

THE NUGGET



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

May 2022

Volume 27 Number 5

From the President – NR6Q

Greetings from Valley,

This week is the Hamvention in Dayton. If you ever get a chance to go, I recommend it. The last time I went to Dayton the convention was at the Hara Arena. It's a Kind of Disneyland for hams. Hamvention is back in operation this year at the new location at the Green County Fairgrounds. MLDXCC is back to face-to-face meetings again also. We are trying to make sure we have our customary lunch get-togethers every month. If you get a chance to come by, I

recommend it. We are always looking for those who would like to participate with presentations, last week we had interesting stuff on real big tower projects as well as what it sounds like being at the other end of a DX pile up. It's great to get out and hang out with other hams. May 28th is CQ WW WPX CW and of course if you like the camaraderie, do something for Field Day.

Come to a meeting and make some noise on the bands!!

73, Greg Glenn, NR6Q

Next Meeting

Date: June – 18th

Time: 11:30

Location: George's Bar and Grill in Lockeford.

Former country café

18700 CA-88, Lockeford, CA 95237

Presentation: TBD

MLDXCC Treasurer - K6SZQ

MLDXCC Treasurer's Report - April 2022

3/31/2022	Opening Balance	\$2,777.32
	Income	\$0.00
	2022 Dues - Paypal	
	2022 Dues - Checking	
	2021 Dues - Checking	
	Expenses	\$0.00
4/30/2022	Ending Balance	\$2,777.32

From the Secretary – W6BRY

Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

General Meeting Minutes

May 14th, 2022

Break Room, Shingle Springs, CA

Before the meeting technical issues with the equipment forced the cancelation of the Zoom portion of the meeting.

Meeting called to order 12:43pm by Greg Glenn NR6Q. There were approximately 15 members in attendance.

There was no treasurer report this month.

Steve Allred, NC6R moved to accept the April minutes as published in the Nugget. Seconded by Norm N6JV. Motion passed

Norm N6JV picked up a new prefix to reach 5,800 lifetime prefixes.

Rhino, N6RNO noted that the new ARRL website authentication has been variously reported as troublesome. This issue does not yet affect LOTW. Some users have reported that Firefox is not supported in initially connecting to the ARRL site. Use a Chrome based browser (Microsoft Edge worked for N6RNO) to initial connect and authenticate.

Steve W1SRD has returned from TX5N DX-pedition and brought a 3 hour audio recording on air sideband behavior from the DX side. NA operators generally are well behaved and rates over 200/hour are possible. JA operators seen to have degraded but still high rates over 150/hour are still possible. EU operators are horrible and ignore guidance. Rates are closer to 70/hour.

Steve noted that when working EU and calling up 5 to 10 that EU operators would cluster at 5

and 10 Khz and there would be no-one in the middle.

Steve presented audio showing this behavior as he worked up the band. At the edges it was almost impossible to pick up any partial calls. As Steve moved toward the middle the trash improved and partial calls could be heard. In the center of the band there was no noise and when found calls were worked very quickly.

One of the calls near the edge took almost 40 seconds to work.

Bob Hess W1RH gave a great presentation on the evolution of the KOVR transmitting tower. Lots of anecdotes about "proper use of helmets and safety harnesses in complete compliance with OSHA" while providing photos that would say otherwise. Great video of helicopter used to install antenna.

Motion to adjourn by Steve W1SRD.

Meeting adjourned 2:03PM.

"Rhino" N6RNO on behalf of
Brian Mathews, W6BRY

CLUB Dues

2022 dues are due!

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

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

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

Club Log Standings

Overall

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	212
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	205
3	NK7I	Rick Bates	183

CW

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	122
2	K6YK	John Lee	121
3	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	106

Phone

1	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	103
2	NC6R	Steve Allred	102
3	K6YK	John Lee	96

Data

1	N6JV	Norm Wilson	185
2	W1SRD	Steve Dyer	177
3	W6DR	David Ritchie	176

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

Member Reports

My current project is STARLINK!

After waiting for 14 months, it finally arrived at my doorstep.

Initially, I just placed it on my roof for testing. This turned out to be a poor location. There were quite a few tree obstructions towards the north.

However, it still did connect and provide internet service. I wasn't pleased with the connection speeds though.

Next, I routed the proprietary cable through the wall, and out to the back field. Sitting it on top of a 55-gallon drum next to the fence, it now has 0 obstructions.

After moving the dish, I saw considerably increased speeds. The average is between 100 and 200mbps down and around 8-10mbps up.

I then put those speeds to the test and downloaded a 75GB file. The speed went up and down, but

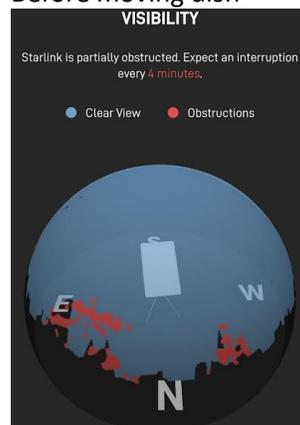
averaged around 150mbps over the entire download.

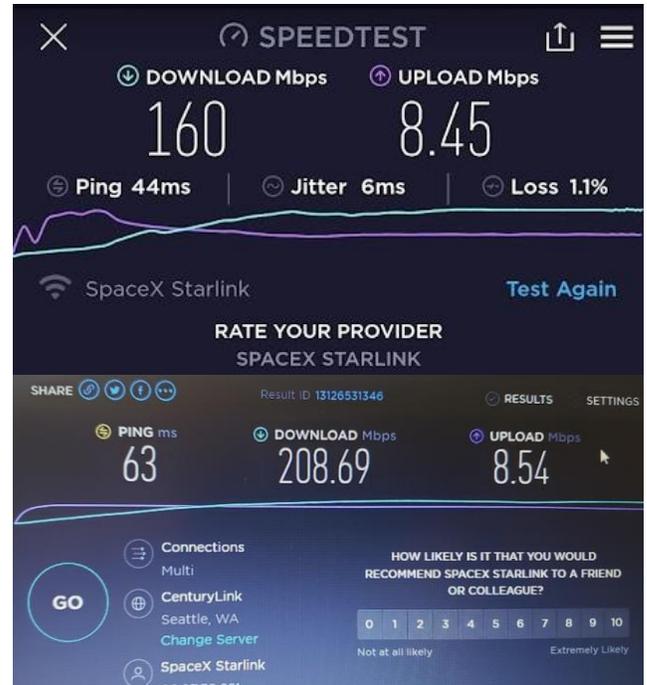
This is so much better than my current Cal.Net connection.

So far I'm pleased with the service. Now I'm just waiting on an Ethernet adapter, so I can switch all of my internet equipment over to the Starlink and see how well it works for remote ham radio.



Before moving dish





After moving dish



Doug WE6Z

VU4W - Worked him for an ATNO

Good sig
 73, Jim K6JS

VU4W

153930	-18	0.9	798	~	NK7I	VU4W	-15
154000	-19	0.9	738	~	NK7I	VU4W	-15
154030	-17	0.9	738	~	NK7I	VU4W	-15
154100	-18	0.9	738	~	NK7I	VU4W	-15
154130	-17	0.9	740	~	NK7I	VU4W RR73	

It's doable on 17, but it ain't easy. 1485 watts into 4 elements at 60'. Band slot 2 is in the log!

GL, Rick NK7I

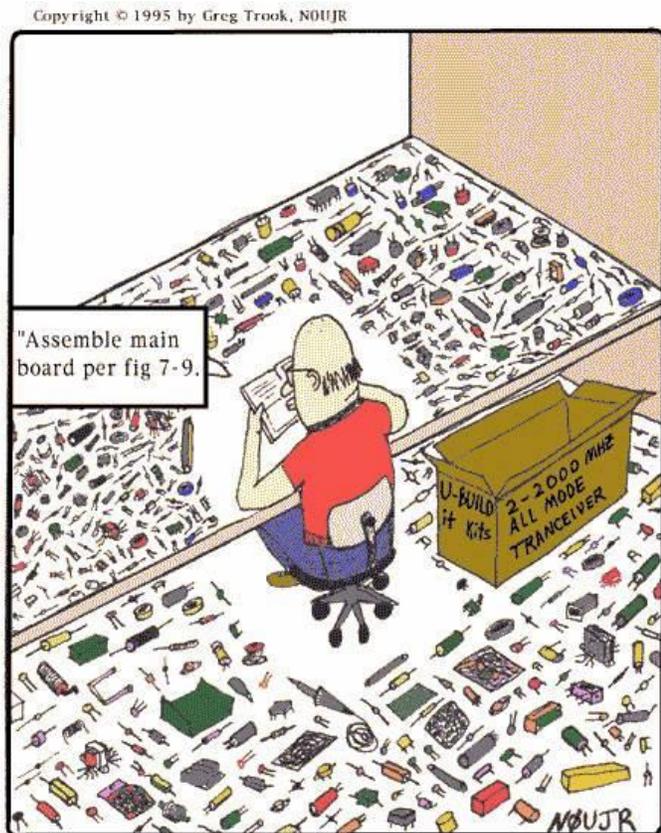
9N7CI (Nepal) - Worked up about 1.5, hears pretty well.

73, Rick NK7I

SV9DJO - Worked barefoot, simplex, one call. Listen fast, he rattles right along (~40 WPM). Just a fun morning on CW.

73, Rick NK7I

VU4W - Just worked. Still calling more EU, but good sigs and working occasional NA.



Kit fun.

State & Province QSO Party Calendar

<https://qsoparty.eqth.net/index.html>

73,

Steve / NC6R

ARRL Contesting Certificates

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

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

Awards Checkers ARRL

Ken Anderson, K6TA

(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR

Tube of the Month

811() – 812()

The October 1939 issue of RCA's "Ham Tips" featured a pair of new triodes. The [811](#) and [812](#) are rated at 55 watts of dissipation and featured Zirconium coated plates. At 1500 volts and 150 mA, a pair could be run at 450 watts input. The difference between the tubes was the mu. The 811 had a mu of 160 and the 812 had a mu of 29. These tubes were marketed to hams for only \$3.50 each.

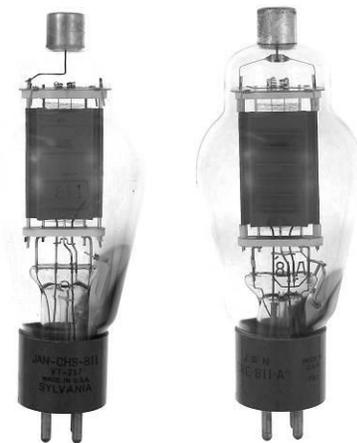
The 811 was primarily intended to be a zero bias modulator tube and the 812 was the choice for an AM modulated final tube where it required less drive. The 811 was designated VT-217 by the military and they were used as the modulation tubes in the famous Collins airborne transmitter the AN/ART-13 and in some SONAR equipment. There appears to have been little use for the 812 during WWII so its production was limited.

The 811s were popular tubes after the war but its shortcoming was the thin plate that tended to melt in the middle if you abused it. In 1949, RCA

addressed the problem by adding lateral fins on the plate increasing the dissipation by 10 watts and keeping the plate from sagging when it got too hot. The new tubes were the [811A](#) and [812A](#). Zero bias tubes became popular with the advent of SSB and the decline of AM. Collins used four of the 811As in its 30L1 amplifier that was made for military and ham use. Gonset and Heathkit also made amps with the 811A. With tube production declining in the United States and strong demand remaining, production in China and Russia attempted to fill the demand. Because of the potential for plate sagging when the tubes are mounted on their sides, amplifiers like the 30L1 mounted the tubes with the plates oriented vertically. Some early Chinese tubes had the base rotated 90 degrees to the plate allowing the dreaded sag to short the tubes. The Sacramento Army Depot had an instrument repair lab where they used an RF heater to remove the solder that sealed the cases on panel meters. The heater used three 812A tubes in parallel and they

had melted the plates. I went home and found a few well used but workable tubes and got them back in business. It's good to have a tube guy on staff.

Eighty years after its origination, the 811 still maintains its popularity in a new generation of ham amplifiers.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Focus Contests

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

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

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

Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) announced their focus contests at their August

2018 meeting. This list can be found in the Aug 2018 NCCC newsletter.

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

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 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>

UPCOMING Events

For the latest contest info, click on the following link:
<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcalendar.html>

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.

Still looking for one straight section of Rohn 45 tower.

Contact Rick, W6SR
ricksamoian@outlook.com

For Sale - Harvey Wells Senior TBS-50C Transmitter and Power Supply - \$249.00

My old 1950's TBS-50C is in very good physical and working condition. It puts out 40 watts at 3885 KHz (my last 75-meter crystal). The transmitter works the bands available at that time from 80 to 2 meters.

Because the transmitter multiplies the 807 final to 6 and 2 meters, not much more than 1 to 2 watts output is produced. The AM modulator uses two 6L6's and a carbon mike. A spare 807 is included. Modifications are out on the internet to convert it to 160 meters.

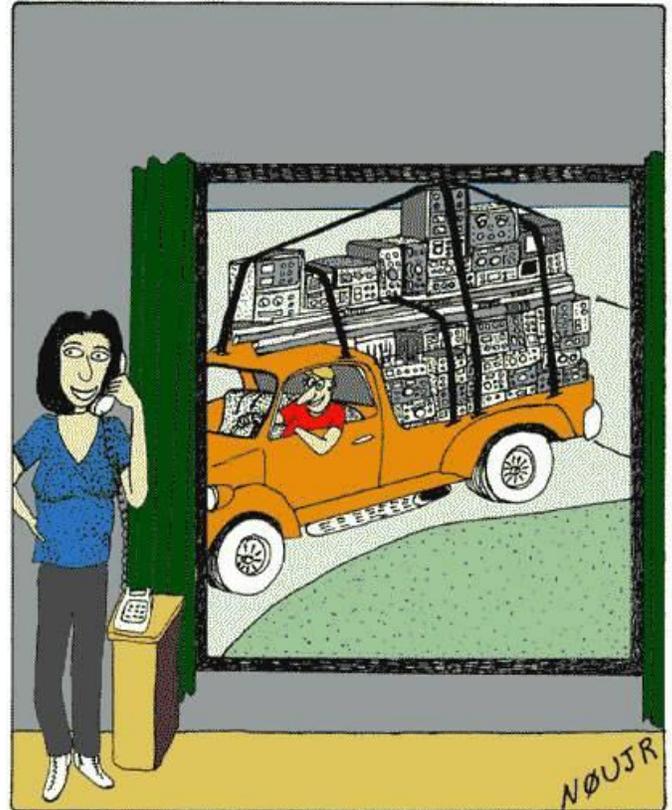
The matching Harvey Wells power supply has been restored using diodes versus the 5U4G tubes and has been recapped.

A copy of the manual is included.

I have more pictures available. Just request them at n6ghz@arrl.net.

73's Bill – N6GHZ





"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple old radios that were cluttering up the place...Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"

Hamvention 2022

Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association

May 20-22, 2022

Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center

Swapmeets

The Northern California Swap

Thursday evenings at 8 PM local on the N6ICW repeater system 147.195 +123

Join Armand WB2ZEI and the group to buy, sell, or trade amateur radio related gear. Check-ins and visitors welcome.

Hamvention will be held May 20, 21 and 22, 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. For more information, please select the tabs below or use the navigation menu above to visit pages of interest. If you have a specific question that isn't answered on the site, please [contact us](#).

The entire staff of Hamvention volunteers is working hard behind the scenes to make our fourth year

at Hamvention's new home at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center even better.

<https://hamvention.org>

2022 Carmichael Elks Ham Swap Meet SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 AT 7 AM – 11 AM

The Carmichael Elks 2022 Annual Ham Swap is scheduled for Sunday, May 29 from 7 am to 11 am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge on the corner of Cypress and Hackberry, 5631 Cypress Ave, Carmichael, CA 95608. Parking is free to buyers on the East lot.

For Sellers, South lot spaces are \$10 each space. Thank an Elk for this great price!

The Elks Lodge will be selling coffee, water, maybe dogs and doughnuts.

There will be an electronic salvage trailer available for stuff you want to donate. This is a LEAVE NO TRACE event. We want to leave the Elks facility cleaner than we found it!

Covid-19 Masks are not required but welcome at this outdoor event.

Cheers -- I'm John Dyer KJ6JD
www.johndyer.com



Summer Ham Swap at Cabelas, Reno, Nevada 8650 Boomtown Garson Rd. Verdi, NV (RENO) Saturday, May 21, 2022

Talk-In Repeater: 147.210 + PL 100.0
DMR: Talk Group: SNARS (31328)

<http://renohamswap.com/>

N7RCA 19th Annual Electronics Swap Meet/Hamfest June 4, 2022

ARRL Sanctioned Event

*Electronics, Ham Radio, Audio, Hi-Fi, Boat Anchors,
Radio, Computers*

Rain or shine event | 7:00 am until 12 pm

This is a free event for buyers and sellers.



<https://www.n7rca.com/>

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

2022 Meeting Dates

January – none
 Feb – none
 March – 19th
 Apr – 16th
 May – 14th
 June – 18th
 July – 23rd
 August – 27th
 September – 17th
 October – 22nd
 November – 19th
 Dec – TBD

*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>

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/>

Please contact the editor to have your club listed here.

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