



Mountain Flashes

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

October 2007 Edition

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KN6JV's Korner

The RACES meeting had the best turnout in a really long time. Thanks to all who were there. Let's keep it up.

Chris Johnson, "a new kid on the block" (a new ham KI6LOD), came to the meeting and is very interested in communications especially since he does a lot of off road driving. He is going to join RACES and the MHRC. Gregg Morris KI6HVA is ready to submit his RACES application. Glad to have new members.

The September meeting's training was again message sending and copying and showed that continual practice is needed to learn or keep or the skill. Phonetics played a big part in the training. Keep phonetics in mind when reading and give it an occasional try on a variety of words and letters. Speed in speaking words phonetically is NOT a priority and can be a liability. It's surprising how often on the phone or radio the spelling of a word is questioned and can be cleared up phonetically.

October roll callers are: Tom WA6SSS—Oct. 3rd; Judith KG6TIQ—Oct. 10th; Carroll K6PRB—Oct. 17th; Dick K6RWK—Oct. 26th; Steve K6JSJ—Oct. 31st. If you cannot do the roll call please swap with someone else on the roll call calendar. Last resort, call Bill Baker. Be sure to use a current roll call sheet. You should now have one with a revision date of 091807

First Monday of the month roll call is on October 1st (the 1st of all things). It starts after a first notification to me from W6CDF Indio, usually about 1845, and stands down around 1915. Try to make the roll call we've had a rather poor response of late. The purpose of it is to test the communication capability within districts and follow-on reporting to the EOC and AEOC.

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

Bill's Quiz

Questions

1. For a "J" antenna using a coax feed line; the center coax lead must be connected to:
(a) The short leg. (b) The long leg. (c) Either leg. (d) A connector spanning both legs.
2. Fusing from the battery, for an amateur mobile rig, in a non-commercial vehicle:
(a) Is not necessary. (b) Must be in the negative lead. (c) Can be in both the positive and negative leads. (d) Is required by law.

(Answers at end of the newsletter)

Bill's Comic Revue

Huh?

- a. There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: 'abstemious' and 'facetious.'
- b. Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.
- c. The first rule of holes: If you are in one, stop digging.

September RACES Meeting Notes

There were 11 members and one visitor at the meeting. The visitor, Chris Johnson, KI6LOD, would like to become a member of RACES. There was no treasurer's report.

Jim Kent, KF6TYZ, asked that all articles for the Newsletter be given to him by September 20 as he will be leaving for a short vacation soon after that.

Bill Tell reported on the MHRC/ RACES web site and stated that the Newsletter was again being posted on the website and he was receiving mail showing that people were interested in our activities.

Jay Johnson has donated a UPS for the repeater and Bill Baker is researching the information on it to see if it could be useful to us. There are some temperature limitations that may make it impossible to use it at the repeater site.

Bill Baker wants an inventory of our personal communication equipment and will be e-mailing a form to fill out so we can list our current working (or inactive) communications equipment. He wants the list at the next meeting and it will be attached to our files.

The new RACES polo shirts were passed out and orders taken for those who hadn't ordered them before.

The training for this meeting was on message handling and showed we still need to work on less speed, sending word groups of only 4 or 5 words, and phonetics. Jim Kent suggested we need an S.O.P written up for message handling.

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

September MHRC Meeting Notes

Ten members attended the meeting, thereby constituting a quorum. Bill Baker led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. Note that there was no Board Meeting prior to the Club Meeting

In the Absence of the Treasurer, President Hallacy discussed Finance Report. It was noted that the following amounts are owed Bill Baker: \$75.20 from the RACES account for a replacement microphone and \$53.67 from the Repeater Account for a Lightning Surge.

Bill Tell and Rick Foster turned in the September Repeater Inspection Report noting that everything was in order. Greg Morris and Bill Tell will conduct the October repeater inspection.

It was agreed by those assembled that those interested will meet at Arriba's before every MHRC meeting at 5:30 PM.

Jim Kent reminded everyone that October's newsletter submissions are due on October 20.

Tom Unwin reported that he had reduced the Repeater power supply to below 14V, which seemed to reduce the Hum problem. He said we may have to replace the power supply. He also said he would check the solar power supply settings and isolation between the power supply and the repeater.

Bill Baker said there was some mention of a possible October County RACES exercise, possibly involving hospitals again. However, he has received no further word. Those who ordered RACES shirts have received them.

Bill Baker, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Nominated the following slate of MHRC Officers for 2008: President—Bill Baker; Vice President—Jim Kent; Treasurer—Paul Miglin; Secretary—Vi Hallacy; and Directors Rick Foster, Bill Tell, and Tom Unwin.

Jim Kent proposed that the MHRC and RACES hold their meetings on the same night each month with the MHRC Meeting held first and be essentially a business meeting. The MHRC Meeting is to be immediately followed by the RACES meeting. The Meetings would be held primarily at the Idyllwild Fire Station with an occasional meeting at the American Legion. The two meetings will initially be held on the second Thursday of each month, beginning with Thursday, October 11. The proposal was seconded and adopted.

Jim Kent KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary

National Preparedness Month—September 2007

It's Never too Late to Prepare

I am pleased to announce that the Mile High Radio Club is taking part in a nationwide coordinated effort to encourage individuals and families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools and we invite you to join this effort.

September is National Preparedness Month and we are joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in educating the

public and our fellow members about preparing for emergencies. When unexpected natural or man-made emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness. Getting an emergency supply kit, making an emergency plan, and identifying preparedness and response resources within our communities are several things we can do to prepare ourselves.

We're taking steps as an organization to become educated, trained and better prepared, and we urge you to take time this month to do the same at home. There are simple steps you can take to better prepare yourself and your family. Please visit our club's web site www.milehighradioclub.org for additional information and be sure to follow the links. Locally, you can also contact Mountain Disaster Preparedness President Nancy Layton at mdpdyllwild@gmail.com as she can provide additional resources for all of your preparedness needs.

Bill Tell KD6KTV

Hello from Grand Forks, North Dakota

Hello everyone! I've made it back to Grand Forks pretty uneventful. I'm sitting in my room right now listening to the shortwave 40M band trying to locate special event station W2IK. I found him on 20 meters and was just monitoring his contacts and assessing what exactly his special event was. The station was set up to commemorate the 6th anniversary of Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center.

I decided to look up his call sign on Google and found probably the most incredible story of how one ham radio operator did what he was licensed to do, help people using his radio privileges. He was the first station to come on the air after the terror attacks, he was the first operator to man the emergency operations center in New York, and he was a lone ham operator located at Ground Zero for several days without relief.

His story on the web site listed below is very informative, I was going to write an article on grab-n-go bags and their importance for the club newsletter, but after reading his story, I thought all ham operators who are affiliated with ARES/RACES should have a look at it.

His story is like stories my radio elders tell me what it was like to be a radio amateur after the 1997 Flood fire and blizzard that took its toll on our community of 50,000. I am always amazed at how hams get the job done when chaos is all around, there are no phone lines, power is down and all you have to connect you to the outside is a wire and a radio.

Have a read of W2IK's story and think of how you can prepare for disasters. Have a good winter, I'll be in touch. There are other resources on his website worth looking at and downloading for your use. W2IK's site: <http://hometown.aol.com/alonestaryank/webpages.html>

73

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October Meetings & Events

Mark Your Calendars!

*MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs., Oct. 11, 6:45 PM, Idyllwild Fire

*RACES/MHRC Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 11, 7:00 PM, Idyllwild Fire

***NOTE THAT THESE DATES AND TIMES CONFORM TO THE
MHRC RESOLUTION DIRECTING THAT THE RACES AND MHRC MEETINGS BE
HELD ON THE SAME NIGHT! (Read the MHRC Meeting Notes, above)**

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

MHRC Website

You may access our clubs website at www.milehighradioclub.org

Bill's Quiz Answers

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