

# THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

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

September 2022

Volume 27 Number 9

### **From the President – NR6Q**

Greetings all,

CQP is right around the corner! It is an awesome contest where we are the DX. You'll have a lot of fun operating. Get on the air, even if it is just from your home location. California

always puts on a great show. This year we'll have all 58 counties on the air. However we could use some help with the rare counties like Stanislaus and Solano Counties. I hope you are able to get on the air.

73, Greg Glenn, NR6Q

### **Next Meeting**

**Date:** October – 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

**Presentation:** TBD

### **MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ**

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - August 2022

7/31/2022 Opening Balance		\$2,647.32
Income		\$40.00
2022 Dues - Paypal	\$40.00	
2022 Dues - Checking	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$0.00
8/31/2022 Ending Balance		\$2,687.32

## From the Secretary – W6BRY

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club  
General Meeting Minutes

No notes were taken during the August meeting.

No meeting occurred in September.

Brian Mathews, W6BRY

## CLUB Dues

### 2022 dues are due!

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues are \$20.00 individual, \$30.00 family

PayPal – Send to: [motherlodeclub@gmail.com](mailto:motherlodeclub@gmail.com).  
Use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mail to the Treasurer - Sue Allred K6SZQ, 17610 Red Mule Rd. Fiddletown, CA 95629

## Club Log Standings

### Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	229
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	222
3	NK7I	Rick Bates	210

### CW

1	K6YK	John Lee	147
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	128
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	114

### Phone

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	116
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	108
3	K6YK	John Lee	104

## Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	204
2	NK7I	Rick Bates	199
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	198

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

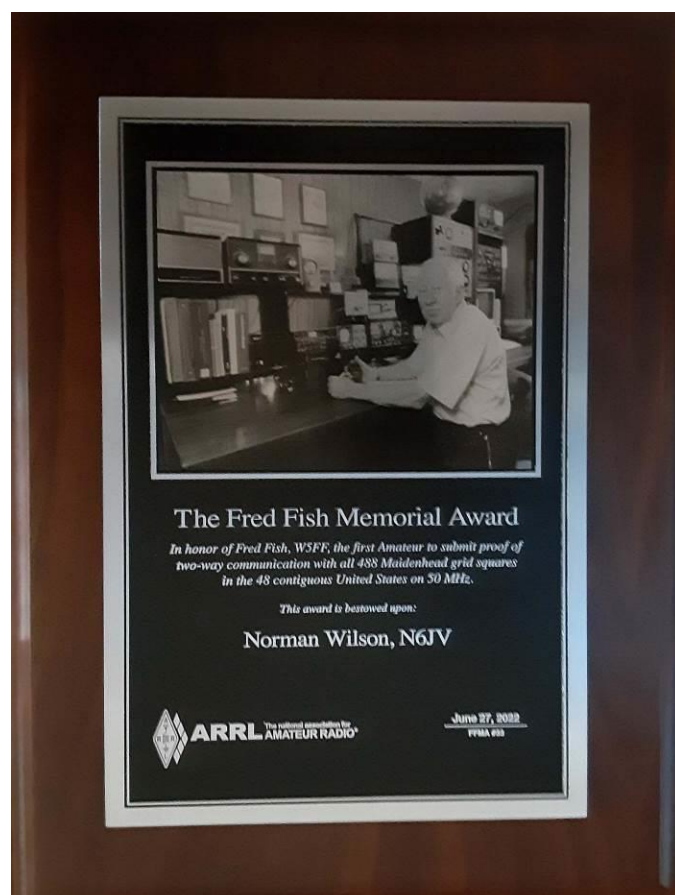
## Member Reports

I was able to work FH/OK1M Mayotte for ATNO on 15m FT8. Thanks to those in MLDXCC who spotted him. I also got a clean sweep of the Route 66 special event stations which is always fun event. The ZL5/K5WE keeps eluding me. He is never on the right band at the right time.

73,  
Jay – KE6GLA

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Congratulations to Norm N6JV on his FFMA award!



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### Doug's commo shelter project

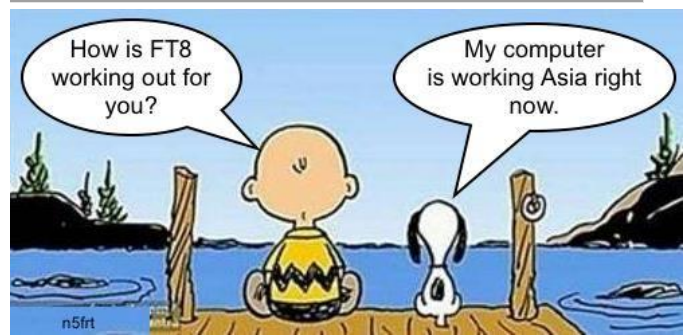
This month I picked up an S-318a/g communications shelter. I plan to set it up as a portable ham radio shack that I can take on expeditions like CQP. That way I can still tow my tower trailer and not have to set up a tent for operating. So far I have mounted two 19" racks for equipment. I plan to put a 390 watt solar panel on the roof and add batteries and a generator. I will be mounting a small AC unit on the door. With a little paint and re-wiring, it should be a comfortable place to operate.







Doug WE6Z



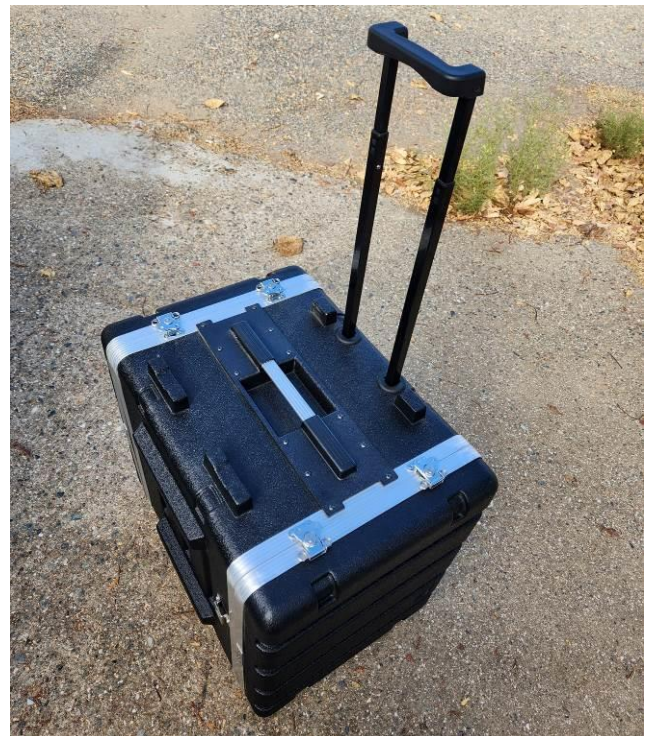
Dave, w6de



### Lincoln swap meet

The Lincoln swap meet had a great turnout! It was fun to see friends old and new. I hope you were able to make it out there. I brought home a YC-601 and a go-box on wheels.





Doug WE6Z

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**State & Province QSO Party Calendar**

<https://gsoparty.eqth.net/index.html>

73,

Steve / NC6R

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## Junk Box 813 Amplifier

When my son, Clint, KK7DAH, got his 100-watt transceiver and vertical working, he asked what could be done to get a bit more signal out. His backyard has no room for anything except a vertical, so I looked around my junk supply and thought I had enough parts to build a small, 250-watt amplifier with power supply. He mostly uses 40 and 30 meters using FT8, so he couldn't get into much trouble with a small amp.

I had a small, rack mounted, amplifier that had been built by an old ham friend, W6NHA, back in the 1950s. It used a neutralized 811A with plug in coils and link coupling in the output. I had inherited an old, short relay rack from Lyle, K6QG. It needed some body work and after some rust removal, a paint job. The only large item that I needed was a power supply that would sit in the bottom of the rack.

After the rack was cleaned up and painted, I started building the power supply on the floor of the rack with a detachable front panel. The transformer is mounted on a small chassis and a second identical chassis contains four block rectifiers and the filter caps. Several years ago, Gary, KI6T, had an Alpha amplifier that had a circuit board that contained the filter caps as well as the screen grid voltage regulator. The screen regulator burned up so he ordered a new board. I volunteered to re-cycle the old board. I now had an application for it. The panel has a good variac transformer, power switch, voltmeter and a pair of mil-spec 10-amp circuit breakers. Those of us that have used tube amplifiers know about letting the filter caps discharge before touching anything in the amplifier or power supply. The high-capacity filters we commonly use take some time to bleed off. As I am too old to replace children, I added a small vacuum relay that was in

series with a bleeder resistor so that when the power was cut, the relay would ground the resistor. The voltage goes to zero in about a second.



To simplify the construction, the amplifier operates on both 40 and 30 meters with a single coil. The coil had to be adjusted to resonate on both. The original amp used link coupling and the new design is a PI network with a loading capacitor. The shaft for the link coupling was adapted with a timing belt to operate the loading capacitor that needed to be off set. The socket and filament transformed were removed and replaced by a socket for an 813 and an old filament transformer I had wound when I used 813 tubes. The amplifier was going to be grounded grid, so a filament choke was wired to the new socket. A pair of PI network circuits need to be made to match the input impedance of the tube. For a single 813, this is 267 ohms. In testing it was found that the tube got very hot in this enclosed space, so a muffin fan was mounted on a honeycomb air filter directly over the tube. To control the amplifier, a PTT relay cuts the plate current off and operates the external antenna switch.





Metering was modified and shows grid and plate current. An output of 250 watts is achieved with fairly low input power and about 2200 volts on the plate. The only item that wasn't from the junk box was a can of wrinkle spray paint.



Norm, N6JV

### Doug's boat anchor collection

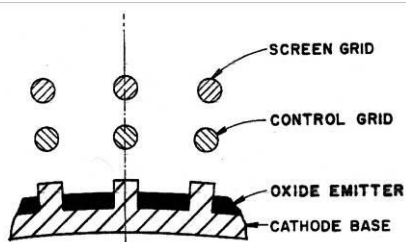
This month I picked up a few more radios for my boat anchor collection. I got a Collins R390A, a Hallicrafters SX-71 and S19, Hammarlund HQ-129X and Super Pro 600, a Globe Scout, and a Johnson Viking Challenger.







The illustration was adapted from an unpublished EIMAC report.



The [4CX15000B/8660](#) tube was made with this grid structure. The grid was rated at 1 watt which allowed higher power to be produced while maintaining very low distortion in AB2 mode. The new tube could be used to replace the 4CX1000A with a small increase in screen voltage. Adapting this technology to triodes lead to the well-known [8877](#).



Visit the museum at [N6JV.com](http://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

## **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 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>

## **UPCOMING Events**

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

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

## **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.*

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Looking for a Motorola Micom 2 or 3 with ALE.

Looking for an EF Johnson 5300 VHF radio.

Looking for a VHF air band transceiver.

Doug WE6Z [we6z@hotmail.com](mailto:we6z@hotmail.com)

## **Swapmeets**

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### **The Northern California Swap**

Thursday evenings at 8 PM local on the N6ICW repeater system 147.195 +123  
Join Armand WB2ZEI and the group to buy, sell, or trade amateur radio related gear. Check-ins and visitors welcome.

## **PACIFICON<sup>SM</sup> 2022**

**San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon, CA 94583**

**IN PERSON!  
Friday through Sunday  
Oct. 14-16, 2022**

<https://www.pacificon.org/>

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Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?  
Contact Vina K6VNA [vina@sign-tek.com](mailto:vina@sign-tek.com)

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## **2022 Meeting Dates**

January – none  
Feb – none  
March – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Apr – 16<sup>th</sup>  
May – 14<sup>th</sup>  
June – 18<sup>th</sup>  
July – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
August – 27<sup>th</sup>  
September – 17<sup>th</sup>  
October – 22<sup>nd</sup>



November – 19<sup>th</sup>

Dec – TBD

*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>

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

<http://calaverasars.org/>

Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Electronics Society (TCARES)

<https://tcares.net/>

*Please contact the editor to have your club listed here.*

## **ARRL Pacific Division**

Pacific Division Director

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Pacific Division Vice Director

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Sacramento Valley Section Manager

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San Joaquin Valley Section Manager

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## **Officers of the MLDXCC**

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## **The MLDXCC Newsletter**

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