

# The Nugget



**Mother Lode DX/Contest Club**

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

## **MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM**

The MLDXCC March meeting will be held on March 19th at 11:30 AM.

**Meeting location:**  
**Denny's**  
**3446 Coach Ln**  
**Cameron Park, CA 95682**

John Miller, K6MM will be coming to give a presentation on the recent K5P DXpedition to Palmyra Atoll. You don't want to miss this one!

The standard Denny's menu will be available to us. I am asking that you inform me of your plans to attend so

that I may give the restaurant an idea of how many to expect.

**See you there! 73, Dennis NJ6G**

## **MLDXCC DUES**

MLDXCC dues are voluntary; however you must pay dues, \$15/yr, to be eligible for club awards.

**Dues are \$ 15 per fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup>). Dues can be paid at our meetings or mailed to Carolyn Wilson at P.O. Box 273, Somerset, CA 95684-0273.**

**73, Carolyn, K6TKD**  
**Treasurer**

## **2016 Officers**

Shirl Rose - AA6K President  
Dennis Moore - NJ6G Vice-President  
Dick Wilson - K6LRN Secty  
Carolyn Wilson - K6TKD Treasurer  
Steve Allred - K6SCA BoD  
Rick Casey - W6RKC BoD  
Bob Hess - W1RH BoD  
Ken Anderson - K6TA BoD

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## **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 Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved.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.

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## **Treasurer's Report**

Balance 2/1/2016 \$1824.00

Income: Dues -

K6DGW 2015, 2016 30.00

Balance 2/29/2016 \$1854.00

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer

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## **Up-Coming Club Events**

February - No meeting  
March 19th  
April - No meeting, Visalia DX  
May 14th  
June 18th  
July 23rd  
August 27th  
September 17th

Note; this is tentative. There are many other operating events. These are 'major' events that may influence choice of meeting dates.

Some of these can be focus for us, some will be ones we 'co-operate' or co-ordinate with NCCC, such as NAQP & possibly SS.

## **Meeting Locations**

Mountain Mikes, Martel  
Spaghetti Factory, Stockton  
Max's, Auburn  
Denny's, Cameron Park  
Habenero Hot's, Lodi  
Thai House Restaurant, Valley Springs

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## **THE PREZ SEZ.**

Prez Sez.11

Greetings to all,

As you all may or may not know my SteppIR has been ailing since last fall.

I decided to optimize my odds for a QSO with the upcoming Heard Is and Juan de Nova expeditions by getting a Cushcraft A3S for use while my SreppIR gets a factory overhaul.

I have had the A3S up for about 2 weeks now and my opinion is that the SteppIR is a superior unit. It seems to me that the SteppIR has a sharper beam in the forward direction and much better back-end rejection than the A3S. I do not have much trouble working DX with the A3S but at times the back side QRM is quite annoying.

I am not accustom to JA QRM when working an African station with the SteppIR I have that situation now!

I gave the A3S about a 10 hour shake-down cruise during the ARRL DX contest this past weekend and I'd rate the performance about half-way between a wire dipole and a SteppIR. There was one area where the A3S was quite superior. It does not cause my tower to make groaning noises during a heavy storm!!! That weekend storm did not seem to impact the A3S at all.

Speaking of the ARRL DX contest I heard a number of our newer members on the air and they seemed to be doing quite well. Keep up the good work and get prepared to boost your DX count with the upcoming Heard Is and

Juan de Nova expeditions. The MLDXCC needs help in the Club Log standings as we are now in 43rd position with an average of 262 DX entities per member.

Our March meeting will be at Denny's in Cameron Park. John Miller, K6MM will be doing a presentation on the recent Palmyra Is DXpedition. I hope to see you there.

**Shirl/AA6K**

**President, MLDXCC**

## **THE VP SEZ**

Well, I thought I was prepared...

At the beginning of the year I sat down with my 2016 contest calendar and put in for vacation from work for every Friday of a contest weekend (well, at least the ones I compete in.) Surely this would give me the chance

to do any final tweaks and preparations to the station before the contest.

Maybe I shouldn't have told my wife. "You're off tomorrow, so you can do this... and this... and etc." Well, not all her fault, I did volunteer to drive to Lodi to install updates on all of her work computers. But she did manage to sneak a couple of things onto the list of honey-dos.

So how did that extra time off turn out for the 2016 ARRL DX SSB contest? Let's see:

I didn't start my laptop and contest logger until 15 minutes before the contest started. The logger needed to install updates, then it wasn't talking to my radio, then I had to reboot which caused Windows updates to install. Didn't finish those until 5 minutes after the contest started.

I never tested the 43' vertical. It worked last time I used it so it should work this time. Halfway through Saturday I switched to the vertical to see if I could work a station who just wasn't hearing me in the clear on the doublet. The remote tuner won't tune up on any band.

My multiband doublet suddenly required constant retuning. Even after tuning with 25 watts I could see that I had high SWR when I started speaking. For several hours I moved

up the band, retuned, and worked a few stations until I moved farther up the band. Wash, rinse, repeat. Then someone mentioned that I had distorted audio from my K3. Somewhere in the chain between power supply/gel cell battery and distribution panel I'm losing voltage. Bypassed the battery charging system so the PS feeds directly into the distribution panel and the entire issue disappeared.

So before the next contest in a few weeks I need to go through the power distribution system, find out why my vertical isn't tuning, and make sure I have the latest and greatest logger version. Shouldn't be a problem, I have that Friday off.



Above is a family photo from Christmas.

Top - James N6ITT, Dennis NJ6G  
 Bottom - Vina K6VNA, Dale K6PJV

See you all at the meeting on March 19th.

**73, Dennis, NJ6G**

## **Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR**

Hi all.....

In the last two years the MLDXCC has added a lot of brand-new DX and Contester's to our ranks. Much of that credit must go to Bob, W1RH, and Shril AA6K (our past and current president) for bring in members from other clubs they belong to. This is what it's all about, keeping the interest in DX and contesting going with a new crop of recruits. Thanks to both of you for your efforts.

So with our new DXer's & Contester's in mind, I would like to pass along my observations about last week's ARRL DX Phone Contest.

If you would like to earn your DXCC the easy way, just operate in a few DX contests. Below is my score in last week's contest.

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty
3.5	10	30	10
7	31	93	30
14	186	558	81
21	244	732	92
28	134	402	55
Total	605	1815	268
Score: 486,420			
1 Mult = 2.3 Q's			

As you can see I made 605 QSO's and worked 268 countries on 10-75M, although most of my operating was on 10, 15 and 20m. All this was accomplished in 14+ hours of operating. Of the 268 countries, there are 121 separate entities, that's 8.5 new countries per hour. Not bad, right?

Also, most active Contester's use LOTW. So, 72 hours after the contest, I have 55 countries confirmed via LOTW. So it's a fast and inexpensive way to add to your DXCC totals. Operating just a couple of DX contests a year, will put you well on your way to 5BDXCC in no time. FYI: I don't have a big station, just a 3 element 5 band beam on a 16' boom at 50 feet, a power amplifier, and dipoles for 40 and 80M. And of course the patience to listen to a crap-load of QRM, Hi Hi

I had a couple of requests to make our newsletter more readable for old eyes, so I have increased the font size. If you don't like it, let me know. Also, to make it less redundant, I have eliminated the weekly DX and propagation information from the ARRL and DX publications. We still retain hyperlinks to the real-time NOAA Solar Up-dates, as well as the N3KG DX and DXpeditions pages.

Glad the VP8STI and VP8SGI DXpedition guys got back home safely. They have already up-loaded QSO's for donors on LOTW. Wow! Now that's what I call service.

Stay close to your radio this month, since VK0EK, Heard Island, is on the tap. You absolutely can't miss this one, since this (most likely) will be the last activation of this super-rare entity in our lifetime.

All news while the team is en route and at Heard will be posted here:

<http://www.vk0ek.org>

So check it out, and listen, listen, listen.

After checking out the M2 MT-3000A elevation system for the new 6M EME array, Norm and I modified it to accept my 2" heavy duty support mast. I hope to get the rotor installed on the tower soon. Tom, K5RC has my second M2 6M7 Yagi, and I will pick it up as soon as the snow melts in Virginia City.

A couple of weeks ago we experienced the strongest winds we have seen in the 16 years we have lived in El Dorado County. All the antenna stuff survived, but we had to do major repairs to our fence. Hope all was Ok at your place?

Enough for now see you all at our March meeting.....**de Rick, W6SR**

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## **Tube Of The Month**

TUBE WARS - EPISODE 2

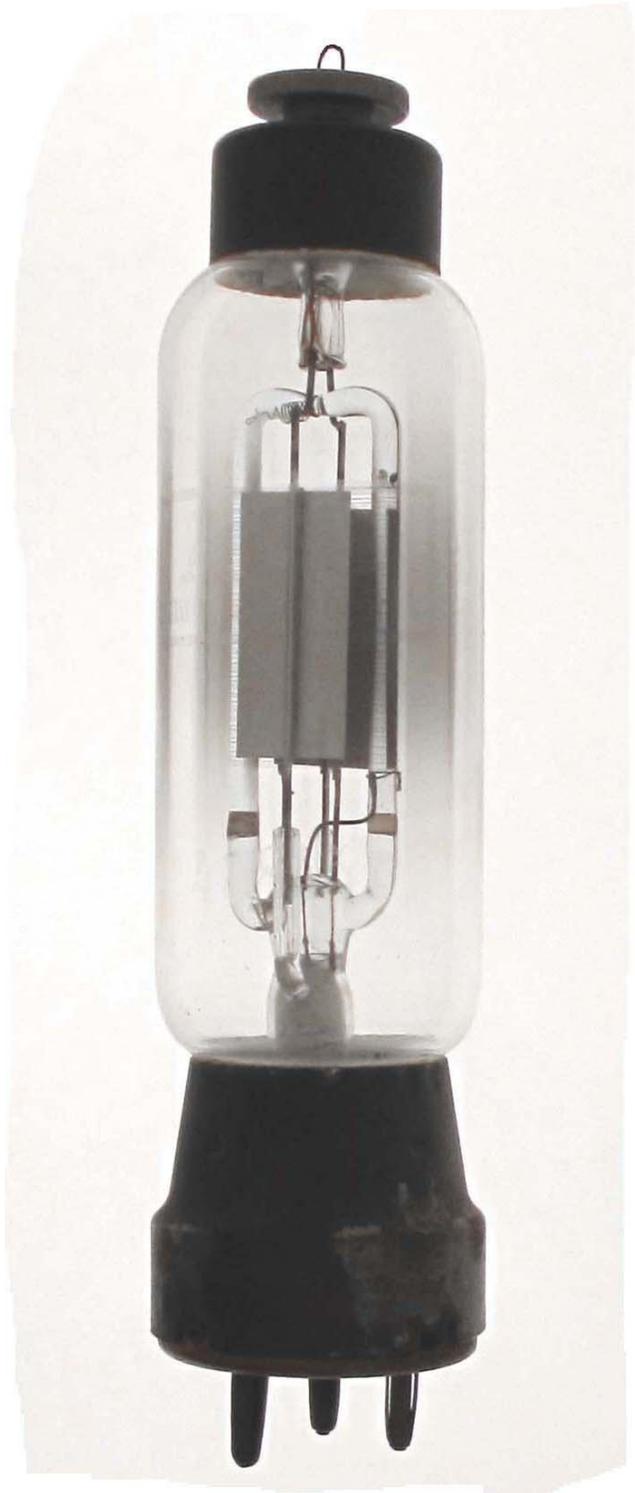
### **The Kaiser Awakens:**

#### **der Telefunken RS-5**

The German military was much better prepared for wireless communications than the French. Special tubes were developed for both receiving and transmitting. Germany had a very large fleet with many "U" boats that depended on good communication so tubes were developed to handle the different requirements. Kaiser

Wilhelm II had noted a problem with several of the German communications firms making equipment for the military using different standards. His solution was to organize a new engineering company that would be partially owned by the component (and later tube) makers and this company would be the exclusive source for military purchases. Telefunken was born.

For the troops to use in the trenches, a small transmitting tube that could be powered by auto batteries and a crank generator called the RS-1 was developed. RS means Röher Sende or transmitting tube. Improvements eventually lead to the RS-5 that was put in mass production. The RS-5 is a tube made for quick replacement. This wasn't a tube made in a light bulb factory but a precision assembly incorporating excellent glass work. All elements were supported on both ends and the grid was wound directly over a glass arbor shaped like a curved rectangle. In use with 400 volts on the plate, an output of 5 watts was achieved and with 800 volts, the output would be about 20. This was a lot of power for early CW equipment. At least 5 variants of the RS-5 have been found. This example is an early version made in 1918. It is marked Telefunken RS-5 CIIa and on the back its maker, AEG (Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft) the principal owner of Telefunken. The RS-5 was also made by Siemens & Halske.



More photos at <http://n6jv.com>.

## **Mother Lode DX/Contest Club Meeting minutes.**

No Minutes, since we had no February meeting.

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## **Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback**

Just a reminder that in less than a month the HAM RADIO AND ELECTRONICS SWAP MEET will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016. Gates open at 7AM, with clean-up around 1PM. Open to all Northern California hams with lots of little electronic toys to sell. The Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club sponsored flea markets many years ago. It is now time to renew the tradition. This flea market is to be held in the parking lot of the Comcast Corporate offices in Stockton CA. This event will be in tandem with the Stockton/Ham Cram starting at 8:00AM. Walk-in testing for new licenses and upgrades would be available throughout the day with final testing at 3:00 PM for the Ham Cram class. Seller's spaces will only be a five dollar donation.

QTH:  
COMCAST CABLE  
6505 TAM O SHANTER DR.  
STOCKTON, CA 95210  
CROSS STREET HAMMER

73s KG6SVF ....DAVE

## **For Sale...**

1. Hy-Gain TH-11 beam. Covers 10-12-15-17 & 20. Disassembled. Have new trap boots. I need space...make me an offer.

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

3. Rotator plate for TX-455 (USTowers) punched for Yaesu rotator. Good condx. Make an offer.

4. Rotator plate for Rohn 25...appears to be punched for Hy-gain rotator...make an offer.

Approx 140' of 16 conductor cable for 4 element SteppIR antenna. (Actually 145' with a cut close to end). Presently selling at \$1.10/ft good shape. Make offer

**Contact Dick Wilson.**  
[k6lrn12@gmail.com](mailto:k6lrn12@gmail.com)

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Dave, W6DE helped me design and build a new state of the art shack computer (actually he did 95% of the work).

It replaced a 10+ year old Windows 2000 machine, that was still in perfect working condition, but had become useless due to being out of date.

The new computer is truly a dream machine that is future proof, to

the extent that any computer can be. He also installed DX Lab for me. I am currently operating DX Lab on an apprentice basis; Dave says figure 6 months to reach journeyman level. This is the kind of elmering that makes MLDXCC a great club.

In other news, I received my P5/3Z9DX QSL card. I was the first station in the Western Hemisphere to work him.

Now if only ARRL will approve this operation for DXCC...

**Rick N6RK**

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**FOR SALE:**

Original owner: N6JV. Small tract house in South Sacramento. Many special features that include drive-by shootings, drag racing in the street and several neighbors growing pot in the garages with illegal grow lamps and ballasts. After 31 years of radioing from this QTH, I have been taken off the air during the daytime by S9+ noise from the pot growers for 12 hours each day. Complaints to the Sheriff and the FCC have resulted in nothing so we looked into moving as far away as we can get. A new place was located in Wilton to the east of Elk Grove and it should clear escrow in early April. New house is twice the living area and with 5 acres, it has

open fields for the cultivation of aluminum and steel structures. A check of the noise found that at the old place the noise was S 5 to 7 while at the new property the noise didn't register on the S meter. An LM-470 has been procured and by summer I hope to be active again assuming I survive moving.



Note that the "traffic circle" beside the house is larger than my present lot.

Weed eater upgrade:



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**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. **de Bob, W1RH**  
[w1rh@yahoo.co](mailto:w1rh@yahoo.co)

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**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>

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**UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions**  
**Click the link below to display up-coming Announced DXpeditions:**

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

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

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

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**UP-COMING CONTESTS**  
**(complete)**

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

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

**March 2016**

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 26 to 2359Z, Mar 27

**April 2016**

Mississippi QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 2 to 0200Z, Apr 3

Missouri QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 2 to 0400Z, Apr 3 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 3

North American SSB Sprint Contest 0000Z-0400Z, Apr 3 1

New Mexico QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 9 to 0200Z, Apr 10

Georgia QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 9 to 0359Z, Apr 10 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 10

Nebraska QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 16 to 0200Z, Apr 17 and 1400Z-2300Z, Apr 17

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 16 to 0400Z, Apr 17

Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 16 to 0500Z, Apr 17 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 17

North Dakota QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 16 to 1800Z, Apr 17

Feld Hell Sprint 1700Z-1859Z, Apr 16

ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB 1800Z-2359Z, Apr 17

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, Apr 18

**May 2016**

Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 30 to 0159Z, May 1 and 1200Z-2159Z, May 1

**The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER**

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given to MLDXCC.

**2016 Officers of the MLDXCC**

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[n6jv@n6jv.com](mailto:n6jv@n6jv.com)

### **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.**