

# THE NUGGET



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

January 2019

Volume 24 Number 1

### **2019 Dues Reminder**

Please pay your dues for 2019. Dues are \$20.00 individual/\$30.00 family and may be paid via PayPal to [MotherLodeClub@gmail.com](mailto:MotherLodeClub@gmail.com). Use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Give to a club officer at a meeting, or mail to Tyler Laursen K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

### **From the President NC6R**

Happy New Year MLDXCC!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. As we start 2019, we often make New Year's resolutions. Many of the perennial favorites are to lose a few pounds and exercise more. A couple of mine are A) finish undone projects B) clean up the shack and C) improve my CW skill. What are some of yours? Participate in contests? Work more DX? Get on FT8? Learn a "new" mode like CW?

MLDXCC is a club comprised of varied talents and interest. For me, looking back at MLDXCC's accomplishments over the last several years brings into focus the vast array of knowledge and experience we possess. Going forward into

2019, I'd like to hear from you regarding what presentations you'd like to see or what areas of interest you'd like to know more about. Your input will be helpful in selecting our meeting presentations.

Congratulations to MLDXCC who as a club won the Cal QSO Party (CQP) contest in the large club division with a score of 3,840,974 points! At the risk of leaving out other club members who won their respective divisions, I need to congratulate Emilia, KI6YYT who won the YL division. Awesome job young lady!

Also if you've not heard, MLDXCC once again, for the fourth year in a row, won the ARRL Sweepstakes gavel for our division. A big thanks to all who participated for without you this achievement would have not been possible. Again a big thanks to Bob W1RH who served as our "log flogger".

As we close out 2018, please submit all your DX contacts to CQ Marathon under Mother Lode/DX Contest Club. Last year we placed #5 in the world with just a small number of logs submitted. Could we be #1? Your DX log submission is needed, deadline is Jan 5th!

Upcoming meeting locations will be made known as locations and speakers are firmed up. Check the MLDXCC website and email reflector at: (<https://groups.io/g/mldxcc>). If you're not receiving MLDXCC email, please sign up. Both email and DX spotting groups are available.

Have a great 2019! 73, Steve / NC6R

## From the Treasurer K6TLR

MLDXCC –  
December 2018  
Treasurer's Report

Dec 5 Balance		2761.14
Income:	Dues – W6DR	20
	Dues – WC6H	20
	Dues – WX5S	20
Expense:	PO Box for 2019	-54
	Nametag W1RK	-20.87
	Nametag K6SZQ	-20.87
Dec 31 Balance		2725.40

Tyler Laursen  
K6TLR  
MLDXCC Treasurer

### Paying Dues:

The Dues period runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Beginning Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, 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 K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

## Planting Copper

Submitted by Norm N6JV

I was needing to bury several long radials for my 80 and 160 meter antennas, so I welded up an attachment for my "sub-soiler" plow. The wire will be laid out at from 6 to 18 inches under the ground. It now takes less than a minute to bury an 80 foot radial.



## **Club Log Standings – 2018 Final**

### **Overall**

1	<b>N6JV</b>	<b>Norm Wilson</b>	<b>258</b>
2	K6YK	John Lee	224
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	196

### **CW**

1	<b>N6JV</b>	<b>Norm Wilson</b>	<b>218</b>
2	K6YK	John Lee	212
3	N6WM	Chris Tate	158

### **Phone**

1	<b>NC6R</b>	<b>Steve Allred</b>	<b>172</b>
2	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	121
3	K6YK	John Lee	121

### **Data**

1	<b>K7QDX</b>	<b>Michael Steiner</b>	<b>178</b>
2	N6JV	Norm Wilson	145
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	133

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

## **CQ Magazine Annual DX Marathon**

**PLEASE NOTE: 2018 Submission Deadline is January 5th, 2019**

Starting January 1 of each year, the DX Marathon is the perfect answer for the DX-er who needs that extra incentive to get on the air every day! Simply work as many countries and CQ Zones as you can in each calendar year, regardless of the band or mode. Each country and zone counts only once, so you can concentrate on working new ones rather than working the same ones on multiple bands and modes. Many awards are given for the top overall scores in four classes plus top scores in modes, bands, US call areas and more! Details of the extensive award list are available [here](#).

In 2017 Mother Lode DX/Contest Club placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the world. Let's try to improve on that this year!

The submission process can be a bit daunting as the logs need to be submitted on a spreadsheet. Please contact Steve NC6R or Dennis NJ6G for help in the conversion from ADIF to the spreadsheet.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted scores so far. Here are a few of those 2018 reported scores:

N6JV – 303 Points  
K6YK – 268 Points  
WX6V – 254 Points  
NJ6G – 238 Points  
NC6R – 225 Points  
AF6SA – 182 Points  
WB6BET – 69 Points  
KI6YYT – 11 Points

## **MLDXCC Website update**

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.

## **Tube of the Month N6JV**

### **X-117 a Missing Link**

When a paleontologist is digging around in the ground looking for fossils and starts finding horse bones, it might be from the burial of the "old gray mare" from the nearby farm. When he digs out the legs and finds that his horse has toes, he knows that this is a really old horse that may be 15 million years old. As a paleontologist of vacuum tubes, I am always looking for

examples of transitional tubes that would lead to the evolution of very successful tube types.

EIMAC started assigning "X" numbers to their experimental tubes in 1942. They needed to do a better job of documenting their research. By order of the U.S. military, they were also required to have a dating system of their production tubes. Good stuff for the researcher.



A few months ago, I found a X-117 for sale on the internet. I had never seen one before, so I bid on it. The tube looks very much like the traditional 4-250A. It was made from available parts. The plate is from a 250T and the envelope from a 304T. We know that the filament was also from a 250T as it is 5 volts at 10 amps. It has the experimental stamp on the glass with serial number 51 and the date of 11 April, 1944. The

X-117 number was issued in January 1944. The actual production line date is marked C4-83525 which translates that it was made in March 1944 and it was the 83,525<sup>th</sup> tube made that month in San Bruno, California. The base skirt has no air flow holes so they hadn't settled on the method of cooling yet. For comparison, the second tube is an experimental tube that is actually designated 4-250A from July 1944. There were about 42 different "X" tubes built for this research project. The final tube was not offered for sale until September 1946, so they were ready with the new products when ham radio started up after the war.



Visit the Institute of Thermionic Paleontology at [N6JV.com](http://N6JV.com)

Norm N6JV

## **MLDXCC Focus Contests**

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

ARRL DX Phone\*

ARRL DX CW\*

ARRL 10M\*

ARRL 160M\*

ARRL November Sweepstakes

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

## **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>

## **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>

## **ARRL Awards Checkers**

Ken Anderson, K6TA  
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR  
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD

(WAS, VUCC)

## **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**

CQ DX Marathon – Deadline Jan 5

ARRL 10M Contest – Dec 8-9

ARRL RTTY RU – Jan 5-6

NAQP CW – Jan 12-13

NAQP SSB – Jan 19-20

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.*

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Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale:  
Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO  
M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225  
Dennis, NJ6G [dennis@mail4life.net](mailto:dennis@mail4life.net)

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**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

Jim Singer N6JS has these items available  
 Bird 500 watt dummy load , air cooled. \$ 100  
 RF Applications P-3000 digital RF/VSWR indicator with cables.... \$250.00  
 TE systems 6 meter RF power Amp model 0552G 375 Watt 50 MHZ .. \$ 450.00  
 SECO model 107B Tube Tester . \$ 25.00  
 Astron 35M power supply... \$ 90.00  
 KENWOOD TS-790A Dual Band all mode VHF/UHF Transceiver with SP 31 speaker & mic \$ 900.00  
 I will deliver these. Any question please email me. I'm good on QRZ JIM...N6JS

From Bob N6TV

I have two Alpha 87A amplifiers for sale, both in perfect working condition. I believe this amplifier is one of the finest that Alpha ever made, especially for fully silent QSK CW. I am the original owner of the first, purchased new. It has the original Eimac 3CX800 tubes, only driven by a little old contester on weekends (used a few times a year). Treated with kid gloves for its entire lifetime. \$2,800 plus shipping.

The second I acquired used / refurbished from RF Concepts over six years ago (someone traded

it in for a 9500). This 87A has the Alpha Max auto-tuning option installed. It also has a new blower, which was professionally installed by RF Concepts exactly 5 years ago. \$2,900 plus shipping.

Both amps are very clean, in perfect working condition, and put out full power on all bands with 45-55W drive. Both have exclusively been used in a non-smoking home, with no pets. I am happy to hand-deliver either or both to the SF Bay Area to save shipping costs. I can also bring them to the NCCC Meeting in Sunnyvale, Tuesday Oct. 9th, if you let me know in advance. 73, Bob, N6TV

From Bob W1RH

The wife of Norm, WB6RVR (SK) has a Collins S-Line for sale. \$1,000 or best offer for all. Pictures attached.

75S-1 #7999





32S-1 #2686

516F-2 #3439





There is a antenna switch box and a phone patch box with no serial #s.



Send offers to Bob W1RH

Al N6ADT has a Collins 30L-1 Amplifier for sale, 600.00. For more info contact Al at [wb6ruu@gmail.com](mailto:wb6ruu@gmail.com)



Contacts: [K6LE@mac.com](mailto:K6LE@mac.com) 209 324-5700

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From Mike N6ZW

I'm getting rid of the Ameritron AL-1200 1500Watt linear, using the 3CX1200A7 ceramic tube. This amp was only used approx. 3 years on Sunday morning 15m net. Was used other times on 20m but not much. Tube has approx. less than 100 hours of use on it. Included with it is the full QSK unit, Ameritron QSK-5. This unit is NEW never used. Will listen to reasonable offers. PICK-UP only in Lodi. Use email please as hearing aids not good for telephone. n6zw@comcast.net

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Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?  
Contact Vina K6VNA [vina@sign-tek.com](mailto:vina@sign-tek.com)

### **2019 Meeting Dates**

January 26  
Feb - None  
March 16  
Apr - None  
May 11  
June 15  
July 27  
August 24  
September 21  
October 12  
November 9  
Dec - None

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

### **Area Clubs**

Northern California Contest Club -  
<https://www.nccc.cc>

Rick K6LE has the following items available  
Get ready for 2019!  
I have had a change of plans and have a Tri-Bander and Rotator available  
Beam:  
Hy-Gain TH-3 JR not used since I got it used from W6RD.  
Also will throw in a 12 and 17 Meter rotatable, trapped dipole.  
Great starter beam for someone.  
\$175  
Rotator:  
Yaesu G-450XL. Good condition. Also unused for several years.  
\$150

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!*

## **ARRL Pacific Division**

Pacific Division Director

Jim Tiemstra K6JAT

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Pacific Division Vice Director

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San Joaquin Valley Section Manager

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## **Officers of the MLDXCC**

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