

The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, 20 May, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Where: Round Table Pizza in Martell.

What: Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Kristen will explore the emerging field of Software Defined Radio (SDR). Come and hear about the future of Ham Radio!

Kirsten will describe how the ever increasing speed and capability of digital signal processors are rapidly moving radio systems from all analog, to DSP based IF processing found in many current ham transceivers, to the nearly all digital radio architectures of tomorrow. The day when a transceiver will consist of a low noise, wide dynamic range receive pre-selector-amplifier and a wide band power amplifier both interfaced to a fast and powerful DSP based computer system is not many years away. This technology will bring many new and previously unexpected or impossible to achieve capabilities to ham equipment at affordable prices. It will also make available new digital modes robust in the presence of high levels of QRM, QRN and QSB.

Her talk will explore how compact, extremely efficient and flexible radio systems can be built using SDR technology. It will address what SDR is, how it is done, aspects of modulation/demodulation, filtering for adjacent signal rejection, and other topics has been an active ham since 1979.

Kirsten enjoys chasing HF DX with her home built Elecraft K2. She serves as ARRL Technical Specialist in the East Bay Section and is extremely active in many local radio clubs. Professionally, Kristen is a Principal Investigator at Sun Microsystems Laboratories researching robustness of large distributed computers systems. She has a diverse technical background including stints as an analog circuit designer and developer of digital image processing systems. She has also founded and operated an Internet Service Provider. Kristin earned her BSEE in Electrical Engineering from MIT.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

W1RH **Bob Hess**
5020 Glory View Dr.
Placerville, Ca. 95667
530-350-3843
w1rh@yahoo.com

K3UG **Barry Thaysen**
1170 Cheyenne Rd.
Copperopolis, Ca. 95228
209-785-5384
BTHAYSEN@CALTEL.com

KG6YSR **Lila Jean Regan**
P.O. Box 238
Volcano, Ca. 95689
209-296-2252
lilaregan@linkunet.net

DUES ARE WAY OVERDUE!!!

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

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

FROM THE PREZ

This month I traveled to Elko Nevada with Fred, K6DGW, to help kick off the 7QP contest. We didn't quite make 400 QSOs with a barefoot rig and a vertical. Still, lots of fun. I sure wish I could count some of the Idaho and Utah contacts for my 5-band WAS. 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
 - FD planning?
 - Joint Meeting

12:45 New business

- Upcoming contests/DX
- Review action items

13:15 .Break/Presentation Setup

13:30 Guest Speaker/presentations: Kristen McIntyre, K6WX will speak on "Software Defined Radio".

15:00 Adjourn

DX?

VU4? Nothing heard. I heard a few operators shouting to VU4, and heard a couple of the deserving make contact, but I spent most of my time practicing my listening skills. The cluster was reporting fair activity from other Zone 26 entities, but no joy here. I know others were among the deserving. Congratulations!

I still have opportunity.

Many went to the Visalia DX Convention. I wish I knew from experience that you all had a great time. I look forward to hearing the tales. .

Contesting

The National Contest Journal arrived to inform me that I made a Top Ten category, and in a sprint at that! I made number ten spot in the Golden Log category. See what you can do with 23 QSOs!

The 7QP contest was both a lot of fun and a temporary regret. Part of me wishes I had stayed home to pick up new band states for WAS. However, the expedition was so much fun I'm very glad I went.

I joined Fred for a fast trip to Elko, Nevada, for a day of contesting and then a quick trip home. Fred is great company and the drive seemed much shorter than the clock suggested.

Fred prefers code to phone and that has given me several opportunities to use his station during phone contests such as sweepstakes. One of the ironies is that I earned a NCCC HMO cap for leaving my little station for an opportunity to use Fred's much better station and then get to stand among the Highly Motivated Operators who actually had to forego personal accolades as top operators to help NCCC regain or hold the SS gavel. I'm a little Hill before the Sierra. So, I need to continue improving my scores to pay back such generosity.

Contributing to 7QP is one such way to pay a little back to the community, and have a blast at the same time.

We set up in the Double Dice RV Park just east of Elko. We used NU6T/7 from Fred's portable station; K6DGW/7. The Park provided power (30 amps) so the generator was not needed. The shack was in the tent trailer. Fred's TS850 and DOS computer were connected via TR-Log. Larry, W4UAT, loaned us his R8 vertical. We mounted the R8 on a tripod built from my portable mast kit. We ran two hours a shift, which was quite enjoyable

Everything worked well, except propagation on the higher bands. We really struggled from morning to early afternoon when we finally made the switch to 40m and finally got the rate meter up above 90 several times each. There were a couple of times when the NEQP and INQP stations boomed in for a short while and then quickly faded away.

I'll look forward to this again next year.

New members.

Welcome to our three new members who joined at our April meeting.

Bob Hess, W1RH/6

Barry Thaysen, K3UG

Lila Jean Regan, KG6YSR

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

THE VP SEZ

I acquired a computer projector at the Livermore swap which I will make available to the club whenever we need it for power point presentations. It can also project DVD videos.

I finished loading the parts for my "Soft Rock" software defined radio (SDR) receiver, and hope to have it running at the meeting as part of the SDR program. I will have my computer there anyway for field day testing.

I am currently working on the tilt plate for the Monstir (based on the N4ZZK design). I was able to get a big 1/2 inch thick 6061-T651 aluminum plate at Alan Steel in Redwood City for only \$4/lb. If you need any aluminum, get it now before the price goes up.

I worked the YV0 (all time new country for me) on a lot of band/modes, which made up for totally striking out on the previous Aves DXpedition last year.

Only got a single VU4 during the recent VU4 "QSO party". **Rick N6RK**

CQ CQ FD 2006 de K6AO!

Field Day 2006 is only five weeks away. As your club's Field Day Coordinator, I have been working behind the scenes to ensure that we have everything we need to have a fun and successful weekend together.

For those of you that are new to our club or have not come up to our site in the past, our operation takes place at Peddler Hill, which is approximately 40 miles east of Jackson on Highway 88 at the 6,500 foot elevation level. We are just across the highway from the Bear River Lake Resort Recreation Area, directly over the Hwy 88 Scenic Overlook.

We will be operating in Class 2a again this year. This means that we will have two stations on the air for the full 24 hours. In addition, we will have a "Get-On-The-Air" (GOTA) station until (and if) we make the allowed maximum of 500 contacts for this station; and a VHF station running CW/SSB on 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. We will be using Writelog, a Windows based program for our logging needs. At this week's club meeting, our main preparation task is to check out our two main computers to make sure that they can talk to each other over a network.

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 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. 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.

Since we do not have a designated "club cook," everyone is expected to provide their own for food for the weekend. There will be a camp stove and a 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.

So far, commitments for participation have been received from the following members (in no particular order): WB6GEF, N6RK, K6LRN, K6TKD, WK6I, NU6T, KF6T, NI6T, WX6V, and possibly K6QG.

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. 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. Sounds too good to pass up!

See ya there.. Jim -WX6V-

Member news, feedback & stuff for sale.

I passed the General Theory test and am studying for the CW test which I will be taking May 20. **Lila Regan, KG6YSR**
Congrats! Ed

I got an IC-7000 in anticipation of going HF mobile for the first time since my teens. It's now off at ICOM America getting upgraded to resolve at least one of several problems with the audio chain. **Rick N6XI**

Kay, K6KO received her letters telling her she was on the Mixed(#327) and Phone(#326) DXCC Honor Rolls. 3Y0X cards arrived today so she is actually #328 and #327.

Congrats! Ed

If your spring cleaning produces any un-needed transmitting tube sockets, please let N6JV know. Large numbers are required for the tube museum project. **de Norm, N6JV**

EDITOR'S NOTES

Is it just me or did someone else notice that we went from winter to summer and bypassed spring altogether? What's going on? Maybe there might be something to this global warming stuff after-all? And to top it off, last winter's rain, coupled with hot weather of the last 2 weeks, exploded our crop

of grass and weeds. I hope I can get someone to weed-whack before our the house disappears, HI HI

Early this month I got my FT-1000D radio back from John Klewer, N6AX where I had all the junk diodes replaced with HP hot carrier diodes (70 of em') and all the latest mods. installed. It works great! Now all I need is some DX to work.

I attended the International DX Convention in Visalia last month, it was a blast and Karen even won a minor prize. While we were there I also purchased one of the new 3KW WX0B digital watt-meters (they suck you in by offering a great discount). I just received it in the mail this week but have been too busy with the Sheriff's STAR program to set it up yet. I will keep you informed as to how well it works.

I got my 3Y0X cards in the mail this week, this was a real keeper for me cause' it was for a contact on 160!

Well the ol' brush-masticator dude finally showed-up (after being slipped for 1 ½ months) for a couple of days to attack the East 5 acres. We are finally moving ahead with our lot split, very slowly is the word that best describes that process.

Not a lot of DX worked the past month but I did get VU4AN/VU3JLW on 17, and YX0LIX on 160, other than that, it's been slow going for me.

With DX propagation going belly-up (for the summer months), I have gotten the old' Corvette cleaned-up and we are ready for a lot of club trips we have planned for this summer **C U all the 20th de Rick W6SR**

MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT May 2006

Balance April 1, 2006: \$1,032.46

Income: Dues 69.20
Badges 26.00

Expenses: Domain Name 9.20

Balance April 30, 2006 \$1,118.46

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD Treasurer

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

****** DX INFORMATION ******

CN - Patrick, F6IRF will operate as CN2WW from Morocco on 20-29 May, including a SOAB entry in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest. Latest

information will be posted on <http://cn2ww.blogspot.com/>. QSL via EA7FTR. [TNX NG3K]

CT3 - Karl, OE3JAG will be active as CT3/OE3JAG from Madeira (AF-014) on 15-22 May. He plans to operate QRP with a dipole or long wire, mainly on CW, PSK and RTTY on 20 and 30 metres. QSL via OE3JAG. [TNX K1XN]

EA - URE Huelva will operate as EG7CC on 20-21 May to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Christopher Columbus. Look for activity on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. QSL via EA7URE, direct or bureau. [TNX EA7EUF].

FM - Jacky, F5OIU will be active as FM/F5OIU from Martinique (NA-107) from 13 May to 1 July. He will operate mostly CW, with some SSB and digital modes. QSL via bureau to home call. [TNX F8BBL]

GM - MM0DFV, GM0WRR, GM0EZF, GM7OAW and possibly others will operate Great Cumbrae Island (EU-123) on 13 May. Jurij, MM0DFV will take part in the CQ-M contest (CW only) as MS0DGR, while the others will use their own call signs on SSB and digital modes. [TNX MM0DFV]

HI - Antonio, IW2OAZ will operate on 80-6 metres as HI8/IW2OAZ from the Dominican Republic (NA-096) on 18-30 May. On 20 May he will be active from Catalina Island (NA-122) for 24 hours. [TNX IW2OAZ]

HL - Han, DS2GOO will operate as DS2GOO/3 from Nok Island (AS-080, WLOTA LH 0754) on 18-21 May. He plans to be active on 80-6 metres run 100 watts into vertical and wire antennas. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Logs will be available at http://myhome.naver.com/dxer2han/LH_0754 [TNX HL1VAU]

I - Weather permitting I8JOQ, IZ8EDG and IZ8DWO will operate from Scoglio Vetara (not IOTA, IIA NA-017) on 14 May. [TNX I8JOQ]

I - Claudio, I0KHY reports he will operate on the ~~95.20~~ bands and 6 metres from Ischia Island (EU-031, IIA NA-001) on 20-27 May.

JA - Expect five special stations (8J1P, 8J3P, 8J4P, 8J5P and 8J6P) to be QRV on all bands and modes from 12 May to 30 June to celebrate the International QRP Day (17 June). QSL via operators' instructions. [TNX VA3RJ]

JW - Roger, JW4GHA will be staying on Bear Island (EU-027) until July. He

plans to focus on 6 metres during the last month of his stay and will be monitoring 50110 kHz (CW and SSB). QSL via LA4GHA. [TNX LA5HE]

KH8 - Gavin, W9EYE plans to operate in his spare time as AH8/W9EYE from Pago Pago, American Samoa on 15-21 May. He will operate on all HF bands SSB as propagation allows. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX NG3K]

KL - Fred, AI3Z and Joanne, N3YYT will operate as AI3Z/KL7 from Kodiak Island (NA-019) on 15-20 May. QSL via AI3Z. They plan to be active on 40 and 6 metres as work and weather permit. [TNX rsgbiota.org]

KP2 - Look for The Three Steves - N2IFA, KB2ENF and KF2TI (<http://3stevesandkurt.dynu.com/>) - to operate on 10-160 metres as KP2/N2IFA, KP2/KB2ENF and KP2/KF2TI from St Croix, US Virgin Islands on 19-22 May. QSL via bureau or direct KF2TI. Work all of them and receive the WAS (Worked All Steves) Certificate!. [TNX KF2TI]

LU - LU4DXU and LW1DRH will operate as LU1DMG from Martin Garcia Island (SA-055) on 11-14 May. Look for activity on 80-10 metres SSB and CW. QSL via LU4DXU. [TNX LU4DXU]

SP - Special event station SN16B will be active on 10-80 metres CW and SSB (plus 6 and 2 metres) on 15-31 May to celebrate the first visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Poland. QSL via SP9PKZ, direct or bureau. [TNX SP9GKM]

SV9 - Dale, G3VMK will operate CW only as SV9/G3VMK from Crete (EU-015) from 19 May to 2 June. He will concentrate on 30, 20 and 17 metres. [TNX The Daily DX]

UA - RK0AXX and UA0AZA will participate in the 50th CQ-M International DX Contest (13-14 May) as R50CQM. QSL via bureau or direct to UA3DX. Full information on the contest can be found at <http://www.cq-m.andy.ru/> [TNX RA0ALM]

VE - Linda, VE9GLF and Len, VE9MY will be going to NA-027 (Newfoundland) and NA-198 (Newfoundland's Coastal Islands) starting on 16 May for about two weeks. This is a work trip, so their HF operations (mobile or portable) will be as time permits, typically in the evenings and during the weekends. QSL to home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX VE9MY]

W - Bodo, DL3OCH will be active as W4/DL3OCH from Key West (NA-062) on 13-20 May. He plans to operate on 80-10 metres mainly CW. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX VA3RJ]

W - Herb, WA2PIP will be active as WA2PIP/4 from Hatteras Island (NA-067) and Ocracoke Island (NA-067) on 20-26 May. He plans to

operate SSB on 20, 17 and 15 metres. QSL via home call. [TNX www.rsgiota.org]

AFRICA TOUR ---> Tibi, HA7TM left Hungary on 9 May and should be touring Senegal (6W/HA7TM), Guinea Bissau (J5TM or J5TIB) and The Gambia (C5/HA7TM). Tibi plans to operate CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK on all the HF bands. He is currently staying with Peter, 6W/HA3AUI (J5UAP) waiting for his lost luggage to reach him. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX HA0HW]

***** 4 2 5 D X N E W S *****
****** GOOD TO KNOW ... ******

3Y0X VIDEO ---> Pre-orders for the Peter I 3Y0X "DX-perience" DVD (which is due out in late summer) can be placed at <http://www.peterone.com/dvd/index.htm> (ordering now gives you a discount off the release price).

425 DX NEWS MAGAZINE ---> The latest issue (April 2006) is now available at <http://www.425dxn.org/monthly/>.

Articles and pictures should be sent to Nicola Baldresca, IZ3EBA (iz3eba@ari.it).

BS7H ---> Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK has updated his web site with an improved video of the latest DXpedition to Scarborough Reef (April-May 1997). Give a look to <http://www.iijnet.or.jp/JA1BK/> [TNX K1ER]

EU PSK DX CONTEST ---> The Scottish-Russian ARS invites the radio amateurs all over the world to participate in the 3rd annual European PSK DX Contest, to be held on 20-21 May (from 12 UTC to 12 UTC). The objective of the contest is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs around the world and radio amateurs in Europe using the BPSK31 mode. Detailed rules are at <http://www.eu.srars.org> [TNX MM0DFV]

EUROPEAN CASTLES DAY ---> The fifth edition of the European Castles Day will take place on 21 May between 6 and 16 UTC. Several stations are expected to operate from fortresses and castles in France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, etc. Information on the event and castle award programmes can be found on Jean-Pierre's (F6FNA) web site at <http://f6fna.club.fr/dfcfa2.html> [TNX F6FNA]

QSL 3Y0X ---> The first batch of cards (115 pounds/52 kilograms) was sent out on 8 May. They were mailed to about 2/3 of the individuals who contributed to the DXpedition expenses AND whose cards were received through the beginning of April. Over the next two weeks, the remainder of this group of cards will be processed. After Dayton, the QSL team will resume processing the rest of the contributor cards as well as the non-contributor cards. Bureau cards will be processed at an appropriate time in the future. Please refrain from e-mailing the QSL manager (N200) at this time. When the cards are all processed, he will then gladly assist with any QSL issues. [TNX K0IR & K4UEE]

QSL VU4AN/---> Final arrangements seems to be in place for the following stations: VU3FRK, VU3RSB, VU3RYM, VU3RYN, VU3SIB and VU3SIC via F5CWU; VU3JLW via AA4NN, VU3RWO via N3ST, VU3PLM via IK1PMR, VU3TLY via IK1PMR. Logs can be found at <http://www.dxpedition.de/andaman2006/logs.html>

QSL YX0A/YX0LIX ---> Steve Wheatley, KU9C has received the logs for the YX0A/YX0LIX operation, as well as a flood of emails relative to QSOs not being in the log, or incorrect band/mode. "You can trust that I will thoroughly examine each of your QSOs against the log", he says, "and do my best to ensure that you get credit for each QSO that match the log entries. I suspect many of the issues raised in the emails will be resolved". Steve asks not to include QSLs for other stations he manages with your YX0A/YX0LIX cards, as this this will substantially delay your QSL return. Bureau cards will be honoured and logs will be posted on LOTW (even though not in the near future).

LOGS: On-line logs for the 1-5 May IOTA operation by BY4RSA/4 (AS-150) are available at <http://dx.qsl.net/logs>; QSL status and a few pictures can be found at <http://spaces.msn.com/ba4tb> [TNX BA4TB]

LOGS: On-line logs for PY0F/CT1BWW (Fernando de Noronha, August 2005) are now available at <http://www.qsl.net/s92bww/QSL.htm> [TNX CT1BWW]

LOGS: On-line logs, QSL request status, pictures and other information for TB0DX (Kosrelik Island, AS-123) are available at [http://www.okdxf.cz/ankety/iota ta/iota ta e n.php](http://www.okdxf.cz/ankety/iota%20ta/iota%20ta%20e.n.php) QSL via OK2GZ. [TNX OK1MU]

MLDXCC General Meeting, 18 March 2006.

MLDXCC Board Meeting, 15 April 2006.

Club President Rich Hill, NU6T, called the Board meeting to order at 11:30 AM, at Round Table Pizza in Martell, CA. Those present were NU6T; Director Dick Wilson, K6LRN; Director Ken Anderson, K6TA; Treasurer Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD; and Secretary Kay Anderson, K6KO.

It was the consensus of the Board that the incoming president would update the Club website with new officer/director information.

Items donated to the Club by relocating member Ron St. Jean, NZ6O, (table, tent, ice chest, chairs for use during Field Day activities) were distributed to those who had available storage space. Board voted to extend honorary lifetime membership to Ron.

Discussion regarding responsibilities of those organizing the joint meeting in July with the NCCC will be continued after last year's lists and assignments are reviewed.

Board meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

MLDXCC General Meeting, 15 April 2006.

Club President Rich Hill, NU6T, called the General meeting to order at 12:00 noon with 20 members and 3 visitors present at Round Table Pizza in Martell.

Officers' roll call was completed and copies of today's agenda were passed out to those present. The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report of 18 March 2006 were accepted as printed in the *Nugget* newsletter.

All those who had accessed the Club's website agreed that our new Webmaster, Jeff Stai, WK6I, had done a first class job of updating the site.

Rich, NU6T, agreed to carryover the Action Item to contact Jettie Hill, W6RFF, Sacramento Valley Section Manager, regarding contest rule changes.

Ray Parker, ND6S, announced that the Club net, held on the ACARC repeater every Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM, had been discontinued for lack of participation. Jack Morgan, KF6T, reported that a net regarding technical issues is held at 8:00 PM every Saturday evening on 144.230, and another net is held on Sunday evenings

at 8:00 PM on 144.250 should anyone be interested.

Director Dick Wilson, K6LRN, agreed to pick up awards for the Club and any members not in attendance at the Contest Dinner at the International DX Convention in Visalia this month.

Jim Venneman, WX6V and Field Day chairman, reported that all is looking good for Field Day this year. Nine people have signed up; equipment will be 2 MP1000s with an A3S. Vice President and Contest Chairman Rick Karlquist, N6RK, will provide a TS75 and a computer with a 15" flat screen monitor for the "go-to" station. It was agreed that WriteLog would be used for the logging software to eliminate any learning ramp-up and networking concerns. A dry run following the May meeting is planned.

Rick, N6RK, is researching a program for the MLDXCC/NCCC joint meeting in July. He has already scheduled software-defined radio for the May meeting and locating power line noise for the June meeting. Dick, K6LRN, took an Action Item to notify Jettie, W6RFF and Chuck McConnell, W6DPD, San Joaquin Section Manager, for an announcement of these programs in their Section Managers' reports.

Rick Casey, W6RKC, requested that an e-mail announcement be sent out a few days prior to each month's meeting to jog the membership's collective memory. Discussion ensued regarding Google's free on-line calendar; Rick, N6RK, took an Action Item to sign up and try it out. In the meantime, *Nugget* editor Rick Samoian, W6SR, took an Action Item to send out the requested e-mail on the Wednesday or Thursday before each meeting.

Members were reminded of the upcoming VU4 Andaman Islands DXpedition.

Applications were accepted and voted on, and new members Barry Thaysen, W3UG, Bob Hess, W1RH, and Lila Regan, KG6YSR, were welcomed into the Club.

Ron St. Jean, NZ6O, who is relocating to the east, was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his past support of the Club and an honorary lifetime membership.

Today's program was a video of the presentation by Bob Allphin, KU4EE, to the JARL regarding the Peter I DXpedition, detailing the past history and current logistics required to put 3Y on the air.

General meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM. **Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary**

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Livermore swap meet is held the first Sunday of each month at Robertson Park. Information at: <http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>.

The Electronics Flea Market "swap meet" is held on the second Saturday (pre dawn) of each month, March through October at DeAnza College in Cupertino (Hwy 85 at Stevens Creek). Information at: <http://www.asvaro.org/fleamarket.shtml>.

The North Hills ARC will hold their annual swap meet on Sunday, May 21, 2006 - Bella Vista High School, Fair Oaks. Information at: <http://www.k6is.org/>

-----UP-COMING CONTESTS -----

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 27 to 2359Z, May 28
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 28 to 0300Z, May 29
June, 2006	
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 2
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 3 to 1200Z, Jun 4
RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 3 to 1500Z, Jun 4
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 3 to 1459Z, Jun 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 6
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 9
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Jun 10 to 2400Z, Jun 11
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 10 to 1500Z, Jun 11
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 10 to 0300Z, Jun 12
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 16
SARL Youth Day	0700Z-1100Z, 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
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 17
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 23
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 24 to 2100Z, Jun 25
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 30

PROPAGATION FORECAST

ARLP019 Propagation de K7RA

This week saw higher geomagnetic activity and lower sunspot numbers than the previous period (our reporting week

is Thursday through Wednesday). Average daily sunspot numbers declined over five points to 54.3. For today, May 12, look for active geomagnetic conditions, with a planetary A index predicted at 25, then declining to 12 and 10 on Saturday and Sunday. Sunspot numbers and solar flux should be a bit lower than the past week.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts active geomagnetic conditions for today, May 12, unsettled May 13, quiet to unsettled May 14, nice and quiet on May 15-16, back to quiet to unsettled for May 17, and unsettled conditions on May 18.

A rash of email arrived this week alerting us to a new long-range sunspot cycle prediction. Only this time it isn't for upcoming cycle 24, but the peak of cycle 25, reaching solarmax around 2022.

Think that's a long way off? It depends on your perspective, which I suspect is determined by the proportion a given time period represents when compared to the time you've been alive. For instance, when starting out in early 1965 as WN7CSK, and still 12 years old, looking ahead 16 years I would be 28, and the year 1981, hard to fathom at the time. The old-timers I knew then, such as Howard S. Pyle, W7OE, first on the air around the same age in 1907, would have laughed out loud at such an assessment. This spring it was 16 years since I began writing this bulletin. And 16 years from now, in mid 2022, I will turn 70, a terrifying notion, because the last 16 years went by so fast. I suspect the next 16 years to flash by quickly. Even if beginning our ham life at a young age, we don't get to see many solar cycles. Let's hope the soon-to-begin cycle 24 is huge, reminiscent of the awesome cycle 19 of the 1950s. We saw a prediction in March that the upcoming cycle 24 could be a big one, from a recent prediction by Mausumi Dikpati. (See the 2006 Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP010 at, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/2006-arlp010.html>, and the NASA article at, <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10marstormwarning.htm>).

Using the same method of indirectly observing a massive circulating current of solar plasma, a report from NASA solar physicist David Hathaway shows a stunted-looking cycle 25. Read about it in an article from Dr. Tony Phillips at, <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10maylongrange.htm?list15934>.

Roger Barnhill, AB8RX of Lansing, Michigan

asks, "Where can I find up-to-date info on which way the Earth's magnetic field is pointing at any particular time?" You can find this at <http://www.spaceweather.com/>. Look down the left side under Interplanetary Magnetic Field. When it is pointing south, Earth is vulnerable to solar wind, and more likely to experience greater geomagnetic activity. HS0ZFQ sent in a link to a page titled, "The short history of the Smoothed Sunspot Number" at, <http://www.astrosurf.com/lombry/qsl-ssn-history-voacap.htm>. This discusses the various sources for smoothed sunspot numbers needed for propagation prediction programs using the VOACAP (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program) engine. One example called HamCAP is from VE3NEA. It is free, and you can get it at, <http://www.dxatlas.com/hamcap/>. Mike Schaffer, KA3JAW is in Florida, where he enjoys observing sporadic-E propagation on broadcast television. On May 11 at 1750z and again at 2215-2230z he observed Canal 2 on television channel 2, about 1100 miles from him in Nicaragua. If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net. For more information concerning radio propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see the ARRL Technical Information Service propagation page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>. Sunspot numbers for May 4 through 10 were 50, 61, 69, 64, 53, 56 and 27 with a mean of 54.3. 10.7 cm flux was 91.8, 86.7, 87, 86.2, 84.7, 82.6, and 78.2, with a mean of 85.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 14, 13, 24, 19, 8, 4 and 4 with a mean of 12.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 10, 8, 14, 17, 5, 2 and 4, with a mean of 8.6.

**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:

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