

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

Heard Island DXpeditions 1997 VK0IR and 2015 VK0EK

What better way to end out the year then to hear about island DXpeditions!

The Mother Lode DX & Contest Club will show a video on the 1997 VK0IR Heard Island Dxpediton, then Bob, W1RH, will give a presentation, prepared by Bob, KK6EK who was the expedition leader on VK0IR and will be a leader on the VK0EK, on the status of the 2015 VK0EK DXpedition. Heard Island is currently ranked #6 on ClubLog's Most Wanted list.

The meeting will be this Saturday, November 22nd, located at:

Thai House
200 Hwy 12, Suite # E-4
Valley Springs, Ca 95252
<http://thaihouserestraunt.com/>

General club meeting starts at 11:30am with election of 2015 Officers and Board of Directors and the presentation to follow.

This is not a RSVP meeting. It is open menu at the restaurant with individual checks.

Hope to see you there!
73, Verne, W6VMT

MLDXCC 2014 DUES

Our dues are voluntary; however you must pay dues, \$15/yr, to be eligible for any club awards. Dues can be paid at our meetings, or send them to me at the following address:

Ms. Carolyn Wilson
P.O. Box 273
Somerset, CA 95684
Thank you. 73, Carolyn, K6TKD – Treasurer.

-MLDXCC Meeting Dates:

December (no meeting)

2014-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH

Vice President – Verne, W6VMT

Secretary – Dick, K6LRN

Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD

Director – Rick, W6RKC

Director – Shirl, AA6K

FROM THE PREZ

Happy Holidays, MLDXCC'ers!

I am happy. I added FT4TA to the log three times. Tromelin Island is now off of my list as an all-time new one. I managed to work them on 20 CW and Phone, as well as 40 CW. And, yes, I am in their log, so all is good in my world of DX'ing. I still need about 8 more to reach honor roll. I'm looking forward to adding Navassa in 2015 and, hopefully, Chesterfield as all-time new ones. With our own W1SRD on the Chesterfield team, we all will have someone listening for our calls. The VU4, Andaman Islands, dxpedition seems to be on when I'm not. I really need that one and I'll keep looking for them, if I can ever hear them.

I did my part for NCCC with 800+ contacts in Sweepstakes. It's never been one of my favorite contests, but I do want to see NCCC come out on top again. As I write this, SS Phone starts in a few hours. Hopefully, I can make 1,000 Q's.

The new (to me) 40 meter rotatable dipole that I got from W6SR seems to be performing well. I worked more 40 meter Q's in SSCW than I ever have in that contest. I did some on-air checks prior to SS and the rotatable dipole does edge out the 40 meter loop and 40 meter sloper in the signal reports I got. It's also much quieter than the sloper, which has been my primary 40 meter antenna. That's important, because if you can't hear them, you can't work them. I did work FT4TA on the rotatable dipole.

I believe this is my final President's report, as MLDXCC presidents are limited to three concurrent terms and mine ends at the end of the year. Three terms is enough, and new blood is always a good thing. It has been a fun three years, with two, and hopefully three, CQP top-club plaques during my term. It's also been nice to watch our Club's progress in ClubLog.

MLDXCC is very healthy with many new members, all

adding to our CQP totals. I just love to see some of our new contesters and DX'ers getting better and better with each contest and adding more and more entities to their DXCC totals. It's fun watching the rivalry between W6VMT, K6LR (new call: You may know him as W6OLY), and K6SCA, who have all joined the Club since I have been the Prez.

Once officer does not make a club, however. I want to send out a special thanks to the officers we have had over the past few years, especially Verne, W6VMT, who has done an outstanding job as VP this year, coming up with great speakers and meeting locations.

Our ever-present newsletter editor, W6SR, and webmaster, N6JV, also deserve a big thanks from me. Our website and the Nugget have brought in new members by just being there. I can't say enough good about what Rick has done with the Nugget and for what Norm has done with the website. I often go to the website after each contest to see what our members have done for contest scores. Now, we need a page for DX totals!

And, then there's Shir, AA6K, who has offered to run for President.....again. Shir brought in a great bunch of new members from the Lodi club. The idea of getting this energetic group to do another "field day" operation to support our CQP totals was brilliant. I was really impressed with how the Lodi group came together for CQP and hope to see those guys and gals in our club for years to come.

Let's also not forget that Shir is our self-proclaimed contest log flogger. I am famous for forgetting to turn in a log after a contest but, thanks to Shir, my MLDXCC contest logs always get in on time. I'll note that I just realized that my SSCW log is due on Monday and I still have not submitted that log.....and no one from NCCC has reminded me. It's a thankless task, and it can appear as nagging, but it's a very much needed position in any contest club.

Thanks also go out to our Secretary, K6LRN, and Dick's wife and Treasurer, Caroline, K6TKD. Both are always there when we need them and both have, for years, got way beyond the call of duty.

Rick, W6RKC, as a Board member, is always quick to comment or suggest, when Club topics come up. Same goes for two of our Club founders, Ken, K6TA, and Kay, K6KO.

One more member who never receives enough credit for what he does is Jeff, WK6I. Jeff manages the MLDXCC Reflector, as some of you may know, but he also organizes the MLDXCC Contest Dinner each year at the Visalia International DX Convention. The Club generally makes a few bucks off of this dinner but, more importantly, it puts our Club in the limelight every year at the convention.

Anyway, suffice it to say that this is a very health club and I see it that way for years to come.

On a sad note, I'll always look at a vacant chair at future meetings and think that Jettie would have filled that chair. We're going to miss him.

We had a MLDXCC Board meeting last weekend and it seems that we have a good slate of officers to present at the November meeting. There's always room for more, but don't be afraid to attend the November meeting. You won't get drafted for a position unless you want it. As I said, we have volunteers for every Board position.

Our meeting this month will be a viewing of the 1997 Heard Island video. This is an excellent video. Also, Bob, KK6EK, has prepared a presentation giving the status of the 2015 Heard Island dxpedition. Bob can't make the meeting, but he is going to brief me on the phone and I'll give the presentation.

See you next Saturday!

73, Bob, W1RH

THE VP SEZ

By the time you read this FT4TA final logs should be uploaded to ClubLog and LOTW. Unfortunately I'm not in them. I heard them several times over the almost two weeks they operated, however I couldn't get through the pile-ups to log them. Maybe next time..hi

I want to Thank everyone who made this year as VP a great one! From the outstanding folks whose presentations were well attended to the folks attending who supported our club.

We should all Thank Bob, W1RH, our outgoing President, for the excellent service he has provided the club over the last three years. Bob, has focused on our club being a contender in club contests, especially CQP, and it shows.

Our November meeting, the last for this year, will see elections of our 2015 Officers and Board of Directors. If you would like to be a part of this great team, and support the club, please let someone know.

Make sure you make this last meeting of the year to eat some good food, have some fun and go back in time with a video on the VK0IR Heard Island DXpedition of 1997 and then a presentation prepared by Bob, KK6EK, who was on the 1997 DXpedition, and delivered by Bob, W1RH, on the status of the upcoming 2015 VK0EK DXpedition that Bob, KK6EK, will lead.

General club meeting starts at 11:30am with the presentation to follow.

Signing off for this year...**73, Verne, W6VMT**

Treasurer's Report

Balance: 01 October, 2014 \$1565.20

Income:	
Dues – W6HFM	15.00
Donation	5.00
Lunch Meeting	<u>17.86</u>
	\$37.86
Expenses:	
Badge-	19.90
Speaker Lunch	<u>18.00</u>
	\$37.90

Balance: 31, Octoberber 2014: \$1565.16

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi all.....

October was another busy month here, the FT4TA guys were on (for 10 days) from Tromelin Island. I need em' on all bands except 15 and 20M . Just before the DXpedition, the antenna rotor, and a piece of coax to my antenna switch decided to die. Of course this was during our recent rain storm. However, I was able make the rotor limp through the FT4TA operation, with lots of rotor hangs and stops. Sometime it would work for a bit, but most times I was pointed in the wrong direction, and not hearing anything. The coax was real PIA to find. It was intermittent, but after many trips to the tower I finally got it

nailed down. Surprisingly, I got into their log on 12-80M as well as a couple of RTTY contacts.

Last Sunday a small group from the El Dorado Radio Club, that Bob W1RH, had gathered, as well as K6OK, helped get the antenna down and the tower tilted so I could remove and replace the rotor. Needless to say I opted for a larger rotor as well (the TX-2). This past Saturday, I was able to get a group (with W6DE added) to help get the tower back up. At this time I replaced my Force-12 Triband/30M antenna with a 3 element StepIR antenna that I purchased a couple of months ago from Chuck, W6RD. But as luck would have it, the StepIR had a problem, one of the DIR motors is not operating, or it may be a broken cable to the motor. So.... I'm not done yet. and may have to take the antenna down again. Crap!

One last thing, I now have confirmed 116 RTTY countries, all via LOTW, and I have worked a total of 156 RTTY countries total in less than 11 months. This was all casual operating, and all without spending a penny on IRC's, "green-stamps" or sending out a single QSL card. So without much effort, everyone can have a DXCC on their wall. All without spending big bucks on postage, or "green stamps". CU all at the next meeting.....**de Rick, W6SR**

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The following is the latest installment of a multi-part series that was suggested by Dave, W6DE. It was compiled and written by W2XOY; I found it very interesting and hope our readers do as well. de Ed.

The History Of Amateur Radio Chapter 11

In our last installment, we saw how the FCC shifted from an initial VHF/UHF band plan that was radically different from today's allocations, to a proposal which closely parallels the frequencies we have today. Amateurs were happier with the January 1945 plan over the November 1944 one, as it restored our ten meter band back where it belonged, and gave us a full 4 Mc at six meters.

One person who was not happy with the January 1945 plan was Edwin Armstrong, inventor of the Regenerative, Superregenerative and Superheterodyne receivers, and the Father of FM. He wanted the FM Broadcast band to stay in the 42-50 Mc area: instead, he suddenly saw it transferred up to 84-102 Mc., which would make every FM station and receiver obsolete. He knew that David Sarnoff of RCA was behind this, as RCA wanted television in the

frequencies now occupied by FM. Sarnoff and the RCA engineers had an interesting argument, FM they said, should be moved higher in frequency to avoid the Sporadic E skip. Armstrong fought back. He pointed out that FM, due to its capture effect, was less susceptible to skip interference than television, which used AM for the video carrier. He ran tests and submitted data showing that the skip interference to FM would be far less than imagined, and certainly a fraction of what TV would endure. The ARRL, by the way, was in favor of moving FM up to the 84-102 Mc area. To counteract the arguments that FM receivers would become obsolete by the move, QST in the May 1945 issue ran the schematic of a 1 tube converter, which Hallicrafters said they could build for \$5.60.

In late May, 1945, the FCC announced the three alternatives that were being considered for the disputed 44-108 Mc region. They were:

ALTERNATIVE #1 --

44-48 Mc--Amateur (We would have a 7 meter band under this proposal)

48-50 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting

50-54 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting

54-68 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting

68-74 Mc--TV Channel 1

74-78 Mc--Aeronautical fixed and mobile

78-108 Mc--TV Channels 2-6

ALTERNATIVE #2 --

44-56 Mc--TV Channels 1 & 2

56-60 Mc--Amateur 5 Meter Band

60-66 Mc--TV Channel 3

66-68 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting

68-72 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting

72-86 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting

86-104 Mc--TV Channels 4-6

104-108 Mc--Non-Government fixed and mobile.

ALTERNATIVE #3 --

44-50 Mc--TV Channel 1

50-54 Mc--Amateur 6 Meter band

54-84 Mc--TV Channels 2-6

84-88 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting

88-102 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting

102-104 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting

104-108 Mc--Non-Government fixed and mobile.

Except for the 44-108 Mc region, which was still up in the air, the 25-44 and 108 Mc and higher frequencies were fairly well established at today's allocations. The only major exception was the 470-480 Mc band, which was still allocated to Facsimile Broadcasting. The FCC indicated that tests would be run through the summer months to determine which Alternative was the best.

Reaction was quick to the proposals. Except for the ARRL, almost none of the major players liked Alternative 2, so the choice lay between 1 and 3. The ARRL found #2 acceptable because it preserved our 5 meter band. Of the other two alternatives, the ARRL was strongly opposed to #1. A 44-48 Mc seven meter band would have too much skip, was too close to our ten meter band, and too far from two meters. In the end, the ARRL came out in favor of Alternative #3

because, it was believed that the FM band should be as far as possible from our ham bands in order to avoid IF interference to FM receivers. Naturally, Major Armstrong was in favor of Alternative #1. He continued to make extensive tests and bombarded the FCC with the results. However, Armstrong never realized that the political clout of General Sarnoff and RCA could overcome any test results. The Major thought he had the summer to complete his tests. Instead, on June 27, 1945, the FCC decided on Alternative #3, with a few minor changes to bring the allocations in line with what we have today. FM was definitely at 88-108 Mc, and amateurs had a six meter band at 50-54 Mc, nestled snug between TV Channels 1 and 2. Armstrong was stunned, but he didn't give up. As late as 1947, he was still submitting data to the FCC in regards to the effect of skip on FM Broadcasts. But it was too late. For a period of time, there were two FM Broadcast bands, as stations in the new 88-108 Mc allocation coexisted with the older ones between 42-50 Mc, but by 1947, the old FM band was a memory, and sat waiting for TV Channel 1 to take over. However, a new controversy was brewing. With thousands of amateurs on our new six meter band, and thousands of TV's pouring out of (mostly RCA) factories, a new concept was entering the amateur language -- TVI. In our next installment, we will look at the TV wars of the 1940's and why the ARRL wanted channel 2, instead of channel 1, eliminated. I hope your six meter QSO's aren't causing interference to the "Texaco Star Theatre."

The History Of Amateur Radio Chapter 12

November 15, 1945. The day that amateurs had waited for, ever since December 7, 1941. Finally, after three years and 11 months of wartime radio silence, amateurs were allowed back on the air! Granted, we didn't have everything back yet. The initial authorization allowed amateur operations on 10 meters (28-29.7 Mc), five meters (56-60 Mc), and the new two meter band at 144-148 Mc. And there were restrictions on these limited frequencies. Our old pre-war five meter allocation was temporary. The

new post-war band was shifted to six meters (50-54 Mc), but the actual transition would not take place until March 1, 1946. So, we were back on the 56-60 Mc segment for only 3-1/2 months.

On the new two meter band, the frequencies 146.5-148 Mc were unavailable within a 50 mile radius of Washington, DC and Seattle, Washington. The military was still using these frequencies, as well as our 160, 80, 40, and 20 meter HF bands. The military also occupied our new UHF and microwave allocations. It would be months, maybe a year or more, before the Armed Forces would fully vacate our bands and return them to us. But amateurs didn't care. Unlike 1919, when there was open hostility to us by the military and the threat of our elimination, the post WW II Armed Forces, as well as the FCC, were fully aware of the tremendous assistance that amateurs had given throughout the war and they were eager to give us back our frequencies.

The ARRL was working closely with the FCC and the military to get our bands back. One band, however, was apparently not coming back. Our 160 meter band, the birthplace of our post 1912 operations, was fully occupied by the military with it's new LORAN Radio Navigation System. The Armed Services and the FCC made it clear that this segment was to remain for the use of LORAN. Over the years, the ARRL obtained small concessions -- a 25 kc segment here and there, 25 watt power limitations, day and night restrictions; but from the 1940s right up to the early 80s, our 160 meter band sounded like a huge broadbanded buzzsaw as LORAN completely dominated it. But this was a minor blot on the landscape as amateurs rushed to get back on the air. Ten meters was the band they went to first and the 28-29.7 Mc range became crowded with those making up for lost time. Two meters was next; hams modified their old 2 1/2 meter equipment to operate on the new band, and soon the rushing sounds of the superregenerative receiver were everywhere. The more adventurous were trying out something called FM. Five meters was quiet. Since the band was available for only 105 days, many hams spent that time converting their rigs to the new six meter band. On March 1, 1946, our old five meter band died and the new 50-54 Mc segment was born. Also on that date, to compensate amateurs for the loss of 29.7-30 Mc, we were given an 11 meter band at 27 mc. That's right, the present day CB band was once an amateur allocation.

By May 1946, we had our 80/75 meter allocation back. We also had a temporary allocation from 235-240 Mc, which would soon be shifted down to 220-225 Mc.

On November 2, 1946, the FCC finally released our 40 and 20 meter bands. By the end of 1946, we had our full HF

spectrum back, 80/75, 40 meters (which was CW only), 20, 11 and 10 meters. Note that there was no 15 meter allocation then. Our 15 meter band did not appear until 1952. The military restrictions on our two meter band were lifted in June 1947, and, except for 160 meters, the military was off of our bands.

By 1947, every amateur band from 80 thru two meters was full of stations. But there was trouble brewing. Amateurs weren't the only ones taking to the airwaves. Television was growing by leaps and bounds. In 1946, there were only 7,000 TV sets. In 1947, the number jumped to 180,000, and by 1948, there were over 1 million TVs in use. Amateurs, who were used to harmonically related bands and an empty VHF spectrum, were not prepared for the TVI their neighbors were experiencing. A typical unshielded amateur transmitter, operating on 14, 28 or 50 Mc, could wipe out all the TVs in the neighborhood. QST ran a series of articles on proper shielding and filtering of stations and hams gradually learned to eliminate harmonics from their transmitters. But there was one band where shielding and good design didn't seem to help -- six meters. Our 50-54 Mc segment was sandwiched right between TV channel 1 (44-50 Mc) and channel 2 (54-60 Mc). At that time, only channel 2 was actually being used for TV. The channel 1 range was still part of the old pre-war FM Band (42-50 Mc) which was being phased out in favor of the new 88-108 Mc allocation. We were causing interference to WCBS and the other handful of stations on channel 2. And the problem would only get worse when channel 1 became available. Tests were run and an interesting solution was proposed. Because a television video signal is amplitude modulated, operates with a wide bandwidth and uses the lower portion of the TV channel, it was determined that channel 2 was twice as susceptible to interference from a 6 meter station than channel 1 was. The ARRL's proposal to the FCC? Eliminate channel 2, keep channel 1. But this idea didn't sit well with the stations already on channel 2, nor did it win the approval of Major Armstrong, who was still fighting the grand battle to keep FM Broadcast in the 42-50 Mc range. And so, in August 1947, the FCC withdrew channel 1 from the TV allocations. By the end of 1947, all the pre-war FM broadcast stations had disappeared from the 42-50 Mc range, which was then turned over to Public Service. Amateurs learned to operate in the lower portions of 6 meters to avoid TVI to channel 2.

In our next installment, we are going to look at a major upheaval that began 30 years ago and pitted amateur against amateur, and (according to some) the ARRL against hams. I'm talking about incentive licensing, and how it changed the entire licensing structure.

"William Continelli, W2XOY, Copyright 1996, 2001, All rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission."

Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback

For Sale

I have a variac and plate transformer that I wish to sell. The details on the transformer are written on it. And the ratings of the variac are also listed.





The transformer measures:

H - 8 1/4

W - 10 3/4

D - 9 1/4

And weighs 115 pounds.

Best offer on each

Thanks, Bob, W1RH w1rh@yahoo.co

I have several items For Sale in Truckee:

StepIR 3 element antenna with 40/30 dipole option. Needs some repair on the driven element EPU. On the ground ready for pickup. \$1,000

FT-1000MP with filters, no filter in 2nd receiver, good condition. Been a daily user. \$1300

IC- 735 with cw filter. Recently serviced by MTS. Good condition. Been my back up. \$400

AL-80b amp. Works fine, but needs some minor repair. \$600

Items offered here before I go to e-bay or QTH.com.

All items in Truckee and ready for pick-up. Contact Bob, K6NV at k6nv@arrl.net or 530-575-5766.

For sale

(2) KLM KT34A 4 element antennas refurbed and ready to use. With boom to mast brackets (nicely painted) and instructions. \$300 each. We have been using them for Field Day so they have been spending most of their life in a storage locker.

(2) Swing brackets made out of professionally welded 1/4" steel plate – very heavy duty. Painted. Designed to accept a variety of U-Bolts. These mount

to the tower mast when it is horizontal. You mount the antenna to the bracket in a horizontal configuration. When you go vertical with the tower the antenna remains horizontal. \$300 each. Ideal for tower trailers and tilt-over towers.

Cushcraft (pre-MFJ) XM 240 2 element 40 meter beam new-ish – used it for one field day – just too much antenna for a one day event – rest of time has lived in the storage locker. \$700.

If interested send me an email to my call W6DR@arrl.net and I can send photos.

David W6DR

Some stuff for sale.

1. M2 KT34 4 element tribander in excellent condition \$350.
2. Henry 1 KD5 80 through 10 meter single 3-500Z amplifier. Peter Dahl transformer and recapped. Covers all frequencies 3.5 to 30 Mhz. Excellent condition. \$700.
3. I have (2) 0 to 280 VAC 22 amp continuous duty remote controlled Variacs (Powerstat). 120VAC volt control. Excellent condition. New they are \$1500. ea. \$200. ea.
4. Peter Dahl Plate transformer. 208/240 Primary with +/- 10vac buck/boost windings. Dual secondaries. 2200V and 3300V both at 1+ amps continuous. Excellent condition. \$300.
5. Rotor Doctor RD-1800 Worm Drive rotor. Same specs as a Orion 2800. This one was made to operate with a Yaesu Controllers. Only used about 1 year. Rotor, Yaesu SDX-1000 controller(no RS-232) and 100 plus feet of control cable and connectors. \$700.

All items Pickup in Modesto. Chuck, W6RD..209-522-0549 Contact:

Chuck W6RD
209-522-0549 or
chuckw6rd@yahoo.com

The XYL and I are moving back to Amador County as soon as well sell off our property over here. We have a rental on the east coast that we are just about to put on the market. Once that is sold we will sell our new home at the south end of the island. **So our HI QTH is for sale/trade.**



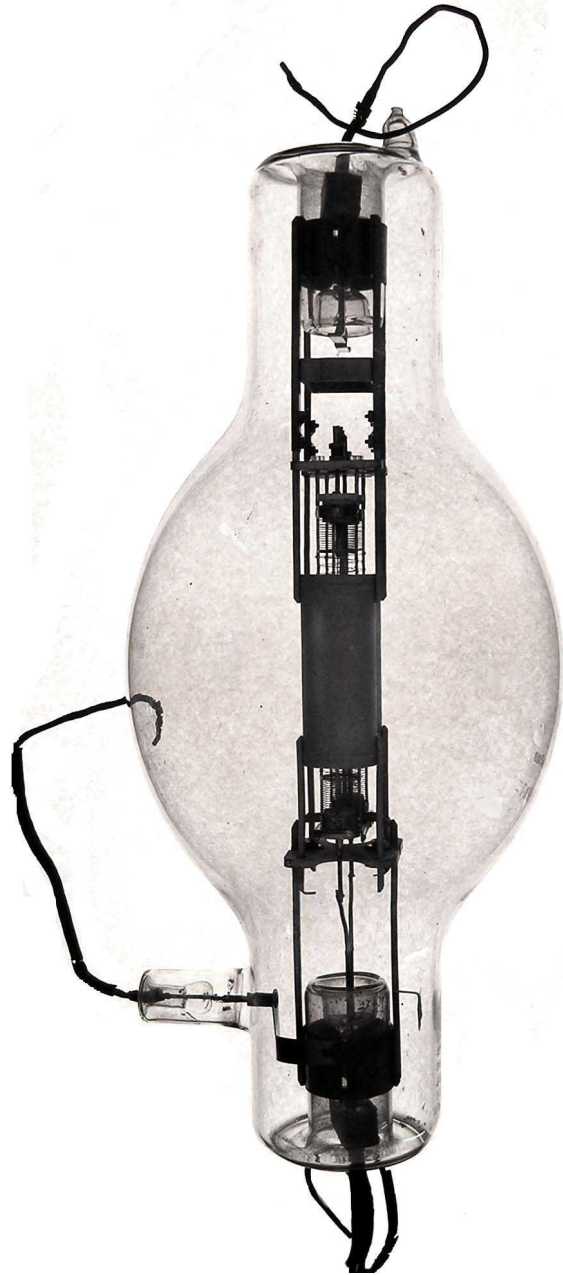
The property is three acres with a new 4000 sq. foot home. Large Radio Shack with full bath and extra bedroom, plus 4 more bedrooms and 2 baths. A number of records have been made from this very quiet site. We are asking \$485k for the home and that includes the 100 foot (permitted) tower, a four square, and 30 foot Rohn tower next to the house. Also it has a net metering solar system 4KW, power bill is \$20 per month. We can also do private financing. I really do not want to leave but my wife wants to be closer to friends and family. If your interested we can give all the details.

Email kh7y@alohabroadband.net or call 808-557-9022. Aloha, Fred, KH7Y

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

SN-146

While at a Tube Collectors Association meeting in Lansing, Michigan a few years ago, I had the chance to buy a very large Japanese tube. The tube was 17.5 inches tall and is almost as large as the largest all glass construction tubes ever made. The SN-146 is a triode that was designed in Japan in the 1930's for the Japanese Army. The Handbook on Japanese Military Forces, 1944, shows that this tube was used in two high power shortwave transmitters. They were the 500 watt Model 92 and the 1000 watt Model 95. The Model 92 was used for communication between islands and the 95 was for long haul work.





The unusual feature of this tube is that the elements are made in two parallel sections. This construction wasn't needed to produce the required power, but if you look at the construction, it seems to be for ruggedness. I can imagine that electronics equipment in WWII was subjected to very rough treatment in transit. I have problems with the USPS and UPS shipping tubes and conditions in the Pa-

cific must have been very bad. I have no idea how many of these tubes survived the War, but I know of only one other example in the U.S. Not trusting the mail, I put the tube in my carry-on luggage to bring it home from Michigan.

Visit the museum at <http://n6jv.com>.
de Norm N6JV

Meeting Minutes, 18 October 2014

Meeting held at Max's in Auburn was called to order at 12:09 PM by President Bob Hess.

After introductions, N5JEF was welcomed as a visitor.

There was a moment of silence for recently deceased member Jettie Hill W6RFF.

There was a brief discussion of future meeting dates with nothing resolved.

Achievements: WC6H received a SS certificate.

Byron N6NUL from Santa Cruz representing Northern California Contest Club gave a 'pep' talk about participation in upcoming November Sweepstakes contests. NCCC is trying to 'take back the gavel' last won in 2007. Short discussion followed.

Bob Hess gave a presentation on 'Getting started in RTTY'. Discussion followed.

Meeting closed 2 PM-ish.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Wilson K6LRN
Secretary

Attendees

KG6PNP Nancy
KD6MOO Eric
AA6K Shirl
KE6GLA Jay
KR6N Bob
N6NUL Byron
W6VMT Verne
K6DGW Fred
K6LRN Dick
K6TA Ken
K6KO Kay
N5JEF Jef
N6RK Rick
K6SCA Steve

K6SZQ Sue
K16CG George
WC6H Rich
W6HFM Harry
Respectfully submitted,

**Dick Wilson K6LRN
Secretary, MLDX/CC**

8 November 2014 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by President Bob Hess.

Present were Ken & Kay Anderson, Bob Hess, Shirl Rose, Dick Wilson and Verne Terwilliger.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Discussion about California QSO Party involved rules (club competition) and some talk of scores. No action taken.

Discussion about RTTY Round-up followed. As of now, it is a 'focus' event for our club.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 22...probably at a Thai restaurant in Valley Springs. Verne is to confirm & notify. Tentative program is VK0IR-Heard Island DXpedition of 1997.

Possible nominees for 2015 officers:

Shirl	AA6K	President
Bob	KR6N	Vice-president
Dick	K6LRN	Secretary
Carolyn	K6TKD	Treasurer
Bob	W1RH	BoD (as outgoing Pres.)
Ken	K6TA	BoD
Steve	K6SCA	BoD
Rick	W6RKC	BoD

Meeting adjourned ~1:25 PM

Addendum to BoD minutes...

AIR, we decided on January 31, 2015 for club meeting, site to be determined. No meeting in Feb. due to short month & many contests.
March meeting on 15th & May 16.
No April meeting...Visalia.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dick Wilson K6LRN
Secretary, MLDX/CC**

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditons

Click the link below to display up-coming Announced DXpeditions:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

**ZCZC AE46
QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 46 ARLD046
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 13, 2014
To all radio amateurs**

**SB DX ARL ARLD046
ARLD046 DX news**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

RODRIGUEZ ISLAND, 3B9. Olov, G0CKV will be QRV as 3B9HA from November 16 to 22. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW. QSL to home call.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Peter, DC0KK is QRV as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, IOTA AS-003, until April 10, 2015. Activity will be on the HF bands using mainly CW and digital modes. QSL to home call.

OMAN, A4. Special event station A44ND is QRV until November 20 to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman. QSL via A47RS.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Fran, EA7FTR is QRV as D44KA from Boa Vista, IOTA AF-086, until December 5. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and RTTY. QSL via EB7DX.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Philippe, FO4BM is QRV as either FO4BM/p or FO8AA/p from Mangareva Island, IOTA OC-063, until November 24. QSL via operator's instructions.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO. Operators Taiki, W6TLD, Hiroyuki, JI1JKW and Arihide, JI1WTF will be QRV as FO/home calls from Hiva-Oa Island, IOTA OC-027, from November 16 to 21. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home calls.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Vittorio, DJ0ML is QRV as HI7/DJ0ML while staying here until June 2015. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meters. QSL direct to home call.

CURACAO, PJ2. Joeke, PA0VDV will be QRV as PJ2/PA0VDV from November 20 to December 26. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW. QSL to home call.

SLOVENIA, S5. Special event stations S507SLG and S507PMC are QRV until January 5, 2015 to commemorate Slovenj Gradec's role as a Peace Messenger City. QSL via bureau.

GREECE, SV. Theodoros, SV1EJD will be QRV as SV8/SV1EJD from Syros Island, IOTA EU-067, from November 17 to 20. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

MICRONESIA, V6. Mitsuru, JE1HXZ is QRV as V63XZ from Pohnpei, IOTA OC-010, until November 16. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Kevin, K6TOP is QRV as VP2V/K6TOP from Tortola until November 18. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW from 0200 to 0400z and then 1000 to 1200z. QSL via operator's instructions.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4. Krish, W4VKU and Pai, VU2PAI are QRV as VU4CB from Campbell Bay, IOTA AS-033. Afterwards, a large group of operators will be QRV as VU4KV from Neil Island, IOTA AS-001, from November 16 to 30. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters with five stations active. QSL via operators' instructions.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO plans to be QRV as XT2AW from November 17 to December 2, depending on the political situation here. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via M0OXO.

INDONESIA, YB. Operators Din, YB8RW and Syafyuddin, YB8OUN will be QRV as home calls/p from Banggai Island, IOTA OC-208, from November 18 to 22. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL direct via YB8RW.

VANUATU, YJ. Barry, VK2BJ is QRV as YJ0BJ until November 21. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters with some SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8. Marko, N5ZO will be QRV as ZD8O from November 17 to December 2. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via OH0XX.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS. W1AW Centennial Stations W1AW/1 in Rhode Island, W1AW/5 in Mississippi and W1AW/KH8 in American Samoa are QRV until 2359z on November 18. In addition, W1AW/4 in Florida and W1AW/5 in Arkansas will be QRV starting at 0000z on November 19. They will be active until 2359z on November 25.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, North American Collegiate ARC SSB Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint, SARL Field Day Contest, Russian World Wide MultiMode Contest, All Austrian 160-Meter CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz CW Contest and the Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment CW Party will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend. The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for November 17. The QRP CW Fox Hunt and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for November 19. Please see November QST, page 86, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.
<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)
For the latest contest info. click on the following link:
<http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

November 2014

+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

December 2014

+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 14
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
+ RAEM Contest 0000Z-1159Z, Dec 28

The K7RA Solar Update

11/14/2014

This was one of those confounding weeks when the average daily sunspot number was down, while the average daily solar flux rose. Compared with the previous seven days, for November 6-12 average daily sunspot number declined 10.7 points to 85, while average daily solar flux rose 11.5 points to 139.4.

The latest prediction from the USAF/NOAA 45 day outlook has solar flux at 165 on November 14, 180 on November 15-16, then 185, 190, 195, 200 and 195 on November 17-21, then 190, 170, 150, 135 and 125 on November 22-26, 105 on November 27-28, 100 on November 29-30, 90 on December 1-3, and bottoming out at 80 on December 5. It then rises to a short term maximum of 200 on December 16-17 before dropping below 100 by the end of the year.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on November 14-15, 12 on November 16-18, 10 on November 19, 8 on November 20-21, 12 on November 22-24, 8 on November 25, and 5 on November 26-29. It then rises to a high of 22 on December 6 and again on December 26.

Petr Kolman, OK1MGW, of the Czech Propagation Interest Group has a geomagnetic forecast for us. He sees the geomagnetic field quiet to unsettled November 14-15, active to disturbed November 16, quiet to active November 17-19, mostly quiet November 20-21, quiet to active November 22, quiet to unsettled November 23-24, quiet to active November 25, mostly quiet November 26, quiet November 27-30, active to disturbed December 1, quiet on December 2-3, quiet to unsettled December 4-6, quiet to active December 7, quiet to unsettled December 8, and mostly quiet December 9-10.

Pete Heins, N6ZE, of Thousand Oaks, California sent this report of a 6 meter opening:

"There was an extensive F-2 opening on Monday afternoon, 10 November 2014. I worked ZL1RS (6470 mi) in New Zealand & CX7CO (6259 miles) in Uruguay. I also

had a QSO with KH6HI (2537 miles) near Honolulu, HI for new grid, BL01, on 6 meters from my DM04ne QTH in SoCal."

Later he wrote, "Actually, I discovered that I have worked BL01 in the past! I run 100 W to a 5 element Yagi at about 15 feet above ground level with lots of nearby obstructions."

Jon Jones, N0JK, of Lawrence, Kansas wrote about the same six meter opening:

"On the afternoon of November 10, the 6 meter band opened between Hawaii and the mainland states starting around 2000z.

"I worked Jim KH6/K6MIO grid BK29 at 2132z from Lawrence, KS on 50.120 MHz. I received a 52 report from Jim. He had a big pileup calling and heavy QSB - up well over S-9, then down in the noise, then back. I also heard him work fellow locals N0CWR and N0XA. I heard KH6U on 50.115 but very weak.

"I had been out with our 3 year old granddaughter at a church playground in Lawrence that afternoon. I happened to check my cell phone and saw the spots for the Hawaiian stations on 6. I packed her up and went back home - we live 5 minutes away. I listened first on the home setup - (dipole in attic) and heard K6MIO/KH6 on 50.120. I had just moved the dipole to favor propagation to the Pacific rather than South America last week. After I worked Jim I went portable. Jim was Q5, S1 to 2 on just a whip antenna, but band dropped by the time I got the Yagi up. I missed KH7Y while I was putting the antenna and masts in the car. KH7Y worked N0XA and N0CWR (plus many others).

"This may be been the first F2 opening from the Midwest to Hawaii in Solar Cycle 24. The last one I worked was November, 2001. The geomagnetic field was active on the 10th."

Here is another article with an update on that recent monster sunspot:

<http://uncovermichigan.com/content/21856-ar-2192-just-rotates-out-earth-s-view>

In this video, it looks to me like the sun is rotating backward, although a reader comment shows that at least one reader sees it rotating in the correct direction, left to right: <http://sploid.gizmodo.com/awesome-ultra-hd-timelapse-shows-the-biggest-sunspot-in->

1657172893+jesusdiaz

More:

<http://www.space.com/27719-huge-sunspot-ar2192-solar-storms.html>

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/11/14/4127950.htm>

Don't forget the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes this weekend. Details are here: <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Here is a YouTube recording of WA2TPU working a couple of stations in South Africa while running 5 W, although it is not clear if they are on 15 or 20 meters:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU5i_09nWjg

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for November 6 through 12 were 107, 96, 92, 78, 63, 70, and 89, with a mean of 85. 10.7 cm flux was 135.5, 145.5, 132, 131.7, 136.1, 142.3, and 152.9, with a mean of 139.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 12, 8, 9, 23, 12, and 8, with a mean of 11.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 10, 8, 8, 16, 9, and 6, with a mean of 9.3.

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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