



RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

PO Box 1204

Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204

E-mail: mhrc@arrl.net

www.milehighradioclub.org

Repeater Station WA6SSS 146.895 (-) pl 118.8



Officers - President: Bill Tell KD6KTV, Vice President: Wayne Laube KJ6HYC, Membership: Rick Foster KG6TIJ
Secretary: Marilyn Peck KJ6IPT, Treasurer: Chris Johnson K6IDY
Board Members: BJ Brix KJ6IPX, Tom Pierce K8EBR, Tom Unwin WA6SSS
RACES Emergency Coordinator: Bill Baker KN6JV

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

MAY - 2012

In this Issue:

Presidents Message / March Club Minutes

County wide Monthly Roll Call

First Monday of the Month

Will be on May 7th, 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;

2nd : Tom KJ6IPW 9th: Reba KJ6IPH
16th : Paul KG6TIL 23rd : Jerry KG6TIS
30th : Chris K6IDY KG6TIS

May Meeting @ Idyllwild Fire Department – Training Room

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC / RACES: Thursday 10th

General Meeting at 6:30 PM

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

Presidents Message

May 2012 – Message

We keep moving forward. These past few weeks have been a blur. With all of the new requirements involving RACES, they have been keeping me very busy. You should all be receiving the e-mails with updates on this subject. Stay tuned for more updates as they become available.

This coming weekend, May 5th is the Spring Challenge mountain bike race. Paul Miglin has been taking the lead role in our communication efforts. He plans to roll out the communication trailer he has been some much effort into, it's impressive! We have a strong line up of volunteers for this event. We are pulling from RACES, MHRC and MDP. It should be a strong show of force. Thanks to all of you.

On Saturday April 28th we exhibited at the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council – “Fireman’s Muster” event on the ICRC property near the center of town. Our transportable repeater, along with solar panels and the complete power supply system were all on



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display. We had a number of visitors drop by our booth. All were very impressed from the young boys and girls asking questions, to many of our local first responders. Tom Unwin has done an excellent job in making this happen. Also a big thanks to all of our members who stepped in the booth and help answer the questions from the public.

Still no change in Vi Hallacy's progress. All of her vitals have remained good and strong. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Bill Baker is doing very well post hip replacement, putting on a lot miles walking. We also wish to best for Okey Peck, he underwent major heart surgery recently. We want to see all of you back our gatherings very soon.

All the best, get out there and support our efforts,

Bill Tell
KD6KTV

Radio Club Minutes for General Meeting April 12, 2012

MHRC Board / General Meeting April 12, 2012

Meeting began 6:40 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance led by Don Hamilton
2. Secretary's Report - Motioned to accept by Rick, Second by Don, All Yea's
3. Treasures Report - Motioned to accept by Chris Johnson, Second Rick, All Yea's
4. Membership Report - Dues are due \$15 per individual, \$25 per household
5. Correspondence - RACES new forms from Peter Lent were discussed briefly. More details to follow quarterly RACES meeting on April 18, 2012.
6. Repeater interference - Tom Pierce and Tom Unwin It was discussed and decided to file

- our complaint with TASMA regarding OC. Paul motioned and Rick second for MHRC to have a Delegate Membership (not to exceed \$30/year) with TASMA, All Yea's.
7. Audit committee - Tom and Marilyn, not completed yet. Comments, all looks good, a couple of entry's not enough detail. Expect to have complete for July Board meeting.
 8. RACES report - Bill Baker was not in attendance. See number 5 above.
 9. Programs report - Al Toering was not in attendance.
 10. Portable repeater build - Tom Unwin - needs cooling fans wired and a few final interconnect touches to complete.
 11. MDP earthquake drill scheduled for April 14 - need radio operators.
 12. Spring Challenge - bike race - need radio operators.
 13. Refreshments provided by Jerry Rustad
 14. Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM

Radio Training

Part 2 - Report on the Multi-Mode Dipole Antenna (MMD)

plus a short report on FLEX-3000 Digital Transceiver by Tom Pierce K8EBR

This is a follow-on for the article in the last issue presenting the new Miracle Antenna HF dipole antenna that has recently appeared on the ham radio market. My particular model is the 40-meter (7 MHz) antenna making it 64-feet long. It is end-fed connecting to my transceiver through a coax. The antenna is pretty much a long wire that was hoisted vertically into a tall cedar next to the house. This places its feed point in the best possible spot to minimize the length of its coaxial cable transmission



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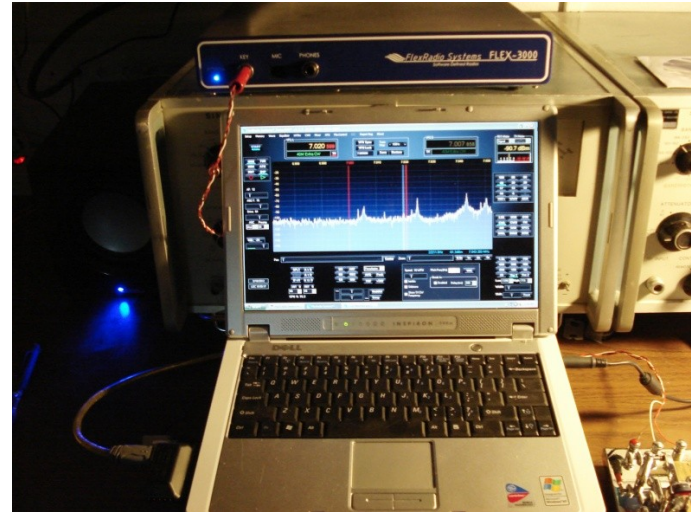
line. The antenna is barely visible even while standing close to that tree.

Evaluation: Once the antenna was drawn up to a vertical position, an impedance measurement was performed with an antenna analyzer. I am disappointed to report the input impedance is just 22 ohms on 40-meters. A 50 ohm input was expected but after rereading the manufacturer specification a 50-ohm input was not actually claimed only that its input connection used a 50-ohm coaxial cable. Silly me for making assumptions. However, no real harm done, my new transceiver has the range to tune it anyway. I loaded it up to 85 watts and immediately made three contacts in one day; Northern Michigan, Phoenix, and a village near Amsterdam, Netherlands. All gave good signal reports with respect to signal propagation distance. Interestingly, the antenna worked almost as well on 15-meters as it did on its intended band; several European contacts were made on 21 MHz, as well.

Conclusion: The end-fed dipole MMR antenna really does work as well as expected but I am stopping short of recommending it to MHRC membership. My design for an improved multi-mode dipole that will be more efficient, will handle more power, and whose construction costs will come in at an estimated one-third of Miracle Antenna's price....actually closer to one-quarter cost when shipping charges are included. The design project is on schedule to be submitted for next issue. I am ready to assist anybody who would like to try building this nifty antenna.

Next issue: Complete instructions to build an end-fed multi-mode dipole that will actually present a 50-ohm input to the transceiver and radiate well over 200 watts efficiently. Also included will be a review of the FLEX-3000 digital transceiver. A quick comment now: Do not assume that your present computer is fast enough to interface with a FLEX-3000.....at the risk of repeating myself,..... silly me for making

assumptions. My new super-fast computer is scheduled for delivery tomorrow.



The FLEX-3000 is operated from the computer screen. The unit has no knobs or dials (that's it on top of photo). Note the signals appear continuously as a spectrum scan and all receiver functions are controlled with the mouse. There are controls that no analog equipment has.

Fair warning: Ham Radio is now progressing into a fundamental equipment technology change; it is all digital now and analog equipment will join tube equipment in its place in history.

Tom Pierce K8EBR

<http://www.egam.net/> enter K8EBR in search window



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May 10, 2012

Regular Meeting Agenda

Sign-in

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduce Guests and Visitors

Secretary's Report – Marilyn Peck KJ6IPT

Treasurer's Report – Chris Johnson K6IDY

Membership Report – Rick Foster KG6TIJ –

Dues are due, Individual \$15, Household \$25

New Business

- Field Day – June 23rd and 24th. How would you like to help out? Please contact; Bill Tell and Paul Miglin

Adjourn

Program – Wayne Laube KJ6HYC

Refreshments –

RACES Meeting – Q&A for those that would like to stick around and discuss after the break.

06/06/2012 | [Riverside CA 92518-2073](#)

Sponsor: K6AFN VE Group

Location: American Forces Network-Broadcast Center

Time: 2:00 PM (No walk-ins)

Exam Session

07/11/2012 | [Palm Desert CA 92260-9999](#)

Sponsor: Coachella Valley ARC

Location: American Red Cross Building

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Exam Tests Coming Up](#)

Exam Session

05/19/2012 | [Hemet CA 92543-1541](#)

Sponsor: Lee De Forest ARC

Location: Valley Wide Rec Center

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Exam Session

06/02/2012 | [Moreno Valley CA 92555-4802](#)

Sponsor: Moreno Valley ARS

Location: Kaiser Hospital

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Exam Session