

# The Nugget



**Mother Lode DX/Contest Club**

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

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

Our May meeting of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will be 11:30 AM on May 13th at Golden Dragon Restaurant, 1341 Broadway, Placerville, CA 95667 Phone: (530) 621-1568 website: <http://www.goldendragonca.com/>

This month speaker will be John, K6MM. He will be presenting a very timely program aimed at the declining sun spot numbers "**The No Excuses 160M Vertical**" antenna. This should be very interesting to our members who wish to increase their DXCC count.

See you there! **Steve, K6SCA**

## **MLDXCC DUES**

Our fiscal year runs July through June. While dues are voluntary, you must be a paid up member to qualify for in-club awards. You wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to support your club and might be lucky enough to win a smashing pencil holder or something. Right?

Dues are \$ 15 per fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup>). Dues can be paid at our meetings or mailed to:

**Tyler Laursen at 3141 Rushall Court, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 73, Tyler, K6TLR Treasurer**

## 2017 Officers

**President:** Dennis Moore NJ6G  
**VP/CC:** Steve Allred K6SCA  
**Secretary:** Sue Allred K6SZQ  
**Treasurer:** Tyler Laursen K6TLR  
**Board members:**  
Chuck Tifft W6RD  
Eric Handel KD6MOO  
Ken Anderson K6TA  
Bob Hess W1RH.

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Pictures from our March meeting at Habanero Hots in Lodi. Photos by N6JV



Dennis, NJ6G pulling prize tickets



Yum! Lunch is served.



Prize Table

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 Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved.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



WC6H presenting our program

## **April Treasurer's Report:**

MLDXCC - April 2017

### Treasurer's Report

April 1 Balance            1700.12

Income:                      No  
   Activity

Expense No  
:                                      Activity

April 30 Balance            1700.12

Tyler Laursen  
K6TLR

MLDXCC Treasurer

## **Up-Coming Club Meetings**

May 13

June 17

July 22

August 26

September 16

October 14

November 11

No MLDXCC meeting in Dec.

These dates avoid 'major' contests.

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

## **From The President**

Vina K6VNA and I had a fun time at Visalia. We set up our MLDXCC table on Thursday afternoon and kept it manned pretty much throughout Friday and Saturday. Vina donated a couple of banners from her shop, and a few of us proudly wore custom MLDXCC shirts that she made. Thanks to all those MLDXCC members who came by to hang out for a while and talk about the club. We gained at least one new member but I think most importantly we showed that we are a serious club (not that there were any doubts!) Having our plaques and gavel on display, plus being able to brag about another sweepstakes win, helped get the word out about the club. Or, perhaps people were just acting interested as they grabbed another piece of chocolate.

Something I found interesting during discussions at the club table was the amount of time I was asked if we all get together at someone's QTH to operate the contests. This shows that there is either a broad misunderstanding of contests in general or in how a contest club works. Let's make sure we're getting the word out how we operate. Perhaps some clarification on our website on what contesting is, and how we as a club participate in it.

Lots of gear on display, although it seems there were less vendors than last year. Of note were some Chinese HF rigs that to me seemed to be Elecraft KX3 knock-offs, and various other low cost HF SDR imports. As far as big announcements I think the KPA1500 1500w amplifier stole that show.

As usual, plenty of good presentations in the contest academy and elsewhere. Bob W1RH had a full day Friday running one half of the show, then got knocked out by a cold Saturday and barely made an appearance. Hope you're back up to speed Bob!

7QP is this weekend (May 6/7). Largest QSO party behind CQP. Get on the air and work the 7's this weekend, pick up some WAS band slots. This was really being talked up in Visalia, so it looks like there will be lots of stations to work.

On the contesting front regarding MLDXCC, there are a couple of developments worth mentioning. One, as I said above, is that we won ARRL Sweepstakes Medium Club category for the second year in a row. Not bad for only competing for two years! We beat our nearest competitor, Arizona Outlaws, by over 1 million points. Great effort by all involved. Secondly, I had the opportunity to have dinner with Ron Castro N6IE and then later met with him and Jim Selmi K6JS, both from the Redwood Empire DX Association (REDXA). We discussed changes to CQP. Consensus seemed to be that we not have rule changes that would decrease our effectiveness as a club, which I'm sure we'd all be against, but to increase efforts by their own and other clubs. There are many

smaller clubs in California who never compete or don't put in a serious effort due to the stiff competition (us!) Look for ways to bring some of those members into other clubs to increase membership which would increase competition. Our MLDXCC table is one way to bring awareness and increase membership, what might be some other ways?

The other side of the coin as Dick K6LRN points out is that we are also a DX club and we can't forget that. There hasn't been a lot of DX activity of late but that shouldn't stop us from being on the air trying to pick up those DX entities. Last night 20m was open late and allowed openings into Europe and Ukraine. Submit those Qs to Club Log and CQ Marathon. People see our club name in print getting higher and higher on the charts also brings positive awareness to the club. And when possible, support those DXpeditions, either directly or through donations to NCDXF. The DXpedition to Bouvet Island next year is expected to cost around \$750K. They can't do it without our help.

And finally, it is time for dues. The dues period run from July 1 to June 30. Only 15 bucks a year helps support the club with insurance, awards, NCDXF donations, and other expenses. We try to keep these to a minimum to keep the dues low, but we do need your support. See you at the meeting!

**73, Dennis NJ6G**

## **The Vice President's Report –**

### **Steve Allred, K6SCA**

Hello all – I'm over in Bridgeport on a public safety radio project. We've putting in 15 hours days, so the brain it a little tired.

John K6MM will be giving the talk at the meeting next Saturday (May 13th) on the "*The No Excuses 160M Vertical*" antenna. Should be very interesting.

Visalia DX convention was great. Saw old friends and made new ones. As a phone op, I thought the talk on "CW after puberty" was very interesting and helpful. Also, Dave's talk on his DX Lab software was enlightening as well. Learned some more basic operational "how-to" using the DX Labe suite. Very nice.

Did get a new FTdx3000 recently. Really nice radio with lots of bells and whistles and a great receiver. The band stacking feature is nice. It enables you to set your operating parameters for each mode individually (SSB/CW/RTTY/DATA/AM). I have the rig coupled to a SDR-IQ through the IF output giving spectrum & waterfall display. Using the SpectraVue software gives you point and click rig control.

Also was able to operate for a little while in the Florida QSO Contest. Made 78 contacts on 20 phone in about 4 hours. Pretty please with the results given the current band conditions.

That's all from over here. **73, Steve**

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

As Rodney King once said "Can't we all just get along?"

First I must say that Rodney was **NOT** one of my heroes, but I do echo his idea when it comes to Amateur Radio. Our hobby is a great equalizer, we have a cross-section of rich and poor, many different races, religions and political views within our ranks. The one thing we all have in common is our interest in radio and technology. In the past we have had no problems working many Soviet Union HAMS during the cold war. We did not embrace their culture, and they did not embrace ours. In fact their leader (at the time) said "We will Bury You". The thing that made our hobby work and keeps it great is "tolerance of different viewpoints". Today there are many places in the world where women are not treated as equal, where religious intolerance exists and freedom of speech is punished by extreme measures. Yet we all still make contact with stations in these countries. Why? Because of tolerance for others. So where am I going with this? Recently, I heard several within our DX and contesting ranks belittling other HAMS about their political and/or social views. Let's keep the negative comments of our fellow DX and Contester's to ourselves. And keep the word tolerance in mind before we call someone with

a different opinion stupid, ignorant, or worse. Simply because they don't see the world in the same light as you.

Look in the mirror. We all look different, and think different, and that my friends is a good thing!

Just my 2 cents worth.....ed

We had some HAM company stay with us the past month. K0YW and his wife stayed over on their way back to Colorado, after visiting their kids in CA. And K6XT and his wife, also from the Durango, CO area, stayed here after going to the Visalia DX Convention. We have known all of them for many years, when we were all members of the Southern California Contest Club and lived in the LA/SD area.

As usual Karen and I attended the DX Convention in Visalia. If my memory still serves me it was our 35<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. My first convention was in the late 1960's, before 1982 I attended alone, oh how times have changes. No more closing the bar, then taking drinks to someone's room and BSing until 4AM. Now, the bar is cleared out but 10:30PM, and only a few are in the hospitality room. I guess we are showing our age?

Last but not least, we are losing one of the MLDXCC's most prolific posters. WA6NHC is leaving California and setting-up digs at his new home in Idaho. Rick has helped me on several projects in the past few

years, and is usually available for a last minute lunch to BS about Radio & life in general. GL in the new place and hope to work you in the contests OM. And hope you enjoy the cool weather. Hi Hi

CU all at the May meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> .....**de Rick, W6SR**

### **re: ARRL QSL Bureau**

I just send my annual stack of QSL cards out via the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau today. Cost is \$1.15 per ounce of cards plus a flat \$7 fee. The \$7 fee is per package of cards, not per member.

For those of you that send QSL cards via the Bureau would it be possible to set up an annual QSL card collection at a April or May MLDXCC meeting to add scale to the QSL card post and eliminate the \$7 fee for several people in the MLDXCC? **Jerry Olive KD6WKY**

I like Jerry's idea of pooling. I sent about 10 oz. bundle of QSLs to the bureau a month or so ago and spent about \$25. (I round up thinking it helps average.) By using this method, it could give us a better container to mail (or ship). Our post office has a limited selection of envelopes & boxes, most not appropriate, IMO. We might be able to ship more than once a year if volume is sufficient. Members could tell volunteer when they had cards to send. I think co-coordinating would be difficult as bureau envelopes show up here sporadically...my last two envelopes arrived about a week apart

several months ago, but nothing since.

**Dick Wilson K6LRN**

**Tube Of The Month de N6JV**

### LITTON and the L-3189



During times of war, technologies that were new in the beginning tend to be developed at a pace that is much faster than might be expected due to economic pressure during times of peace. World War I produced great advances in vacuum tubes and aircraft

that would contribute to the future growth of the economy of the world. Nerve and mustard gas, not so much. World War II added jet aircraft, long range rockets, computers and RADAR. As an example, the development of the magnetron started in the 1920s, but it didn't find the big application until its use in microwave RADAR in World War II.

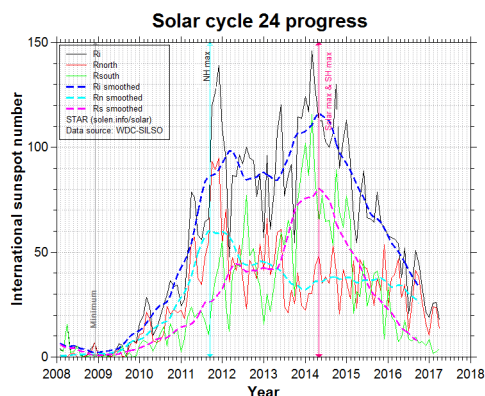
Charles Litton had been a ham since 1914 and was a major force in vacuum tube development and manufacturing. In the early 1930s, he was the head of the tube engineering division at Federal Telegraph. In 1932, he formed Litton Engineering Laboratories and made tube making equipment including glass lathes. During the war, he also developed microwave tubes.

Raytheon engineers had noticed that if they had a candy bar in their pocket it would turn to mush when they were in the proximity of the output of the military RADARs they were working on. Microwaves can cook! After the war, Raytheon patented the "Radarange" for heating food but the equipment was very large, expensive and not practical for use by the public.

In the 1960s, Litton made one of the first magnetrons specifically designed for use in the home. The L-3189 is a KW output, water cooled tube that operated in the "S" band at 2.45 GHz. It was fitted with an electromagnet. Amperex, Raytheon and Litton quickly developed smaller and less expensive tubes that the public could afford and soon microwave ovens were being sold by the millions.

The Litton glass lathe manufacturing company is still in operation in Grass Valley, CA.

Visit the museum at [N6JV.com](http://N6JV.com)



**Mother Lode DX/Contest Club**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2017**  
**Habanero Hots, Lodi**

Meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by President Dennis Moore, NJ6G. 23 members were in attendance, and 2 guests.

We went around the room and each member introduced themselves.

It was announced that Shirley Rose, AA6K became a Silent Key on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and a moment of silence was held.

Minutes were published in the last newsletter. Dick Wilson, K6LRN moved to accept the minutes as published. Chuck

Tift, W6RD seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was also published in the newsletter. Steve Allred, K6SCA moved to accept the report as published. Bob Hess, W1RH seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dennis reminded the members that our dues period runs from July 1st to June 30th of each year. While dues are optional, all members were encouraged to pay dues, as it increases the quantity and quality of awards the club can give. Our club funds also help to cover club insurance and donations to help fund various DXpeditions. All Officers must be current dues paying members, and any individual must be paid up in order to receive club awards.

There were no new club awards to be announced. Dennis will be accepting the CQP Plaque at the NCCC awards dinner next week. Member Bragging included Norm Wilson, N6JV, who received an award from the Radio Society of Great Britain for logging his 1000th IOTA on CW.

**Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee - Dick Wilson, K6LRN, reported that to date they have identified 50 members who meet the criteria of member-in-good-standing. They will continue to work on the remainder of the list.



Award Committee - Chairman Rich Cutler, WC6H reported that the committee had a conference call to create the proposed list of awards which he shared with the group. Some discussion followed.

**Old Business:**

None

Respectfully submitted,

**Sue Allred, K6SZQ**  
**Secretary**

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

**Pat ( Ronald B Patterson) K6OQ , passed away** in his sleep Sunday March 26th just 3 days shy of his 88th birthday. Pat has been a member of MLDXCC, NCCC and NCDXC over the years. Former call was K6AYA. Pat operated a DX spotting node out of Oakdale for many years. Great guy, and good friend. He will be deeply missed. I have included the Obituary, Services Saturday April 8th in Escalon.  
Pat had not made many meetings the past couple years, but I am sure several members of MLDXCC remember him.

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**Norm, WA6SJQ**, our long time MLDXCC QSL manager, is in a care facility in Jackson. He is no longer active in HAM Radio. Thanks for your

many years of service to the MLDXCC club. 73, Norm

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**Astron RS-50 PS For Sale**

Purchased from Shirl AA6K to help him clear out his shack but I prefer one with meters. It was loud when I got it but much quieter since I tightened all the loose hardware. Output is clean, no measured AC ripple on filter caps or output.  
\$120.00 OBO  
Dennis NJ6G  
dennis@mail4life.net

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**WA6NHC is QSYing to Northern Idaho in the middle of May.** Email should be addressed to:  
**WA6NHC@gmail.com** My new mailing address is:

Rick Bates, WA6NHC  
6653 Main St. #117  
Bonners Ferry, ID 83847

I also went from zero DXCC paperwork to DXCC on:

CW,	Phone,	Mixed
40M		
20M		
17M		
15M		

And I'm a few contacts away from reaching the goal on all other bands and digital mode as well (except 160M). 73, Rick

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**For Sale...****4 element StepIR 20-6M Antenna-**

Works great, element covers are a bit discolored from sun, but otherwise looks good.

Asking \$1300, when purchased new \$3000. Local pickup in San Fernando Valley K6YRA@socal.rr.com

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**For Sale...**

1. Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in unopened carton. Asking \$ 4700.

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

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

**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>

**UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions**

**Click the link below to display upcoming Announced DXpeditions:**

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

**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>

**The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER**

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### **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.**