

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

July 2019

Volume 24 Number 7

From the President NC6R

President NC6R

ATTENTION!!

MLDXCC is still looking for a newsletter editor. A couple of unnamed conspirators have gallantly stepped in to fill the gap. If you have interest but feel you lack the know-how, I'm sure there are several members who would gladly mentor you.

The July meeting was a joint gathering of MLDXCC & NCCC with both clubs being well represented. The meeting was held at the Point Restaurant in Rio Vista. A thank you goes to Jim (WB6BET) and Emilia (KI6YYT) for their knowledge of the location and to Bob (W1RH) and bride for "test driving" the menu.

A brief MLDXCC meeting was held with the treasurer's report and

meeting minutes from June meeting, having been printed in the newsletter, were approved as published.

NCCC has asked if we'd submit our ARRL sweepstakes points to them this year as it marks their 50th anniversary of the event. As many of you know we receive support from their members in the form of contest points as they are not directly involved in sweepstakes as a club. However NCCC would like to participate this year to honor that 50th anniversary mark. I think we as a club should support this given their many years of supporting us. Additionally as a show of appreciation they've offered to support MLDXCC in an additional focus contest of our own choosing. Currently the MLDXCC board is discussing which one that might be.

News was also shared about the upcoming Cal QSO Party. They've requested your input on the Cal QSO website as to which county you will be activating. Go to www.cqp.org to register.

Congratulation goes out to MLDXCC member Steve, W1SRD for making the honor roll. The rare one that put him on the Honor Roll @ 332 DXCC countries was Palestine. Nicely done Steve.

Remember to participate in the CQ DX Marathon contest where any DX you work, whether new or worked before, counts toward your final score at the end of the year. MLDXCC has made a good showing as a club in this event in the past several years.

Here are a couple of good website resources to checkout and bookmark as they contain a lot of information about upcoming events -

Upcoming DX operations
-<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

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

See you at the Aug 24th meeting in Auburn. Meeting location and details can be found by going to www.mldxcc.org/meetings. K9JM will be giving a presentation on 9M0V, Spratley Island.

73 - Steve / NC6R

August MLDXCC Meeting

When:

**Saturday, August 24th.
11:30 AM**

Where:

**Round Table Pizza
370 Elm Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603**

What:

Jim, K9JM, give a talk on the 9M0W Spratley Island March, 2018, DXpedition....DX without sunspots. Jim will have a short video and and plenty of stories.

We're holding this month's meeting in Auburn to accommodate our speaker, who lives in Grass Valley. We have a superb meeting room at a very accessible location with plenty of parking.

Thanks to Doug, WE6Z, for suggesting this location.

As usual, RSVP's are very much appreciated so we can organize the meeting room accordingly.

**Please RSVP to me:
wlrh@yahoo.com**

Directions

From the Valley:

Eastbound I-80 [from the Valley] exits right to a signal at Elm. Turn right on Elm, over I-80, and first available right into the center. Round Table is in back, on the right.

From the south:

Take Highway 49 into Auburn. Turn right on Elm. Go over the freeway and take an immediate right into the parking lot.

From the north:

Take Highway 49 to Elm. Turn left on Elm. Parking lot is just before the freeway entrance.

Google maps will get you there!

From the Secretary K6SZQ

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes
(held during the joint
MLDXCC/NCCC meeting)
July 17, 2019

The Point Restaurant, Rio Vista

Meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Steve Allred, NC6R. 39 total people were in attendance: 6 MLDXCC only members, 17 MLDXCC and NCCC members, 14 NCCC only members and 2 guests.

Steve asked that all present introduce themselves.

June minutes were published in the June newsletter, as was the treasurer's report. Bob Hess, W1RH moved to accept the minutes and treasurer's report as published. Bob Wilson, N6TV seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Announcements:

1. Steve asked the group how they have done in recent contests.
2. Steve Allred, NC6R mentioned several upcoming contests/events
 1. NAQP CW is August 3rd
 2. NAQP SSB is August 17th
 3. ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY is August 18th
3. It was announced that there are 25 DXpeditions occurring between now and the July meeting. For details and a full listing,

go to ng3k.com and click on "ng3k provided resources" and then click on "Announced DX Operations". Steve reminded us that MLDXCC's very own Steve Dwyer, W1SRD will be going to South Orkney. Steve Dwyer noted that they will be leaving port in early February.

Member Achievements:

- Bob Officer, N6TCE achieved 3 Band WAS, all done on FT8/
- Steve Dwyer, W1SRD proudly announced he had made Honor Roll with Palestine as his #332 contact.
- Norm Wilson, N6JV noted that he is up to 121 countries on 6 meters.

Club Achievements:

- None to report

Next Meeting:

August 24th - location and speaker to be announced.

Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to adjourn; Steve Dwyer W1SRD seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m. For the program, Bob Wilson, N6TV gave a presentation on using serial ports with your radio system.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary



July meeting photos by N6JV

From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC - June 2019			
Treasurer's Report			
June 1 Balance	\$2,589.10		

	Income:	Dues WA6RZ	20
		Dues K6TA/K6KO	30
	Expense:	No Activity	
June 30 Balance	\$2,639.10		
Tyler Laursen K6TLR			
MLDXCC Treasurer			

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

New Contest – WW Digi

Yes this is a repeat, but it is worth repeating.

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation ("WWROF"), in collaboration with the Slovenia Contest Club ("SCC"), is pleased to announce the first annual

World Wide Digi DX Contest ("WW Digi"). The new contest taps into the excitement being generated by the new digital modes pioneered by Joe Taylor K1JT and the WSJT-X development team. The contest will occur over 24 hours on August 31 and September 1, 2019 using the FT4 and FT8 modes on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter bands.

WW Digi will utilize a distance-based scoring system to measure operators' abilities in making DX contacts across the 6 HF amateur radio bands. Contacts will earn points based on the distance between grid square centers of the two stations. This will encourage operators to seek out long distance weak signal contacts that highlight the technical advantages of the new digital modes.

To encourage activity across all bands, a multiplier will be given for each new 2-character grid field contacted on each band. The final score will be the product of the total contact points times the number of grid fields contacted. There should be plenty of strategy required to balance distant QSOs and the need to work all available grid fields. Single and multi-operators are welcome to operate as much or as little of the 24-hour contest period as they wish.

The contest has been designed to enable making contacts utilizing standard WSJT-X software behavior, making it easy for non-contesters to participate. At the same time, the contest supports some new techniques that will encourage operating innovation, such as permitting stations to work up to three "QSO streams" on a band at one time. Robotic operation is specifically prohibited in order to keep the human element as part of the game. The full rules and other information are available on the WW Digi DX contest web site at <https://ww-digi.com>

It is fitting that the World Wide DX contest series be expanded with a fourth mode, Digi, to support evolution into ham radio's future. Accordingly, with WWROF's sponsorship of the World Wide Digi DX Contest, there will now be similar worldwide DX contests at the end of four successive months, August through November.

Serious contesters and casual participants alike can make ham radio history and have fun as the hobby pioneers the exciting world of digital communication. WWROF hopes the WW Digi DX Contest will attract new digital operators into contesting.

Plaques will be awarded for top scorers. Please contact the WW

Digi Contest Director Ed Muns, W0YK at plaques@ww-digi.com to sponsor an award. Electronic certificates will also be available for download for anyone that submits a log. The goal is to have results available on the web site within 90 days after the end of the contest.

About WWROF

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation is dedicated to improving the skills and fun of amateur radio operators around the world by utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research, promoting international friendship and goodwill.

WWROF is a non-profit, donor-supported, organization which sponsors this contest and provides the infrastructure for log submission, log checking, and other services in support of many popular radio contests. Please visit wwrof.org for more information.

About SCC

The Slovenia Contest Club has a long tradition of supporting digital contesting with its annual RTTY Championship contest held the last weekend of August. For more information about SCC please visit <http://lea.hamradio.si/scc/>

Club Log Standings

MIXED:

N6JV	228
K6YK	188
K7QDX	164

CW:

N6JV	170
K6YK	137
NA6O	126

PHONE:

N6JV	113
NC6R	108
K6YK	83

DIGITAL:

K7QDX	159
N6JV	137
W6DE	128

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

MLDXCC Website update

Norm, N6JV would like to update the "member's stations" section of our website. Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved. So please send Norm a photo of your smiley face at your station, as well a photo of your antenna system. Let's get our website current.

Tube of the Month N6JV

12AX7



In the late 1940s, RCA introduced a family of twin triode, 9 pin miniature tubes starting with the 12AU7 and followed by the 12AT7 and the 12AX7. Each tube had its individual characteristics. Vast numbers of them were made for all types of equipment including 2-way commercial radio transceivers. Each of the triodes had a 6.3 volt filament so you could series them together and run them off 12 volt car batteries. The 12AX7 was designed for low hum and microphonics and had a gain of

100. Today the 12AX7 is still a popular tube among audio lovers and an easy sell at swaps. I collect transmitting tubes, but when some ham moves or has a divorce, I end up with a box of old tubes when they clean their garage. There are several thousand of them in the attic. I have found some very odd things to do with these tubes besides electronic projects.

The Tale of the Tortoise and the Triodes

When a female desert tortoise lays her eggs, she digs a hole with her hind legs. When our tortoise started a hole for the first time, the ground was very hard and she was wearing herself out. It was 103 degrees when I tried to help her by loosening the ground with a screwdriver. She thanked me by throwing dirt in my face. She finally finished the hole, laid the eggs and buried them. The next day I dug the eggs up and placed them in an incubator. Some of the eggs were broken when they were dropped into the hole. The next time she dug a hole, I placed my hand into the hole and caught the egg as it fell. By the time I got back to her, another egg was coming. Everything worked perfectly until she finished laying and tried to arrange the eggs with her hind legs. She couldn't find them as I had

swiped them. She wouldn't leave until she had placed the eggs. Since she never sees the eggs, I should be able to put in a substitute. The only thing I could find that was the same size and shape was a handful of 12AX7s. I threw the tubes in the hole and she was happy. She arranged them to her satisfaction, buried them and went to bed. The next day I dug up the tubes. They all survived as well as all the hatchlings in 3 months. No broken shells.



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

Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Focus Contests

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

ARRL DX Phone*
ARRL DX CW*
ARRL 10M*
ARRL 160M*
ARRL November Sweepstakes

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

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>

MLDXCC – Outgoing ARRL Bureau

The Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will provide Outgoing QSL Bureau services to current paid club members.

Due to recent ARRL changes in the outgoing bureau, look for a revised policy to be announced by the club.

For more information regarding the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

ARRL Awards Checkers

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

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

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

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

MLDXCC Monthly Meeting–August 24

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

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

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

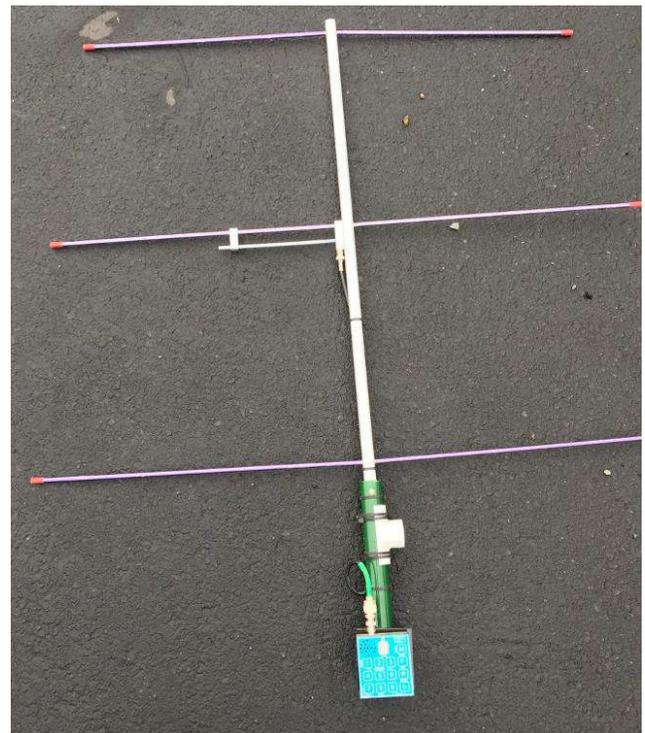
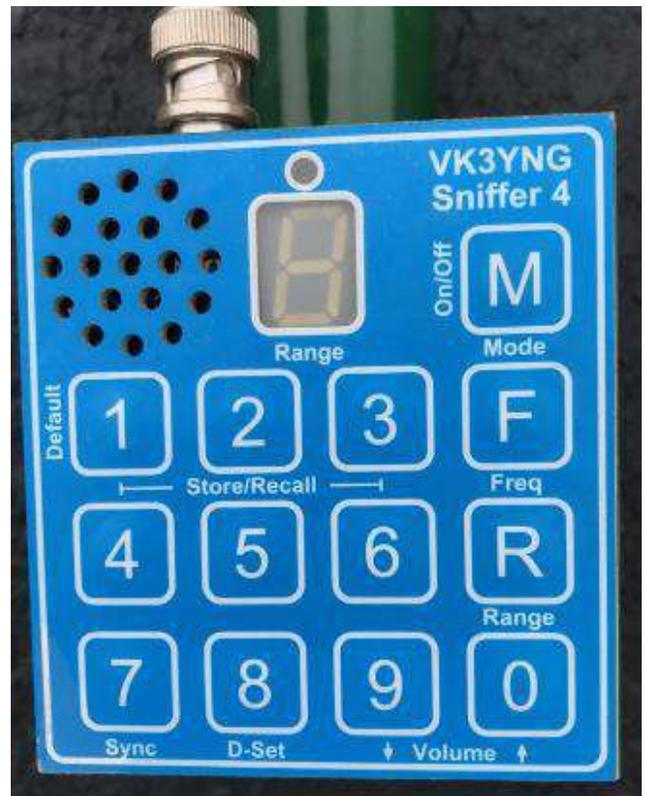
For sale: Kenwood TS-590S. This one has the Kenwood installed daughterboard to fix the ALC overshoot problem (have paperwork for that). Cosmetically 9/10, no dings or significant scratches. Original box, manual, mic, power cord. \$600 firm. Can meet most members halfway to hand off.

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

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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