



RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club
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Repeater Station WA6SSS 146.895 (-) pl 118.8



Officers - President: Bill Baker KN6JV, Vice President: Jim Kent KF6TYZ, Secretary: Vi Hallacy K6VBH,
Treasurer: Paul Miglin KG6TIL, **Board Members:** Rick Foster KG6TIJ, Tom Unwin WA6SSS, Bill Tell KD6KTV

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008

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County wide Monthly Roll Call

Will be on the 6th of October Roll call normally starts around 1845 and ends when a stand-down order is issued.

Mountain Roll Call is on the Idyllwild repeater 146.895(-) 118.8.

October – Wednesday Roll Callers – 1900 Hours:

1st: Pat KG6AVZ 8th: Rick KG6TIJ
15th: Danielle KI6DDR 22nd: Bill KN6JV
29th: Chris KI6LOD

KN6JV's Korner

It's only fitting to first mention and thank two of our members; Paul Miglin KG6TIL and Rick Foster KG6TIJ who are in the East and Gulf Regions helping with storm victims. We're proud of you and hope you stay safe.

Both the Club and RACES has recently lost members due to moving away from the area. It shows at the meetings when only 4 to 6 members show up. For those who have not been able to attend the meetings, I want to extend a real hope that you will begin to be part of the organization again. For those of you who have not joined the Club, we certainly want you to become members. Radio Amateurs do have something special to offer the community and we need to gather the old momentum by participating in events that promote Amateur Radio again. Radio Amateurs do get some recognition in the press however, our presence in the area has been nearly invisible – and it just doesn't need to be that way! YOU make the difference.

Not only does the Club and RACES need your support. Also, as members of The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), we rely upon a membership level with the ARRL to maintain our standing in the League. Our Radio and Repeater equipment insurance is issued through the ARRL. Our insurance requires a (50% club to league) membership with the ARRL.

Expenses for our equipment maintenance and insurance costs come directly from our club dues and donations. The MHRC dues are really very light, but they do serve to help support Club expenses. It's only \$12.00 for a member or \$20.00 for all licensed members living in the same household. If you didn't pay membership in 2008, please re-join and support the Club.

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

Training this month

October is a good month for us to review our "Go-Bag". You know, that pack or duffle bag that should have all the stuff you need for a 2 day field assignment. You might expand that to include supplies you would need to survive a short duration after an earthquake or what ever the situation may be.

Bring your primary bag **to the meeting** and show others what you consider your essentials. The RACES manual, available on the website at <http://www.rivcoraces.org/MemberManual/PDF/memman.pdf> has a page of recommended supplies related to a communications assignment. You can expand on it as you wish but remember you will be the one to carry it.

Election of 2009 Officers

Election will take place at the October meeting with installation during the November meeting.

Nominees are: President, Tom Unwin; Vice President, Christy Huss; Secretary-Treasurer, Vi Hallacy; Directors: Bill Tell, Rick Foster (not confirmed), and Bill Baker and, hopefully, others. As noted above the officers need your support.

Up-coming Events

November 1st, we will hold a Demonstration booth at the Health Fair at the school 0900 to 1500. We will need volunteers to meet and greet the public at this event.

November 13th, The Great Shakeout, where a 7.8 magnitude earthquake drill will take place. Quake hits at 1000 hours. Wide-spread and severe damage in southern California with nearly all communications knocked out except for Amateur radio. Locally, we will have our own activity as well as communicate with or relay for the County EOC or ECC and others as needed. The drill continues for more days but our main event is on the 13th. Again we will be looking for radio operators to take part in this event.

MHRC/RACES - September Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called order by President Bill Baker, KN6JV, Mountain District E.C. at 1840. There were six members in attendance. There was a short discussion regarding combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The person holding that office would have one vote. Vi Hallacy, K6VBH, Secretary asked members to get the minutes of the previous meeting from the Newsletter.

Vi gave the treasurer's report in Paul Miglin's absence. He and Rick Foster are in the Gulf area helping with the hurricane disaster. There is \$2,590.74 in the MHRC account. Expenditures of \$42.00 for P.O.

Box rental and a bank charge of \$4.00 left a total of \$2,544.74 in that account and there is \$2,390.38 in the RACES account bringing the total to \$4,935.12.

The following people were nominated to serve as Club officers and Board next year. Tom Unwin, President. Christy Huss, Vice President, Vi Hallacy, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors Bill Tell, Rick Foster, Bill Baker, Jim Kent and Paul Miglin. This slate of officers will be voted on at the October meeting

Chris Milford of Astro Camp would like to organize a Fox Hunt for our group. Bill Baker will get in touch with him to make plans for this.

Tom Unwin WA6SSS reported that we would need about \$5,700 to get a portable repeater. Bill Baker will write a letter to Guarantee Bank to see if they would be able to fund this either in full or in part and will also seek other means of funding. He has written a short article which Bill Tell will try to get published in the Town Crier asking for donations.

After a short break for refreshments furnished by Bill Baker, the RACES portion of the meeting started.

Bill Tell reported that the repeater was operating well with no interference but Tom and Bill agreed that an uninterruptible power source needed to be installed for the new weather station at the repeater site as the interference only occurred after a power outage.

New projects for RACES could be the Fox Hunt and building more j-pole antennas. Bill Tell asked for more contributions to the Newsletter and will contact Kevin Brown about adding to the Web site

The training for this month was presented by Christy Huss. She collected a very interesting exhibit of how the many different agencies in the area communicated.

The next meeting will be on Oct. 9, 2008 at the Idyllwild Fire Station. All members are asked to bring their GO BAG- equipment and supplies you would need for a 2-3 day off the Hill event.

Vi Hallacy
Secretary Mile High Radio Club

Radio Quiz

1. Generally, an antenna can be made from almost any wire. What formula would you use to get close to the right length for a given frequency?
 - a). 1300 divided by the frequency in kHz.
 - b). 300 divided by the frequency squared.
 - c). 300 divided by the frequency in MHz
 - d). The frequency in MHz divided by 300.
2. Radio waves can be directed into space at various angles. Which answers with reference to a critical angle are correct?
 - a). A very low angle will penetrate the ionized layers and be lost
 - b). A very high angle will penetrate the ionized layers and be lost
 - c). Regardless of the angle the signal will never penetrate the ionized layers
 - d). The farthest a refracted signal can be sent in a single hop is about 2485 mi

Mile High Radio Club – R.A.C.E.S. Emergency Communications Repeater

The Mile High Radio Club (a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation), in Idyllwild, CA, is seeking funds to expand its emergency communications capability.

Mile High Radio Club, through its Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), is the emergency communications resource for the Mountain areas of Idyllwild, Pine Cove, Mountain Center, Poppet Flats and Garner Valley. Amateur radio is often the only communications working after a disaster.

We have in place fixed sites for communications. However, our greatest fear is that we may face events that will require communications in field areas that will not be accessible to those fixed sites. Mountain areas present unique difficulties for communications.

We want to purchase “field suitable” equipment (portable repeater systems) that will extend our communication capabilities into and out of such areas.

If you are able, please donate to the Mile High Radio Club/RACES Repeater Fund. You may send your check to: Mile High Radio Club, P. O. Box 1204, Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204.

Comic Revue

Where did all our money go? No joke---Nobody seems to know!

October Meetings & Events Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs., October 9th, 6:30 PM, Idyllwild Fire Department

MHRC/RACES Meeting: Thurs., October 9th, 6:30 PM, Idyllwild Fire Department

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

MHRC Website

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

Answers to quiz: 1. c) 2. b) and d)