



## 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: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Treasurer: Bill Tell KD6KTV,  
**Board Members:** Chris Johnson K6IDY, Wayne Laube KJ6HYC, Tom Unwin WA6SSS  
**RACES EC:** Bill Baker KN6JV

# MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

## MAY - 2011

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### County wide Monthly Roll Call

#### First Monday of the Month

Will be on **May 2<sup>nd</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;

4<sup>th</sup>: Tom KJ6IPW      11<sup>th</sup>: Reba KJ6IPH  
18<sup>th</sup>: Danielle KI6DDR      25<sup>th</sup>: Jerry KG6TIS

**May Meeting @ Idyllwild Fire Department – Training Room**  
**Mark Your Calendars!**

**MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

### *President's Message*

My apologies to all of you for missing the April meeting and my heartfelt thanks to those who took over at the last minute to conduct a successful meeting.

A stressful winter is over now and I am looking forward to an active and productive summer.

The next scheduled activity is Field Day which this year takes place on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Johnson's have again given us permission to use the property, on Hwy 243 for which we thank them.

If someone comes forward to organize a Fox Hunt anytime this summer it would be much appreciated. Everyone who participated in the one last year enjoyed it very much and wanted to have another one.

Also, any suggestions for other amateur radio activities would be welcome. It's your Club. Help to make it fun as well as informative.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH  
MHRC President  
RACES – Mountain District – AEC



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### ***Mile High Radio Club General Meeting Minutes for Meetings Held on April 14<sup>th</sup>***

There were 19 members in attendance

Regular Radio Club meeting opened at 1855 hours by Treasurer Bill Tell

Minutes of March 10th in newsletter - Motion to approve - Rick Foster Second - Don Hamilton Ayes: all Nays: none

Treasurer's report for 4/14/2011 - Motion to accept Treasurer's Report - Rick Foster Second - Tom Huss Ayes: all Nays: none

Correspondence - Chris Johnson reported Marty Wohl had a good time at the March Club meeting

Al Toering would like more input and discussion on the yearly financial forecast - tabled to May meeting or end of meeting

Old Business -

Portable repeater - repeater will be available for the Bike Race

Liability Insurance - discussion

Bike Race - discussion - additional information and map will be emailed out soon

Field trip to Table Mountain - discussion

Repeater interference - Al Toering will give contact information to Tom Unwin

New Business -

BBVA Bank - monthly service charge if account drops below \$3,000 - bank will give other options

New radio class - discussion - perhaps coordinate with an Anza Club class

Fox hunt - discussion

Financial forecast discussion tabled to May meeting

RACES - Bill Baker is looking for a General Class License who could replace him before the end of the year

Uncollected Membership dues – discussion plus ARRL dues collected through the Club gives the Club a small kickback

Thanks to Wayne Laube for refreshments  
Adjourn 19:43

Christy Huss KG6AVU  
MHRC Secretary

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

Although not a RACES operation, this year the MHRC covered the Spring Challenge Bike Race with more operators than in years past. Thanks to AEC/MHRC President Vi Hallacy K6VBH we had more coverage at this event than any in the past.

Operators from the Mountain, Anza and Aguanga Districts kept track of riders through the various race course check points. Major support was also provided by the Mountain Disaster Preparedness using their radio system to cover extended areas not covered by Amateur radio operators.

This kind of “working together” is essential for being prepared to handle disaster communications and it proves, once again that various organizations can and do make a cooperative team.



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Later on we will be getting set to operate at Field Day. This is an annual amateur radio communications event. Typically, here on the mountain, we set up in Idyllwild next to Hwy 243 and near the center of town. We welcome visitors to stop by and see what's going on. In the past a few of the visitors have become interested and became Amateur Radio operators.

Bill Baker KN6JV  
Mountain District EC – RACES

### ***SEND YOUR NAME AND CALL TO MARS the Planet***

There may not be any ham radio station on the planet Mars, but there may soon be a lot of ham radio call-signs making their way across the surface of the red planet.

NASA is collecting names to be put on a microchip that will be on-board the Mars Science Laboratory rover heading to Mars in the fall of 2011.

Some Radio Amateurs have been adding their names and call sign to name field. As well as having your call sign traveling around the Martian surface you also get an electronic commemorative certificate to print out.

This rover has a connection with amateur radio. This second generation rover has special indentations on its wheels that will spell out the initials JPL in Morse Code as it travels around Mars.

And for the few of you who might not be aware, JPL stands for Jet Propulsion Laboratory located in Pasadena, California, which is the NASA branch that builds of the rovers.

You can add your name and call on the Mars microchip at [tinyurl.com/marsham](http://tinyurl.com/marsham). A whole

bunch of hams already have. From Amateur Radio Newsline 4-29-11.

Al Toering N6TEZ

### ***Devastation that hits Alabama on April 27<sup>th</sup>***

These are some of the ham radio operators who were lucky to have survived the wrath of Mother Nature and then immediately set about doing what hams do best: Became the only communications across a state devastated by killer tornadoes. A storm system so intense that most of the commercially built and maintained communications systems totally collapsed or were destroyed.

It was once again ham radio and only ham radio with its decentralized infrastructure that was able to do what it did after 911 and after Hurricane Katrina. When all else failed, amateur radio was the first responder that saved lives. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF Producer ARNewsline, Inc.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio respond as killer tornadoes rip the south-east and take a big toll in Alabama.

Ham radio operators became the first responders on April 27th and 28th. This as tornadoes and other severe weather took aim at parts of the South and East. Amateur Radio Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH, is in Birmingham, Alabama, where he literally lived through the ordeal:

Days in advance, forecasters had warned about April 27th. They said it would be a dangerous day for Alabama. What no one knew at the time was how dangerous. That afternoon would mark the largest tornado outbreak and third deadliest in U-S history. More than 300 confirmed tornadoes plow through 14 states during a three day period ending April 28th. The death toll is estimated at more than 300.



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In Alabama, massive supercell storms plow through the state's warm, unstable air, spinning a series of deadly, long track tornadoes. The state is hit hard--28 confirmed twisters, 250 dead statewide, with damage across the northern two thirds of the state. Thousands are left injured or homeless.

The National Weather Service says at least eleven of Alabama's tornadoes measured EF3 or greater. A single EF4 tornado--at times up to 1.5 miles wide with winds estimated to have approached 200 miles an hour--plows through Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. The massive twister stays on the ground 80 miles, tearing up homes, businesses and lives all the way.

W4MD: "I saw people getting out from under pieces of plywood. I started collecting the walking wounded and putting them into a thrift store."

David Drummond, W4MD, is Alabama's ARRL Section Manager. He was at ground zero as the killer storm began destroying Tuscaloosa, producing horrific scenes he and many others will never forget:

W4MD: The place where I stopped there was a family who lived across the street and who heard the sirens who went across from where they were living to a house with a basement and when the tornado came it picked up the house that they had left, moved it across the street; set it on the other house and killed them all.

Everywhere Drummond looks is destroyed. Among the victims are five students at the University of Alabama which cancels graduation. The hams trying to help Tuscaloosa's walking wounded suddenly face major communications challenges: Three repeaters being used heavily for emergency messages all go down.

Police, fire and EMA communications are also knocked out. Drummond and fellow hams have only one option: To use simplex

communications.

W4MD: "Everything was gone. At that point, that was it. It was deathly quiet and there was nobody. There was no other communications of any kind, period.

For radio amateurs active in emergency communications, the April 27th tornado outbreak hits with a shocking reality. Even though many believed they had a solid emergency preparedness plan in place, what happened that violent spring day convinces them: It's time to re-write the book.

There are some in ham radio who say that amateur operators have no place in being the first to respond to a major disaster. They question why some hams put their lives on the line for their communities. Well don't ask that to the people of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, or other South Eastern cities hit by these tornadoes and storms. They know well that the hams will be first on the scene and there to save lives, when all else fails. From the Southeast Bureau in Birmingham Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, for the Amateur Radio Newline.

### ***On a Lighter Note***

I had the pleasure of cruising the Spring Challenge course with Alan Vester the Course Marshall. It was a great time and the weather was perfect. Never knew how much went into the race till this year. Idyllwild Cycling is a great group and a perfect host for a fun event.

However, the best story of the day had to be our trip to the top of South Ridge Trail. There we checked on both Vi Hallacy and Reba Coulter who staffed the radio station. You would not know it, but the cool pair traveled through a huge mud bog near the top, passed a pair of big four wheel drive jacked up trucks, with oversize tires stuck in the mud, all in Vi's trusty stock Subaru Forester. Hats off to you Vi!  
Bill Tell KD6KTV



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## Up coming Events and Swap Meets

### Ham Radio Swap Meet



- x Ham radio gear GALORE!
- x FREE seller spaces (limited)
- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
- x Check out the One-Day SPECIALS inside the store
- x Contact store personnel for more information

Sat. May 14, 2011  
8:00 am – 2:00pm

Location and phone numbers:

Ham Radio Outlet  
5375 Kearney Villa Rd. #113  
San Diego CA 92123  
(Near Hwy 163 & Clairmont Mesa Blvd)

Store Phone; 1-800-854-6046,  
to reserve a sellers space 1-858-560-4900

Al Toreing N6TEZ