



Mountain Flashes

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

January 2008 Edition

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KN6JV's Korner

Kicking off the New Year with very little fresh material but we did have some activity the last couple of months in '07. We worked a couple of Fire watches for the USFS and OES that provided hands-on field work. The repeater got a new solar controller and cable clean-up with a little more cable work to go when we get a stretch of good weather and on-going repeater site inspections.

The 2008 Roll Call Calendar is ready to publish along with the preamble which has a minor change or two. Very few responded with changes to the draft but those changes have been made. It's been e-mailed to everyone possible.

2008 promises to be a little more active, at least in the 2nd half of the year with a planned state-wide exercise involving a massive earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. Unlike previous exercises, the fictional quake impacts are being replaced with carefully modeled effects based on existing scientific knowledge of events, timelines, damage and responses. RACES will be involved and more info will be passed on as it is available.

Our RACES representative in OES—Peter Lent—has taken a new position within OES. I don't know if, when or by whom he will be replaced. We should know more at the next RCRC meeting in January.

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The First Monday of the month roll call is on Jan. 7th, approximately 1845 to 1915 on 146.895 MHz (-) 118.8.

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The Mile High Radio Club / RACES meeting is on Jan 10, at IFPD. RACES training will take place in the RACES portion of the combined meeting. All Club members are welcome to attend the RACES meeting and its training.

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Three RACES “members” are now waiting for RACES ID badges. They are Simone Huls, Gregg Morris and Chris Johnson. They have been waiting several months. The cause of the delay is unknown but has been addressed to Peter Lent recently.

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At this writing, I have unconfirmed information that Dick Kramer K6RWW, one of the founding members of the Radio Club, has cancer in a kidney and is under Hospice Care. As more and valid information is available it will be forwarded to members. Keep Dick in your thoughts and prayers.

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You probably know how fast 2007 raced by – well, 08 is next then get ready for 2009- a year in which the Club will need new leadership. Two of us have been trading off the president's office for several years. We need to see some new people taking charge of the MHRC with new views on its operation, programs and growth. It is not a daunting task but needs changes.

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January Roll callers are: Bill KN6JV, Jan 2nd, Mike KQ6QY, Jan. 9th; Vi K6VBH Jan. 16th; Jim KF6TYZ, Jan. 23rd; and Rick KG6TIJ Jan. 30th.

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

Bill's Quiz

1. What is the most common rating method for capacitors?
(a). Watts and Henrys; (b). Volts and Amps; (c). Microfarads and Volts; (d). Microhenrys and Farads.
2. The basic purpose of a microphone is:
(a). To amplify a voice signal so the transmitter can send it to the antenna; (b). To remove background noise to make an audible signal; (c). To provide a means for switching a radio from receive to transmit; (d). Converting voice signals to electrical signals.
3. Most antennas pick up unwanted noise. An antenna choice for less noise pick-up is:
(a). Vertical; (b). Loop; (c). Long wire; (d). 3 Element Yagi

[\(Answers at end of the newsletter\)](#)

Bill's Comic Revue

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

"One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me," said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me."

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord."

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the kid on the bike.

November 2007 RACES Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by Bill Baker, KN6JV, EC, at 1935, following the MHRC meeting. There were 11 members and one guest, Bob Brown, KE6JGM, present. Bob was given a membership application at his request. We currently have 3 applications in process. The treasurer's report was given by Mike Erlich. There is \$2,713.63 in the RACES account.

A new controller has been installed at the solar panel and lightning arrester installed on the transmit antenna. Readings on the solar controller are now available and those readings will be added to the monthly repeater inspections. Bill Tell, KD6KTV, asked for instructions on how to do the readings on the controller. Bill Tell and Bill Baker realigned the COAX at the repeater site and it is much neater now.

Bill has completed totaling the number of operators and hours spent on Fire Watches and on stand-by and will send it in.

Riverside County RACES is working on membership requirements and background checks. We may have to go to Indio or Riverside for the background check but Bill will try to find a more local place to get them done. Bill asked for the individual equipment lists so he could make a list of the resources available here on the Hill.

It was decided by the group not to have a meeting in December so the next meeting will be on January 17, 2008 following the MHRC meeting which will start at 1900 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

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

November 2007 MHRC Meeting Notes

Eleven members were present, thereby constituting a quorum. Tom Unwin led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present was Guest Bob Brown KE6JGM from Hemet. It is noted for the record that no Board Meeting was held this month.

Mike Erlich noted he had a letter from the IRS about reporting requirements for non-profit organizations with gross receipts of less than \$25,000. He said nothing was required now, but that we may have to eventually e-file a statement with info going back to December 31, 2006.

Treasurer Erlich then discussed the information in the attached Balance Sheet and Transaction Detail Report. Jim Kent made the following two motions that were seconded and adopted: 1. "Chris Johnson's dues should be credited to 2008 dues." 2. "The membership should approve the expenditure of \$156.15 for a Solar Controller for the Repeater and Bill Baker should be reimbursed for that amount."

Bill Tell and Bill Baker conducted the November Repeater Inspection all was in order. Bill recommended taking a broom and dustpan when inspecting the repeater.

It was agreed there would be no MHRC or RACES meetings in December, however, a RACES meeting would be convened if it became operationally necessary.

There was no objection to the proposition that the MHRC and RACES meetings would continue to be held together on the second Thursday of each month.

Bill Tell said he would update the website reflecting the new officers for 2008 and would ask Don to update our brochure.

The following officers were installed for calendar year 2008: President—Bill Baker; Vice President—Jim Kent; Treasurer—Paul Miglin; Secretary—Vi Hallacy; and Directors Rick Foster, Bill Tell, and Tom Unwin.

Jim Kent KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary (2007)

January 2008 Meetings & Events

Mark Your Calendars!

County Roll Call, Mon. Jan. 7,
Approx. 6:45—8:45 PM on 146.895 MHz (-) 118.8

MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg. (if needed), Thurs., Jan. 10, 6:45 PM, Idyllwild Fire
MHRC Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 10, 7:00 PM, Idyllwild Fire

RACES Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 10, Idyllwild Fire
(RACES Meeting Immediately Follows MHRC Meeting)

ALL AMATEURS are cordially invited to attend any of the above meetings.

MHRC Website

You may access the MHRC website at www.milehighradioclub.org

Bill's Quiz Answers

Answers: 1. (c).; 2. (d). 3. (b).