

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 Stu, K6TU, give a presentation on Propagation at our September 20th meeting at Rich, WC6H, office located at: 310 N. Cluff Ave., Lodi, Ca.

General club meeting starts at 11:30am with the presentation to follow. After the presentation will meet for lunch at:

Habanero Hots, 1024 Victor Rd., a short distance from Rich's office: <http://habanerohots.com/>

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

This is a must attend meeting for all Hams. Stu provides his propagation software to many DXpeditions so you don't waste your time wondering if the propagation will work for you.

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:

September 20-HAM Radio Propagation
October 18-TBD
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 shot from our last meeting



(Photos by Norm N6JV)

FROM THE PREZ

Hello Mother-Lode'ers!

Well, CQP is less than a month away. Are you ready? I've been working on various things around the shack. Yesterday, I picked up an Alpha 91B from W6SR. This will replace my AL-1200. My Henry 3KD remains the second amp. I also have a SB-200 sitting on the side, just in case.

I have had one 300 foot 90 degree (east) Beverage for several years. It has never performed very well. Receiving on 80 and 160 has always been better on the transmitting antennas than the Beverage. Last weekend, I tore down the entire antenna and matching box.



This weekend, I built a new matching box (pictured), using an ICE Beverage box, with preamp, inside of a weather-tight box. I ordered new wire and the new Beverage is 435 feet long. We'll see how it works.

My long-time contesting partner, Martin (AA1ON), has confirmed that he will be here for his 6th Multi-Single operation at my place. We have three first place plaques on the wall and hope to get a 4th this year.

Below are the CQP scores for our members last year. If everyone who operated last year, can match last year's score, or better it, I think we'll be OK as long as some of our new members get on and make some points. Every point helps us, no matter how small the score. This year, we will have some serious competition from the CCCP club, as well as REDXA. We need you on the air!! If we win this year, it will be a well-earned win. CCCP, however, says they will get the plaque this year.

AA6K	64,978
AD6E	228,855
AE6Y (@ K6TA/K6KO)	310,996
K6BEW	14,098
K6CSL	29,172
K6GT	87,618
K6III	20,254
K6LE	3,336
K6LRN (K6LRN & K6TKD)	234,088
K6NV	108,378
K6O (K6OK @ W6SR)	45,552
K6OK	7,744
K6P	33,418
K6Q (W1SRD)	274,630
K6RB	23,840
K6SCA	72,144
K6ST	4,455
K6YK/M	1810
KG6YST	1350
K7RC (K5RC)	12,770
N6FR (W1RH & AA1ON)	270,864
N6JV	199,728
N6MCM	600
N6RK	158,015
N6XI	285,302
ND6S	39,930
W6DE	30,396
W6HFM	972
W6RFF	35,604

W6RKC	58,328
W6V	30,184
WA6NHC	5712
WC6H	323,524
WK6I	4,050
WX6V	123,576
W7RN (KM9R)	35,133

club we can beat our last year's record of 39 logs and 3,365,390 points.

I personally am planning to spend more time in the seat this year by getting up earlier. The night was a bust for me last year, so we will see what this year brings.

To get us in the CQP mode we will have Stu, K6TU, give us a presentation on propagation at our September meeting on the 20th. The meeting will be at Rich's, WC6H, office located at **310 N. Cluff Ave., Lodi** at 11:30, with lunch to follow at Habenero Hots (order off the menu, separate checks), **1024 Victor Rd. Lodi**, close by Rich's office.

Has anyone worked Chatham? I need it, but haven't been home when they have been on. It's an all-time new one for me. I haven't seen him spotted today, so I may have missed out on this one.

I want to remind everyone that elections come up in November. I can't run for re-election because I'm at the end of my third term. That's fine with me. I need a rest, and the club needs new blood. Verne, W6VMT, our vice-president, who has just done a spectacular job for us this year, is also unable to commit to an officer position next year. Think about it. You don't have to be a top DX'er or contester to be a club officer.

On another note, Shirl has brought in a bunch of new members from the Lodi area...Welcome to all the new members, I hope we can meet you all in person at the Lodi meeting.

Don't forget to support and upload your logs to clublog.org and support Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) ncdxf.org for future DXpeditions

At our last meeting, several in attendance asked if Jettie, W6RFF, was OK. Jettie has been a regular at our meetings for years and it dawned on several that Jettie had missed the last three meetings. Well, apparently Jettie had a stroke a few months ago and is currently unable to walk. He is presently in a care home, in Lincoln and I'm told he would love to have visitors. I'm hoping that our November meeting can be held in Auburn or some place close to Lincoln and perhaps a group of us can visit Jettie. Jettie, if you're reading this, we want you back at our meetings!

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

Treasurer's Report

Balance: 04 August, 2014	\$1450.10
Income:	
Lunch, excess	20.00
Dues – K6DGW	15.00
Name Badge – KK6EGM	<u>20.00</u>
	55.00
Expenses:	00.00

Stu, K6TU, will be our presenter this month, in Lodi, speaking on HF propagation and computerized models. Stu is also the president of the CCCP club, so perhaps we can find out just how serious they're going to be about CQP!

Balance: 4, August 2014: \$1505.10

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer

I hope to see you this month in Lodi.

73, Bob, W1RH

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

THE VP SEZ

Well it's that time of year again...**CQP!!** We need every member to get on the air for as long as they can so as a

Hi all.....

Well a lot was going-on around here the end of August and early September, travel and tower projects. But not much to work on the radio, no new ones, I just added a few more RTTY countries, and it's been painfully slow getting em'

listed on LOTW. Up to 86 countries now, and with crappy conditions, it may be a push to get my 100 RTTY countries confirmed by the end of the year. We will see.....



A couple of weeks ago Rick, W6RKC, Norm, N6JV and I helped Ken, K6TA replace the 160M inverted "V" antenna on his 89 ft. tower. The youngest of us, W6RKC did the climbing, while Norm and I cut wire, and kept the antenna out of the bushes and adjusted the length for the correct operating frequency. Ken then treated us to lunch at a Sushi place in Jackson. Yummy!

While I was at Ken and Kay's, I purchased one section of Rohn 45G tower to complete my 25' 6M EME tower. Norm was kind enough to bring it off at my place on the way back and we dropped it into the pre-dug hole. Concrete was poured on Monday, September 1, and \$560 later (for 3 yards of structural grade concrete and delivery) I have what see in the photo above. In the next few days it will be ready for the last two sections to be added. I still have a lot of engineering that needs to be done on the elevation mechanism, but at least the tower got planted before the rainy season.

I am still working on my 1296MHz system but it has taken a back-seat to the tower project, and up-coming 2nd half of the 10GHz and up contest September 20th and 21st. As a matter of fact I will be joining our September speaker and a

small group after our meeting for some microwave contesting fun. After the 10GHz contest I will be back working on the EME, 1296MHz projects, preparation for CQP, and getting up my 80 and 160M combination antennas for the DX season. So I will be busy!

I almost forgot, Karen and I traveled to Savannah, GA for a few days to visit relatives. It was a fun experience, except the travel part. Air travel today really sucks, it feel more like a Greyhound trip with less stops. That is unless you're flying first or business class. But neither were available on flights that fit our schedule from Sacramento. Crap!

Savannah is beautiful and very green, no lack of rain there. It was also hot, humid, and raining, but that's Georgia in the summer time. Seeing everyone was well worth the travel inconvenience.

Enough for now, CU all the 20th **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 9

If Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, or Eugene O'Neill had been amateur radio operators, one of them certainly would have written a play about the VHF frequency allocation battle of the mid 1940's. For, except for sex, this event had all the elements of great drama--Power, Passion, Politics, Greed, and sudden twists and turns in the plot were the hallmark of this epic battle. It hastened the destruction of probably the greatest man in the history of radio, solidified the stranglehold of another in his quest for total television domination, doomed a viable alternative in the infant television industry, and gave birth to the predecessor of CB radio. Got your attention? Then let's open our Playbills and read the

CAST OF CHARACTERS THE ARRL AND THE 50,000 AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS--

Prior to World War II, hams were virtually the only major users of the "UHF" spectrum (as the frequencies above 25 Mc were then known). They had the use of the 10 meter band (28-30 Mc) and 5 meters (56-60 Mc) since the late 1920's, as well as a small slice of spectrum at 400 Mc. In the late 1930's, the FCC had allocated two new bands to amateurs--2 1/2 meters (112-116 Mc) and 1 1/4 meters (224-230 Mc). Except for 10 meters, most of the opera-

tions on these frequencies were done with very simple equipment. Modulated oscillators and super-regenerative receivers were the mainstay of their activities. For those not familiar with this type of equipment, a modulated oscillator was a tube coupled to a tuned circuit directly on the desired frequency which was modulated by another

tube. Since crystal control and frequency multiplication were not used, the resulting signal varied in both frequency and amplitude when the oscillator was modulated. The only way to receive such an unstable signal was with a superregenerative receiver. Invented by Major Edwin Armstrong in the early 20's, the "supervene" was extremely sensitive, but very broadbanded. It gave off a loud "rushing" noise (like an FM receiver unscquelched). A complete 'phone station of this type could be built with only 3 tubes--an important consideration for the Depression era hams. Except for limited operation on the 112-116 Mc band in World War II under WERS (War Emergency Radio Service), amateur stations had been silent since December 7, 1941. Now, late in 1944, with the end of the war in sight and new VHF/UHF tubes in production for the War effort, the ARRL was making plans for more bands above 25 Mc. MAJOR EDWIN H ARMSTRONG--

The unquestioned "Father of Modern Radio", Major Armstrong had experienced several setbacks in the 1920's and 30's, partly because of his secretive nature and uncompromising attitude. He had delayed in obtaining his original patent on the regenerative detector, and when he did finally apply, he omitted the oscillating properties of the circuit. Lee De Forest challenged Armstrong on this invention by submitting a circuit of his own that he claimed he developed in mid-1912. Armstrong initially won, based on the fact that De Forest's design was basically uncontrolled feedback. When, however, Armstrong flaunted his court victory (by flying a flag with his patent

number on it where De Forest could see it), and when Armstrong refused to grant De Forest a license to manufacture regenerative receivers, De Forest went back to court--and this time won. In two separate cases, the Supreme Court ruled that De Forest, not Armstrong, was the inventor of regeneration. This was bad enough, but then Armstrong lost another court battle. Although he had invented the superheterodyne receiver while in France in 1918, it was based partly on a crude, barely functional converter designed by a Frenchman. Despite the obvious superiority of Armstrong's design, the courts ruled against him again. Desperate for a success to reverse these setbacks, Armstrong turned to the idea of FM. At that time, the late 1920's, the concept of FM was known, but it was

widely believed that it was impractical, if not impossible. Armstrong, however, proved them wrong, and by 1933-34 had developed an operational, noise free, wideband FM system. He offered it to RCA, which had the first right of refusal. RCA, for reasons we will see in a moment, declined to fully develop FM, and Armstrong turned to GE. In Schenectady, NY, he found an ally in W.R.G. Baker, a GE Vice President, who saw the potential in FM. With GE's help, he continued to develop FM, got the FCC to allocate a slice of the VHF spectrum for FM broadcasting (42-50 Mc), and set up his first FM broadcasting station--W2XMN in Alpine, NJ. With two other pioneer FM stations, W1XPW in Meriden, CT, and W2XOY in Schenectady coming on the air in 1939-1940, the new Yankee Network was up and running. Armstrong was convinced that, once the war ended, FM would completely replace AM as the broadcasting standard, and he wanted a large chunk of VHF frequencies to accommodate it.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID SARNOFF AND RCA--

For the first forty five years of it's corporate life, RCA WAS Sarnoff and vice versa. From his humble beginnings as a telegraph boy and the wireless operator who copied the "Olympic" wireless signals about the doomed "Titanic", he had risen quickly in the Marconi organization, and was with RCA from the start. Sarnoff had watched the progress of his old friend Armstrong as he developed FM. However, he had other plans for RCA. Sarnoff was convinced that television was the future and radio was the past. Throughout the 1930's, he had poured millions of RCA's dollars into an all electronic television system, to replace the crude mechanical "spinning disk" sets that were in the experimental stage. By the late 1930's, he had a viable, all electronic system ready to go. On April 20, 1939, at the New York World's Fair, Sarnoff introduced commercial television to the world, using the slices of VHF spectrum that the FCC had set aside for experimental television.

Sarnoff's interest in the VHF frequencies extended beyond obtaining large allocations for television; he also wanted to minimize the frequencies available for FM broadcast. To him, radio was simply radio, an old technology made obsolete by television. He also realized that the public had a limited amount of disposable income available, and he wanted every spare dollar to be spent on TV sets, not FM radios. Sarnoff saw FM broadcasting as a serious threat to his beloved child, and he wasn't going to allow FM to gobble precious VHF frequencies that he felt rightfully belonged to television.

WILLIAM PALEY AND CBS--

Although only a supporting player in this drama, William Paley and his CBS Network almost changed the course of TV history, and, at one point, had both the FCC and the

Supreme Court on their side. Paley, through the genius of Peter Goldmark, one of CBS' top engineers, had developed a working color television system with brilliant, life-like colors more than a decade before RCA's color system was remotely viable. In 1940, as CBS was looking for a way to get past Sarnoff and RCA's stranglehold of patents on their all electronic black and white system, Peter Goldmark came up with the solution. Going back to the 1920's and the mechanical spinning disk, Goldmark developed a hybrid electronic-mechanical system. Using the spinning disk (which CBS now called the color wheel) with red, blue and green filters, he scanned it with an electron beam. On the receiving end, a similar "color wheel" synchronized to spin at the same speed detected the color signal. On August 28 and September 4, 1940, CBS gave demonstrations of their color TV system to the FCC. The FCC was very impressed with the vivid, sharp

clarity of the colors they saw on the screen. By contrast, RCA's color system was an embarrassing flop.

In addition to wanting television to start off directly with color, Goldmark was also convinced that the postwar TV frequency allocations should be on UHF, not VHF. In fact, CBS was so sure that their UHF color system would become the industry standard, that they had no plans to apply for any VHF TV license. And so, the players in this drama wait in the wings for their cue to come out on the stage. How will they react to the FCC's first VHF allocations proposal, issued in late 1944? Who will live past ACT I? Who will make it to the final curtain call?

"The Wayback Machine", with front row seats, will have the answers.

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

Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback

For Sale

(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 configura-

tion. 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

Some stuff for sale.

1. KT-34M2 4 element tri-bander 10,15,20M Antenna is about 4 years old. Was up 2 years and has been stored since. Excellent condition. \$350. pickup in Modesto.
2. Henry 1KD5 1KW desktop amplifier. 80 through 10 meters including WARC bands. Has roller inductor tuning, tuned input, Peter Dahl transformer. Very good condition. Original manual. \$700. pickup in Modesto or meet within an hour or two drive.
3. Kenwood TS-870SAT works well and in good condition, comes DC cable and Original manual \$800.
4. 40 foot Rohn 25G tower with Hazer, thrust bearing and 12 volt power winch. \$750. pickup in Modesto.

Contact:

Chuck W6RD

209-522-0549 or

chuckw6rd@yahoo.com

I have for sale

ICOM 746Pro Includes original manual, box, hand mic and power cord. Very good condition from a non-smoking shack. \$850.

de Doc NM6K placercdoc@sbcglobal.net

From Dick K6LRN.....

As of now, it appears my grief with the SteppIR was 'compromised' control cable. I purchased the DB-25 connector, 150' of 16 conductor control cable and the junction box. Made the cable connections and installed Thursday, September 11. As I was going up on lift, I noticed a couple of spots where insulation was damaged. Due to time considerations, was more concerned with getting through with crane guy.

Anyway, made necessary connections, etc., double checked continuity, then gingerly plugged in controller. Powered it up and, voila, it works more or less as it should. Band conditions seemed to be on the poor side...I think we had a 'flare' or other solar event yesterday, but managed Qs with LX on 17, W1AW/1 & 5 on 17 & 15. We will crank up tomorrow (Friday) AM as temp was getting over 90F both outdoors & in the shack. Hoping condx will be just a 'wee bit better' then.
de Dick, K6LRN

The XYL and I are moving back to Amador County as soon as we 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

I'm still selling some of KF6T's stuff. Here's the list:

Ham Gear:
HB 3CX1200A7 Amp - \$500 OBO
MFJ 9020 20 Meter CW Transceiver - \$40

Test Gear:
HP Model 53131A Frequency Counter - \$600 OBO
Tektronix Model 2246 100 Mhz Scope with Rolling Stand - \$350 OBO
Boonton Model 41A Microwatt Meter - \$200 OBO
Signotek Model ITC-3 High Resolution Counter - \$45
HP 6217A 0-50V, 200 ma. Power Supply - \$30
Instek PS-1830 0-18V, 3A Power Supply - \$50
Simpson 464 Digital Multimeter - \$30
Tektronix Model 130 L-C Meter - \$75
Micronta 22-204C Analog Multimeter - \$25
HP Model 500C VHF Signal Generator - \$10

Miscellaneous:
Ohmite VT-8 120V, 7.5A Variac - \$75
Powerstat Model 236 220/120V, 9A Variac - \$150
Tripp PV-400 400W Inverter - \$ 40
Jennings JBS-400 Vacuum Capacitor - offer?
JAN 872A Tubes in boxes - \$10 each
Several 6146B Tubes in boxes -\$20 each

de Jim WX6V

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV **Tube Of The Month**

Electron-Ray Indicator Tube

In 1932, Allen DuMont developed a small cathode ray tube that was inexpensive and could be used as a tuning or bridge balance indicator. The 6E5 of 1935 was the first production tube and this type was commonly used in AM radio receivers and as frequency netting indicators in military transmitters like the ARC-5 series.

The tubes were commonly called "magic eyes", "cat eyes" and "tuning eyes". The tubes were constructed with a "V" shaped fluorescent anode at the top. An electrode is placed near the central cathode so as to make a shadow on the anode. When increased voltage is applied to this control electrode, the shadow will appear to "wink" when the voltage is maximum. The AGC circuit can supply this voltage and will indicate when a received signal is on frequency. The tubes were still being used into the 1960s and later. My Heath-Kit Condenser Checker has one. To

boost the control voltage, a triode was often constructed inside the envelope.



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

Meeting Minutes, 23 August 2014

The meeting was called to order at 12:24 Pacific Daylight Saving Time by President Bob Hess W1RH.

Introductions followed. There were nine (9) applications for membership. Applicants were: K6DGW, Fred; K16YYT, Emilia; WB6BET, Jim; KK6COR, Maria; N6GKJ, Ron; KE5JTS, Jason; W6MSU, Guy; WA6OSX, Tom and K6DGQ, Bob. Applications were read. Moved, seconded & approved to accept. (Shirl AA6K has been busy recruiting at Stockton & Lodi clubs.)

Minutes & treasurer's report were approved following a correction by Treas. Carolyn Wilson.

ND6S, Ray operated 10/10 digital 10 meter contest.

W6SR, Rick has hole prepped for Rohn # 45 tower to be used for EME.

KR6N, Bob reported on his use of CW skimmer.

K6OLY, Jim has T-10 LPA installed...see El Dorado club bulletin for pix.

W6DE, Dave has OK for tower with K6OK's engineering & permit assistance.

Next month (September 20) is K6TU's presentation on propagation. Lunch at Habanero Hots.

Tentative plans for October & November meetings discussed. Watch 'Nugget' for details.

Meeting adjourned at 13:25 for program on EME...Earth, Moon, Earth...with slides about hardware, methods, software and state of the art.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Wilson K6LRN
Secretary, MLDX/CC

List of meeting attendees

K6LRN	Dick
K6TKD	Carolyn
K6YK	John
K6LE	Rick
N6RK	Rick
ND6S	Ray
KK6EGM	Jim
W6VMT	Verne
KR6N	Bob
K6OLY	Jim
K6TA	Ken
K6KO	Kay
WC6H	Rich
W6RKC	Rick
N6JV	Norm
AA6K	Shirl
W1RH	Bob
W6DE	Dave
W6SR	Rick

Dick Wilson, K6LRN

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

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

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

SB DX ARL ARLD037 ARLD037 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by KI1U, 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.

ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2. Antoine, 3D2AG is QRV as 3D2AG/p until September 26 while working here on

a climate change project. He is active in his spare time on 40 to 6 meters using mostly CW. QSL direct to home call.

BOTSWANA, A2. Operators K5LBU and N6TQ are QRV as A25CF and A25TQ, respectively, from the Lotsane Safari Lodge in the Tuli Preserve until September 18. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL to home calls.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Heinz, DF1YP will be QRV as FO/DF1YP from Moorea, IOTA OC-046, from September 13 to October 9. Activity will be mostly on 20 meters using SSB for 2 to 3 hours a day. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ is QRV as AH0CO from Saipan Island, IOTA OC-086, until September 16. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. This includes an entry in the WAE SSB X contest. QSL to the home call.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PA950SLD is QRV until the end of September to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the town of Sliedrecht. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and JT65. QSL via PA3FOE.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Andre, PP6ZZ and Leo, PP1CZ will be QRV as PY0FF and PY0F/PP1CZ, respectively, from September 18 to 25. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL PY0FF via W9VA and PY0F/PP1CZ direct to home call.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Christian, HB9LCA is QRV as S79LCA until September 27. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using mostly CW. QSL direct to home call.

GREECE, SV. Laci, HA0HW and Gabi, HA1YA will be QRV as SW8WW and SV8/HA1YA, respectively, from September 16 to 24. Activity will be mostly on 6 and 2 meters with some HF. QSL via operators' instructions.

CANADA, VE. Mike, KI1U is QRV as KI1U/VE9 from Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, IOTA NA-014, until September 14. Activity is mostly on the HF bands with a focus on CW and digital modes. This includes being an entry in the upcoming ARRL September VHF QSO Party from grid square FN64. QSL to home call.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9n. Chris, VK3QB, Luke, VK3HJ, Lee, VK3GK and Brenton, VK3CBV are QRV as VK9NT until September 21. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via VK2CA.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Ivaylo, LZ1CLM is QRV as

XT2CML from Bobo-Dioulasso until September 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

INDONESIA, YB. Budi, YF1AR is QRV as YF1AR/p from Java Island, IOTA OC-021, for the next several weekends. He is active on 80 meters during his nighttime hours and 40 meters during his daytime hours. QSL via N200.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Operators Kaz, JH1HRJ, Tack, JE1SCJ, Tatsu, JH1TXG and Kazu, JA0VSH are QRV as ZL7X until September 16. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via JA0VSH.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS. W1AW Centennial Stations W1AW/1 in New Hampshire, W1AW/0 in Colorado and W1AW/5 in Texas are QRV until 2359z on September 16. In addition, W1AW/1 in Connecticut and W1AW/4 in North Carolina will be QRV starting at 0000z on September 17. They will be active until 2359z on September 23.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL September VHF Contest, North American SSB Sprint, QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder, NCCC Sprint, FOC CW QSO Party, Worked All Europe SSB DX contest, Kulikovo Polye CW Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Arkansas QSO Party and the WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone are all on tap for this upcoming weekend. The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test is scheduled for September 17. Please see September QST, page 81, 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>

September 2014	
± NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 19
± NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 19
± ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
± South Carolina QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 20 to 0300Z, Sep 21
± Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 to 0700Z, Sep 21 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 21
± BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 21
± NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 26
± NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 26
± CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28

+ Texas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 27 to 0200Z, Sep 28 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28

October 2014

+ YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest 1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
1600Z, Oct 4 to 0359Z, Oct 5 and 1400Z-2000Z, Oct 5
+ New Jersey QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5
+ California QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder 0145Z-0215Z, Oct 10
+ 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

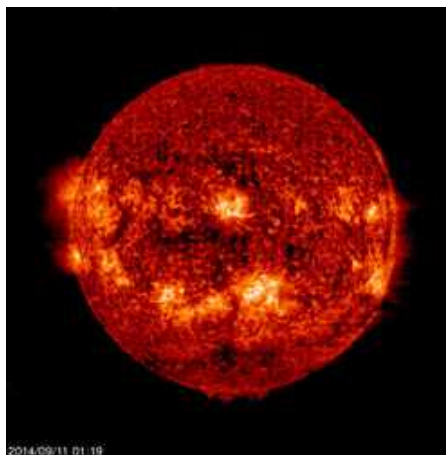
December 2014

+ 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

We saw a nice increase in the level of solar activity this week, and the outlook for the near term is good -- or at least interesting.

Average daily sunspot numbers for the period September 4-10 jumped from 85.1 to 152.1, and average daily solar flux rose from 126.7 to 155.8. Geomagnetic indicators were quiet, with the average planetary A index declining from 14.7 to 7.9, and the average mid-latitude A index dropped from 13.4 to 8.3. These latest numbers are compared with those of the previous 7 days, August 28 through September 3.



Spacenews.com has reported that a couple of coronal mass ejection (CME) blasts, launched September 9 and 10 from sunspot 2158, are headed toward Earth. The sunspot was in a most favorable position for launching CMEs in our direction; it was right in the center of the visible solar disc from Earth's perspective. Don't worry, though. This is not a doomsday event, although it is strong.

At 0520 UTC on September 11, the Australian Space Forecast Centre issued a geomagnetic warning. The Centre has predicted increased geomagnetic activity for September 11-13, due to CMEs. The Centre's forecast calls for unsettled conditions, with minor storm periods possible on September 11, active-to-major storm levels on September 12, and active geomagnetic conditions on September 13.

From NOAA/USAF the predicted planetary A index is 5, 32, and 18 for September 11-13, 5 for September 14-24, then 18 on September 25, 15 for September 26-27, 12 for September 28-29, and 10 on September 30.

Predicted solar flux is 160 on September 11, 165 for September 12-14, then 170, 165 and 155 for September 15-17, 145 for September 18-20, then 150, 145 and 135 for September 21-23, 130 for September 24-25, 125 for September 26-27, 130 for September 28-29, and 145 for September 29-30.

Expect aurora borealis displays in northern latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere and rough HF conditions on Friday, September 12. The predicted planetary A index of 32 for Friday is typical during a geomagnetic storm.

You can watch the fun on NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center geomagnetic data page, updated every 3 hours. A K index above 3 indicates active geomagnetic conditions. Each single point higher represents a large increase in activity.

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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