Volume 20, Number 1 **January 2015**

The Nugget

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

Our next meeting is at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell CA, on January 31st at Noon.

MLDXCC Jan 31, 2015 Agenda:

1. **Introduction of Officers for 2015**
2. **All attendees do an introduction.**
3. **Treasurer's report along with estimated income and expenditures.**
   a. **Donation to NCDXF**
   b.
4. **Any old business or new business?**
5. **Formalize meeting dates and places.**
6. **Identify contests that will be MLDXCC focus events.**
7. **Adjourn meeting and watch a recent NCDXF Video.**

See the club website for location and map.

MLDXCC 2014 DUES

Our dues are voluntary; however you must pay dues, $15/yr, to be eligible for any club awards.
A quick look at our financial status shows us just about breaking even for the year. We started the year with $ 1346.48 and ended with $1655.26. That looks good at first glance, but $ 400 of that came from sale of an antenna and proceeds from Visalia Contest Dinner so we ended year with a small loss. We cannot always count on those resources. Our expenses each year are; $ 200 for club liability insurance, $ 250 to Northern California DX Foundation, $ 244 for plaques, prizes & awards. These figures, while close, are subject to final analysis by Treasurer.
Dues are $ 15 per calendar year. They can be brought to meeting or mailed to Carolyn at P.O. Box 273, Somerset, CA 95684-0273.

MLDXCC Meeting Dates:

January 31
No February meeting
March 14th.
No April meeting
May 16th
No December meeting

2015-Officers

Shirl Rose - AA6K President
Bob LeClerc - KR6N Vide-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

FROM THE PREZ

My fellow members of the MLDXCC, I would like you to join me in expressing thanks to Bob/W1RH for a job well done in his tenure of president of our club. Under his leadership our club has continued to successfully defend our position atop the leader board in the club competition of the CQP.

This will be my second term at the helm of the MLDXCC and I hope to keep things exciting and interesting for both our newer members as well as our seasoned veterans. I encourage all members to let your club officers know what you would like our club to provide in the way of programs and events. This will enable us to select club events and programs which will appeal to the majority of our members and keep everyone interested and involved in club activities.

I would like for all of our members to look at their standing in Club Log. Recently the MLDXCC has been on a downward spiral and we are currently in 44th position. It seems that some people who have a Club Log post have no real interest in chasing DX. With this thought in mind I am issuing a challenge to all of our members with less than 250 entities in Club Log to increase your total by 5 per month until you get to the 250 plateau. That would move us up the list to the point where we would surpass the REDXA.

In the pursuit of DX there will be a couple of chances for myself and some other club members to get an ATNO (all time new one). EP6T will be on from Iran beginning around 17 Jan and running for about 2 weeks and K1N will be on from Navassa Is around 25 Jan and running for about 3 weeks. I hope to hear you in the pile-ups.

Your MLDXCC Officers for 2015 are:

Shirl AA6K President

Bob KR6N Vice-president

Dick K6LRN Secretary

Carolyn K6TKD Treasurer

Bob W1RH BoD (Pres.)

Ken K6TA BoD

Steve K6SCA BoD

Rick W6RKC BoD

I hope to see you all at our January meeting at Mountain Mike's in Martell where we will chart our course for the year. Shril, AA6K

THE VP SEZ

Happy New Year to all

Being a new club member I am really looking forward to 2015. And a new year of contesting and DX. I have been using the WA7BNM website for the contest calendar for the upcoming year. I like the quick links to the contest sponsors for the rules and log submission. I hope to keep up the great job Verne W6VMT has done this past year with very interesting and knowledgeable speakers. Please let me know if there are any topics and presenters that you have an interest in. With computers now a standard piece of shack equipment, we might try to look at the latest loggers and software. And, how to keep the RF out of our computers. The shack here is pretty modest, antenna restrictions have kept me to wires in trees for now. But I have plans for a TA-32 just above the roof line as soon as the weather gets a little warmer. I am hoping that the Amateur radio parity act (HR4969) will be re-introduced with a new number in the 115th Congress. For the January meeting will have a video courtesy of Dick K6LRN. See you there.....73, Bob, KR6N

Treasurer's Report

Balance November 1. 2014:	**$1565.16**
Income: Badge- N1DID	20.00
Dues K6KO, K6TA, AE6Y, N6JV, KH7Y – 2014, 2015	90.00
	110.00
Expenses: Badge – N1DID	19.90
Balance December 31, 2014:	**$1655.26**

Carolyn Wilson,
K6TKD, Treasurer

We would like to extend a personal invitation to you and Members of your Club to attend the International DX Convention 2015 in Visalia, California on April 17-18-19, 2015.

IDXC 2015 will be our 66th annual International DX Convention. DXers from around the world will gather once again to meet their fellow DXers, attend interesting and informative programs, see the latest in new products from the top vendors – and have a chance to win some great raffle prizes!

Full details of IDXC 2015 are at this website: http://www.dxconvention.com/

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club presents:

Hamfest 2015

March 14th 7:30

Historic Loomis Train Depot Plaza is the place to be for the First Swap of the Year. Bring your stuff to sell, or come by and look at it all, meet your friends and perhaps win in the drawing.

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi all……..
We had a great holiday season, and hope yours was good as well.

Just before Xmas we went to Los Angeles to see our oldest son and his wife, as well as our daughter, her husband, and grandkids. Two of which were back home from college on holiday break. Christmas Eve our youngest son and his wife came over for dinner, and stayed overnight. After a nice breakfast they were off to her side of the family for their Xmas activities. It's nice to see everyone happy and doing well.

After our November and December rain storms, things dried out enough in early January for us to drop the 3 element StepIR (that I bought from W6RD). The director element was not working. It turned out to be a very simple fix, just a broken wire at the main terminal strip. After a five minute repair, the antenna work great. It really is a big improvement over my F-12 C3S. I had to give up was my 2 element 30M beam which was on the same boom as the C3S. I really miss that antenna in the 30M pile-ups.

For the last 2 weeks, a small group of us (W6DE, W1RH and I) have been helping Ginny Snider, N6RER sell some of her husband Bill's, K6KM radio gear. The equipment was priced at fair value, and sales have been better than expected. Thanks to the MLDXCC member's that purchased equipment, we wish you many happy hours of operating.

If you didn't know Bill, let me just say he was a great guy. An active ham who loved amateur radio, mentoring contester's, and providing a venue to operate. Bill was a longtime member, and past president of the MLDXCC. Bill and Ginny hosted several multi-multi CQWW operations for the MLDXCC. As well as at least four 10M contests that Bill, W6QD and I operated from their FB QTH in Yankee Hill. RIP Bill.

In December amateur radio lost another big time contester and DXer Carl, AI6V passed away. Last weekend was a "celebration of life" and the place was full, including several MLDXCC members in attendance. RIP Carl.

As far as operating goes, I operated the 10M and 160M contests, not seriously, but just having fun for several hours in each. No new DX or band countries, other than a few more RTTY contacts. I now have confirmed 120 RTTY countries all via LOTW, and I have worked a total of 159 so far on RTTY since Jan 2014. CU all at the next meeting. …….de **Rick, W6SR**

ARRL Centennial QSO Party 2014

At the beginning of 2014, I was aware of the Centennial QSO Party, but didn't think I was interested in actively participating. I worked several stations during the year, but in

September, I decided to put on a bigger effort. The pile ups were very large and everyone likes to have a chance to work a big pile up. I was elected the Section Communications Manager of the Sacramento Valley Section in 1973 and served until 1984. Past Section Managers were worth 100 points in the QSO Party so I was in demand on all modes. I started an N1MM computer file on September 1st and here are the results from this log alone:

BAND	PHONE	CW	RTTY
1.8		43	
3.5	299	329	70
7	1118	638	329
10		630	290
14	1701	755	418
17	1749	783	437
15	1626	773	467
12	1476	749	459
10	1948	564	343

17,994 GOOD QSOS + 1241 DUPES = 19,235 TOTAL QSOS

As rates were often 3 or 4 per minute, it is always faster to work the dupe than explain that we had worked before. It seems obvious that many non-contester hams don't have electronic logging.

The QSO Party was fun to do and I met many new friends. DX participation was high as over 10,000 foreign stations are members of the ARRL. I was also surprised at the number of QRP stations that are active. I was often irritated when after working hard to get the call of a station, discovered it was the third time he had duped me. I usually make a hard copy of my contest logs for QSL checking, but I calculated that it would take 455 sheets of paper. I settled with printing out the DX stations only and that only took 55 pages.

Norm N6JV

The following is the latest installment of a multi-part series that was suggested by Dave, W6DE. It was compiled and written by W2XOY; I found it very interesting and hope our readers do as well. de Ed.

The History Of Amateur Radio Chapter 13

Mention November 22 to many people in the US, and they will immediately associate it with the date that President John F Kennedy was assassinated. But for amateur radio operators, especially those licensed for more than 30 years, it means something totally different: INCENTIVE LICENSING.

In a three- stage process starting on November 22, 1967, and ending on November 22, 1969, the FCC instituted "incentive licensing," ostensibly designed to encourage amateurs to upgrade, but in reality a process under which most amateurs lost up to 50% of the frequencies they usually operated. Incentive licensing (or incentive punishment as some have called it) has been blamed for the demise of many American amateur radio equipment manufacturers such as Hammarlund and Hallicrafters, a temporary decline in the number of licensed hams, and bitter feelings against the ARRL and FCC that last to this day. As we approach the 30th anniversary of incentive Licensing, let's take a look at the events that led up to this controversial decision. In order to do so, we must go back to 1951.

Prior to 1951, a rather simple license structure existed in this country. Amateurs had a Class A, Class B or Class C license. Class A conveyed all amateur privileges on all frequencies, including exclusive access to the 75 and 20 meter phone bands. Class A required passing a comprehensive theory exam, and a 13 WPM CW test, which included sending as well as receiving.

Class B conveyed all CW privileges on all bands, and allowed phone operation on 160, 11 and ten meters in the HF spectrum, and on all VHF/UHF frequencies.

Note that 75 and 20 phone operation was limited to Class A hams. What about 40 and 15 meters? Well, 40 at that time was CW only. And as for 21 Mc, It wasn't a ham band back then! 15 meters was given to us in 1947 in exchange for the 14.35-14.40 mc segment of 20 meters, but the 15 meter band actually wasn't available to hams until 1952. In addition, 160 meter access was severely restricted at that time because of LORAN Radionavigation and 11 meters was a secondary US only allocation, with limited popularity, so the Class B ham who wanted HF phone action went to ten meters by default. Class B hams passed the same 13

WPM code test as Class A, but a less comprehensive written test.
Class C gave the exact same privileges as Class B, but the exam was given by mail, under the supervision of a Class B (or higher) license, to those who couldn't walk the 175 miles (uphill both ways through the snow!) to a quarterly FCC examination point. In 1951, the FCC reorganized the entire license structure. Class A was replaced by the Advanced, Class B by the General, and Class C by the Conditional. Three new licenses were created at that time, the Extra, Technician and Novice. The
Extra (actually "Amateur Extra") had a 20 WPM code requirement and a written exam more difficult than the old Class A. In order to qualify for the Extra, one needed to be licensed as a Class B or General for at least two years, in addition to passing the test. However, if you held a Class B, or General license (or higher), and you were licensed prior to April, 1917, you could get an Extra with no additional test. Technicians had to pass the General theory and a five WPM CW test. They had privileges above 220 Mc only. Novices had a basic 20 question written exam, the five WPM code test, and limited CW privileges on 80, 11 and two meters, as well as voice privileges on two meters. This was a one year, non-renewable license. The Advanced was available until December 31, 1952, for upgrades/new licenses, at which time it was withdrawn from availability.
Those holding Advanced class licenses could continue to renew, but no new licenses were issued. In 1952-53, the FCC also dropped a couple of other surprises -- phone operation was allowed for the first time on 40 meters, 15
meters was finally opened, the 14.35-14.4 Mc segment of 20 meters was removed from the amateur service, and, in the biggest bombshell of them all, Generals (former Class B) and Conditionals (former Class C) were given access
to all former exclusive Class A phone frequencies. Now, Conditional, General, Advanced and Extra Class operators had the exact on-the-air privileges. During the 1950s, Novices were given 40 and 15 meter CW privileges in addition to their 80 meter segment and 11 meters was removed. Technicians got six meters in 1955 and the 145-147 Mc segment of two meters in 1959. Technicians could
also hold a Novice class license simultaneously.
Many amateurs were unhappy with this structure. Extras complained that they had to go through a two year waiting period as a General or Advanced, had to pass a difficult test, and yet received no exclusive frequencies for their efforts.
Advanced class amateurs were upset with the "limbo" status of their licenses, the fact that they no longer held the highest class license, and the fact that they no longer had exclusive use of 75 and 20 meter phone.
General, Advanced and Extra class amateurs complained that Novices should not have been given 15 meter CW. The General, Advanced and Extra class hams were also opposed to increasing Technician class privileges, for reasons we will see in our next installment.
In summary, although the vast number of hams were satisfied, a small minority had complaints. And the ARRL listened. In 1963, acting on complaints they claim they received from members and operators in other countries, the ARRL proposed "Incentive Licensing." In an editorial, the ARRL implied that perhaps it was a mistake when the Class B and Generals were given the 75 and 20 meter phone segments. The ARRL's stand was now clear. Exclusive frequencies must be restored to the Advanced and Extra class amateurs in order to give the Generals an "incentive" to upgrade. Of course, what was left unsaid was that in order to do so, frequencies would have to be taken away from the General class hams.
What was the ARRL's original proposal? How did hams react to it? What was the controversy about the Technician class license that was dragged to the forefront in this battle? Be on board "The Wayback Machine" next time for the answers!

The History Of Amateur Radio Chapter 14

In our last installment, we reviewed the events that took place between 1951 and 1953. In that two year period, the Class A, B, and C licenses had been renamed the Advanced, General and Conditional class respectively. Three new licenses had been created--the Extra, Technician and Novice class. Also during that period, 40 meters was finally opened to phone operation, after being a CW only band for years, we lost the top 50 kc of 20 meters, but gained our new 15 meter
band, the Advanced class was closed to new applicants (although those holding this license could still renew), and, in a surprising decision, the FCC opened all phone bands to the General and Conditional class operators. Previously, holders of Class B and C licenses could only operate HF phone on 10 meters. Now all amateurs, Conditional to Extra class, had the same on-the-air operating privileges.
Many amateurs resented the fact that the Advanced and Extra class operators had no exclusive frequencies and that there was no incentive for a General or Conditional class licensee to upgrade. Some of these complaints filtered their way to the ARRL. And so, in the February 1963 issue of "QST," an editorial appeared in which the ARRL expressed regret over the abandonment of the incentive license structure, called the 1952 decision a step

backward, and proposed a new incentive licensing system be implemented.

The idea of exclusive frequencies for Advanced and Extra class hams--at the expense of the Generals and Conditionals--drew volumes of mail in response. Some of the comments printed in "QST" included: "...absolutely outrageous...", "...ridiculous...", "Your editorial hits the nail on the head", "...thought provoking...", "Congratulations to the ARRL" and "To Hell with the ARRL." The responses in "QST" were about evenly split for and against. There were a few letters from Generals and Conditionals who supported the idea of incentive licensing, even though they would clearly lose under the proposal.

On May 3, 1963, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted their official position on incentive licensing. Their proposal would completely take away all General and Conditional class phone privileges on 75, 40, 20, and 15 meters in a two-year phase-in period. In other words, the ARRL's incentive licensing would only allow HF phone operation for Generals and Conditionals on 10 meters and on the small sliver of 160 meters that was available in the days of LORAN Radionavigation. The ARRL also suggested reopening the Advanced class license again to those who held a General or Conditional license for one year.

Strangely, the ARRL did not suggest that Extras be given exclusive frequencies, nor did they propose exclusive CW frequencies. Rather, they just wanted exclusive access to the 75 through 15-meter phone segments for the Advanced and Extra class licenses.

Again, the mail poured in, pro and con. Many hams felt betrayed for, at this time, the ARRL was running a building fund drive to raise $250,000 to construct the headquarters that now stands at 225 Main Street in Newington, Connecticut. In effect, they believed that the ARRL was saying "Thanks for your donation, now say goodbye to your HF phone privileges." They were not happy.

On April 1, 1965, the FCC, in response to the ARRL proposal and proposals submitted by others, released their own version of incentive licensing. For Generals and Conditionals, the FCC proposal was not as bad as the League's--the FCC would take away about 50% of their phone frequencies on 75-15 meters, but they would still have access to half of each phone band. For the Advanced Class licensees (formerly Class A), it was a disaster. The FCC,instead of reopening the Advanced class, proposed creating a new "Amateur First Class License." This license would have a code speed of 16 WPM. Worse, the FCC would "bump" the present Advanced class operators down to General upon renewal.

Now it was the Advanced class licensees who were outraged. Prior to 1952, they had held the top license. Now, in effect, they would be demoted two grades and lose 50% of the 75-15 meter phone bands. The FCC also proposed extensive 50kc CW subbands for Extra class licensees on 80-15 meters, small exclusive phone segments for Extras, and incentive restrictions on six and two meters. For the next two years, 1965-1967, the battle raged on. Hundreds of proposals and counter proposals were made. The ARRL opposed any incentive subbands on six and two, and worked to retain the Advanced class in lieu of the proposed "Amateur First Class License."

On August 24, 1967, the FCC announced its decision. There would not be a new "Amateur First Class" ticket, or a 16 WPM requirement. The Advanced class would not be demoted to General, but rather would be reopened as the intermediate step between general and Extra. In summary, the FCC rules established a three-step phase-in of incentive licensing, to begin on November 22, 1967. On that day, the Advanced class was reopened to new applicants after a 15 year freeze and Novices were given a two- year, non-renewal license, instead of the previous one-year, non- renewable term.

On November 22, 1968, Novices lost their 2-meter voice privileges. Generals, Conditionals and Technicians lost the first 100 kc of 6 meters. The first 25 kc of the 80-15 meter CW bands became Extra only and Generals and Conditionals lost about 25% of the 75-15 meter phone bands, which were given to the Advanced and Extra class hams. Comments and opinions still poured into the FCC and the ARRL, requesting anything from total abandonment of incentive licensing to even more restrictive allocations. Most of the comments suggested that the third phase, scheduled for implementation on November 22, 1969, was too severe. Upon review, the Commission agreed in part. Thus, on September 24, 1969, the FCC scaled back the scheduled changes. As a result, Technicians, Conditionals, and Generals did not lose the 50.1 through 50.25 Mc segment of six meters (where most of the sideband activity was) and the Extra class CW subbands were kept at 25 kc. After November 22, 1969, Generals and Conditionals had only 50% of the 75-15 meter phone bands, Advanced about 90%, and Extra class licensees retained 100% of their previous allocations.

On a final note, the FCC, in its Report & Order adopting incentive licensing, had refused to increase VHF operating privileges for Technicians and had taken away Novice voice operations on 2 meters. There was a reason for this. The FCC wanted Novices to bypass the Technician class license and go right to General. Why?

In our next installment, "The Wayback Machine" will journey back to the amateur world in the 1950s, '60s and early

'70s to take a closer look at the Technician class license and the unique position it held. I hope you will be aboard.

Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback

Here's the K6YK sad story of the week!

Somewhere I read a review of the Atlas 210X where the reviewer said that the 210X was useless on CW, citing the lack of CW filter, sidetone, no RIT, no noise blanker, etc.

I have an Atlas 210X that I acquired at a swapmeet earlier in the year in rather shaky condition, the cover was off, unknown if it even worked. The best band had about 75 watts output, the 10 meter band didn't work because someone tried to put it on 11 meters. but I had to take the challenge and see if I could work DXCC with it.

I got to work and in a fairly short time with the help of a small amp and tri-bander I got up to 97 countries today (96 on CW and 1 on SSB) and WHOOPS ! The final went out right in the middle of a QSO! Darn! No happy ending (yet!)

For those who might know this rig (1970's-1980's vintage), one of the first all solid-state SSB/CW transcievers.

For Sale

I have a variac and plate transformer that I wish to sell. The details on the transformer are written on it. And the ratings of the variac are also listed.

The transformer measures:
H - 8 1/4
W - 10 3/4
D - 9 ¼
And weighs 115 pounds.

Best offer on each
Thanks, Bob, W1RH w1rh@yahoo.co

Hi All, about the only info that is new is that the home here is still for sale, price reduced again for quick sale, call 808-557-9022 or email for details. Our new home is located in Pine Grove at about 2500 feet, south of Ridge road and west of Pine Grove. The KH7Y call is no more, new call K6IJ.
We should be moving in the next sixty days. **Aloha, Fred, K6IJ**

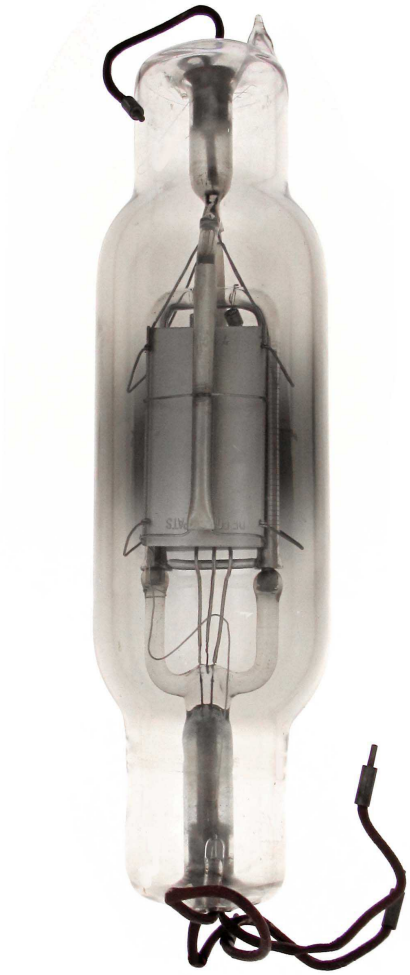
Our HI QTH is still for sale/trade.

The property is three acres with a new 4000 sq. foot home. Large Radio Shack with full bath and extra bedroom, plus 4 more bedrooms and 2 baths. A number of records have been made from this very quiet site.
We are asking $485k for the home and that includes the 100 foot (permitted) tower, a four square, and 30 foot Rohn tower next to the house. Also it has a net metering solar system 4KW, power bill is $20 per month. We can also do private financing. I really do not want to leave but my wife wants to be closer to friends and family. If your interested we can give all the details.
Email kh7y@alohabroadband.net or call 808-557-9022. Aloha, Fred, KH7Y

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

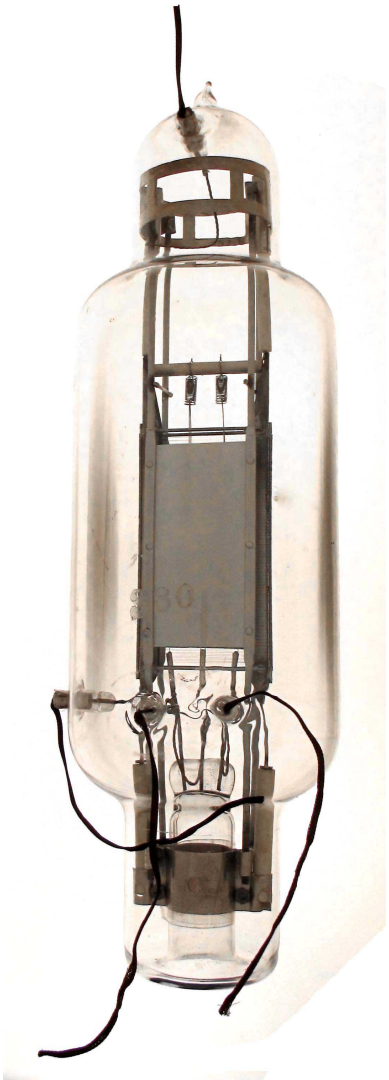
de Forest OSCILLION

When de Forest was trying to develop his first triode tubes, they were intended to be used as sensitive detectors. These were the days of spark and arc transmitters. The idea that a couple watts of CW would do a better job hadn't been possible until the vacuum tube was developed. While trying to make the audion amplify, an accidental feedback loop occurred that made a "howling" noise at audio frequencies. He later referred to this effect as "singing" and tried to make "singer" tubes for use in musical instruments. Tubes designed to oscillate were called "oscillions" and this name would be used for some years for de Forest's transmitting tubes. In WW1, the use of CW was developed using free running oscillators.



After the end of WW1, de Forest had the legal right to produce transmitting tubes and made a series of high power oscillions. These were usually 250 and 500 watt dissipation versions. The tubes were designed to operate in ver-

tical breadboard transmitters with the tubes being clamped to the board and connected with long leads. By 1920, de Forest started putting bases and anode caps on these tubes as had become a common practice at GE and Westinghouse. The oscillions were made by skilled glass-blowers and the internal support structures are very delicate. The tubes are rare today as they were easily broken. The second example has better support structure and leads out the side. Later versions with base fixtures had internal structure like the second tube, but with leads out the bottom and a top anode cap.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

Meeting Minutes, 22 November 2014

The monthly meeting was called to order at 12:53 PM by President Bob Hess at the Thai House restaurant in Valley Springs.

Introductions were made followed by remarks.

Under announcements, we found:

K6BEW has a new amplifier
N1DID built a CW interface.
N6JV made 40K+ Qs in ARRL Centennial Celebration including a stint as W1AW/6.
WC6H is in top ten entries in SS SSB w/3079 Qs.
AA6K asked about RTTY Round-up in January.
K6TA said AI6V Carl had terminal cancer (Carl was very active contester, DXer and involved in WRTC.)

There was some discussion about California QSO Party with no motions or action taken.

Secretary read slate of officers. The nominees were: Shirl Rose AA6K for President, Bob Leclerc KR6N for Vice-president, Carolyn Wilson K6TKD for Treasurer, Dick Wilson K6LRN for Secretary, Steve Allred K6SCA BoD, Rick Casey W6RKC BoD, Ken Anderson K6TA BoD, Bob Hess W1RH as outgoing President to Bod. Motion was made, seconded & carried to elect slate.

After video about VK0IR 1997 and plans for upcoming DXpedition to Heard Island, meeting was concluded at 2:44 PM.

Attendess:
22 November 2014
MLDXCC Meeting

Dick	K6LRN
Carolyn	K6TKD
Verne	W6VMT
Rich	WC6H
Pat	K6OQ
Rick	K6LE
Shirl	AA6K
Jim	WB6BET
Steve	K6SCA
Emilia	KI6YYT
Kay	K6KO
Ken	K6TA
Bob	KR6N
Cheryl	

Emily	N1DID
Rick	N6RK
Norm	N6JV
Mary	
Brandt	K6BEW
Lyle	K6QG
Denise	WB6FSE
Bob	W1RH
Rick	W6SR

Dick Wilson K6LRN
Secretary, MLDX/CC

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display up-coming Announced DXpeditions:
http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html

QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 2 ARLD002
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 15, 2015
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD002
ARLD002 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by F5SJB, KB4FB, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MONACO, 3A. Patrice, F5RBB and Mireille, F4FRL will be QRV as 3A/F5RBB and 3A/F4FRL, respectively, from January 18 to 24. Activity will be on 20 and 15 meters using RTTY and PSK31. QSL via
operators' instructions.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Steve, G3VMW, Alan, G3XAQ, Don, G3XTT and Iain, M0PCB are QRV as C5X from the Ocean Villa Heights Lodge near Banjul until January 26. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK with two stations active. This includes an entry in the upcoming CW WW DX 160 Meter contest. QSL via M0OXO.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Reinhard, DL6DQW is QRV as C91RF from Chidenguele, Gaza Province until January 19. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Felix, DL5XL is QRV as DP1POL/p. Activity is generally on 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW mostly during his evenings and overnight. QSL via DL1ZBO.

ANGOLA, D2. Igor, UA9OBO is QRV as D3AM until December 8, 2015. QSL direct via UA1QV.

IRAN, EP. Members of the Rockall DX Group will be QRV as EP6T from Kish Island, IOTA AS-166, from January 17 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0URX.

FRANCE, F. Dom, F5SJB is QRV as TM5CW on the 5th of each month until May 2015 to promote radio amateur using CW and QRP power. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL direct to home call.

SAINT BARTHELEMY, FJ. Gene, N9SW will be QRV as FJ/N9SW from January 17 to 25. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 80 meters, using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

SCOTLAND, GM. Col, MM0NDX is QRV as MM0NDX/p from Orkney Island, IOTA EU-009, on January 16 and 17. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via IW7EGQ.

US VIRGIN ISLAND, KP2. Matthew, K0BBC plans to be QRV as KP2/K0BBC from Saint Croix Island, IOTA NA-106, during the North American SSB QSO Party. QSL to home call.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station OU0POLIO is QRV until December 31, 2016 to honor the memory of Paul Harris and other founders of the Rotary International who were committed to eradicating polio.
QSL via OZ1ACB.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Norbert, DH1NK is QRV as P29NK until June 15 while he works at a hospital here. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and Pactor. QSL to home call.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Eric, OE4AAC will be QRV as S79AC from Mahe, IOTA AF-024, from January 17 to 30. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via OE4AAC.

TURKEY, TA. Special event station TC150ITU is QRV until January 31 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the ITU. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via operators' instructions.

UKRAINE, UR. Serge, UR7UT will be QRV as EM7UT from the Tumasch Fortress on January 17 and 18. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

LAOS, XW. John, KB4FB is QRV as XW4FB from Vientiane until February 12. QSL to home call.

INDONESIA, YB. Sisca, YB8RXA and Din, YB8RW will be QRV as YB8RXA/p and YB8RW/p, respectively, from Mantehage, IOTA OC-236, from January 20 to 24. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and
RTTY. QSL YB8RW to home call and YB8RXA via W2FB.

SERBIA, YU. Special event station YT90NS is QRV until the end of 2015 in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the amateur radio club of Novi Sad. QSL direct via YU7BPQ.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest, NAQCC CW Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, YL-ISSB SSB QSO Party, LZ Open CW Contest, Hungarian DX Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the Classic CW Exchange are all on tap for this upcoming weekend. The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for January 19. The QRP CW Fox Hunt and Locust CW QSO Party are scheduled for January 21. The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test is scheduled for January 21. Please see January 2015 QST, page 88 and the ARRL
and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.
http://mldxcc.org/scores.html

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)
For the latest contest info. click on the following link:
http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

No. American SSB Sprint Contest	**0000Z-0400Z, Feb 1**
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	**0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6**
+ Vermont QSO Party	**0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8**
+ YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW	**0000Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8**
+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	**0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8**
+ Minnesota QSO Party	**1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7**
+ North American Sprint, CW	**0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8**
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	**1300Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 13**
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	**0130Z-0330Z, Feb 11**
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	**0230Z-0300Z, Feb 13**
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	**0000Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 15**
+ New Hampshire QSO Party	**1600Z, Feb 14 to 2200Z, Feb 15**
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	**0200Z-0400Z, Feb 16**
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	**0230Z-0300Z, Feb 20**
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	**0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22**
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	**2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1**
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	**1300Z, Feb 28 to 1300Z, Mar 1**
+ No American QSO Party, RTTY	**1800Z, Feb 28 to 0600Z, Mar 1**

March 2015

+ North Carolina QSO Party	**1500Z, Mar 1 to 0059Z, Mar 2**
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	**0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8**
+ Idaho QSO Party	**1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15**
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	**0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15**
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	**1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16**
+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest	**0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23**
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	**0000Z, Mar 28 to 2400Z, Mar 29**

The K7RA Solar Update
QST de W1AW
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA January 16, 2015
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP003
ARLP003 Propagation de K7RA

Sunspot numbers and solar flux rose again this week, while geomagnetic indices were relatively quiet. Average daily sunspot numbers rose from 108.1 in the first week of 2015 to 112.6 in the following seven days. Average daily solar flux rose from 144.7 to 151.3.

Predicted solar flux for the near term is 130 on January 16, 125 on January 17-18, 120 on January 19-20, 115 on January 21-22, 140 on January 23, 130 on January 24-26, 135 on January 27-28, 140 on January 29-30, and 145 on January 31 through February 7. Flux values then peak at 180 on February 11-12, and dip down to 130 on February
20-22.

Predicted planetary A index is 12, 10, 15, 12 and 10 on January 16-20, 8 on January 21-22, then 5, 10 and 18 on January 23-25, and 15, 8, 5, 10 and 12 on January 26-30, 15 on January 31 through February 1, 12, 15 and 12 on February 2-4, 5 on February 5-6 and 10 on February 7-8.

OK1HH sent his predictions for geomagnetic conditions, and believes there will be quiet to unsettled conditions January 16, mostly quiet January 17, quiet to active January 18, quiet January 19, active to disturbed January 20, quiet to active January 21, active to disturbed January 22, mostly quiet January 23, active to disturbed January 24, quiet to active January 25, disturbed January 26, mostly quiet January 27, quiet January 28, active to disturbed January 29 through February 1, quiet to active February 2-3, mostly quiet February 4, quiet February 5, quiet to active February 6-7, and quiet on February 8-11.

NASA has a new assessment of sunspot Cycle 24, updated from November 14. You can read it here:

http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml

The changes are, on November 14, 2014 they said the smoothed sunspot number was 70 in late 2013, and now on January 14, 2015 that has been revised upward to 72. The new report says the smoothed sunspot number peaked at 81.9 in April 2014. This was the second peak for Cycle 24, the first being 66.9 in February 2012. They noted that double-peaked sunspot cycles are common, but the current cycle is the first in which the second peak was higher than the first.

This is the smallest sunspot cycle since Cycle 14, which peaked at 64.2 in February 1906.

The National Radio Quiet Zone in West Virginia is the setting for an interesting story involving radio astronomy and people who believe they are sensitive to low levels of RF energy. A few hams are mentioned in this piece (KD8KSG, KC0KTW and N8DBN), although not
identified by call sign.

http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/people/the-town-without-wi-fi/

Green Bank seems to have an unusually large population of amateur radio operators (over 20% of the town's residents, according to the FCC license database), especially for a place in which the FCC allows no radio transmitters.

Of course, perhaps not all of the hams with mailing addresses in Green Bank live in town, but there are 30 amateur radio operators listed in Green Bank (plus one amateur radio club with a club call), and the article says the town's population is only 143.

Most interesting to me is that Diane Schou, one of the first people in the article who moved to Green Bank just to get away from all forms of RF energy is also a licensed ham, KC0KTW. Her call sign from the zero call area suggests she was a ham (General Class) before she moved to Green Bank, which is in the W8 area.

Perhaps she does a lot more listening than transmitting.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers,
email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL
Technical Information Service web page at,
http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals. For an explanation of the
numbers used in this bulletin, see
http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere. An archive of past
propagation bulletins is at
http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at http://k9la.us/.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve
overseas locations are at http://arrl.org/propagation.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at http://arrl.org/bulletins.

Sunspot numbers for January 8 through 14 were 101, 125, 146, 133, 111, 93, and 89, with a mean of 112.6. 10.7 cm flux was 157.2, 151.2, 151.9, 153.7, 158.6, 145, and 141.8, with a mean of 151.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 16, 8, 10, 10, 8, 8, and 7, with a mean of 9.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 15, 7, 9, 8, 7,
5, and 5, with a mean of 8.

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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