

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

September 2019

Volume 24 Number 10

From the President - NC6R

My apology for the skimpy President's report. Having been gone all week for work and participating the Cal QSO party, my time has been taxed.

Our September meeting was held at the Los Hermanos restaurant in Sutter Creek and we had a good turnout with familiar faces and a few we'd not seen in a while. I was pleased to see both Ken & Kay and Dick & Carolyn were able to attend the meeting. A brief business meeting was held with reports being given.

Featured speaker for the meeting was Bob, W1RH. He gave a great talk on remote FT8. Via the internet he was able to connect real time to his Flex 6500 back in the shack. The display of signals and ease of operation was quite amazing. Thank you Bob.



Are you looking for a way to volunteer that would benefit your club? MLDXCC is still looking for a newsletter editor. A couple of members have stepped in to fill the gap but only on a temporary basis. If you have interest but feel you lack the know-how, there are several who would gladly mentor you.

As discussed before, NCCC has asked if we will submit our ARRL sweepstakes points to them in 2020 as it marks their 50th anniversary of the event. As a reminder, your SS points this year (2019) go to MLDXCC.

How did you do in the Cal QSO Party? Despite band conditions there was a fair amount of activity. 20 meters during the day and 80 at night were the ones that got me the best results. 40 meters from my location was disappointing as signals were noisy and most of them fairly weak.

Reminder, your participation in the CQ DX Marathon contest is one where any DX you work, whether new or worked in previous year, will count toward your final score at the end of the year. MLDXCC has made a good showing as a club in this event and would gladly receive your score in an effort to improve its overall standing. Thank you for your participation.

For upcoming contest and DX announcements, good website resources to bookmark are -

Contest calendar dates are listed at - <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

DX operation announcements can be found at - <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

That's all for now, it's back to the shack and more CQP.

73 - Steve / NC6R

From the V.P. - W1RH

From the VP in Tehama land

As I write this, AA1ON is on the air and W1SRD and K0BEE are getting some shut-eye. We're operating as K6T, in Tehama County again this year. Last year we broke the Tehama County

record but missed the plaque for #1 multi-single expedition by about 100 points. We lost to the usual winner, K6QK, in Imperial County.

Our goal last year was just to get the record for Tehama, but we might have made #1 M/S Expedition if we had focused a bit more on contesting and not run into Murphy a few times. Our location is miles off the grid, with not a sign of civilization in site. We rent the house, along with the generators and the generators did not cooperate last year. I did bring a little 2 KW backup, but we lost precious time just setting it up and running on low while on the small generator when the big one quit. We also had some amplifier trip-outs and a few operator issues with the N1MM (me) and the Flex.

This year, we decided to go back to Tehama, minus Dean, N6DE who, unfortunately, could not make it this year. Martin, again, flew in from W1-Land to join us. Instead of the Flex, we brought Steve's K3 and I also brought a K3 that I'm buying from W6SR as a backup rig. Steve and I love our Flex 6700's, but as a dxpedition radio, the K3's are a bit simpler for everyone to operate. Steve had purchased a new solid state SPE amp but it went up in smoke a few days before we left for Tehama. So, we said the heck with solid state amps and I brought my Alpha 91B to use as the primary amp and, as a backup, my Ameritron ALS-1300 solid state amp. We also brought a 5 KW backup generator.

The antenna farm this year was really simplified, per Dean's great advice. Instead of the 40 meter wire and phased verticals we used last year, Steve brought along a brand new rotatable dipole. It, along with the 2 element SteppIR we used last year, went on Steve's tower-trailer.

We also hung an 80 meter dipole off of the tower trailer mast and, with the forecast of high winds, guyed the mast.

Conditions have been OK and the rates have been decent. We made all 58 mults early in the contest, with Utah being the last one. Operating on 40 last night, I have to say that I have never heard 40 meters so quiet. The rates were high because of our terrific location with a 360 degree view but also because there is so little noise out here in the middle of nowhere. We have internet and DirecTV. The house owner also has an inverter to power some things when the generators are shut down and it generates noise, so we shut it down. We also found that the DirecTV receiver generated noise. Unplugging it fixed the problem but since Steve brought some ferrite, I wrapped the power cord around three toroid's and totally eliminated the noise. Interesting, since I have 4 of those receivers at my house.

Right now, we're into hour 25 of the contest, and have been operating continuously. Doris has yet to make an appearance on the air, but she will. As usual, the food Doris has supplied for us is absolutely awesome! The antennas have performed exceptionally well, with no issues, and we survived the winds last night. The generators have been just fine, but we do keep feeding oil to one of them. We actually had to use the Ameritron ALS-1300 amp for several hours on Saturday because my Alpha had the wrong power plug on it. The Ameritron worked just fine. Doris and I made a two hour round trip to Red Bluff to find a Home Depot and the correct power plug. Once we had the plug, we switched to the Alpha.

Murphy – so far – has not shown himself a whole lot. We seem to be running ahead of K6QK in the QSO count, but we'll have to just wait until we see what's posted on 3830 tomorrow. For all I know, there's another M/S expedition out there ahead of both of us! By the time this gets published, the answers will be there.

One of the great things about operating in a M/S is hearing Martin and Steve operate on phone. Terrific operators!!

I should be able to make it to the next meeting, so all of you who come be sure to share your CQP stories with us.

Bob, W1RH

From the Secretary - K6SZQ

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2019

Los Hermanos Restaurant, Sutter Creek

Steve started by asking for introductions. We then went around the room and each member introduced themselves. Steve noted that it was good to have Dick and Carolyn Wilson in attendance, as well as Ken and Kay Anderson.

August minutes were published in the September newsletter. Bob Officer, N6TCE moved to accept the minutes as published. Dick Wilson, K6LRN seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

There was no treasurer's report to review.

Old Business:

None

New Business: Meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 19 members were in attendance.

Steve asked Ken Anderson, K6TA if the club call was going to be used for Cal QSO. Ken noted that K6AO was up for grabs, but that anyone wanted to use K6AO would need to advise him as the callsign holder, and then provide a copy of the logs on a thumb drive for Ken to be able to submit for the club.

We are still in need of a newsletter editor. Steve thanked Norm Wilson, N6JV and Rick Samoian, W6SR for filling in as interim editors.

Steve clarified the agreement made with NCCC for Sweepstakes. This year all Sweepstakes points go to MLDXCC. Next year (2020) is when all Sweepstakes points will go to NCCC, just for the one year. Steve reminded everyone to be thinking about what contest we might ask for them to give us points in exchange (something other than a regular contest).

Announcements:

- For the solar report, our solar guru Bob Officer, N6TCE noted that the cycle is dismal. But he noted that there is still DX out there, we just have to work harder to get it.
- Steve Allred, NC6R mentioned several upcoming contests/events
 - This weekend is the All Africa DX contest, the New Hampshire QSO Party, the New Jersey QSO Party,

and the Washington State Salmon Run.

- Upcoming events:
 - CQ WW DX RTTY - September 28th
 - Cal QSO - October 5th & 6th
 - MLDXCC Meeting & Makrothen RTTY - October 12th
 - Pacificon - October 18th - 20th
 - CQ WW SSB DX - October 26th
 - ARRL CW SS - November 2nd
 - Last MLDXCC meeting of the year and elections - November 9th

- Steve noted that there are 30 DXpeditions announced for the time period between now and next meeting. For more info, go to NG3K.com and click on "announced DX".
- Steve also reminded everyone who plans to participate in Cal QSO to go to www.cqp.org and register your location and the callsign you plan to use.
- Norm Wilson, N6JV announced that for EME fanatics, there are two upcoming EME Dxpeditions; one to Lichtenstein and one to the Seychelles.
- Ken Anderson, K6TA mentioned that he had received contact from a club somewhere north of here (perhaps near Shasta County) that wants to get K6KM for their club call. K6KM was former Motherlode member Bill Snider, who went Silent Key in 2013. Ken wondered if anyone had been in contact with Bill's widow, as there is some uncertainty if she was going to try and upgrade so that

she could keep Bill's call. No one at the meeting had any knowledge.

Member Achievements:

- Ron Eaves, W6RPM, noted that he recently had an ATNO with a contact to Niue. He also completed the Friendship Award, and has been practicing his CW skills.
- Jim Varney, K6OK placed 1st place in NCCC for WW Digi contest and 8th Place Single Op world-wide. Way to go Jim! Rick Samoian, W6SR noted that he had experienced software issues during the WW Digi Contest.

Club Achievements:

- None to report

Next Meeting:

October 12th - location to be announced (might be Lockford, depending on the speaker).

Ken Anderson, K6TA moved to adjourn; Ron Eaves, W6RPM seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m. For the program, Bob Hess, W1RH gave a presentation on FT4 and FT8.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6TLR

MLDXCC - August 2019			
Treasurer's Report			
August 1 Balance	\$2,639.10		
	Income:	Dues - N6NFB	20
	Expense:	No Activity	
August 30 Balance	\$2,659.10		
Tyler Laursen K6TLR			
MLDXCC Treasurer			

MLDXCC - Sept 2019			
Treasurer's Report			
Sept 1 Balance	\$2,659.10		
	Income:	No Activity	

	Expense:	No Activity
Sept 30 Balance	\$2,659.10	
Tyler Laursen K6TLR		
MLDXCC Treasurer		

Phone

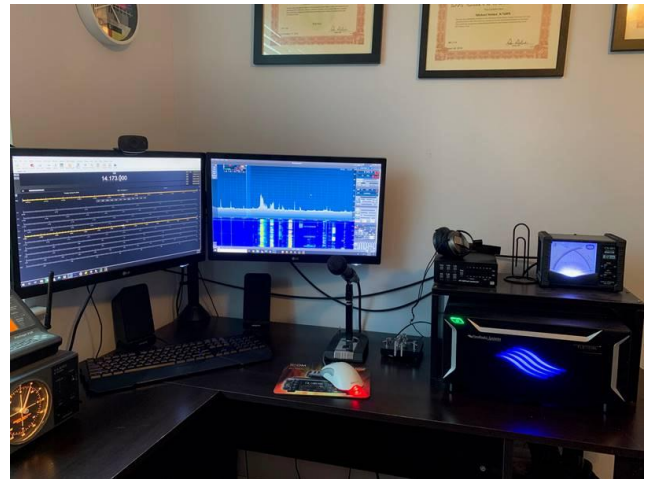
1	NC6R	Steve Allred	117
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	113
3	K6YK	John Lee	83

Data

1	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	170
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	148
3	W6DE	Dave Engle	131

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

Member reports



K7QDX's home station is a Flex Radio 6400, Maestro, and Henry 2k-4 Amplifier.

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

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	241
2	K6YK	John Lee	191
3	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	173

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	180
2	K6YK	John Lee	171
3	NA6O	Gary Johnson	132



K7QDX also does mobile HF with a Kenwood TS-480 with a Larheel 200 screwdriver antenna. Along with VHF, UHF, and 900 Mhz.



K7QDX's HEX beam



WA6NHC finally has his tower in.

6 meter EME

Conditions on the Moon have been very good and HB0/S59A (#124), OH6MIK, PA5Y and SP4MPB were worked at N6JV this month.

ARRL Contesting Certificates

If you have participated in ARRL Contests by submitting your log, enter your call sign and see your available certificates. You can view and download them. The certificates show where you placed in the contest.

<http://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php>

Awards Checkers ARRL

Ken Anderson, K6TA
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

CQP SCORES

K6C(WQ6X)	17,115
K6CSL	10,197
K6LRN	99,693
K6NV/7	7,821
K6SZQ	119,700
K6T	307,632
K6TQ	1,512
K6YK	28,776
KH6TU	82,534
KI6YYT	3,350
N6DGW	8,424
N6GEO	43,056
N6JS	144,768
N6JV	238,612
N6RK	89,100
N6ZFO	192,767
NC6R	9,842
W6CQP	115,420
W6RC	2,295
WA6OSX	57,008
WB6BET	3,200
WC6H	296,902
WE6Z	185,368
WX6V	100,605
TOTAL:	
2,165,697	

2019 ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION

PACIFICON 2019

October 18, 19 & 20, 2019

"The Science of Radio"

San Ramon, California

San Ramon Marriott Hotel

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon, California, 94583

HAM RADIO CONVENTION

Go to the Pacificon Website for

Events, Schedules & Registration

Youth 17 & under admitted free

College students 25 and under: \$5

Advance registration closes October 6, 2019.

If Hotel lodging is needed

reserve your room on-line; or

Call Marriott Hotel Reservations at 1-800-228-9290

and ask if special Pacificon rate is still available.

Unique forums programs

Pacificon 2019 features a long list of great Forums

and presentations from some of the most well-known and respected names in

Amateur Radio.

Tube of the Month

RT125/2000 High Voltage Triode

At a recent swap in our area, a seller who knew my interest in big tubes pointed to a large tube under his table. I thought it was a rectifier, but the price was right so it went into the box. On closer inspection, it had a grid. I started doing some research on this tube and found that is a high voltage triode that is used in the Siemens Pandoros Optimatic Medical Imaging System. Much like a pulse modulator tube, this triode seems to be used to apply a very short and very high voltage pulse to a very powerful X-Ray tube. The maximum voltage is 125 KV at 2 amps. The pulsed power is 250 KW. The tube weighs 15.4 pounds. The glass is very thick to hold the vacuum required and the spacing to the grid is very wide to prevent arc over from the plate. The knobs on the bottom are only for securing and grounding the tube much like a large fuse. The filament and grid leads come out as wires that attach to a terminal strip.

This tube and the unit it is used in are considered obsolete today, but are still used in Veterinary medicine. You need a very powerful X-Ray machine if you absolutely positively need to look inside of a horse or cow.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV



MLDXCC Focus Contests

The following lists all contests in which MLDXCC would appreciate your efforts.

ARRL SS CW/PH
ARRL DX Phone*
ARRL DX CW*
ARRL 10M*
ARRL 160M*
California QSO Party

*Proposed and approved at the November 12, 2016 MLDXCC general meeting.

Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) announced their focus contests at their August 2018 meeting. This list can be found in the Aug 2018 NCCC newsletter.

ARRL RTTY RU
CQ WPX RTTY

CQ WPX SSB
CQ WPX CW

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>

The NOAA Solar Update

Click the link below to display the latest NOAA solar predictions.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/weekly-highlights-and-27-day-forecast>

UPCOMING Events

For the latest contest info. click on the following link:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

UPCOMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming DXpeditions.

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

MLDXCC Reflector

The MLDXCC reflector is maintained at groups.io. Visit <https://groups.io/g/mldxcc>

We also maintain a spotting reflector at <https://groups.io/g/MLDXCC-Spots>

We are also on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com>

Classifieds

Members are requested to review their classified ads each month for accuracy and to resubmit their ads or confirm their desire to keep it running in the next issue.

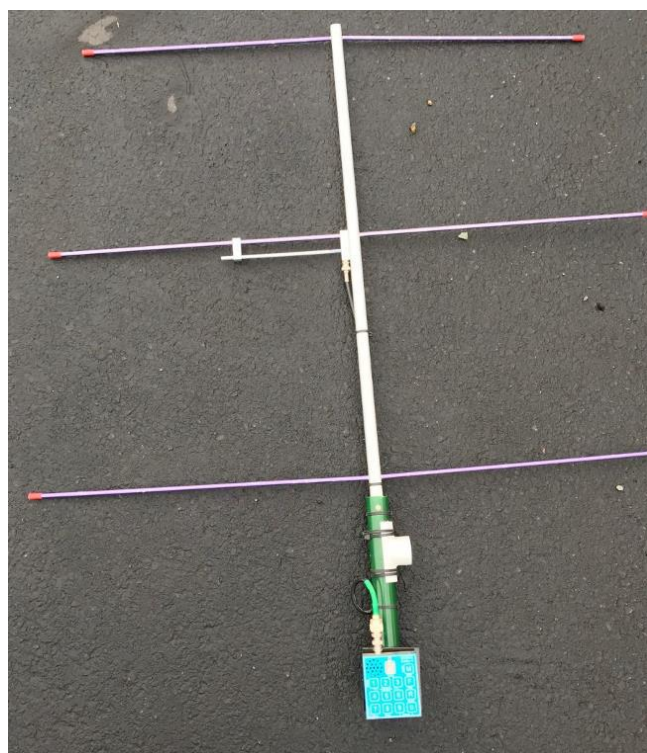
For sale: Kenwood TS-590S. This one has the Kenwood installed daughterboard to fix the ALC overshoot problem (have paperwork for that). Cosmetically 9/10, no dings or significant scratches. Original box, manual, mic, power cord. \$600 firm. Can meet most members halfway to hand off.

73 Jim K6OK

k6ok@arrl.net or can text me at 916 too oh too 6458

FOR SALE—FROM THE ESTATE OF W6HFM

This is a VK3YNG Sniffer 4, which is one of the best transmitter hunt devices on the market. To get one of these, you need to order it from Australia. I paid about \$300 for mine. This one comes with the beam and I believe we also have some books on transmitter hunting that can be thrown in. This unit works by automatically attenuating the signal as you get closer to the hidden transmitter. An audible tone changes frequency as the signal gets stronger. The club will be doing a transmitter hunt soon. If you want to be competitive, you'll want this. It works on the 2 meter band and also the aircraft beacon location channels. \$200 .



Heil Gold ICM Microphone w/HB-1 Boom, support brack and PTT (beautiful for a base station) (\$100)



Contact Bob, W1RH w1rh@yahoo.com

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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