



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: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Vice President: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Membership: Rick Foster KG6TIJ
Secretary: Jim Kent KF6TYZ, Treasurer: Bill Tell KD6KTV,
Board Members: Chris Johnson KI6LOD, Don Hamilton AD6MP, Tom Unwin WA6SSS
RACES EC: Bill Baker KN6JV

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - 2010

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LA Marathon

County wide Monthly Roll Call First Monday of the Month

*Will be on **February 1st**, 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**

February-Wednesday Roll Call is held at 1900 Hours

This month's callers are;

3rd: Vi K6VBH 10th: Danielle KI6DDR
17th: Pat KG6AVZ 24th: Steve K6JSJ

February Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday,
February 11th, 6:30 PM All are welcome to
attend any of the above meetings or call in on
the nets.

President's Message

The first meeting of the year started us off on a very positive note. We acquired 3 new members and reinstated another one. We're growing! Bill Tell said we will have 35 members this year and most of these will be active members who will participate in most of the Club's activities.

Before the meeting, many of us met for dinner at Arriba's. I'd like to encourage you all to join us as you can get to know your fellow Club members better and participate in an exchange of ideas and thoughts that time at the meeting does not always allow. Friends and family are welcome, too. This past month, Chris Milford shared his experience working on a flood disaster in Grand Forks, North Dakota, his home town. I missed much of that because I had to leave early to set up for the meeting but having read the article he handed out it must have been a great learning experience. Not one I'd want to go through. But that is an example of the sharing that can go on at dinner time. We meet at 5:30 before the meeting and have a good time with good friends. Hope to see you there.

73, Vi Hallacy K6VBH
MHRC President



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General Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on January 14, 2010

President Hallacy opened the meeting at 1840 hours with 13 members present, thereby constituting a quorum. The attendance sign-in sheet is attached. Also present were Tom Huss as a guest and Barney Brause, a lapsed member seeking reinstatement. J. Kent led the membership in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Tell gave the Treasurer's Report by discussing the attached documents: (1) an untitled sheet showing transactions and account totals for the period 11/17/09 through 01/04/10 and (2) a 3 page document entitled MHRC Checking Account covering the period 02/15/08 through 01/04/10. His report was accepted by the membership.

Bill Baker discussed a flyer describing a Ham fest in Yuma, AZ, February 19-20.

Bill Tell presented the final readings of changes to Article V and Article XIII of the MHRC Bylaws as described in the attached documents. The names of the makers of motions for approval are recorded on the documents. All proposed changes and additions were approved by the membership. Bill will bring corrected copies of the Bylaws incorporating the changes to the next meeting.

The President noted that 2010 dues are now overdue and are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families.

The following individuals were proposed and approved for membership in the Club: Robert Ross N4AYF, Jim Mettler N7TAQ and Ben Mettler (unlicensed). Jim Kent then proposed lapsed member Barney Brause for reinstatement. His motion was seconded and adopted.

Kathy Hamilton volunteered as Refreshments Chairman for the year and Chris Johnson volunteered as Assistant Chairman.

J. Kent's motion to adopt use of name tags by the club was seconded and adopted.

A proposal to adopt a T-Shirt or Vest for club use was tabled until next meeting. Various members agreed to bring samples.

Bill Baker asked that members shred old rosters and roll call sheets to protect members' personal data.

Rick Foster and Christy Huss volunteered to perform a much need financial audit of the Club's books as soon as Bill Tell is ready.

Bill Baker asked that refreshments volunteers check the charging light in the RACES gear cabinet on meeting nights.

Bill Baker proposed a radio class. He asked that other members volunteer to teach certain parts of the course.

There being no further business to come before the membership, President Hallacy adjourned the meeting at 1937 hours.

J. M. KENT KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary

RACES Report – Mountain District

We have a lot of training to do and little time to do it. Setting a firm list or schedule for all of it will be a challenge. For all of us and I'm sure that time other than the monthly meetings will be needed.

Just to give a little insight into the topics I see as necessary, please read on.

- Familiarization of our communications equipment at Station 23 and IFPD is



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important. IFPD can accommodate 9 or more members at a time where as Station 23 can handle only 3 plus an instructor.

- Familiarization of the RACES manual can be handled at meetings, roll calls or other means.
- Communication exercises can be at net roll call and can also include out of district message handling.
- Field communication exercises with off site tests around our area are important. Where are our dead zones?
- Message relays plus accuracy exercise, including phonetics is key. Possibly at meetings, roll calls or other times.
- Transmitter Hunt.
- Using our hand-held radios correctly and setting frequencies “in the field” using tones, simplex, duplex and odd split frequencies. All functions we need to practice on a regular basis.
- When our Portable Repeaters come on line, we will need training as well as demonstrations of their capability.

You should think of topics that you feel are needed. Please make your thoughts known and support accomplishing them along with those mentioned above.

We ALL have a stake in being ready.

Bill Baker KN6JV Mountain District EC

Contest Corner – February;

KC0CRU, Chris Milly Milford

CQ CQ CQ, calling all hams in the mountain region, this is KC0CRU with your monthly testers corner. All right these are some of the contests for the month of February. As you can

see there really isn't any major contests this month, which might be good for all of us getting into the habit of learning our radio's and understanding how contacts are made on the air. The only contest is the ARRL sponsored DX CW contest which will be held later in the month. Its CW only so I won't be operating this contest, but I hopefully will get on the air and make some more contacts. I thought about what to put in my words of wisdom section here and thought since this month's contest was about chasing DX people might like to know a little more about how to find DX stations.

Spinning the tuning dial on the radio you will find some stations, but if you are really trying to knock off some specific stations you might want to try the DX clusters. My favorite site is the DX summit site.

<http://www.dxsummit.fi/DxSpots.aspx>

NEWS	DX SPOTS	ANNOUNCEMENTS	CLUSTER SPOTS	SEARCH					
25	50 HF	50 VHF	HF/CW	HF/PHONE	VHF/CW	VHF/PHONE	250	100	
mobile spots									
LAST 25 DX SPOTS RELOADED EVERY MINUTE									
KB9BOI	14122.0	FK9FB							
DK5DC-9	18100.3	EX5AA					pe:31		
DL3AF0	14044.0	LY1CK					LYFF-006	sc111	hr
SV1KIZ/	1427200.0	SB9BBH					59		
SV1KIZ/9-@	1427200.0	SB9BBH					59		
K0K1	1821.1	GW3JXN					589	in	LA
OK2GR	14026.1	JT1BH					58Y		
DH3RD	14275.0	BY5CD							
JP1E0Y	14020.0	YB9/QK2D0					58	signal.	00-022?

The above picture is a partial screenshot of the web site, there is a lot of information contained in the picture. Starting at the top menu there are tabs that allow you to read the news for contacts, then you have the specific DX spots, you can read any announcements like what the solar report is, you can also hunt down specific spots you want. The search feature is useful if you know the call sign of the station and you want to show only that station. While you operating you may want to help out the DX stations by sending



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a spot report, the last two tabs on top are if you need help and want to give a donation.

Under the menu tabs you can narrow your searching even more by bands, 6-meters and VHF, you can show only HF CW, HF phone, VHF CW, VHF phone, you can increase the stations shown from 250 all the way up to the last 1000 spots sent in, and you can see if there are any rare stations out there that are considered most wanted, you can even narrow the search to only show mobile stations or QRP stations.

All right, now that you have mastered the menu system how to read the columns. The first column is the station sending the report, second column is the frequency in kHz, third column is the DX station being spotted, then there is a column for a short message, the 5th column is the time and date in UTC and the last column is the country of the DX station. So if you are looking for a Taiwan station you can look up the station and see where that station has been spotted, turn your radio to the frequency and give them a shout its that easy.

There are several other things you can do from the site, I'll let you explore for yourself. When I was hunting for a DX station in Curacao this December I knew the call sign of the station and searched for my friend, found his frequency and gave him a call, from the time I turned on the radio to the time I turned off the radio only took a few minutes to make the contact. DX clusters have been around forever, originally transmitted over packet radio these have been a staple of hams around the world. Utilizing DX clusters will improve your collection of rare DX and speed up your radio operating.

A note on using the cluster for contests, there usually is a category for "assisted" operation during the contest, if you use the cluster you are considered assisted. Also it's generally taboo to spot yourself on the cluster, how we get around

this is to contact a friend or ask someone on the air to spot you, once your spotted your contacts will increase. I remember the first night I was a General on the air at the university radio station, things were going fine, I was making a few contacts a minute and then all of a sudden things went from a relaxed mood to a crazy hectic mood just because someone spotted me on the cluster and mentioned I was a new general ham. I ended up getting over 200 contacts in a matter of hours.

Ham radio is quite fun and contesting and chasing DX is exciting when you hear stations across the world, but when you actually make contact with that station and you sit back and realize that your radio signal went around the world into someone else's radio and they made contact with you, it's a wonderful high.

So have fun on HF and with these months Contest Corner this is Milly signing off saying keep those radios humming, it helps warm up the shack in the winter months. 73's and good luck with DX, so until next month this is KC0CRU.

Radio Operators – LA Marathon;

Radio operators are needed at the L.A. Marathon on Sunday March 21, 2010, to provide emergency communications throughout the course.

This year, the new route will go from Dodger Stadium to the Santa Monica Pier, and will include Beverly Hills, Hollywood, and major studios.

Volunteer registration is on-line at:

http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer/info.tcl?job_id=488

Craig Baker
KC6KKR