



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

JANUARY - 2010

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January – Wednesday Roll

Callers held at 1900 Hours:

6th: Bill KN6JV 13th: Bill KD6KTV
20th: Jim KF6TYZ 27th: Kathy KA6MOM

County wide Monthly Roll Call

Will be on January 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.

January Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday,
January 14th, 6:30 PM All are welcome to attend
any of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

President's Message

The year 2010 is promising to be an exceptional year for the Mile High Radio Club. Every board position is filled by a person willing and able to do their best to make this a banner year. Also, we have received several applications for membership in the mail, so our Club is growing. To get off to a good start, a Board meeting was held at Bill Baker's home and all but one Board Member was able to attend. A number of changes were introduced and accepted.

All meetings will start with all standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag to be led by a different person each meeting. Chairs will be arranged in a square or circle so everyone can be seen and heard easily. The Membership Chairman will greet any visitors or prospective members and introduce them to the members. The President is going to try to follow Robert's Rules of Order with help from the Secretary who is an expert. Now this is sounding pretty stern and rigid, but I'm hoping it also can be relaxed and friendly. I would like to revive the habit of wearing name tags and order them for those who don't have them and also distribute the current roster so we can get more familiar with who is in the Club. Just a reminder, the membership dues were increased to \$15 for a single membership and \$25 for a family. Those who have already paid were grandfathered in.



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At the first meeting, I would like to know how the members feel about having tee shirts with the club logo. The Board liked the idea of shirts but thought RACES hats were good, so no Club hats. We discussed having cell phone numbers on the role call sheet to facilitate call-up in an emergency and agreed on that. Bill Baker reminded us that all outdated papers with that kind of information should be destroyed and not just dumped.

Also, at the first meeting, I am going to ask for a volunteer to be the Refreshments Chairman and that requires some work and coordination. We all like the break when we can nibble on goodies and have something to drink. That person would be responsible for setting up and taking down, keeping the refreshment list and reminding those who have signed up and replenishing the supplies. The person bringing the refreshments should help in the setting up and taking down. It's a big job, but a greatly appreciated one.

Our big project this year, of course, is building our portable repeaters. Tom Unwin is the leader in this but can use a lot of help and it could be a good learning experience in increasing our technical knowledge. We have almost \$5,000 now and enough in the bank account to buy the components, so it's time to get started. Bill Tell is making contacts with the companies we will be dealing with, so things should start happening soon.

Bill Tell has volunteered to collect the ARRL dues four times a year and send them in. This way, we get back \$2.00 for each membership renewal and \$15.00 for each new ARRL member.

We discussed having programs at each meeting or on different days on subjects that pertained to amateur radio. I said I would get in touch with NOAA and see if we could get a weather spotter program going. Other suggestions were building antennas and making cables.

The By-Laws state that a financial audit should be done on a yearly basis both Rick Foster and Christy Huss said they could do this.

We went over the activities we could expect to participate in the New Year. The list follows: May - Bike Race, June - Field Day, 4th of July Parade, August - Jazz Festival, And maybe in September a Fox Hunt.

It was a long meeting, but we got a lot done. One more thing I would like to remind you of. When we are having bad weather this winter, try to monitor the repeater frequency as much as possible in case someone needs help and let's check on each other and be sure we're all O.K. Occasional voice "monitoring" check-ins might be helpful also

Regarding RACES, Bill Baker said there would be an open book test soon on the new RACES Manual. He also wants to show members how to open and run the RACES station at Station 23 in Pine Cove and start having more communication drills.

73, Vi Hallacy K6VBH
MHRC President

Contest Corner – January;
KC0CRU, Chris Milly Milford

CQ CQ CQ, calling all hams in the mountain region, this is KC0CRU with your monthly testers corner. I thought about doing this awhile ago, and figure since people in the club are interested in all aspects related to ham radio, contesting is a major activity. I will try each month to list the upcoming contests; at least the major ones and occasionally I will offer invitation to the shack to help out with contests. This month, I found a good listing of contests on some random website, its not really important information because a simple Google search for ham radio contests will bring up several sites. In



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a nutshell here are the contests for January 2010.

Don't forget straight key night if you are a CW person, dust off that straight key and make some new friends on HF CW. The contest each year is on New Year's Eve and is on all the HF frequencies. This note may come later than straight key night so let's not focus on it.

All right these are some of the contests for the month of January. Now which ones will I be working from the "fallout shelter" (my house)?

UPCOMING RADIO SPORT CONTESTS

ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest
1800z January 2 - 2400z January 3

North American QSO Party CW
1800z January 9 - 0600z January 10

North American QSO Party SSB
1800z January 16 - 0600z January 17

CQ 160 CW Contest
2200z January 29 - 2200z January 31

The only one that I probably will try and work on is the Jan 16th North American QSO party. This is usually a good contest to get some of your states if you're hunting for the Worked All States (WAS) ARRL award. My operating schedule will depend on if I am busy with work, but give me an email message if you are interested in playing on the HF radio that night.

Next I wanted to give some short ideas while operating HF. These are meant to help you get to know the bands and lingo so you don't sound like a complete newbie on the air. It can be a little crazy when you are hearing a station call CQ; you need to be quick if you hope to get the guy on the other end. Usually new people will sit and wait until they hear things go quiet after the

CQ call, this is a mistake; you've already lost the contact. Here is a technique, which works about 85% of the time.

Listen to the callers exchange, they are in a zone of concentration and will not deviate much from contact to contact. You will hear the exchange say, "Your 5/9 in California, KC0CRU QRZ." When you hear the station give their call sign or QRZ, get ready with the Mic, and when they start saying their suffix or QRZ, you better be pushing that Mic button and giving your call sign phonetically, your voice will be the very first station the guy will hear and he will come back to you. If you wait until after you hear QRZ, before getting the Mic in your hand you will lose this contact. Remember be aggressive, hold your frequency and be quick with the contact, he has a lot of other people calling him, in contests its no time to find out what his hobbies are.

Here is a sample script. Average contest with simple exchange of state and signal report.

- CQ contest this is Alpha Victor One Echo Charlie calling CQ.
- Delta Echo Four Alpha United (Responder begins talking when he hears "calling CQ")
- Alpha United station you are 5/9 into northern California QSL? (Note he only heard your suffix, but that's enough, you will clarify things with your next exchange)
- QSL, this is Delta Echo Four Alpha United, you are 5/6 into Idaho thanks for the contact 73's and good luck on the contest.
- Copy 5/6 Idaho, thanks for the contact QRZ from Alpha Victor One Echo Charlie. (Note he does not need to give your call sign back to you, he might if he did not hear your call completely ask for a repeat on the call or the signal report.)

If you're logging the contact, you should already have that AV1EC is in northern California so you don't waste time logging after the fact.



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(Next QSO) Whole exchange should take less than a minute, you move on to other CQ callers. I've worked contests where I have entered the zone and had a rate of 5 to 9 QSO's per minute. I am slower if I have to log the contact myself, but if I am running duel I can just concentrate on getting the contacts and let the other guy deal with logging.

You will hear people, and sometimes I mess up and do this, give only a partial call sign, so I would give Charlie Romeo United, although the calling station hears my call, I technically broke a major rule in ham radio. You should always give the full call sign, which is why if you plan to contest a lot getting a short vanity call might be a good idea.

So with this months Contest Corner, this is Milly signing off with you saying have fun on the air. 73's de KC0CRU.

Contest Corner – February;

KC0CRU, Chris Milly Milford

CQ CQ CQ, calling all hams in the mountain region, this is KC0CRU with your monthly contesters 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>



KB9BOI	14122.0	FK9FB	
DK5DC-9	18100.3	EX5AA	pe:k31
DL3AF0	14044.0	LY1CK	LYFF-006 sc111 hr
SV1KIZ/	1427200.0	SB9HBB	59
SV1KIZ/9-@	1427200.0	SB9HBB	59
KOKT	1821.1	GV3JXN	589 in LA
OK2GR	14026.1	JT1EH	KXY
DH3RD	14275.0	BY5CD	
JP1E0Y	14020.0	YB9/OK2DU	FB 01qna1, 05-022?

UPCOMING RADIO SPORT CONTESTS

ARRL DX CW February 20-21, 2010



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



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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

Happy New Year to All;

Respectively submitted, Bill Tell KD6KTV