

# The Nugget



## Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

### The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

#### MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

The Mother Lode DX & Contest Club is proud to announce that we will have our own President, Bob, W1RH, give a presentation on how to get started in RTTY on October 18, 2014 at:

\*Max's/Holiday Inn – Auburn\*

\*110 Grass Valley Highway\*

\*Auburn, Ca 95603 \*

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

This is a RSVP meeting, as the restaurant requires us to pre-order our lunches. The menu is:

1. Max's Famous Rubeen Sandwich-Patrami \_\_\_ or Corned Beef \_\_\_.
2. Club Sandwich on toasted Sourdough
3. Caesar Salad with Roll and Butter
4. Chicken Tostada Salad

5. Sourdough Tuna Caper Melt
6. Ultimate Grilled Cheese with Bacon and Tomato
7. Max's Cheese Burger Rare \_\_\_ Med. Rare \_\_\_ Med. \_\_\_ Well Done \_\_\_

Select side: Potato Salad, Cole Slaw or French Fries

Select beverage: Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea or Ice Tea

Price: \*\$18.00 Inclusive\*

If you plan to attend please send an email with your name, call, number of persons, and menu selection to Verne, W6VMT, at [w6vmt@arri.net](mailto:w6vmt@arri.net) by \*October 15th\*. We will collect funds, \*cash or checks preferred\*, and issue meal tickets at the event.

**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:**

September 20-HAM Radio Propagation

October 18-W1RH on Beginning RTTY

November 22-SO2R RTTY

December (no meeting)

## **2014-Officers**

President – Bob, W1RH

Vice President – Verne, W6VMT

Secretary – Dick, K6LRN

Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD

Director – Rick, W6RKC

Director – Shirl, AA6K

**Below is a pics. from our last meeting**



(Photos by Norm N6JV )



## FROM THE PREZ

Hello MLDXCC'ers!

Normally, for an October Nugget article, I'd start out with comments about CQP. Not so this year. I want to say a few words about our dear friend, Jettie, W6RFF.



It was with great sadness that I got the word that Jettie passed away a few weeks ago. Jettie was first licensed in 1928. He was a CW operator in the US Army and later the Navy. He graduated from San Jose State University and was employed by United Airlines, Itek, the Stanford Research Institute, Illumitronic Engineering, Melabs, National Semiconductor, Applied Materials, and Racal Vadic. Jettie retired in 1984. He lost his beloved wife a few years ago, but continued to live in their Roseville home and he continued to be a regular at our Mother Lode DX/Contest Club meetings.

Jettie was an active ham, as we all know. He was the ARRL Section Communications Manager, Santa Clara Valley Section. He was also the Vice Director, Pacific Division, and Section Manager, Sacramento Valley Section. Jettie was on the DXCC Honor Roll. He worked all Zones and made 7 Band DXCC.

I think that the best way for us to remember Jettie is to remember him at our many lunch meetings.

73 OM SK

OK, on to CQP.

The scores are still coming in, but Norm's website total has us with over 3 million points as I write this. We're still expecting more logs, but the scores so far have been quite

impressive. It was so good to see great scores, over 300K, from N6TV, AE6Y, and WC6H. Fantastic job, guys.

I was so proud to see the scores from W6VMT, K6OLY, and K6SCA this year. These guys all joined the club about the same time, as new contesters, and they have certainly caught the bug. All had much higher scores than last year, showing the hard work they did on their stations over the past 12 months. I think that next year these three guys should have an individual competition!

I can't single out everyone, but I do want to mention one more score. Emi, N1DID, did a score of 24K with a Buddipole in her first contest effort. Great job, Emi!

It's pretty clear to me, at this point in the game, that it will be those many under 100K logs that will make the difference for us, as they have every year. At this point, the sum total of the under 100K logs is 600K. That's a huge number and that's why we win this contest year after year. It's still way too early, however, to claim a win. I'm seeing big numbers come in from REDXA and also PL259 (formally CCCP). Unfortunately, I see low scores coming in from the Southern California clubs.

Martin, AA1ON, was here for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row to do CQP with me. This year, he brought his wife and son, who recently moved to the States from VR2. We started the contest 40 minutes late because of computer problems. I had to use a laptop computer to do the contest and that meant only one radio. I'm guessing that with a late start and no SO2R, we lost 300 Q's.

Every year, we get called by a bunch of DX stations in CQP. This year, I decided to take a look at just who called us. Don't let anyone ever tell you CQP isn't at least partly a DX contest! Take a look at the list of countries who called us. The list just shows unique calls. Many of these stations called us on multiple band modes.

Croatia – 1  
Kuwait – 1  
Germany – 24  
Spain – 5  
Ireland – 2  
France – 4  
England – 16  
Northern Ireland – 1  
Scotland – 3  
Hungary – 6  
Switzerland – 3

Italy – 11  
 Japan – 2  
 Austria – 4  
 Finland – 4  
 Czech Republic – 8  
 Slovak Republic – 2  
 Belgium – 11  
 Netherlands – 5  
 European Russia – 2  
 Slovenia – 2  
 Sweden – 6  
 Poland – 4  
 Greece – 1  
 Corsica – 1  
 Ukraine – 2  
 Namibia – 1  
 Romania – 3  
 Serbia – 1  
 South Africa – 2

In the week prior to CQP, I finished my new East Beverage, which actually seems to work now. I replaced a 300 foot Beverage with a 435 foot Beverage.

I also, with help from K6KRD, got my KLM 40 meter rotatable dipole up at the very top of tower #1. W6SR found this antenna for me, and I really appreciate it. It worked absolutely fantastic. For the first time ever, I felt that my station was loud on 40. I have three other 40 meter antennas: (1) a sloper, (2) a 40 meter loop, and (3) a 80 meter loop fed with balanced line. None of them compare with the rotatable dipole.



That's the good news. It's not all good news, however. When AA1ON was running 40, at a very high rate, I decided to take a moonlight walk. I heard a snapping sound and looked around trying to figure out what it was. When I couldn't see anything, I looked up and what I saw looked like someone was arc welding on top of the tower. Some-

thing in the rotatable dipole was arcing. I ran back to the shack and told Martin to switch to the sloper....and the rate dropped considerably.

I also built a huge RF choke, using the K9YC method, prior to CQP. Not sure if it made any difference, but it looks pretty cool.

Nancy, KG6PNP, one of our club members and the wife of KE6GLA, came over for a couple of hours to operate W1AW/6 from my place.



She had a great time, even though conditions on 20 were pretty bad, and made about 150 Q's. She was thrilled when a 9K called her!

I want to remind everyone that my term as president ends at the end of the year. MLDXCC limits the president's term to 3 years (fine with me!!), so we need to elect a new prez. Also, our ace VP, W6VMT, has already informed us that he will not be able to run for a second term. I encourage all of you, whether you've been a member for a long time or short time, whether you've worked 'em all or worked just a few, whether you did 100K+ in CQP or less, consider running for an office. New blood and new ideas are always good for an organization.

We've decided to make a run at the ARRL RTTY Round Up, as a club in the Medium Club category. The contest is in the first weekend of January. We have a bunch of good RTTY contesters in the club, but we also have many who have never operated RTTY. I won't use any names, but one has a call with a suffix using the initials of a sugar company.

Anyway, I'm going to do an introductory talk on RTTY contesting and DX'ing at the October meeting and, with the assistance of KE6GLA, we should have two rigs up and

running so we can actually show you how to do a QSO with radios and interface equipment talking to each other. Then, in November, our RTTY Guru, WK6I, will do a talk on advanced RTTY contesting.

Hope to see you in Auburn next Saturday.

**73, Bob, W1RH**

**THE VP SEZ**

Last month I hoped we could beat our last year's score of 39 logs and 3,365,390 points. I'm writing this a couple of days after CQP and we currently have 21 logs and 3,109,523 points, so we have a chance of surpassing last year's scores. Great Job!!

I took Rich's, WC6H, advice and spent more time in the chair and it worked, I increased my score over 248%.

I'm sorry I missed last month's meeting, I was with the Large Animal Evacuation Team on the King Fire. I heard Stu, K6TU, gave a great presentation of which I have a copy if anyone needs it. Also, Thanks to Rich, WC6H, for the use of his great facility.

For our October meeting we will have our esteemed President, Bob, W1RH, give a RTTY 101 presentation. The location will be in Auburn at Max's restaurant in the Holiday Inn:

Max's / Holiday Inn  
110 Grass Valley Highway  
Auburn, CA

General club meeting starts at 11:30am with the presentation to follow. This is a RSVP meeting, so send me an email at: [w6vmt@arrl.net](mailto:w6vmt@arrl.net) for the menu selections.

Signing off for now... **73, Verne, W6VMT**

**Treasurer's Report**

<b>Balance: 01 September, 2014</b>	<b>\$1505.10</b>
Income:	
Dues –	60.00
Name Badge –	<u>20.00</u>
	80.00

Expenses:	
Badge-	19.90

**Balance: 30, September 2014: \$1565.20**

**Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer**

**Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR**

Hi all.....

I was saddened to hear that long time club member Jettie Hill, W6RFF passed last month. Jettie, at 93, was an inspiration to us all, he was still enthusiastic and active on the radio until recent medical problems.

Fifteen years ago, prior to moving to this area, I contacted Jettie by the phone. I told him that I was moving into this area, and wanted to join a vibrant DX and contest club in the local area. Without hesitation, "MLDXCC" he said. A few months later I attended a meeting and immediately joined the group. I credit Jettie with directing me to this fine club, and for all the great experiences and friendships that I have made through it. RIP OM, 73.

September was a really busy month in our household. A couple of short vacations, the 10GHz contest weekend, MLDXCC meeting, a Corvette Club car show, as well as putting together and testing the new 3 element StepIR. Not to mention getting the station set-up for a few hours of operation during the CQWW RTTY contest, and then getting it ready for K6OK and CQP.

The CQWW RTTY contest pushed my confirmed RTTY country count past the century mark, I'm now at 101. In total, it took me about 10 months of casual operating, plus 3 hours in the CQWW RTTY contest, to confirm 100+ countries, and work 146 total. All this, without spending a penny on IRC's, "green-stamps" or sending out a single QSL card. It's almost too easy to get your DXCC today. So there is no excuse for NOT having a DXCC hanging on your wall! Fall is here, and the best propagation of the year is upon us, so work DX, sign-up on LOTW, and watch your DXCC totals go up before your eyes. It's almost magic.

.....**de Rick, W6SR**

**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 10

In our last installment, we learned that the "UHF" spectrum above 25 Mc., which during the 1930s was populated only by amateurs, was now in the center of a battle being fought on many fronts. Amateurs wanted their 10, 5, 2-1/2, and 1-1/4 meter bands back. Major Edwin Armstrong wanted to increase the 42-50 Mc. allocation in the new FM broadcast service. General David Sarnoff of RCA wanted huge chunks of VHF space set aside for television, as well as limited spectrum for FM, a potential rival. And William Paley of CBS wanted UHF -- not VHF allocations for CBS' "color wheel" TV system, which they wanted the FCC to adopt as the television standard, in lieu of RCA's competing system. In addition to these major players, other minor characters were also clamoring for VHF frequencies -- the growing aircraft industry, police departments who were tired of the interference-prone 1700 kc. police band and wanted to use FM on vhf -- and even businesses to whom the idea of personal two-way communication was now possible. Thanks to the war and the introduction of new VHF and UHF tubes, the frequencies above 25 Mc. were now the most sought after slice of the RF spectrum.

During late 1944, the FCC held hearings on post-war VHF allocations, in which there were 231 witnesses and 4200 pages of testimony. In November 1944, the first proposal on VHF/UHF allocations was released. See if you could have lived with it...

23.5-27 Mc. -- Industrial Applications  
27-29 Mc. -- Amateur 11 Meter Band (yes, that's right!)  
29-43 Mc. -- Police, Fire, Emergency, and Local Government  
43-58 Mc. -- FM broadcasting  
58-60 Mc. -- Amateur 5 Meter Band (note only 2 Mc.)  
60-102 Mc. -- TV channels 1-7 (the RCA system)  
102-108 Mc. -- Non-government Emergency  
108-132 Mc. -- Aircraft  
132-144 Mc. -- Government  
144-148 Mc. -- Amateur 2 Meter Band  
148-152 Mc. -- Government  
152-218 Mc. -- TV Channels 8-18 (yes, up to channel 18 and again, the RCA system)  
218-225 Mc. -- Amateur 1-1/4 Meter Band  
225-420 Mc. -- Government  
420-450 Mc. -- Amateur 70 cm Band  
450-460 Mc. -- Facsimile Broadcasting  
460-956 Mc. -- UHF Television using the CBS color wheel system

So, under this proposal, our 10 meter band was moved

down 1 Mc., we would lose 1/2 of our 5 meter band, we lose 112-116 Mc. but gain 144-148 Mc., our 1-1/4 meter band stays the same, and we gain a large chunk at 420 Mc. The FM broadcast allocation is increased by 85%, police agencies leave the crowded medium wave area for VHF-FM, aircraft has their piece of the pie, and both CBS and RCA have home turfs to battle out the TV standards war. Note also the 450-460 Mc. range allocated to "Facsimile Broadcasting." For those of you who think FAX machines are a recent invention, it may interest you to learn that 60 years ago, a reliable mechanical-electrical FAX system was in use. By the mid-1940s, it was widely believed that every home soon would have a FAX machine. During the night, as you slept, the machine would be tuned to various stations in the 450-460 Mc. range and would print out the next day's newspapers, magazines and catalogues, for you to read in the morning. Another proposal was for a "Veteran's Band", which would be a 2000 Mc.-wide slice of the spectrum above 10,000 Mc. This proposed band would be available for war veterans (and ONLY war veterans) in any way they desired.

The ARRL was quick to object to the proposed allocations. It was not acceptable to amateurs to move our 10-meter band down 1 Mc., to eliminate 50% of 5 meters, and to upset the harmonic relationship of our bands by moving us from 112 up to 144 Mc. The FCC capitulated on 10 and 5 meters, as we will see in a moment. As for the 144-148 Mc. band -- the FCC was firm. 112-116 Mc. was going to aircraft. Furthermore, the FCC wanted our amateur bands above 100 Mc. to be next to government allocations, so that in time of war or national emergency, they could be used for the expansion of essential governmental radio services. The needs of the government, per the FCC, outweighed the need for a strict harmonic relationship between the amateur bands.

Meanwhile, while the ARRL was arguing over our allocations, General Sarnoff was conducting his campaign behind the scenes. He couldn't eliminate the CBS color wheel UHF system because, at that time, CBS was producing beautiful, lifelike color pictures that impressed the FCC. But he could attack FM. A big deal was made out of the claim that FM broadcasting needed to be moved higher in the VHF range to eliminate interference caused by Sporadic-E skip. Sarnoff, of course, wanted these frequencies for TV. He never explained, and no one seemed to ask, how TV would not be affected. In fact, TV, with its amplitude modulated video signal, would be more susceptible to "E" skip than FM with its capture effect. RCA however had power, money, and influence, and Major Arm-

strong found he was no match for the corporate giant.

### **For Sale**

On January 15, 1945, the FCC issued a revised allocation proposal:

25-28 Mc. -- Fixed, Mobile, Industrial, Scientific and Medical  
28-30 Mc. -- Amateur 10 Meter Band  
30-44 Mc. -- Police, Fire, and Various Governmental Allocations  
44-50 Mc. -- TV Channel 1 (now you know where it was!)  
50-54 Mc. -- Amateur 6 Meter Band  
54-84 Mc. -- TV Channels 2-6  
84-102 Mc. -- FM Broadcasting  
102-108 Mc. -- Possible Facsimile Broadcasting  
108-132 Mc. -- Aircraft  
132-144 Mc. -- Government  
144-148 Mc. -- Amateur 2 Meters  
148-152 Mc. -- Government (note 2 meters sandwiched between two government bands)  
152-162 Mc. -- Police, Fire, and Other Local Government  
162-170 Mc. -- Government  
170-180 Mc. -- Navigational Aids  
180-216 Mc. -- TV Channels 7-12 (note that TV only gets 12 channels here)  
216-220 Mc. -- Government  
220-225 Mc. -- Amateur 1-1/4 Meter Band  
225-420 Mc. -- Government, Including Military Aircraft  
420-450 Mc. -- Amateur 70 cm Band  
450-460 Mc. -- Air Navigation  
460-470 Mc. -- A New "Citizens' Band" (which would eventually evolve into Class A and Class B CB, then into GMRS and the new FRS)  
470-480 Mc. -- Facsimile Broadcasting  
480-940 Mc. -- Experimental TV (for the CBS system)

Yes, this proposal sounds a lot like what we have today, but the battle was only beginning. Major Armstrong was not giving up on an FM band in the 43-58 Mc. area. He didn't want the thousands of FM receivers and dozens of stations now on the air to suddenly become obsolete. CBS was still convinced that UHF was the place for TV, and their system was the best. During the first half of 1945, the battle would rage with many more proposals to come forth.

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### **Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback**

(2) KLM KT34A 4 element antennas refurbished 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 ¼" 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@ar-rl.net and I can send photos.

### **David W6DR**

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#### **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](mailto:chuckw6rd@yahoo.com)

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The XYL and I are moving back to Amador County as soon as we can 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](mailto:kh7y@alohabroadband.net) or call 808-557-9022. Aloha, Fred, KH7Y**

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### Tube Of The Month

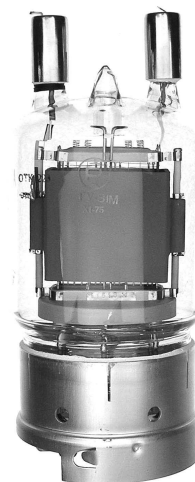
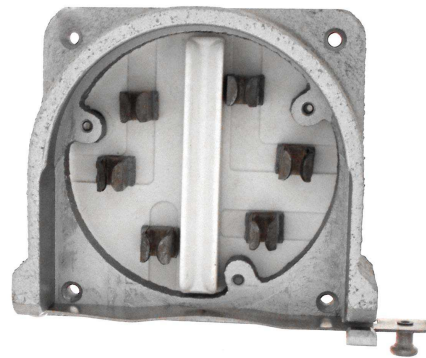
## GU-81M, FY-81M

The Russians were famous for copying captured technology in WWII. Some of the things they liked has sometimes confused me. One odd German tetrode was RS384. It had the strangest and most unique base. I could never see why they would come up

with a base that required the tube to be slid in sideways. They must have had an application where they had no headroom to cram it in. It would seem that the Russians had a similar problem as they made a shorter version of the RS384 and called it the GU-81 and later the GU-81M.

Last month I finally saw what the socket for this tube looked like. The glass in the base has a “V” shaped ridge down the middle that slides into the base and lines up the pins. To keep the tube from falling out, there is a latch on the side like I remember from an outhouse door. In typical Russian construction, the inner surfaces were very clean and smooth where they needed to be, but the outer surface is very rough as the aluminum is all sand cast. They didn’t need to make it pretty.

Norm N6JV



**Visit the museum at <http://n6jv.com>.**



### **Meeting Minutes, 20 September 2014**

In the absence of other club officers, Secretary D. Wilson began the meeting with the program at 11:43 AM.

Stu K6TU gave an interesting & informative talk on propagation & contest predictions. He talked about VOACAP + other tools used to determine where to be and when. Also included was a rundown on k6tu.net...an online, form driven site that does a lot of what he talked about earlier in discussion. Site includes configuring to individual stations, formulating contest strategy and log analysis.

After Stu's talk, President Bob Hess took the chair for balance of meeting.

After introductions, Bob talked about CQP strategy for MLDXCC. Stu announced 'CCCP'...erstwhile Contest Consortium of Central Peninsula...had changed name to Pizza Lovers 259...or PL-259s.

KA6MEL, W6PKB and W6MRM were voted in as new members. (KD6MOO was voted in later at the restaurant).

Under announcements, etc; W6SR now has a SteppIR 3 element beam. W6PKB has 260 countries. W1RH now has Alpha 91b + a rotary dipole for 40 M. N6JV has new transverter. K6TU commented on JH1AJT being in E3 Ethiopia until Monday and Silvano & Co were in Benin as TY1AA. Rusty noted G3TXF operating as ZD9XF from Tristan da Cunha. W1RH displayed plaque won as part of team number one in NAQP RTTY.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM for lunch at 'Habanero Hots' restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

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

### **UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions**

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

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

**DX Bulletin 41 ARLD041  
From ARRL Headquarters**

**Newington CT October 9, 2014  
To all radio amateurs**

### **SB DX ARL ARLD041 ARLD041 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.**

**KENYA, 5Z. Markus, DJ4EL is QRV as 5Z4/DJ4EL from Lamu Island, IOTA AF-040, until October 19. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.**

**MALDIVES, 8Q. Valery, UA3QNS is QRV as 8Q7SN from Horubadhoo, Baa Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until October 16. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using mostly SSB and possibly CW. QSL via operator's instructions.**

**ZAMBIA, 9J. Zambian amateurs are currently using the prefix 9I50 to commemorate the country's independence 50 years ago. In addition, Brian, 9J2BO is QRV as 9I50BO. QSL via operator's instructions.**

**TONGA, A3. Lee, VK3GK is QRV as A35RT from Eua Island, IOTA OC-049, until October 13 while working with the Rotary International Humanitarian project. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and possibly RTTY. This includes being an entry in the Oceania DX contest. QSL to home call.**

**EASTER ISLANDS, CE0. Joachim, DK5VP and Frank, DL8LR will be QRV as CE0Y/home calls from Isla de Pascua, IOTA SA-001, from October 11 to 18. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home calls.**

**CAPE VERDE, D4. Ralf, DK8FA is QRV as D44TUJ from Boa Vista, IOTA AF-086, until October 15. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.**

**PHILIPPINES, DU. Michael, W6QT is QRV as DU3/W6QT from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until March 2015. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.**

**AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. Robert, N7QT and Melanie, AB1UH are QRV as TX5Z from**

Raivavae, IOTA OC-114, until October 13. QSL via N7QT.

ENGLAND, G. Special event station 2SZ will be QRV from October 11 to 18 from Mill Hill School to commemorate the first QSO between England and New Zealand 90 years ago. QSL via M0OXO.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ will be QRV as JD1BOW from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from October 11 to 13. This includes an entry in the Oceania DX contest. QSL to home call

MONGOLIA, JT. Special event station JU50VOM is QRV during October to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voice of Mongolia radio station. QSL via JT1BV.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event station OP37AEF is QRV until October 26 to commemorate the battle at the river Escaut during the end of World War I. QSL via ON4OB.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PA3UNIFIL is QRV until October 28 to commemorate the Netherlands' peacekeeping force sent to Lebanon 35 years ago. Activity is on 80 meters to 70 cm using CW, SSB, FM and PSK. QSL via PC9C.

MICRONESIA, V6. Kay, JH3AZC, Hiro, JR3GWZ and Takio, JH3QFL are QRV as V63AZ, V63GW and V600, respectively, from the Senyavin Islands, IOTA OC-010, until October 14. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Kay, JH3AZC will also be active as V60EME on 2 meter EME. QSL to home calls.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Mathias, DJ2HD is QRV as VK9DJ until October 12. In addition, he and a group of operators will be QRV as VK9DLX from October 13 to 29. They will be active as VK9LM in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

TOKELAU ISLANDS, ZK3. Marcin, SP5ES and Jacek, SP5EAQ are QRV as ZK3E and ZK3Q, respectively, until October 29. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL both calls via SP7DQR.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS. W1AW Centennial Stations W1AW/4 in Virginia and W1AW/0 in Missouri are QRV until 2359z on October 14. In addition, W1AW/4 in Alabama and

W1AW/8 in Michigan will be QRV starting at 0000z on October 15. They will be active until 2359z on October 21.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder, NCCC Sprint, ARRL EME Contest, Makrothen RTTY Contest, Oceania DX CW Contest, Scandinavian Activity SSB Contest, QRP ARCI Fall CW QSO Party, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Arizona QSO Party, EU Autumn CW Sprint, Pennsylvania QSO Party, FISTS Fall CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club 160-Meter PSK31 Great Pumpkin Sprint, North American RTTY Sprint and the UBA ON CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug CW Sprint and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for October 15. Please see October QST, page 87, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details. SB DX ARL ARLD037 ARLD037 DX news.

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>

October 2014

- + ARRL EME Contest 0000Z, Oct 11 to 2359Z, Oct 12
- + Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 11 to 2200Z, Oct 12
- + Arizona QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 11 to 2359Z, Oct 12
- + North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
- + 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW 0001Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
- + Microwave Fall Sprint 0600 local - 1300 local, Oct 18
- + New York QSO Party 1400Z, Oct 18 to 0200Z, Oct 19
- + Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
- + South Dakota QSO Party 1800Z, Oct 18 to 1800Z, Oct 19
- + Illinois QSO Party 1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
- + ARRL School Club Roundup 1300Z, Oct 20 to 2359Z, Oct 24
- + CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26

November 2014

- + ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 1 to 0300Z, Nov 3
- + WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
- + Kentucky QSO Party 1400Z, Nov 8 to 0200Z, Nov 9
- + CQ-WE Contest 1900Z, Nov 8 to 0500Z, Nov 10
- + ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17
- + 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

SB PROP @ ARL \$ARLP041  
ARLP041 Propagation de K7RA

ZCZC AP41  
QST de W1AW  
Propagation Forecast Bulletin 41 ARLP041  
>From Tad Cook, K7RA  
Seattle, WA October 10, 2014  
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP041  
ARLP041 Propagation de K7RA

Average daily sunspot numbers from October 2-8 dropped from 170.1 in the previous seven days to 98. Average daily solar flux also declined, from 168.9 to 131.9.

Predicted solar flux for the near term is 120 and 115 on October 10-11, 110 on October 12-14, then 115 and 125 on October 15-16, 145 on October 17-18, 140 on October 19, 135 on October 20-21, and 140 on October 22-25. The next day solar flux begins a decline to a low of 110 on November 7-9, and rises again to 145 on November 12-14.

The prediction for the planetary A index posits a more active geomagnetic future, at least for the near term. Predicted planetary A index is 5 on October 10, 8 on October 11-12, 5 on October 13-16, then 8, 5, 8, 10 and 20 on October 17-21, 15 on October 22-24, 10 on October 25-28, 8 on October 29, 5 on October 30, and 8 on October 31 through November 3.

F.K. Janda, OK1HH predicts mostly quiet conditions on October 10, quiet on October 11, mostly quiet October 12, quiet to active October 13, mostly quiet October 14, quiet to active October 15, quiet to unsettled October 16, quiet October 17-19, mostly quiet October 20, active to disturbed October 21-22, quiet to active October 23-24, quiet to unsettled October 25-27, and mostly quiet October 28-29.

The GOES 15 X-Ray Background Flux, which is a better measure than 10.7 cm solar flux in terms of effects on the

ionosphere was at the C level from September 25 through October 3. You can see the data in this table:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/latest/DSD.txt>

Looking at the data for all of last year shows that a string of consecutive days at the C level was uncommon in 2013:

[http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/old\\_indices/2013\\_DSD.txt](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/old_indices/2013_DSD.txt) Data for the first quarter of 2014 shows a long string of days with C level readings, from January 27 through February 14:

[http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/old\\_indices/2014Q1\\_DSD.txt](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/old_indices/2014Q1_DSD.txt) Recent data at 5 minute intervals is shown here: [http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/rt\\_plots/xray\\_5mBL.html](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/rt_plots/xray_5mBL.html)

Note the data of interest to us is shown in the upper red graph, and on the left vertical axis you can see the strength of the radiation as detected on the GOES-15 satellite, and on the right the corresponding letter designation for the flux values in the table. Today I can see that early on October 9 the radiation was in the C range, but according to data in the previously mentioned table, the average level for the whole day was B5.4.

How does this affect HF radio propagation? Consistently higher levels cause denser ionization in the ionosphere, and greater density corresponds to higher MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) values. Higher MUF means higher frequencies are available for practical long distance communications.

MUF is meaningful for particular paths between two points. So we cannot say "the MUF was 31.2 MHz today" as a general statement, but it might be that the MUF at a particular time between your location and another location of choice was 31.2 MHz, in which case the 10 meter band would be open over that path.

You can take a look at how predicted MUF varies by location, season and time-of-day by using a propagation prediction program. W6ELprop is available for free from <http://k9la.us/>. Click on Tutorials to find the downloadable file and instructions. This is a Windows program that works with the now retired Windows 98, Windows Xp and Vista, but I can use it in Windows 7 by running Windows Xp Mode in the Windows Virtual PC. I assume the same is true for Windows 8.

It seems that between August and September there was a slight upward change in smoothed sunspot numbers, and you can see it by comparing the tables on page 16 of the August forecast and page 17 in the September table:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf2036.pdf>

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf2040.pdf>

Smoothed sunspot numbers are averaged over a whole year, so earlier numbers within the past year are more meaningful because they use more real data than future predicted values. So for example in the August table, you can see peak smoothed sunspot numbers of 80, 82, 81 and 80 for March through June.

The September table is updated with an additional month of real sunspot data, and it now shows the peak values at 81, 83, 82 and 81 over the same four months.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

#### **The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER**

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#### **ARRL Awards Checkers**

**Ken Anderson, K6TA**

**(including 160M cards)**

**Rick Samoian, W6SR**

**(including 160M cards)**

**Note: ARRL Card Checkers  
can check DXCC, WAS and VUCC  
Awards.**