



# Mountain Flashes

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R.A.C.E.S. Mountain District/ Mile High Radio Club News

August 2007 Edition

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## KN6JV's Korner

Parade and Fire Watches kicked off the July events. Both were well done and thanks to all who participated. Simplex was used for the local watch points and the repeater for Pinyon and Pop-pet Flats.

No new fire watches have been scheduled but that should change if the current dry weather continues.

The "Jazz in the Pines" will be the next RACES event (August 25 & 26). Our participation will be to handle all communications much the same as we did at the start of our involvement with the Jazz Festival. Several have volunteered and will receive e-mails regarding days and times. Passes will be issued. Parking may be an issue but no specifics yet.



The following is extracted from an ARRL/ARES Article;

*The Commission noted that "the amateur radio community played an important role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters," and instructed the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) to "include the amateur radio community in its outreach efforts."*

*The FCC invited comments on the Katrina Panel's recommendation that the FCC "act to enhance the public safety community's awareness of non-traditional emergency alternative technologies that might be of value as back-up communications systems in a crisis." Several inputs suggested that the public safety community be educated about the applicability of Amateur Radio in a crisis. The FCC agreed with these comments, saying that improving the public safety community's knowledge of, and training in, alternative technologies would improve preparedness for future crises.*

*The FCC once again made clear that Part 97 "does not prohibit Amateur Radio operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief from using their amateur radio bands while in a paid duty status." This changed this past December in WT Docket 04-140, the "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order (R&O).*

*The Commission also previously decided to phase out RACES station licenses, "making proposed changes to rules relevant to these licenses moot." ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND notes that the FCC "is not phasing out the RACES program, just the RACES station licenses."  
--ARRL Letter*

**Bill Baker KN6JV**  
**R.A.C.E.S. Mtn. Dist. Emergency Coordinator**

## Bill's Quiz

### Questions:

1. All 2 meter amateur repeaters must use a 600 kHz offset between transmit and receive frequencies.  
A. True B. False
2. For a T-Hunt (RDF), the transmitter must \_\_\_\_\_ be in a fixed position.  
A. Never B. Most Often C. Always
3. An SWR of \_\_\_\_\_ may damage a VHF transmitter  
A. 1:1.7 B. 1:1.2 C. 1:4.5
4. An acceptable radio system ground may be connected to:  
A. The house's metal hot water pipes B. The ground pin on the house electrical circuit  
C. Any PVC water pipe D. The house's metal cold water pipe

(Answers at end of the newsletter)

## Bill's Comic Revue

When I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up my car, I was told the keys had been locked in it. I went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. I watched from the passenger side and instinctively tried the door handle to find that it was unlocked. "Hey," I said to the mechanic, "It's open!" He looked up and said, "I know - I already got that side."

## July RACES Meeting Notes

There were 3 officers, 1 member and a guest, Greg Morris, KI6HVA, present at the meeting. Greg is interested in becoming a member of RACES. The treasurer, Mike Erlich, KQ6QY, reported a balance of \$2,788.82 in the RACES account.

Bill had hoped Jack Peckham, an Idyllwild fireman, who has a part-time business putting embroidered logos on polo shirts, would be at the meeting to show us some of his work, but Jack was unable to be there. There has been a change in RACES policy and the white polo shirts with the RACES logo and member's name and call sign can be worn at all RACES events.

Bill will order a Kenwood mike to replace the one lost at Field Day a year ago and a lightning arrestor for the new antenna which was moved recently.

We have been asked to provide communication for the Jazz Festival again this year and volunteers are needed for 2 shifts on 2 days from 9 AM to 6 PM.

The Forest Service requested Fire Watches for July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 7. The stations were at the Baldy Mountain Trailer Park, a turn out on May Valley Rd. and another turnout on Hwy 74 below Mountain Center. Also, there was a communicator at Poppet Flats and another in Pinyon so we had the mountain pretty well covered. Reports were sent back to Net Control at the Forest Service every 30 minutes. Bill acted as roving communicator. Simplex was used successfully throughout the whole operation.

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There will be a training on field operations at the August meeting so all members should bring their HTs. Expect about an hour from start to finish and refresh your memory of phonetics. The meeting adjourned at 1945. The next meeting will be on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 1900 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

***Vi Hallacy K6VBH***  
***R.A.C.E.S. Mtn. Dist. Secretary***

## July MHRC Meeting Notes

Fourteen Club members attended the meeting. Also present as a guest and speaker for the evening was Chris Milford KC0CRU. Rick Foster led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's motion to accept the minutes of the June Meeting as read was seconded and adopted. The Secretary proposed applicant Greg Morris KI6HVA for membership was seconded and adopted.

Bill Tell give a brief report on the Field Day; a more complete report will be published in the Newsletter.

Bill Baker outlined the plan for Fire Watches on July 4 and 7, and asked for volunteers.

Bill Tell talked about improvements to our Web Site. He suggested that meeting times be added and said the RACES .net now has a link to our website. He also said he thought posting radio gear for sale might be acceptable; he will coordinate with the webmaster.

Jim Kent asked for newsletter submissions on or before July 25.

Bill Tell volunteered to learn how to do the repeater check with Bill Baker because the July 1 check did not occur as planned during the repeater site maintenance. Bill Baker reported on the moving of the antennas and said he had reports of better reception in some areas. He said only 5 RACES members attended the July meeting and urged better attendance.

Bill Baker reported that the RACES Jazz in the Pines functions will be similar to those employed in the first couple of years of our participation.

A majority of members present favored a Potluck Dinner prior to the August Meeting. The Dinner will begin at 5:30 PM with the meeting to follow. The Potluck Dinner and Meeting will be at the American Legion on August 21.

President Hallacy urged member to monitor the repeater and scanners during this period of high fire danger.

Chris (Milly) Milford gave a very entertaining and informative Power Point presentation about the North Dakota High Altitude Balloon Group and how Amateur Radio was instrumental in tracking and locating the balloons.

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Thanks to Bill Baker for the refreshments—he is a consummate oatmeal-chocolate bar and cookie chef.

**Jim Kent KF6TYZ**  
**MHRC Secretary**

## August Meetings & Events: Mark Your Calendars!

**RACES Meeting: Thurs., Aug. 9, 7:00 PM, Idyllwild Fire**

**Potluck Dinner: Aug. 21, 5:30 PM, American Legion**

**MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Tues., Aug. 21, 6:45 PM, American Legion**

**MHRC Meeting: Tues., Aug. 21, 7:00 PM, American Legion**

**Jazz in the Pines RACES Operation: Aug. 25-26, Times TBA**

**ALL AMATEURS are cordially invited to attend the RACES or Club Meetings.**

## Field Day Report

This year's Field Day was well attended. Our report has been filed with ARRL via the internet under the call sign of K6GUN (Jim you're the best!). In follow-up to our on-line report, we were also required to mail in our full report including our visitor logs, newspaper articles and pictures from our event. This report is available via a PDF file should anybody be interested in viewing. Please contact Bill KD6KTV at [wtell@surfcity.net](mailto:wtell@surfcity.net)

We scored a total of 950 bonus points this year. This is an improvement of 200 points over last year's score. The total number of QSO's logged was 97 at a transmission power of 70 watts using K6GUN's dipole strung between two pine trees. Our grand total score for this year's event was 1,144 points.

Big thanks to both Dick K6RWK and Roger Kramer KF6VWN for their fine wrist rocket marksmanship, and stringing of the dipole antenna. This year's change in direction of the antenna seemed to make improvements, as we made contacts with 22 plus states and British Columbia. We hit just about every corner of the country, from Washington State to Washington DC, and down to Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico and back up to Montana, North Dakota, Georgia and Kansas. The majority of the QSO's took place on 40 meters with 69 contacts. We also made contacts on 80, 20 and 6 meters. Being that repeaters are not allowed, simplex on the RACES emergency radios were not able to make contact. Next year we will have to re-consider their antennas and locations.

Many of our HF QSO's took place during the overnight hours with Chris Milford KC0CRU at the radio. Chris is in town from North Dakota for the summer months as an Astro Camp Counselor. Hats off to Chris and Jim Kent, KF6TYZ, for pulling off the duties of the Graveyard shift.

Lots of fun was had by all. Thank you to all of those who volunteered their time or participated during the event and making it a success. Let's start planning for next year's event and see if we can top this year's score or barbeque more food! Cheers,

**Bill Tell KD6KTV**  
**MHRC Board Member**

## Bill's Quiz Answers

(1) B      (2) B      (3) C      (4) D

## Radio Equipment for Sale

1. VHF/UHF Dual Band High Gain Antenna  
Gain    3.2 dB (VHF) / 5.6 dB (UHF)  
Power   50 Watts max  
Impedance 50 Ohms  
Connector BNC  
Cost New 34.95 For Sale Used 20.00

2. Kenwood TM-261 A  
144 MHz FM Transceiver excellent condition  
Needs CTCSS decoder TSU8 available  
from AES for 59.99  
Cost 75.00  
Call Vi at 659-4765 for more information