



## RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

PO Box 1204

Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204

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

[www.milehighradioclub.org](http://www.milehighradioclub.org)

Repeater Station WA6SSS 146.895 (-) pl 118.8



**Officers** - President: Tom Unwin WA6SSS, Vice President: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Secretary: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Treasurer: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, **Board Members**: Bill Baker KN6JV, Rick Foster KG6TIJ, Chris Johnson KI6LOD, Bill Tell KD6KTV

## MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER JUNE - 2009

### In this Issue:

*Message from Bill Baker ✂ May Meeting Minutes ✂ Spring Challenge ✂ Radio Quiz Up-Coming Events Schedule ✂ Humor Portable Repeater Fund ✂ Quiz Answers Hall of Fame*

### June – Wednesday Roll Callers held at 1900 Hours:

3<sup>rd</sup>: Vi K6VBH                      10<sup>th</sup>: Bill KD6KTV  
17<sup>th</sup>: Bill KN6JV                    24<sup>th</sup>: Paul KG6TIL

### County wide Monthly Roll Call

*Will be on June 1<sup>st</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.*

### June Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire

#### Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board: Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM

MHRC/RACES: Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM

All are welcome to attend any of the above meetings.

### Message from Bill Baker Mountain EC

First of all I want to thank the Mountain District Races members who signed on to take part in the communication exercise between Anza and Mountain. Also, thanks to Gina of OES for her support and effort. The exercise was postponed till later this year no date set.

In preparation for the exercise we started well with message handling between districts and there was a real benefit because most participants found out that copying messages is not as easy as sending them. We will continue message handling in our district at our roll call at least once a month. The message form we use is ICS213 available on the internet at ics213.com

Tom WA6SSS may have conquered the noise problem that has been plaguing the repeater. Generally, the interference seems to have been coming from the weather station housed in the same building as the repeater. Tom and Kevin Brown housed the offending equipment in a grounded metal box and there have been no occurrences since.

Field day is rapidly approaching and most of the chores are assigned. The one activity that is most important is having operators come out and get on the air. Field day is the last full weekend of June. We will be located at our usual spot this year (adjacent to the monument carver) so come on out and give it a whirl.



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July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade is another event we provide communications for. We typically have not activated RACES for that event but we need 4 to 5 operators with HT's with well charged batteries and it doesn't hurt to have a headset or earphone and attached mic. Our job besides being there for any emergency communications is to pass on to the announcers late changes in the line-up of the parade.

73, Bill Baker KN6JV

### *MINUTES OF THE MILE HIGH RADIO CLUB/ RACES MEETING May 14, 2009*

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Unwin at 1939. There were 6 members present. The minutes of the April meeting published in the Newsletter were approved as written.

There was a letter from the Idyllwild Soroptimist Club asking if we were interested in having a booth at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bill Tell will look into this and we will discuss it at the next meeting. The grant request from the Idyllwild Community Fund was mailed. A possible raffle was discussed as a money raiser for the Repeater Fund. No decision was reached.

Bill Tell will contact Chris Johnson and Rick Foster to meet to discuss the changes in the MHRC By-laws.

Bill Tell reported a problem with the repeater. He accessed information on the solar input to the battery and then was unable to turn off that function. Also, there has been interference from the Pine Cove Water Department weather station link. Tom has taken care of these problems.

The Garner Valley Property Owners Association is going to schedule a date for Bill Baker to talk to them.

MHRC members together with volunteers from Mountain Disaster Preparedness worked on communications for this year's Bike Race. It was the first time these two volunteer organizations have worked together like this and it was a great success. Vi asked if the article about the event that was published in the Town Crier could be included in the Newsletter and Bill Tell said he would take care of that.

Plans were initiated for the annual Field Day event which will take place on June 27 and 28. There was a discussion about changing the locality to the new Idyllwild Community Park. Bill Tell will find out if there would be any charge involved and we will discuss this at the June meeting.

Bill Baker passed around a sign-up sheet for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

The MHRC portion of the meeting was adjourned at 1934.

We enjoyed refreshments courtesy of Rick Foster.

The RACES meeting was called to order by Bill Baker at 1955. He announced we would have a message handling drill with Anza RACES Relay on May 30 from 0900 to 1100. In preparation for that drill, we will be holding practice drills with Anza after their Role Call on Tuesday and after our Roll Call on Wednesday. All RACES members and any MHRC member who wants to increase their message handling skills are urged to participate. Anza cannot hit our repeater so all drills will be held on their frequency, 145.340 – shift PL 107.2. The drill on May 30 is a RACES event and RACES uniforms must be worn. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Bill wants to open Station 23 Radio Room and Idyllwild Fire



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Station radios and have mobile reporters and also have those who need to stay home report from there. Gina Moran-McGough from OES and Walt Holloway from CalFire will also be participating.

There was a discussion about an appropriate container and location for the portable repeater when we get it built but no decision was made.

Rick said RACES members should check their RACES cards for the expiration dates as he thought the expiration date was coming up soon. Several cards were found to be expiring in December 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2025. The next meeting will be on June 11, 2009 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

73, Vi Hallacy K6VBH

### *Spring Challenge Bike Race Radio Communications*

The Mile High Radio Club (MHRC) amateur radio operators have been with the Idyllwild Spring Challenge event from the beginning. MHRC radio operators provide the valuable communications network from several stations positioned over the entire 30 mile racecourse. This mountain bike course covers a wide range of terrain from 4,300 to 6,500 in elevation.

About a month ago, it was apparent that, due to member prior commitments, the MHRC would not have enough Radio Operators available to work all the radio information relay stations for this year's Spring Challenge bicycle race which took place Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. MHRC requested support from Mountain Disaster Preparedness (MDP) which became an opportunity for these two organizations to enhance the effectiveness of information handling during the race. MDP volunteers who are trained in the use of MDP's

radio communication system worked four of the outlying field stations along the various race loops. They relayed their information back to a base station with MDP President Nancy Layton who worked beside MHRC's Race Communications Director Bill Baker, who was communicating with MHRC licensed (HAMS) amateur radio operators, working three other field stations.

The Base station (located at Hurkey Creek campground) recorded information as it came in from the field stations and transferred that information to Race Officials in a timely manner for tracking the progress of the racers. Layton said, "This is the first time any of our MDP volunteers, except my husband Rick Foster who is also an MHRC and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) member, have worked this event. It was great experience for our volunteers and further enhanced our radio skills. It seemed like having two of us here at the base communications table also made it quicker to relay information as it was coming in over the two different radio systems. I know it was excellent experience for me working beside Bill who is a real pro when it comes to radio communications."

Rick Foster said, "In previous years, having all the stations reporting in on the same radio frequency made it tough keeping track of the (radio) traffic. This year, it was better for all of us, having the two different systems in play. We'll definitely look to MDP again for such events where we're asked to provide communications. MDP's volunteers are every bit as effective and professional in their use of MDP's radio system as our MHRC Licensed Ham Operators are."

Bill Baker Mountain EC - RACES  
Nancy Layton MDP President  
Bill Tell MHRC News Editor



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### Quiz: Back to basics

#### Capacitors

- Change alternating current to direct current,
- Can store a deadly charge,
- Can only be used in DC circuits,
- Stores energy in an electric field.

### Up-Coming Events Schedule

**June 27 – 28 is Field day.** We can always use lots of volunteers and operators. More information on this topic will follow at up-coming meetings. This is a Club event.

**Be sure to check out last years Video and Slide show linked from our web site. Go to News and Events and scroll down to "Field Day 08". There you will find all of last years fun and excitement, thanks to the Press Enterprise.**

#### ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1. You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
2. Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
3. Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics doesn't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.
4. When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.
5. If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
6. If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
7. When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
8. Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
9. Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your



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hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

- Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.** We need a minimum of 4 radio operators for course communications.

**August 22 & 23 – Jazz Festival.** Need 3 operators each shift (2 shifts each day). This is a RACES event. I will need to know in advance if you will participate since there is some administrative work that needs to be done.

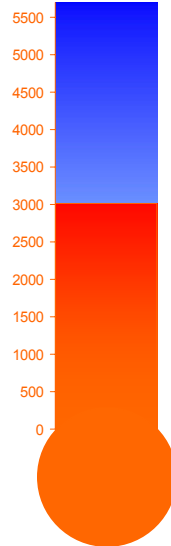
Be sure to check out the clubs web site at [www.milehighradioclub.org/activities](http://www.milehighradioclub.org/activities) for additional information related to these great events.

Thank you, Bill Baker KN6JV

## *Humor!!!*

- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar. What's a dollar???
- It's not hard to meet expenses...they're everywhere.
- I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.

## *Portable Repeater Fund*



The fund raising efforts for the portable repeater have gone very well. We have hit the half way mark. Many kudos go out to Bill Baker, Vi Hallacy and Tom Unwin. Bill has been to many local organizations providing presentations on the usefulness of the repeater in our challenging terrain. Vi has prepared and submitted a grant proposal with the community grant fund. Tom has provided a bulk of the investigative leg work on equipment selection and various specifications and their costs. Hats off to the team and all of the others in getting the word out.

## *Quiz Answers*

B and D are both correct.

## *Hall of Fame!!!*

I just heard that Bill will be the name for the 2nd hurricane of 2009. I don't think I wanted to hear that.

Respectively Submitted,

Bill Tell KD6KTV