

The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, 16 September, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Where: Round Table Pizza in Martell.

What: The program for Sept 16 will be one of the DVD's from the PVRC contesting series. Rich will bring the set and we can decide on which one to view depending on what people are interested in. I would suggest the one on "Antennas" but it's open for discussion. Any requests?

SECTION NEWS AUGUST 2006

As I have mentioned several times that I need to give up the SM position because of my wife's medical problems, I have submitted my resignation to the ARRL HQ, to be effective on November 30, 2006. My current elected term ends on September 30, 2007. I have met with and discussed the SM position with a ham that I have known for several years and have confidence in his ability to handle the position. I have recommended that this person take over as SM for the remainder of my term. I believe I should not release the name of this person until HQ either approves my recommendation or appoints some one else to take over (**see below**). It is with deep regret that I must write this, as I have enjoyed serving as your ARRL Representative for nearly 17 years, attending many club meetings, hamfests, picnics and made many friends. To all of you, many thanks for accepting me as your representative. When I have more information, I will post it on the Section News web page. **de Jettie Hill, W6RFF**
(Thanks for your dedication, and hard work and on behalf of amateur radio) ed.

Newly appointed Assistant Section Manager for the Sacramento Valley Section, Casey McPartland, W7IB

Casey discovered ham radio back in the late '50's while tinkering around in a neighbor's garage. The neighbor was a US Navy Commander stationed at Moffett Field in Mountain View, and many hours were spent in his shack during that memorable solar cycle. Twenty years later Casey became licensed as WB1DYZ

while living with his family in Connecticut. Thirty years and many call signs later he has been appointed Assistant Section Manager for the Sacramento Valley Section by Section Manager Jettie Hill, W6RFF. He brings with him nearly 40 years of leadership and management background while working in the Information Technology and Management Consulting fields.

W7IB has been active in the section since his return to California from the Seattle-area in 2001. He is an ARRL Life Member, has held an Extra Class License since early 1983, has completed all 3 Emergency Communication Courses, is currently President of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL VE and Instructor, and has an OES appointment in the Section. He holds DXCC under a couple of old call signs and plans to do that again with the coming of the new sunspot cycle.

Casey has two grown children, a son and a daughter, and his second grandchild is on the way in February to join two-year-old Zoe. He lives in Meadow Vista with his wife Leslie, K7NYE. He's a CW man who enjoys a good rag chew, big fast quarter horses, his dogs and more than one motorcycle he shares with Leslie.

FROM THE PREZ

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

Contest season is upon us. We have some stations downsizing, some upsizing, and probably most staying about the same. I've been working on antennas, and on station improvements for CW, SSB and RTTY contesting. Not much time, though, and the improvements have come along slowly. I've yet to enter a RTTY contest. That will be a new mode this year. I've yet to use voice keying from my home station and I'm looking forward to running more and S&Ping less this year. There will be more adventure this season.

I'd like to hear about your station work at our next meeting. What's new?

Thanks to Tom Carney, K6EU, for his presentation on VHF contesting and the tour of his VHF Rover station. As a result, I understand that at least one VHF contest rig is off the market. Thanks, Tom.

Well, the year is three quarters gone. Time to begin thinking about a new slate of officers for 2007. We will begin casting about for a nominating committee this month. Meeting agenda (Time "suggested"):

12:00 Call to order and Agenda Review

12:03 Officer Roll Call

12:05 New Member/Guest Introductions

12:10 Recognition of achievements, milestones, new equipment and other

12:15 Old/Ongoing business

- Minutes review and acceptance
- Treasurer report, including presentation of proposed budget or issues
- Club Goals/Planning
 - o CQP Planning
 - o Elections, 2007 Nominating Committee.

12:45 New business

- Upcoming contests/DX
- Review action items

13:15 .Break/Presentation Setup

13:30 Guest Speaker/presentation.

15:00 Adjourn

Contesting

I'm learning about the bottom of the sunspot cycle and working on the station. This too shall pass. CQP coming up!

DX?

None here. I've been lucky to hear the east coast lately. I did finally contact KH6RZ and LY1FF, but he was PJ2/LY4F in the Caribbean...so not so much DX. Still listening for Thailand. Waiting for the equinox and more of those reversed sunspots.

New Members

I missed welcoming Ira Stoler, K2RD, who joined our club at the July meeting. Welcome, Ira.

I believe we have added six new members so far this year, and that will help our CQP score. Let's see if we can interest a few more to join us in time for CQP. Our annual goal set in February was ten new members. Four to go!

Lyle Meek, W6WF

Bob Hess, W1RH/6

Barry Thaysen, K3UG

Lila Jean Regan, KG6YSR

Ira Stoler, K2RD

Pat Barthelow, AA6EG

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

THE VP SEZ

I rebuilt the 80/40 meter inverted vee skywarmer to get ready for CQP and SS. The 80m vee is tuned for CW. I have installed a relay at the feed to switch in a 250 pF capacitor in series for phone. This relay is controlled remotely from the shack. This quick QSY is necessary for CQP. It will also save me the trouble of retuning for CW SS then phone SS.

Work continues on the tilt plate for the Monstir. We cut out the big aluminum plates on the band saw at work and drilled the holes in one of them. I am also waiting for the Slip-Nott for the 2800 rotator, which is notorious for slipping. Tennadyne is introducing a new version for this rotor. While this is on hold, I did some work on the low band verticals getting ready for this season. I am converting to Kevlar guys to replace the temporary baler twine guys. Still need to put the beverages back up. Also continuing to make improvements to the remote base. The new internet provider is working out better than the old one. We are no longer losing the internet connection. Nothing worse than losing the connection in the middle of a QSO.

Rick N6RK

Member news/feedback/Announcements.

FT736R + RF Concepts RFC 2-317 (2MTR Power Amp.)and RFC 4-310 (430-450 Power Amp.)-- Best Offer

TS 50 +AT 50--Best Offer

de Mike W6FI

HELLO TO ALL FROM THE SOUTH END OF THE STATE. I RECEIVED MY KH8SI QSL CARD ON 09/02/2006 WITH FOUR BANDS COUNTERMINED. SENT MY CARD ON 08/04/2006. STILL WAITING FOR MONTENEGRO CARDS. **BEST TO ALL DE LARRY - K6YUI SO. CALIF. DX CLUB**

EDITOR'S NOTES

After last month August was a real let-down, no new countries to work and a couple of solar-flares left us with generally cruddy conditions. But, I did receive my KH8SI and YU6AO cards already so I'm now back to #1 honor roll with 352/337 Mixed. I am awaiting the 403T for my Phone contacts. I also received my S01R card for a 10Mhz contact.

I purchased a new (used) FT-1000MKV from fellow club member Bill, K6KM. Bill has assured me that it has been contest tested and is a proven winner, HI HI

Since this month is my birthday (#66), I decided to buy myself a real present for a change. So.... I ordered a new 2007 Corvette, now this leaves me with a 2001 Corvette coupe (with 38K miles on it) that I need to sell, (at very competitive price I might add). Anyone interested??? Contact me for details **C U all the 16th de Rick W6SR**

MLDXCC - FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2006

Balance August 1, 2006: \$713.69

Income: 00.00

Expenses: CQP Plaque 40.00

Balance August 31, 2006: \$673.69

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD, Treasurer

MLDXCC Board Meeting, 19 August 2006.

Club President Rich Hill, NU6T, called the Board meeting to order at 12:00 PM, at Round Table Pizza in Martell, CA. Those present were NU6T; Vice-President Rick Karlquist, N6RK; Director Dick Wilson, K6LRN; Director Ken Anderson, K6TA; Treasurer Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD; and Secretary Kay Anderson, K6KO.

The seemingly low attendance at the July Joint Meeting with the NCCC was discussed and it was the consensus of the Board to keep the July date but consider other venues closer to the Bay Area, such as Walnut Grove, Lodi, Galt or Sacramento. An Action Item was opened to investigate and report back to the Club for approval. Dick, K6LRN, will head the committee and will ask the Club for suggestions of areas to investigate.

Ken, K6TA, advised the license for the Club call, K6AO, was up for renewal. As trustee, he will handle.

Dick, K6LRN, reminded the Board of upcoming CW and SSB Sprints.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM. Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

MLDXCC General Meeting, 19 August 2006.

Club President Rich, NU6T, called the General meeting to order at 12:15 PM at Round Table Pizza in Martell, California, with 17 members and 1 visitor present. Officers' roll call and agenda review were completed, and visitor Tom Carney, K6EU, was introduced.

Various accomplishments were announced. Ray Parker, ND6S, has achieved EQSL WAS and DXCC. Lyle Bradt, K6QG, has achieved WAS for the second time (once in southern CA, and now in northern CA), and has won first place in the 6M SMERK. Jack Morgan, KF6T, announced that he would be receiving a certificate from WRTC, and has finally been

successful in working with PG&E to eliminate line noise at his QTH. Bill Snider, K6KM, is paring down his station and has listed several items pertaining to his MP, Mark V, and Alpha 87 on the Contest reflector. Paul and Greg Cecil, guests at this year's Field Day, will be receiving Certificates of Accomplishment signed by the President, Vice President and Field Day Chairman.

The Treasurer's report of 22 July and minutes of 17 June and 22 July were accepted as printed in the Nugget newsletter.

Ken, K6TA, Trustee, will renew the Club license (K6AO). Time and expense will be donated to the Club.

The purchase of a \$40 plaque for NCCC/CQP was approved. In an effort to get more members on for CQP, Ray, ND6S, suggested waiving the initial year's dues for all new operators who pass the HamCram to be held on 22 September and who then work CQP. Dick, K6LRN, then suggested the same for all new ops who sign up to work the contest. The Board took an action to discuss and work out the details. Jack, KF6T, also suggested the 3830 N6RO group on Tuesday evenings for good contest practice.

Ray, ND6S, announced the Emigrant Trail Bike Ride on 8-10 September. The ride needs operators to work SAG wagons and rest stops. Ray also announced the annual ACARC Swap Meet on 21 October in the KMart parking lot in Martell.

The low attendance at the Joint Meeting was discussed and apart from the "perfect storm" conditions (WRTC the previous week, the hot weather, previous outside commitments) over which we have no control, some thought should be given to a change of venue to accommodate those from outside the immediate area. Dick, K6LRN, will chair a committee to investigate the Club's suggestions. Sacramento, Lodi, Galt, Walnut Grove were suggested as possibilities.

Bob Hess, W1RH, is looking for an electrician to drop a 220 line at this QTH in Lotus, close to Coloma.

Bill, K6KM, announced an upcoming trip to Australia. Look for (and work) Ginny, N6RER, as VK4GIN.

Following a short break, Tom Carney, K6EU, presented the basics of VHF contesting and roving, and provided a rover rig show-and-tell in and around his vehicle.

The General meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Kay Anderson, K6KO, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Old Foothill Flea Market

1st Sunday of each month moved has to DeAnza College, intersection of I280 and State Highway 85. The flea market is going under the name "ASVARA" (Assn. of S. Valley Amateur Radio Assns)?

Livermore Swap Meet

(see website for new location), 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west 145.35 from the east. Check at: larkswap.com

UP-COMING CONTESTS

September, 2006	
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 16 to 2400 local, Sep 17
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 16 to 2100Z, Sep 17
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 16 to 0700Z, Sep 17 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 17
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 16 to 1800Z, Sep 17
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 17
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 18
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 23 to 2400Z, Sep 24
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 23 to 0200Z, Sep 24 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 24
222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 26
Arkansas QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 30 to 0600Z, Oct 1 and 1800Z, Oct 1 to 0200Z, Oct 2
FISTS Coast to Coast Contest	1800Z, Sep 30 to 1800Z, Oct 1
October, 2006	
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	
432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 7 to 0800Z, Oct 8 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 8 (40m)
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 7 to 2159Z, Oct 8
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1300 local, Oct 14
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 14 to 0500Z, Oct 15 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 15
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 21 to 2400Z, Oct 22
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 22
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 21 to 0300Z, Oct 22
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 22 to 0100Z, Oct 23

Mirgliotta, KB8NW Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

4X4/4X70/4Z70, ISRAEL (Special Event). Members of the Israel Amateur Radio Club (I.A.R.C) are hosting a special event museum station honoring 70 years of radio in Israel. The special event station, 4X4IRS, is located in the Holon Gallery of Design & Arts which presents a wide collection of old radios (broadcast), along with a modern FM local radio station. The activity started on August 15th, but will run until September 30th. Most of the operations have been on 20 meters CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via 4X6ZK. ADDED NOTE: Also, look for the I.A.R.C to activate 4X70R and 4Z70R to commemorate 70 years of Israeli broadcast ("Kol Israel"-Voice of Israel). The activity will last 2 weeks during mid October 2006 (1600z, October 7th to 2400z, October 21st). Activity will be on 160-10 meters including the WARC bands, CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via 4Z4TL.

5H, TANZANIA. By the time you read this, John, K1JD, will be on an African Safari in Arusha, through September 19th. He hopes to be active as 5H2JD in his spare time. Activity will be limited to mostly his late afternoons around 14025, 10120 and 7025 kHz. QSL via his home callsign. **9H, MALTA** (IOTA/Lighthouse Op). Jo, DL5AUA, will be active as 9H3JC from the Island of Gozo (EU-023), October 23rd to November 2nd. This will be a vacation. Activity will be on all bands and on CW/SSB using 100w and wire antennas. Operations will be close to the Lighthouse-Street of Ghasri (Giordan Lighthouse, ARLHS MLT 003). QSL via DL5AUA.

9M0, SPATLY ISLANDS. Members of the Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitter's Society (MARTS) are going to Layang Layang Island between March 9-20th (2007) April. They plan to be active on all bands and modes, with 2-4 stations active 24 hours a day. A total of 20 operators will be there. Operators mentioned are Phoa/9M2KT, Chow/9M2CF, Tex/9M2TO and some JA operators. More info will be forthcoming.

C6, BAHAMAS. Art, N3DXX, will be active (callsign not provided) during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 25-26th) as Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via KN5H.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE (IOTA Op). Marq, CT1BWW, will be active as C91BWW from Maputo, between October 3-7th. He is expected to fly to Bazaruto Island (AF-072, WLOTA LH-0816), in the Inhambane Province, for a one week vacation as C98BWW between October 7-14th. Marq will be using a TS-480SAT, Spiderbeam (5 bands) and a Force12 vertical XK40. QSL via his home callsign. More information can be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/c98bww/>

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. Ken, ZL4HU, is now active as E51KH from Rarotonga (OC-013) until September 22nd. Activity will be mainly 20 meters SSB. He was heard this past week on 14201 kHz after 0630z. Ken stated he was using only 60 watts into a dipole.

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA (IOTA Op). Pierre, F5JFU, will be active as FO/F5JFU from the French

Polynesia between October 21st and November 19th. He plans to visit three IOTA islands while there: Tahiti (IOTA: OC-042, DIFO FO-002), Moorea (IOTA OC-046, DIFO FO-010) and Bora-Bora (IOTA OC-067, DIFO FO-003). Planned activity will be on 20/15/10 meters (possibly 40m) with 100w into a vertical and wires, on CW/SSB and maybe RTTY. Pierre will pay special attention to Europe and French station needs. This will be a holiday style DXpedition (tourism oriented), so don't expect too much activity during his daytime hours. QSL via his home callsign, either by the Ref-Union Bureau or direct (w/SASE + IRC) to F5JFU at: Pierre Desseneux, Le Bourg, 58140 ST. Martin du Puy, FRANCE.

IOTA NEWS.....

EU-008. Members of the Workington and District Amateur Radio & IT Group (MX0WRC) will be active as MS0WRC/P from the Edinbane Cottages, Isle Of Skye (IOSA NH-07, SCOTIA CN-14, WW Loc. IO67SL, WAB NG35), Inner Hebrides), between September 30th and October 7th. Operators mentioned are Steve/GOMTD, Mark/2EOMAX, Brian/GOOMB and Paul/M1PAF. Activity will be mainly on the HF bands, 80-10 meters CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via GOMTD, by the RSGB Bureau or direct to: Stephen Topping, 7 Beckstone Close, Harrington, Workington, Cumbria CA14 5QR, England - U.K.

EU-048. Chris, F8EUK, will be active as F8EUK/p from Houat Island (AT-016 for the French Islands Award) sometime between September 10-17th. He is on holiday, and radio will be at the bottom of his list. He states, "The beginning and the end of activation are not sure; listen for me between these two dates on 30m, 20m, 17m and 15m essentially on CW. May be a little SSB on 20m. RTX FT 857D Power 100w with multi doublet and vertical antennas, made home. All QSOs will receive a QSL, which will be edited specially for this activation."

EU-052. Marco, IK1RAE, will be active as SV8/IK1RAE/p from Corfu and Paxoi Islands between now and September 16th. The suggested frequencies are: 7045, 14245, 18145 and 21245 kHz.

EU-088. Bernd, DL8AAV, will be active as OZ/DL8AAV/p from Laeso Island (NK-003 for the Danish Islands Award), September 17-30th. His activity will be on 80-10 meters CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

EU-120. Just a reminder! Members of the Chippenham and District Amateur Radio Club will be active next weekend as GB2LI from Lundy Island off the coast of Devon, September 16-21st. They will operate SSB, CW and FM on HF and 2 meters (the generator will be off between 2300 to 0700 local time). Visit their Web page at: <http://g3vre.org.uk/>

EU-123. Michael, GM0PHW, will be active as GM0PHW/p from Inchcolm Island (IOSA FF-06, SCOTIA CS-07), Firth of Forth, October 7-8th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters SSB only. A special QSL card will be printed for this operation. QSL is direct only to GM0PHW: Michael Whitehead, 185 Allanton Road, Allanton Shotts ML7 5AX, Scotland, UK. More information can be found at: <http://www.hamcall.co.uk/>

NA-066. Members of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club (K6PV) will be active from Two Harbors

on Santa Catalina Island (USI CA-016S, Los Angeles County, California), the afternoon of November 12th through the morning of November 15th. Activity will be on 40/20 meters SSB, on the usual IOTA frequencies (mainly 14260 kHz). QSL direct to K6PV (w/SASE) at: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes Peninsu, CA 90274. Visit their Web page at:

<http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/index.htm>**J2,**

DJIBOUTI (Update). Last week we mentioned that Jean-Claude, J28JA, who will be here for about the next two years, has been very active mainly on 20/17 meters CW (with some SSB) between 1330-1400z and again after 1800z. He is expected over the next few months to be active on the lower bands (160/80m). Jean Claude regrets the poor propagation at this time from Djibouti, but he is trying to be on the other bands as often as possible. QSL via F5JFU: Pierre Desseneux, Le Bourg, 58140 ST. Martin du Puy, FRANCE.

JT, MONGOLIA. Czech operators Zdenek/OK1CCK, Josef/OK1ES, Milan/OK1FM and Josef/OK1XC will be active as JT800OK from Ulaan Baatar, now through October 8th. Activity is planned for 160-10 meters CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via OK1XC. Over the past weekend the team was heard on 20/17 meters. Visit their Web page for pictures and online logs at: <http://www.shop73.com/jt800ok>

KP4, PUERTO RICO (NA-099). Heiko, DL3VFN, is currently planning to be active as KP4/DL3VFN from Vieques Island, between December 28th and January 1st. No other details are available at the present time. QSL via DL3VFN, bureau preferred (no e-QSL) or direct to: Heiko Meier, Rittergutsweg 5, Zwoenitz, D-08297, GERMANY.

LX, LUXEMBOURG. Members of the Dutch Amateur Radio DX & Contest Group will be active as LX/PA6Z from Wiltz between September 30th and October 7th. Activity will be on all bands from 160-10 meters on CW, SSB and PSK31. Special attention will be paid to the WARC bands, 160m, 136 kHz and PSK31. They will try to be active on as many bands as possible for 24 hours a day. This year they will also activate the 136 kHz amateur band on CW, DFCW and QRSS (3-5 sec/dot). The suggested frequencies are around 136.5kHz ±QRM for CW and 137.7 kHz for DFCW/QRSS with RX ±60Hz from TX QRG. The callsign on DFCW and QRSS will be LXPA6Z (so without /). Operation will be pure random, so no skeds in advance! QSL is via PA1K. Operators mentioned are: Herman/PA0TEN, Arend/PA2AWU, Frans/PA5CA, Jelmer/PA5R, Peter/PA2PKZ, Dick/PA4VHF, Marcel/PA9M and Harry/PA1H. For further information, visit their Web site at: <http://www.pa6z.nl> During the activation there will be an online log running that will be updated once per day.

PJ2, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES (Ops Wanted!). Geoff, W0CG/PJ2DX, is looking for operators for the CQ WW SSB Contest (October 28-29th). The callsign will be PJ2T and they plan to be a Multi-Single (possibly Mult-2) entry in the contest. The station is located on Curacao. Information about the station is available

at:<http://www.pj2t.org>

If interested, contact Geoff at:
ghoward@kent.edu

QSL INFO AND NEWS.....

EB5IJA	via	F1NGP	T88DB	via	JH1UUT
ED1KEH	via	EA1EAU	T93J	via	OE1EMS
EG7CC	via	EA7URE	TM5F	via	F1IKA
F5KDK	via	F1IKA	TM7NM	via	F1IKA
IQ0FR	via	I0DJV	YE1AA	via	ON4RU
OE9R	via	OE9SLH	YY4RCT	direct	
OK6Y	via	OK2PTZ	ZW5F	via	PP5BZ
R860T		via			UA3PM
RK9XYW		via			RA9XF

Tom, WW5L, announced that anyone who has QSLed direct to him for his June and July C91TL operation, all cards received direct have been answered. He states, "So far no bureau cards have been received."

The CZECH HAM RADIO DX FOUNDATION (OKDXF) is the QSL Manager for the following stations:

3D2KT, 3D2TN, 3V8BB (April 1996), 3W50K, 5W0VD, 5W0VV, 5W0SZ, 9K2/OK1TYM, AH8K, AT0VLH, E4/OK5DX, FO0/OK1KT, FO0/OK1TN, FO0/OK1VD, FO0/OK5DX, IH9/OK5DX, IH9/OL7N, IH9/OK1TN, IT9/OK1TN, J41YM, J8OK, J8OB, KP2/OK1CW, KP2/OK5DX, KP2/OK1DXB, KP2/OK1TN, KP2AD (November, December 1998), M0/OK1TN, OD5/OK1MU, OH/OK5DX, OZ/OK5DX, S21/OK1FWC, SM/OK5DX, SO7TN/1, SO7TN, SV/OK1YM, T00TN, TA2ZW, YM2ZW, ZA/OK5DX, ZA/OK1TN, ZA9A, ZK1KTT, ZK1TNN and ZS/OK1TN. The OKDXF Web page is available at: http://www.okdxf.cz/e_index.php

KH8SI QSL STATUS. Many reported last week that they have received their KH8SI. A very quick turn around.

QSL ROUTES FOR YZ6AMD. QSOs with Nikola, YZ6AMD, from the Republic of Montenegro, can now be QSLed to QSL Manager EA7FTR for contacts after September 1st, 2006. QSOs before that date or all contacts on UHF and VHF bands must be QSLed direct to YZ6AMD at: Nikola Ilic, Branka Copica 16, 85340 Herceg-Novi, Republic of MONTENEGRO.

SPECIAL EVENT. The French Ham Expo will be held once again in Auxerre, Burgundy, from September 23rd to October 6th. French Ham Expo is said to be one of the most important ham meetings in Europe other than Friedrichshaffen. This year's special callsign, TM3NV, will be aired by the Yonne area hams, to remember Antoine, F3NV, former past President of the 89th Yonne Division of the National REF-Union. Activity will be on 160m-70cm, WARC and 6m included, using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via F2WS, direct or by the bureau.

TK, CORSICA ISLAND. Operators Tom/HA4DX and Laci/HA0HW, will be active from here between November 2-10th. Activity will be on all bands (also 160m), CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31.

TP20, FRANCE (Special Event). The Council of Europe Radio Amateur Club (CERAC) will be active between September 29th and October 1st, using the callsign TP20CE. Activity is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Radio Club. QSL via F5LGF. Visit the CERAC Web site at: <http://www.coe.int/t/e/tp2ce>

TU2, COTE D'IVOIRE. Jean Luc, F5LDY, is now active as TU2/F5LDY from Republic of Ivory Coast

until about September 2007. He reports that the authorities of the Ivory Coast do not allow a full TU callsign unless your stay is longer than 2 years, so they authorized him to use the callsign TU2/F5LDY. According to the Web page listed below, Jean Luc's station is composed of a FT1000 MP with a vertical Cuschcraft R7, a G5RV full size, and a long wire for the 160m. Here are his suggested frequencies (if propagation permits): CW - 1818, 3508, 7008, 10108, 14008, 18078, 21008, 24908 and 28008 kHz SSB - 1848, 3748, 7048, 14248, 18148, 21248, 24948 and 28448 kHz 6m - No activity. RTTY - An interface made by F5KEE, Jean Luc will be active from time to time. No frequencies provided. Visit the following Web page for update, logs and pictures, at: <http://f5kee.free.fr/tu2-f5ldy/tu2ldy.htm> QSL Manager is F1CGN; by the Bureau or direct: Plet Fabrice, 58 Avenue Rene Lebail, 91210 Draveil, FRANCE.

V3, BELIZE. You still have a few days to work "The Glass Arm DXpedition" from Placencia, Belize, until September 13th. Operators will be using straight keys for the entire operation. Look for: Nancy WZ8C/V31AN, Cal WF5W/V31EA, Eddy K5WQG/V31MR and Bill WB5IUU/V31UU. QSL via the FISTS QSL Bureau.

V5, NAMIBIA. Pierre, HB9QQ, will once again visit Namibia and be active as V5/HB9QQ between now and September 30th. He plans to activate the WARC bands (30/17/12 meters). His mode of activity was not mentioned. Equipment to be used: FT-897D, Dipole by "Kelemen" for 30/17/12m. QSL via HB9QQ.

VP2M, MONTSEERRAT (NA-103). Gordon, G3USR, will be active as VP2MSR between October 26th and November 2nd. His activity will be limited because Gordon will be on a holiday and not a DXpedition. Using only 100w and a modest antenna, look for him mostly on 40 and 20 meters SSB only; normal IOTA frequencies preferred. QSL via G3USR, by the RSGB Bureau or direct to: Gordon Rolland, The Lodge, 3B Reeves Lane, Wing, OAKHAM, Rutland, LE15 8SD, England - U.K.

VU, INDIA. Bill, W4ZV, reports that Kumar, VU2BGS, was heard this past weekend (Saturday) on 160 meters (Topband) again. He is still running 70 watts but has improved the radial system for his 10m vertical. Watch for him Saturdays beginning at 2100z.

VU7, LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS. The National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) sent out the following press release: HAMFEST - VU7, January 15-25 2007. "NIAR is pleased to announce activities of the #2 Most Wanted Entity, VU7-Lakshadweep, in January 2007. The Government of India conducted a meeting of Inter-ministerial representatives with NIAR in New Delhi and gave in-principal approval for VU7 operations. However formal approval will come later by November 2006. We are planning to operate as VU7RG (Subject to WPC of DOT Govt. of India agencies to this call) from 3 excellent equipped and well organized sites from 15-25 January 2007. Late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi VU2RG former Prime Minister of India had encouraged

Amateur Radio in India. His wife Mrs. Sonia Gandhi VU2SON is now the leader of UPA in Government in India. It is appropriate this call sign is used. A group of approximately 70 multinational and 30 Indian Hams are expected to travel from Kochin, India, by boat to Lakshadweep on or about January 12th. An International Advisory Committee (IAC) is constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY to organise the event successfully. The IAC has broughtout an Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed by participants for better coordination during VU7 operations. (A copy of the same is enclosed.) A Sub-Committee is constituted by International Advisory Committee with Mr. Frank Rosenkranz DL4KQ, as Chairman, Ms. Kyoko Miyoshi JR3MVF, Mr. Martti Laine OH2BH, Dr. Glenn Johnson W0GJ as members, Mr. S. Ram Mohan VU2MYH as convenor. This Committee will deal with requirements/coordination of all international participants of VU7 operations. More details will be released exclusively by NIAR as plans and details firm up (www.niar.org) and an official webpage will be set up soon. We request your kind support and participation to make VU7 activity a successful event. Regards, S.Ram Mohan, VU2MYH"

WP4, PUERTO RICO. Members of the "Trujillo Alto Contest Club WP4WW",will operate as WP4BH during this CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 28-29th) as a Multi-Multi entry. Operators mentioned are: Tomas/WP4BH, Nestor/WP4BL and Jose/KP4JRS. QSL via WP4BH direct, Bureau and LoTW.

PROPAGATION FORECAST

SB PROP ARL ARLP037

ARLP037 Propagation de K7RA

Average daily sunspot numbers were down only slightly this week, from 27 to 25.3. There were two days this week when the sunspot number was 0, and we should see more zero sunspot days than we're currently experiencing as we move closer to the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

The last solar minimum was centered near October 1996, according to the NOAA SEC graphs on page 11 of their weekly report at, <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1618.pdf>.

If you look at the average sunspot numbers reported in our propagation forecast bulletins from September 13, 1996 to October 25, 1996 (located on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/1996-index.html>) you'll see week after week of no sunspots.

Currently we're observing average daily sunspot numbers near 25 for this week, 27 for last, 22 the previous week, and 34 prior to that. According to weekly NOAA SEC sunspot predictions, on the web at,

<http://sec.noaa.gov/ftplib/weekly/Predict.txt>, these averages are above the high end for this month and last, and the minimum is about six months away. But look back on that 1996 index mentioned above, at the numbers reported in this bulletin six months prior to the last minimum. Weekly averages reported here during April 1996 were near 12, 2, 7, and 20. Does this suggest the sunspot minimum is further away, rather than next spring?

Also note on page 11 in that first reference in the second paragraph, the spacing of the sunspot cycle minimums. From the end of cycles 17 to 19 they are a little over ten years apart, from 1944 to 1954 and 1964. Then it jumps less than 12 years (from October 1964 to June 1976), and it goes back to a little over ten years from 1976 to 1986, and then 1996. Next spring will be a bit less than 11 years since the last minimum.

Right now is a fairly good time for long-distance HF communications, because the geomagnetic field is mostly stable, sunspots haven't disappeared, and we are close to the Autumnal Equinox. Running intercontinental paths with ACE-HF propagation software shows very little in the way of openings on the upper bands above 20 meters, with the best bets on 40, 30 and 20 meters.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k91a-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>. Sunspot numbers for August 31 through September 6 were 39, 32, 27, 0, 0, 26 and 53 with a mean of 25.3. 10.7 cm flux was 83.2, 76.9, 75.6, 76.5, 79, 80.4, and 84, with a mean of 79.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 13, 7, 6, 23, 8 and 7 with a mean of 10.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 8, 6, 6, 15, 7 and 6, with a mean of 7.7.

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

Oct 21
Nov 11
Dec 16

Membership Criteria

Membership criteria may be obtained by writing the Secretary/Treasurer at:

MLDXCC

PO Box 1073

Pine Grove, CA 95665-1073

The club website is: mldxcc.com

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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2006 Officers of the MLDXCC

President, Richard Hill, NU6T

REHill@ix.net.com

Vice President, Richard Karlquist, N6RK

Richard@karlquist.com

Director, Dick Wilson, K6LRN

k6lrn@arrl.net

Director, Ken Anderson, K6TA

k6ta@arrl.net

Treasurer, Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD

k6tkd@arrl.net

Secretary, Kay Anderson, K6KO

k6ko@arrl.net

Nugget Editor, Rick Samoian, W6SR

samoian@directcon.net

QSL Manager, Norm Regan, WA6SJQ

Qsl73@linkunet.net

Publicity Chairperson, Brandt Woodard,

K6BEW. k6bew@yahoo.com

ARRL Awards Checkers

DXCC, Gary Stillwell, KI6T & Ken Anderson,

K6TA

WAS & others Dennis King, N6KD

ARRL Sixth District QSL Bureau

P.O. Box 970

Fairfax, CA., 94978-0970

Comments or questions on this bureau's operation may be directed to kc6awx@arrl.net See the W6 Bureau home page (<http://www.kqlz.com/qslibureau6/>)