



RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

PO Box 1204

Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204

E-mail: mhrc@arri.net

www.milehighradioclub.org

Repeater Station WA6SSS 146.895 (-) pl 118.8



Officers - President: Tom Unwin WA6SSS, Vice President: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Secretary: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Treasurer: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, **Board Members**: Bill Baker KN6JV, Rick Foster KG6TIJ, Chris Johnson KI6LOD, Bill Tell KD6KTV

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY - 2009

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February – Wednesday Roll Callers – 1900 Hours:

4th
Vi K6VBH
11th
Pat KG6AVZ

18th
Danielle KI6DDR
25th
Paul KG6TIL

County wide (first Monday) Monthly Roll Call

Will be on February 2nd, Roll call normally starts around 1845 hours and ends when a stand-down order is issued by Riverside County.

All Mountain District Roll Call's are on the Idyllwild repeater – Station WA6SSS 146.895 (-) pl 118.8

Hooked on HF (contesting)

Chris Milford KC0CRU

10% skill, 40% equipment, 95% insanity = typical
contester

That's right, it does add up to 145% but it's about the truth when it comes to doing these crazy HF contests. First of all I am not one of these testers, but I do get into the whole mentality of setting up, planning, and running many contests. Once you get your HF ticket you want to try everything you have read about, talking around the world, trying new modes like CW or PSK31, building antennas and building radios. Contests are one of these many new things you can do as a General and Extra class



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ham operator. Things started for me right after I upgraded from tech class to general, when the FCC issued my license upgrade I ran out to the university and got on the air. Being from North Dakota and being a new General has its advantages, the whole world wants to talk with you at the same time. I learned what working pile-ups meant and learned some good rules to conduct contests. I was asked to impart my knowledge to the Mile High club and said I would be happy to do so, well here it is.

Learn to like Mt. Dew! The first thing is to get with someone who has done these before, work as a multi-op and get comfortable listening. The study guide was correct when it said that amateur radio is 90% listening and 10% talking. By listening to calls coming in you begin to reprogram your brain so that it starts working with your ears. Too often we are a visual based animal and get our info from our eyes, ham radio has nothing to do with your eyes, its all in the ears you need to kick start them again. Try to pull out call-signs and signal reports, you can even use a shortwave radio and do this on your own, the more you listen the better contester you will be.

When you are ready to start up and dare a contest run, make a goal for yourself. Chances are you won't get the highest score in the world on your first contest, but set a goal of making 100 contacts to start out with.

I wrote up a few guidelines when doing the contests, these are not contest rules but just little things that will help make the contest go better and improve your radio abilities.

- 1) If possible before the contest begins establish a frequency. This means that 1 to 2 hours before just call CQ on one frequency, hold that frequency because you want people to find you, because if you hunt people you go much slower. Keep the frequency active, but when the clock states the contest has begun, drop calling regular CQ and move very quick into calling CQ contest.
- 2) If you are working multi-op (more then one person helping) establish an operator schedule before the day of the contest, you should work in shifts (using one call-sign agreed upon) Good schedules have each person doing a 1-3 hour on the air. Have smooth transitions between operators a good method to this is to have one person do the logging and the other person on the air, then switch between calling CQ.
- 3) The third tip is that if you only get a partial call-sign. Respond with their information/exchange. For example, I'd say, "station ending with CRU you are 5/9 in California, could you repeat our call with my report, thank you." This greatly speeds up your operations instead of asking for their whole call-sign then waiting and sending your information. Don't forget to fill in any gaps in your log.
- 4) Speaking of logging, if your trying to speed up and get more contacts do yourself a favor and toss out the paper log and dupe sheets, most of the contests now allow you to submit our computer log to the contest in digital form. Computer logging also tells you if you have a dupe right away. If you do work a dupe don't waste time chatting with the station, just respond "you're a dupe, old man" That's usually enough, they will say thanks and you can continue working stations.
- 5) When working a pile-up the calls all run together, pick out strong stations first and work quickly, you will pick out the weaker stations as the loud fellas leave the frequency.
- 6) If you have 2 or three stations calling you and you can pick out several calls acknowledge them, say "we'll go with AB0ABC and CRU stand by. That reassures me as a respondent that you hear me and I ought to stick around.



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- 7) If you hear them, ounce on QRP stations, mobile stations, and DX station, conditions may not hold up long for them and there lower power / far away stations.
- 8) If you are getting thousands of people calling you use call zones, start with DX stations, move on to asking for any QRP or mobile stations and then go with hams in call area 0, 1, 2, 3, ... etc, it makes things more organized and less hectic on your end.
- 9) Remember to set your logging computer time to the correct time; the logging program will convert your local time on the computer to UTC time. Always use UTC time when running contests it will make conformation easier for the contest organization, most wont take any other times.
- 10) If there is a female in your group get them on the mic, a lot of people like talking to YL's and your station will get more calls.
- 11) Along with that, be cheerful and excited, no one calling CQ like a tired old man will beat out more alive sounding stations.
- 12) Simplify your station ahead of time, make labels for the radio settings, amp settings and tuner settings, clearly mark antenna positions and have all equipment in easy to reach locations. This will help foolproof your station so anyone can jump in and run the gear.
- 13) If two people are available have one do the logging and the other person just running the mic and radio, have scratch paper handy and jot down calls as you hear them when on the mic, the logger may need to look over and confirm a call-sign.
- 14) Contests are won by aggressive high power, huge antenna stations, but people who are polite, efficient and patient win high scores.
- 15) Don't forget it's a contest, its fun, have fun and try new things.

I hope these pieces of advice help out, they have helped me out a lot when I have run different contests. Contesting can be fun and very informative as to how well you have set up your station.

Some upcoming contests are included here:

Feb12-26 Desecheo Island Dxpetition Very rare island

Feb27-Mar1 160M SSB contest

Mar21-22 ND QSO party

The logging program I really like a lot:

Genlog Freeware download <http://mysite.verizon.net/dmascaro1/>

73's Happy Contesting.

Milly –KC0CRU

MHRC/RACES – January - 2009 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Unwin at 1838. There were 9 members and one guest, Chris Milford present.



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The minutes of the November meeting were read by Secretary Vi Hallacy. There were no corrections. She asked that members read the minutes of tonight's meeting in the Newsletter and bring any corrections to the February meeting. The treasurer's report was also given by her.

Vi Hallacy reported on the correspondence she has had with the Secretary of State's office and the Franchise Tax Board regarding the fine of \$50 which they assessed for non-compliance in sending in the Statement of Information. That fine has been excused and we are now in compliance with all requirements.

Bill Baker reported that he has spoken to the Rotary Club and Rick Foster reported that Rotary has said they would be sending a donation for the Portable Repeater Fund. Bill Baker also said he had an invitation to speak to the PCPOA about our need and has a tentative arrangement to speak at their February meeting. Bill Tell will send them a copy of our end of year report. Vi said she will write a grant request to the Idyllwild Community Fund in the spring.

There was a discussion about the interference we have getting on the repeater which seems to be coming from Orange County. Bill B. monitor the situation and Tom will make some adjustments to the repeater to see if that will stop the problem. We may need to rejoin TASMA and get their help.

Tom stated that 2009 dues are due now and asked members to pay tonight or mail to P.O. Box1204. Vi said she would send out an e-mail or letters to old members to urge them to rejoin and support the repeater.

There was a discussion on how we can promote the Club and Tom commended Bill T. for his efforts in getting notices in the Town Crier and on the web site.

The MHRC portion of the meeting concluded with a talk by guest Chris Milford on the fun of Fox Hunts. We will try fox hunting when the weather is warmer.

Thanks to Rick Foster for the very good refreshments.

The RACES portion of the meeting was led by Bill Baker, Mountain District E.C. He reported that the new RACES manual was out and all RACES members would have to take an open book test on its contents in the near future.

Bill Tell reported on the repeater inspection and stated that a yellow light was on. Bill B asked if the Anza repeater had been rotated and was told it had not. A wheeled platform is going to be built to facilitate that rotation. Bill B. asked that any ideas for future training and activities be e-mailed to him, Tom or Vi. He expects to hold another radio class in the near future as he has been receiving requests for one. The new roll call roster is out.

Chris M. ended the meeting with a report on the joys of HF contesting and announced several contests to be held soon and invited anyone who wished to join him.

The meeting adjourned at 2030. The next meeting will be on February 12 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire Department.



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MHRC/RACES – November - 2008 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called order by President Bill Baker, Mountain District E.C. at 1830. There were eight members present. There was one guest, Diane Johnson. Vi Hallacy, Secretary asked members to read the minutes in the Newsletter and bring any corrections to the meeting. There were no corrections. The financial report was given by her, also. The insurance on the radio equipment is due and a payment to Bill Tell for supplies for the Health Fair will be paid. Also, a letter was received from the Secretary of State stating that since we had not submitted a Statement of Information when it was due, we were being fined \$50.00 and needed to submit a Statement of Information along with the usual \$20.00 and send payment of the fine of \$50.00 to the Franchise Tax Board. These expenses will show up in the next financial report

Rick Foster made a motion to install the slate of officers for 2009 as a body. This was seconded by Chris Johnson and approved unanimously and the installation was completed.

Our participation in the Health Fair was a great success. We made contact with many people and Smokey the Bear. We picked up one new member and interested many more in the advantages of amateur radio.

Funding for the portable repeater was discussed and Rick volunteered to bring it up at a Rotary meeting and suggested we contact Peggy Parker from Rotary Ann's. Bill said he had made contact with Nancy Borchers, president of the Pine Cove Property Owners Association, and was invited to speak at a meeting possibly in February. Vi stated that the Idyllwild Community Fund will be accepting applications for grants in the spring and she will write an application for funding from them. Bill Tell will ask the Town Crier to publish a request for donations.

Items for future meetings were discussed such as meeting attendance, a refreshment committee, need for changes in the By-Laws and our California non-profit status. Rick will take care of the refreshments list, Jim Kent will be contacted about changes in the By-Laws (out of area members and three classes of members)

There was a break for refreshments furnished by Bill and Colleen Tell.

The RACES part of the meeting was about comprehensive planning for the upcoming Shake-Out drill. All members should have received a plan for the drill by e-mail, but he went over the important parts. He asked for volunteers and asked them to have their radios on at 0945 on November 13, set on the repeater frequency. He will start a roll call at 1005 at make assignments at that time. He asked that all participants check their families and property as they would in a real situation and then go to their assignments. He asked that all radio communication start with the announcement "This is a drill." Write out all messages before they are sent and write all messages as they are received. He will want records after the drill.

The meeting closed at 2015. The next meeting will be on January 8, 2009 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire station.



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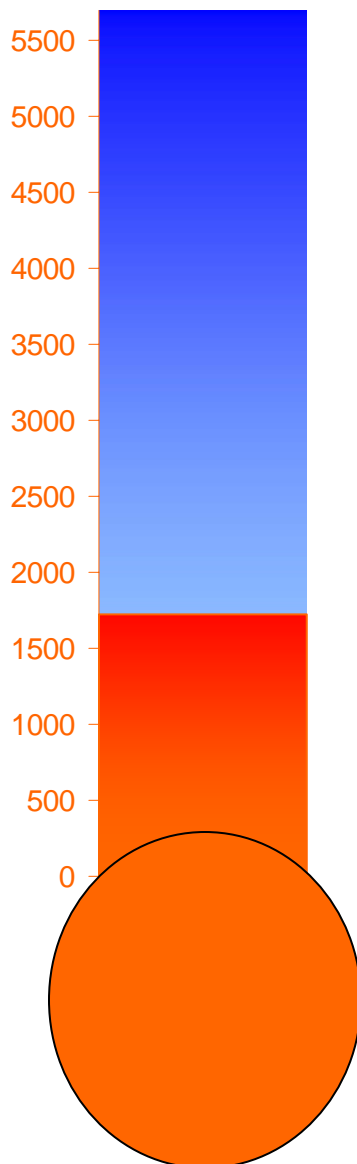
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Mile High Radio Club – R.A.C.E.S. Emergency Communications Repeater



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. Our estimated costs are \$5,700.00 currently we have raised \$1,727.00 through donations. Thank you to all who have donated.

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.



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Southern California DX Club Invitation

The Southern California DX Club would like to invite you to our 7:30 PM Thursday evening meeting on March 12, 2009. The meeting is held at the Syd Kronenthal Park recreation center located in Culver City, CA. Please visit our web site at <http://www.scdxc.org> for directions to the meeting place and a map of the area.

Our featured speaker will be Bob Grimmick, N6OX, who will tell us about his recent adventures in Tunisia on the TS7C Dxpedition. Bob is an experienced Dxpeditioner and a very engaging speaker. He will regale us with interesting insights into this internationally staffed operation from North Africa and entertain us with beautiful photos of his trip.

Many of our club members gather before the meeting for dinner at the Roll 'n Rye deli at 10990 Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, California 90230. Telephone (310) 390-3497. Come join us to swap tall tales or learn of someone's latest exploit over the repast of your choice.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Arnie Shatz, N6HC at n6hc@aol.com

The Dxers of Southern California are looking forward to seeing you at our March meeting. Don't miss it!

February Meetings & Events Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs., February 12th, 6:30 PM, Idyllwild Fire Department

MHRC/RACES Meeting: Thurs., February 12th, 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