THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

February 2018 Volume 23 Number 2

From the President NJ6G

Vina and I were honored to have so many contesters, DXers, and enthusiasts attend the Jan 27th meeting at our home. Thank you to those who attended and made it such a success, and get well wishes go out to several who were under the weather and couldn't make it. I want to especially thank Emelia KI6YYT and Jim WB6BET for coming out early to help set everything up, we couldn't have done it without you. Also thanks to those who contributed raffle prizes for the table, everyone who bought tickets went home with something (except for that one guy who left his prize in the saloon, I know who you are!)

Next Meeting

Next meeting is March 10, 2018 11:30 AM – Location TBA

We are always on the lookout for new places to hold our meetings, or for volunteers to help make arrangements. Please contact the Activities Chair, Vina K6VNA if you can help out! vina@sign-tek.com

John Litz NZ6Q, president of the Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club presented his thoughts and support for a proposal to the FCC to increase privileges to Technician-class licensees. Basically allowing them digital privileges in the HF bands in which they already have CW privileges. The point was that they already have CW in privileges in that slot, and digital is also being used in that slot, so allow them to join in the fun on those band segments. If you would like to support John's proposal please let him know.

The attendees discussed the interest in the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, and the possibility of the club mailing in and paying for the outgoing cards of paying club members a couple of times per year. No decision was made, as this still needs to be brought before the board. The discussion again was to gauge the interest.

Awards were presented to a number of members, please see the separate section further along in this newsletter.

We also addressed the dates of the March 17th club meeting coinciding with the Sierra Foothills

The MLDXCC Newsletter

ARC and decided to move the next meeting to March 10th, location TBA.

Do you want to see something amazing? Look in this month's Dits and Dahs section to see all the new county records set by MLDXCC members in the 2017 California QSO Party! WOW!

There are quite a few contests coming up in February (hence no February meeting), so see you on the air!

73, Dennis NJ6G

From the Treasurer K6TLR

January 2017 Treasurer's report

January 1 Bal-			
ance	\$2,397.64		
			Tender
Income:	Dues- N6ZDH	\$15.00	PP
	N6JV Lunch 1/27 Meeting	\$34.00	PP
	NC6R Lunch 1/27 Meeting	\$34.00	PP
	K6OK Lunch 1/27	\$17.00	PP
	N6TCE Lunch 1/27	\$34.00	PP
	WB6BET Lunch 1/27	\$34.00	PP
	Dues - NA6O	\$15.00	PP
Expense:			

New Members

Please welcome the following new members!

N7TR - Rich Hallman Reno, NV

N6BU - Doug Murray

Altaville, CA

N6GHz - Bill Ress

Camino, CA

January 22 Bal-		
ance	\$2,580.64	

Tyler Laursen K6TLR MLDXCC Treasurer

Paying Dues:

Paypal – Send to:MotherLodeClub@gmail.com. use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mailed to K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

2016-2017 Awards

The January 27th meeting provided the opportunity to present some well-deserved awards in a variety of categories. Congratulations to all those who won!

2016-2017 AA6K Lifetime Achievement Award Ken Anderson K6TA

2016-2017 Contester of the Year Steve Dyer W1SRD

2016-2017 Contester of the Year – 2nd Place John Lee K6YK

2016-2017 DX'er of the Year

Rick Samoian W6SR

2016-2017 Elmer of the Year

Steve Allred NC6R

2016-2017 Rookie of the Year

Mike Duggar K6AAN

2016-2017 Volunteer of the Year

Vina Moore K6VNA

2016-2017 DX'er of the Year Phone

Greg Glenn NR6Q

2016-2017 DX'er of the Year CW

Norm Wilson N6JV

2016-2017 DX'er of the Year Digital

Dick Wilson K6LRN

2016 Sweepstakes High Power

Rich Cutler WC6H

2018 MLDXCC Meeting Dates

January 27

February - None

March 10

April - none (Visalia)

May 19

June 16

July 28

Aug 25

Sep 15

October 13

November 10

December - None

Dates are arranged to accommodate major contest dates. Meeting dates are subject to change. MLDXCC traditionally holds a midvear combined meeting with NCCC.

2016 Sweepstakes Low Power

Jerry Olive KD6WKY

2017 Sweepstakes High Power

Rich Cutler WC6H

2017 Sweepstakes CW Low Power

Jerry Olive KD6WKY

2017 Sweepstakes SSB Low Power

Dennis Moore NJ6G

2017 Club Log Award - First Place

Rick Samoian W6SR

2017 Club Log Award - Second Place

Steve Allred NC6R

2017 Club Log Award - Third Place

John Miller K6MM

2016 California QSO Party High Power

Rich Cutler WC6H

2016 California QSO Party Low Power

Dick Wilson K6LRN

2017 California QSO Party - Multi-Op County

N6TCE Robert Officer

2017 California QSO Party - Single-Op County

Jerry Olive KD6WKY

2017 California QSO Party High Power

Rich Cutler WC6H

2017 California QSO Party Low Power

Giuseppe Molinaro KE8FT/6

Remember, you must be a paid member to re-

ceive awards, so send in those dues!

CQP Report from Tyler K6TLR

CQP 2017 was a much bigger success than our first year of doing it in 2016. I think it is fair to

say that our Alpine County Expedition spot is growing on us.

We got up to our spot (38.681738,-119.631154) right at sunset on Friday this year, which was a huge improvement on last year's 1am Saturday arrival time. We got the camp setup, electrical ran, radios setup, and planned out the antenna setup for the morning. We went over our check list about 4-5 times at Bob (W1RH)'s house before leaving with all of his equipment. We swore we had everything we would need for a good, solid, expedition during CQP: FT-920 for the built in voice keying and so2v, 600 watt linear 811, 40m dipole, tribander yagi, 5kw generator, extra fuel, food, drinks, laptop for logging, mast for the tribander, and about 400 feet of rope and paracord for guy wires assuming we would have 50mph winds again, a few 50 and 75 foot runs of coax feedline, keying cables for the amp, and other stuff.

It turns out, our whole weekend was about to be ruined by the lack of a 3 foot jumper coax to go from the radio to the amplifier.

We started thinking about options for getting one. A drive all the way back to Placerville, and then back to our hilltop would be a 5 hour round trip. So we looked up radio supply stores in the area. Nothing. We got on the Leviathan Peak repeater with intentions of having someone call Bob for us and talk us through any other ideas. Turns out, within 5 minutes of explaining our situation to the first person to answer us, we had 3 offers for a 3 foot jumper. One from Gardnerville, one from South Lake Tahoe, and one from Minden. So, we cut our 5hr drive to Placerville down to an hour and 30 min drive to Minden. Hams are awesome. Once we got all

the radios hooked up and confirmed that everything was keying up and working as intended (without an antenna), we went to bed... in our cars.

I woke up Saturday morning, and had the antenna assembled before my uncle was up and about. We were able to get the antenna up on the mast, and guyed down with enough time left over to have some breakfast before the contest started at 10:00. Once we got started, we realized that we had another issue... We needed to tune the 811 amp... without a tuner, SWR meter, or watt meter. Unfortunately, we didn't realize this until after we started and had to do a bunch of search and pouncing, trying to find the people without pileups that would spend a little extra time giving us accurate signal reports. So this went on for a good 2.5 hours before we felt like we had the amp tuned up well enough to do some running. But then we couldn't find an open spot on the band. It wasn't until roughly 2pm that we were able to start running, but once we found a spot open, we had instant pileups until we switched over to 40 around sun down. 40 was much the same once we found an open spot. Nice pileup for a couple of hours. We finally called it guits around 10pm on Saturday.

Over the night on Saturday, I got up every couple of hours to check conditions and see if JA or VK was coming through on 40. They never did.

Sunday was much the same as Saturday. We did enjoy a couple of nice openings to Europe and were able to log an England and a France on our 600watt expedition setup.

Overall we had a huge improvement on our score from 2016. In 2016 we did 136 Q's, 41

mults for a grand total of 11,000 points over an extremely miserable, cold, windy weekend. This year, we were able to get 396 Q's, 55 mults for a total of 43,200 points over an extremely pleasant, non-windy, sunny weekend!

The big things we are going to try and change for 2018 is to bring either a tuner, or a watt meter. We are also going to make sure that no one

Dits and Dahs

John Lee K6YK recently picked up a Kenwood TS-2000. Perhaps he'll post a review for us?

Steve Dyer W1SRD set a new CQP County Record for S/O Assisted El Dorado County!

Bob Officer N6TCE's CQP Multi-Op County Expedition set new county records for *both* Mariposa and Merced Counties!

Dennis Moore NJ6G set a new CQP S/O Assisted HP record for Calaveras County!

Bill Haddon N6ZFO set a new CQP S/O HP record for Lake County!

Todd Remington KH2TJ set a new CQP S/O Assisted LP record for Plumas County, under NCCC's call K6CQP!

Jerry Olive WD6WKY set a new CQP S/O Assisted LP record for Del Norte County!

Rick Tavan N6XI set a new CQP S/O LP record for Nevada County

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!

sets up 1 mile away from us. We got lucky enough to have neighbors within eye sight of us. Even more lucky for us, is that they were only running 100watts on a hexbeam and vertical. Unlucky for them though that we were running 600 watts, and they were due 70degrees of us... which is exactly the heading we wanted to talk to the country. So we had our 600 watts points directly at them roughly 95% of the time we were on the tribander. We kept in touch with each other for most of the contest, and he kept reporting that we were blasting them off the mountain... oops sorry guys! The main downside that impacted us, was that we couldn't be within 30khz of each others' signals, so that limited our SO2V efforts quite a bit.

Overall, awesome weekend! We can't wait to do it again in 2018!

ARRL News

ARRL's chief executive officer for the past 2 years, Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, announced his retirement as CEO, as the ARRL Board of Directors prepares to meet January 19-20. He will step down on March 2. Gallagher, who had earlier advised ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of his intention to resign, expressed his gratitude to Roderick and the ARRL Board for giving him the opportunity to help guide the organization.

"It has been my great privilege to serve in this capacity for 2 years, and I am deeply grateful to the Board and President Rick Roderick, K5UR, for their support and encouragement," Gallagher said.

President Roderick expressed appreciation for Gallagher's contributions to ARRL. "The ARRL is in a transition to a new generation for Amateur Radio. Change doesn't come easy," Roderick said. "Tom helped us in taking that step forward, and for that we are very grateful for his service to the League and to Amateur Radio," he said.

Gallagher, 69, cited recent changes included in the new federal tax law that made it unattractive for him to continue working in Connecticut, where ARRL is headquartered. The Board will evaluate and determine the next steps to take in a search for his replacement when it meets this week.

Among Gallagher's chief accomplishments during his tenure as CEO were creating an enhanced level of professionalism and efficiency in the organization that represents more than 150,000 US Amateur Radio operators. Gallagher also oversaw a significant turnaround in the organization's financial performance.

Licensed in Pennsylvania in 1966 as WA3GRF (later N4GRF in North Carolina), Gallagher is a member of the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group. He has described himself as "an incurable HF DXer and inveterate tinkerer" and credits his first visit to the Franklin Institute's Amateur Radio station W3TKQ in 1963 for inspiring his interest in ham radio.

Amateur Radio led to an early career in broadcasting. He was a cameraman and technician with WGBH-TV in Boston, the CBS Television Network, and Metromedia's WIP Radio in Philadelphia.

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!

Gallagher joined ARRL following 3 decades as an international investment banker and financial services executive. His career has included senior leadership positions with JP Morgan Chase & Co and CIBC Oppenheimer & Co in New York, and with Wachovia Capital Markets in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and as CEO of the Secondary School Admission Test Board in Princeton, New Jersey. He has served on boards, both public and non-profit, including two NYSE companies; the NPR affiliate in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Executive Board of The PENN Fund at the University of Pennsyl-

vania, and The International Center of Photography.

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, of Fremont, California, has been appointed Pacific Division Vice Director, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has announced. The appointment came upon the recommendation of Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, who succeeded long-time Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, upon Vallio's election as ARRL Second Vice President.

McIntyre, who has served as ARRL Technical Coordinator for the East Bay Section, says on her QRZ.com profile that she's been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. She got her Technician ticket in the late 1970s while a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After letting her license expire, she re-licensed and obtained her Amateur Extra license.

She also is licensed in Japan, her second home, as JI1IZZ. McIntyre is president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Club and is a senior software engineer at Apple.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved a motion to amend the DXCC Rules, when it met January 19-20. Section II, Subsection 1 of the DXCC Rules now will include a new Subsection (d): The entity has a separate IARU member society and is included on the US State Department Independent States in the World.

"The discussion during the Board meeting and the rule change did not address any specific entity," ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, said. "The amendment could allow some additions to the current DXCC List of entities. It's a good thing not only for DXCC but for all active hams."

In fact, the Republic of Kosovo (Z6) has been added to the DXCC List of current entities, increasing the total number of current DXCC entities to 340. The addition of Kosovo raises to 331 the required number of current entities confirmed to qualify for DXCC Honor Roll; Top of Honor Roll is 340. DXCC award accounts are being tabulated to reflect the change.

This change qualifies as an "event," effective on January 21, 2018, at 0000 UTC. Nothing is retroactive.

Kosovo's IARU member society SHRAK and its president Vjollca Caka, Z61VB, are hosting a 10th-anniversary activation to celebrate Kosovo's independence in February, 2008. SHRAK Headquarters station Z60A now is active on several bands with multiple guest operators. Club Log will be used for this activation, while QSLs are via OH2BH.

The ARRL Board of Directors took action on a number of items at its Annual Meeting, January 19-20, in Windsor, Connecticut, including adopting a motion to a review the entire code of conduct for Board members, known officially as the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors. ARRL Officers, Directors, and Vice Directors will review the code of conduct and complete a final draft version 60 days ahead of the Board's July 2018 meeting.

In the same motion, the Board deleted and suspended sections that were considered ambiguous and in conflict with the intent of the code of conduct requiring Board members to act in the best interest of the League's membership.

The Board also voted unanimously to amend a policy affecting candidates for ARRL elected offices, including Directors and Vice Directors. The new policy calls for candidates to be informed in writing at the outset of the nomination process that decisions of the Board's Ethics and Elections Committee concerning candidate eligibility will be made public unless the candidate requests otherwise. In addition, if the Ethics and Elections Committee rejects a candidate's petition, the candidate may ask that the reason(s) for rejection not be made public. Unless confidentiality is requested within 10 business days, the reason(s) for rejection may be made public.

A proposed addition to the ARRL Articles of Association regarding the personal liability and indemnification of Directors will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, the General Counsel, and ARRL Connecticut corporate counsel. Proposed amendments to the ARRL Bylaws regarding Life Membership were referred to the Administration and Finance Committee for further consideration.

It was decided that if these or any additional changes are proposed, they will be made available to the membership and will be accompanied by explanatory "white papers" before the Board considers action on them.

The Board approved an amendment, effective immediately, to Section II, Rule 1 of ARRL's DXCC Rules (Political Entities) that will confer

DXCC entity status to an entity that has its own International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member society and is included on the US Department of State's list of Independent States in the World. In 2004, the Board had removed a rule that extended DXCC status by virtue of having been admitted as an IARU member society. (See related story.)

In other action, the Board approved a motion requiring that minutes of Board meetings be published only after being formally approved by the Board.

The Board unanimously adopted ARRL's 2018-2019 financial plan. Up to \$30,000 was allocated to fund the discovery and strategy phase of the Lifelong Learning Initiative. The Board will receive a progress report on the project at its July meeting.

Addressing administrative matters, the Board unanimously adopted a motion to form a CEO Search Committee to identify a candidate for Chief Executive Office for Board election. The committee, which is authorized to engage a search consultant, will report periodically to the Board and at the July meeting. Committee members will include Treasurer Rick Niswander, K7GM (chair), Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA; Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, West Gulf Division Director Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, and First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW.

Tube of the Month N6JV

A First Tube Love Affair

In about 1962, I was at a meeting of the Tulare County ARC when I was asked if I wanted a

KW+ amplifier for \$50. The story was that after WWII, government agencies, including counties, could get masses of surplus electronics for a penny a pound. Tulare County sent some hams to the distribution center and they returned with enough power supply and RF components to build a 2 KW AM broadcast station. Before commercial FM was used to dispatch police patrol cars, they used AM transmitters just above the 160 meter ham band. The Tulare unit had push pull 304TLs modulated with another pair of 304TLs. It weighed over 600 pounds. I bought the amplifier and hauled it home from the Fresno Air Terminal with a service truck equipped with a bomb hoist. I needed it. It also came with a large box full of spare 304TL triodes. They were very beautiful and tube collecting had its start.

I wanted to use this amplifier and its driver stages on 40 and 20 meters, but it was designed for 2 MHz. The monstrous tank coil was replaced by some copper tubing coils of about



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8 inches in diameter. The driver stages were redesigned and I was ready to test. Five, 300 watt, light bulbs were mounted on a 1 X 6 board for a dummy load. When the switch was closed, nothing happened until I hit the key and tried to dip the plate. The bolt of lightning seemed to fill the rear of the amplifier as the RF choke sucked its layers together and everything went dark.

The amplifier had one big power supply for both the modulator and the RF output stage. When the class A modulator was disconnected, the high voltage soared to over 3000 volts. The 304TL tubes like about 2200 volts. I didn't have a variac to lower the voltage, so I went to Fresno and bought two, 3 KVA pole pig transformers. When I wired them back to back, I could use the taps to lower the line voltage to a safe level. We hadn't heard that PCB caused cancer.

A modern, high frequency, plate choke was obtained from a local ham and the next experiment lit all the 300 watt lamps. A life filled with red hot tubes and serious DX chasing had begun.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

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. BTW:

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 Events

YL-OM Contest - Feb 9-11

CQ WPX RTTY Contest - Feb 10/11 - NCCC

ARRL CW DX Contest - Feb 17/18 - MLDXCC

CQ WW SSB 160M Contest – Feb 24/25 - MLDXCC

NAQP RTTY - Feb 24 - NCCC

ARRL SSB DX Contest – Mar 3/4 - MLDXCC

Sierra Foothills ARC Hamfest – Loomis – March 17

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

http://mldxcc.org/scores.html

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

http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.ht ml

UPCOMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming Dxpeditions.

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

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

Baker Island KH1 – June 2018 10 days – No. 4 most wanted

Comoro Islands D68I - Jan 27 to Feb 10

Classifieds

Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale: Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225 Dennis, NJ6G <u>dennis@mail4life.net</u>

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

Bill N6GHz is looking for a 5 Volt filament transformer with 115 Vac input and 10 to 20 A. Closer to 20 A referred. He's in Camino and can pick-up to save on shipping.

Bill - N6GHz, bill@hsmicrowave.com

Jim Marshall has the following items available for sale:

Alpha 87a fully automatic linear amplifier. Low hours, 1.5 kw+ tube amplifier. (will easily do 2 kw). Switched external fan installed, has latest firmware for "Alpha Max" and Alpha remote. (Connects via RS-232 to USB cable), with alpha remote software (included). Also including a dust cover with alpha embroidered logo.

Asking \$3,200 for the amp, and \$800 for a brand new set of Eimac tubes, still in boxes.

60 watts drive produces 1500 watts. Bullet proof amp that requires no set-up even when changing bands. (Great for contesting). Will deliver up to 100 miles from Minden NV.

F. J. Marshall, k6lr@arrl.net





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

Dick K6LRN has the following items for sale: Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in un-opened carton. Asking \$4700.

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

Dick, K6LRN k6lrn12@gmail.com

ARRL Pacific Division

Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra K6JAT k6jat@aol.com

Pacific Division Vice Director Kristen McIntyre K6WX kristen@alum.mit.edu

East Bay Section Manager Position Open

Nevada Section Manager John Bigley, N7UR n7ur@arrl.org

Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AHOA ah0a@arrl.org

San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV kh6gjv@arrl.org

Santa Clara Valley Section Manager Brandon Bianchi, NI6C ni6c@arrl.org

Sacramento Valley Section Manager Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD kp4md@arrl.org

San Joaquin Valley Section Manager Dan Pruitt, AE6SX ae6sx@arrl.org

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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