



Mountain Flashes

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

May 2008 Edition

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KN6JV's Korner

The hospital drill was a good learning exercise for RACES in general and the hospitals in particular. Mountain District's participation was minimal but did bring out some issues that need to be addressed. We had only 2 scheduled outgoing messages. One to the EOC and one to the DOC. Acronyms abound and differences between RACES and the Hospitals were a very real impediment for communicators. Projecting that further, many organizations have their own set of acronyms and lingo that will cause message handling delays, misdirected messages and use of wrong words due to mispronunciation, interpretation etc. **Phonetics** can save a lot of the agony but it will not solve all of it. Sooo, if you don't understand a word, an acronym, or a destination, have it read to you phonetically and if necessary clarified—just repeating a strange acronym will not do much good if you don't have a list of them. 10 codes are still alive and being used by many organizations. Katrina proved that plain text beats 10 codes for communications. KEEP IT SIMPLE!

Training for May will be "Voice message handling and phonetics" by Rick KG6TIJ.

A new roll call sheet will be sent out early next month. Two changes in addition to some deleted names are: a revised assignment column no longer shows "NCP" assignments; it now shows individual's home "city"; and shows some key assignments and indicating others are to call net control for assignments. Also included is a list of local district's repeater and simplex frequencies.

The Bike race for Sat. May 3 and Sun May 4 will be a good opportunity for message handling of the "numbers" type. Thanks to those who volunteered and also to those who tried but ended up with other obligations.

No information regarding any fire watches yet. May Roll callers: 7TH Vi K6VBH, 14TH Rick KG6TIJ, 21ST Bill KN6JV, 28th Steve K6JSJ.

Good job! Our two "first Time" roll callers Gregg KI6HVA & Chris KI6LOD did great.

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

MHRC/RACES Meeting Notes

There were ten members at the meeting. The treasurer's report was given by Paul Miglin, KI6TIL. The check book balance is \$5,015. Bill Tell, KD6KTV, requested a check for \$120.00 to pay Don Raridon, KE6KNR, for the Web hosting and domain registration. A motion was made by Greg Morris, KI6HVA and seconded by Chris Johnson, KI6LOD and approved by all to do this.

Bill stated he needed more volunteers for the bike race on May 3rd and asked anyone who could volunteer to get in touch with him. He said we had been given an EasyUp shelter and wanted to know if we wanted to get a banner with Mile High Radio Club and RACES on it. The group agreed and Paul said he would look into it.

Bill passed around a sign up sheet for the 4th of July Parade.

He also asked what we thought about getting a portable repeater for the club to be used during emergencies and special events. After a short discussion about financing and the kind of repeater, it was agreed we should do this and we should get a commercially built 440 band repeater and try to get funds from local organizations. Tom Unwin, WA6SSS will look into a definite cost and availability.

There was a break for refreshments furnished by Bill Tell's wife Colleen.

The RACES portion of the meeting started at 1910 led by Bill Baker

The repeater inspection for this month was done by Bill Tell and Greg Morris, KI6HVA and everything was O.K. Bill requested he be given the codes for the repeater.

Vi Hallacy, K6VBH gave a short report on items from the ARRL Orange County Newsletter.

Bill Tell reported he had had communications from the Coachella Radio Club about our Field Day Site. It turns out they're considering the hill for their site and were looking for suggestions.

The training this month was done by Vi and was on opening the cabinets and setting up the emergency radios at the Idyllwild Fire Station. Rick Foster had asked if the MDP base radio could be kept in one of the boxes. After a short discussion no decision was reached.

The meeting was adjourned at 2015. The next meeting will be on May 8, 2008 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire station.

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

Bill's Quiz

1. For proper equipment grounding:

(A). It is best to use only the house ground. (B). Each equipment component can have its own separate grounded circuit. (C). All equipment should be connected to a common ground in addition to the house ground.

2. It's Ok to order some non-business things over amateur radio.

(A). Occasionally. (B). Never. (C). Regularly.

[\(Answers at end of the newsletter\)](#)

Bill's Comic Revue

I am passing this on to you because it definitely works and we could all use a little more calmness in our lives. By following simple advice heard on a TV show, you too can find inner peace.

The narrator said, "A way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started and have never finished."

So, I looked around my house to see all the things I started and hadn't finished, and before leaving the house this morning, I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Zinfandel, a bottle of Irish Cream, a bottle of Kaulua, a package of cookies, the remainder of my old Prozac prescription, the rest of the cheesecake, some chips, and a box of chocolates. You have no idea how freaking good I feel right now.

May Meetings & Events Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs., May 8, 6:15 PM, Idyllwild Fire

MHRC/RACES Meeting: Thurs., May 8, 6:30 PM, Idyllwild Fire

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 Answers

(1) c (2) a

(Reference: Pages 6-11, ARRL Tech Manual 1st edition)