



# Mountain Flashes

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

April 2008 Edition

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## KN6JV's Korner

An interesting time is coming up for our District. April 1<sup>st</sup> we will have the communications exercise based on a simulated aircraft crash at March Field. The area is contaminated by (something). Little is known at this writing about the details of our communications but what is known is that for 1 hour during the exercise ALL communications will be carried by RACES only. No other communications is to be allowed.

Mountain District has 3 operators lined up for the event Vi K6VBH, Rick KG6TIJ and me (others are welcome to participate). The radios at Station 23 are ready for Primary EOC frequencies. The HF radio is not useful from Station 23. Two reasons: the antenna does not tune to most bands and the microphone has been removed. It's possible that we will use a combination of locations including Station 23, IFPD and my QTH. Message content is unknown as is the destination of messages. All in all it should prove to be a useful message handling event.

Rick KG6TIJ and Gregg KI6HVA have volunteered for communications at the Baker to Vegas Marathon on April 19 & 20.

Following, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> is the Bike Race. The main event is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and requires the most operators. The 4<sup>th</sup> is the Jr. Olympics bike race for handicapped children. It is a straight course and needs fewer operators and is a much shorter time.

The radio room at Station 23 has been cleaned up by station personnel but there is still a lot of stuff in our file cabinets that should not be there as well a huge tuner on the desk and speakers underneath that have no have obvious use.

The April map class has been cancelled, at least for the time being, since not enough 1<sup>st</sup> time "students" signed up. Jim may do a refresher later.

Tom Unwin's presentation on the proposed portable repeater went well. A lot of issues to think about as well as funding when we get closer to taking on the project

We had a good turnout at the last meeting—thank you. Remember the new start time is 1830.

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

## Bill's Quiz

1. The lower side band is a common AM mode for operating on the \_\_\_\_\_ bands.  
(a) 20m, 17m, & 10m; (b) 40m, 80m & 160m (c) 2m, 1.23m, 70cm;
2. Impedance in a circuit refers to:  
(a) Inductance and Voltage, (b) Resistance and Current, (c) Resistance and Reactance

(Answers at end of the newsletter)

## Bill's Comic Revue

A big-city California lawyer went duck hunting in rural Texas. He shot and dropped a duck, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence from where the lawyer shot.

As the lawyer started to climb over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him just what the heck he thought he was doing'.

The lawyer responded, "I shot a duck and it fell into this field, and now I'm going to get it."

The old farmer replied, "You just hold on a dadburn minute. This is my property, and thar's no way yur goin' over that thar fence."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial attorneys in the U.S. and if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own!

The old farmer smiled and said, "You don't know how we do things down here in Texas. We settle things like this with the 'Texas Three-Kick' rule."

The lawyer asked, "What is the 'Texas Three-Kick Rule'?"

The farmer replied, "Well, first I kick you three times, and then you kick me three times, and so on, back and forth, 'till someone gives."

The attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and ambled up to the city feller. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy work boot into the lawyer's shins, causing him to hop on one foot. His second kick knocked him right off his feet. With the lawyer flat on his back the farmer's third kick caused him to see stars.

The lawyer summoned every bit of his will, managed to get to his feet and said, "Okay, you old coot! Now it's my turn!"

The old farmer smiled and said, "No way, mister, I give up. You can have the duck!"

## March RACES/MHRC Meeting Notes

Fourteen members and one guest, Tom Huss, attended the meeting. Treasurer Paul Miglin submitted a written report via Bill.

Vi Hallacy, K6VBH, gave a summary of the February meeting and referred members to the Newsletter for a more complete report.

Bill Baker passed around a sign up sheet for the Bike Race which will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and for the Junior Olympics event on May 3.

Bill Tell, KD6KTV, reported that Chris Milford asked him to tell the Club that AstroCamp would like to have the Club do an all day event similar to the Field Day exercise to demonstrate ham radio to their faculty students. Bill also reported he had done the repeater inspection for March and found a light blinking on the charger and the battery status light on yellow. The voltage read 12.4. Bill Baker said he would look into these things.

Bill Tell also reported on the Web site and suggested we could have more topics such as answers to technical questions and links to MDP and other sites. The Bike Race site is linked to us.

There was a break for refreshments, which were furnished by Mike Erlich, KQ6QY. After the break, the RACES portion of the meeting started.

Jim Kent, KF6TYZ, asked that contributions for the Newsletter be sent to him by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and urged members to contribute more items. He also stated he would not be giving a map and compass class as not enough new members had signed up.

Bill Baker circulated a sign-up sheet for the RACES communication drill planned for April 1<sup>st</sup> and for the Baker to Vegas Marathon on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Unwin, WA6SSS, gave a very complete and interesting talk on portable repeaters. Our RACES division would like to have a portable repeater available in case our repeater should go down especially during an emergency and a portable repeater would also give us better coverage during special events. We need to know if we should try to build one ourselves or buy a complete unit and the pros and cons of UHF, VHF and cross-band units. He gave us a lot to think about and no decisions were made.

The next meeting will be April 10, 2008 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

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

## April Meetings & Events Mark Your Calendars!

**Communications Exercise (See KN6JV's Korner), Tues., Apr. 1 (No foolin')**

**MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs. Apr. 10, 6:15 PM, Idyllwild Fire**

**MHRC/RACES Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 10, 6:30 PM, Idyllwild Fire**

**Communications Support, Baker to Vegas Race, April 19-20**

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

## MHRC Website

You may access the MHRC website at [www.milehighradioclub.org](http://www.milehighradioclub.org)

## Bill's Quiz Answers

(1) b

(2) c