



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: 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

FEBRUARY - 2011

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County wide Monthly Roll Call

First Monday of the Month

Will be on **February 7th**, 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;

2nd: BJ Brix KJ6IPX 9th: Pat KG6AVZ
16th: Danielle KI6DDR 23rd: Steve K6JSJ

February Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday
February 10th, 6:30 PM All are welcome to attend any
of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

President's Message

I never enjoy writing this article every month but this month is especially hard. Last month's meeting was a new experience entirely.

The meeting reminded me of days long ago when my seven children were trying to make a decision which affected all of them. I used a whistle then to get their attention. I now have a new weapon. A GAVEL!! I hope I never have to use it for anything except to start the meeting.

I have been reading Robert's Rules of Order. It says each person is allowed speak only once in a discussion and I think it would a good idea if that is observed so everyone has a chance to voice their opinion.

From conversations heard after the meeting, there were people who wanted to speak but were unable to make themselves heard and many found it necessary to apologize to our guest for the behavior of a few.

Enough said.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH
MHRC President
RACES – Mountain District – AEC



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Mile High Radio Club Directors Meeting at 18:00 And General Meeting Minutes for Meetings Held on January 13th

There were 6 Board members in attendance, 13 members and 1 guest, Bob Turner W6RHK = 20 present

Directors meeting opened at 1800 hours by President Vi Hallacy

Secretary position - discussion

Ideas to enliven club - potlucks, speakers, contests, joint events with other clubs, encouragement for more "chit-chat" on the radio, questions and answers on the radio, fox hunts, meetings held at other places and times (especially in summer)

New leadership for board - discussion

Portable repeater - Tom Unwin stated that there were additional supplies to be purchased still within the \$550 range (cooling system, mounting hardware, connectors, and panels). Due to his work schedule, additional helpers would be needed to finish configuring the parts.

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

November 11th minutes in newsletter
Motion to approve with no corrections or changes - Rick Foster Second - Wayne Laube Ayes: all Nays: none

Treasurer's report for 1/13/2011 as given - noting insurance rate and that replacement cost of property includes state taxes - Motion to approve - Bill Tell Second - Rick Foster Ayes: all Nays: none

Correspondence - none

Old Business -

Guest Bob Turner, District Emergency Coordinator for ARES in Perris, answered Club member's questions regarding ARES wish to use the Club's repeater for emergency training purposes. President Hallacy

tabled voting on the topic until the February meeting of the Radio Club. Further questions can be emailed to Bob at W6RHK@yahoo.com

Repeater call sign - new call sign KJ6KTW is issued to the Club with Bill Baker as trustee, a new vanity sign will later be applied for.

Portable repeater - discussion - Motion to add \$1000 to portable repeater fund - Bill Tell Second - Kathy Hamilton Ayes: all Nays: none motion carried and passed

Refreshments – Volunteers signed for June and July.

March meeting - Motion to hold meeting and pot luck at Chris Johnson's home - Al Toering Second - Kathy Hamilton Ayes: all Nays: none Guest speaker for our March meeting will be Marty Woll N6VI. He will give a presentation on NVIS.

New Business -

Field trips - Al Toering suggested a field trip to a big radio system on Table Mountain

Weekly Wednesday Roll Call - Chris Milford suggested a prize or "something" given out each quarter in a drawing for members with perfect attendance for the quarter

Planning for 2011 - Bike Race, July 4th Parade, Field Day, Jazz Festival, Fox Hunts

Liability Insurance - discussion Rick Foster and Bill Tell will look into the issue

Motion to adjourn 20:15 - Vi Hallacy Second - Al Toering

Christy Huss KG6AVU
MHRC Secretary



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RACES Report – Mountain District

Welcome to February.

The quarterly Riverside RACES Council Meeting covered a wide range of topics ranging from RACES shoulder patches (for the dress shirt not the TEE shirt type) to activities that are worth consideration for the Mountain District.

The left shoulder patches (RACES blue design) are being purchased by OES and will be distributed very carefully since a previous purchase was issued without accountability and “lost”. Not sure what the method will be but if you have a suitable white dress shirt and need a patch I should be able to get you one when they are available.

A 2011 RACES exercise is in the planning early stage with no specifics at this time. A planning committee is being formed and should include all districts. Hopefully the exercise includes all districts operating in their own area and using equipment normally available in the area.

Disaster Service Workers (DSW) incident numbers can be applied for in many cases but must be associated with actual RACES communications activity and not just with RACES Members making an appearance at an event. Typically, the Mountain District participates in events with actual communications but we will need to be sure we are in compliance. By getting an incident number we are covered with DSW insurance so it is important be sure the activity meets the requirements. Normally local EC's or AEC's can apply to OES for an incident number but in some cases the number is assigned by OES as part of their operation during an incident.

A new district has been added to RivCoRaces. It is Aguanga and the EC is Todd Voigts KJ6DGG. The added district helps to cover an area having difficult communications.

One district reported that their regular roll calls have members in poor communications areas. A regular feature of their roll call is using simplex relays for check-ins in those areas. Mountain District at one time had occasional simplex roll calls and I think it would be a good plan to begin doing it again. If we have no repeater for- any reason – simplex is a must. We need to get back to basics on a regular basis. This will be topic for the next regular MHRC meeting.

Bill Baker KN6JV

Mountain District EC – RACES

HamFest – Quartzite Arizona – 2011

A few of us ventured out to Quartzite, Arizona for the annual week long HamFest. The weather was perfect, daytime temperatures ranged in the mid to upper 60's. Jim Mettler AF6XL and I rode out in his 6 wheel drive Pinzgauer, what a cool rig. It is equipped with solar panels, a battery bank and a freezer for all of our food, along with a few Ham radios.

Once Jim and I arrived we ran into Chris Johnson K6IDY, his wife Diane and a couple of their friends. So we set up camp next to their trailers.

During the day we visited with other Ham Radio operators and also attended a few talks on selecting and terminating coaxial cables. We learned about APRS and a new cool device by www.byonics.com that plugs between your 2 M radio and a GPS to provide real time APRS tracking. Then during the evening there were talks on radio astronomy, sun spots and many items that go way over my head, literally!

Jim AF6XL is also into Astronomy and a Docent at Mount Palomar Observatory. So for the evening he set up a telescope so that we and other visitors dropping by could view the stars. This was truly a treat. Some of our neighbors



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however thought we were going to be launching mortar rounds in their direction, as the scope is 12 inches in diameter. Jim's telescope provided may views like the photo below.



Photo courtesy of Curtis Croulet

Jim reports this is one of two galaxies we were viewing last week. Galaxy M82 in Ursa Major. The central area of M82 is undergoing intense star formation. M82 is about 12 million light years away.

What a blast, would recommend going to this event next year for anyone interested.

Bill Tell KD6KTV

Desert Rats HamFest – 2011

The Desert Rats and the Palm Springs DX Club hosted their 2nd annual HamFest this past weekend in Palm Springs. From the looks of it, they had an excellent turnout and the weather was again perfect.

The Mile High Radio Club was well represented at the festival. I bumped into Al N6TEZ, Wayne KJ6HYC, Rick KG6TIJ, Jim AF6XL and Ben KJ6IPQ

A number of vendors were their displaying radios, battires and connectors along with many other goodies. I made contact with a number of the vendors, as I suspect they can provide service or equipment for our repeater builds.

Shortly after lunch a Clint Bradford with AMSAT along with Gordon West gave a live demonstration on satellite radio communications. They were able to link up with the satellite as it traversed the sky, making communications with Arizona, Montana and a few other points across the country. This was all done with a simple yagi and a handheld radio strapped together. For more information on satellite communications go to www.amsat.org or www.work-sat.com you can also contact Clint Bradford K6KCS our local AMSAT area coordinator at k6lcs@amsat.org

A number of our RACES Riverside County leaders were there as well. A special treat was having a short chat with Dr. Kate Hutton K6HTN. She knows earthquakes and also knows the importance of emergency communication.

Kudos goes out to the Desert Rats and the Palm Springs DX Club for a great event.

Bill Tell KD6KTV