

The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, February 25, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Where: Round Table Pizza in Martell.

What: Our program will consist of Ken K6TA giving an brief interpretation of the recent ARRL announcement of changes to the DXCC program. This will be followed by a video of previous Peter I DXpeditions courtesy of Dick K6LRN

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 "Chuck" Farr, W6de Dave Engle, WB6GEF Dave Green, K6GT George Daughters, N6GWT Joe Grace, WK6I Jeff Stai, W6ISO Kit Kohlmoos, K6KM Bill Snider, WL7NN George Van Lone, K6QG Lyle Bradt, M6RER Ginny Snider, N6TV Bob Wilson, KF6T, Jack Morgan, K6TTT Jack Costa, N6XI Rick Tavan, AE6Y Andy Faber

The DX Advisory Committee has been asked to study a proposal to amend the DXCC Political Entity Rule. At the February MLDXCC club meeting I would like to have a discussion and input from our club members at the next meeting. The full text of the proposal is provided below:

A Proposal to Amend the IARU Provision of the DXCC Political Entity Rule Introduction. In March 1998, the ARRL Board of Directors approved new Political Entity criteria following the recommendations of the DXCC 2000 Committee. The new criteria provided Political Entity status for those Entities listed on one or more of three lists, 1) the United Nations list of Member States, 2) the ITU list of call sign bloc holders and 3) the list of States whose Amateur Radio operators are represented by an IARU member society. In January 2004, the ARRL Board of Directors removed the "IARU" criteria from

the DXCC rules. This step was taken to avoid undesirable side effects rather than to reduce the opportunities for the addition of DXCC entities. Since adding entities to the DXCC list is desirable from time to time, MSD staff suggests the following rule as a replacement for the IARU rule.

Rule Change Text

The following would be added to the DXCC Rules, "SECTION II. DXCC LIST CRITERIA, 1. Political Entities:"

c) The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent.

Discussion

The DXCC 2000 Committee intended that the Political Entity criteria of the 1998 DXCC Rules would recognize, in an objective manner, separate or distinct status sufficient for DXCC purposes. While U.N. Member State status is perhaps the ultimate in recognition of separation, Entities exist that do not meet the U.N. or I.T.U. criteria but are still sufficiently separated politically from their parent entities for DXCC purposes.

Examples of entities that exhibit such separation are the numerous overseas countries and territories of Britain, France, Holland and Denmark and the United States. Most of these territories and others are governed or administered by a local government. The existence of a local government constitutes one degree of separation that we propose to form a basis for re-classification of some territories as DXCC Political Entities. A minimum separation distance will also help eliminate situations where certain anomalous conditions might otherwise lead to separate status (reservations,

etc.). Finally, the existence of a permanent population will assure that the entity is consistent with what is expected of a Political Entity.

Consequences

The proposed Political Entity Rule addition will not create new DXCC Entities directly. Rather, several Separation Entities may be reclassified as Political Entities. In turn, these reclassified Entities could result in one additional Geographical Separation Entity, since the distance to the first entity will become 350 km rather than 800 km. No more than one 350 km separation entity can be created for each Political Entity. Therefore, the effect of applying this rule to an existing Separation Entity will be to change the separation distance of the first Separation Entity associated with the reclassified Entity from 800 km to 350 km. It appears that few of these reclassifications will give rise to additional DXCC Entities. The number remains to be estimated, however.

Ken, K6TA

FROM THE PREZ

Congratulations to everyone who managed to work 3Y0X, XF1K and K6VVA/6 this month.

DON'T FORGET! DUES ARE DUE!

Meeting agenda (Time "suggested"):

12:00 Call to order and Agenda Review

12:05 Officer Roll Call

12:08 Old business

- Minutes review and acceptance
- Treasurer report, including presentation of proposed budget or issues
- Committee reports, (Gary, KI6T)
- Meeting dates (approve/amend)
- Weekly Net review

12:30 New business

- Upcoming contests/DX
- Club Goals
- FD and CQP initial planning
- Proposal to amend the DXCC Political Entity Rule.
- Review action items

13:15 Recognition of achievements, milestones and other.

13:30 Guest Speaker/presentations:

15:00 Adjourn

2006 Meeting Dates and Presentations

The meeting dates for 2006 are in this Nugget and on the web page. Please bring ideas for meeting presentations to our

meeting. VP Rick, N6RK, is the presentation guru this year.

Contest Planning

Field Day: Jim Venneman will be our Field Day Coordinator again this year. We need your help and ideas to find a few more points in 2006, and share company with a few more members. Lend a hand!

Club Contests/Events:

CQP is a bit further off, but we should start thinking about boosting our 2006 score. REDXA is gaining on us.

Now's the time to identify the contests Motherlode members want to support this year. Field Day and CQP are obvious. What other contests are important for the club? We'll work to find useful presentations to help improve your scores, fun factor, or both.

Club Competition? Are we interested in some friendly internal club competition using scores from the contests we already enter? If there is enough interest, we could look into a handicapping system that encourages skill development, recognizes the difference between wires and stacks of yagis, and add some fun factor. Back when I was a fencer, we had fun with an event we called "A Day on the Green". One of the events everyone seemed to enjoy was a group event where we pinned a balloon over our hearts. The last one with an un-popped balloon was the winner. Just to even things out, the top fencers wore big balloons and the beginners had small balloons. Pure fun.

I'm mostly competitive with myself, but find friendly competition fun. Since I'm usually on the bottom of the food chain, I like to compete where there is some means to even the playing field. Golf has an interesting handicap system that helps make mixed skill competitions interesting. The golf handicap uses both operator skill and course difficulty to allow players to even things up a bit and bring scores a bit closer for fun competitions. Of course, the real bragging rights still go to the player with the best score. Interested?

DX?

How's DX?

Congratulations to Rick, W6SR, in earning his 5 Band WAZ! Rick brought his award to the January meeting. Ken Andersen will be discussing the proposal to amend the DXCC Political

Entity Rule this month. Bring questions and opinions for our discussion. Ken is the Pacific Division representative to the ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC).

I made a contact with XF1K during my feeble NA Sprint SSB effort. Thank you!

I managed to get overloaded at work again (No, I have not yet learned not to volunteer). Then my daughter caught a flu bug and shared. The warm weather burst blossoms and my allergies/asthma bloomed with them. Accounting didn't manage to actually cut the check for the conference fees and that added to the scramble. But it was the root canal that finally slowed me down. Perhaps it was the extra time in the home office, but with my little vertical I managed to work 3Y0X, on three bands as I write this. That and a surprisingly easy contact with FS/K3LP to add St. Martin as an all time new one and I'm finally up to 150 DXCC worked. Life is good.

New Members

Who will we introduce this month? Our goal is 10 new members this year. Who will be first?

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

THE VP SEZ

I am busy trying to line up programs at this time. I haven't had much time to work on club efforts in contests. I am assuming we should all submit our ARRL DX contest scores for MLDXCC.

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned a web site where you could put in a zip code and get a map of all the hams in that zip code. I have since learned that this site works well in some zip codes and not in others. There are other web sites that may work better. I am planning to try out the various web sites and will report back on what works around here.

Equipment: last month I mentioned that I ordered a MonstIR. I am now looking for a big rotator for it. Alfa Spid is planning to introduce a bigger version of their rotator in the next month or two. I may go with that. I have the original sized one and am very happy with it on the 4 ele SteppIR; it's just not big enough for the MonstIR. Fall back setup is probably an Orion 2800.

I put up a 40 meter inverted Vee at 115 feet. It didn't do anything great compared to the old one at 60 feet. This simply reinforced the need for the MonstIR.

Rick N6RK

Member news & feedback & stuff for sale

I worked 3Y0X on 80,40,20 SSB & 15. No 160 yet. Was on for SSB & CW SPrint with less than spectacular results.

K6LRN

Dick Zuttermeister still has a Commander amp for sale, asking \$2500 Contact him at k6tnx@caltel.com.

I'm now the proud owner of an Alpha 78 my first amplifier since 1975. Still I was able to work 3Y0X on 80 meter CW last week running only 100W! Also I am hoping to get my tower up within the next month depending on the weather. I'm working with George (KI6CG) on a good day to get started. **Jim WX6V**

Sadly, I'm gonna' have to miss another MLDXCC meeting. Our old company is having a reunion somewhere down that way and I don't want to miss it. Unfortunately, I can no longer maintain a big contest station that is seldom used. Stuff will be for sale as I pare back. At the moment I have some F12 4 el 10s and some F12 4 el 15s. Maybe even a F12 5 el 20. All ants rated 100 mph or better and can be had for half catalog price. There's a lot of other stuff, including a 2 x 8877 amp with new tubes, a Yeasu 736R, an Icom R-9000(?) not cell phone blocked. I'll list other stuff as time passes. **e-mail bill@k6km.com or k6km@northvalleywireless.com**

A couple of observations. Thirteen out of the last nineteen days had ZERO sunspots.

Yet we survived. I even worked a couple of new ones. The local K6NP packet node has been jumping with the 3Y0X spots. My favorite spot says "Easy." and I can't hear anything but "EU" or "UP." or guys calling on his frequency.

Congratulations to everyone who worked the 3Y0X for a new one. A curse on all who try to make insurance calls on 40 CW. Insurance callers should be restricted to 40 SSB for life.

Thanks to KI6T for the 12 meter spot. It gave me the opportunity to hear the 3Y for about 15 minutes. I've worn out a Tail-twister going from short path to long path.

Thanks also to the guys on the Faralons. I hope the were prepared for

the Peter the 1st WX. It must have been ungodly cold. Thanks for the Q's. Thanks to Norm and the banditos on XF1K NA 124. Good copy here. I hope you bring the logs to the meeting, Norm. With about thirty band and mode fillers and two new ones this has been a great month on the radio! **73 everybody! ND6S**

XF1K, Baja California Sur - 2006

NA-124 (Thumbnail Report)

After several successful IOTA operations off Baja California and in the Sea of Cortez by the XF1K team, the last group in the area that was high on the needed list and that did not require special logistical arrangements was the Baja California Sur State South East group, NA-124. This group consists of Ballena, Cerralvo, Espiritu Santo, Gallina, Gallo, Partida, Reina, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Santa Cruz. In order to determine the best choice for activation, Hector (XE2K) and Diana (XE2DN) traveled 1000 miles in their pickup truck from Hector's home in Mexicali to La Paz, Baja Sur and arrived on January 30, 2006. The pickup had been loaded with all the antennas, generators, tents and supplies, and most of the transceivers. Fred (N6AWD) and Ray (N6VR) had hauled gear to Mexicali a few weeks before. In La Paz, they met with Bernardo (XE2HWP), a local resident, and studied the most suitable choices of islands and transportation. Cerralvo Island was chosen because of the available transportation and known beaches to operate from.

Because of the long distances to La Paz, the rest of the group decided to fly in. On February 1, Norm (XE2/N6JV) and Ray (XE2/N6VR) flew from Los Angeles to Hermosillo, Sonora where they met Marco (XE2TG) and the three flew to La Paz. The shopping centers of La Paz provided the required food and extra camping equipment. The radio gear was sorted and readied for the trip the next day.

An 18 foot fiberglass fishing boat, loaded with gear and the 5 operators, was pushed into the very calm water. The landing beach was near the north end of the island and was about 14 miles from El Sargento. The sandy beach made it easy to unload the gear. K9PPY was the first in the log, SM3CXS was the first European, UA9YE the first Asian, NH6NY was first from Oceania and EA8AKN the first from Africa. South America wasn't worked

until the next day when HK3JJH made the log. Propagation had not been good, so when Europeans were heard, as many as possible were logged. There was no guarantee that conditions would hold.

The main operating tent was placed on the northern end and the smaller tent that was the second CW position and sleeping tent to the south. The two 1800 watt generators were in the middle near some large rocks that provided some noise protection. A DX88 vertical with several of its radials running into the water was placed south of the CW tent for maximum separation. To the north of the main tent, a R7 vertical, an A3WS 17/12 meter yagi and a mast for low band dipoles was placed. The A3S was near the generators. An IC706, a FT847 and a TS450S were used in the main tent and an IC706 Mk2 was used in the CW tent. Hector, Bernardo and Marco kept the SSB rigs busy and Ray operated one rig on CW from the main tent. The main tent had the option of using AD5A's 400 watt amplifier if needed. Norm stayed down the beach in the smaller tent on CW using the DX88. Computers were used for logging at all positions. At times all 4 rigs were on at once and one SSB and one CW rig were active at all times. The high cliff behind the beach shielded South America and Africa, but operating options were limited and the site provided a good path to Europe, North America and the Pacific.

The weather was perfect with no high winds or temperature. High waves did threaten the DX88 on the second day, but the sea calmed by Sunday. Only a few contacts were made above 17 meters due to low sun spot activity. Big pile-ups were encountered on 17 through 75 meters with many Europeans worked. The location was especially good to Asia and many QRP stations went into the log. A total of 6068 QSOs were eventually made including 965 in Europe.

On Sunday morning the camp and antennas were taken down and the gear carried to the landing area. This included 2 large bags full of trash. The boat arrived on time and loaded for the return trip to El Sargento. The return trip was smooth and no one got too wet landing the boat. Much needed showers and shaves at the hotel made everyone feel more

human. Before passing out that night, the computers were downloaded and extra copies of the log files were made. Early the next morning Hector took Norm and Ray to the airport for their flight at 2:00 pm to Los Angeles. Norm next flew to Sacramento and arrived at 5:30.

The XF1K team would like to thank Ing. Moises Ramirez for his assistance with the licensing. We would also like to thank the Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF) for their support as well as the many amateurs who made donations for this trip. QSLs will be printed soon, so please send your cards to N6AWD. We were trying to work everyone who needed NA-124 and hope we were successful. **de Norm N6JV**

How abt. A program on one? What say Norm? ed.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Although I was busy with the STAR program (Sheriff's Team of Active Retirees) this past month (I put-in 30 hrs) I did find time to finally repair (with the help of Norm) the 160M antenna and re-orient the TH-7 and other antennas on the LM-470 tower. Yep, and just before the 3Y0X got on the air, I managed to work them on 15M though 160M over the past week or so. I also worked a couple of Z1's and FO/DL1AWI on 160 for a couple of new 160 countries. Slowly but surely I'm closing in on my 100 countries on the ol' 160M band. I just need another 20 HI HI. **C U all the 25th de Rick W6SR**

MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT January 2006 and Proposed Budget

Balance January 1, 2006 \$829.20

Proposed Income

Donations	\$30.00
Dues-Membership	585.00
Dues-New Members	75.00
New Member Badges	15.00
NCCC Dinner (if we help)	500.00
Nugget ads	30.00
Reimbursement FD potty	120.00
Total	\$1355.00

Proposed Expenses

CQP Plaque	\$50.00
Field Day Potty rental	120.00
Insurance	325.00
Joint Meeting Rent	35.00
Joint Meeting Food	100.00
NCDXF Donation (if approved)	100.00
Newsletter	100.00
P.O. Box	24.00

QSL Postage	25.00
Speaker's lunches	30.00
Total	\$909.00

Expected balance 31 Dec 2006 \$1275.20

Treasurer's Report Feb 2006

Balance January 1, 2006: \$829.20

Income:

Donations	19.00
Dues	105.00
	<u>\$124.00</u>

Expenses:

Lunch for Speaker	6.00
Newsletter-10 months	50.00
P.O. Box	24.00
	<u>\$80.00</u>

Balance January 31, 2006 \$873.20

Treasurer, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD

DX STUFF FROM THE 425 DX Bulletin

3Y0 The weather cooperated and **3Y0X** was able to get the remaining three team members ashore along with the rest of supplies and gear. At 15 UTC on 11 February they finally had a full complement of people, equipment and supplies. They have seven stations on the air with the eight being shared between HF and EME. As of press time, on-line logs <http://www.peterone.com/pllog.html> are up through 16 February at 16.10 UTC (68,865 QSOs). In order not to interfere with the ARRL CW Contest, **3Y0X** will only work on the WARC bands on SSB and RTTY during the weekend. The weather forecast does not look good for early next week, and if the situation turns out as expected, the team may be shutting down operations on Sunday. QSL via N200.

DU Look for Bert, DF5WA to be signing DF5WA/DU7 from Negros Island (OC-129) until 26 February. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

F Bernard, F5LPY will operate as TM90BV on 21-27 February to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Verdun. The longest battle of World War I, it was fought between the German and French armies between 21 February and 19 December 1916. Bernard will operate mainly CW with some SSB from various sites

associated with the battle. QSL via F5LPY.

FR/G Didier, F5OGL reports that the expedition to the Glorioso Islands, previously planned to take place between 16 March and 7 April has been postponed again. It has not been cancelled, and the team is working on a new schedule. The DXexpedition web site (<http://glorieuses2005.free.fr/>) will be updated as soon as possible. [TNX F5CQ]

FS & PJ7 Wolf/DL4WK, Frank/DL7UFR, Rob/DL7VOA, Les/SP3DOI and Sigi/DL7DF will operate from either Saint Martin (FS) and St. Maarten (PJ7) from 21 February to 8 March (one week on each side of the island). They will run two stations on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV and will concentrate on 160, 80, 40 and 30 metres. QSL via DL7DF, direct or bureau. Logs will be available on www.dl7df.com

FY Steve, MW0ZZK and Florent, F4CYZ will operate as TO7IR from Ile Royale (SA-020) on 23-27 February. Expect activity on 80-6 metres SSB, CW and digital modes. QSL via IZ8CCW, direct or bureau

GM Leo, W3LEO will once again be active as MM0LEO from Portpatrick, Scotland from 21 February to 27 March. He will participate in the ARRL SSB DX and the CQ WPX SSB Contests. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

HB0 Kasimir, DL2SBY will be active again as HB0/DL2SBY from Liechtenstein from 25 February to 4 March. He plans to operate CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 on 160-10 metres.

I Michele, IF9ZWA is currently signing IF9ZWA/p from Favignana Island (EU-054, IIA TP-011) until 19 February. He might operate from the lighthouse at Punta Marsala (ARLHS ITA-135, WAIL. during his stay.

OZ Jakob, OZ7AEI plans to operate on 20 and 40 metres SSB as OZ7AEI/P from a couple of Danish lighthouses (Bovbjerg, ARLHS DEN-003 and Lyngvig, ARLHS DEN-024) sometime between 20 and 23 February, depending on weather.

PJ7 Look for Bill, PJ7/W8EB and Dorothy, PJ7/W8DVC to operate SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31 from Sint Maarten (NA-105) from 21 February to 26 March. Bill will participate in the ARRL DX SSB Contest, hopefully as PJ7B. QSLs via home calls.

UA Look for Nick, RA1QQ/1 and Alex, RA1QY/1 to operate SSB and CW from the Leshukonsky

area (AR-20 for the Russian Districts Award) on 24-26 February. QSLs via RA1QQ.

V7 JL1WQO will operate as V73WQ from the Marshall Islands on 18-22 February. Expect activity on 160-10 metres SSB, CW and RTTY. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

DXCC NEWS R1MVC and R1MVW from Malyj Vysotskij Island (15-28 November2005) have been approved for DXCC credit.

NA-178 Rick, K6VVA and Mike, K9AJ became active as K6VVA/6 from the Farallons Islands (NA-178) around 21.15 UTC on 14 February and went QRT at 20 UTC on the 16th, after logging 2,552 QSOs (including dupes). Pictures, statistics, etc. will be published on <http://www.k6vva.com/iota/na178/news.html>

NOT THE MANAGER ---> Giancarlo, IK4QIB reports he is receiving cards for 44KJ, but he is not and has never been the QSL manager for this call. The correct QSL route is via WB2TSL.

QSL VIA OK1RK David, OK1RK reports he has the last bundle of blank cards for the QSOs he made as 5N0/OK1AUT, 5N0ZKD, 5N99ZKD and 5N0W during his stay in Nigeria. David is not a member of the OK QSL bureau, so those who still need a card should send their request direct only to David Klimosz, Paprskova 1339/10a, 14000 Praha 4, Czech Republic. Please note that David can confirm contacts made with 5N0W between 1999 and May 2000 only (contacts made after May 2000 "belong" to OK1DXE)

UIA The Ukrainian Islands Awards (UIA), established by the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UARL) and the Ukrainian DX-Pedition Foundation (UDXPF), has new rules and a new certificate design. Full information can be found at <http://www.islands.org.ua> and on the Award Manager's web site at <http://www.qsl.net/uy5xe>.

WRTC 2006 The consolidated rules for the World Radiosport Team Championship are now available at <http://www.wrtc2006.com> (the direct

link to the document is
<http://www.wrtc2006.com/release38.pdf>).

HQ9F: The web page for the forthcoming HQ9F operation from Honduras is now up and running at <http://personal.inet.fi/private/oh3jr/hond.html>.

LOGS: On-line logs for the recent 5H1C operation from Zanzibar Island are available at http://5h1c.free.fr/log_uk.php OGS: On-line logs for the recent XF1K operation from NA-124 are now available at <http://www.425dxn.org/dxped/na124/>

MLDXCC Board Meeting, 21 January 2006.

The Board meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM by Club president Rich Hill, NU6T, at the Round Table Pizza in Martell, CA. Those attending were NU6T, Vice President Rick Karlquist, N6RK, Treasurer Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Director Dick Wilson, K6LRN, Director Ken Anderson, K6TA, Gary Stilwell, KI6T, and Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary.

The board in general took an action to review the Club by-laws to determine that duties currently carried out by the officers are included, and to update the by-laws as necessary.

An overview of the current year's events schedule was discussed, including the joint meeting with the NCCC, Visalia, Field Day, the California QSO Party, and both CQ World-Wide contests. Methods of rallying Club spirit were discussed, including teams competing within the Club during contests and possibly supporting a DX-pedition. The Club events calendar will be updated to include upcoming events. An overview of meeting dates would be provided to the membership for feedback; dates would be considered set unless conflicts arose.

Methods of increasing Club membership were discussed to include the determination of which contests are appropriate for new Generals and Technicians.

It was decided that the joint meeting with the NCCC would be held on Saturday, July 22, 2006 at the Senior Center in Jackson. Ken, K6TA, will reserve the room. It was determined that this year's preparations should include more tri-tips (6 weren't enough), and diet sodas and water.

Jim Venneman, WX6V, will be approached during the General meeting to once again chair the Field Day activities, and to determine if he needs assistance in attending meetings as his commute is quite lengthy.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

MLDXCC General Meeting, 21 January 2006.

The General meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by the Club President Rich Hill, NU6T, welcoming all members present and special guest Dean Straw, N6BV.

The Board meeting was recapped for the general membership, and discussion regarding the continued inclusion of the next meeting's agenda in the monthly newsletter resulted in positive feedback. The next month's agenda will be included in the newsletter.

Ray Parker, ND6S, suggested resumption of a weekly net for announcements of DX-peditions, IOTA, upcoming contests and advice for new and/or prospective members. Ray will be net control for February, beginning with the first Tuesday. The Amador County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC) repeater (146.835, PL 100, minus offset) will be used and the net will start at 8:00 PM, following the regular weekly ACARC net at 7:30PM. Information regarding the net will be added to the web site and to the monthly agenda.

The previous minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter, with no corrections of additions to the Treasurer's report, and members were reminded that future meeting dates appear in the newsletter as well. All members should take note and advise of possible conflicts.

The date of July 22nd has been set for the joint meeting of the Club and the NCCC. More information regarding times and items to bring will be given as the date draws nearer.

There has been some question regarding extra logs submitted for last year's

California QSO Party, and just what qualifies a "club member". It was determined that MLDXCC team members must be paid members (NCCC dues are "voluntary"). Gary, KI6T, will determine the rules for team membership for CQP and the ARRL and CQWW contests, including what constitutes a "majority of operators" and how the scores are adjusted if a non-member is a part of the team.

It was suggested that the club work seriously on bringing in 10 new members this year.

Ray, ND6S, is also current President of the ACARC and is the local Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. He announced that during the last two VE sessions, 9 new members have been recruited by the ACARC. He suggested that these new members be contacted for interest in DX-ing and contesting, and that appropriate ACARC events be included in our events schedule as well. A show of hands indicated that nine Volunteer Examiners were in attendance at today's meeting.

Regarding Field Day this year, Rick, N6RK, suggested that the club check into the use of N1MM's MM as the logging program. The program can be downloaded from the web, but is quite huge. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of CT, TR, NA, MM and WriteLog - whatever will be used will need to be compatible with Windows. Training sessions will also be necessary prior to Field Day if MM is selected. Rick will approach Kenny Silverman, K2KW, regarding a demo of MM. Ken, K6TA, also suggested that MTTY also be included (RTTY on MM), so that SSB, CW, RTTY and radio control would all be available to the operators. Ron St. Jean, N6NIA, will bring a laptop for Field Day and will check into the possibility of networking the computers. Jim, WX6V, volunteered to be Field Day Chairman again and will get the fire permit for Peddler Hill. No reservation is necessary as the area is an open site. Additional planning and information will be forthcoming as the event draws near.

The meeting broke at 1:10 PM for the program "P4 to the World on 10 Meters, December 2005 (or Making 1900+ QSOs on a Dead Band)" by Kay, K6KO/P40K and Ken, K6TA/P40TA. The program provided an analysis of 10 Meter propagation from Aruba, P4 during the 2005 ARRL 10 Meter contest as predicted by Dean Straw, N6BV, showing the anomalies which occurred during the contest. Dean then

provided a presentation on 40 Meter propagation during Sweepstakes.

Following the presentations and a quick round-the-room introduction of members, the General meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Foothill Flea Market

2nd Saturday of each month from **March** through **October** at Lockheed, Sunnyvale.

Livermore Swap Meet

1st Sunday of each month (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

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 25 to 2359Z, Feb 26
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 25 to 1800Z, Feb 26
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 25 to 1300Z, Feb 26
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 25 to 0300Z, Feb 26
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27
March, 2006	
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 4 to 2400Z, Mar 5
Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase	0230Z-0400Z, Mar 9
Idaho QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12 and 1300Z, Mar 12 to 0100Z, Mar 13
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 11 to 0200Z, Mar 12 and 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 12
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 12
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 12 to 0100Z, Mar 13
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 18
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 20

Russian DX Contest 1200Z, Mar 18 to 1200Z, Mar 19
 Virginia QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 20
 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26

PROPAGATION FORECAST

SB PROP ARL ARLP007ARLP007 Propagation de K7RA.

Average daily sunspot numbers this week rose over 7 points to 9, but this doesn't mean much. Check out

<<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DSD.txt>><http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DS.txt>

to see how many days with a blank sun were noted over the last thirty days. Plan on seeing even longer stretches of 0 sunspots over the next year. A couple of years from now we should see a new cycle 24 rising faster than this old one declined. Check out a great website showing sketches of sunspots drawn in 1612 by Galileo Galilei, <http://galileo.rice.edu/sci/observations/sunspot_drawings.html>http://galileo.rice.edu/sci/observations/sunspot_drawings.html. The coolest part is the arrangement of the sketches into a sort of flip-book animation, which you can view with any media player such as Windows Media Player or Apple QuickTime. This gives us a reproduction of what the sun was doing over the 35 days that Galileo made these sketches. What a remarkable thing. The ARRL International DX CW Contest is on for this weekend. Sunspot 854 is pointing straight at us, but it is tiny. For an idea of the relative area covered by this spot, check the web site mentioned in the first paragraph above, and look at the Sunspot Area shown in the fourth column, relative to sunspot area in January. Look for sunspot numbers and solar flux to rise only slightly, if at all, and for quiet geomagnetic conditions. Sunday, February 19 should give us only slightly unsettled geomagnetic conditions. Based on the previous solar rotation, Wednesday, February 22 looks like it may show some fairly active geomagnetic conditions. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts slightly different conditions, with February 19 unsettled to active, and February 21 and 22 just unsettled. They think today and tomorrow, February 17 and 18, will be quiet. They predict quiet to unsettled conditions for February 20 and 23. If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at,

<<mailto:k7ra@arrl.net>>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>><http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is found at, <<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>><http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for February 9 through 15 were 24, 13, 11, 0, 0, 0 and 15 with a mean of 9. 10.7 cm flux was 74.8, 75.2, 76, 76, 76.3, 77.3, and 78.5, with a mean of 76.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 2, 6, 3, 2, 1 and 12 with a mean of 4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 4, 2, 2, 1 and 7, with a mean of 2.9.

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

- Mar 18:
- Apr 15:
- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- 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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See the W6 Bureau home page
(<http://www.kqlz.com/qs1bureau6/>)