THE NUGGET

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

March 2023 **Volume 29 Number 3**

Vice President's Report

Upcoming Meetings

I've been busy lining up speakers for 2024, and I have some good ones on the tentative list. I want to thank Dave, W6DE, for an excellent January presentation on DX Lab. This will be up on a new MLDXCC YouTube channel soon.

Our April meeting will feature Jay, W2IJ, speaking to us via Zoom, on the T33A dxpedition to Banaba. I had read Jay's article in the old DX Magazine and, based on that article, this should be a very entertaining talk. Jay may also have a few words about the 2000 Clipperton dxpedition.

Speaking of Clipperton, our own Steve, W1SRD, will do the talk we have all been waiting for….Clipperton, 2024, on May 11th.

We will be streaming, via Zoom, both the April and May meetings. The April meeting will be held at the Break Room, in Shingle Springs. As soon as I can verify a venue with good internet, I'll announce the May meeting location.

2023 California QSO Party

Well, if you're not already aware, MLDXCC did not win the plaque for the 2023 California QSO Party. The winner of the Joshua Tree class was the Southern California Contest Club. The Joshua Tree class is based on a log total of 21-30 and, frankly, I'm surprised that our log count, and the SCCC log count, was that low. I do prefer competing against another club rather than being in a category by ourselves.

SCCC submitted 29 logs, with a final score of 4,840,887. MLDXCC submitted 30 logs, with a final score of 4,291,974. SCCC had 650,000 bonus points. MLDXCC had 700,000 bonus points. Bonus points count for each station that made at least 10 claimed QSOs (before log checking). We lost this one, but it was a good competition and was certainly not a SCCC blowout.

2023 ARRL Sweepstakes

In my initial look, the log count was way down from last year. Totaling the raw scores showed us with another win. The final results are not out yet but below are the ARRL preliminary results for the Medium Club Category:

· 3,157,382 – MLDXCC

· 2,665,842 – Arizona Outlaws Contest Club

· 2,620,738 – Contest club Ontario

· 2,389,856 -Tennessee Contest Group

· 2,268,250 – Southern California Contest Club

· 2,209,318 – South East Contest Club

MLDXCC Meeting Dates

· April – 13th – T33A, Jay, W2IJ

· May – 11th – W1SRD, Steve, Clipperton

· June – 29th

· July - 27

· August - 31

· September - 21

· October - 19

· November - 9

· December - 7

Bob Hess, W1RH

Treasurer's Report

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - February 2024

2/1/2024 Opening Balance $2,309.07

Income $20.00

2024 Dues - Paypal $40.00

2024 Dues - Checking $0.00

Expenses $0.00

2/29/2024 Ending Balance $2,329.07

Sue Allred, K6SZQ

Secretary's Report

MLDXCC Minutes March 16, 2023 Pizza Factory Loomis, CA

Meeting called to order by Steve NC6R at 12:30 PM

Member Introductions

Minutes from last meeting were approved

Motion by Rick W6SR Second by Norm N6JV unanimous

Treasure's Report as published in the newsletter by Sue K6SZQ was approved

Motion by Norm N6JV and Second by Rick W6SR unanimous

Old Business:

Discussion about raising dues for next year. Now $20.00 per year. Discussion held and tabled for future meetings.

Send Norm N6JV topics and suggestions for newsletters.

Steve NC6R has contacted Dennis about management of groups.io Steve NC6R and Bob Hess now have access and control of MLDXCC groups.io

Awards Committee discussion on necessity of reforming this committee, Further discussions needed.

New Business:

Clipperton talk in April or May

QSL cards are a pain in the butt discussion held. Further discussion required.

Anyone who has Section 34 contacts with LOTW please let Steve NC6R know

Egypt, Libya, Sudan, South Sudan

Motion to Adjourn at 1:05 by Rick W6SR and Second by Dave K6TQ

Members Present: Rick W6SR, Norm N6JV, Richard NC6RJ, Steve NC6R, Sue K6SZQ, Rick N6RK, Stefan AF6SA, Lee KM6VNZ, Dave K6TQ

Lee Gravesen, KM6VNZ ,Secretary

April 12, 13 & 14, 2024

The 75th Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club and to be held at the Visalia Convention Center.

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Attend the traditional Saturday night banquet where great friends and good food are met with lively presentations. The Sunday breakfast buffet has ample selection and variety. Visit the manufacturers' midway where you can talk to the people who design and use the latest and best equipment.

Do you have a great idea for a program? Want to be a vendor? Are you a DX station that needs assistance? Please see the contact page to e-mail the appropriate person for your questions.

The International DX Convention has been proudly sponsored alternately by the Southern California DX Club & Northern California DX Club for the past 75 years.

DELETED COUNTRIES

Dutch East Indies

The Dutch East Indies were several territories held by the Netherlands from the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century. Most of the territories were incorporated into what is now Indonesia. Basically, the acquisition of these territories came through establishing trading companies which along with merchants brought military to protect them and eventually the region came under their rule. This model of territorial acquisition was not new at the time. The Dutch East Indies Trading Company modeled the British trading company, The East India Trading Company which was established in the 17th century. The Dutch East Indies Trading Company not only acquired these territories, they engaged in many conflicts with local and regional leaders. The region was not totally under their rule and many small and not so small areas were independently ruled by the indigenous locals.

The Dutch territories grew to the point that they were the most valuable European colony. They traded crops, spices, and eventually rubber, oil, and coal. This all came to a sudden halt in WWII. Japan seized control of the region. No matter how things change they remain the same. The Japanese used the ploy of liberating the region under what they termed *The Light of Asia*. They claimed their intent was to liberate the region from the brutal European control (and it really was brutal) Actually, it was their goal to exploit the petroleum resources to satisfy their need to feed the burgeoning need fueled by their aggressive colonization of Asia. Furthermore, Japan was much more brutal, killing an estimated 4 million Indonesians died at their hands. This is not dissimilar to what we are seeing today with modern China. They too a demand for energy that outstrips what they can supply. In fact, China is building coal plants at an incredible rate and laying pipeline from the Persian Gulf and Central Asia to the western portion of their country bypassing vulnerable shipping lanes. Modern states have learned that making territories is unnecessary, striking deals with local leaders is more successful. Dutch effort to recoup the territory was thwarted by the US who threatened to cut off aid had they pursued their reconstruction. They lost their most valuable asset.

Indonesia was recognized as an independent nation in 1949. This is a diverse region with many ethnicities, beliefs and cultures. In that past Hindus were the dominant force. Islam took that position in the 15th and 16th centuries. The population of Dutch East Indies was estimated at 60 million in 1930. More than 59 million were indigenous (Pribumi meaning first soil = on the land first.)

The deleted ARRL DXCC entities are Java - PK1, Sumatra - PK4, Borneo - PK5, and Celebe & Molucca Islands - PK6.

Thanks to the Southern California DX Club Newsletter

Tube of the Month

TA4/500
Ein Hüttinger

I once ran across an interesting tube while shopping on a European tube site. Had no idea who made it, but it looked like an old classic German tube. It turned out to be a TA4/500 made by a German company called Hüttinger. The TA indicates that it is a transmitting triode with a tungsten filament. The 4/500 translates to a maximum of 4000 volts and an output of 500 watts. Some research found that it had a 7.5 volt at 17.5-amp filament and would operate up to 50 MHz. It is similar in many ways to an EIMAC 150T tube. The base is typically German with banana plugs and the plate and grid pins are fitted with knurled nuts. The asbestos blanket to act as a heat proof cushion is also typical. The tube is 12.25 inches tall.

The Hüttinger company started in 1922 making small appliances in Freiburg, Germany. They produced electromedical devices like diathermy machines and in 1936 started producing their own line of amplifier/oscillator tubes. Three types were produced including the TA4/500. Other products were made with the start of WWII and the size of the company required a move for expansion. Production quickly ended in late November 1944 when the RAF carpet bombed Freiburg. They quickly rebuilt some capabilities and produced small parts through the end of the war. After the war, the company expanded their product lines into RF applications and eventually into power supplies used in semiconductor production and eventually into lasers. They also produced a more modern line of high-power vacuum tubes that are more common than the early types. The company was merged into the Trumpf (sounds familiar) Maschinenfabrik Corporation where it still operates in the medical technology and power supply field.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

Antenna of the Month

Gary, NA6O

Inverted Vee

One of the natural modifications to a simple half-wavelength dipole is the inverted vee. As you know, most of the radiated energy comes from the part of an antenna where current is greatest, and that's the center of a dipole. So, your first objective is to get that up as high and clear as you can. But if you only have one tall support, attach the center and the feedline to that, and let the ends of the antenna slope downward. That forms the inverted vee configuration and it's almost as good as the flat dipole.

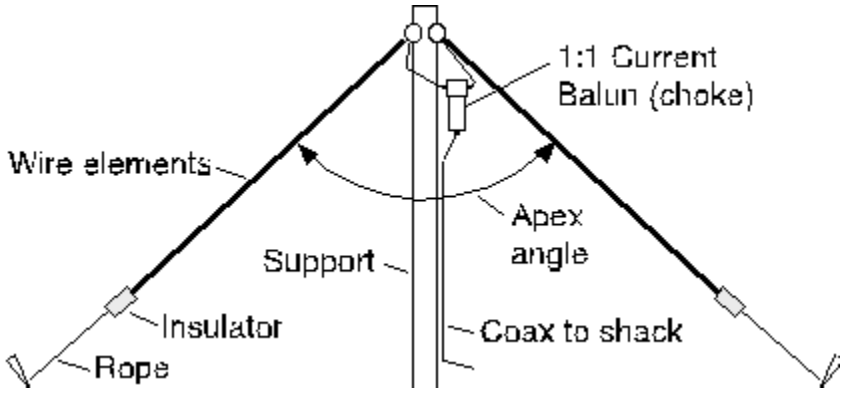

Figure 1. Typical inverted vee construction.

What are the properties of an inverted vee, compared to a flat dipole at the same height? What you'll add is some vertically-polarized radiation, a more omnidirectional pattern, and sometimes a lower SWR. What you'll lose is a bit of peak gain since the pattern of the dipole has diminished. Exact results will depend upon A) the apex angle and B) height above ground.

I did some simulation in EZNEC to compare a 40 m dipole to an inverted vee. Everyone should explore this free and very powerful program, available from https://www.eznec.com/ and discussed in the ARRL Antenna Handbook among other places.

Both antennas were placed at 30 ft (30 ft apex for the inverted vee), and I tested the apex angle at 100 and 130 degrees. The SWR chart in Fig. 2 shows the differences but any of these are completely acceptable to any radio with an antenna tuner. In general, the smaller the apex angle, the lower the feedpoint impedance but eventually the mismatch could become problematic if you collapse the antenna much below about 90 degrees. Also, if the ends get very close to the ground the impedance can change rapidly. Keep them up 6 ft or so and it's fine.

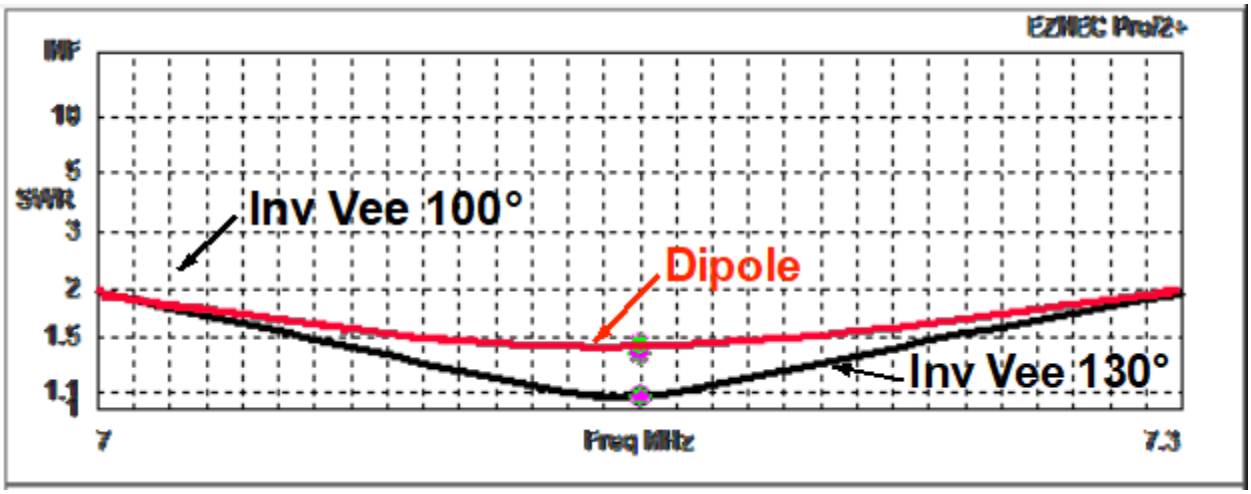

Figure 2. SWR comparison over average ground conditions.

As the inverted vee arms swing downward (smaller apex angle), the pattern in azimuth becomes more omnidirectional (Fig. 3). Note that this dipole doesn't have a very strong pattern either. That's because it's quite low, at only 1/4 wavelength in altitude. You really need to get a dipole up 1/2 wavelength or higher in order to see substantial nulls off the ends (vertical axis in the plot). And if they were up at 1/2 wavelength, peak gain of both antennas would be 3 dB greater. So the rule "as high as possible" is a good one.

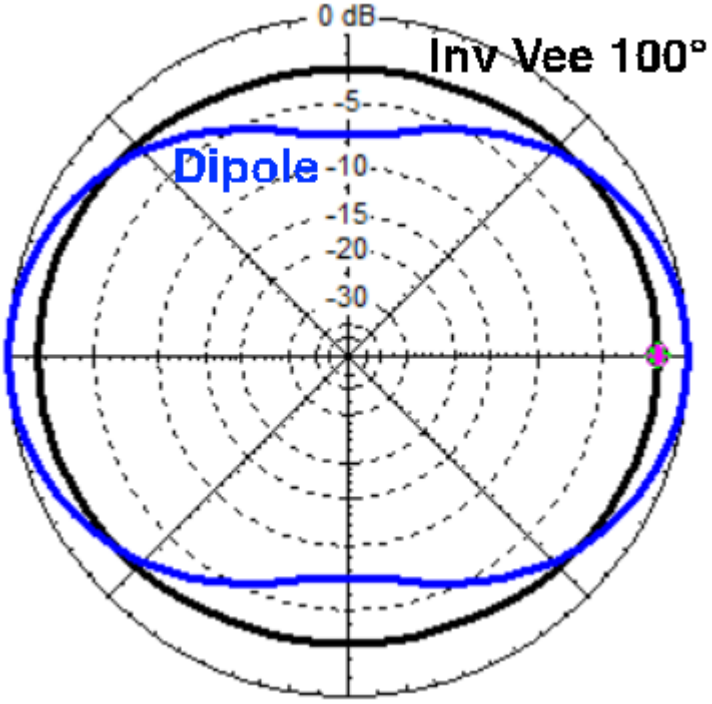

Figure 3. Azimuth pattern comparison. Outer ring is 4.0 dBi.

Comparing the elevation patterns in Fig. 4, there is again little difference, only a couple of dB even with the steeper arms. Also you can see that the gain is highest straight up, which is typical of any low, horizontally-polarized antenna. This is ok for local communication, but less desirable

for long-range DX where low takeoff angles are needed. Still, you do radiate significant energy at some low angles and the antenna is generally useful.

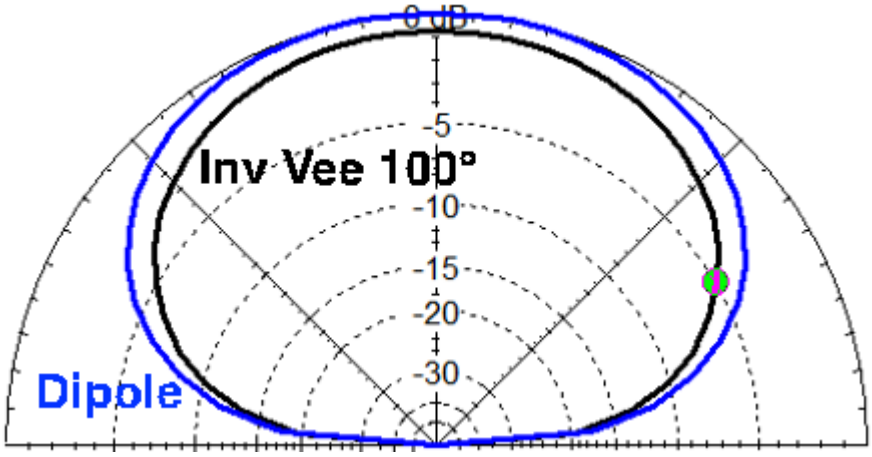

Figure 4. Elevation pattern comparison. Outer ring is 7.3 dBi.

In conclusion, the inverted vee can be more convenient to install than a dipole since only the center is at high altitude, and you pay only small penalty in terms of overall performance. Note that you can turn it into a multi-band antenna just like a dipole by adding parallel elements (a fan) or traps.

W6SR

Hi All

As most of you know I have been a closet DXer since moving to a gated-community in El Dorado Hills, 5 years ago. Not my choice, but my wife Karen, had developed Parkinson's and that has been complicated by Alzheimer's. So you do what needs to be done.

I have been fortunate to have friends in our HAM community that have let me put a remote station (Flex-6500 and small PA) at their site.

4 years ago, Fred, KH7Y was kind enough to let me setup at his FB Pine Grove location. He let me join-in several multi-ops for CQP and a few DX contests. Fred has recently (as of March 1st) relocated to Deming NM. Needless to say, I lost my remote site.

However, Bob, W1RH has taken pity on this OM, and graciously agreed to host me. Currently, I piggy-back into his Flex-6700, and we use my Ameritron 1306 PA. I also deployed my 6M M2 5 element yagi in his backyard, just 6ft off the ground. However, if your 700' above everything, 6' don't mean much. We have already worked CE and HC on 6M in the last week. And, HC was a new band country for Bob on 6M. I have an Acom 1200S 1KW all mode PA, that will soon replace the 1306 PA, and hopefully in the future my Flex-6500 will get into the mix. Bob has plans to modify some, and add, more antennas to enhance his SO2R setup, as well as make remote multi-single contesting less of a setup chore.

So this old fart is still lying in the weeds, and will pounce on all the DX he can when the opportunity presents itself.

BTW: For the first time in 5 years I'm planning to go to Visalia. Our oldest son will be at our house with his mom. Hope to C U all there, I have missed all your smiling faces!.....de Rick, W6SR

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Club Log Standings 2024

Overall

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	191
1	W6DE	Dave Engle	191
2	NK7I	Rick Bates	189

CW

1	K6YK	John Lee	151
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	131
3	W6DR	Dave Ritchie	112

Phone

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	115
2	N6WM	Chris Tate	94
3	K6TQ	Dave Sanders	77

Data

1	NK7I	Rick Bates	183
2	W6DE	Dave Engle	173
3	NJ6G	Dennis Moore	172

Awards Checkers ARRL

Rick Samoian, W6SR

(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

MLDXCC Focus Contests

*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

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-forecas

Upcoming Events

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

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

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.

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

Kenwood TS-590S with power cord, microphone, dust cover. $700.00

Yaesu FT-897 with power cord and microphone. HF output is good, VHF/UHF output does not work (separate antenna out). $350.00

(209)329-2951 dsmoore63@gmail.com

73, Dennis NJ6G

COAX FOR SALE

For Sale: 272 feet of 1 ¼ " Andrew Superflex VXL6 Heliax. $750, connectors available. Brand new, still on original 5' diameter spool. All or nothing, no cutting to shorter lengths. Good for long run to antenna field. 0.146 dB attenuation per 100' at 30 MHz. 0.996 dB attenuation per 100' AT 450 MHz. I will deliver with-in most of Northern California (distance and location negotiable) for cost of gasoline. This will take a pick-up truck or large flat-bed trailer to move. Pick-ups with a 5' bed you will risk breaking your cab back window, plan accordingly. Dave, W6DE, 530-409-7877

Recently I acquired this tuner, site unseen, from a friend as part of a trade several months ago. My plan was to modify it for the remote radio setup. However, after received and inspected this unit it's condition is way too nice to modify. It's (IMHO) collector quality, original in and out. It even has the original, working SWR meter, relay, relay power supply and directional coupler cable. **But not the directional coupler.** Couplers are more available than the KW tuners since they were used on the 250W tuners also. I hate to see a vintage piece of collector quality gear hacked. Anyone interested in one of these? I can bring it to Visalia for inspection/pickup.
Price, you tell me, best offer takes it.
Contact me at ricksamoian@outlook.com

Rick, W6SR

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

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society
http://calaverasars.org/

Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Electronics Society (TCARES)
https://tcares.net/

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER