

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

Our monthly meeting for the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will be at Mountain Mikes in Martel @ 11:30 AM, 28 January 2017.

Dennis and I discussed meeting topics. We thought since this was the first meeting of the new year and with a rookie board, that we'd talk about upcoming contests / DX expeditions. "How to work'em" tips from you seasoned ops, what modes are you working and what's to be gleaned from attending the Visalia DX convention. (I personally learned a lot) See all of you there!

73, Steve, K6SCA Vice President

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 1st). 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.

Pictures from our November meeting at Casa Ramos in Placerville. Photos by N6JV



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 Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved.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

Treasurer's Report

Balance November 1, 2016: \$1607.92

Income:	Badge WJ6N	20.00
Expenses:	CQP-Plaque Postage Badge	52.95 12.90 19.90

Balance December 31, 2016 \$1535.12
Tyler Laursen, K6TLR-Treasurer

Up-Coming Club Meetings

January 28

February - none

March 18

April - none Visalia DX Convention

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

YES WE DID.....

MLDXCC WINS 2015 SS IN MEDIUM CLUB CATEGORY!



THE PREZ SEZ.

From The President

There's been quite a lot of activity in the club recently. November elections provided a large turnover of club officers at the November elections with some new faces relieving some of our longest-serving positions. Sweepstakes is all over but the counting, and win or lose the MLDXCC put forth a strong effort that shows we are a club to be reckoned with, and a club in which we can all be proud.

Outgoing club officers are to be commended. Outgoing Secretary Dick Wilson K6LRN has served in various positions including President and after many years is getting a well-deserved break. Outgoing Treasurer Carolyn Wilson K6TKD has been counting pennies and collecting dues for twice as long as I've been licensed. Rick Casey W6RKC has provided guidance and wisdom as a Board Member for several years and I thank him for his service. Send all of them a note of thanks when you get a chance, the club couldn't have run without their efforts.

These outgoing officers couldn't get their break without someone stepping in to fill their shoes. New Vice President Steve Allred K6SCA jumped at the chance to fill our vacant slot there. One of the toughest duties of VP is finding speakers and topics to present at our meetings, so if you have something you'd like to present, know someone willing to present, or have found a new location suitable for meetings please let him know.

Contributing to the club is more than just racking up the points during the contests. It also includes doing what it takes to make sure we're running efficiently, effectively, and within the rules. Sue Allred K6SZQ is going to perform these tasks wonderfully as our new Club Secretary.

Banking has changed a bit since Carolyn took over as Treasurer 10-plus years ago as our new Treasurer Tyler Laursen K6TLR found out during the transition. He's had to work with both the bank and the IRS to make things acceptable to both. Out of the frying pan and into the fire huh?

Chuck Tiffit W6RD brings years of technical and DX experience to the board and has also volunteered to be our new QSL manager (yes, we have a club call sign!). We welcome his contribution.

Eric Handel KD6MOO is an experienced tower guru and Field Day organizer and I'm glad to have him on the board. Perhaps we can again get our club callsign on the air during Field Day, it's been several years.

Rich Cutler WC6H is heading up the Awards Committee, please contact him if you'd like to help determine the future of our awards program. Types of awards, contests, classes all need to be worked out so you can get the recognition you deserve.

Dick Wilson K6LRN is heading up the membership committee. With new eligibility rules from the ARRL we've found some weaknesses in our current membership roster so we need to shore up the gaps, contact all of our members for updated information, and refine our record

keeping process. Please contact Dick if you'd like to help.

Bob Hess W1RH has volunteered to serve as our Public Information Officer. It's been a while since we've had any input to the ARRL Section Newsletters. It'll be nice to see club events and other contributions from club members appear in the SV and SJV section newsletters. Let's show everyone what we're all about!

And finally, speaking of newsletters and officer positions, we still need someone to take over as Nugget editor. Rick Samoian W6SR has done a wonderful job over the past ten years or so and would like to see it handed off. If you'd like to be in charge of getting our newsletter out, please contact Rick.

Sweepstakes has come and gone. Although we were lagging in CW points we made a really strong showing in SSB so it looks like this'll be a good race. We're in strong competition with Ontario, Florida, Ohio, and Dallas clubs. Let's bring that gavel back to Gold Country again!

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with family, and wishing you the all the best in this holiday season.

73 and Good DX! Dennis NJ6G

Vice President Report - Steve Allred, K6SCA

I am glad to serve MLDXCC. Thank you for your vote of confidence. I welcome your input regarding speakers and topics you'd like to hear.

Email suggestions to me at K6SCA@volcano.net. Please bear with me as I settle into this new role. Wishing everyone a successful DX/Contest season in 2017.

Five band worked all states. Could I ever do that with my little station? To make it harder, I decided that I would do it with all contacts being confirmations on LoTW.

After many repeated attempts to get Wyoming confirmed on 10 meters through LoTW, my new best friend WB7S came through for me with the last confirmation I needed!

Now that all 50 states were confirmed on 5 bands (10, 15, 20, 40 & 80) I was able to submit my request to ARRL. When I got home from work one evening last week I noticed a flat white envelope from ARRL laying on the kitchen counter. Inside was my 5



Band WAS award!

What a great way to start off 2017! Thank you MLDXCC members for the encouragement to persist!

As announced by the CQP committee To help commemorate the 50th running of the California QSO Party, we are awarding a special **Challenge Coin** to those who qualify. Work any combination of 8 Suffixes to spell the words: **GOLD RUSH."**

Also a minimum of 150 QSO had to be logged and as a California station at least 75 of those I worked had to be non-CA contacts. So with that goal in mind and K6SZQ keeping a tally sheet, I managed to work all the



GOLD RUSH stations required.

So you ask, how did the coin and card get to be framed and mounted? K6SZQ sneaked it out of the shack and gave it to me for Christmas!

73, Steve / K6SCA

Secretary Report- Sue Allred K6SQZ

Hi! I'm the woman behind K6SCA - and your new secretary. I make killer

contest brownies and occasionally get behind the mic! de Sue K6SZQ.

Tired of cranking your tower up and down? K6DN's Crank-to-Electric Winch Modification Just might be ur answer.

In 2015 my Hexbeam antenna, installed on a supported push up pole, decided to become close to horizontal during a high wind gust. After I straightened it out I decided I needed a tower to lessen any worries in the future.

Our local radio club had helped Steve, W1SRD, take down an old WT-51 manual crank-up that he replaced with the newer model. With the help of club members we transported the tower to my place and I began the process of getting the tower installed with Jim, K6OK, doing the engineering for the permits. During that process I decided to replace the Hex with a 3-element SteppIR and a Tilt-Plate by NN4ZZ.

I live in the Sierra foothills where we occasionally get gusts to 50 mph. With the help of some weather app alerts for high winds I'm able to crank down the tower and wait out any winds. Cranking down is easy as gravity is at play, however cranking it back up is a little more work; not too

bad mind you but as I get older I could see this as a challenge.

I started looking at the motor control kits from the tower manufacturer and boat hoists that other club members have installed. I was looking for something not too complicated, reasonable in price and easy to install. In August of this year I received an email newsletter from Chris, KF7P, at KF7P Metal Werks where he was talking about a tower shelf he was building to install a hoist from Harbor Freight or Northern Tool.

I contacted Chris, exchanged some critical measurements and a few weeks later was in possession of a piece of art. I had purchased coax arms from him the year before so I knew his work, however this shelf is beefy and powder coated to boot.

I purchased the largest hoist Harbor Freight, 2,000#, single line load at 1,100#. I probably could have gotten away with the 1,300# model, single line load 660#, however I always seem to overbuild. I used a 25% off coupon and had it shipped to the house.

We had some anticipated high winds forecasted a few weeks ago so I cranked the tower down and after the winds passed started the installation of the shelf and hoist. Included are a few pictures of the progress.

Manual winch before removal:



After cranking down the tower, removing the cable from the winch and removing the winch from the tower plate I could install the shelf to determine where I needed to drill two holes on the left of the tower plate. There are a total of five bolts holding the shelf to the tower plate.



After getting the shelf level and installed it was a simple matter to install the winch on the shelf. Before bolting it down to the shelf though I had to take the hoist motor/reel off its frame to install the tower cable.



After I bolted the hoist to the shelf I made sure the cable was wound on the reel correctly, then tested it to make sure it lifted and lowered correctly. It takes approximately 30 seconds to raise or lower.

Next is to build an enclosure as this hoist is intended for inside use.

Have fun and Happy DXing!!

de Verne, K6DN

CQP has come and gone. Alpine county got activated

and the 125 or so QSOs got to log it into their books. Activating Alpine was an eye opener. The weather conditions were terrible. The wind was violent. A storm rolled in. And we were only able to log about 125-150 QSOs for all of our efforts for the weekend... But what happened in the following months has now made it well worth it...

Roughly 3-4 weeks after CQP finalized, a couple of QSL cards came rolling in. This was exciting enough by itself, because, being new to ham radio, QSL cards are exciting! It's like finding spare UHF connectors when you thought you were all out! And, I have heard that when you live in California, no one really sends you QSL cards... because everyone has already contacted California. We just aren't a hot commodity! So getting a few QSL cards was pretty cool, but one of them really stuck out.

K4PBX had included with his card, a full page, typed request of how he was trying to get the Worked All Counties award, and that Alpine County was the last one he needed. He had also included a response card in case I didn't have a QSL card... which I don't. I put his letter on my desk as a reminder to send him a QSL card once I get some made... and there it sat. Roughly a month

later, I get an email from K4PBX asking if I had received his letter. Again he reiterated that he was working on the Worked All Counties award. Because I was thinking so California centered, I was thinking there were only 58 counties, hold your horses, I will get a QSL card to you once I get some made. Well, it turns out, he was on a whole new level. He made mention of 3,076 counties that he has already confirmed and just needed the very last #3077. Then it dawned on me that I was immensely underestimating this kind stranger, and that something else WAY WAY more amazing than working all of California's Counties was going on. K4PBX was intentionally collecting every single county in the United States of America... all 3077 of them! I don't know how long he has been attempting it, but I immediately apologized for my laziness and sent his response confirmation card back.



December 7th rolls around and I get a package on my doorstep. Upon opening it, I find a nice hand written thank you card, and a wooden plaque

from K4PBX; a huge thank you gesture for helping him confirm his final county in the USA. This is my first "wallpaper" from being in the hobby. I hope it won't be my last. It is, so far, by far, the coolest thing I have gotten to do in ham radio. Thank you K4PBX!

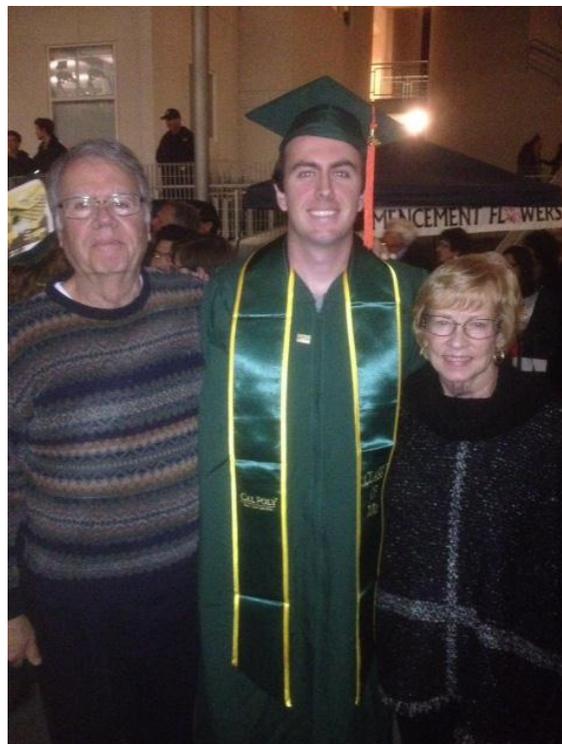
de Tyler, K6TLR

Editor Notes de Rick, W6SR

First, thanks to our membership for responding to my request for information for our newsletter. You have provided me with a bunch of great stuff, so this month's newsletter should be much more interesting to our readers.

Last month started with me recouping from double hernia surgery. I can honestly say the operation and recovery was not a big deal. And the results have been great, a complete relief of my pain, and in another few weeks I should be ready for anything any old guy can do, Hi Hi

The 17th of December we attended our oldest Grandson's graduation at Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo.



6'4" Justin, with Grandma, and Grandpa

Justin received his degree in Materials Engineering, following both his Grandfathers, and Dad into the engineering field.

The 27th of December we had a late Xmas dinner at our place. And we were lucky enough to have all three of our kids, their wives, and our three Grandkids here as well. We put six of them up for a few days, it was a lot of work for Karen and I, and a bit tight, but we all survived. And... that's why we bought a 4BR 3BA home, for just two of us, in the first place. This may be the last time this will happen, since they all have their own lives and obligations and it's almost impossible to plan in advance. Oh well..... life moves-on.

Last month I worked a couple more 6M EME countries, bring my total to

80. However, the wind and rain does not help the noise, so I have been mostly QRT on EME.

I also worked a couple of recent contests (the 160M, CQWW Phone, and 10M) but none seriously, sitting for long periods of time was a problem after my recent surgery.

I hope none of you have had problems with your home, equipment, or antennas due to the parade of storms and high winds. We need the rain, so I am not complaining, but as we near 200% of normal rainfall in ol' Pville, I say "enough already!"

And last but not least I would like to thank Dick (K6LRN) and Carolyn (K6TKD) Wilson, and Rick Casey (W6RKC) for their longtime service to the MLDXCC. It was pleasure to work with all of you! Now you will have more time to work DX and contests. C U ya' all the 28rd.....**de Rick,W6SR**

Tube Of The Month de N6JV

GM-100 / ГМ-100

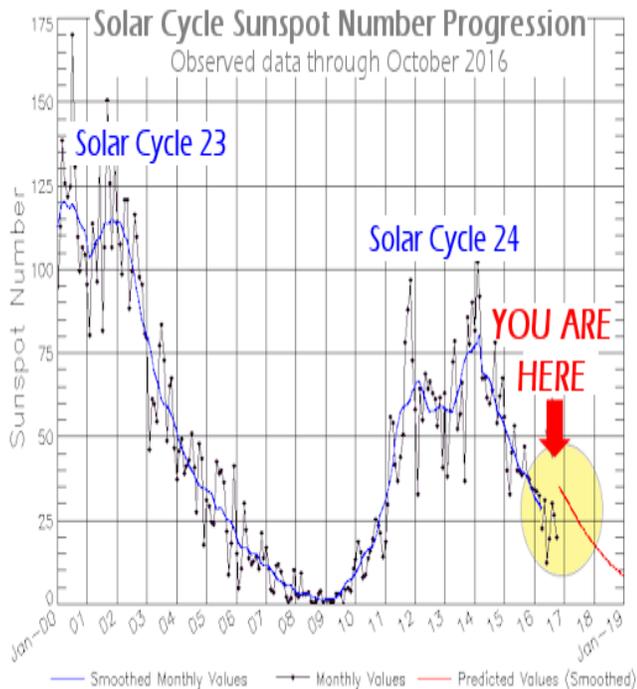
When the Soviet Union opened up, Russian tubes began being distributed into the United States and everywhere else they could find a market. One odd tube was very popular with tube collectors and audio people. The GM-100 or ГМ-100 is a 17 inch tall monster without a socket. The audiophiles either wanted to blow their speakers out or impress their friends with the biggest tube amplifier. It's rated at 1 KW and

has a mu of 20 so it makes a good audio amplifier tube. The tube could be run with up to 5000 volts on the plate, but the filament is 17 volts at 20 amps so finding a transformer could be a problem.

In recent years these tubes have become rarely seen for sale in North America, but there is still some stock in former Soviet countries in Europe. The price has gone up and the postage for a large tube like this is also high. They would make a great lamp for the ham shack.



Visit the museum at:
<http://n6jv.com>



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club Meeting Minutes.

Minutes from MLDXCC Meeting 11/12/2016

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Moore at 12:30 PM. Members introduced themselves. K6TVT was a guest. Awards for performance in the 2015 California QSO Party were presented: WC6H operating as W6G high power high score, WK6I operating as W6S low power high score, K6DN 'rookie' high score, N6TV most contacts CW & NR6Q most contacts on phone. Bob W1RH reported on Sweepstakes. He said scores were down in CW part. Mad River, Contest Club Ontario, Arizona Outlaws & Southern California Contest were all in the running, so far. He also noted some

had submitted for NCCC instead of MLDX/CC.

Moved, seconded & carried that the MLDX/CC participates in the following contests where there are club competitions with exceptions for NCCC focus events:

ARRL DX-phone & CW, ARRL 10 M, ARRL160, to MLDX/CC.

WPX-phone, CW & RTTY to NCCC, ARRL RTTY RU & the NAQP contests to NCCC.

Awards committee is progressing.

Moved, seconded & carried to form a Membership Committee. Dick Wilson, Carolyn Wilson & Bob Hess will be members.

Elections: After soliciting additional nominations, the following were elected;

President: Dennis Moore NJ6G

VP/CC: Steve Allred K6SCA

Secretary: Sue Allred K6SZQ

Treasurer: Tyler Laursen K6TLR (see note)

Board members: Chuck Tift W6RD, Eric Handel KD6MOO, Ken Anderson K6TA, Bob Hess W1RH.

Vina Moore K6VNA is making a banner & wants pictures.

Moved, seconded & carried to have Dennis create a FaceBook page for the club.

Chuck Tift W6RD was appointed QSL Manager & Bob Hess W1RH appointed Publicity Chairperson.

A letter from ARRL Division Director noting December 8 meeting was read. We would be allowed two delegates.

Field Day was discussed with no action taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

A talk by Norm Wilson on erecting a LM-470 tower was given.

Note: Tyler Laursen K6TLR as duly elected Treasurer of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will be allowed to deposit funds, draw checks and perform other duties of the office. He will maintain a checking account #1930564301 at the El Dorado Savings Bank. Kay Anderson K6KO will continue as a signer on this account. The bank will be instructed to send the statements to Tyler Laursen at 3141 Rushall Court, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Dick Wilson K6LRN/Nj6G
Secretary MLDX/CC

Member News, Items For Sale & Feedback

For Sale...

1. Alpha 9500 HF Power Amplifier. Back from repair & updates in unopened carton. Asking \$ 4700.
2. Cable set for Elecraft K-3 to MicroKeyer. Has necessary connections to integrate computer, radio & MicroKeyer. Asking \$ 60.
3. Yaesu FT-1000 MP. Has filters & a recorder. Good condx, both electrical-ly & cosmetic. Asking \$ 1100.
4. Rotator plate for TX-455 (USTowers) punched for Yaesu rotator. Good condx. Make an offer.

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

Contact Dick Wilson.
k6lrn12@gmail.com

K6YK and KG6SVF were pretty active in the ARRL NPOTA activity in 2016. K6YK made it into the top 1% with 410 confirmed parks. I know this is not DX but it is a challenge! Keeps one out of the pool halls for a year!
de K6YK

After many years of chasing, I finally worked 1000 IOTA island groups using 100% CW. This was the hard way as most IOTA activity is on SSB.
de N6JV

From Chuck, W6RD

Items for Sale:HamIV Rotor #1 Latest Series..Unused since rebuild..Controller has added brake delay. Controller cosmetics are a little rough but works 100% **\$250.**

HamIV Rotor #2 Latest Series with pigtail..Was used about 2 years on KT34. In excellent condition. Controller has factory Brake Delay & Jones Plug. Comes with about 75 feet of cable with Plugs. **\$350.**

Alliance HD-73 Rotor and controller. Works well. Has lower mast clamp for mast mounting . Comes with 100 feet of new 6 wire control cable. **\$200.**

KLM LP-1030 10 to 30 Mhz Log Periodic. 32 foot 3 inch boom. Needs some TLC but is all there. **\$250.**

Dentron MT-2000 2KW tuner. Works great. **\$200.**

I can arrange pickup for everything except the antenna in Sacramento as I am there several days a week.

Chuck W6RD Modesto. 209-247-2952.

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

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>

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

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

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

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given to MLDXCC.

2016 Officers of the MLDXCC

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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.