



Mountain Flashes

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R.A.C.E.S. Mountain District/ Mile High Radio Club News

September 2007 Edition

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KN6JV's Korner

Well I missed the deadline but hopefully it will make the September issue.

RACES' last meeting training was intended to test local simplex communication from various sites to RACES communications at IFPD. Although we had a late start and concern about the concert traffic at the State Park we did complete one of the objectives.

The objectives were: 1. Test two-way simplex communications from the selected sites; 2. Try communications between the selected sites; 3. Each site to receive a message requiring a specific response and pass the requested information back to the RACES net control.

Due to the time issue basically only the 1st objective was completed with some information also passed on the ability to communicate between sites. All sites communicated with Net Control. This test is too useful to abandon and will be pursued at a later date.

Jazz Festival communications was supported by RACES with 4 operators at the communication center. Rick KG6TIJ, Vi K6VBH, Bill KD6KTV and I, handled communications to/from many "Jazz" personnel for the two days from 0900 to 1800. The operation was conducted under Mike Taggart KD5PHT who was in charge of Security. We received very complimentary comments from the Jazz staff.



The photo to the left shows the radios involved, although not all were active all the time. More operators are needed for this type of project.

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Numerous radios were used, many problems were encountered (most resolved) and a better view for future communications. This type of communication “training” is vital for RACES because it is likely the type we will encounter in a real major event.

The Roll Callers for September

Sept 5 th	Bill Tell KD6KTV
Sept 12 th	Bill Baker KN6JV
Sept 19 th	Vi Hallacy K6VBH
Sept 26 th	Rick Foster KG6TIJ

Be ready. The worst of the fire season is ahead!!

Bill Baker KN6JV
R.A.C.E.S. Mtn. Dist. Emergency Coordinator
MHRC President

Bill's Quiz

Question: Is it possible to transmit and receive 2 meter and 70 cm simultaneously on the same antenna using a dual band 2m/440MHz antenna?

- a. No, the signals will interfere with each other.
- b. Only on coordinated repeater frequencies.
- c. Only when “ducting” conditions exist.
- d. Yes.

(Answer at end of the newsletter)

August RACES Meeting Notes

There were seven members present and we had one guest, Simone Huls, KI6DDR, who has applied for membership.

Treasurer Mike Erlich, KQ6QY, reported a balance of \$2,788.83 in the RACES account. This does not show the cost of a replacement microphone and a lightning protector for the receive antenna. Bills for these will be presented at the MHRC meeting.

Bill stated he has a new antenna analyzer and battery checker which puts a load on the battery being checked.

Jack Peckham of Idyllwild Fire was present at the meeting to take orders for RACES Polo shirts, which he will produce locally.

Bill stated he and Tom Unwin, WA6SSS, would be working on the hum in the repeater signal which has been bothersome lately. Bob McCullough, who runs WNKI, has asked for our help in testing the coverage of the more powerful station signal which can be used in emergencies.

The training for tonight was to test the capability of the simplex radio signal to and from various locations around Idyllwild and Pine Cove.

The next RACES meeting will be on September 13, 2007 at 1900 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH
R.A.C.E.S. Mtn. Dist. Secretary

August MHRC Meeting Notes

Ten members and three guests attended the meeting. Our guests were Janet Lindholm, Chris Milford KC0CRU, and Ben Kent. Pat Kent led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance. Prior to the meeting, a delicious potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

A treasurer's report was unavailable because Treasurer Mike Erlich was chasing the Snow Fire.

The September Repeater Inspection will be conducted by Bill Tell and Rick Foster.

Bill Baker gave a rundown on the setup for the Jazz Festival communications support.

Jim Kent asked for September Newsletter items by August 25 and October Newsletter items by September 20.

Bill Baker gave the Repeater Report and noted that the hum is still present. He said he would locate the potentiometers and tweak them in hopes of solving the problem. He said the Antennas need re-cabling and a lightning arrestor needs to be installed on the third antenna.

Bill Tell said it is OK for us to post for sale communications items on the web site and suggested a page for recent club events. He asked that this material be e-mailed to him. He also said he will Post club activity info to the Town Crier.

President Hallacy appointed Bill Baker, Rick Foster and Jim Kent as the Nominating Committee for 2008 club officers.

The President suggested a pre-meeting dinner at Arriba's before the September 18 meeting. She also asked for suggestions for meeting programs.

Carroll Lindholm gave a very interesting talk on the latest developments in Software Defined Radio for Radio Amateurs.

Jim Kent KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary

National Preparedness Month

As mentioned during our August club meeting, I was exploring the possibility of registering our club for the National Preparedness Month (NPM 2007), which is this September. There are other radio clubs across the country already registered. Well I felt it was well worth our effort and have registered our club's name on the www.ready.gov web site. It will take them about a week before we receive confirmation and gain access to their tool kit. There is no monetary cost for the club to be associated with this web site; however there will be some work we will have to perform locally. Our task at hand will be to provide the following to both our members and the community during the month of September;

1. Include preparedness information in our newsletters, website and e-mails to our members and others we communicate with.
2. Write opinion editorials or submit letters to the editor for local publications regarding the importance of emergency preparedness.
3. Review our organization's emergency preparedness plans and encourage both RACES and MHRC members to prepare at home. We need to pick up where we left off about 5 to 6 months ago with our RACES "GO - BAG" and the list of contents.

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Yes, the Mountain Disaster Preparedness group on the hill is doing a great job in this area of public awareness. With both the MHRC and the RACES Mountain District bringing to the attention of the general public, the importance of preparedness and what our organization's communication skills can offer during a public emergency, can only help promote Amateur Radio.

So with this in mind, this message goes out to all. Please forward you opinions and or editorials on the subject of preparedness and amateur radio to Bill Tell (wtell@surfcity.net) so that we may review and submit them to the Town Crier and or the Press Enterprise in a coordinated effort. All submittals will be reviewed by the MHRC Board Members for content prior to sending to press.

Bill Tell KD6KTV

September Meetings & Events Mark Your Calendars!

RACES Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 13, 7:00 PM, Idyllwild Fire

MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Tues., Sept. 18, 6:45 PM, American Legion

MHRC Meeting: Tues., Sept. 18, 7:00 PM, American Legion

ALL AMATEURS are cordially invited to attend any of the above meetings.

MHRC Website

You may access the MHRC website at www.milehighradioclub.org

Bill's Quiz Answer

Answer: d