



RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

PO Box 1204

Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204

E-mail: mhrc@arrl.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 MAY - 2009

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May – Wednesday Roll Callers held at 1900 Hours:

6th: Bill KN6JV 13th: Steve K6JSJ
20th: Tom WA6SSS 27th: Rick KG6TIJ

County wide Monthly Roll Call

*Will be on May 4th, Roll call normally starts
around 1845 and ends when a stand-down
order is issued.*

*All Mountain Roll Calls are conducted on the
Idyllwild repeater 146.895(-) 118.8.*

May Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board: Thursday, May 14th, 6:30 PM

MHRC/RACES: Thursday, May 14th, 6:30 PM

All are welcome to attend any of the above
meetings.

Message from RACES EC-Mountain

A somewhat interesting period for us in that we have teamed up with the Anza District to improve our message handling abilities. Messages are passed after a roll call of each district and read back at following roll calls to check for accuracy. The plan is to continue this until May 30th (or beyond) and have a drill of message-handling-only from various locations in the mountain and possibly beyond.

We do need more RACES operators to participate in the weekly exercises as message senders or receivers. You need to be able to hit the 145.340 Anza machine or their 447.480 machine in Pine Cove. A message form is available at ics213.com

The Bike Race May 2nd is now well staffed thanks to support from MDP (Mountain Disaster Preparedness) with 8 operators. Unfortunately only 4 MHRC members are participating. This is a real way to practice field communications under less than ideal conditions. However this is a good opportunity for amateur radio operators to interact with MDP in communications and hopefully uncover some communication bugs.

Effort continues on the portable repeater project with completion of a grant request and a proposed meeting with Garner Valley property owners. Also, if you feel you can donate or know of anyone or an organization that may be in



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position to do so, please let me or Vi K6VBH know.

May is the month we start organizing for the Field day. A least, getting assignments sorted out and of course the last full weekend of June is the Field day. We expect to be at our usual location on Hwy 243 perhaps not the best communication site but very visible to the passing public. That is followed by the 4th of July Parade for which we need at least 4 operators. Beyond that is the Jazz in the Pines which we usually provide communications.

Our weekly roll call count has improved but the 1st Monday of the month call has slipped dramatically. Try to be available for that and (although it's dragged out sometimes) it is a monthly snapshot of county communications capability.

73, Bill Baker KN6JV

Visalia DX Convention – Chris Johnson KI6LOD

My Trip to the Visalia DX Convention was a blast. As you know, I am very new to HF ham radio. I have not even put up my first antenna yet.

Most of the 700 guys at this convention had over 55 years of experience, but everyone I talked to was very helpful. People I talked to had purposefully bought over 80 acres, and had 6 towers on their land.

In the parking lot of the hotel they erected a tower with an 80 meter beam which had a footprint of a quarter of an acre. They all started small, but kept on going.

I went to a contest seminar, and the basic rig was an amplified radio completely computer

controlled. It went from there to one guy listening to two radios on two different bands at the same time one on right and the other left headphones. One guy did 10,000 QSO's in one contest.

They have a computer program called a skimmer which shows on a computer screen every CW QSO on the band at the same time. The contester looks at all the messages, and figures out his multipliers, decides who to call, and hits a key with a computer generated CW response, and his computer automatically logs it.

Some of the seminars got so technical they never got around to the nuts and bolts of fixing the problem the seminar was supposed to address. Also, some of the speakers spoke totally over my head. I would turn and ask the person next to me what that was all about; they were always very nice about explaining it to me.

They had a great vender area with a bookstore. There was a raffle with over \$35,000 worth of prizes, but I didn't win anything. Most of the people who won stuff already had two of everything. I saw one guy buy \$500 worth of raffle tickets. They buy these tickets to support the beacon system the club runs. They also had speakers who go to country entities, and set up radio stations so people can collect that particular country. This cost a lot of money, and the club also sponsors those expeditions.

After the convention was over Dianne and I went to Sequoia where there was still 3 feet of snow. We had a great time. If you want to go someplace and immerse yourself in the most intensive and expensive ham radio environments, this is the place to go.

Chris Johnson KI6LOD



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MINUTES OF THE MILE HIGH RADIO CLUB/ RACES MEETING April 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 1835 by President Tom Unwin. There were 9 members and one guest, Tom Huss, present.

There was one correction by Bill Tell to the March minutes. The check written to Don Raridon was for web hosting and domain registration and not for the Web site itself. A motion was made and seconded by Rick Foster and Christy Huss to approve the minutes as corrected. Secretary Vi Hallacy asked all to continue reading the minutes in the Newsletter.

Bill Baker said he has been invited to speak to the Garner Valley Home Owner's Association and will mention our need for donations for the portable repeater. Vi will finish the grant request to the Idyllwild Community Foundation. Thank you letters have been mailed to all who have made donations so far.

Tom reported that he has looked extensively for a manufactured portable repeater and they are very scarce and expensive. We would be better off building our own repeater from components he would order. The repeater would consist of two parts, A light weight portable unit which could be back packed in, powered by battery with solar backup and a heavier VHF,UHF unit which would need to be transported in a vehicle, battery powered and recharged by a gas generator. There were no objections to this plan. He will have a list of these components to Vi in time for the grant to be submitted.

There has been no reported interference lately on the MHRC repeater probably because the Pine Cove weather station is shut down now.

Chris Johnson asked if anyone knew of a source for used radio equipment. Bill Tell gave him a

web site <http://swap.qth.com> that lists radio equipment for sale. He also stated everyone could advertise used equipment in the Clubs Newsletter should they wish.

Bill Tell reported he has put the Bylaws into PDF format and Jim Kent will help to work on them.

Tom said he would be available until 1130 to work on the Bike Race and might have repeater equipment.

There was a break for refreshments, strawberries and cookies, furnished by Chris Johnson.

The R.A.C.E.S. portion of the meeting was called to order by Bill Baker, Mountain District E.C. at 1935.

There was a discussion of the Bike Race and Bill said any unanswered questions would be handled by e-mail.

It was reported following the Shake-Out drill that message handling was very poorly done. Therefore, we will start having message handling practice with the Anza RACES group following our Roll Calls. These will be in preparation for a drill on May 30. He passed out a new 213 form which has been devised to improve message handling and said he has sent out an e-mail with the website where we can print forms for ourselves. We will be using the Anza repeater as they can't hit our repeater. We had a short practice drill using the new forms.

He said people had expressed an interest in having a Fox Hunt. The date, July 11 at 1000, was set for this with a potluck picnic following the Hunt.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000. The next meeting will be on May 14 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

73, Vi Hallacy K6VBH



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Radio Quiz: Back to Basics

1. What is the usual (US) wire color code for a ground wire for AC and what for DC power? A: AC black DC black, B: AC red DC black, C: AC green DC white; D: AC green DC black
1. What are the rules regarding Canadian citizen licensed amateurs for operating in the U.S.? A: They must get an FCC permit. B: Their radios must have lower power than U.S. C: There are no restrictions except operating to U.S. Rules. D: They cannot legally operate in the U.S.

Used Radio Equipment:

My name is Dawn Bailey I live here in Banning. I have an ICOM Communications Receiver Model IC R8500 and a Panasonic Premix Double Supreme Terodyne System Model RF-4900 I would like to sale. They belonged to my fiancé who has passed away and I myself know nothing about them and would like to sell them to someone who shares the same interests as he did. I would like to sell both of them for \$1400.00 O.B.O. Please contact the MHRC Club via e-mail at mhrc@arrl.net for further details.

Humor!!! It's all in one's perspective.

A real 911 call

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What's the nature of your emergency?

Caller: My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart

Dispatcher: Is this her first child?

Caller: No, you idiot! This is her husband!

Up-Coming Events Schedule:

May – the Spring Challenge Bike Race, always an exciting event. This year we are working with MDP. This should prove to be a great exercise working with another organization. Lunch will be provided as will this year's tee shirt, so I need to know your lunch selection and Tee shirt size. E-mail me or call and leave a message. Lunch options - --Ham, Turkey or veggie sandwich.

June 27 – 28 is Field day. We can always use lots of volunteers and operators. More information on this topic will follow at up-coming meetings. This is a Club event. **Be sure to check out last years Video and Slide show linked from our web site. Go to News and Events and scroll down to "Field Day 08". There you will find all of last years fun and excitement, thanks to the Press Enterprise for covering our event.**

July 4th Parade. We need a minimum of 4 radio operators for course communications. This is a RACES event.

August 22 & 23 – Jazz Festival. Need 3 operators each shift (2 shifts each day). This is a RACES event. I will need to know in advance if you will participate since there is some administrative work that needs to be done.

Be sure to check out the clubs web site at www.milehighradioclub.org/activities for additional information related to these great events.

Thank you, Bill Baker KN6JV



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Southern California DX - Invite

The Southern California DX Club would like to invite you to our 7:30 PM Thursday evening meeting on May 14, 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 Bill Scholz, W1HIJ, who will tell us how to set up a remote station operation. He will try to do a live demonstration of how his equipment functions under remote control. After seeing this presentation, there should be no excuse about missing a DXpedition because of a pleasure or business trip taking you away from your station!

Bill was licensed in 1954 in Rhode Island as WN1HIJ and earned his General Class ticket shortly thereafter. Deeply immersed in the famous cycle 19, he immensely enjoyed chasing VK/ZL on 10 meter AM. He was a regular participant in 1RN and EAN CW traffic nets. After college and graduate school, ham radio took a back seat to "life". He moved to Washington State in 1968 and became W7GEG, but he let his license expire in 1975. The ham radio bug bit again in 1996. He earned an Extra Class license (AC6UH) and then took advantage of the vanity call sign program to reclaim the W1HIJ call sign. Bill is an accomplished contester and DXer. He has operated from French Polynesia (FO0SCH & FO8DX), Cuba (CO0US & T42FD), US Virgin Islands (KP2AA) and Puerto Rico (NP4A). He is in charge of the Telecommunications Division of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and spends a lot of time on the air on Coast Guard HF frequencies. For the past ten years he has been one of the friendly faces behind the counter at HRO-Anaheim.

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 May meeting. Don't miss it!



Standing Lenticular cloud (Altocumulus Lenticularis) above Tahquitz Peak from a Pine Cove perspective on April 23, 2009. Photo courtesy of weather spotter Bill Baker.

Quiz Answers;

- 1: D
- 2: C

From the Editor;

Thank you for the recent submittals. Keep them coming in. We look forward to hearing from more of you. Boy is Chris Johnson KI6LOD fired up about his new hobby. Kudos Chris, look forward to seeing your rig and having you on the air.

Respectively submitted, Bill Tell KD6KTV