

# The Nugget

## The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

### MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

**When:** Saturday, 17 June, 11:30AM-2:30PM

**Where:** Round Table Pizza in Martell.

**What:** June program will be: "Identifying, Finding, and Eliminating Power Line and Other Man Made Noise Sources" by Ira Stoler, K2RD. Ira gives a detailed over view of noise diagnosis, including how to determine the signature of the noise using spectral analysis software and the sound card of a lap top. He tells many war stories of his RFI hunts. He also discusses the ultrasonic noise detector that was described recently in QST.

### **DUES ARE NOW "WAY" 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, K6GT, N6GWT, W6HFM, N6TV, KF6T?, K6TTT, AE6Y**

### FROM THE PREZ

Well, this month flew by. I'm not sure I did anything useful. This column will be refreshingly short this month. I am looking forward to Field Day.

Meeting agenda (Time "suggested"):

11:30 Board Meeting-Re Joint 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
- Club Goals/Planning
  - o FD planning?
  - o Joint Meeting

12:45 New business

- Upcoming contests/DX

- Review action items

13:15 .Break/Presentation Setup

13:30 Guest Speaker/presentations: Ira Stoler, K2RD on "Identifying, Finding, and Eliminating Power Line and Other Man Made Noise Sources."

15:00 Adjourn

DX?

Last month I said, "I still have opportunity". Well, I have about the same amount this month.

Station rebuilding time has arrived. I've managed to rearrange the shack desk so I can now get easily to the back of the radios, wires and such. I built a WinKey and the dang thing actually works. My first real electronics project. I may have to make a bigger effort in a CW contest, perhaps actually make a contact! With the success of my WinKey, a RockMite is on order. No, I'm not diving into QRP. I'm learning about the radio and working my way up to a K2. I'm not having enough luck with 100w to worry about QRP. By the time I build a K2, we may be back to the top of the cycle.

Contesting

In rebuilding my operating position, and not connecting the grounds yet, I've solved my ground loop problem <grin>. I may have to try RTTY! Station work in progress.

I played in the June VHF contest for a short while and managed 6m contacts to Canada and new grid squares for me. Next time I'll double check the elements and make sure I don't mix up the director elements. The Arrow 4-element 6m antenna is nice for portable operations, but it probably helps to use both short elements together rather than mixing the screw-in sections so that both directors end up the same length.

New members.

None this month. We'll have to work on that.

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

**THE VP SEZ**

I am busy getting ready for Field Day. I will be bringing the falling derrick setup again. We can use more operators, so if anyone wants to come for part of the weekend or whatever, that would help.

I fooled around in the VHF contest this weekend. I am running the Steppir with 6 elements on 6 meters at 50 ft and a TenTec transverter with 8 watts out, and probably less than 4 watts at the antenna. I still worked VE5, VE6, and VE7 fairly easily. At the August meeting, we will have a program on VHF contesting. **Rick N6RK**

**CQ CQ FD de K6AO!!**

Plans for the club's 2006 Field Day event are in full swing over the next several weeks. Commitments for participation have been received from the following members (in no particular order): NU6T, WB6GEF, N6RK, KF6T, K6LRN, K6TKD, WK6I, KI6T, WX6V, and possibly K6QG.

Y'know - there are some really good pictures on the club's website of our 2005 Field Day event. If you haven't seen these pictures - check em' out!

We could always use a few more operators, so please drop me a line if you may be joining us anytime over the 24 hours of Field Day. We will be operating in Class 2A again this year. In addition to the two main HF stations (using FT-1000s), we will also have a "GOTA" (Get-On-The-Air) station operating on HF with a Kenwood TS-570 along with a VHF setup for 6 & 2 meters. With this many stations running, there should be ample time slots available for everyone to operate. An 18 KW diesel generator supplied by WB6GEF will provide more than enough AC power for all stations. All stations will be housed in tents this year that are equipped with fans for daytime use and heaters during the night. We will be using Writelog, a Windows based program for our logging needs. For antennas, we will be using the club's 4-element 20-meter beam, a Cushcraft A3-S, a 2-element wire beam on 40, a sloping dipole on 80/75, and beams on 6 and 2 meters. One of the more fascinating events on Friday will be setting up the big beam using Rick's (N6RK) "falling derrick" method for putting up a small tower. It worked really well last year (see the photos on the club website).

Initial reports from the Peddler Hill area seem to indicate that snow may still be on the access road to our site. We should be able to find out from the National Forest Service if this is the case in the week immediately preceding Field Day. If so - I will place a notice on the club reflector. With the kind of weather that we have been having so far this month, I am confident that we will be able to get to the top of the mountain by June 23.

Here's how to get there. If you are coming up from the Jackson area, take Highway 88 east. When you get to about the 6,500 foot elevation level (approximately 42 miles from Jackson), you will see a sign on the left side of the highway that reads "Bear River Lake Resort Recreation Area" and a big white arrow that points to the right. This is the road to our site - except - you need to turn to the left instead. A concrete road heads up into the forest and .8 miles up the road you will come to the top of the hill and a small grove of six trees. At this point, you are directly over the Hwy 88 Scenic Overlook.

If you are coming from the Placerville-Auburn area, then I would recommend taking the Sly Park Road exit off of Hwy 50 (just east of Pollock Pines), turn right at the end of the exit, then turn left onto Mormon Emigrant Trail just after you pass Jenkinson Lake. This will eventually bring you to Hwy 88. Turn right (heading west) on Hwy 88 and go 7.2 miles to the aforementioned Bear River Lake Resort highway sign. Turn right and head up the hill. (\*\*\*\*\*Note - road reports as of 6/8 indicate that Mormon Emigrant Trail is still closed by snow. I don't expect that it will be open in time for Field Day. If it is - I will post a note on the reflector. The alternative route is to simply come up to Jackson like you are going to a club meeting and then continue on up the hill on Highway 88 as noted in the instructions above).

The initial setup for the weekend is scheduled to start early Friday afternoon (6/23). Field Day officially starts at 11 A.M. Saturday morning and lasts until 11 A.M. Sunday morning. Station/antenna tear and lunch down will probably last until around 2 P.M. Sunday. By the way - there is family camping at the Bear River Lake Resort down the hill from our FD site. Camping sites there are \$25/night. Call them at 209-295-4868 for more information

or check out their web site at [www.bearriverlake.com](http://www.bearriverlake.com). In addition to camping, the Resort also has a general store (ice is available 24 hours a day), a full service restaurant, and the campground has coin-operated showers.

There will be a camp stove and BBQ grill on site for folks to use for cooking and we have secured a large coffee-maker which will keep us supplied with "go juice" for the entire weekend. Be prepared to provide your own food needs for all meals, drinks, and snacks. Probably the most important item to bring with you is plenty of water. It's mighty dry on top of Peddler Hill! The Field Day operators are all chipping in towards the cost of a portable "loo" on site - no "roughing" it for us!!

That's about it. If you are looking for something to do over the last weekend of June - c'mon up and join us. The most important day is Friday - setup day (actually - tear-down on Sunday is pretty important too because all of the operators are rather worn down by then). Why not plan to come help us get the masts and antennas into the air and then enjoy a nice juicy steak hot off the grill at the end of the day (of course - you have to supply your own steak!) amidst the company of some great radio operators. Then sit around the table with us, sip on your beverage of choice, and share some of your favorite "war stories" from past contests while the sun sets in the west.

Sounds too good to pass up to me!

See ya there. Jim -WX6V-

#### Member news/feedback.

In the last two days I have received certificates for the 2005 IARU HF World Championship, First place single operator phone only low power San Joaquin Valley section, and First place Multi-operator (KI6PG + packet) San Joaquin Valley Section 2005 ARRL 160-Meter Contest. It is always nice to get another certificate, even though I suspect I was the only entry in those categories. Bill KI6PG

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

Thanks to Rick for setting up our speaker for last month's meeting, she did a great job, and was extremely interesting!

The past month does not have one entry added to my log! Yup, I have been a "DX and Contesting slug". But on the plus side, I

am totally caught-up with my QSLing. So what have I been doing? Enjoying the sunshine, weed-whacking, poison oak and star thistle spraying and playing in the old' Corvette. All of which is a lot more fun (except the weed-whacking) than listening to band noise and the electrical racket coming from neighboring tractors. The only radio related stuff I have done, was re-routing (and shortened) the 160 and 40M cable-runs from down the hill. Not that there is anything to work on those bands anyway, but in September I will be ready.

Oh, I did sell the old FT-1000D to an NCCer who wanted a second one for SO2R. So, come fall I guess I will buy a new HF box for the start of DX/Contesting season. What? Don't know yet, but I'm looking at everything that's out there, except the \$10K rigs. So for now, I will have to be content with the ol' back-up rig, an FT-920.

We are still working on splitting our 10 acre lot into two 5 acre chunks, and we have finally gotten to the aerial survey process. Man, these guys move in slow motion, that is when they move at all. .

**C U all the 17<sup>th</sup> de Rick W6SR**

#### MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT June 2006

**Balance May 1, 2006: \$1118.46**

**Income: Dues 30.00**

**Expenses: Badges 22.60**

**Insurance Premium 320.00**

**Lunch for Speaker 7.50**

**\$350.10**

**Balance May 31, 2006 \$798.36**

**Carolyn Wilson K6TKD Treasurer**

#### MLDXCC General Meeting, 20 May 2006.

Club President Rich, NU6T, called the General meeting to order at 12:05 PM with 19 members and 1 visitor present at Round Table Pizza in Martell. No Board meeting was held today.

Officers' roll call was completed, guest Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, was introduced and copies of today's agenda were passed out to those present. Following a review of the agenda, payment of the Club's liability insurance was added to the Treasurer's report.

Ken, K6TA, was recognized for his achievement of First Place, DX Single Operator High Power, in the 2005 160-meter

contest. Ken operated from Aruba as P40TA.

The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report of 15 April 2006 were accepted as printed in the Nugget newsletter. Payment of the Club's liability insurance was voted on and passed. A copy of the new policy coversheet will be provided to the Senior Center in Jackson for the July joint meeting.

The Action Item regarding Club competition rules has been referred to Dick Norton at the ARRL Membership Committee.

The Northern California DX Club will host the 2007 International DX Convention. Our Club has volunteered to assist in whatever way we can, but no response has been received at this time. Rick, N6RK, advised that the NCDXC has been experiencing an influx of members since the relaxation of the DXCC rules and that most likely has affected the response time. Jack, KF6T, suggested organizing a Club table for the banquet; a discussion followed regarding table sign-up. Alternate transportation methods to and from the convention from the local area were discussed.

Dick, K6LRN, proposed shirts and caps with our Club logo. The suggestion was favorably received and Dick will check into pricing for products and embroidery.

Norm, N6JV, announced that the River City Club would be disbanding next month; he'll propose our Club as an alternative at their final meeting.

Field Day Chairman Jim, WX6V, reported that all is on schedule for this year's event and that computer issues are being solved. A discussion followed, with the agreement that the "goto" station would be set on 20 meters, max'ed out and shut down. The remaining two stations would then operate for the remainder of the period. It was moved that the portable toilet expense would be paid up-front with reimbursement by the Field Day participants. Jim took an action to check into rental of a trailer to provide indoor plumbing, sleeping and food preparation areas.

Ray, ND6S, will obtain meat for the joint meeting in July; it was agreed that eight tri-tips and more chicken than last year would be required. It was also noted that diet sodas and more water needed to be added to the beverage order. Kay, K6KO, will provide updated directions for the June newsletter. Al, K6SRZ, will present the program on the Kure Island, K7C, DX-pedition. Discussion followed regarding the sound system at the Senior Center and whether the right cable(s) would be

available. Rick, N6RK, will bring a box of connectors and cables.

Guest speaker Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, provided an excellent presentation regarding Software Defined Radio, including past, present and future applications.

General meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

**Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary**

## 10 June 2006 A.R.I. DX Bulletin

\*\*\*4 2 5 D X N E W S \*\*\*DX INFORMATION \*\*\*

**5H** - Dane, ST2T (S57CQ) will be active as 5H1DN from Zanzibar Island (AF-032) on 7-14 July, IARU HF World Championship included. QSL via S57DX. [TNX S57DX]

**9M\_spr** - Tex, 9M2TO will be active as 9M0/9M2TO from Layang Layang, Spratly Islands (AS-051) from around 12 UTC on 9 June until around 22 UTC on the 12th. He plans to operate on 80-6 metres CW only, and since he will be using a small airplane, he will be limited as to how much gear and antennas he can take (namely an FT-847, a G5RV for the HF bands and a F9FT for 6 metres). QSL via bureau to JA0DMV or direct to 9M2TO (Tex Izumo, 2C-10-03 Mutiara Apt, Jalan Sungai Emas, 11100 Batu Ferringhi, Penang Is, Malaysia). [TNX JA1ELY]

**F** - Special station TM5AST will be operated on 17-18 June from Boissy le Sec for this year's edition of Astroradio (<http://astroradio.free.fr/>). QSL via F4DTL. [TNX F8REF]

**FO** - Alain, FO5RH will be active again from Tatakoto (OC-066), French Polynesia on 6-25 June. [TNX F6AJA]

**G** - Special event station GB50SAD will be active on 11 June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stevenage & District Amateur Radio Society ([www.g3sad.org](http://www.g3sad.org)). QSL via G2BKZ.

**GM** - The IOTA expedition to Rockall (EU-189), which was expected to take place between 16 and 28 June [425DXN 777], has been cancelled because of the lack of sufficient funding - see <http://www.dxpedition.org/>.

**HH** - Chris, W3CMP will operate as HH4/W3CMP from Haiti on 17-28 June. He will concentrate on 6 and 2 metres, with some limited HF operating. [TNX The Daily DX]

**I** - Special station II2MM will be active on 10-11 June for the Italian Navy Day. QSL via IK2AQZ, direct or bureau. [TNX IK2AQZ]

**I** - Giacomo, I4FGG will be active as IF9/I4FGG from Marettimo Island (EU-054,

IIA TP-010) on 12-22 June. He plans to operate mainly on 15 and 20 metres CW. QSL via bureau to home call. [TNX I4FGG]

**I** - Gianni, IZ8CGS and Maurizio, IZ8GBH will operate as IG9Z from Lampedusa Island (AF-019, IIA AG-001) from 26 June to 2 July. QSL via IZ8GBH. Logs will be available on [www.mdxc.org/ig9z](http://www.mdxc.org/ig9z) [TNX IZ8CGS]

**JA** - Look for JL1OVV/1 and 7L3ATQ/1 to be active from Mikura Island (AS-008, JIIA AS-008-005) on 17-19 June. The island is difficult to reach and in case of bad weather they will operate from Hachijo Island (AS-008). QSL via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX JI6KVR]

**KH0** - JA6CNL and JA6AGA will operate as KH0N and WH0C from Saipan (OC-086) on 16-20 June, All-Asian DX CW Contest included. Outside the contest they will spend some time on the WARC bands and 160 metres CW (1820/1910 KHz). QSL via home calls. [TNX The Daily DX]

**LU** - The Radio Club Argentino will be operating as LR4D from Martin Garcia Island (SA-055) on 6-9 July and will take part in the IARU HF World Championship as HQ station for Argentina. QSL via LU4AA. [TNX LU1BCE]

**LX** - Amateur radio operators from France, Luxembourg and Germany have held a meeting in Luxembourg since 1969. Look for special event call LX0SAR to be aired during this year's event, which will take place on 16-18 June at Weicherdange. QSL via DG8VE. [TNX F8REF]

**OH** - The Radio Club of Technical Students (OH8TA), University of Oulu, will operate as OH8T from Hailuoto Island (EU-184) on 9-11 June. Expect activity on 80, 20 and 15 metres. QSL via OH8TA. [TNX VA3RJ]

**OH** - OH6HJE, OH6MTG, OH6NJ and OH6UV will be active as OH6AW/5 from Kaunissaari (EU-140) on 5-10 July. They will operate mostly CW and SSB, with some digital mode operation. [TNX OH6NJ]

**SP** - Special event station HF40PSL will be active from 10 June to 10 September to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Radio Club SP5PSL. All of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau, the QSL manager for direct requests is SP5JXK. [TNX Info-Radio by I1SCL]

**T6** - The OPDX Bulletin reports that Ross Ballantyne, VK1UN/VK8UN (formerly known as 4W6UN and EX1UN) is now working in Kabul, Afghanistan as a Project Coordinator for the United Nations. Ross has been issued the first official license of the Afghan Amateur Service, T61AA, and he says that the YA prefix will not be used any longer. T61AA's operation, effective 23 May 2006, has been approved for DXCC credit.

**T6** - Mika, OH6MKL is active as T66T from Afghanistan through July. Look for him on 160-10 metres CW and SSB. QSL via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]

**TA** - Mill, LX1CC will operate on all bands holiday style as YM3CC from Turkey on 9-28 June. QSL via home call. [TNX F5NQL]

**TF** - Fabio, IW5DCE will be in Iceland from 8 June for at least six months. He plans to operate in his spare time as TF/IW5DCE on 6 metres and the HF bands (SSB and digital modes). QSL via home call. [TNX IK5HHA]

**VE** - Gregg, VE3ZZ (ex-PA9ZZ) will be active as VE3ZZ/VY2 from Prince Edward Island (NA-029) on 26-31 July, IOTA Contest included. Using the VY2TT superstation, Gregg will be QRV before and after the contest on the WARC bands. QSL via home call. [TNX VE3ZZ]

**W** - Look for Kyle, W4KTF/p to be active on 80-2 metres mainly SSB from Emerald Isle/Bogue Banks (NA-112) on 11-17 June. He plans to operate on 20 metres around 19-21 UTC and anywhere on 20-10 metres around 13 UTC. QSL via home call. [TNX VA3RJ]

\*\*\*\* GOOD TO KNOW ... \*\*\*\*  
425 DX NEWS MAGAZINE ---> The latest issue (May 2006) is now available at <http://www.425dxn.org/monthly/>. Articles and pictures should be sent to Nicola Baldresca, IZ3EBA ([iz3eba@ari.it](mailto:iz3eba@ari.it)).

**MONTENEGRO** ---> After the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992, Montenegro went into federation with Serbia, first as Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, then as a looser State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. On 3 June the Parliament of Montenegro declared the independence of Montenegro, formally confirming the result of a referendum on independence held on 21 May. Montenegro has begun the process of seeking international recognition as well as a seat at international organizations. As far as DXCC is concerned, when Montenegro becomes a UN member \*or\* is assigned a prefix block by the ITU, then it will be added to the DXCC list. Information on the history of Montenegro can be found at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montenegro>

**POSTAL RATES (ITALY)** ---> Effective 1 June, the postal rates for a standard letter (up to 20 grams) from Italy are EUR 0.65 for Europe (plus Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Giordania, Israel, Libya, Lebanon,

Morocco, Syria and Tunisia), EUR 0.85 for other destinations in Africa & Asia and the Americas, EUR 1.00 for destinations in Oceania. Consequently, please note that 1 USD no longer covers the postage for direct QSLs outside Europe.

**Silvano, I2YSB** (see the list of the stations he is the QSL manager for on <http://www.i2ysb.com/>) says he will honour direct requests that include 1 IRC + 1 USD, or 2 IRCs or 2 USD (otherwise they will be processed through the bureau)

**Andrea, IK1PMR** (<http://www.ik1pmr.com/>) says he will provide on his web site a secure PayPal-based system to allow interested DXers to send needed extra-funds for postage. At all events, "a reasonably quick reply via the ARI QSL Bureau is guaranteed" to those who have already sent their direct cards without sufficient return postage

**QSL 3Y0X** ---> On 6 June Bob Schenck, N200 announced that 27,477 QSOs (the 32% of all QSOs made by 3Y0X) have been confirmed. He estimates that they have now answered approximately 65% of all requests received (this includes about 95% of all 3Y0X contributor's cards). Another QSL session will be scheduled for 11 June and another mailing should be ready for the 12th. Please give a look to the QSL Update announcement & QSLling procedures at <http://www.peterone.com/qsl.htm>, and refrain from e-mailing N200 at this time, as it will only slow the process down

**THAILAND** ---> The long-awaited permission to operate on the WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 metres) is just around the corner, according to John (Narissara), HS1CHB, who said that the NTC (the Thai National Telecommunications Commission) has agreed to issue temporary permission for those radio amateurs in Thailand who notify them of their desire to do so. This privilege includes permission to operate on 80 and 160 metres, and the temporary permission will be valid until the end of the year. The yet-to-be-formed National Broadcasting Commission would need to be in place before any permanent spectrum changes could be made. [Source: <http://www.qsl.net/rast>]

**WRTC 2006** ---> The results of the WRTC 2006 Contest (which will take place as a part of the IARU contest on 8-9 July) must be ready within 35 hours after the event. The organizers therefore need as many IARU logs as possible and as soon as possible to verify the logs of the WRTC 2006 competitors. All IARU Logs received direct to [logs@wrtc2006.com](mailto:logs@wrtc2006.com) or via [iaruhf@iaru.org](mailto:iaruhf@iaru.org) until they cut-off the reception of the IARU

logs at the WRTC 2006 HQ some time late Sunday/early Monday (UTC) will participate in a lottery. All IARU Logs received within 6 hours after the contest (i.e. before 18 UTC on 9 July) will also be entitled to receive a few prizes. Further information can be found at <http://www.wrtc2006.com/release52.html> [TNX PY5EG]

**\*\*\* NEWS FROM THE WEB \*\*\***  
**PHOTO GALLERY:** The Dayton Hamvention 2006 Photo Gallery is now up with 214 photos collected by Tom, K8CX at <http://hamgallery.com/dayton2006/>  
**TOP LISTS:** The latest Topband, Topmode and Toplist listings are now available at <http://www.425dxn.org/awards/toplist/index.html>.

**\*\*\* 4 2 5 D X N E W S \*\*\***  
**\*\*\*\*\* ADDRESSES \*\*\*\*\***  
**BA4DW** David Y. J. Zhou, P.O. Box 040-088, Shanghai, 200040, China  
**F6ELE** Didier Bas, 11 Rue des Petites Maisons, F-17230 St. Ouen D'Aunis, France  
**F61PS** Michel Le Balc'h, 16 Hameau Mace, F-50310 Emondeville, France  
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**PA0VHA** Hans Vernhout, Ph. de Goedestraat 54, NL3132XR Vlaardingen, The Netherlands  
**PS7EB** Glauber Fernandes, P.O. Box 251, 59010-970 Natal - RN, Brazil  
**SM6YOU** Rickard Dahlstedt, Ekebergsgatan 4D, 417 02 Gothenburg, Sweden  
**SV2ASP/A** Monk Apollo, Docheiariou Monastery, 63087, Dafni - Mount Athos, Greece  
**SV1HER** Sotirios Vanikiotis, Korai 31, GR-12137 Peristeri (Athens), Greece  
**VA7DP** Doug Pichette, 533 Nelson Ave, Penticton, Canada  
**VK4FW** Bill Horner, P.O. Box 612, Childers, 4660, Australia

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MLDXCC JULY 22, Joint meeting with NCCC**  
**Please bring the following to share based on the first letter of the suffix of your call sign:**  
**A-G- Chips/dips/salsas**

**H-N- Salad (potato, macaroni, fruit, green, etc.)**

**O-U- Relishes (assorted pickles, olives, carrot sticks, veggies w/sip, etc.)**

**V-Z- Desserts (simple desserts, cookies, fresh fruit, etc.)**

**Directions to the meeting site:**

The meeting will be at the Senior Services Center, 229 New York Ranch Road, Jackson, Ca. Take State Highways 49/88 to Jackson. From the West (Highway 88) or the North (Highway 49), go through the Martell traffic light at 49/88 intersection and proceed to the bottom of the hill, turn left at the 2nd downtown Jackson traffic light (Safeway and Campbell's KwikServ gas station will be on your right), onto Highway 88 East toward Lake Tahoe. Follow signs to Senior Center and turn left onto Court Street (approximately 1 mile). New York Ranch Road will be the first stop sign (1/4 mile). Turn right and the Senior Center will be on the left approximately 100 yards from the intersection and behind an apartment complex (signs will direct you to "Oak Manor"). Parking is available in both the front and the back. Additional parking is available next door at the Quail Hollow Professional Center with stairs at the rear that lead to the Senior Center. Please do not park in the spots marked for the Oak Manor Convalescent Home.

**OLD Foothill Flea Market**

1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://larkswap.com)

**UP-COMING CONTESTS**

ursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 16
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18
SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 17 to 0200Z, Jun 18
Quebec QSO Party	1700Z, Jun 17 to 0300Z, Jun 18
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 17
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 23
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 24 to 1200Z, Jun 25
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 24 to 2100Z, Jun 25
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 30
<b>July, 2006</b>	
RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 1 to 1059Z, Jul 2
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 8 to 1200Z, Jul 9
FISTS Summer Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 8
Six Club Contest	1800Z, Jul 8 to 2100Z, Jul 9

Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 14
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 15 to 2100Z, Jul 16
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 15 to 0600Z, Jul 16
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 21
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 29 to 1200Z, Jul 30

**PROPAGATION FORECAST**

SB PROP ARL ARLP023 Propagation de K7RA  
Sunspot counts were lower this week, but it is surprising what has happened on the ham bands. Operators are still having fun, and still working long distances, even on VHF, during this low part of the sunspot cycle. Most of this is due to seasonal sporadic-E propagation. Average sunspot numbers dropped 35 points to 19.3 between the last week in May and the first week of June. Geomagnetic indexes were a little higher. In 6-meter news, Scott Avery, WA6LIE in Salinas, California (CM96) says that on June 1 he worked four stations in Florida from 0000-0100z. Jim Henderson, KF7E near Phoenix, Arizona said on June 2 that 6-meter conditions on the previous weekend were exceptional, with propagation to the Carolinas on May 27 and New England on May 28. May 29 saw openings to Vermont, Connecticut, Maine and New York, and then "a huge opening to the Pacific Northwest." Jim also sent along an interesting link to a map of electront densities, along with plots of reported 6-meter propagation. You cant see it at, <http://69.15.204.66/ionosphere/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=34>.

Shelby Ennis, W8WN of Elizabethtown, Kentucky sent a link to, <http://www.vhfdx.net/spots/map.php>, that shows real-time maps of VHF propagation. You can select maps for different bands and various regions.

There were also reports of great HF conditions during the CQ WPX contest over the Memorial Day weekend. Sig, N3RS of Glenmoore, Pennsylvania said he could work Europe until the wee hours on 20 meters, and he had 15 and 20-meter propagation to Japan as well. Gordon Fogg, N5AU of Rockwall, Texas said that on Sunday night and Monday, June 4-5, he experienced an amazing 6-meter opening to Japan. He worked 17 JA stations on CW, and heard many other stations working them also. Jon Jones, N0JK of Wichita, Kansas characterized the 6-meter opening to Japan on Sunday night, June 4 as "massive sporadic-E." Jon said the Sunday Japan

opening favored Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. On Monday stations as far-east as Florida, Ohio and Alabama worked Japan on 6-meters. On Sunday evening, Jon used 100 watts and a 2 element Yagi atop the parking garage at the hospital where he works and he contacted JA7QVI around 2345z on 50.101 MHz. Chip Margelli, K7JA of Garden Grove, California wrote to urge contact with WQ5W, who worked "at least 34 JAs" on 6-meters on Sunday. Chip worked JH0RNN and JA7QVI on CW. Alan Benoit, WQ5W wrote, "Yes, we had an amazing opening into JA on Sunday evening from here in EM12 (near Fort Worth). I worked NL7Z at 2218z on SSB and then noticed in the 6M chat room that JH2COZ was going to call CQ on 50.096 MHz CW. Not expecting anything, I listened for his CQ and to my amazement, I heard him 559. He came back immediately to my call and I worked my first JA ever on 6M!" Alan continues, "I then proceeded to call CQ on CW further up the band and had many JAs call me! Between 2227z and 0151z I made 42 QSOs into JA along with 2 KL7s and a few VE7s (all on CW). It was the most amazing thing I've ever experienced on 6M. I believe all of this was via Es which makes it even more amazing." This weekend is the ARRL June VHF QSO Party, a nice excuse for searching for more 6-meter excitement.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net). For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.htm> 1. 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 June 1 through 7 were 11, 0, 0, 17, 23, 36 and 48 with a mean of 19.3. 10.7 cm flux was 77.2, 75.3, 75.9, 75.6, 77.9, 78, and 82.7, with a mean of 77.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 13, 8, 4, 2, 4, 23 and 24 with a mean of 11.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 10, 5, 2, 1, 2, 15 and 18, with a mean of 7.6.

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

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

**The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER**

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