

# The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

## MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

**When:** Saturday, 18 March, 11:30AM-2:30PM

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

**What:** For the program on March 18th, Al AD6E will give us a presentation on the .K7C operation.

## **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, W6HFM Harry Miller, WK6I Jeff Stai, W6ISO Kit Kohlmoos, WL7NN George Van Lone, N6TV Bob Wilson, KF6T, Jack Morgan, K6TTT Jack Costa, AE6Y Andy Faber

## **Speaker List**

At our February meeting, we recognized that some general clubs may appreciate having an experienced DXer or Contester make a brief presentation to introduce prospective new folks to our favorite aspect of Amateur Radio, and perhaps bring a few new members to MLDXCC. Some may look forward to public speaking like an old CW man looks forward to a phone contest, but we could use a list of potential speakers who would be willing, on occasion, to visit a local club and represent our club and interests. If public speaking is not your thing, perhaps you would be willing to help prepare some club notes, audio or visuals or slides (PowerPoint?) to help develop a program that others could use.

If interested in helping give or prepare presentations on DXing and Contesting to encourage newcomers and help build our membership, please give me a call or email.

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

## FROM THE PREZ

**Congratulations to everyone who managed to make a few contacts in the ARRL**

International DX contests. I'm looking forward to seeing our club score this year. I had a limited effort, but managed to pick up three new entities. JT1CO was a new DXCC entity and a new zone. I need 26 and 34 for WAZ. I'm hot on W6SR Rick's heals for that 5-band award <grin>. After reading all the gloomy predictions for cycle 24, I was glad to hear about the new prediction for a 30-50% better peak than cycle 23. The bad news is that they expect it to take longer to improve than usual.

## *Job Opening*

We need to find a new Webmaster. If interested, contact one of the club officers.

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
  - Weekly Net review
- 12:30 New business
- Upcoming contests/DX
  - Club Goals/Planning
    - o Visalia?
    - o FD initial planning
    - o Joint Meeting
    - o CQP initial planning
  - Review action items

13:15 Recognition of achievements, milestones and other.

13:30 Guest Speaker/presentations: Al Maenchen, AD6E/ K7C DXpedition

15:00 Adjourn

## Contesting

A show of hands at the last meeting made it very clear that the majority of our members are dual members with NCCC. I suspect that most members are fully involved with NCCC contests and don't

need much more added to their contesting calendar beyond CQP. We've added the ARRL International DX as a winter club contest. I understand the Field Day participation has been lagging.

I'm looking forward to CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26, where I can put NU6T to good use. Then it will be time to get serious about station improvements.

**Field Day:** Jim Venneman will have a bigger challenge this year as our Field Day Coordinator. We will be missing one of our stouthearted Field Day regulars as Ron, N6ZO moves to 4-land. Ron has donated an A3S to assist our efforts. Best wishes to Ron in his new endeavors.

**Club Contests/Events:**

At our last meeting we briefly mentioned Multi operation possibilities, especially to include new or less experienced member. Multi events can be fun social events as well as opportunities to learn about someone's operating style or some new shack tips.

As an aged but novice ham, and one with a very limited electronics background prior to my license study, I'm still a bit nervous around expensive equipment with big sparks, that don't belong to me. I also have a lot of experience with folks assuming I know more than I do. I'm sure other new hams get a bit nervous with new settings and equipment as well. What is second nature to our experienced hams may not be so obvious to newer hams, whatever the age. Multi events may be a fun opportunity to bridge the gaps.

DX?

Must be time for me to get serious about the DXCC Challenge. I have 265 worked and 154 confirmed. I'm almost a third of the way there!

I have to say that I am in awe of the members of this club. Last meeting we asked for a show of hands of those on the DXCC Honor Roll. I had to check to see how many had both hands up; we have so many Honor Roll members! We have a number of members who are getting close to top honors. And then a few lucky ones like me.

I've yet to live through my first half-wave of a solar cycle, and am missing out on a lot of low band fun. I need to improve my antenna situation especially on 40m and 80m. Once it stops raining on a free day, I'll be putting up a Cobra wire antenna to see how it plays. If I can get the whole thing up on my limited lot, I may have new opportunities on 80-160m.

Members in Motion

As mentioned earlier, Ron, N6ZO, is moving to 4-land and may not be able to attend future meetings. Ron is a past president, is our webmaster, and has added energy to the club. He will be missed. In a short note, Ron asked that we pass his best wishes to MLDXCC and his appreciation to for everyone's help and good wishes. He tells us to be watchful for a KB from a new W4. Best wishes to Ron in his new endeavors.

New Members

Who will we introduce this month? Our goal is 10 new members this year. Who will be first? We had several visitors this past month. Our visitors were Glenn Blanke, KD6WXC; Chuck Bland, NA6BR; Nathaniel Bland, KG6WPE; and Danny Schow, KI6AJF. Unfortunately I was not able to personally meet each visitor. I hope to improve on that.

Thanks to Jettie, W6RFF, for including a short note in his Section Manager report regarding our membership drive and access to our newsletter. 73. (I sent 2 people newsletters in response to Jettie's note. ed.)

**THE VP SEZ**

Please remember to submit your ARRL DX logs. We really need to get going on planning for Field Day. Since the ARRL contest, I have been concentrating on my remote base capability. I am now on the air on 80 and 40 phone and CW, with 1.5 kW to inverted vees at 115 feet. Other bands are in process as I get things get debugged. It takes a lot of time to get all the details right.  
Rick N6RK

**Member news & feedback & stuff for sale**

According to neighbor, on Monday, Feb 27th, there were sustained winds along the ridge where we live of about 70 MPH. For once we didn't lose power, but we did lose an old cedar tree that was holding one end of the rope that supported our 80 & 160 meter antennas. The wind was making so much noise we did not hear the top 65-70 feet of the 90-95 foot high tree break off and fall on the pressure tank. The protruding branches broke the PVC pipe coming from the well, going to the tank and from the tank to the line serving the house. The only way the damage would have been

greater is if tree had fallen a degree or two further to the right where the well head is. Murphy's Law is alive & well...of all the places and all of the trees on our property it seems to me this tree took aim at a target & destroyed it.

The 160 antenna is/was an inverted 'L' with about 65' vertical, 65' horizontal. The 80 M antenna, at present is a delta loop fed about 10% up one side. Not the best performer, IMO. This will give some impetus to get 80 M four-square up this spring/summer. I'm not sure what I will do for 160.

de Dick K6LRN

Kay K6KO, got a SSB card from 4J9RI which will put her on Phone Honor Roll in addition to Mixed. Congrats! Ed.

ARRL DX CW K6TA, 713 288 22 609,984  
de K6TA

I was pleased to show up in the Peter One log for a 20 m CW contact, which was a bit iffy, but my alleged 30 m contact never appeared, so I guess that one was a figment of my imagination. I had worked the guys that were there in the 90s on 20 phone so this was not a new entity for me. In the ARRL Phone International DX, I did only 80 meters, in the hopes of getting a new one on that band. The guy in Brazil, which would have been a new one, did not hear me, so I stopped after 19 QSOs with 15 previously confirmed entities. There seems to be good propagation on 17 these days. de Bill KI6PG

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

Another busy month here, and with a trip to LA next week (for taxes and to see our kids), this month is also a blur of activity. Although I have been busy, I found time to re-organize the station and setup a more easily assessable operating position (in a spare bedroom) in the house. Yes, I still have the downstairs shack but now it has only one HF rig in it. As part of the reorganization I sold all the SO2R stuff, I just didn't use it. And, when we finally move to a new QTH, we will become a one tower household. Speaking of moving, we are well on our way to splitting our lot, we are making two 5 acre parcels out of our 10 acres. It should be worth a bit more that way so we hope to have a few extra bucks to put into the new place. While in LA I am also going to drop-off the ol' FT-1000D for maintenance and an alignment. I worked a few new band countries this month but

nothing to write home about. The best new ones being TZ9A and 9H1ZA on 80M. C  
U all the 18<sup>th</sup> de Rick W6SR

#### MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT February 2006

Balance February 1, 2006	\$873.20
Income:	
Donations	2.05
Dues	75.00
	\$77.05

Expenses: 00

Balance February 28, 2006 \$950.25

Treasurer, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD

#### Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 751

**3B8, MAURITIUS** (Maybe 3B9 too!). Operator Jose, ON4LAC, will be active as 3B8/ON4LAC between March 17th and May 13th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters SSB, RTTY and PSPK31. He is also trying to get authorization to go and operate from Rodrigues Island as 3B9/ON4LAC. If he gets the permission, he will be active between April 25th and May 13th. QSL via his home callsign.

**4Z, ISRAEL** (Holyland Areas). Alex, 4Z5KJ, will activate some Holyland Areas (for the Holyland Award) on his business trip to the south of Israel on March 13th. He will sign 4Z5KJ/m and will leave his home (G-11-HS) at 0400z. While traveling mobile, Alex will activate the following areas: HS: G-11, G-12, H-12 RH: F-17 PT: G-12, H-12, G-13, G-14 RM: G-17, F-17 RM: G-15, G-16, F-17 AS: F-18, E-18, F-19, G-19, E-20, F-20, E-21 JS: G-16, G-17 BS: E-21>From 1100-1200z, he will reactivate Holyland Areas: BS: J-26, J-25, K-25, K-23, J-22, H-22, H-23, G-23, G-22. HB: G-22. All activity will be on the usual frequency 14265 kHz. Alex is planning another trip next week. More details about the "Holyland Award" is available on the 'Israel Amateur Radio Club' (IARC) Web page at:  
<http://www.iarc.org>

**5T, MAURITANIA.** Fernando, EA1BT, will be active as 5T6BT, April 7-16th. Activity will be on all bands. QSL via EA4URE.

**5Z, KENYA.** Look for Riccardo to sign 5Z/IZ1GDB from April 20th to May 1st. Activity will be on 40/20/15 meters SSB. QSL via his home callsign, by the bureau or direct using the QRZ.com address.

**9A, CROATIA** (Special Event). Members of the Radio Club "JAN HUS" Daruvar(9A1CCY or 9A5Y in contests) will be operating with the special callsign 9A35Y (NINE-ALFA-THREE-FIVE-YANKEE) to celebrate their 35th anniversary of their formation. Their first activity was during this past weekend's CQ RTTY WPX Contest. Look for this callsign to be used throughout the year of 2006. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, as well as 6 and 2 meters,CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL Manager is 9A5CY: Dean Milde, P.Preradovica 15,HR-43500 DARUVAR, CROATIA.

**9K, KUWAIT.** Operators Hamad/9K2HN, Faisal/9K2RR, Faisal/9K2ID, Yaser/9K2YM, Ahmed/9K200, Ahmad/9K2DB and Mohamed/9K2CQ will be active as 9K2HN during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via 9K2HN (QRZ.com).

**AP, PAKISTAN.** Operators Ijaz/AP2IA and Dane/S57CQ will be active as AP2IA during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as Multi/Single entry. QSL via AP2IA, direct or by the Bureau.

**BPO, TAIWAN.** Operators Wendy/BV2RS (YL), Katie/BU2AO (YL), Bruce/BV2KI, Eddie/BV2DD, Hao/BX4AQ, Pro/BX4AN, Lee/BV2NT, Evan/BV2KS, BX9AAA, BM2AAL and BM2AAV will be active as BPO during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as a Multi/Multi entry. QSL via BV2KI.

**C6, BAHAMAS.** Eric, K9GY, will be active as C6AYM from Nassau, New Providence Island during the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 27-28th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via K9GY, direct or by the Bureau. Eric informs OPDX that he will be there from Thursday, May 25th to Monday, May 29th. Most of his operating will be in the contest on 40/20/15/10 meters (maybe 80m - if he gets an antenna strung up). Mode outside of the contest will be CW. ADDED NOTE: Eric states, "Slight chance I might operate from Eleuthera Island instead."

**C9, MOZAMBIQUE** (Still looking for Ops!). Frosty, K5LBU, announced again this past week that he is still looking for operators to go to Maputo, Mozambique, for 15 days and to be active in the IOTA Contest. Currently, the operators are Frosty and Tom, WW5L. They would like to have 6 operators so they can set up 2 complete stations. They need CW operators. For details, contact Frosty via E-mail at: [frosty1@pdq.net](mailto:frosty1@pdq.net)

Also, visit the following Web pages for more details:<http://www.k5lbu.com> <http://www.dxsafari.com>  
<http://www.africandxsafari.com>  
<http://www.tdxx.net/C9.html>

**CENTRAL/NORTH AMERICAN** OP. Marcos, EA1APV,

is planning to spend 26 days in Central and North America, and he hopes to be active from 6 different locations. His planned schedule is as follows: March 22-26th: He will be active from Guatemala City, Guatemala (TG), to take part in the CQ WPX Contest with a special callsign with other TG Hams in a Multi category entry. Callsign will be TG7M. March 27-28th: Active as TG7M/P, from Tikal Ruins, North Guatemala. Mayan Tikal Ruins are the most important ancients of Guatemala. March 29th to April 2nd: Active as V31SF from Orangewalk, North Belize (V31). A special effort will be on WARC bands. April 4-5th: Active as HR5/EA1APV from Copan Ruins in Honduras (HR). The Copan Ruins are the most important ancients from Mayan Culture. April 7-14th: Active as HR6/EA1APV from Roatan Island (in the Bahia Island Group - IOTA NA-057). April 15-20th: Active as W4/EA1APV from Florida. Activity will be from different lighthouses in the Cayos Area. On April 21st, Marcos will take a one day tourist trip on a ship to Barbados. On April 22nd, he will return to Spain. QSL via EA1APV. He prefers direct QSL (w/SAE and 2 USDs/1 IRC), but will accept bureau QSL (these will be delayed for several months to ship). Send one QSL per envelope (PLEASE DO NOT SEND OLD IRCs). All the QSOs will be uploaded on the LoTW. His direct home address is: Marcos Suárez, Capitan Almeida 25 4°B, E33009 Oviedo, Spain. QSLs received direct without SAE and with 1 USD/IRC will be sent out via the Bureau.

**DAYTON 2006 HAMVENTION NEWS.** A press release by Jay, K4ZLE, from the SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) states: "The program for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual DX Dinner has been finalized. The speaker this year will be Harvey Laidman, W8DX. Harvey has had a 30 year career directing network TV shows including "The Waltons", "JAG", "7th Heaven", "Magnum PI", and many, many more. Harvey suggested the following as titles for his presentation: "DXpedition to Oblivion", "The Psychosexual Evolution of Ham Radio", "I Hate Ham Radio", "DXing and its Power Over the Opposite Sex", "Fifty Years in Front of the Same Table", "I Didn't Fall off the Roof. This is How I am.", "Put That Stuff Down and Go Get a Job", "You'd Rather Talk to Stranger Than to

Me!". He added that regardless of what title we pick, the program will be the same! We think the program will be very entertaining. Tickets are moving quickly and we expect to sell out. If you plan to attend, please act now. The dinner will be Friday evening, May 19th, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in Dayton city center. Tickets are 34.00 USDs per meal, payable in U.S. funds to SWODXA. (Sorry, We do NOT process PayPal or Credit Card payments.) You may order from Jay Slough, K4ZLE, at his CBA. Requests received without SASE will be available at the door. If you do not send an SASE, include your E-mail address and we will confirm receipt of your check. We attempt to honor group seating requests when tickets are ordered together. DX stations wanting to attend should contact Jay directly for payment options." Further information may be obtained from Jay at: k4zle <at> yahoo <dot> net K4ZLE's CBA is 8183 Woodward Dr., West Chester, OH 45069. Also, visit the SWODXA's Web page to see the prizes they are giving away at: <http://www.swodxa.com/dxdinner.htm>

#### **DXCC NEWS.....**

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Branch Manager, informs OPDX that the following operation is approved for DXCC credit: YI/OM2DX - Iraq; Operation commenting June 9th, 2003 This week's ARRL Letter reports/reminds DXers that the DXCC Honor Roll deadline is approaching: "The deadline for the next ARRL DXCC Honor Roll list is rapidly approaching. In order to appear in next list, which will be published in August 2006 QST, operators must be current on the DXCC Honor Roll as of March 31, 2006 -- the last day applications may be postmarked. To qualify for the DXCC Honor Roll, operators must be within the numerical top 10 of the overall entities on the DXCC List. Since there are 335 current entities on the DXCC List, the minimum level to make the Honor Roll is 326 current entities. Deleted entities do not count toward DXCC Honor Roll. Wall plaques remain available for those currently or previously on the Honor Roll. The DXCC Web site has the order form and more information <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>."

**EYO, TAJIKISTAN.** Operators Ark/UA4CC, Roman/UR0MC, Nodir/EY8MM, Alex/EY8CQ, Artem/EY8BA and possibly several other operators will participate in the Russian DX Contest (RDXC) during March 18-19th in the MOST category (Multi Op, All Bands, Single transmitter, MIXED) using the callsign EY0R from Dushanbe, Tajikistan. They will be

active on all bands CW and SSB. QSL via UA4CC (direct or by the bureau). E-mail QSL-requests are also welcome. During the period of March 14-21st, EY8/UA4CC and EY8/UR0MC will be active on all bands, especially on the WARC and lower bands CW/SSB/RTTY. QSL via their home callsigns.

**GERMAN HAMRADIO** (2006 Friedrichshafen). Frank, DL4KQ, GDXF Administrator, informs OPDX that to celebrate its 10th year anniversary, the German DX Foundation (GDXF) is proud to present the following DXpedition highlights of 2005 during the German HAMRADIO, Friedrichshafen, June 23-25th. On Saturday, June 24th, 4 P.M., the GDXF will present exclusively: 1. 3Y0X - Peter I Island Presentation 2. K7C - Kure Island Presentation 3. Announcement/Presentation of the GDXF DXpedition AWARD

**HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN.** Operators Gerry/IZ1DSH and Giovanni/IK1WEG will be active as HB0/homecall from April 22-25th. Activity will be from the locality of Gaflei (1000m ASL) on 80/40/20/17/15 meters CW/SSB/RTTY. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the Bureau.

**HH, HAITI.** Operator Chris, W3CMP, will be heading here on a mission trip with the Northwest Haitian Christian Mission <http://www.nwhcm.org/> from June 17-28th. He will be active as HH4/W3CMP from St. Louis du Nord (Grid FK39) on the northern coast. Activity will be mainly on 6 meters, but he will also be on the HF bands (limited) and 2 meters. There is an existing tower with a tribander at the site, but he hopes to mount more antennas above the existing ones. He will emphasize multiple hop sporadic E openings on 6 meters and whatever meteor scatter or sporadic E he can also find on 2 meters. Chris notes Haiti has been absent from 6 meters the past few years, and he hopes to give it out as a new 6m country to many stations. Chris is currently debating whether to take his 800w or 200w 6m amplifier along and use it with a five or six element yagi. Chris is also thinking about making a possible side trip to Navassa Island (KP1) for an operation since he hears that Haitian fishermen occupy the island on a regular basis. However, the tricky part is getting the official U.S permission to land and operate from it,

which is required for it to count for DXCC.

**IOTA NEWS**.....

**EU-127.** A group of 30 operators will be active as DA0HEL (DOK E-20) from Helgoland Island (N-14 for the German Islands Award) between March 16-21st. They will also activate the Helgoland Lighthouse (GLHA #26, ARLHS FED-101, WLH DL-009, WLOTA LH 0518). Look for activity on the usual IOTA frequencies, CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via DA0HEL (by the bureau is preferred).

**EU-189.** A group of operators plan to activate the rare Scottish Isle of Rockall between June 16-28th. The group is currently waiting for a special callsign (TBA). Operators mentioned so far are: Jacek/SP5DRH, James/MM0CWJ, Witold/SP5LCC, Terje/LA3OHA and more to be announced (they want 12 ops for this trip - XYL, YL and OM). QSL route will be announced later. More details are forthcoming but for now visit the following Web page at: <http://www.dxpedition.org> OC-008/

**OC-181.** Johan, PA3EXX (aka VK4WWI), will be active as P29VV from Witu Islands (OC-181), June 16-19th. Activity will be on CW/SSB on 40/30/20/15/10 meters. If possible, he will operate from New Britain (OC-008) a few days before and after his OC-181 activity. QSL info and additional information will be published on: <http://home.quicknet.nl/mw/prive/willemsen/>

**OC-258.** (JUST A REMINDER!) Operators Jerry/P29ZAD, Norm/P29NB, Tommy/ P29TL and Peter/P29KPH will activate the rare IOTA Kranket Island as P29K between 0000z, March 17th to 0400z, March 20th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters SSB. Suggested frequencies are: 3755, 7055, 14260, 18128, 21260, 24950, 28460 and 50260 kHz. QSL via LZ1JZ (QRZ.com). Further information can be found at: <http://P29K.blogspot.com>

**J5, GUINEA-BISSAU.** Peter, HA3AUI, who was recently active as 6W/HA3AUI from Senegal, is now active as J5UAP until the end of April. Look for activity on 20/17/15/12/10 meters, SSB, with some possible PSK and RTTY. QSL via home callsign direct only.

**J6, ST.LUCIA.** Jack, K9JE, will be active as J68AR from March 16-20th. QSL via K9JE.

**OH0, ALAND ISLAND.** Juha, OH9MM, will be active as OH0Z during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via W0MM.

**MJ0, JERSEY** (Castle Activity). Chris, M0DOL, plans to make a trip to the Island of Jersey (EU-013) and be active as MJ0DOL/p. He also plans to activate some castles while there between April 26th and May 4th. A list of castles will be forthcoming.

**P40, ARUBA.** John, W6LD, will be active as P40L between March 22-29th. His activity will include the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. Outside of the contest John will be active on 160-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via K5WW.

**QSL INFO AND NEWS**..... Jun, JA2EWE, was active this past week as 3D2JM from the Fiji Islands. QSL via his home address at: <http://www.hamcall.net/call?callsign=ja2ewe>

QSL Manager Peter, DL3APO, informs OPDX that the log search page for the recent German FO operation has a new design (thanks to DF3CB for his Log Search Script). It has also been updated after the return of Wulf (FO/DL1AWI), Mat (FO/DL5XU) and Erik (FO/DL9AWI). QSL via DL3APO. Please visit the Web Page at: <http://www.radioklub.de/cgcg>

**QSL WP3F via OK1DOT** at: Petr Gustab, Box 52, Cesky Brod, 282 01 CZECH REPUBLIC. E-mail: [petr.gustab@seznam.cz](mailto:petr.gustab@seznam.cz)

**S65, SINGAPORE.** Selva, 9V1UV, will be active during the BARTG RTTY Contest (March 18-19th) using the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society's (SARTS) special contest callsign S65X. Operations will be from Selva's home QTH. QSL via PA0KHS.

**TC3, TURKEY.** Members of the Balkan Contest Club will operate from Karacabey, Asiatic part of Turkey, as TC3A during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as a Multi-One entry. QSL via LZ1KZA.

**V2, ANTIGUA.** Nobby, G0VJG, will be active as V25V from June 23rd through July 6th. Bands/Modes of activity were not provided. QSL via G4DFI, direct or by the bureau.

**VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND.** Merv, N6NO, will celebrate 55 years of hamming and his 70th birthday from May 5-13th as VK9LNO. Activity will be mostly CW with 100 watts and wire antennas on 80-10 meters. QSL to N6NO.

**VU4, ANDAMAN ISLANDS.** Frank, DL4KQ/VU3FRK, (NIAR Coordinator Europa), has informed OPDX that (ed. edited) "The already announced 3 day VU4-activities during the NIAR HAMFEST at Pt. Blair (VU4) has been extended according to information received from

Bharathi, VU2RBI. All licensed participants of the hamfest (April 18-20th) are now permitted to operate from Andaman Islands for a period of 8 days. It is still possible to join the hamfest and apply for VU4 licenses (info: [www.niar.org](http://www.niar.org)). The permitted operations will cover all Indian HF hambands including 30m and 2m EME operations planned by DL9GFB and DL9MS."ADDED NOTE: Frank, DL4KQ/VU3FRK, and a team of operators will be active from the Andaman Islands during the above event. Possible callsign will be VU4/VU3FRK or individual callsigns issued. Operators announced so far are Frank/DL4KQ (CW), Sarath/VU3RSB (Digital), Bernd/DL5OAB (CW), Doug/N6TQS (Digital) and possibly three other operators. Activity will be on 160-10 meters (including 30m) with an emphasis on CW. QSL route TBA. Visit the following Web for updates at:  
<http://www.dx-pedition.de>

**VU4, ANDAMAN ISLANDS.** Joe, DK5WL, will be active from the Andaman Islands between April 18-23rd. Callsign will be in the form VU4/VU3\*\*\*. His activity will be on 160-10 meters all modes, but he will focus on 20/30/40 meters CW and PSK31. Logs will be sent to the ARRL's LoTW. There will be updated information and an online log at:  
<http://www.160m.de>

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Jim, N6TJ, will once again be active as ZD8Z, March 19-30th. He will participate in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest. QSL via VE3HO.

#### **MLDXCC Board Meeting, 25 February 2006.**

The Board meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Club president Rich Hill, NU6T, at the Round Table Pizza in Martell, CA. Those attending were NU6T; Director Dick Wilson, K6LRN; Director Ken Anderson, K6TA; Gary Stilwell, KI6T; and Secretary Kay Anderson, K6KO.

Dick, K6LRN, requested that the NCCC contest dinner be added to the meeting agenda. The dinner is held on Friday evening during the International DX Convention at Visalia, CA, and is hosted by the NCCC. Reportedly, Jeff Stai, WK6I, has everything all but arranged; the Club will assist in handling money at the door as we've done in the past. Dick also requested that the addition of a small advertisement for the Club in this year's convention booklet be added to the agenda; he will work it with the SCDXC.

Gary, KI6T, reported his findings regarding submittal of Club entries from the ARRL DX Contest. In order that no unauthorized entries are submitted, the secretary will

submit a list to the ARRL of those stations that count toward our score. Submittal will be as a medium category (less than 50 logs, all residing within a 75-mile radius). As usual, all rules will be followed; scores will be gathered and e-mailed to the ARRL for those calls being submitted. The NCCC does not actively pursue these contests as a club, so there should be no interference. Those contests which will be worked as a club will be posted on the website.

Ken, K6TA, reported that he would provide an overview during the meeting of the changes being considered by the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC).

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.

**Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary**

#### **MLDXCC General Meeting, 25 Feb. 2006.**

The General meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by the Club President Rich Hill, NU6T, welcoming 16 members and visitors Glenn Blanke, KD6WXC; Chuck Bland, NA6BR; Nathaniel Bland, KG6WPE; and Danny Schow, KI6AJF

Officers' roll call was completed and copies of today's agenda were passed out to the members and visitors present. The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report of 21 January were accepted as printed in the *Nugget* newsletter.

The Board findings regarding submittal of logs for the ARRL DX contests were recapped for the general membership, and it was also agreed that in order for a multi-op score to count as a club score, at least 50% of the operation participants must be Club members in good standing. A discussion ensued regarding a possible new dues structure including the options of honorary memberships and life memberships, but applications for those operators would have to be approved and voted on by the members. Another option would be "voluntary dues", a method now employed by the NCCC; however, Dick, K6LRN, reminded the membership that dues for our small club are necessary to continue paying expenses. Before tabling the discussion, it was agreed that only

those calls submitted by the Club Secretary would count toward the score.

Members indicated interest in working Field Day and the ARRL DX, WPX and CQP contests as a Club, and perhaps working toward competitions within the Club to rally the troops. George Staudacher, KI6CG, suggested that along with posting the scores, members should e-mail the summary sheet to Rick Karlquist, N6RK, as Contest Chairman. Dick, K6LRN, reminded the membership that the ARRL DX SSB contest is coming up at the end of March and that it has proved a fun contest for Newbies and Oldies alike. Propagation forecasts could be used, and "rallies" could be set up on various bands for score submittal and bragging rites. A discussion followed regarding "handicapping" to allow smaller stations a more equal footing against the big guns; feeling among those present was to maintain status quo, so discussion was tabled.

Jim Venneman, WX6V, is Field Day Chairman and Rick, N6RK will do what he can in preparation for CQP.

In an on-going discussion regarding recruiting new members, Jettie Hill, W6RFF, Sacramento Section Manager and Club member announced that he would be visiting several of the closer clubs in his section and would be glad to provide information regarding upcoming MLDXCC meeting speakers and programs. He will let Rick, W6SR, know which clubs to send a copy of the *Nugget*. Rich, N6UT, President, will prepare a short write-up for the newsletter. Rick, N6RK, VP and Contest Chairman, reported that the joint meeting is a good vehicle for recruiting new members, as well as staging more multi-op events to provide the smaller operators and new or prospective members a learning experience.

It was noted that the date of the joint meeting with the NCCC in July is currently wrong in the *Nugget*. Rick Samoian, W6SR, newsletter editor, stated that it had been corrected to indicate July 22<sup>nd</sup> as the date.

The proposed budget submitted to the membership via e-mail by the Club Treasurer Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, was accepted as stated.

Ken, K6TA, Director, led a discussion regarding the DX Advisory Committee's proposed changes to the DXCC country criteria.

Action items were taken regarding a short write-up for the *Nugget* on future speakers and programs (Rich, NU6T); e-mailing the *Nugget* to section clubs (Jettie, W6RFF); contacting SCDXC on including a small MLDXCC advertisement in the IDXC booklet (Dick, K6LRN); contacting Dick Norton and Bob Wilson regarding changes to contest rules (Rick, N6RK); and recruiting volunteers for the Visalia contest dinner (next meeting -- Jeff Stai, WK6I).

The General Meeting was adjourned at 2:00PM for presentation of a video on K0IR's 1994 Peter I DXpedition.

**Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **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

SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z, Mar 17 to 1600Z, Mar 18 and 1600Z, Mar 18 to 1000Z, Mar 19
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 20
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 20
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26

#### **April, 2006**

Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 1 to 2200Z, Apr 2
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 1 to 1800Z, Apr 2
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 1 to 0500Z, Apr 2 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 2
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 6
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 4
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 8 to 0359Z, Apr 9 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 9

Montana QSO Party 2300Z, Apr 8 to  
2300Z, Apr 9

SARL Hamnet 40m  
Simulated Emerg 1200Z-1400Z, Apr 9  
Contest

YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL 1400Z, Apr 11 to  
Contest, SSB 0200Z, Apr 13

222 MHz Spring Sprint 1900 local - 2300  
local, Apr 12  
0600Z-0659Z, Apr  
15 and  
0700Z-0759Z, Apr  
15 and  
0800Z-0859Z, Apr  
15

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 15 to  
0400Z, Apr 16

Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 15 to  
1800Z, Apr 16

432 MHz Spring Sprint 1900 local - 2300  
local, Apr 20

SP DX RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 22 to  
1200Z, Apr 23

Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 22 to  
0159Z, Apr 23 and  
1200Z-2159Z, Apr  
23

Helvetia Contest 1300Z, Apr 29 to  
1259Z, Apr 30

#### **PROPAGATION FORECAST**

**SB PROP ARL ARLP007ARLP007 Propagation de K7RA.**

SB PROP ARL ARLP010  
ARLP010 Propagation de K7RA

A big news story this week (big to us, anyway) generated more email than I've ever received. If you were one of the kind folks who sent in an alert about a new prediction for sunspot cycle 24, I'm sorry that I couldn't get back to everyone.

A new computer model of solar dynamics produced by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research predicts the next solar cycle to begin a bit later than earlier believed, but to rise much higher, perhaps 30-50% higher than the current solar cycle just ending. Their model claims to predict cycles 16-23 using earlier data with 97% accuracy. I would love to see some dissenting scientific opinion, but of course in my heart I long for another cycle 19 of the 1950s, one that I missed. 50% higher would just about get us there!

You can read about the new prediction model at these sites:

<http://www.newscientistspace.com/article.ns?id=dn8814>

<http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=19189>

[http://www.universetoday.com/am/publish/30\\_50\\_solar\\_cycle.html](http://www.universetoday.com/am/publish/30_50_solar_cycle.html)

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/261963\\_solar07.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/261963_solar07.html)

<http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=19190>

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/space/03/07/solar.storm.ap/index.html>

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=105844](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=105844).

An article with a photo of Dr. Dikpati and members of her team is here:

<http://www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml>.

Also check out this article from NASA, which claims that the solar minimum is already here, or at least the beginning of it:

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/06mar\\_solarminimum.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/06mar_solarminimum.htm).

Regarding current propagation, solar activity is still low, with many days of zero sunspots recently, and even more ahead. The vernal equinox is only a couple of weeks away. This is a good time for HF propagation, even with few sunspots, as the southern and northern hemispheres are equally bathed in the sun's radiation. Friday, March 10 could have unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions, with unsettled conditions on Saturday, quiet to unsettled on Sunday, and quiet on Monday, March 13.

Bob Poortinga, K9SQL of Bloomington, Indiana wrote in about his experience on 15 meters last week in the ARRL International DX SSB Contest. He ran 100 watts into a wire antenna (he didn't say if it was a dipole, a rhombic, or a Sterba curtain, but let's assume it was a simple antenna) and worked 44 countries. Bob wrote: "Highlights included 2 JAs (heard 2 others), Tonga, Ascension Island, and 3 KH6s. Also heard, but did not work, VK6NS and a ZL1 station. Had lots of QSOs to South America, mostly Argentina and Brazil. The Pacific opening lasted about two hours, occurring about 2130-2330 UTC Sunday. The 3 KH6s were worked within 15 minutes of each other and did not hear again".

Bob also likes the BeaconSee software for monitoring NCDXF/IARU beacons. Bob says 'I can't say enough about this program'. Check it out for yourself at <http://www.coaa.co.uk/beaconsee.htm>.

Mark Schreiner, NK8Q of Allentown, Pennsylvania wrote in about how much fun he is having at the bottom of the cycle running QRP, and how great the lower part of the HF spectrum is with so little solar activity. He writes, 'About 1-1/2 hours after local sunrise I heard 3D2NB on 40m on 3/3/06 and once I figured out the QSX I worked him within a matter of a couple of calls. I was amazed to hear a station at such great distance so late after local sunrise! I had worked a Fiji Islands station who was barely copyable by me (so I can't imagine how my signal was for him unless his antenna was something special) early last summer at about 5 AM during the peak of grayline, just before my local sunrise, but to work this station so late after sunrise and with at least an S5 to S7 signal strength at my end, I thought was absolutely amazing!

And finally, Warren Ziegler, K2ORS holds broadcaster Jean Shepard's old call. Warren experiments with longwave transmissions on 137.8 KHz. Look at the cool stone tower where he operates his station: <http://www.w4dex.com/wd2xgj.htm>.

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

Sunspot numbers for March 2 through March 8 were 0, 0, 13, 28, 27, 25 and 24 with a mean of 16.7. 10.7 cm flux was 76.1, 75.5, 75, 74.2, 73.6, 74.4, and 72.4, with a mean of 74.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 3, 2, 8, 12 and 4 with a mean of 5.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 1, 1, 8, 6 and 3, with a mean of 3.6.

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

**Apr 15:**  
**May 20**  
**June 17**  
**July 22**

**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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**ARRL Awards Checkers**

**DXCC, Gary Stillwell, KI6T & Ken Anderson, K6TA**  
**WAS & others Dennis King, N6KD**

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