

# THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

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

January 2018

Volume 23 Number 1

### **From the President NJ6G**

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a safe and memorable holiday season. Our son James N6ITT came home for a few days, and we all went to my dad Dale K6PJV's QTH for Christmas. Santa obviously didn't get my request for a KX3, either that or I was naughty sometime during the year.

Preliminary results published by the ARRL are out and pending any hiccups we won the ARRL

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, 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. Please RSVP to Vina K6VNA at [vina@sign-tek.com](mailto:vina@sign-tek.com) with your choice of chicken or tri-tip. Cost is \$17.00 per person.

Sweepstakes Medium Club Category for the third year in a row! What great news to hear as we head into 2018. Thank you all for your participation and efforts to put us on top again.

I'm sure we've all seen the emails surrounding the current controversies at ARRL. I've heard from several of you asking what position the club is going to take on these, and I've seen some of your in-person or emailed interactions with our Area Director Bob Vallio W6RGG. No decision has been made as to what position we want to take on these matters, if any, but I do encourage you to contact your ARRL representatives regarding your concerns. This newsletter includes a list of our various section and area managers.

Be sure to get on the air the weekend of January 6/7 and support NCCC in the ARRL RTTY Round-up! They are pushing for a win this year and could use our help!

The first meeting of the year will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> at our home in Jenny Lind. We have a large indoor space that can accommodate the club and lunch will be catered. We will be presenting

our 2016-2017 awards, and conducting a raffle. Hope to see you here!

73, Dennis NJ6G

## **From the Treasurer K6TLR**

November 2017 Treasurer's report

<b>December 1 Balance:</b>	<b>\$2434.64</b>		
<b>Income:</b>	W6DR Dues	\$15.00	
<b>Expense:</b>	PO Box 2017	-\$52.00	
<b>December 31 Balance:</b>	<b>\$2397.64</b>		

Tyler Laursen K6TLR  
MLDXCC Treasurer

### **Paying Dues:**

Paypal - Select "Send Money to Friends and Family" and then put in MotherLode-Club@gmail.com.

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

## **Member Station – AA6W**

Two Thumbs UP for the Array Solutions Power Master II meter, from Don AA6W

Well....St. Nicholas came early for me this year. As, I won the main door prize at the NCCC holiday dinner last weekend. The prize was an awesome 'Power Master II' watt/swr meter from Array Solutions. The unit is fairly compact, and sits on my radio desk very well. The package came complete with the hook-up cable for the

The MLDXCC Newsletter

remote directional coupler, which is placed at the output of the amplifier, and before the tuner...on the output side going towards the antenna, or load. I reviewed the directions and user manual for about 15 minutes. The display unit, is easily hooked up to an external 12VDC power supply, and the display unit only draws about .5 amp. As you can observe, from my picture a small Astron 12 amp supply, to the left of the display unit, is powering the meter. In the

## **Dits and Dahs**

Norm Wilson just qualified for the WPX CW level of 5350 prefixes confirmed.

Dennis Moore NJ6G reached DXCC on 15M confirmed on LoTW

AA6W was the grand prize raffle winner at the NCCC Holiday Dinner, winning the Array Solutions Power Master II. See his write-up in this issue.

*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!*

center of the picture (near the back) the rectangular (gold color) box, is between my ICOM 7800, and the Palstar tuner. This is the actual directional coupler, which drives the signals to the display unit. This meter is very, very cool! With a mere closure, of the PTT, or a CW key closure - the meter displays forward power, and SWR simultaneously, on a bar graph. The capture time for the meter is only a few milliseconds. I am very impressed. And, with the SWR

## 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://edcarrc.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!*

bagraph - I can easily adjust my Palstar AT-2KD tuner (in picture) for lowest SWR on the Wattmeter display unit. And, if the operator takes a



The MLDXCC Newsletter

break during a contest, well, after 10 minutes the display unit goes into sleep mode, and the display turns off. A mere brief closure of the PTT, or CW key again - magically brings the display back to life.

The meter is highly calibrated from the factory and claims to be accurate to  $\pm 3\%$ ....very cool. I am really having a lot of fun, with this meter. What a great addition to my ham shack. When I am in qso with my friends, on 20 meters, I can observe my ICOM-7800 is putting out, about 189 watts, and my SWR (vertical/dipole) antenna, has a tuned swr of 1.03:1...If anything goes awry...either hi-power or low-power or high SWR...I am warned with a flashing yellow LED, on the front panel of display unit. I would highly recommend this watt-meter/swr meter, to any of the MLDXCC or NCCC club members. What a great stocking stuffer! (hehe..hi...hi..)

One last note, the meter, also has optional

hook-up from back of display unit, for ALC, and PTT - direct from transceiver. This also would enable alarms, and safety features, which can shut down an amplifier, due to high swr, or an overdrive condition. This meter, is great for tuning the antennas as well, because of the wealth of information provided from the display unit, which I described above. Also - the customer support for this meter, is excellent. I spoke with the company briefly on the telephone, and the phone support is great. Enjoy my photograph. KB in 2018. Have a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for reading. 73, Don AA6W

### **Member Award – WC6H**

Congratulations to WC6H for winning the 2017 CQ WPX SSB Contest, USA, Multi-Op Two Transmitter. Ops were WC6H, N6TV, N7MH, N6KI, K6ST, and WX5S. Great Job!



### **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: Please keep your photo size to less than 1MB.

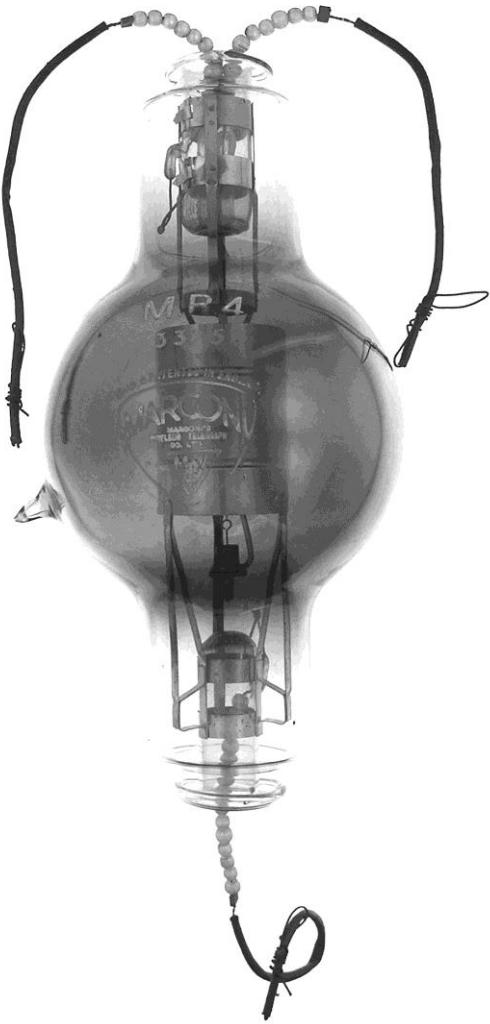
### **Tube of the Month N6JV**

#### **MARCONI-OSRAM MR4**

During World War I, the General Electric Company was very active in manufacturing tubes and high power Alexanderson alternators for the American and British armed forces. After the War, General Electric was strongly encouraged by the U.S. Military to organize a new, all American, company that could control long distance communications. In 1919, the Radio Corporation of America was incorporated in Delaware. In Britain a similar arrangement was formed by General Electric under their Osram brand and the Marconi Company's Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd. Marconi-Osram was founded in 1919 and began to develop lines receiving and transmitting valves.

Early transmitting and rectifying valves from “M.O.” often used the same size and shape of envelope. The 1922 offerings include the high voltage rectifier MR4. Early high voltage tubes couldn't incorporate existing sockets. The “base-less” tubes were common in America and Europe. Flexible high voltage insulated wire was also not available so glass beads were used to

make leads. These early valves are rarely seen outside of the U.K.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com  
Norm N6JV

## **ARRL LoTW Update**

### **Logbook of the World to Add Support for CQ WAZ Award**

ARRL - 12/14/2017

Participants in *CQ* magazine's Worked All Zones (**WAZ**) award program will soon be able to use the Logbook of the World (**LoTW**) system of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Ra-

dio, to apply for the WAZ award and its endorsements, both ARRL and *CQ* announced on December 14.

Amateur Radio operators will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WAZ credit. Standard LoTW credit fees and separate *CQ* award fees will apply.

Implementation, documentation, and internal testing of the link between LoTW and WAZ is complete. ARRL and *CQ* are now assembling a team of external "beta testers" to assure that the link is ready for widespread use. A separate announcement will be made when LoTW's support for *CQ* WAZ is available to everyone.

Logbook of the World is ARRL's electronic confirmation system for Amateur Radio contacts. It provides a confirmation when both stations in a contact submit their logs to the system and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has supported the *CQ* WPX Award program since 2012.

"I am very pleased that participants in the *CQ* Worked All Zones award program will finally be able to use Logbook of the World confirmations in their applications for WAZ awards and endorsements," said *CQ* magazine Editor Rich Moreson, W2VU, adding that "WPX program participants have made excellent use of this service for the past five years and we look forward to providing it to WAZ program participants as well."

"We are excited about the prospect of supporting *CQ* magazine's WAZ program through Logbook of the World, as it is something that many ham radio operators have been asking for," said Greg Widin, K0GW, ARRL First Vice President and chair of the Logbook Study Committee. "We believe this partnership will enhance the amateur radio experience for many practitioners."

CQ Communications, Inc. is the publisher of *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine and is the world's largest independent publisher of Amateur Radio magazines, books and videos. Worked All Zones is the second-oldest active Amateur Radio award program, behind the International Amateur Radio Union's Worked All Continents (WAC) award.

## **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.

## **Contesting**

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

## **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

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

<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  
M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225  
Dennis, NJ6G [dennis@mail4life.net](mailto:dennis@mail4life.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](mailto:W1RH@yahoo.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](mailto:k6lrn12@gmail.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](mailto:k6lr@arrl.net)



---

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

## **ARRL Pacific Division**

Pacific Division Director  
Bob Vallio W6RGG  
[w6rgg@arrl.org](mailto:w6rgg@arrl.org)

Pacific Division Vice Director  
Jim Tiemstra K6JAT  
[k6jat@aol.com](mailto:k6jat@aol.com)

East Bay Section Manager  
Jim Latham, AF6AQ  
[af6aq@arrl.org](mailto:af6aq@arrl.org)

Nevada Section Manager  
John Bigley, N7UR  
[n7ur@arrl.org](mailto:n7ur@arrl.org)

Pacific Section Manager  
Joe Speroni, AH0A  
[ah0a@arrl.org](mailto:ah0a@arrl.org)

San Francisco Section Manager  
Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV  
[kh6giv@arrl.org](mailto:kh6giv@arrl.org)

Santa Clara Valley Section Manager  
Brandon Bianchi, NI6C  
[ni6c@arrl.org](mailto:ni6c@arrl.org)

Sacramento Valley Section Manager  
Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD  
[kp4md@arrl.org](mailto:kp4md@arrl.org)

San Joaquin Valley Section Manager  
Dan Pruitt, AE6SX  
[ae6sx@arrl.org](mailto:ae6sx@arrl.org)

## **2018 Officers of the MLDXCC**

President, Dennis Moore, NJ6G  
[dennis@mail4life.net](mailto:dennis@mail4life.net)

Vice President, Steve Allred, NC6R  
[k6sca@volcano.net](mailto:k6sca@volcano.net)

Director, Bob Hess, W1RH  
[w1rh@yahoo.com](mailto:w1rh@yahoo.com)

Director, Chuck Tifft, W6RD  
[w6rd@arrl.net](mailto:w6rd@arrl.net)

Director, Ken Anderson, K6TA  
[k6ta@volcano.net](mailto:k6ta@volcano.net)

Director, John Kozusko, WD6EIW  
[ikozusko@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ikozusko@sbcglobal.net)

Director, Greg Glenn, NR6Q  
[nr6q@arrl.net](mailto:nr6q@arrl.net)

Secretary, Sue Allred, K6SZQ  
[sueallred@volcano.net](mailto:sueallred@volcano.net)

Treasurer, Tyler Laursen, K6TLR  
[tyler.laursen06@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.laursen06@gmail.com)

Activity Chair, Vina Moore, K6VNA  
[vina@sign-tek.com](mailto:vina@sign-tek.com)

QSL Manager, Chuck Tifft, W6RD  
[w6rd@arrl.net](mailto:w6rd@arrl.net)

Publicity Manager, Bob Hess, W1RH  
[w1rh@yahoo.com](mailto:w1rh@yahoo.com)

Nugget Editor, Dennis Moore, NJ6G  
[dennis@mail4life.net](mailto:dennis@mail4life.net)

Webmaster, Norm Wilson, N6JV  
[n6jv@n6jv.com](mailto:n6jv@n6jv.com)

## **The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER**

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given to MLDXCC.