



## 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

## MAY - 2010

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**County wide Monthly Roll Call**

**First Monday of the Month**

*Will be on **May 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**

**May - Wednesday Roll Call**

**is held at 1900 Hours**

*This month's callers are;*

5<sup>th</sup>: Pat KG6AVZ      12<sup>th</sup>: Danielle KI6DDR  
19<sup>th</sup>: Chris KI6LOD    26<sup>th</sup>: Bill KD6KTV

**May Meetings @ Idyllwild Fire**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

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

### *President's Message*

MHRC members have been exceptionally busy lately getting ready for the Idyllwild Spring Challenge Bike Race and recruiting students for the Radio Licensing Class Bill Baker has put together. Fourteen MHRC members and six MDP members signed up to provide communications for the bike race. Katie Hedrich, Race Director for Idyllwild Cycling, says they couldn't run the race without us. It gives us a chance to practice our skills in a real situation and helps both MHRC and MDP to work together. Besides that, its fun and we get to spend a day out in the forest.

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, fourteen people came to the Introduction to Amateur Radio meeting at the Idyllwild Fire Station. Almost that many said they couldn't make that meeting but please save them a place. Four of the people at the meeting were taking advantage of a grant which will pay their way and buy a dual band radio for the camp after they get their license. Thanks to Reba Coulter of the Idyllwild Rotary Club, this grant (educational portion) was available to all the camps in the area. Looks like we will have a lot of new amateur radio operators on the hill.

We also received two new applications for membership consideration which would bring the paid membership to 39. Best of all, we have consistently had about 15 members at each



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meeting. It really feels good to see how we are growing.

Tom Unwin continues to make progress on the portable repeater. Soon he hopes to have a suitable frequency to which the cavities can be ordered and tuned for. It takes a lot of monitoring to find a frequency pair that isn't busy all the time.

Next month we will start planning for Field Day but that's another day.

73, Vi Hallacy K6VBH  
MHRC President

### *General Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on March 11, 2010*

The meeting was called to order at 1835 by President Vi Hallacy. There were 13 members and 2 guests present. The 2 guests were Todd Voigts, KJ6DGG and Larry Larimer, KJ6DII from Lake Riverside Estates. They are interested in becoming members.

The minutes were read by Secretary Jim Kent and approved by a unanimous vote

The treasurer's report was given by Bill Tell and approved after questions were answered satisfactorily.

Bill Baker reported that he had had calls regarding the radio class and was referring them to Vi as he was busy putting the class together. Vi said she had a number of calls and had 8 people signed up so far. After a discussion and advice from the members, Bill decided to order at least 15 books as he could get a better price for 15 or more.

Tom said he was making progress on the portable repeater and was monitoring

frequencies to find one that wasn't too busy that the cavities could be tuned to.

A motion was made by Bill Tell, seconded and passed unanimously to purchase a Honda 2000 watt generator for \$800.00 plus tax. The purchase of a generator was budgeted for in the portable repeater build. This amount is above the already approved \$2,500 spend limit for the portable repeater build.

Old business, Bill Tell reported that according to the California Secretary of State's office, that club By Laws are not required to be filed with their office.

Vi said she needed more volunteers for the Idyllwild Spring Challenge Bike Race. Several more people signed up and Rick Foster said MDP would have as many more as were needed

Rick said MDP was having a drill this next weekend at the Fire Station and RACES was invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments prior to the RACES meeting.

Refreshments were furnished courtesy of Barney Brause.

The RACES meeting was led by Bill Baker, KN6JV, Mountain District E.C. and consisted of a drill on message handling and the phonetic alphabet.

J. M. KENT KF6TYZ (Vi K6VBH & Bill KD6KTV)  
MHRC Secretary



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## *RACES Report – Mountain District*

RACES training is behind schedule but hope get that in line with expectations soon. Currently my focus has been to get communications protocols back into the training effort. We have not had a field event for over a year and need to get out there and practice what we are supposed to be good at.

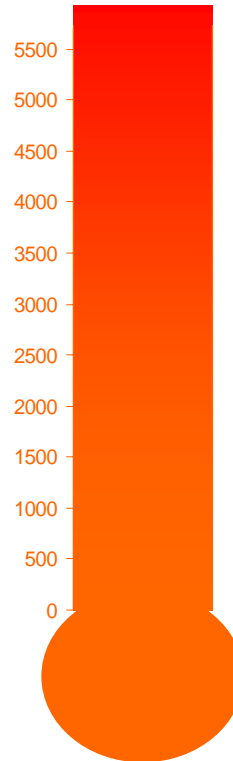
Now that the weather should be improving we can do some “field” practice with message handling rather than just across the table. The Bike Race will be a good place to start and get difficult communications sites and fast copy techniques a workout.

The MHRC has a good class for new Hams starting and expect to get more into a variety of communications training efforts as soon as they get their licenses. I think we have a good group in the class and that should energize us for getting more active at all levels of communications.

Then, following the licensing, more classes on various aspects of radios, communications making cables, antennas and home set-ups. With all of that, hopefully, some will join RACES which will require some additional training and field work.

Hang in there – I feel the Club and RACES will continue to grow and reactivate it self.

Bill Baker KN6JV  
Mountain District EC



## *Portable Repeater Build & Fund Update*

The MHRC has reached its initial goal of raising \$5,700. We have actually raised a total of \$5,933 to date. With some of the repeater build details still un-clear, we should still keep up the campaign to gain additional funds. Currently the club has approved an expenditure of \$2,500 towards the portable repeater. Still planned are a Back-pack Repeater and a renewable solar battery power source.

A pair of radios along with the controller has already been ordered and received for the current build phase. Tom Unwin WA6SSS has been programming them with the supplied software and control cables.

The next phase for the current build is to select a frequency pair for the Duplexer. The concern here is cross interference with other repeaters. Tom has identified a frequency pair and we are working towards scheduling a test with Harold Witten – RACES Deputy Chief East and the team in the desert. Stay tuned for dates as we will need help in conducting these tests.

Bill Tell KD6KTV  
MHRC Treasurer