



Mountain Flashes

www.milehighradioclub.org

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

March 2008 Edition

In this Issue:

*KN6JV's Korner ✎ Bill's Quiz ✎ Bill's Comic Revue
February Combined RACES/MHRC Meeting Notes ✎ March Meetings and Events
Map Class Info (repeated) ✎ Bill's Quiz Answers*

KN6JV's Korner

The combined RACES – MHRC meeting is moving along with some programs and proposed activities that should keep both alive and well. One big issue however is increasing membership in both. Not all licensed amateurs want to be RACES members but there is no reason (that I can think of) for not being a Radio Club member. We make no distinction between RACES and MHRC for meeting purposes. Our Training is open to all amateurs. Activation, of course, has to be reserved to RACES. So getting new members for both MHRC and RACES is important.

On April 1 there will be an exercise conducted at March Air Field and the surrounding communities. It involves an aircraft crash with dangerous chemicals on board.

This affects the local communities as well as airfield emergency services and security. As part of the exercise, communications plays a big part with military, emergency services, city, county and RACES. The question asked of us is can RACES Mountain handle communications direct and relay with RACES in Moreno Valley. Our answer was yes. There will be a period of **one hour** during the exercise when ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE HANDLED ONLY BY RACES. NO OTHER FORM OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED. Know what that means? RACES members must be able to relay messages word for word with the received message. We do not yet have full information (exact time, frequencies, modes, sources, destinations etc.).

This is a great opportunity for us to be part of a meaningful event but we need to sharpen our abilities.

I suggest that after our weekly net, and perhaps at other times, we have a session of transmitting a message (up to 25 words) others to copy and one at least one selected person to read back.

What say? How about comments on the next net? Start practice 1st net in March.

The March meeting topic will be a presentation by Tom Unwin on plans to build a portable repeater for the MHRC/RACES

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

Bill's Quiz

1. The proper phonetic alphabet to use for RACES communications is:
 - (a) The APCO phonetics (Adam, Charles, etc)
 - (b) The International phonetics (Alpha, Charlie, etc)
 - (c) Either, OK to mix
2. National calling frequencies for the 2 meter band are:
 - (a) 145.270 and 146.520
 - (b) 144.200 and 146.520
 - (c) 144.270 and 146.850

(Answers at end of the newsletter)

Bill's Comic Revue

I was having trouble with my computer. So I called Rick the computer guy, to come over. Rick clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. He gave me a bill for a minimum service call.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?"

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired: "An ID ten T error? What's that in case I need to fix it again?"

The computer guy grinned and said, "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

"No," I replied.

"Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote out, "I D 1 0 T."

February MHRC Meeting Notes

Nine members plus one guest, Chris Milford, KC0CRU, attended the meeting. The Secretary, Vi Hallacy, K6VBH, referred members to the minutes in the Newsletter. No corrections were made. Bill gave the treasurers report. There is \$5,133.73 in the combined account.

Vi Hallacy stated she had written a thank you letter to Theodore Storke, KD6AKT, for the CD he sent the Club of the video he had taken of various Field Day operations last year. Bill has made a copy which available to any member who wishes to see it.

Bill Tell, KD6KTV, reported he and Greg Morris, KI6HVA, did the repeater inspection on January 18 and there were no problems. He also reported the Web site has been brought up to date with new officers and meeting changes.

A sign up sheet was passed around for the Bike Race which will be held May 3rd and 4th. They have asked that a link to their Web site be put on our Web site. Bill Tell will take care of that.

Chris Milford, who is an instructor at AstroCamp told us of possible plans he has for introducing amateur radio at the school starting with a quasi Field Day the first week in June. He also mentioned having a star gazing party.

As part of the planning for the rest of the year, it was decided to have two potlucks at the Legion at the July and August meetings. Christy Huss, KG6AVU, stated that the Anza group would like to get together for a picnic this summer. In March, Tom Unwin, WA6SSS, will discuss plans for a portable repeater we could build for use in an emergency. A communications drill is in the works for April 1st, and Jim Kent will teach a Map and Compass class on April 10th and 17th from 1800 to 2100. In May, Bill would like to have a message handling class and in June we will again participate in Field Day. For August, Bill Tell will tell us about COAX construction and electrical properties. The drill previously planned for October has been moved to November so October is open.

Bill reminded us MHRC dues are due now. They are \$12 for a single and \$20 for a household

He distributed a copy of our RACES requirements for our review and asked us to re-sign to refresh everyone's memory and promise to fulfill those requirements.

There was a short discussion about the need for a longer meeting since MHRC and RACES have been combined and it was decided to meet at 1830 instead of 1900.

The training for this meeting was on setting frequencies and using tones.

Refreshments were courtesy of Greg Morris and were appropriately Valentine cookies.

The next meeting will be on March 13, 2008 at 1830 at the Idyllwild Fire Station.

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

March Meetings & Events

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Bd. of Dirs. Mtg., Thurs. March. 13, 6:15 PM, Idyllwild Fire

MHRC/RACES Meeting: Thurs., March 13, 6:30 PM, Idyllwild Fire

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

Map Class Info (repeated)

Since we've received few yea or nay responses about map class attendance, I'm repeating the info. We need your input so we can make plans for materials needed, etc. Contact Bill or me (Jim Kent) whether or NOT you plan to attend.

We will hold a Map Reading Class at the April 10 Meeting and on the following Thursday evening (April 17). The location is Idyllwild Fire. On both evenings, the time will be from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. I'll try to get you out earlier than 9:00, but there is a lot of material to cover.

Although the class is presented for people who have never been exposed to the subject, individuals who want to attend for review purposes are welcome. However, I need to know which members will definitely attend, or definitely not attend. Please contact me or Bill in as soon as

possible with this information—it's needed to determine the amount of materials and equipment needed. You definitely need to bring a **pencil and eraser**—not a pen!

The subjects included will be: Public Land Survey System (PLSS), UTM Grid System, Elevation and Relief by interpreting contour lines, determining direction based on True and Magnetic North, and use of the compass. If time permits, we'll talk generally about GPS systems.

It's important to commit for both Thursday sessions: much of the material will not make sense without attendance both nights, and time won't allow me to go back and cover material from the previous session. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Jim Kent KF6TYZ (659-3296 or jim327kent@verizon.net)

MHRC Website

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

Bill's Quiz Answers

(1) b

(2) b