



## 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: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Vice President: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Membership: Rick Foster KG6TIJ  
Secretary: Jim Kent KF6TYZ, Treasurer: Bill Tell KD6KTV,  
**Board Members:** Chris Johnson KI6LOD, Don Hamilton AD6NP, Tom Unwin WA6SSS  
**RACES EC:** Bill Baker KN6JV

# MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

## JUNE - 2010

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**County wide Monthly Roll Call**

**First Monday of the Month**

*Will be on **June 7<sup>th</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 - Wednesday Roll Call**

**is held at 1900 Hours**

*This month's callers are;*

2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom WA6SSS      9<sup>th</sup>: Vi K6VBH  
16<sup>th</sup>: Bill KN6JV      23<sup>rd</sup>: Kathy KA6MOM  
30<sup>th</sup>: Jerry KG6TIS

**June Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

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

### *President's Message*

What a month this has been, the Mile High Radio Club (MHRC) has been busy. Between the Idyllwild Cycling – Spring Challenge mountain bike race course communications, testing new frequencies for the portable repeater builds to hosting a ham radio class.

Early in the year, several people from our mountain community came to Bill Baker KN6JV Riverside County RACES – Mountain District – Emergency Coordinator and asked if he would conduct another introductory ham radio class. I think the recent rash of earthquakes and the increased interest in emergency preparedness had something to do with their asking. In spite of the naysayers who said nobody would come, eventually we had a total of 28 people sign up for the class for the month of May.

Also, Reba Coulter with the Idyllwild Rotary Club has a grant for assisting with Fire Abatement for the local camps, which includes money for education and promotion of safety. She determined that communication during disasters was a very important part in keeping camp residents safe and added her request for a radio class. Of the 28 enlisted for the class, 10 of them were individuals from the local camps sponsored by this grant. The grant provided for their books, license exam fees and will buy amateur radios for the camps to be used by these individuals.



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Bill Baker had an introductory meeting in late April to explain to people what would be taught in the class, but stressed their success depended on continued studying and taking practice tests through out the three weeks. He provided course books, which they purchased and study aids in the form of DVDs, which he created. He held 3 classes at the Idyllwild Fire Department training room on three consecutive Saturdays during the month of May.

On the third Saturday, half of the students took the test for a Technician Class license approved by the FCC. On Sunday, the rest of the students took the test and all students on both days passed!!! Two of the 28 students were unable to take the test because of illness or job obligations, but we now have 26 new ham radio operators throughout the mountain communities. Eight of them are from the local camps.

The tests were administered by Volunteer Examiners (VE's) accredited by the FCC. This team of examiners was headed up by Al Toering N6TEZ. His team consisted of VE's; Bill Baker KN6JV, Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Don and Kathy Hamilton (AD6NP & KA6MOM) and Chris Johnson KI6LOD. Each of the tests must be reviewed for score by a minimum of three VE's before the results are official.

The VE's also administered tests for advanced license levels (General and Extra) to five walk-ins who already had their Technician or General license. These people studied on their own to advance their knowledge of radio technology. Passing a more advanced test, thus achieving General or an Extra license status enables them legally to use a broader range of frequency bands that cover distances clear across the country and in some cases, other countries. The value of this increased capability to communicate great distances has been demonstrated over and over again in disasters around the world. We commend these people for

their diligence in learning more about radio communications and advancing their skills.

Carl Gardenias WU6D ARRL Section Orange Manager sent his congratulations to Bill for his 80th birthday and 26 new amateur Technicians. "It is not everyday that someone as devoted as Bill can accomplish so much. On top of that the Rotary club giving so generously to the hams."

Incredible success goes out to Bill Baker from Bill Pratts K6ACJ ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator; "26 out of 26 is a record that's hard to beat. I'm really encouraged to see the community help this group through sponsorship and material support, these are actions that are new to me."

Don and Kathy Hamilton, of Anza and Idyllwild commented; "Due to the excellent teacher, Bill Baker one hundred percent of the people who took the class and test passed! That is some record. Congratulations to all of the new Hams and to the teacher. Looking forward to hearing all of the new Hams over the air, especially on the Anza and Idyllwild repeaters." The VE's also commented; "that never in all the years they have been testing, have they had all the students pass."

Harold Witten RACES Deputy Chief – Eastern District had this to say; "Actually it does not surprise me about Bill Baker's success with the class. While a true Amateur Radio operator, he is also a true professional. I have always admired his leadership skills. The Mountain District is lucky to have Mr. Baker KN6JV among them."

What a triumph for Bill Baker, the students for passing their tests and all who supported this effort.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH  
MHRC President  
RACES – Mountain District – AEC



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### *General Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on May 13, 2010*

President Hallacy opened the meeting 1839 hours with fourteen members present, thereby constituting a quorum. Also present was Taylor Hays who aspires to becoming eligible to join.

The president highlighted the minutes of the last meeting because the Secretary could not locate his copy.

Bill Tell presented and discussed the attached Monthly Financial Statement. His motion to accept the Statement was seconded and adopted.

The Bike Race was recapped by a discussion led by the President and Rick Foster. Problems and suggestions for improvement in coordination were discussed. Rick Foster is to write up a report of problem areas and suggestions and e-mail the report to the Bike Race group.

The President asked for names for I.D. tags after the meeting.

Bill Baker said he had 28 people signed up for his license class.

Bill Tell discussed the attached report of the Portable Repeater Test for East County—Coachella Valley and Mountain District. The report is very detailed.

Bill Baker asked Tom Unwin if the Portable Repeater would be ready for a demo by August. Tom replied in the affirmative.

Jim Mettler said he may be able to arrange of a power supply and enclosure for the Portable Repeater.

Rick Foster proposed applicants Todd Voights and Lawrence for membership. His motion was seconded and both applicants were accepted.

The President led a discussion of project items for the ARRL Field Day. She retained the list of those who agreed to provide the various service and/or equipment necessary.

Rick is to explore the cost of an overhead street banner for the field day. He was authorized an amount not to exceed \$300 for the Banner.

There being no further business to come before the membership, President Hallacy adjourned the meeting at 1950 hours.

J. M. KENT KF6TYZ  
MHRC Secretary

### *RACES Report – Mountain District*

Not so much about RACES this month because the license class has taken a lot of my effort; but about that later.

We have spent some time with phonetics for the last 2 RACES meetings and still need more. It just has proven that the short spoken communication is an art and recent practice sessions show flaws that will compound if longer messages are used. We'll keep at it and will try to have enough time to get on the air with messages.

Up-coming field day will tax our ability to hear as well as send simple location messages. But that's what it's all about – can we contact others from a difficult location? YES!

OK how about the Technician license class MHRC put on? If my count is right there were 26 taking the class and 26 passed the exam for Technician. In addition, there were 6 or 7 taking



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and passing General & or Extra Class. Great turnout and CONGRATULATIONS.

Thanks to the MHRC members who helped directly and others who worked in the background.

Vi K6VBH, Bill KD6KTV, Don AD6NP, Kathy KA6MOM, Chris KI6LOD, and others who shook the bushes to get people stirred up to be students.

THANKS also - to the students who were patient and thoughtful in the classroom.

Several of the new Tech's are from Anza and will be a huge asset to growing that club back into an active organization. Others from the Idyllwild area have expressed great interest in joining the MHRC.

Follow on training will include: Type of radios available and which might be best for the individual. How to use a radio, (settings and controls). Communications the right way. Radios are for fun too as well as emergency communications. Other sessions, antennas, COAX cables, +? TBD.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the IFPD for use of the training room for 4 Saturdays and a Sunday.

Bill Baker KN6JV  
Mountain District EC