

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

February 2020

Volume 25 Number 2

From the President – NC6R

CQ DX, CQ DX - VP8PJ

For those of you that weren't at the last meeting, I'm very proud to announce that MLDXCC voted to contribute \$500 toward the VP8PJ South Orkney DX effort. Out of the current 340 DXCC entities, South Orkney is #16 on the most wanted list of countries. MLDXCC member W1SRD will be part of the team headed to South Orkney so work 'em while you can.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 14th and will feature guest speaker John K6MM. Member awards that were earned throughout the last year will also be presented.

The January meeting was held in Lockeford at the Country Kitchen. There was quite a large turnout of MLDXCC members and guest. Lively conversation could be heard on various topics throughout the group.

From the V.P. - W1RH

As I write this, the Braveheart is sitting off of South Orkney Island either waiting for the ice to move or looking for a new landing site. I'm told the crossing

As you may have noticed MLDXCC continues to do very well for a club of our size, frequently winning awards and recognition, however it can't be done without you. Consider becoming a member and supporting MLDXCC. Dues are only \$20 dollars a year. MLDXCC is becoming a premier DX/Contest Club.....won't you be a part?

Here are a couple of good websites to bookmark which list upcoming contest and DX announcements -

Contest calendar dates are listed at - <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

DX operation announcements can be found at - <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

Catch you on the bands -

73, Steve / NC6R

between Punta Arenas, Argentina, and South Orkney was a very rough trip. I'm seeing spots, but at this point they are probably fake news. This is the ugly

part of DX'ing. Nevertheless, they should be on the air by the time you read this. VP8PJ will be a new one for many. The last time South Orkney was activated was in 2011. I just took a look at my own log and it looks like I have them confirmed on 20 and 40 CW and SSB, and that's it. You can bet I'll be out there in the pileups!

In last month's Nugget, I mentioned some new records that were set by MLDXCC members in the 2019 California QSO Party. I want to note that I left

Amador	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
N6US¹	798	278	1,076	58	171,100	SOA
K6SZQ	0	993	993	57	113,202	SO YL
W6RKC	207	23	230	40	26,680	SO L
K6BEW	7	192	199	44	17,820	SO
NC6R	0	128	128	37	9,472	SO

out a few. Thanks to Giuseppe, KE8FT, for point this out.

I hope I have it right this time. Here are the new records:

Fred (KH7Y) set a new high power record for Amador, operating from his home station.

Bob, W6RC, set a new record for Single-Op, Low Power, Assisted, from his home QTH in El Dorado County. This one goes to show you that you never know what you can win until you try! Bob did it with limited operating time and just 51 Q's!

El Dorado	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
WE6Z	663	542	1,205	58	178,234	SOA
K6LRN	574	0	574	57	98,154	SO
AF6SA	319	245	564	51	73,797	SOA
K6OK	52	392	444	54	50,760	SOA
KE6GLA	129	183	312	49	36,897	SO L
W6RC³	28	23	51	17	2,210	SOA L

Jerry, KD6WKY, really helped the CQP team, but putting in a good effort from Glenn County, which is always one of the rarest. For his efforts, he set a new record for the county, Single Op, Assisted, Low Power Expedition.

Glenn	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
N6GK⁴ (KD6WKY op)	157	88	245	46	29,762	SOA L E
K6AQL/M (K0DI, K6JTK)	17	0	17	13	663	M/S L M

Another group of MLDXCC members, who always have fun in CQP, set a new record this year for Mariposa. This is a Multi/Multi, Low Power, Expedition record. Congratulations to Ian, John, Annette, Kyle, and Karen.

Mariposa	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
AD6RF	0	3	3	3	18	SO L
N6TCE⁹ (+ NZ6Q, N6ACL, K6KDD, K6KSO)	329	292	621	56	87,976	M/M L E

Using the call sign, W6CQP, Todd (KH2TJ) set a new Single Op, Assisted, Low Power record, from Plumas County.

Plumas	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
W6CQP ¹⁴ (KH2TJ op)	599	64	663	57	109,725	SOA L
K6CEL	0	41	41	19	1,558	SO Q E
W6DT (+ N6UWQ)	0	103	103	32	6,592	M/S L E

Operating from Sierra County, David (WD6T) and W6MY, who is not a MLDXCC member, set a new record in the Multi/Single Category with a whopping score of 234,030.

Sierra	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
W6MY ²³ (+ K6DAJ)	1,007	507	1,514	58	234,030	M/S
K6ST (+ AA7GT)	87	135	222	47	24,957	M/S L

Although Dean (N6DE) wasn't able to join the team I was with, in Tehama, he did manage a solid new record from Stanislaus County in the Single Operator, Assisted, Low Power category.

Stanislaus	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
N6DE ²⁶	698	270	968	58	152,772	SOA L
K6CSL	94	0	94	32	9,024	SO L
K6AQL/M (K0DI, K6JTK)	13	0	13	10	390	M/S L M

I was so fortunate to be with the great team of Martin, Steve and Doris again this year, in Tehama. We did pretty darn good, with a new Multi-Single Expedition record and 304,210 points.

Tehama	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
K6T ²⁷ (AA1ON, W1RH, W1SRD, K0BEE)	1,057	1,037	2,094	58	304,210	M/S E

George, N6GEO, took the drive south on Highway 49, to break the record for Tuolumne County in the Single Operator, Assisted category.

Tuolumne	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
K0EJ/6	471	36	507	52	77,220	SO L E
N6GEO ²⁹	210	115	325	47	40,420	SOA
WA6HNA	15	33	48	19	2,109	SO

And, last, but certainly not least, was a new record for Yolo County in the Multi-Single category. Giuseppe (KE8FT) and Bob (W6AW, who is not a member) did it with a score of 101,906.

Yolo	CW	PH	Total	Mult	Score	Type
K6CQP ³⁰ (KE8FT, W6AW)	281	457	738	58	101,906	M/S
K6AQL/M (K0DI, K6JTK)	46	0	46	26	3,588	M/S L M

That's it for me, for this month. I had hoped to report the Sweepstakes results, but we're still waiting. There's no February meeting. Our next meeting will be a Wake Island talk, from John, K6MM.

Bob W1RH

Next Meeting

Date: March 14

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: TBD

Presentation: K6MM - Wake Island

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report -January 2020

12/31/2019 Opening Balance		\$3,099.10
Income		\$100.00
2020 Dues	\$100.00	
Expenses		\$556.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$56.00	
Donation to VP8PJ Dxpedition	\$500.00	
1/31/2020 Ending Balance		\$2,643.10

From the Secretary - KI6YYT

MLDXCC January 25, 2020 Meeting Notes



The meeting was called to order by President Steve, NC6R at 11:58 am at the Country Cafe in Lockeford, CA. There were 35 members and guests in attendance.

The November minutes were accepted as published in the December newsletter. The motion was made by Bob, N6TCE, and seconded by Ron, W6RPM. The fourth quarter 2019 Treasurer's report was accepted as published in January 2020 newsletter. The motion was made by Ron, W6RPM, and seconded by John, K6YK.

It's time to pay your 2020 dues; \$20-single, \$30-family. A form to make sure that club records are current should be filled out at the time of renewal.

Focus contests for the club were discussed. They are; ARRL SS CW & phone, ARRL DX CW & phone, ARRL 10M, ARRL 160M, California QSO party. If the Club does these contests we get marathon points. Sweepstakes was discussed. Bob Hess, W1RH, will keep us posted on interactions between NCCC and MLDXCC. It was moved by Norm, N6JV, and



seconded by Ron, W6RPM to do CQ World Wide contests as a focus contests. See the contest calendar on the MLDXCC website. Club Log was discussed.

It was brought up that the club should sponsor a plaque for the ARRL RTTY Round Up and CQP contests. It was moved by Steve, W1SRD, and seconded by Bob, W1RH. Our CQP plaque is for out of state 1st Place Single-Op, LP.

Sponsorship of the VP8PJ DXpedition - it will receive \$500 from MLDXCC. Steve, W1SRD will be part of this DXpedition. It was moved by Doug, WE6Z, and seconded by Rick, W6SR. A request for funds from the 9J2LA DXpedition was received by Steve, NC6R, and will be referred to the NCDXF.

Bob Hess, W1RH, will not be the facilitator for the contest dinner at Visalia this year, but will do it in 2021.

A solar report was given by Bob, N6TCE. There were 281 spotless days in 2019 and 16 spotless days this year

Member achievements; John, K6YK has 9,000 SOTA points for chasing climbers, Sue, K6SZQ, was 1st place CQP YL, Emilia, KI6YYT, was 1st place CQP Solano county low power, Bob, N6TCE, was 1st place CQP Mariposa county multi/multi low power expedition, Doug, WE6Z, was 1st place CQP El Dorado County, George, N6GEO, was 1st place CQP SOA Tuolumne County setting a new record in class for that county, The new secretary apologizes for not being fast enough to record all club member accomplishments this month. She promised to do better next month.

Tony Miller, W6QA, is the newest club member. He is an extra and lives in Placerville. He was sponsored by Jim, K6OK and Bill, N6GHZ.

The State QSO Party Challenge was discussed. You earn points by participating in different state QSO parties. This challenge goes on all year long.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:57pm.

The program was a video of the last Orkney Island DXpedition, with comments from Steve, Dyer W1SRD. Steve will be part of the current Orkney Island Dxpediton this February and March.

CLUB Dues

2020 dues are due!

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues are \$20.00 individual, \$30.00 family

PayPal – Send to: MotherLodeClub@gmail.com. Use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mail to the Treasurer - Sue Allred K6SZQ, 17610 Red Mule Rd. Fiddletown, CA 95629

Contest Results

The ARRL RTTY Roundup is over. How did you do? The NCCC got the required 51 logs to submit as an unlimited club.

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	161
2	K6YK	John Lee	136
3	WC6H	Rich Cutler	88

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	129
2	K6YK	John Lee	128
3	WC6H	Rich Cutler	79

Phone

1	NC6R	Steve Allred	32
2	K6LR	Frank Marshall	15
3	K6YK	John Lee	14

Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	109
2	K6OK	James Varney	87
3	K7QDX	Michael Steiner	70

Club Log Standings are based on worked entities during the calendar year.

Member Reports

New station stuff:

New antenna here; bi-directional 2EL 80M quad at 130ft from Dean's, N6BV, great design.

Resurrected an old (1969 vintage) Henry 3K amp to running condition 10 thru 80M, now need to add 160M.

Doug - N6BU

power supply requirements. At first I contemplated building a power supply from scratch, but I didn't have the exact transformer combination to meet its power needs. After doing some research I obtained a Heathkit HP-23B power supply. This would give me the necessary 300V, 700V, 12V, and -80V. I repaced a broken switch and recapped the power supply. I built a custom interface cable to go between the two. After many hours of troubleshooting a "no audio" problem, I finally found the issue. It was a broken wire on the temporary speaker I was using. After hardwiring a new speaker I was able to get it to receive on all of the bands. Next I pulled all 16 tubes, tested them, and replaced the weak ones. After that, I aligned the VFO. A check of the transmitted output showed 80+ watts on 80 meters, 25 to 50 watts on 40, 20, and 15 meters, but only 14 watts on 10 meters. A full RF alignment was needed. This was quite challenging since they didn't label any of the parts on the bottom of the chassis. After a successful full RF alignment I was able to get 130 watts on 80 meters, 120 watts on 40, and a little above 100 watts on all other bands, even 10 meters. Paired with a Yaesu MD-1 Mic on the high impedance setting (50K) it has excellent audio. It sure was a fun all tube transceiver restoration.

WE6Z's National NCX-200 Project:



This months project is a National NCX-200. I received this cool vintage transceiver from Rich WC6H. It was in unknown condition, with no power supply, but all of the tubes were present. It was a great restoration candidate. Fortunately BAMA had the manual for it and I was able to determine the





Doug WE6Z



ARRL Contesting Certificates

If you have participated in ARRL Contests by submitting your log, enter your call sign and see your available certificates. You can view and download them. The certificates show where you placed in the contest.

<http://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php>

Awards Checkers ARRL

Ken Anderson, K6TA

(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR

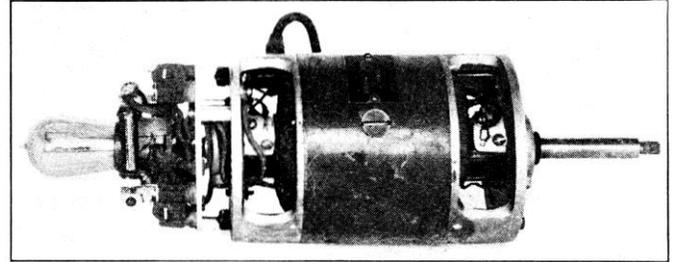
Tube of the Month

TB-1

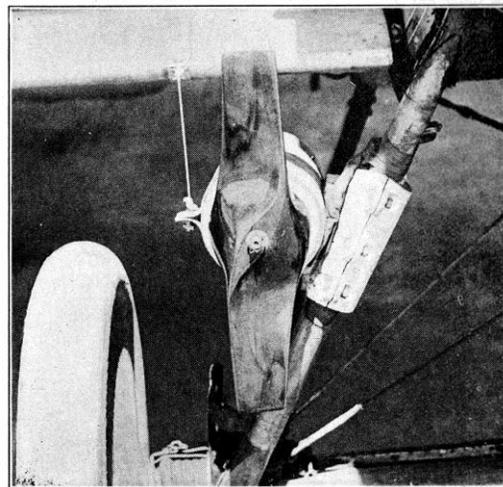
Of the handful of original tubes made for the U.S. Army in World War I, one was a regulator tube. Today it isn't unusual to find them still in the original box from 1918. This was probably because they made more than they needed as the equipment wasn't that effective. The Army Signal Corps decided that they could use the new AM mode and not teach their airmen the Morse code.



The transmitters of that day were self-excited oscillators. Any instability in filament or plate voltage would make the oscillator drift wildly. Batteries would be too heavy to deliver the 250 DC volts for the oscillator and modulator tubes, so a two winding generator was designed. One winding generated the high voltage that would be regulated by the TB-1. The second winding produced a low voltage to light all the filaments. The generator had the three pin TB-1 mounted on the rear end and a small propeller or "airfan" mounted on the front.



If the plane was flown too slowly, the generator wouldn't make enough voltage and if flown too fast the voltage would be too high and possibly smoke the regulator. They found that 4000 to 14000 r.p.m. would work correctly. That r.p.m. translated into air speed was 50 to 200 miles per hour.



The generator assembly was mounted on one of the landing struts. The photos were taken by the Signal Corps in about 1918.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Focus Contests

The following lists all contests in which MLDXCC would appreciate your efforts.

ARRL SS CW/PH
ARRL DX Phone*
ARRL DX CW*
ARRL 10M*
ARRL 160M*
California QSO Party

*Proposed and approved at the November 12, 2016 MLDXCC general meeting.

Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) announced their focus contests at their August 2018 meeting. This list can be found in the Aug 2018 NCCC newsletter.

ARRL RTTY RU
CQ WPX RTTY
CQ WPX SSB
CQ WPX CW

MLDXCC – Outgoing ARRL Bureau

The Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will provide Outgoing QSL Bureau services to current paid club members. The policy is as follows:

The club will cover packaging, shipping, and the \$7.00 ARRL fee. Members will be responsible for the \$1.15 per ounce fee, payable to the club. A scale will be provided at the designated meetings to weigh the cards.

Twice per year, at the March and October meetings, members may bring their outgoing cards (or have delivered by another club

member) to the meeting for collection and collating.

All regulations set forth by the ARRL must be met, including:

Members must be ARRL members to use outgoing bureau.

Must provide proof of membership (QST mailing label, ARRL membership card)

Cards need to be sorted according to ARRL requirements when brought to club.

The after-meeting program at those meetings would be dedicated to weighing, merging the cards, and making sure the paperwork is in order.

For more information regarding the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

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

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

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

UPCOMING DX and DXpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming DXpeditions.

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

MLDXCC Reflector

The MLDXCC reflector is maintained at groups.io. Visit <https://groups.io/g/mldxcc>

We also maintain a spotting reflector at <https://groups.io/g/MLDXCC-Spots>

We are also on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com>

Classifieds

Members are requested to review their classified ads each month for accuracy and to resubmit their ads or confirm their desire to keep it running in the next issue.

New! "The Serial Box" (SBOX) by N6TV – Combination Serial Port Splitter, ACOM / Elecraft / SPE Amplifier Interface, FSK/CW/PTT keying interface, and Breakout Box

<https://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/13971>

Serial Box



Serial Box

"The Y-BOX" by N6TV – 4-way Elecraft K3/K3S ACC port splitter, Elecraft Amplifier Interface, and Breakout Box

<https://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/13296>



Y-Box

N6TV

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

Astron VS20M adjustable 0-15VDC power supply metered Volts & Amps \$65.

Kit built CMOS 8043 CW keyer in alum cab. \$35.

Yaesu YO-301 Monitor Scope \$100.

Leader LDC-825 digital freq counter \$45.

HP-3311A function generator \$45.

(Big) Bird Termaline 50 ohm DL 1500W \$75.

All items pickup in Angels Camp or can deliver at next club meeting.

Doug - N6BU

2020 Meeting Dates

January - 25
Feb - none
March - 14
Apr - none
May -
June -
July -
August -
September -
October -
November -
Dec -

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

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East Bay Section Manager
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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.

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The MLDXCC Newsletter

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