

The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, 19 August, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Where: Round Table Pizza in Martell.

What: The August speaker will be Tom Carney, K6EU, who will present the basics of VHF contesting, VHF rovers, standard operating practices, how VHF contesting is different from HF contesting, and the future of VHF contesting. Tom will bring his VHF contest rover rig and will answer questions.

FROM THE PREZ

Thanks to all who helped with or attended the joint meeting with NCCC. Everything was good, but the chicken and tri-tip were wonderful! Thanks to Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, for his presentation of the 2005 K7C DXpedition.

Turnout was less than expected. Rick, W6SR, suggested it was all due to a "Perfect Storm." WRTC pulled a few regulars to Brazil, for the contest and a bit of vacation, and a few more had used up contest time and needed to attend to job jar work. Vacations, and out of town guests and other conflicts took a few more. New DX grabbed the attention of a few. A few had seen the presentation and combined with record breaking extreme heat and high gas cost decided to stay home and keep cool. Record weekend energy consumption throughout the valley suggests that folks everywhere just stayed home. Sacramento set a new record for consecutive days above 100 degrees at 12, I believe. Stockton was hotter and had one more day in their string, 13. My truck thermometer, with the truck in the shade, showed 115 F degrees (46 C) at Jackson after the meeting.

A second thank you to the members and others, and especially to the ladies, who worked the kitchen detail. While the meeting room was comfortable, the kitchen was HOT! We owe a debt to those who organize the table and clean up after the event. Thank you all.

We have had good turnout in the past. This year was exceptional. None-the-less, the question has been raised: should we consider

a different time of year or a different location. There has been some discussion on the email reflector. Winter, spring and fall dates have been suggested. Winter and spring dates might be more likely to conflict with contests, and may experience a real "perfect storm." A September date was suggested as a lead-in to CQP. Please be prepared to discuss this topic at the August meeting.

Some suggested alternate locations. Suggestions include meeting in the valley where we might combine the meeting with a tour of local radio or TV stations and transmitters, or combine the meeting with a wine tour. We might consider moving the meeting to higher elevation where temperatures may not be so hot. Another suggestion was to hold the meeting where we could buy lunch or dinner and avoid the cleanup. Let's consider these suggestions, and others, at the August meeting.

Jim, WX6V, gave a short summary of our successful Field Day activities, which I suspect will be covered in more detail elsewhere in the Nugget. We improved our score and had a great time. Thanks to all who participated.

Our next push will be for CQP. We have a few stations downsizing, and so will need more stations on the air and having fun if we are to keep our streak alive. Let's carry our Field Day success forward and take the club award again this year.

Meeting agenda (Time "suggested"):

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, new equipment and other

12:15 Old/Ongoing business

- Minutes review and acceptance
- Treasurer report, including presentation of proposed budget or issues
- Club Goals/Planning
 - o Visalia revisited?

- 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

I played in the RSGB IOTA contest again this year. Summer doldrums, I suppose. I keep thinking this should be a good contest to play in for new DX, but it just has not worked out that way. I think I need a big tower, amp and more sunspots (well, skill might help as well <grin>).

I have not yet set up for RTTY and so missed the North American QSO Party, RTTY. Next year I plan to be there. So how did our club do?

North American QSO Party, CW. I played in this one again this year and increased my score from 3 to 4 QSOs <grin>. Might have done a bit better if I had turned up the power after playing with MMTTY setup. QRP was not useful in this contest this year. I'm surprised the four heard me. Lots of listening though, and I've heard that is what makes a good ham better.

North American QSO Party, SSB. I managed to miss the fact that this contest will be ongoing during our meeting. We tried to adjust, but the alternatives were not to be. Next year.

DX?

Montenegro? Swains Island? Not heard here. Not yet one of the deserving.

New Members

Welcome to Pat Barthelow, AA6EG, of Rocklin.
Rich; NU6T@ARRL.net; 916-962-2431

THE VP SEZ

I have operated very little since field day. I did get on the air and worked KH8SI and 403T within 20 minutes. Fastest two all time countries I've ever worked.

I completed a wooden mock up of the MonstrIR tilt plate and have started machining the aluminum.

I changed ISP's which entailed several weekends of running CAT5 to the corner of the property that can see the Galt water tower 900 MHz antenna of the ISP. It was worth it because the new ISP has much better service than the old one. Now I don't get disconnected from the internet packet cluster telnet server. The internet remote base works much

better now, as far as radio control is concerned. I am currently using Skype for

audio, and it is still somewhat questionable for radio use, even using the new ISP.

I may try to get my phone patch setup working and use the landline for audio. I will also probably evaluate some other internet audio programs.

A speaker has accepted for the November meeting, and I have another that thinks he can do December. Still need programs for Sep and Oct. One of the things I do to get ideas for programs is to crash other radio club meetings and then approach the speaker if I think I am interested. I went to a club meeting last Friday and it reminded me of how special MLDXCC is. At this club, nearly all members had calls like KG6XXX and many were not even on HF. No Honor Roll members and probably not even DXCC holders. For the members of this club, Field Day is an emergency exercise that has a contest aspect to it. For MLDXCC, Field Day is a contest that has an emergency exercise aspect to it.

Rick N6RK

Member news/feedback.

I worked KH8SI but only on 17m. I worked 4N500ZZ on 20 CW and am trying to find out for sure if he was in Montenegro. Does any body know if he was, and if so, his QSL info? **Bill KI6PG**

EDITOR'S NOTES

Wow! KH8SI and YU6, two new countries added to DXCC in the same month. Did we die and go to heaven, or what? I don't want to say I was a "DX hog", but, I didn't work KH8SI on 10M. Yep, it was a clean sweep 160M-12M. And the YU6 I got on 30M, 20M and 18M. Oh I almost forgot I also worked 5W0JB on 160. Two new countries worked on 160M in the middle of summer, who'd' a thunk it?

What else you ask? Nothing, but who cares? HI HI

We are still working on splitting our 10 acre lot into two 5 acre chunks, and now have the (proposed) boundaries for both as well as two new home sites to choose from. We are told maybe; just maybe, next spring we may get approval. Oh well. **C U all the 19th de Rick W6SR**

MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT June 2006

Balance July 1, 2006:	\$673.36
Income:	
Dues	30.00
Donations	
AE6Y	5.00

KB6LAW	10.00
FD Potty	15.00
DX Conference-	
Contest Dinner	<u>150.00</u>
	\$210.00

Expenses: Joint Meeting	
Ice	15.40
Meats	<u>154.27</u>
	\$169.67

Balance July 31, 2006 **\$713.69**

Carolyn Wilson K6TKD Treasurer

MLDXCC General Meeting, 17 June 2006.

Club President Rich, NU6T, called the General meeting to order at 12:05 PM with 18 members and 1 visitor present at Round Table Pizza in Martell. No Board meeting was held today.

Officers' roll call was completed, guest Ira Stoler, K2RD, was introduced and copies of today's agenda were passed out to those present. Following a review of the agenda, two show-and-tells were added to the agenda. Jack, KF6T, announced that the plaque on the wall in Andy's shack (AE6Y at P49Y) confirmed that he had indeed won WPX 13 years ago from that station.

For show-and-tell, Jack, KF6T, demonstrated his new MicroHam Micro CW Keyer. Features include a transmitter, PTT, Keyboard, USB computer ports and router. Price is \$129.00 with cables; company has a good website and quick turnaround. Dick, K6LRN, demonstrated the "Ham Worry Dolls" made by Carolyn, K6TKD, which feature a soft stuffed body and nice sharp pins for placement in strategic areas such QRM, TVI, solar flares, RFI and other DX/contest woes.

The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report of 20 May 2006 were accepted as printed in the Nugget newsletter.

Field Day Chairman Jim, WX6V, announced that all was on track for this year's Field Day. The only open item was the port-a-potty; Ray, ND6S, took an action item to call Dick, K6LRN, with the name and number of a local area supplier. Repeaters to be used are the Amador, Eldorado and Stockton frequencies; the Amador emergency simplex frequency will be used if necessary. Ken, K6TA, announced a Field Day donation of snack foods from the NCCC hospitality suite at Visalia. Ken also reminded the participants to furnish him with the Field Day logs. Folding tables and ice chests will be provided by Dick and Carolyn, K6TKD.

Supply responsibilities for the 22 July Joint Meeting with the NCCC were discussed and firmed up. Ken, K6TA, announced a

donation of a new ARRL Antenna Book from Dean, N6BV. Rich, NU6T, will check on other items to be used in a raffle, and Ray, ND6S, will check on raffle tickets. Ken will pick up the key to the Senior Center.

An application for membership was received from Ira Stoler, K2RD. The application was reviewed and Ira was voted in as a new member. Ira then provided a great program on "Identifying, Finding and Eliminating Power Line and Other Man-made Noise Sources".

General meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

MLDXCC General Meeting, 22 July 2006.

Following an outstanding pot luck of tri-tip, chicken, salads and desserts, Club President Rich, NU6T, called the General meeting to order at 1:05 PM with 27 MLDXCC and/or NCCC members and 3 XYs present at the Senior Center in Jackson, California. No Board meeting was held today.

Officers' roll call and agenda review were completed, and all those present introduced themselves, giving their club affiliations.

Treasurer's report of 20 June was accepted as printed in the Nugget newsletter. No minutes for that date were received from the Secretary.

Field Day Chairman Jim, WX6V, announced that this year's Field Day was very successful: 8 participants, 1400 CW and 1446 SSB QSOs with a final score of 9482, approximately 500 points over last year's score. Good fun and good weather, even considering the wind storm Sunday a.m. were reported, with the high point involving Paul and Greg Cecil, ages 17 and 15 from Auburn, who were guests of Jack, KF6T. They made their first ever QSOs on the GoTA station. Paul will do a Senior project on getting his ham license.

Jettie Hill, W6RFF, Sac Valley Section Manager, announced that the Outgoing ARRL Bureau possibly will be raising their rates.

An application for membership from Pat Barthelow, AA6EG, was received, reviewed and Pat was voted in and welcomed as a new member.

Raffle prizes of an ARRL Antenna Book, a DX Woes doll complete with pins for venting frustration during DXing and/or contesting and NCJ certificates were raffled off.

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, member of the recent K7C Kure Atoll DXpedition entertained all

with an excellent presentation on said DXpedition.

Meeting was 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

The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 19 to 2400 local, Aug 20
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 19 to 0600Z, Aug 20
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 19 to 0700Z, Aug 20 and 3130Z, Aug 20 to 0200Z, Aug 21
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 26 to 2200Z, Aug 27
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 26 to 1200Z, Aug 27
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 26 to 1159Z, Aug 27
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 26 to 0400Z, Aug 27
VHF/UHF QSO Party	1600Z-2000Z, Aug 27
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 30
September, 2006	
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 5
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 9 to 2359Z, Sep 10
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 9 to 0300Z, Sep 11 SOC
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 10
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 10 to 0100Z, Sep 11 A
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 16 to 2400 local, Sep 17
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 16 to 2100Z, Sep 17
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 16 to 0700Z, Sep 17 and 1600Z, Sep 17
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 16 to 1800Z, Sep 17
	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 17

The Ohio/Penn DX PacketCluster

DX Bulletin No. 771 August 14, 2006

Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

403T, MONTENEGRO. The 403T DXpedition Montenegro was expected to come to an end on August 13th this past weekend. Martti, OH2BH, sent out a press release before the weekend on Thursday August 10th, called "403T APPROACHING THE LAST WEEKEND OF OPERATIONS". He mentions that the 403T team has made over 120,000 QSOs. OPDX InterNet

Subscribers will receive the complete press release as an additional bulletin (minus the photos).

403/YU6, MONTENEGRO. Operators Toma/YU1AB, Emin/DK4ES and Branko/YZ1DZ will be back in Montenegro again August 15-22nd. They will have a new license and will operate as 403AB on CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK and 403ES on SSB only. They just recently received the licenses from the Montenegrin Agency for Telecommunications. QSL via QRZ.com.

6Y, JAMAICA. Operators Ken/K2KW, Tom/N6BT and possibly others will be active between November 19-27th. Activity will include the CQ WW CW Contest (November 25-26th) with entry class TBD. QSL via WA4WTG. Operations outside of the contest will focus on the low bands.

CT3, MEDEIRA. Operator Richard, PA0RRS, will be active as CT3/PA0RRS, August 17-31st. No bands/modes of activity were provided. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Branch Manager, informs that the following operation is approved for DXCC credit:

KH8SI - Swains Island; From July 28th, 2006, through August 2nd, 2006. This also includes the Sep 2 to call signs K1ER/KH8, KS6FO/KH8, WH7S/KH8, K8YSE/KH8, AH7C/KH8 and KH6BK/KH8. * ADDITION TO THE DXCC ACCREDITATION CRITERIA (August 11th, 2006). ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, informs: For a number of years, it has been accepted practice to post DXpedition QSO information on a DXpedition Web site. Although this information is generally limited to callsign, band and mode, it has been useful in reducing the number of duplicate contacts in the DXpedition log. Publishing complete QSO information, or information from which full QSO information can be derived, on the other hand, threatens the integrity of the QSLing process, and is unacceptable. There must be some information that the station claiming the QSO provides based solely on actually being there when the QSO was made. If complete QSO information can be derived from information based on the DXpedition log, the QSL manager's job can be much more difficult if busted calls are involved. To help minimize potential difficulties, therefore, the following restriction has been approved by the Programs and Services Committee,

and added to the DXCC Accreditation Criteria, Section III. "The presentation in any public forum of logs or other representations of station operation showing details of station activity or other information from which all essential QSO elements (time, date, band, mode and callsign) for individual contacts can be derived creates a question as to the integrity of the claimed QSOs with that station during the period encompassed by the log. Presentation of such information in any public forum by the station operator, operators or associated parties is not allowed and may be considered sufficient reason to deny ARRL award credit for contacts with any station for which such presentations have been made. Persistent violation of this provision may result in disqualification from the DXCC program."

EX15, KYRGYZSTAN (Special Event). Look for memers of the Amateur Radio Union of Kyrgyzstan to be active as EX15ID from August 25th to September 5th to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's independence. QSL via EX8AB.

IOTA NEWS.....

AF-064. (LH Activity) Operators Matt/ZS1MJJ and Derrick/ZS1DUP will be active as ZS1RBI during the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) from Robbin Island (WLOTA 0025, ARLHS SAF-023 and TWLHF ZS-004).

EU-028. Max, IZ5BTC, will be active as IA5/IZ5BTC/P from Elba Island (IIA LI-001), August 29th to September 9th. QSL via his home callsign. See photos and info on: <http://www.strangeradioteam.com>

EU-028. Fabio, IW1DFU, will be active as IA5/IW1DFU from Elba Island (IIA LI-001, MIA MI-022, WLOTA LH-0609), between August 14th and September 1st. Activity will be mainly CW on 40/30/20/15 meters. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

EU-091. Operators Giovanni/IW7DOL, Marco/IZ7DOK, Luigi/IW8EQS, Oreste/IZ8EDJ, Salvatore/IZ8GGF and other friends will be active as homeCall/p from some of Lecce Islands (several IIA references). QSL via their home callsigns. See photos and info on: <http://www.strangeradioteam.com>

EU-129. Members of the South Flanders DX Activity Group will be active as DL/ON6JUN/p from Usedom Island (O-13 for the German Islands Award), August 21-26th. Activity will be on all major HF bands, with special attention to the WARC bands. Operations will be on CW, SSB and RTTY. Operators mentioned

are ON4AFU, ON4LBV, ON8RB, ON6UF, ON6YN and ON5SD. QSL via ON5SD. Visit their Web page at: <http://www.qsl.net/ON6JUN/>

EU-170. Milan, OK3AA, will be active as 9A5DJ from Pasman Island (CI-085), now through August 16th. He prefers CW and was heard 40/30 meters. QSL via OK3AA.

NA-077. Guy, VE2QRA, will be active as VE2QRA/P from Anticosti Island (Grid: FN89) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, August 12-18th. Activity will be holiday style, mostly SSB, with just wire antennas for 80-6 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

NA-NEW. Lanny, W5BOS, will attempt to activate two new IOTA islands in Alaska between August 16-22nd. The new IOTAs are: 1) Coastal Groups (o) Southern Alaska Peninsula Centre

NA-238/pr using the callsign W5BOS/AL0.2) Coastal Groups (p) Southern Alaska Peninsula East NA-237/pr using W5BOS/NL0. The Fish & Wildlife Service advises "This is a very remote and storm swept part of the world". These islands are very difficult to land on. Weather will be a major factor. QSL via N6AWD.

IS0, SARDINIA (EU-024). Look for YL Josiane/F5MVT and Paul/F2YT to be vacationing here between August 15-30th. Activity will be on the HF bands, CW and SSB, every morning, and sometimes in the evening. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or via the French Bureau. Please nothing via the ARI Bureau.

J7, DOMINICA. Operators Karl/N1DL and George/W4LFLK will be operating from the Commonwealth of Dominica from September 21-27th. They will operate on all modes with their callsigns J79DL and J79MD but during the RTTY Contest they will use the special callsign J7R from IOTA NA-101. QSL to N1DL: Karl Geng, 285 Grande Way #1803, Naples, FL 34110, USA.

LX, LUXEMBOURG. Operators PA1TK/Theo, PA5WT/Kees and PA3GVI/Rob will be active from JN39AX (Grid Sq.) starting August 30th until September 3rd. Their main goal will be the VHF Contest on September 2-3rd, but there will be HF activity as well in the early morning and evening hours on 30 and 40 meters, CW/SSB. Large Yagi antenna systems will be built for 144 MHz and simple dipoles for 30 and 40 meters. Look for LX/PA1TK in the VHF Contest and LX/homecalls the days before the weekend contest. Contest QSLs for LX/PA1TK go via PA1TK, all others go via their home callsigns (PA5WT, PA3GVI). Pictures and

the story can be found on:
<http://www.sitekreator.com/pa3gvi>

QSL INFO AND NEWS..... QSL
VK8AV via Andrey "Andy", UA9XC. He will answer QSL cards direct and through the bureau (100%). Bureau QSL requests or E-mail inquiries can be sent to: ua9xc@komi.ru
Also, QSL RG9A, VK8AV, RP61XX, RI1PI and RI1PXC via UA9XC. Please visit Andy's Web page at: <http://www.qsy.ru>

VQ9LA AND IRCS. After September 1st, 2006, Larry, VQ9LA, will no longer accept IRCs. Diego Garcia has no place to cash them, and Larry's contact in the states no longer will buy his IRCs. All QSL cards received after September 1st, 2006, with IRCs for VQ9LA, VQ9X and VQ9IO, will be placed in the outgoing QSL Bureau. Larry states, "Hams are dumping them like bad stocks on VQ9LA."

LOG CLOSINGS. Harry, AC8G, informs OPDX that he will be closing the following logs at the end of August: All the various W8KKF and /W8KKF plus various J3 and other callsigns for the 80's, with the exception of W8KKF/KP5 (Desecheo) from 1989, also the W8KKF/WP5 log which was only on 10 meters in the ARRL contest that year. Furthermore, during September, Harry will close other logs through 1995. After the next couple of bureau mailings, he will then close logs to the end of 1999. QSL W8KKF via AC8G.

WRTC2006 QSL CARDS. Oms, PY5EG, WRTC2006 Steering Committee, informed that "we are printing special QSL cards for all WRTC2006 stations with some beautiful pictures of the event. Our friend Vantuil Barbosa, PP5VB, will be the manager for all QSL cards including PP5WRTC. So QSL cards for all WRTC 2006 stations should be sent to PP5VB: VANTUIL BARBOSA DIAS, P.O.BOX 13, IMBITUBA - SC CEP 88.780-000, BRASIL. Please send SAE and IRCs to cover the mail expenses. Some of the WRTC2006 stations will also have their own commemorative QSLs, and in those cases you should send the cards directly to the address indicated by the corresponding Team. We will reciprocate all QSLs received via BUREAU also. The QSLs referring to QSOs with the MN MS stations should use the QRZ.COM addresses. Thanks for supporting WRTC2006."

SPECIAL EVENT. The 28th Clipperton DX Club (CDXC) Convention will be held in Arcachon (SW of France), September 16-17th. Members of the CDXC will activate special event callsign TM8CDX once again in celebration between September 2-16th. Activity will be

on HF and VHF, CW, SSB and Digital modes. TM8CDX will enter the IARU VHF Contest, from the WWGS:JN94ut. All QSOs will automatically be confirmed via the bureau by Rafik, F5CQ (QSL Manager). For those who prefer the direct way, please send a SAE+IRC or 1 USD for EU and 2 USDs elsewhere. The old TM8CDX logbooks are available for search at:
<http://www.cdxc.org/dxp/tm8cdx2001/tm8cdx2001.htm>
<http://www.cdxc.org/dxp/tm8cdx2002/tm8cdx2002-e.htm>
<http://www.cdxc.org/dxp/tm8cdx2003/tm8cdx2003-e.htm>
<http://www.cdxc.org/dxp/tm8cdx2004/tm8cdx2004-e.htm>
<http://www.cdxc.org/dxp/tm8cdx2005/tm8cdx2005-e.htm>

SX5, DODECANESE. Operators Bill/SV5AZP, Michalis/SV5DDP, Efsthios/SV5DKL, Giota/SV5FRB and Denis/SV5FRD will be active as SX5P from the Island of Rhodes during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 28-29th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL route is via E-mail for bureau QSL: sv5frd@hotmail.com

TK, CORSICA (Update). Laurent, F1JKJ, will be active as TK1KJ from October 26th to November 2nd. Activity will be limited because he is on a family holiday, however, he will be active mostly during the whole 48 hours of the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 28-29th) as Single-Op/Single-Band (possibly 20m)/Low-Power entry. Outside of the contest, Laurent will be on the bands he has antennas for on SSB and RTTY. QSL via F1JKJ.

TX6, MAYOTTE (AF-027). F6KOP ARS member Sam, F6AML, will be active as TX6A from October 5-17th. Look for activity on CW and SSB on the following suggested frequencies (+/- QRM): CW - 3514, 7014, 10115, 14014, 18071, 21014, 24892 and 28014 kHz SSB - 3785, 7057, 14266, 18140, 21266, 24966 and 28444 kHz QSL via the bureau or direct w/SAE + 1 IRC or 1 USD for Europe or 2 USDs elsewhere.

VE, CANADA (IOTAs Op). Jean Pierre/F5AHO and Joel/F5PAC will be active from various IOTAs and lighthouses in Canada, but mostly from Nova Scotia, between September 1-23rd. Activity will be mainly on 20 and 17 meters SSB. Watch 14260 and 18128 kHz between 1200-1900z. Scheduled IOTAs are: NA-010 - September 10th; Cap Breton Island NA-029 - September 5th; Prince Edward Island NA-068 - September 3rd NA-081 -

September 14th NA-126 - September 17th NA-127
- September 19th

NA-154 - September 9th Callsigns were not provided. QSL direct or by the bureau. More information is available on: <http://perso.orange.fr/f5aho>

VK, AUSTRALIA (IOTA/Lighthouse Ops). Wade/AA8LL and Liz/K8LIZ are planning to be operate "holiday style" from the following islands and lighthouses: September 1-4th - Look for VK7AAH/5 and VK7AED/5 from the Cape du Couedic Lighthouse (AUS-030) on Kangaroo Island (OC-139). September 5-6th - Look for VK7AAH and VK7AED from the Cape Bruny Lighthouse (AUS-254) on South Bruny Island (OC-233). September 7-10th - Look for VK7AAH and VK7AED from Tasmania (OC-006, main island). Casual operations will be with 100 watts and wire antennas on SSB and CW (possibly RTTY) on 40-15 meters; IOTA frequencies. QSL direct or by the Bureau: VK7AAH via AA8LL and VK7AED via K8LIZ. The address is correct on QRZ.com and cards for both may go in the same envelope.

VY0, CANADA. Kevin, WD0AAV, will be active as WD0AVV/VY0 from Iqaluit, Nunavut, between August 14-18th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using primarily CW. QSL via his home callsign.

VY2, CANADA. George, K3GV, will be active as K3GV/VY2 from Prince Edward Island (IOTA NA-029, CIA PE-001) between September 3-17th. Activity will be on 15 and 20 meters around the usual IOTA frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

XV, VIETNAM. Operators Higashi/JA1DHY and Eiji/JA1EKK will be active as XV3DHY and XV3EKK, respectively, from August 31st to September 6th. Their activity will be on 80-6 meters, CW, SSB and SSTV. QSL is OK via the JARL Bureau or direct to their home callsigns.

PROPAGATION FORECAST

QST de W1AW Propagation Forecast Bulletin 33 ARLP033 From Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, WA August 15, 2006

To all radio amateurs. This is a special early edition of the propagation bulletin, three days before the regular Friday publication schedule. The regular bulletin will appear on Friday, August 18.

A newspaper article on Monday out of New Zealand reported a proposed Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) project that could cause major worldwide disruptions to HF radio communication and GPS

navigation. The "Radiation Belt Remediation" (RBR) system is envisaged as a method for protecting low earth orbit (LEO) satellites from damage caused by high altitude nuclear detonations or severe solar storms. Testing the system would use extremely high intensity very low frequency (VLF) radio waves to flush particles from radiation belts and dump them into the upper atmosphere.

When I first heard of this on Monday morning, I thought it must be something from a fringe web site peddling dark conspiracy theories. But the newspaper reporting the news is real, and so is the team of scientists from New Zealand, the UK and Finland whose study of possible effects of the scheme is reported in a recent edition of Annales Geophysicae. You can find the article here:

<http://www.physics.otago.ac.nz/research/space/ag-24-2025.pdf>

A web page from the University of Otago describing the research is here:

http://www.physics.otago.ac.nz/research/space/RBR_Media_release_8Aug06.htm

I contacted the lead researcher on the team reporting the possible effects of the project, Dr. Craig Rodger of the Physics Department at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He proved very cooperative, accessible and helpful, and told me RBR is a serious project, "money is starting to appear to investigate it in more detail", and "U.S. scientists with military connections are treating it seriously". It is feared that testing the system could shut down worldwide HF communications for several days to a week, rendering the ionosphere a giant sponge for RF.

I sent Dr. Rodger a comment from Ward Silver, N0AX, who speculated "the sheer energy needed to accomplish it would tend to rule it out from the start, and I don't know where they would erect the necessary antennas." Dr. Rodger responded, "This would be true, but they are hoping to rely on some of the non-linear processes in space plasmas, stealing the energy from the radiation belts to get the wave-amplitudes high enough. We know this is possible (in theory), as it happens naturally already. We don't know how easy it will be to get it happening under our control".

"Also, as for erecting the antenna, there are two plans. One is to fly VLF antenna in space. This could be a power problem. But for ground-based systems, you probably already know that most major naval powers

have big VLF transmitters dotted over the globe. (Two of the US Navy transmitters radiate one megawatt). While these are designed to keep the signals mostly under the ionosphere, it shows the possibility for building big powerful antenna''.

You can read Monday's article from the New Zealand Herald, here:
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=10396164

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, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>.

An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for August 3 through 9 were 23, 0, 0, 0, 0, 12 and 25 with a mean of 8.6. 10.7 cm flux was 71.3, 69.6, 69.5, 69.5, 69.8, 71.4, and 74.1, with a mean of 70.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 3, 4, 4, 32, 12 and 9 with a mean of 10. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 2, 2, 2, 19, 10 and 9, with a mean of 7.

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

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](http://www.mldxcc.com)

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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2006 Officers of the MLDXCC

President, Richard Hill, NU6T

REHill@ix.net.com

Vice President, Richard Karlquist, N6RK

Richard@karlquist.com

Director, Dick Wilson, K6LRN

k6lrn@arrl.net

Director, Ken Anderson, K6TA

k6ta@arrl.net

Treasurer, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD

k6tkd@arrl.net

Secretary, Kay Anderson, K6KO

k6ko@arrl.net

Nugget Editor, Rick Samoian, W6SR

samoian@directcon.net

QSL Manager, Norm Regan, WA6SJQ

Qsl73@linkunet.net

Publicity Chairperson, Brandt Woodard, K6BEW.

k6bew@yahoo.com

ARRL Awards Checkers

DXCC, Gary Stillwell, KI6T & Ken Anderson, K6TA

WAS & others Dennis King, N6KD

ARRL Sixth District QSL Bureau

P.O. Box 970

Fairfax, CA., 94978-0970

Comments or questions on this bureau's operation may be directed to kc6awx@arrl.net See the W6 Bureau home page (<http://www.kqlz.com/qslbureau6/>)