

THE NUGGET



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

December 2017

Volume 22 Number 12

From the President NJ6G

It's hard to believe this year is almost over. The face of the club is changing and I believe that 2017 was one of our strongest years. We found out in April that we won the 2016 ARRL Sweepstakes again, and are likely on our way to winning it again for 2017. We won the 2016 CQP and by all counts may have won it again for

2017 in a new Medium Club category. In both cases our strongest competition came from the Southern California Contest Club. In the 2016 CQ Marathon we came in 6th place worldwide. Win or lose, it's a testament to the teamwork and abilities of the members of this club that we are the club that other clubs have to look out for, and we're getting to be known on an international scale. It's also a testament to our sense of cooperation and shared membership with NCCC, Lodi Amateur Radio Club, Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club, PL259, El Dorado Amateur Radio Club, and others. We can compete against each other yet still pull together to put up big numbers. Let's look for opportunities to repay the efforts that these other clubs have put forth for us.

We made an effort to increase our membership this year by setting up information tables at Pacificon and Visalia, and by getting the word out to area clubs. We added close to 20 new members! Part of the increase was also due to us making sure that we always play by the rules in the contests and making sure that only valid club members are competing for us, so we had

Next Meeting

**There will not be a December meeting,
enjoy the holidays!**

Next meeting is Jan 27th, 2018
11:00 AM Social, 12:00 PM Lunch
Dennis NJ6G's QTH
10505 Scenic Valley Rd
Valley Springs, CA 95252

Program: Awards Presentations

We will be holding a raffle, so please bring a contribution for the table!

Catering will be provided, look for more info in the January newsletter or an announcement on the reflector.

frequent guest operators join the club. It was great to see many of these new members jump right in and start working contests for the benefit of the club, and it is fantastic to see fresh new faces at our meetings. Let's keep up the good work on promoting our club and showing them what we can do as a team!

We said goodbye to a couple of club members who became silent keys this year. Shirley Rose AA6K became a SK on February 1st, and Ronald (Pat) Patterson K6OQ became a SK on March 26th. They will be missed.

On the home front, Vina K6VNA and I successfully focused on getting our tower up. We are now blessed with an LM-470 supporting a 4-element 40-20-15 beam and a ladderline fed doublet. What a huge improvement, and it was evident in the points I was able to generate in CQP and Sweepstakes. Nothing compared to our normal points generating machines like WC6H, W1RH, W1SRD, N6TV et al. but enough to keep me from feeling that my signal isn't making it out of the county. It did assist me in achieving my first single band DXCC on 20m.

Our November meeting was a lot of fun and quite social. Elections were held, Dave Engle W6DE gave tips on achieving 80 and 40m DXCC, and Bill Vogler W6QD talked a bit about his job at the Oroville Dam and ongoing work on the damaged spillway. I took on two additional roles, newsletter editor and membership committee chairman. Vina K6VNA volunteered as Activity Chair so please send your meeting location ideas and guest speaker ideas to her.

So what should we be looking to accomplish in 2018? Increased cooperation with other area

New Members

Please welcome the following new members!

Don Anastasia AA6W

Bill Fenech AI6JZ

Todd Remington KH2TJ

Rich Hallman N7TR

Mike Steiner K7QDX

clubs, increasing our membership, elmering our new members to increase their knowledge and skills, and improving our own skills. We can increase cooperation by looking at our focus contests and identifying those where it makes sense to assist smaller or larger clubs. We have an opportunity to assist NCCC beginning in January with the upcoming RTTY contests. We can elmer our new members by having meaningful programs at our club meetings, visiting their stations to provide tips and tricks to get the most out of their stations, and inviting them to our own stations to observe or participate in contests and to see how we are set up. We can improve our own skills by practicing code, learning from others, trying new software, and getting on the air.

Where will you focus your efforts in 2018?

Here's hoping everyone has a fantastic holiday season and a very happy New Year!

73, Dennis NJ6G

From the Secretary K6SZQ

Minutes of the last meeting
November 11th, 2017
Mountain Mike's Pizza, Martell

Meeting was called to order at 11:51 p.m. by Dennis Moore, NJ6G. 20 members and 5 guests were in attendance.

We went around the room and each member introduced themselves. Since it was Veteran's Day, all members present who were Veterans were asked to identify themselves. Several members did so and were thanked for their service.

Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter, John Lee, K6YK seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Rick Samoian, W6SR moved to accept the Treasurer's report as published, Steve

Dits and Dahs

Bob LeClerc (x-KR6N) has a new call, W6RC. Apparently the competition was tough but Bob won out!

Steve Allred (x-K6SCA) has a new call, NC6R and has been putting it to good use. Make sure you get him in your log!

Dennis Moore NJ6G just achieved his first confirmed single band DXCC on 20M

Mike Duggar K6AAN picked up a new LDG AT-100Pro tuner for his doublet. Provides increased tuning capabilities over the internal tuner in his FTDX-1200

Dennis Moore NJ6G received an early anniversary gift of a Buddipole Deluxe at Pacificon and is anxiously awaiting Field Day to give it a good test, if not sooner!

Do you have something you'd like to see here in Dits and Dahs? License upgrade? Call sign change? New equipment? Send it to the editor!

Allred NC6R seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The regular dues reminder was given.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee – we need a new committee chairman. We also need to do a clean-up as there are many persons who have not paid dues for several years as well as silent keys still on the roster.

Award Committee – Presentation of awards was moved to January.

Old Business:

Election of officers was held. Dick Wilson, K6LRN moved to accept the entire slate that was nominated at the October meeting. Rich Cutler, WC6H seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business:

Recent club/member awards and DX bragging

- Steve Allred, NC6R reported that he recently had several ATNO contacts.
- John Lee, K6YK mentioned contact with a maritime mobile near Crozet with a good signal.
- Barry Oaks, WJ6N reported making several new contacts with 100 watts and a wire.
- Dennis Moore, NJ6G reported he achieved DXCC

Member Reports on Recent Contests/Events:

- Greg Glenn, NR6Q reported he was in the top 5 for CQ WW SSB DX
- Rich Cutler, WC6H reported having made 1166 contacts in ARRL SS CW

Member Reports on New Equipment:

- Dennis Moore, NJ6G has a new buddipole.

New Member Applications

The following were proposed as new members and approved by the membership:

- Don Anastasia – AA6W
- AI6JZ – Bill Fenich
- KH2TJ – Todd Remington

Upcoming Events:

- WAE RTTY is November 11th and 12th

- ARRL SSB Sweepstakes is November 18th-19th
- CQ WW CW DX Contest is November 25th - 26th
- ARRL 160 Meter Contest is December 2nd - 3rd
- ARRL 10 Meter Contest is December 9th and 10th
- ARRL RTTY Roundup is January 6th and 7th
- CQ Marathon – submissions are due by 1/10/18 – last year MLDXCC came in 6th Internationally, 3rd in the US with only 3 participants.

DX News:

- Nauru – Micronesia – C21xx (Dennis was unsure of the call) through November 14th
- VK9MA – Mellish Reef – through November 16th
- 9U4M – Burundi – through November 17th
- Bouvet Island 3Y0Z – January 2018 – the #2 most wanted
- Baker Island KH1 – June 2018 for 10 days - #4 most wanted.
- Refer to NG3K.com for current DX operations

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be January 27th, 2018, location to be announced. Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. There was no program.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Allred, K6SZQ – Secretary

From the Treasurer K6TLR

November 2017 Treasurer’s report

November 1 Balance:	\$2,384.64		
	Income:	AA6W - Dues	\$15.00
		N6KD - Dues	\$15.00
		NC6R - Nametag	\$20.00

	Expense:		\$0.00
November 30 Balance:	\$2,434.64		

Tyler Laursen K6TLR
MLDXCC Treasurer

MLDXCC Website up-date

Norm, N6JV would like to up-date 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.

2018 MLDXCC Meeting Dates	
January	27
February	- None
March	17
April	- none (Visalia)
May	19
June	16
July	28
Aug	25
Sep	15
October	13
November	10
December	- None
<i>Dates are arranged to accommodate major contest dates. Meeting dates are subject to change. MLDXCC traditionally holds a mid-year combined meeting with NCCC.</i>	

ARRL Sweepstakes

I've done a pretty complete look at the claimed scores for Sweepstakes. A few comments:

- It appears that MLDXCC will win the gavel again, assuming log checking doesn't find any serious issues.
- After a 4th place finish in CW, we came through with 26 hard-earned logs in Phone and some seriously high scores.
- While I did verify scores and logs received, I did not verify distance. I did notice some scores from stations clearly outside of the 175 mile circles. I may do this for the Florida Contest Group, which had an unusually high score this year. I also did not verify membership but will take a look at Florida.
- Two other clubs deserve to be on this list and they may indeed have scores topping some of the clubs on this list. Those clubs are the Tennessee Contest Group and the Alabama Contest Group. I may include them in the tally next year. Their scores will not top ours.
- The Mad River Radio Club does something right. Well over 50 percent of their membership participates in SS and they are, by far, the smallest club in this tally. If 50 percent of NCCC participated in SS, CW and Phone, NCCC could have a chance at the Unlimited gavel based on the huge scores of some of our members.
- There is no reason why any of these clubs could not win. They just need to be motivated to get on the air on the phone contest. When the Arizona Outlaws, or Contest Club Ontario, or the Southern California Contest Club figure this out, look out MLDXCC!!
- When NCCC used to focus on Sweepstakes, for years and years, the problem was al-

ways finding phone operators, as is the case with some of the clubs listed. MLDXCC has really cranked out the phone operators and the time may come when NCCC again goes for the gavel, but probably not until a better slot in the sunspot cycle. MLDXCC is a club with both new and experienced operators and we encourage the new operators to participate in our contests. Most of our new operators come out of the "dreaded" ranks of the no-code licensees, the license change so many fought against a few years ago (I didn't!). Mother Lode has done an excellent job recruiting new contesters over the past several years and this is where a good chunk of our phone scores are coming from. Most of these new members eventually join NCCC, which should help NCCC in the same way in upcoming years.

- I did check the total logs for YCCC, FRC and SMC. All were well over 50.
- If you're wondering about the Local Club category, it appears that the second place club last year, New Mexico Big River Contesters, may have beaten PL259. I say this without verifying membership and distance of the stations submitting scores. PL259 had ten logs submitted. NM had 9. Like MLDXCC, NM made up for a lower CW score with three phone scores well over 200K. To PL259's credit, all but one of their scores were over 100K. NM had two scores under 100K. Last year, PL259 won with a score of 1,809,218 over NM's 1,038,512. This year, it appears, BEFORE LOG CHECKING, that NM is at 1,473,382 and PL259 is at 1,390,016. Log checking can make a difference, so PL259 could still pull it off. While there are a log of clubs submitting in the Local Category, no one else is even close to these two clubs.

Again, I'm not proclaiming a win for MLDXCC. Just stating the current facts.

Way to go Mother Lode!!

With all that said, I do want to make one other point. In our category, all of the clubs were down in scores this year except for Florida, which was way up. Last year, MLDXCC won the gavel with a score of 4,296,446. Our claimed total for this year sits at 3,876,128. We should have been at 4,037,176, but I don't think we're going to make that number. Why? Well, your log flogger checked all of your scores and your ARRL submissions. I privately contacted a couple of you advising of changes that needed to be made (correct club, correct spelling, etc.). What I didn't do, and I am embarrassed to admit it, is check my own log submission. Imagine my horror when I was checking for any last minute MLDXCC changes on the ARRL Logs Received page when I saw my own log (and K6TLR made most of the points) submitted to NCCC. How did that happen? I'll blame it on being a first time user of N1MM, but the real blame goes to me. I should have checked a few hours earlier. I did change it, but it was a few hours after the deadline, so I'm going to assume the W1RH score did not go to MLDXCC, thus giving us a total of 3,876,128.

- Bob, W1RH

Club	Score (mil)	CW Logs	CW Score	SSB Logs	SSB Score	Total Logs
MLDXCC	3.876	22	1.844	26	2.032	48
FCC	3.375	23	1.750	21	1.625	44
SCCC	3.168	23	2.030	14	1.138	37
MRRC	3.126	25	1.650	22	1.476	47
CCCO	2.886	28	1.975	14	1.011	42
AO	2.857	26	1.950	14	.907	40
DFW	2.486	21	1.309	19	1.177	40
NCCC	2.423	28	1.555	17	.868	45

Tube of the Month N6JV

Twin Rectifier

As a paleontologist, I was always interested in what we called functional morphology. Basically, everything has a purpose even if it isn't obvious. Tube history is really a study of industrial paleontology. Tube makers tried all kinds of items that today make no sense as to their use or intended function. The Eimac Twin Rectifier is one of the rarest tubes in the collection and I have no idea what they wanted it for. They made two of these tubes just before WWII. I've got nothing. Anyone with any idea why Eimac would want this odd rectifier in 1941 please let me know. It's a bit over 4 inches tall. If it was a stamp or coin, I would be rich.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

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.

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>

Bouvet Island 3Y0Z – January 2018 – the #2 most wanted. Expect them to be on island beginning the last week of January.

Steve W1SRD shared some exciting news via the reflector about a Dxpediton he'll be part of next year.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Gene K5GS <k5gs@pdxg.net>

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017, 5:44:40 AM PST

Subject: [Ducie] VP6D - Ducie Island 2018 DX-pedition

For Immediate Release
Press Release #1
Dec 1, 2017

VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DX-pedition (OC-182)

The Perseverance DX Group (pdxg.net) is pleased to announce their planned activation of Ducie Island (a Marine Protected Area), currently Clublog #29 most wanted. Planning has begun for an expedition in Oct/Nov, 2018.

Landing permission, visas and radio license have been issued. A team of 14 operators will be on the island for up to 14 days. The team will depart from Mangareva, French Polynesia aboard the expedition ship Braveheart. Seven (7) operating positions are planned for 160-10 meters, SSB/CW/Digital, including FT8.

The team includes: Dave K3EL, Pista HA5AO, Les W2LK, Heye DJ9RR, Mike WA6O, Jacky ZL3CW, Arnie N6HC, Steve W1SRD, Chris N6WM, Laci HA0NAR, Ricardo PY2PT, Walt N6XG, Gene K5GS, currently one open position to be filled.

Watch the usual DX sources we will announce additional details as they develop.

Website: vp6d.com, Twitter and Facebook will also be available.

Please direct questions to: info@vp6d.com

73,
Team Ducie – 2018

I for one couldn't be more thrilled to have TWO MLDXCC members on this Dxpediton! Way to go Steve W1SRD and Chris N6WM! – NJ6G

Contesting

Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UPCOMING CONTESTS (complete)

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

<http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Classifieds

Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale:

Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO
Ameritron AL-811 600W Amplifier - \$475
LDG AT600ProII Tuner - \$200
Daiwa CN-801 SWR Meter - \$100
Amp, Tuner, SWR Meter Combo \$600.00
M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225
Dennis, NJ6G dennis@mail4life.net

Chuck W6RD has the following items for sale:
K3-100 (4K S/N) with K3S synthesizer upgrades.
(Main & Sub) , KRX3A, 13,6,2.7 and .4 khz filters
in the Main RX, and 2.7khz in Sub. KXV3B,
KDVR3, KOI3A, (no ATU, he had a Step-
pIR), \$4200+ New. \$2750 . Shipped CONUS
P3 with SVGA and TX Monitor \$1190 new \$750.
Shipped CONUS (K3 must sell first for the P3 to
be available separately).
K3/P3 combo \$3400. Shipped CONUS
Other Items still for sale:
Yaesu FT-2000 100 watt. In very good condition
with Box, Manual and AC cord. This has had very
little use. \$1150 shipped CONUS
Elecraft KAT500F Factory Built tuner in excellent
shape with Aux cable, Serial Cable, Keying cable
and manual. \$450. Firm Plus shipping.
There will be a few more items later after I get
them checked out.
Chuck, W6RD w6rd@arrl.net

From K6KM's estate, we have the following
items for sale:
(5ea) Rohn GB-45 guy bracket, (2ea) Rohn 45
rotor plate, (1ea) Rohn GB-55D guy bracket,
missing some hardware, (2ea) BLP, (6ea) Misc.
guy wire assemblies. Don't know length but
can verify if necessary. (5ea) PLP Big Grip BG-

2144 1/4 inch, (2ea) Phillystran Big Grip HPTG-
670001 / BG-MS-2755 3/8 inch, (1ea) 20 foot
mast - quarter inch wall (approximate), (1ea)
15 foot mast - quarter inch wall (approximate).
Also have a large lot of ICE grounding/surge
protection items.

Most if not all of this stuff can be available at
the Saturday MLDXCC meeting, with advance
notice. I will deliver at the meeting. Rick,
W6SR, will determine pricing and take your
money.

Bob, W1RH W1RH@yahoo.com

K6YRA has the following item for sale:

4 element SteppIR 20-6M Antenna Works great,
element covers are a bit discolored from sun but
otherwise looks good. Asking \$995, when pur-
chased new \$3000. Local pickup in San Fernan-
do Valley

Allen, K6YRA K6YRA@socal.rr.com

Dick K6LRN has the following items for sale:

Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from re-
pair & updates in un-opened carton. Asking
\$4700.

Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder.
Good condx, both electrically & cosmetic. Ask-
ing \$1100.

Dick, K6LRN k6lrn12@gmail.com

Jim Marshall has the following items available
for sale:

A good friend of mine passed away and I am
handling his radio equipment. Please review the
list below, and contact me if you are interested.

ICOM IC-7600 hf transceiver \$1,600

ICOM IC-R7000 receiver \$400

TOKYO HL 1.5 KFY (1500 watt linear amp) \$1,200

ALPHA 76A (1500 watt linear amp)(3x8874)
\$1,200

KENWOOD TS930S hf transceiver \$400

POWER MASTER vswr meter \$150
YAESU FL-100B (1200 watt linear amp) \$400
EICO 720 transmitter (xtal control) \$50
MIRAGE 2meter 160 watt amp \$175
MIRAGE rfc4-110 (70 cm 100 watt amp) \$150
KENWOOD 742A vhf/uhf transceiver(no out) XX
COMTEST SYSTEMS 3100 service monitor \$1,500
LEADER LBO522 20 mhz oscilloscope \$50
ELENCO F1000 frequency counter \$50
SIMPSON 260 multimeter \$20
FLUKE 111 multimeter \$50
BIRD 43P wattmeter w/8 slugs \$250
ASTRON VS-50M 50 amp power supply \$65
ASTRON RS-20M 20 amp power supply \$25
US TOWER (55' tower w/motor) \$1,500
STEPPIR DB42 antenna (80 thru 6 meter) \$2,000
STEEP IR 4E antenna (disassembled) \$750
CUSHCRAFT R7 vertical antenna \$150
2 meter multielement yagi \$50
70cm vertical antenna \$50
ICOM 70cm repeater w/cabinet \$150
OAK HILLS OHR100A (30 meter qrp xcvr) \$100
OAK HILLS WM-2 (QRP wattmeter) \$50
VIZ WV-120B (power line monitor) \$25
EICO 1140 (resistor and capacitor box) \$25
K7NV Prop Pitch rotator & controller \$2,000
Signalink USB Sound Card interface \$50
Straight key \$15
Iambic paddle \$30
BIRD 8085 (50 watt dummy load) \$30
Jim K6LR, jmarshall1945@yahoo.com

Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?
Contact Vina K6VNA vina@sign-tek.com

2018 Officers of the MLDXCC

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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