



# Mountain Flashes

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

August 2008 Edition

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## August – Wednesday Roll Callers – 1900 Hours:

6<sup>th</sup>: Jim KF6TYZ      13<sup>th</sup>: Carroll K6PRB  
20<sup>th</sup>: Chris KI6LOD    27: Bill KD6KTV

## KN6JV's Korner

June, July and August tend to be busy months for our Club and RACES with some activity flowing over into the later months with fire watches and whatever.

This year the big event will likely be the earthquake drill in November. Billed as the largest and most detailed exercise in California (if not U.S.) history. Using historical data and a lot of science regarding fault characteristics and progression, a drill involving a massive 7.8 quake will hit southern Calif. on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM originating on the San Andreas Fault at Bombay Beach northeast of the Salton Sea. The quake creates havoc as it progresses north. Elaborate but scientifically realistic timelines have been built into the exercise as have destruction of communications, structures resources, (water, transportation, facilities and a great deal more). Current and updating info including a copy of the scenario is available on the internet at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1324/>

At this time, I'm unsure of our level of participation (RACES) but if nothing else we can act as communications relay for messages coming from the incorporated areas of the county and beyond. I believe we should also plan on taking part in local communications beginning at 10:00 AM on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Likely the school will participate as well as MDP and some local agencies.

The bottom line? Have your communications gear ready to operate and a "go bag" stocked for a day away. Will this involve only RACES operators? In our position, we must consider this as a real (though simulated) emergency situation and use what is available. Consider; will the repeater be out of service? Will the stations where our equipment is set up be useable? How many times will a message need to be relayed ACCURATELY to get to its destination? Your inputs and suggestions and discussions on roll call are welcome. WE NEED TO BE INVOLVED.

Training this month: Bill Tell will present basic information on COAX cable at the August meeting. The meeting is scheduled to be at the American Legion Post 800 at 1830.

Jim Johnson K6GUN, a big thank you for the recent donation to our club, of the wire dipole antenna. This antenna has been used for many of our recent Field Day events. With less than 100 watts our club is able to make contacts clear to the East Coast.

Events coming up: The Jazz Festival communications on August 23rd & 24<sup>th</sup>. We still need at least one more volunteer communicator each day, and stand bys are always welcome.

William B. Baker, KN6JV,  
R.A.C.E.S. Emergency Coordinator,  
Riverside County Mountain District

## Bill's Quiz

### Questions

1. A hand held radio antenna should be held:
  - a) 6" to 8" away from the head; b) Vertically; c) Pointing toward the receiving radio:
2. Wire size (gauge) determines the amount of current it can carry. National Electrical Code for 12Ga wire allows \_\_\_\_\_ amps.
  - a) 15 amps; b) 18 amps; c) 20 amps

Ref: ARRL Ham radio License manual 1<sup>st</sup> edition 2006

## ARRL Field Day Re-Cap

This years Field Day event was a great experience for all in attendance. We were able to reach out to many new visitors and residents on the hill – 39 all total. A team from the IFPD dropped by along with Riverside County OES Officers – Gina Moran McGough and Kathleen Henderson. A Father and his 12 year old Son stopped by several times during the event. At one point the son came back and told us he was hitting a 70% test score on-line without studying. He wants to be a HAM, how cool is that?

All total, we made 139 Phone QSO's this year. Again many thanks to Milly (KC0CRU) for working the Graveyard Shift, as he alone logged 108 QSO's. Operating with less than 150 watts, we are allowed to double the total number of QSO's. This along with the bonus points for setting up in a public location, the use of solar power and batteries and passing out information we scored a grand total of 1,328 points. This is up from last year's score of 1,144 points.

Oh and we cant forget, Vi K6VBH was in Sunday's Press Enterprise as we had the reporter and photographer out to our event. The Press put together a great story, video and slide show for all to enjoy. Please be sure to follow the link to their article and check out the video:

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_W\\_radios29.49a43d6.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_W_radios29.49a43d6.html)

Great job to all who made it out and for making this year's event, such a great success!

Bill Tell KD6KTV

## Bill's Comic Revue

In the Hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill.

Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said, as he surveyed the worried faces.

"The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, semi-risky and you will have to pay for the brain yourselves."

The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news.

After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost?"

The doctor quickly responded \$5,000 for a male brain, and \$1,000 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked.

A man, unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more?"

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and so to the entire group said,

"It's just standard pricing procedure.

We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've been used!"

## Attention: MHRC members - GIVE AWAY STUFF; FREE FREE FREE!

Used: Various lengths and types of coax. Some with connector one end.

New: Coax on original spools RG-8U & RG-58CU.

New: Shrink Sleeve Tubing ½" diameter, 4' lengths, total of about 75 lengths, color black.

Three previous editions of ARRL tech license manuals. They are out of date, but good recent reference reading.

Contact: Bill Baker KN6JV

## August Meetings & Events Mark Your Calendars!

**MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs., August 14, 6:15 PM, American Legion Post 800**

**MHRC/RACES Meeting: Thurs., August 14, 6:30 PM, American Legion Post 800**

**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

Answers  
1) b; 2) c;