – May 11

Dayton Hamvention – May 17-19

CQWW WPX CW – May 25-26

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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