



## RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

PO Box 1204

Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204

E-mail: [mhrc@arri.net](mailto:mhrc@arri.net)

[www.milehighradioclub.org](http://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: Bobbi McLaughlin KI6JZT, Treasurer: Bill Tell KD6KTV,  
**Board Members:** Chris Johnson K6IDY, Wayne Laube KJ6HYC, Tom Unwin WA6SSS  
**RACES EC:** Bill Baker KN6JV

# MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY - 2011

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### County wide Monthly Roll Call

#### First Monday of the Month

*Will be on **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 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 - Wednesday Roll Call

#### is held at 1900 Hours

*This month's callers are;*

5<sup>th</sup>: Bill KN6JV                      12<sup>th</sup>: Jim KF6TYZ  
19<sup>th</sup>: Kathy KA6MOM              26<sup>th</sup>: John K6CEH

### January Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

#### Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM All are welcome to attend any  
of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

### *President's Message*

At the beginning of last year, we held a meeting of the Board and asked them to consider some changes that I thought would improve the club and make it more efficient and friendlier and conform better to Robert's Rules of Order and the By-Laws of the Club. Everyone thought all of the changes were worthwhile. Very few of them were acted upon. One of them was the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting. That has been done. Another was the wearing of name pins of everyone could get acquainted more easily. Some members bought pins and wore them. Many didn't.

I wanted visitors greeted when they came in and made welcome. We did get them introduced during the meeting. Rosters and By-Laws were made available by e-mail. Few asked for them. There were other things that I hoped to stimulate more interest but nothing worked. Many of these things were not followed up on by us or because they were not as important as we thought they were.

In order to have a good active Club, we need more interest and participation by everyone not just the officers and board members. I was very encouraged when Al Toering N6TEZ spoke up at the last meeting and wanted to know if we could have a speakers program and now he has done the research so we can have a program for the March meeting and others later in the year.



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We have many new to the club members now, that I hope will bring some stimulation and different ways of doing things to wake up us old fogeys and get the Club motivated for 2011.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH  
MHRC President  
RACES – Mountain District – AEC

### *General Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

*Meeting opened 1840 by Vi Hallacy*

There were 12 members in attendance and no guests

October 14<sup>th</sup> minutes in newsletter

Motion to approve with no corrections or changes - Don Hamilton Second - Kathy Hamilton

Ayes: all Nays: none

Treasurer's report for 11/06/2010 as given - noting purchase of TEXAS-PO115

Motion to approve - Don Hamilton Second Kathy Hamilton

Ayes: all Nays: none

Correspondence - none

Old Business -

Installation of officers Viola Hallacy - President, John Hauer - Vice President, Bobbi McLaughlin - Secretary, Bill Tell - Treasurer, Rick Foster - Membership, Tom Unwin, Wayne Laube, and Chris Johnson - Directors and Bill Baker as EOC RACES (Secretary McLaughlin has not been at any recent meetings - position might need to be temporarily filled until her return)

Repeater Call Sign Change –

Bill Baker volunteered to be trustee for the change of the repeater call sign. Because the requested call sign (KD6OI) was an Extra Class call sign, an Extra Class operator would have to be designated as the Trustee. Motion to approve

position change - Al Toering Second - Don Hamilton

Ayes: all Nays: none

ARES Perris request to use club repeater for their weekly, Thursday night roll call – discussion Motion to ask an ARES officer to come to a regularly held MHRC meeting to give more information and expectations and answer questions - Al Toering Second - C. Huss Opposed - Kathy Hamilton and Chris Johnson Abstain - Paul Miglin and Judi Milin

Ayes carried motion

Motion to shelve the problem of usage - Chris Johnson Second - none Motion - failed

Bill Baker volunteered to contact ARES Perris and invite them to the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting Fox Hunt - discussion - A new exercise will be planned when weather becomes milder

Portable repeater - no new report at this time

Roll Call for 2011 - volunteers needed - sign up sheet passed around

New Business -

Chris Johnson reports that a Ham fest with seminars and antenna contest will be held the weekend of January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Quartzsite, camping is permitted. Also the Desert Rats will be holding a swap meet with used equipment January 29<sup>th</sup>

Guests Speakers –

Motion to create a committee to bring in guest speakers for club meetings – Al Toering Second - John Hauer

Ayes: all Nays: none

Chris Johnson noted that he has available overnight accommodations for guest speakers not wishing to drive back down the Hill at night

New equipment inventory for Insurance –

Chris Johnson and Paul Miglin agreed to help Bill Baker and Bill Tell with inventory



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Refreshment sign up list for 2011

Training - Bill Baker gave training on how antennas send messages from transmitter to receiver

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

Christy Huss KG6AVU  
Acting MHRC Secretary

### ***SPEAKER SCHEDULED FOR THE MARCH 2011 MEETING***

Marty Woll, N6VI, Vice Director of the ARRL Southwest Division, has been scheduled for a program presentation at the MHRC meeting, March 2011. Marty is a popular speaker at many ARRL conventions, Hamfests and Ham Radio clubs. He is also busy with many Ham Radio and civic organizations, to numerous to list here. You may go to [www.n6vi.com](http://www.n6vi.com) to see what I mean.

The topic of the presentation will be voted on at the January meeting. If you would like to help choose the topic, please go to the [www.n6vi.com](http://www.n6vi.com) and click on the word "Presentations" in the right hand column for a list of Marty's topics.

If you find one or more interesting, please come to the January meeting ready to give your input and vote for your choice.

Al Toering, N6TEZ, Program Chair

### ***RACES Report – Mountain District***

Well another year goes by the way. It's been a fairly good one though. Strange weather aside!

A good harvest of new hams on the hill made early in the year efforts worthwhile. Got to thank all of you who helped make it work and for sure

all the graduates who took the time to get a new communication mode under their belts.

Now, we would like to hear you on the air. Maybe we need to set a weekly day / time to just talk about stuff and get to know each other and our equipment better. Who knows – we may need to work an event together (hopefully not a disaster, but who knows?). Think about it.

A word about rosters, the roll call sheets and other such documents that may cross your path, should be kept safe. A lot of low-level personal information appears in such documents. When they are updated the old copy should be shredded not just tossed in the trash. There are those out there that harvest bits and pieces of information. For what ever reason's they have and usually not to your or other's benefit. A little care is important.

OK so that's all of that! What about training in using your radio? Equipment today has so much potential and modes and programs that everything can go wrong and the manual just doesn't cut it – it takes a software bundle to make it work right. What is the most basic set of features you need to get your radio back on track if it gets messed up and there's no computer and cable at hand?

Some terms might be: Band, frequency, type operation (simplex or duplex (repeater), tone or no tone (ctcss / dcs), Shift (+, - , none) and on and on. With so many brands and programming modes it's difficult to teach how to program a particular radio. Maybe it's better to teach what these modes do for you so you are able to grasp what part of the program you need to start with etc. Hams do want to help hams but part of the effort belongs to you, the owner of the radio. Getting a handle on the terms helps a lot. The internet can help with that.

If classes are needed we can usually arrange for them but, as noted above you share the burden of learning and if classes are arranged, we need



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to know in advance: your equipment, what the problem is and your attendance.

Bill Baker KN6JV

Mountain District EC – RACES

### *Answers to the last month's newsletter questions:*

(1) When is it normally best to hold your HT radio horizontal when transmitting?

d) Never. However “Fox hunts” may use it as a technique for locating a radio

(2) What is the frequency of the Tone used on the MHRC repeater?

c) one hundred eighteen point eight cycles per second (118.8 Hz)

### *MDP – Night Exercise Report*

On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 the Mountain Disaster Preparedness (MDP) team held its first ever night (to the best of our knowledge) exercise and practice. The initial call out went out on MDP business band radios, transmitted by David Alt, Disaster Aid Station (DAS) Director who announced the drill at 5:45 pm. First on the scene were new comers to CERT, Laura and Danny Slattery who reported in and opened the DAS. They were relieved by the arrival of DAS Emergency Commander Dora Dillman who organized and supervised the teams which were deployed by about 6:15 pm. A medical triage area was set up under the direction of Dr. Dick Goldberg, MDP Medical Director. The exercise ended at 7:30 pm.

Participants all agreed that something needs to be done to diminish the generator noise and maybe ear protection for the commander and the scribe. Appropriate transmissions regarding damages, injuries and conditions were made

from the Field Responders to the Commander and then to the Incident Command staffed by Communications Director Dorian Paul. In an actual event, these transmissions would be recorded and passed along to RACES Communication Staff for dissemination to appropriate agencies.

We learned, among other things, that there is plenty of work even for those who may not be able to do much in the way of physical work. Two volunteers with some sore backs were able to serve as intake personnel and provided the essential tracking of the location of the deployed teams and the walkins with needs.

Working at night, in the cold and using all the night equipment was also an eye opener as we thought it would be. MDP plans similar exercises in 2011.

Paul Miglin KI6TIL, Cert Instructor, Reserve Fire Fighter and Amateur Radio Operator did a critique of the carrying procedures for non ambulatory wounded and pointed out and demonstrated areas for improvement.

Although the participation in this exercise was intentionally selective to MDP Staff, since it was a new practice experience for all of us, nonetheless a total of 24 volunteers responded including DAS Commanders, Board Members, Captains and Cert Volunteers.

We look forward to a more expanded exercise including the integration of RACES Staff – Mountain District early in 2011. Stay tuned.

Veronica Alt, President  
Mountain Disaster Preparedness