



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

SEPTEMBER - 2009

In this Issue:

Message from Bill Baker ✂ *August Meeting Minutes* ✂ *Radio Quiz* ✂ *Phonetic Alphabet Humor* ✂ *From the Editor* ✂ *Quiz Answers*

September – Wednesday Roll Callers held at 1900 Hours:

2nd: Vi K6VBH 9th: Bill KN6JV
16th: Paul KG6TIL 23rd: Rick KG6TIJ
30th: Vi K6VBH

County wide Monthly Roll Call

Will be on September 14th, 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.

September Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board/RACES: Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

Message from Bill Baker

A fairly quiet August but we did restart message handling exercises. A somewhat different method of getting more people involved in the critical issue of sending and receiving verbal messages. Roll Call, what better time to do a related training?

All radio amateurs should consider themselves as a vital link for emergency communications. It isn't just for RACES members! Answering up to roll call is important, go beyond that for just a few extra minutes and take part in the brief exercise. Practice, practice, practice; receiving and copying messages and sending messages so they can be copied correctly.

One key element to messages is the need to use phonetics for words that are difficult to pronounce or are quite foreign to daily use such as odd street or personal names, medical terms, equipment etc. Phonetics uses words for each letter of those difficult to pronounce words. Please see the phonetic alphabet at the end of the newsletter.

Upcoming communications at the end of August is the "Jazz in the Pines". Our Mountain District participates by being the central communications for the event. We operate as the communications link between various groups on the campus (Idyllwild Arts). Most of the radios used by various groups are low power, the groups operate on different frequencies and the



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area of the campus is not always favorable for direct communications. We act as relay for those groups and we also setup for communications off campus in case of an emergency. It gets interesting but we get the job done.

FIRE THREAT IS NOW! HAVE YOU DONE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO DO? IF YOU NEEDED TO EVACUATE NOW -- ARE YOU *REALLY* READY?

73, Bill Baker Kilo November 6 Juliet Victor

MINUTES OF THE MILE HIGH RADIO CLUB/ RACES MEETING August 13th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 1835 by Vice President Christy Huss in President Tom Unwin's absence. There were 7 members and two visitors, Tom Huss and Bobbi McLaughlin in attendance. Bobbi is an Idyllwild / Hemet resident interested in the Club.

Bill Baker made a motion to approve the July minutes as published in the August Newsletter. The motion was seconded by Chris Johnson and approved unanimously.

Bill Tell reported he would be sending back the card confirming our interest in having a booth at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Christy suggested we should have a jar for donations at the booth.

Bill Baker said he would talk to Tom about starting work on the backpack portion of the portable repeater.

Bill Tell said we had two times the number of QSOs during Field Day this year. He also said Bill Pratt, the ARRL representative for our district had been corresponding with him by e-mail and complimented him highly on our Newsletter. Congratulations to Bill! Bill Tell said he could use

more contributions from the membership. He also reported that the Idyllwild Fire Protection District has added a link to our website on their website.

Chris Johnson gave a report on the trials and tribulations he has experienced putting up an antenna for his new HF radio but says he has been successful and has made some HF contacts. Congratulations to Chris, also. He said he has contacted the space craft on 147.500 when passes over our area. Bill Baker and Dale Bock had suggestions for some improvements.

The meeting adjourned at 1915 and we enjoyed some delicious goodies courtesy of Bill Tell.

Bill Baker, KN6JV, Mountain District E.C. called the RACES portion of the meeting to order at 1940. He collected the RACES cards from those present to get information from them and then returned the cards. Most cards are expiring in December and we will be issued new I.D. cards.

He needs 6 people to staff the communications for the Jazz Festival which is occurring on August 29th and 30th. Volunteers need to bring their fully charged HTs and should report for duty at 0900 or earlier. It is a RACES event, so full uniforms must be worn. Polo shirts are O.K. He went over some of the procedures to be followed. Most of the communications will be done on staff radios which will be collected at the end of the day for recharging.

A communications drill was conducted at the end of the meeting and as usual showed we still need drills. Bill Baker suggested we conduct drills following the weekly roll call and the group agreed. The meeting adjourned at 2015.

The next meeting will be on September 10, 2009 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

73, Vi Hallacy K6VBH



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Quiz: Back to basics.

1. An antenna tuner is a device that:
 - A) Retunes an antenna's impedance to match the impedance of the transmitter.
 - B) Tunes the transmitter to match the impedance of the antenna.
 - C) Matches the antenna system impedance to the transmitter impedance.

2. Your Amateur radio license allows you to transmit for:
 - A) 10 years plus 2 years during the grace period.
 - B) 10 years only.
 - C) 10 years only. 8 years plus 2 years during the grace period.

3. Have you checked your license date lately?

Humor!!! Worth a call to Edison.

I remember an individual who plugged a power strip back into itself and couldn't understand why the computer system would not turn on.

From the Editor;

The past few weeks have been very busy for our club. During the Cottonwood Fire our organization was on "Soft Stand-by". Bill Baker was conducting a roll call roughly every 3-4 hours. Also over the final weekend of August many of us were stationed at the Jazz Fest working communications. More on both of these events in next month's newsletter. Thanks to all who answered up and participated.

We look forward to seeing more of you at the meetings. We are going to be electing new Officers and Board Members over the next few months.

Many exciting things are taking place; our Portable Repeaters are being detailed as we write this newsletter and our fundraising has gone fairly well. This equipment will provide the much needed extended coverage. More details are expected at our September meeting.

Please get involved

Respectively submitted, Bill Tell KD6KTV

Phonetic Alphabet:

A – Alpha	N – November
B – Bravo	O – Oscar
C – Charlie	P – Papa
D – Delta	Q – Quebec
E – Echo	R – Romeo
F – Foxtrot	S – Sierra
G – Golf	T – Tango
H – Hotel	U – Uniform
I – India	V – Victor
J – Juliet	W – Whiskey
K – Kilo	X – X-ray
L – Lima	Y – Yankee
M – Mike	Z – Zulu

Quiz Answers;

- 1: C
- 2: B
- 3: ?