

The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, 15 April, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Where: Round Table Pizza in Martell.

What: The program for April will be a DVD of preparations for the 3Y0X, Peter I Island DXpedition. Thanks to Gary, KI6T for the loan the DVD.

DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE!!!

Basic dues are \$15 minimum. It is \$10 more, if you want a paper copy of the 'Nugget'. Donations gladly accepted. Please, pay at meeting...next best, mail to Treasurer, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD at Box 273, Somerset, CA., 95684-0273.

The following people have NOT paid their 06 dues: W6AJW, W6DE, WB6GEF, K6GT, N6GWT, W6HFM, WK6I, W6ISO, N6TV, KF6T, K6TTT, AE6Y

FROM THE PREZ

Rich; NU6T@ARRL.net; 916-962-2431

Congratulations to everyone who had a good time in the WPX and other contests. This must be a good contest for my call as several high serial number run stations thanked me for the new mult. I was surprised at the 10m opening and managed a few contacts. I see I have about 870/360 WPX worked/confirmed. Perhaps I'd better see what it takes for some wallpaper?

Job Opening Filled

We have a new Webmaster. Jeff Stai, WK6I, has taken on the task of building and maintaining our web pages, and keeping us informed of ongoing and upcoming events and issues. Much appreciated, Jeff

Meeting agenda (Time "suggested"):

- 11:30 Board Meeting
- 12:00 Call to order and Agenda Review
- 12:03 Officer Roll Call
- 12:05 New Member/Guest Introductions
- 12:10 Recognition of achievements, milestones and other
- 12:15 Old/Ongoing business
 - Minutes review and acceptance

- Treasurer report, including presentation of proposed budget or issues
- Committee reports
- Weekly Net review
- Club Goals/Planning
 - o Visalia?
 - o FD planning?
 - o Joint Meeting
 - o CQP planning

12:45 New business

- Upcoming contests/DX
- Review action items

13:15 .Break/Presentation Setup

13:30 Guest Speaker/presentations:

15:00 Adjourn

Contesting

You can't be a ham for long and not become introduced to the great CW debate. I'm not trying to go there, but I did become a ham in part due to my great interest, and complete lack of ability, in Morse code. Since I first learned translation, and then had to learn to unlearn it, I tend to practice in my own way and mostly off-air. One of the off-air tools I use is Morse Runner. The newest version, 1.62, includes two contests, WPX and HST. We all know WPX, but I was less familiar with HST. This is the High Speed Telegraph World Championship.

The IARU Region 1 HST Working Group has selected a special version (1.61) of Morse Runner for use at future Region 1 HST Championships. (<http://www.iaru-r1.org/>)

<http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner>

I find MorseRunner a fun, if challenging, pastime and enjoy the scoring as a way to gage my improvement. The single call and pile-up modes are good practice for me. Who knows, someday I may enter a real contest ;-). I've barely managed to keep at it for a whole hour using the contest mode of MorseRunner. For those

who do, the program will present a score summary you can upload to the contest results web page for the world to see. The top score has held for quite while:

#	Call	Points	Mult	Score
1	YU1	288	212	61056

Date
2005-08-21

I may have to get a score into the top 1000:
1000 M0BQI 17 17 289 2006-03-16

DX?

Five new DX in two months. Sun cycle must be on the up tick. If this keeps up, I'll be half way to the Honor Roll by year's end! In the March column, I mentioned that I managed to work JT1CO in Zone 23 for 37 of 40 in my quest for WAZ. Now I need Zones 26 and 34. I'm in the hunt again.

Last time I made a serious attempt to bag a rare DX, the mission ended poorly, though the lessons were valuable. December 2004. My family was visiting the in-laws and the three dogs (two canine, one human) were staying home after Christmas. Since I had to stay in town, I had an opportunity to concentrate on DX for several days. I pulled all the propagation reports I could find to assure that I did not miss an opportunity. I had been SWL on many contacts, but had no success on my own. I was up early, as usual, on Sunday morning. I switched on the radio, tuned up, checked the cluster, and listened for the DX. I didn't hear what I expected. VU4 was not in DX mode. The rest is tsunami history.

Now it is April 2006. I expected to attend the Visalia DX Convention, April 21-23 2006, and am disappointed that I won't be there for the first time since I was licensed (I was counting on winning that MA-40 tubular mast). However, I may be home for a few days during the HAMFEST (VU4) INDIA - 2006 which will be taking place in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on April 18-20, 2006, and that may have a silver lining. A number of groups have indicated that they will be DXing from VU4 and I may have another chance. This time I understand that VU4 is in Zone 26. Rare DX and a needed Zone. Of course, I might have a better chance at Visalia if they are still on the air over the weekend and I have a chance at the typically set up top-of-the-line contest rig and Force 12 antenna system. Oh well. HAMFEST (VU4) INDIA - 2006 is an event that recognizes the value and efforts of Indian and international hams who assisted tsunami emergency and relief communications. Bravo! Next? Zone 34: 5A7A, Libya -- November 14th - 28th 2006. They will have a focus on

W6/7. ST2BF, Fernando, is active from Sudan today. I've been listening to the deserving as I write this. Good DX everyone.

THE VP SEZ

I have agreed (with the ARRL) to write some simplified instructions for new users of Logbook of The World (LOTW). I am looking for someone who has never used LOTW to try out the instructions for me to see if they are really easy to follow. I recently joined LOTW for the first time and uploaded 11,000 QSO's. I got QSL's on over 2,000 of them.

For May's program, Kristen, K6WX will talk about software defined radio. To get in the mood for this, I ordered a "Soft Rock" receiver from KB9YIG, which should be here this week. This is a \$15 board that connects to an antenna and the sound card on the computer. I will install free software that turns my computer into a radio receiver. Well really a spectrum analyzer/panadapter. I will be able to see any weak signals on the whole band at once and click on a signal with the mouse to hear it. This should be great for 160 meters and get me away from listening to white noise while turning a knob for hours. I will try doing some shoot outs versus the FT1000, which IMHO is the pinnacle of the analog radio.

My MonstIR arrived last week. If monsoon season ever ends, maybe I can get started on getting this thing up on the 106 ft crank up. Alfa Spid will be showing their new rotator at Visalia. I may go with that mounted on top of the tower. Otherwise, I will use the OR2800 that is already in the tower. I plan to build the N4ZZK tilt plate so I can mount the MonstIR on the tower while tilted over. This avoids tower climbing, even to the 20 ft level.

The Galt remote HF base is now fully operational, complete with the SteppIR and the beverages on 160 through 10 meters. I have plans to add 6 meters as well. This should come in handy for DXpeditions that are on during the week when I am in Cupertino.

I went to the flea market in Cupertino on Saturday, when we miraculously had no rain. Norm was there with his tubes

and his unique hat (what is that anyway?). Not many other sellers; probably scared off by the weather forecast that said rain.

Last week's Livermore flea market was rained out. **Rick N6RK**

CQ CQ FD 2006 de K6AO!!

It may only be April, but this is a great time to start talking about this year's MLDXCC Field Day Operating Event. That's because Field Day weekend is a mere 10 weeks away and June 23-25 will soon be upon us. I'm pleased to serve as your Field Day Coordinator again this year and I prefer to start planning early, because it makes for less stress later. Hey - we did great last year! We operated in Class 2A again, making 2,616 contacts and finishing with a score of 8,902, which put us in 13th place in class nationwide. That was an improvement over 2004, when we scored 7,850 points, finishing in 25th place in class 2A. The Peddler Hill location was great (as usual), the club's newly acquired 4-element 20-meter beam and 40-meter wire beam performed well, and the operators had a fun weekend. Fun - that's really what Field Day weekend is all about, plus the fellowship that takes place among club members when we work together as a team to accomplish a goal. Over the past four years, our goal has been to simply achieve a higher overall score than the previous year. So far - we have reached our goal every year!!

Every time that we go out as a club and participate in this event, we learn from the things that went well and also from the things that didn't work so well. We have improved on the things that didn't work so well and continued to do the things that worked OK and that has been the secret to increasing our score each year. For those of you that are new to our club, let me stress that everyone has a role to fill for Field Day and we cannot have too many participants. Even if you can only come up on Sunday morning to help a bunch of weary operators take everything down and pack it up, your participation is encouraged. Having said that, I would like to hear from club members that would like to participate in our event this year. You can e-mail me at wx6v@sbcglobal.net and let me know how much time you can commit to our event. Feel free to ask any and all questions about Field Day and what we will be doing over the course of the weekend. So far, commitments for participation have been received from the following members (in no particular

order): WB6GEF, N6RK, K6LRN, K6TKD, WK6I, NU6T, and WX6V.

In the next few weeks, I will be sending out a checklist to all of last year's participants that brought rigs, support gear, antennas, and antenna support structures. I would like to know if you plan on bringing these items up to our Field Day site again this year. That way, we can determine what items we still need and put out an appeal for them via e-mail or in "The Nugget." I would also like to know if someone will be able to bring up at least one travel trailer to be used as a rig site, inside eating area, and restroom. Concerning that last item, the club rented a "Wee Chateau" last year and the members in attendance reimbursed the cost. We may choose this route again for this year.

That's about it. We can discuss these things and more at our upcoming club meetings over the next three months. Hope to see you there. **Jim -WX6V-**

Member news, feedback & stuff for sale.

The certificate that we received from CQ magazine for our 1st place 6th call area/ 7th place U.S. finish as an M/S entry in the 2004 WPX contest using my (WX6V) call. WX6V, W6SR, NU6T, KG6CMS, K6LRN, and K6TKD participated de **Jim/WX6V**

Cushcraft A148-3S 3 element 2 meter beam. Free for the having. Pickup only ASAP please. 73 - **Ron NZ6O**

I'll bring maybe a half dozen old publications to the meeting, to be sold for the benefit of the club. One or two classic radio engineering texts, a 1956 ARRL handbook, and, can you believe this, a 1936 (not a typo, nineteen thirty six, seventy years old) ARRL handbook! Remember, folks, every penny of the sale price goes to MLDXCC! Stop at the ATM on your way to the meeting! I'll also bring a small load of computer networking stuff, ethernet and wireless, hopefully to be sold as one lot and of course for the benefit of the club. This is a repeat but I have some excellent F12 4 el 10s and 4 el 15 ants as well as a 5 el 20, all at half published price. Also a beautiful

2x8877 HF amp with new tubes for \$4K. A LOT of other stuff to follow. **Bill K6KM**

I worked in the WPX/SSB for about 20 hours. My details are:

CONTEST: CQ-WPX-SSB
CALLSIGN: AA6K
CATEGORY: SINGLE-OP ALL LOW
CATEGORY-OVERLAY: TB-WIRES
QSOs 200, PREFIX 162
CLAIMED-SCORE: 70308
OPERATORS: AA6K
CLUB: Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

I was suprised at the band conditions on 20 meters on Saturday evening. The storm on Saturday morning destroyed my inverted Vee that I use for 40 & 80 so I was stuck on 20. Anyway, it was just after 18:00 local time (02:00Z) when I came across TU2CI calling CQ. He was an honest S5 and I logged him at 02:09Z. I had no idea that 20 would be open to Africa an hour past sunset!!!

New Subject...I wish to upgrade my HF so I think I'd like to purchase a good condition IC-756ProII. If anyone has one they'd consider selling let's talk! **Shirl/AA6K**

The dead band conditions suit my low power operating just fine. I've worked and confirmed two new ones since the first of January plus 71 band fillers. The lack of noise and light pileups have made for some easy picking. I still have a four element 20 meter mono-bander for sale. \$200.00 or best offer. It's on the tower and can be checked out before removal. I'll replace the mono-bander with a Force 12 C19 for more punch on 15 and 20 when the bands open. Check out the club web site. Jeff has done a great job.
Ray ND6S

The Amador Club will again hold a Ham Cram at the Jackson Sr. Center on April 29, 2006 at 9AM. Ham Cram is a one day class on how to pass the Tech Test and is not to be confused with how to be a Ham. Upgrades and code tests are available by appointment. Call Ray ND6S 209-267-5958 for a reservation. Ham Cram Fee is \$25.00 including the test fee and FCC license for ten years. The Club banquet will be held on May the 6th at Wendel's in Moke Hill. Time and reservation information to follow.

The Amador Club will again operate from Mt Zion during Field Day. We have 12 new hams to get started operating HF during FD.

Our thanks and a check to the NCDXF for the video on Market Reef. Thanks Dick, K6LRN.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Jackson SR Center at 7:30 with an eye ball at 7PM. Future programs are FD, CQP and computer logging. **Ray ND6S.**

A note for the MLDXCC newsletter. Stop by and say hello to Larry - K6YUI at the DX Convention in the prize room as I am running it again for the So Calif DX Club. See you all in 2 weeks. de **Larry, K6YUI**

EDITOR'S NOTES

This month has been a blur of rain, and more rain, punctuated by lousy radio conditions. On the plus side, we made a fun trip to Arizona where we saw my wife's cousin and visited our second home in Bull Head City for a few days. And, we even got snowed on in Kingman. Then we went-on to Los Angeles to see our and kids and Grandkids, as a result my radio activity was at a pretty low level last month.

By the way, if anyone needs any radio work done I can recommend John Klewer, N6AX (I have known him for the last 20+ years, when he worked for HRO). So while I was in LA, I dropped-off my ol' FT-1000D at John's place for all the latest mods., including new H/P hot carrier diodes, rerouting the noise blanker signal path and replacement of the front panel. I am impatiently waiting for the little beast to come back to try her out on the bands.

Oh yes, I did work one-whole-new band country (WOW) "TY5A" on 80M and that's it for the month! The early morning Long path on the 75/80 band has dried-up until next fall, and the 160M band is done as well. So, the plan here is to scheme and build for next season and turn-on the 6M rig.

In case you have forgotten, the International DX Convention in Visalia is scheduled for the 21-thu the 23rd of this month. All the information can be found on SCDXC website or just Goggle "International DX Convention". But I'll bet that most of you already have it on your calendar and are in the

count-down mode. **C U all the 15th de Rick W6SR**

MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT February 2006

Balance March 1, 2006: \$950.25

Income:	Donations	6.21
	Dues	15.00
	Round Table	
	Deposit refund	100.00
		121.21

Expenses: Speaker lunch 9.00

Balance March 31, 2006 \$1,032.46

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD Treasurer

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4 2 5 D X N E W S ***

60 Mike, PA5M is now working in Somalia and will be active in his spare time as 600M. He will operate mainly CW with 100 watts into wire antennas. Mike should be there for at least 6 weeks. QSL via PA7FM. Pictures and logs will be posted on <http://www.6o0m.pa7fm.nl/> as soon as available. [TNX PA7FM]

9A Fredy (DE0MST), Daki (9A2WJ), Boro (9A3KB), Emir (9A6AA), Sven (DF9MV) and Mathias (DL5MFL), plan to be active as either 9A0CI and homecall/p from Veli Rat Lighthouse (ARLHS CRO-183) on Dugi Otok (EU-170, IOCA CI-018) on 14-22 April. QSL 9A0CI via DE0MST, others via home calls. [TNX VA3RJ]

CE Zoli, HA1AG and Marco, CE6TBN will operate SSB and CW as XR4PI from Pupuya Island in the O'Higgins/Maule IOTA group (SA-NEW) during the weekend. They expect to be QRV late Friday evening (7 April) and to operate until Sunday (9 April) afternoon. The exact schedule will largely depend on local conditions. Feedback during the operation can be sent to xr4pi@dx.hu (messages will be read by the pilots and forwarded to the operators on the island). QSL via HA1AG, direct or bureau. Further information can be found at www.hg6n.hu/halag/xr4pi [TNX HA1AG]

DL Look for Detlev, DL1RTW/p and Klaus, DL7UXG/p to operate SSB and CW from Fehmarn Island (EU-128, O-01 for the German Islands Award) from 29 April to 1 May. [TNX DL8AAM]

DU Rag, LA6FJA plans to operate (on 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80 metres CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31) as DU1/KI4KJP from Luzon Island (OC-042), Philippines from 6 April to 1 May. QSL via WY4N. [TNX The Daily DX]

EA8 Michael/DL3FCG, Lars/DL6FCB, Fred/DL8MG and Reiner/DL4ZF will be active as EA8/homecall from Tenerife, Canary Islands

(AF-004) from 28 April to 5 May. QSL via home calls. [TNX DL3FCG]

EI The South Dublin Radio Club (EI2SDR) will operate as EI90GPO over the Easter weekend to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Easter Uprising of 1916. Activity will be on all HF bands from 80 to 10 metres. [TNX F5NQL]

F - Muriel, F0CXD and Arno, F4DCG will operate as TM4BFL on 9-19 April. This special call is in memory of Arnaud Smeulders, F4BFL, who died several months ago at 29 years of age. QSL via F4DCG, direct or bureau. [TNX F5NQL]

FO - Yves, F6CTL will operate from the Pacific between 18 June and 18 July. He expects to be active from the following islands (no exact dates):

Marquesas	Hiva	Ho	OC-027
Australes	Rurutu		OC-050
French Polynesia	Tahiti		OC-046
French Polynesia	Moorea		OC-046
French Polynesia	Huahine		OC-067
French Polynesia	Fakarava		OC-066
French Polynesia	Mangareva		OC-063

He plans to operate SSB and some CW on 10-40 metres using a vertical and dipoles. [TNX F6AJA and Les Nouvelles DX]

GM The Orkney Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.eu009.com>) will operate as MM0MWW from the Isle of Shapinsay (EU-009) on 13-17 April. They plan to be QRV with two stations on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters CW and SSB. QSL direct only to GM0IFM (see <http://www.eu009.com/qsllpolicy.htm> for their QSLLing policy). [TNX MM0MSS]

HA Chris, HA5X will operate as HA50MHZ until 31 December to celebrate the long-awaited legalization of 6 metres for amateur radio operators in Hungary. QSL via home call. [TNX HA5X]

HH Glauber, PS7EB will operate as HH/PS7EB from Haiti between 19 May and 25 November. He works for the Brazilian Army and has joined a group of Brazilian military forces that will work together with ONU on a peace mission in Haiti. Glauber plans to operate CW, SSB and digital modes using a multiband vertical antenna. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX PY7RP]

I ARI Sala Consilina (Salerno) members will operate special event station IO8VAT from 15 April to 15 May to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Vatican Radio. QSL via IZ8AJQ (bureau) or direct P.O. Box 11, 84036 Sala

Consilina - SA, Italy. [TNX IZ8AJQ]
I Fabio, IW1DFU reports he will operate as IA5/IW1DFU from Isola d'Elba (EU-028, IIA LI-001) on 23-29 April. Expect activity on 15, 20 and 30 metres.

J5 Simone, IV3NVN and Fabrizio, IV3DHD have been in Guinea-Bissau for one week, and expected to operate as J5UCW and J5UAF respectively from Pecixe Island (AF-093) on 1-5 April. This was a "spare time operation" with 100 watts into verticals, and the two experienced many problems with the generator. On 9-12 April they will be active (again in their limited spare time) from Caboxangue on the mainland. Fabrizio will sign J5UAF, while Simone will use J5UDX. QSL J5UCW and J5UDX via IK2ILH (direct or bureau), QSL J5UAF via IV3DHD.

JA Look for JA1KJW/6, JJI1JGI/6, JH1VWV/6 and possibly others to be active from Tsushima (AS-036, JIIA AS-036-022), Nagasaki prefecture on 21-23 April. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX JI6KVR]

JA Look for JA1KJW/4, JJ1JGI/4 and 7N4AGB/4 to be active from Oki Island (AS-041, JIIA AS-041-003), Shimane prefecture from 29 April to 8 May. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX JI6KVR]

JA Look for JA4ZKI/4 and JE6QIG/4 to operate from Oshima (AS-117, JIIA AS-117-108), Yamaguchi prefecture on 13-14 May. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX JI6KVR]

JA Look for JA1UNS/1, JI1PLF/1, 7NGMK/1, 7L4PVR/1 and 7N4VPS/1 to be active Hachijo Island (AS-043, JIIA AS-043-003) on 19-22 May. They plan to operate CW and SSB on the HF bands. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX JI6KVR]

OZ Mike/DK6QW, Claus/DF8QJ and Reinhard/DL6YFB will operate as OZ/homecall from Fano Island (EU-125) on 15-22 April. Expect activity on 80-10 metres CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

S0 Hitoshi, JH2UVL will be the pilot station for Japan for the forthcoming S01R DXpedition to Western Sahara [425DXN 775]. Bookmark <http://www.s01r.com/> for the latest updates and meews. [TNX EA5RM]

SM Bernd, DL8AAV will be active as SM1/DL8AAV/p from Gotland Island (EU-020) for two weeks starting on 24 May. [TNX DL8AAM]

SV Special event station SX2P will be active on 15-17 April to commemorate the century anniversary of the Intercalated Olympic Games that took place in Athens in 1906. [TNX The Daily DX]

UA Look for R3K to be aired from Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia on 10-16 April to commemorate the 45th

anniversary of Yuri A. Gagarin's first human flight in space (12 April 1961). QSL via RN3DK, direct or bureau. [TNX RN3DK]

VE Dana, VE1VOX will be active (on 15, 20 and possibly 40 metres SSB) as VE1OTA from IOTA group NA-081 on 14-16 April. Which islands he will operate from will be decided upon arrival to the area. QSL via home call, direct preferred. [TNX VE1VOX]

VU4 VU4AN will be the "prefix" for the 18-25 April activities from the Andaman Islands [425DXN 777]. According to first hand information collected by Charles Harpole, K4VUD (HS0ZCW), all licenced operators will have a VU mainland callsign that will be prefixed with VU4AN/: for instance Charles will be signing VU4AN/VU3CHE, while IK1PMR will use VU4AN/VU3TLY, IZ1GLO (K2LEO) will use VU4AN/VU3PLM, AA4NN will use VU4AN/VU3JLW, DL4KQ will use VU4AN/VU3FRK, etc.

W John, NY6DX will operate as NY6DX/1 from Block Island (NA-031) on 11-14 April. QSL direct via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]

W Scott, NE1RD and Dave, KZ1O will be active as K1P (Patriots Day special event call) from Deer Isle (NA-055) on 10-17 April. QSL via NE1RD, [TNX VA3RJ]

YB The YE5P team (17 members, including two from Malaysia and one from Singapore) will operate from Berhala Island (claimed to qualify for OC-107) starting on 7 April. They plan to be active on 15, 20, 40 and 80 metres, mostly SSB with some CW and digital modes. QSL direct to P.O. Box 154, Batam 29400, Indonesia, or via the bureau. [TNX YC3MM]

YJ Guenter, DL2AWG will operate as either YJ0AWG or YJ0WG from Port Vila (OC-035), Vanuatu from 19 April to 1 May. Expect activity on 10-40 metres SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via DL2AWG. [TNX NG3K]

YV0. Ramon/YV5EED, Edgar/YV2IF, Rey/YV5AMH, Jose/YV5ANT, Pablo/YV5IVB, Jose/YV5LIX, Antonio/YV5LMW, Eduardo/YV5MHX, Federico/YV5NCZ, Gregorio/YV5OHW, Alex/YV5SSB, Victor/YV5ZV, Jig/AD6TF and Ray/DL2GG are the operators for the forthcoming operation from Aves Island [425DXN 777]. YX0A should be QRV starting on 19 April and the expedition should end around 1 May. Suggested frequencies are 28475, 24987, 21295, 18145, 14190, 7093, 3750 and 1842.5 kHz (SSB); 28023,

24893, 21023, 18073, 14023, 10103, 7023, 3523 and 1822.5 kHz (CW); 3570, 10137, 14085, 18100, 21085, 24920 and 29580 kHz (RTTY); 3580, 10140, 14071, 18100, 21071, 24920 and 28071 kHz (PSK). The operators will also be listening for openings on 50110 kHz. QSL via KU9C. The web page for the expedition is at <http://www.yv0.info/>

DXCC NEWS The following operations are accepted for DXCC credit:

3Y0X Peter I Island Operation from 8 February through 19 February 2006

600N Somalia Operation from 18 January through 18 February 2006

YI/OM2DX Iraq Operation from 27 July through 21 September 2003

YI3SRA Iraq Operation commencing 3 October 2003

RD1AL/0 Victor Karassev, RD1AL is signing RD1AL/0 from a scientific drifting station in the Central Arctic Ocean until the end of April. Vic is running 100W into a vertical antenna. QSL via RD1AL (Victor Karassev, P.O. Box 73, St. Petersburg, 191119 Russia). [TNX DL5EBE]

QSL R45G The new QSL route for R45G is via RK3DZB, direct (P.O.Box 159, Zvyozdny Gorodok, 141160, Russia) or bureau. [TNX RU3DNN]

QSL U4MIR ---> The correct QSL route for U4MIR is via RN3DK (not RK3DZB). [TNX RU3DNN]

WRTC 2006: THE TEAMS ---> The teams for the next World Radiosport Team Championship (<http://www.wrtc2006.com>) were announced on 1 April.

- * National Special Invited Teams
- USA K1DG / N2NT
- Russia RA3AUU / RV1AW
- * National WRTC2006 Teams
- USA N6BV / AG9A
- USA N0AX / KL9A
- Slovenia S50A / S59AA
- Finland OH1JT / OH2IW
- Brazil PY2YU / PY1NX
- * Bi-National Young Teams
- Brazil / ... PY2NDX / TBA
- Italy / ... IZ3EYZ / TBA
- Croatia / Germany 9A6XX / DJ1YFK
- * Special Sponsored Young Team
- Denmark / Sweden OZ1AA / SM0W
- * Special Sponsored Lady Team
- Aruba / USA P43E / WA1S
- * Bi-National & National WRTC 2006
- USA-West W2SC / K5ZD EU-2-
- Germany DL6FBL / DL2CC
- USA-West N6MJ / N2NL EU-2-
- Poland SP7GIQ / SP2FAX

- USA-East K4BAI / KU8E
- EU-2-Czech Rep. OK1FUA / OK2RZ
- USA-East K1ZM / K1KI
- EU-2-Romania Y09GZU / Y03JR
- USA-Central N9RV / K3LR
- EU-1-Serbia YT6A / YT6T
- USA-Central K5TR / KM3T
- EU-1-Bulgaria LZ4AX / LZ3FN
- SA-Brazil PY2NY / PY2EMC
- EU-1-Italy IK2QEI / IK2JUB
- SA-Argentina LU1FAM / LU5DX
- EU-1-Croatia 9A8A / 9A5K
- OC- Hawaii / USA KH6ND / K9PG
- EU-1-France / USA F6BEE / W2GD
- NA- Canada VE3EJ / VE7ZO
- CA-Panama / HP1WW / N5ZO
- EU-3-Estonia ES5TV / ES2RR
- CA- Mexico XE1KK / XE1NTT
- EU-3-Russia RW3QC / RW3GU
- AS-JA-Japan JK2VOC / JA2BNN
- EU-3-Lithuania LY2TA / LY2CY
- AS-BY-China BA4RF / BA7NQ
- EU-3-Finland OH2UA / OH4JFN
- AS-Russia UA9AM / RZ3AA
- EU-3-Latvia YL2KL / YL1ZF
- AS-Cyprus 5B4WN / 5B4AFM
- EU-2-Ukraine UT4UZ / UT5UGR
- AF-So. Africa/Georgia ZS4TX / 4L5A The Sponsored Team's auction will be the weekend of 8-9 April. The Multi-National Multi-Single (MN MS) Teams will be announced soon.

MLDXCC General Meeting, 18 March 2006.

The Club President Rich Hill, NU6T, called the General meeting to order at 12:00 noon with 16 members and 3 visitors present at Round Table Pizza in Martell. No Board meeting was convened prior to the General meeting.

Officers' roll call was completed and copies of today's agenda were passed out to the members and visitors present. The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report of 25 February 2006 were accepted as printed in the Nugget newsletter.

Ray, ND6S, called for a volunteers to function as Net Control for the Club's weekly 2-meter net at 8:00 PM Wednesday evenings on the ACARC repeater, frequency 148.635. No volunteers responded.

A question still remained regarding possible changes in the ARRL contest rules for submission of Club scores. President Rich, NU6T, took an Action Item to query Sacramento Valley Section Manager Jettie, W6RFF of any changes.

Gary, KI6T, announced that the Club had indeed won the 2005 California QSO Party (CQP) Club category. Al, AD6E, stated that CQP score checkers should tally submitted scores against submitted member lists. Regarding "member in good standing", Ken, K6TA, stated that club dues are payable at the Board's discretion. The Board will meet and recommend after reviewing the Club by-laws.

It was suggested and agreed that recognition of achievements, milestones and other significant events be moved up in the agenda so that it falls immediately after the Officer's roll call.

Upcoming contests include CQWW WPX phone on the last weekend of March.

Members were reminded that the International DX Convention will be held in Visalia on 14-16 April. Jeff Stai, WK6I, is taking reservations for the Contest dinner on that Friday evening. Norm, N6JV, will be the speaker for the IOTA dinner that same evening and the Top Band dinner is also scheduled for that evening as well. It was the consensus of several members that the Club should offer our help in planning and executing tasks for the 2007 Visalia convention. Gary, KI6T, took an Action Item to contact the new President of the NCDXC to open that door.

Vice President Rick, N6RK and President Rich, NU6T, took an Action Item to contact Field Day Chairman Jim, WX6V, to determine the current planning status and inquire if he requires help.

The joint meeting between the Club and the Northern California Contest Club is still scheduled for 22 July; Ken, K6TA, reported that the event is on the NCCC calendar, the room has been reserved at the Senior Center in Jackson, and a possible candidate for the program might be the 3Y Peter 1st DXpedition.

Ron, NZ6O will be relocating to 4-land and the Club will not only be losing a valued member but also the Webmaster for our website. Possible candidates could include Jeff, WK6I, Norm, N6JV and perhaps Dennis, N6KD. Members were asked to consider any improvements to the current website for discussion at the next meeting. President Rich, NU6T took an Action Item to formally thank Ron for his service and membership.

Guests Donna Van Lone, KL0DM, Joy Mellera, KI6AJC and Nick Mellera, AI6N were welcomed, members introduced themselves and the guest speaker, Al Maenchen, AD6E/K7C presented an excellent program on the recent Kure Island DXpedition.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

OLD Foothill Flea Market

1st Sunday of each month moved has to DeAnza College, intersection of I280 and State Highway 85. The flea market is going under the name "ASVARA" (Assn. of S. Valley Amateur Radio Assns)?

Livermore Swap Meet

(see website for new location), 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west 145.35 from the east. Check at: larkswap.com

UP-COMING CONTESTS

Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 15 to 0400Z, Apr 16
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 to 1800Z, Apr 16
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 15 to 0500Z, Apr 16 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 17
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 17
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 20
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 22 to 0159Z, Apr 23 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 23
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 22 to 1700Z, Apr 23
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 28
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Spring Rally	0000Z, Apr 29 to 2359Z, May 7
SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest	0600 local, Apr 29 to 2400 local, Apr 30
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 29 to 1259Z, Apr 30
Alabama QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 29 to 0500Z, Apr 30
May, 2006	
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 2
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 5
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 6
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 6 to 0400Z, May 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 19
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
Manchester Mineira CW Contest	1500Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 20 to 0200Z, May 21

PROPAGATION FORECAST

SB PROP ARL ARLP007ARLP014 Propagation de K7RA.

Some renewed activity this week with the appearance of a crowd of sunspots, 865, 866, 867, 868 and 869. On March 25-27 there were 0 sunspots, then these new spots appeared on March 28, 29, April 2, 5 and 6. The big one, sunspot 865, is about to rotate out of view.

The daily sunspot number reached a peak of 105 on April 6. To find a daily sunspot number this high, one must look back to last summer, when the sunspot number on August 2 was 112, over seven months ago. But this is just another one of those little up-ticks as this solar cycle gradually declines, probably reaching a minimum in less than a year.

You can see the projection for the next year and a half in the current April 4 issue of the NOAA Preliminary Report and Forecast of Geophysical Data, in PDF format. Look on page 9 of this issue at, <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1596.pdf>. You'll see that the predicted smoothed sunspot number for April 2006 is 12, and that this chart predicts a decline that won't rise again to the current level until some time around August or September 2007. But after that, the next solar cycle (based on past cycle behavior) should rise faster than the current one declined.

With the first quarter of the calendar year ended, we should examine the decline of quarterly averages for daily sunspot numbers. Three months gives us slightly less than three and a third rotations of the sun, and is enough time to smooth out daily or weekly variations so we can see a more general trend.

From the first quarter of 2003 through the first quarter of 2006, the average daily sunspot number was 120.3, 107.3, 110.2, 99.2, 72.9, 71.3, 69.3, 61, 46.1, 55.7, 58, 36 and 18.1.

The average daily solar flux for the same period was 134.3, 124.2, 120.8, 137.4, 111.1, 99.5, 111, 104.8, 96.4, 93.1, 93.6, 84.5 and 78.5.

I think you'll agree the general trend is down. An average daily sunspot number of 18.1 for the first quarter of the year can be easily compared to the minimum between cycles 22 and 23. From the fourth quarter of

1995 to the second quarter of 1997, the average daily sunspot numbers for each quarter were 21.3, 13.1, 13, 12.4, 14.2, 11.3 and 25.4. You can see that our recent quarterly average of 18.1 fits right in toward the bottom of the last cycle.

For the near term, expect sunspot numbers and solar flux to decline gradually. Over the next week, U.S. Air Force Space Weather Operations predict a planetary A index for April 7-13 of 10, 8, 20, 15, 12, 7 and 5. Over those same days they show a decline of solar flux values from 100 to 80. Geophysical Institute Prague shows quiet to unsettled conditions for April 7, April 8 with quiet conditions, unsettled conditions on April 9, active conditions April 10, unsettled to active on April 11, April 12 unsettled, and quiet to unsettled on April 13. So Prague thinks the peak in geomagnetic instability should occur around April 10, but US Air Force predicts April 9.

And last, we depend on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Service for our main source of data. Funding for these services in the administration's 2007 budget was expected to stay at the current level, but now it looks like severe cuts may be coming. I put up some information about this on the web at, <http://tinyurl.com/nbnc7>.

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 and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see the ARRL Technical Information Service propagation page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is found at, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for March 30 through April 5 were 35, 39, 39, 68, 79, 62 and 88 with a mean of 58.6. 10.7 cm flux was 83.9, 86.3, 87, 91.1, 100.4, 99.5, and 99, with a mean of 92.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 2, 1, 1, 7 and 29 with a mean of 6.9. Estimated

mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 4 and 18, with a mean of 4.1.

MLDXCC 2006 Meetings 3rd Saturday (pending contest or other conflicts).

May 20
June 17
July 22 (Joint meeting with NCCC)
Aug 19
Sept 16
Oct 21
Nov 11
Dec 16

Membership Criteria

Membership criteria may be obtained by writing the Secretary/Treasurer at:

MLDXCC
PO Box 1073
Pine Grove, CA 95665-1073
The club website is: mldxcc.com

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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