



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: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Vice President: John Hauer K6CEH, Membership: Rick Foster KG6TIJ
Secretary: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Treasurer: Bill Tell KD6KTV,
Board Members: Chris Johnson K6IDY, Wayne Laube KJ6HYC, Tom Unwin WA6SSS
RACES EC: Bill Baker KN6JV

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

APRIL - 2011

In this Issue:

President's Message ✦ *March Club Minutes*
RACES Report ✦ *Hams Help When Phones Fail*
Up Coming Events ✦ *Ham & Amateur Radio*

County wide Monthly Roll Call

First Monday of the Month

Will be on **April 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

April - Wednesday Roll Call

is held at 1900 Hours

This month's callers are;

6th: Tom WA6SSS 13th: Bill KD6KTV
20th: Steve K6JSJ 27th: Chris N1OUT

April Meeting @ Idyllwild Fire Department – Training Room
Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday April 14th

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

President's Message

Hopefully Winter is over and Spring is just around the corner. I have been making plans for the coming year.

But first, a note of thanks to Diane and Chris Johnson for the use of their home for the March meeting. The food for the potluck was all delicious and the program very informative. We need to have Marty Wohl back to share more of his expertise.



Photo: Wayne Laube KJ6HYC

On to the coming year. We have several events we have always provided communications for



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



and we will do that again this year. At the end of April, there is the Idyllwild Spring Challenge Bike Race, In June, Field Day, in July, the 4th of July Parade, and in August, the Jazz Festival.

I'm thinking we could have a Fox Hunt in May and another Potluck dinner or Picnic in September. Any other suggestions for MHRC activities are welcome.

I would like all of you to start thinking already about the officers for next year. We need to have some new younger officers with new ideas to keep up with the changing times. There have been so many advances in communications that I cannot keep up with them. To me, having a cell phone and a tri band HT is the ultimate so you see the need for new ideas.

One last thought. If some of you have stopped coming to meetings because of the somewhat uncontrolled February meeting, be assured that was an aberration that will not happen again.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH
MHRC President
RACES – Mountain District – AEC

Mile High Radio Club General Meeting Minutes for Meetings Held on March 10th At the home of member Chris Johnson and his wife Diane

There were 20 members in attendance and 4 guests - Susan Laube, Chet Ainsworth K7POR, hostess Diane Johnson and guest speaker Marty Wohl N6VI, Regional Communication ARRL Southwest Division Vice Chairman.

Regular Radio Club meeting opened at 1830 hours by President Vi Hallacy

Minutes of February 10th in newsletter - Motion to approve by Al Toering noting that he had contact information so our club could contact Orange County's Second - Christy Huss Ayes: all Nays: none

Treasurer's report for 3/10/2011 - Motion to accept Treasurer's Report - Bill Baker Second - Wayne Laube Ayes: all Nays: none

Motion to pay invoice for web site and domain - Rick Foster Second - Don Hamilton Ayes: all Nays: none

Correspondence - none

Old Business -

Repeater call sign - one document needed to change sign

Portable repeater - no new information for this meeting

Liability Insurance - Motion to purchase ARRL liability insurance for quote of \$320 per year - Rick Foster Second - Don Hamilton Ayes: all Nays: none

Al Toering noted there is a tentative date in May for a field trip to Table Mountain

New Business -

Monetary concerns - Ways to meet financial obligations for the future due to costs exceeding dues will be addressed at the April meeting.

Sign up sheet for Idyllwild Spring Challenge Bike Race on back of meeting sign in sheet - at least 16 volunteers will be needed. Meeting in April for workers, T shirt size needed and sandwiches served.



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



Presentation was given by Marty Wohl, N6VI, Regional Communication ARRL Southwest Division Vice Chairman about NVIS antennas and their usage.

Christy Huss KG6AVU
MHRC Secretary

RACES Report – Mountain District

First up,

Taking a look back on RACES in the Mountain District, we can be very proud of what we have done and how we have progressed with our communications equipment and our operations during local fire emergencies, community events and maintaining a net.

With many new operators, we now need to maintain that capability and get our new communicators better trained to handle the tougher every day operations such as: resetting frequencies in our HT's, using the unique capabilities of our equipment in special situations and learning how to communicate within our unit and out to other amateur radio or emergency units.

It is very clear that the newer radios have features beyond our typical need but, on occasion, just some of those features are needed so then how the heck do you activate those features – *IN THE FIELD*- with only a copy of the manual and no computer programming tools available. What to do if, by chance, you hit some keys and lose your programming – DEAD IN THE WATER right?

With a sudden need for communicators in the field, can you reprogram your radio *PROPERLY*?

Training for field operations can be done in a classroom environment and then carried to field exercises. I am well aware that recent weather conditions have limited training and equally

aware that everyone of us have lots of stuff to do. This will be a topic at the next MHRC meeting –setting dates and targets. You got your license for a reason – what was that reason?

And Secondly,

I have been the RACES Mountain District Emergency Coordinator since 1995 and need to step down and get some new blood, thoughts and energy for the Mountain District. It is not a casual position but it is essential. Ideally, the person should be at least a General Class licensee, willing spend some time and energy with the position and have a residence in the district.

Riverside RACES Leadership Staff will be the approving body.

Please contact me,

Bill Baker KN6JV
Mountain District EC – RACES

Hams Help When Phones Fail at Southern California Hospital

03/25/2011

By Joe Moell, K0OV
ARRL ARDF Coordinator

When nurses and other caregivers picked up their phones at Children's Hospital of Orange County ([CHOC](http://www.choc.org)) in California in the early morning on March 21, there was no dial tone. A power surge caused the central processor in the hospital's phone switch to fail. Following established procedures, the Lead Operator at the CHOC switchboard immediately activated the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System ([HDSCS](http://www.hdscs.org)), using an off-switch tie-line to reach April Moell, WA6OPS, head of this ARES® group that specializes in helping hospitals when their communications fail.



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



Moell established a 2 meter net and initiated a call-out of HDSCS members via telephone and pager. Ken Simpson, W6KOS, and Clay Stearns, KE6TZR, soon arrived at the hospital to help establish a link with the outside world. Soon, more operators were at the hospital to communicate for its most important units, including the emergency department, neonatal intensive care, pediatric intensive care and the pharmacy.

She then contacted the supervisor at Orange County Communications to report the outage and to provide her telephone number for incoming calls to CHOC. This resulted in Moell receiving several urgent messages for the hospital, including one regarding the transport of a young patient coming in for an appendectomy. Message handling continued through the morning, with some of the first-to-arrive operators being relieved by other HDSCS members when they had to leave for work or other commitments.

By 10:45 AM, some phones were working, but spare parts were on their way from a supplier. HDSCS continued to provide unit-to-unit and hospital-to-community messaging as needed, including coordination of patient treatments and a request for blood. At 1:02 PM, the repair crew announced that the phone system was back to normal, except for some voicemail functions. HDSCS members remained on station for 30 more minutes, as they always do to insure that phone systems are stable before securing.

This is the 31st year of HDSCS service to medical facilities in Orange County and the 114th activation to provide communications support when telephones have failed or overloaded. The reasons for HDSCS involvement have ranged from equipment failure, to cut cables, to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and wildfires. Each member has their own go-kit that is ready to take to any of the 36 supported hospitals to establish communications. The HDSCS is familiar with CHOC because the group has participated in

drills and communications emergencies there before, including a external phone outage that lasted 22 hours in August 2006 when a construction accident severed fiber optic cables.

The following HDSCS members also participated in this activation: Paul Broden, K6MHD; Tom Hall, N6DGK; Bill Hegardt, K6WIL; Rebecca Katzen, KI6OEM; Joe Moell, K0OV; Dale Petes, KI6ANS; Sam Stratton, W5AGX, and Fred Wagner, KQ6Q.

Article shared by Paul Miglin KG6TIL

Up coming Events and Swap Meets



Both Chris Johnson K6IDY and Al Toring N6TEZ have attended this event in the past.

Click on the link below for further information

<http://www.dxconvention.org/>



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



Ham Radio Swap Meet



- x Ham radio gear GALORE!
- x FREE seller spaces (limited)
- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
- x Check out the One-Day SPECIALS inside the store
- x Contact store personnel for more information

Sat. May 14, 2011
8:00 am – 2:00pm

Location and phone numbers:

Ham Radio Outlet
5375 Kearney Villa Rd. #113
San Diego CA 92123
(near Hwy 163 & Clairmont Mesa Blvd)

Store Phone; 1-800-854-6046,
to reserve a sellers space 1-858-560-4900

Al Toreing N6TEZ

Ham & Amateur Radio

The following is an article written by George Covington, in response to a question about HAM radio.

HOW THE TERM “HAM” BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH AMATEUR RADIO

In 1908 “HAM” was the call letters of one of the first Amateur Radio Stations. This station was operated by some members of the Harvard

Radio Club. They were: Albert S Hyman, Bob Almy, and Peggy Murry. At first they called the club Hyman-Alma-Murry. This took too long to tap out in “CW” so they revised it to “HY_AL_MU” using the first two letters of each name.

Early in the year 1909, confusion resulted between a Mexican ship named “HYALMO” so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became “HAM”.

In the early days of radio, Amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Some Amateurs had stronger signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of Congressional Committees in Washington, who promptly proposed legislation to critically limit Amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial wireless regulation as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor sent a copy to Senator Davis I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed, he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. Hyman described how the little station was built, and almost cried when he told that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station as they could not afford the license fee and all of the other requirements.

The debate started and the little station “HAM” became a symbol of all the Amateur radio stations crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations. When the bill got to the floor of congress every speaker talked about the poor little station “HAM”.

That’s how it started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

George Covington (Silent Key KD6OI)