



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: Vi Hallacy K6VBH, Vice President: Christy Huss KG6AVU, Membership: Rick Foster KG6TIJ
Secretary: Jim Kent KF6TYZ, Treasurer: Bill Tell KD6KTV,
Board Members: Chris Johnson K6IDY, Don Hamilton AD6NP, Tom Unwin WA6SSS
RACES EC: Bill Baker KN6JV

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER - 2010

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County wide Monthly Roll Call

First Monday of the Month

*Will be on **November 1st**, 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

November - Wednesday Roll Call

is held at 1900 Hours

This month's callers are;

3rd: Vi K6VBH 10th: Steve K6JSJ
17th: Chris K6IDY 24th: Danielle KI6DDR

October Meetings @ Idyllwild
Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday,

November 11th, 6:30 PM All are welcome to attend any of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

President's Message

Last Sunday, the Mile High Radio Club held its First Annual Fox hunt. Chris Milford, better known as Milly KC0CRU, was the humorous Hunt Master who gave detailed instructions in how to find the wily wolf. I mean foxy fox. Then he trotted off to find his lupine lair.



Snuggled down in his furry foxhole, Milly KC0CRU sent the signal for the happy hunt to begin and the hopeful hunters were off.

Too bad we didn't have a hunting horn to spur them on their way, maybe next year! As the searchers sped along, the flirty fox sent out foxy messages encouraging them with foxy helpful hints and cozy Code. Eventually, all



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discovered that foxy fox and returned, exhilarated by their success, and declaring they could hardly wait for the Second Annual Mile High Radio Club Fox Hunt. Don't you wish you were there?

Vi Hallacy K6VBH
MHRC President
RACES – Mountain District – AEC

General Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on October 14th, 2010

President Hallacy opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with 18 members present, thereby constituting a quorum. Rick Foster led the assemblage in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Bill Tell discussed the attached financial report.

The foregoing minute's details were obtained from the President as the Secretary was 14 minutes late for the meeting.

Tom Unwin reported that the recent noise problems on the fixed site repeater seemed to be caused by another party changing the configuration of the weather site installation. Tom fixed the situation.

During Tom Unwin's discussion of the portable receiver project, it was agreed by Tom's motion and a proper second that the existing Yaesu 8900 TX would be removed from the system and a Yaesu 8800 TX would replace it. The 8900 would be placed in the stock of available equipment for other uses. Tom said he was about ready to make the system operational. Rick Foster's motion to appropriate another \$500 for the Portable Repeater Project was seconded and adopted.

The President reported that Bill Baker gave a presentation to the Idyllwild Fire Commission

about the Clubs activities and capabilities. She said it appeared to be well received.

Bill Baker reported that he had applied for the change of the repeater call sign. Because the requested call sign (KD6OI) was an Extra Class call sign, an Extra Class operator would have to be designated as the Trustee. Bill Baker volunteered.

Rick Foster proposed Keith Shirley KJ6IQC for Club membership. His motion was seconded and adopted.

Bill Baker presented a recommended Slate of Officers for 2011 as follows:

President:	Viola Hallacy
Vice President:	John Hauer
Secretary:	Bobbi Mc Laughlin
Treasurer:	Bill Tell
MHRC Director:	Tom Unwin
MHRC Director:	Chris Johnson
MHRC Director:	Wayne Laube
MHRC/RACES:	Bill Baker.

Rick Foster was added for nomination as Membership Chairman.

Rick Foster's motion to elect the entire slate as described above was seconded and adopted.

Chris Milford discussed the operation of a "Fox Hunt" and agreed to head the project. It was agreed to hold the event on Sunday, October 24, at noon at a place to be announced.

There being no further business to come before the membership, President Hallacy adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM to enjoy refreshments provided the President.

Jim Kent KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary



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RACES Report – Mountain District

A somewhat busy month slipping away but overall worthwhile.

Getting the 2011 roll call calendar put together has been the most challenging task. Either the word is not getting out or the new hams do not want (for the most part) to get on the air and hold a roll call. If you can hit the repeater from home and use an HT you CAN do roll calls as good as anyone. Plus it gives you more confidence in your communication skills every time you key-up.

The roll call sheets are distributed to those calling roll and anyone else wishing a copy. The sheets have some useful information for club members.

Roll call takes about 20 minutes now with the number of new Hams and there is little individuals have to do since the scripts are ready to be used and do not change very often. Updates are issued when needed.

RACES were invited to the Idyllwild Fire Department's Council meeting to give an overview of what we do and have done in the past. It also gave us a chance to let them know that RACES, Mountain, is equipped with good communications gear and that even better, more versatile, equipment is in the works.

The RACES quarterly Council meeting was held in Banning and gave good insight as to what other districts are doing. One interesting thing is that most districts are doing a lot more with simplex (not using repeaters). The same thing we did in our recent drill. The purpose is to be more ready for emergency communications if the repeaters go down during a major event. Our drill with Anza RACES, Mountain Disaster Preparedness and the Alternate Emergency Operating Center (AEOC), in Indio, proved that we can communicate very well using simplex. Other districts indicated that they are using

simplex for roll calls and when someone is out of range others will relay their check-in. We will try that one of these days!

A small communication exercise was held after the regular (October) meeting. 3 X 5 cards with a message were handed out and operators were asked to stop somewhere on the way home and transmit their ID and message. Most did well. The real need is to learn to send a message slowly enough so the receiver can copy it correctly and for difficult words, or poor locations, use the phonetic alphabet for clarity. Expect more practice in the future.

Bill Baker KN6JV
Mountain District EC - RACES

Elmer - My Trip to the San Diego Ham Convention

This is the second ham convention I have gone to. The first convention I went to was in Visalia, and it was mainly focused on DXing. This second convention was more general in scope, and I enjoyed it a lot more.

You can really learn a lot at these conventions. They have seminars going all day. At this convention I learned how easy it was to use satellites to talk to someone 2,000 miles away with just your handheld. Check out www.work-sat.com to find out how easy it is.

Another seminar I enjoyed was about setting up VHF stations in remote places for field day or contesting. They also have a room full of different companies showing off their new radios etc.

The next gathering of sorts I am going to is Quartzfest at Quartzite Arizona. This is a week long campout in the desert 5 miles out of Quartzite. They are going to have ham radio seminars, antenna shoot outs, 4 wheeling, movies, potlucks and swap meets etc. all for free. This takes place the last week in January.



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Quartzite has over 100.000 RV's camping out in the desert. It is like Woodstock for old people.

See me for details.

Chris Johnson K6IDY
Board Member

Checking Batteries, a New Trick

About a year ago I purchased 12 AA NiMH batteries from HRO. These are supposed to be 1.2 volts, 2000 Ma. types, a brand name we all know. At first they performed very well with a rated "recharge" typically of 500 to 1000 cycles. I use these in a 6 cell pack for my FT-60R and also for my digital camera that takes a pair of AA cells.

In the recent couple of months, I've noticed that this battery pack seems to run out of power too often. Checking each cell for voltage did not indicate anything unusual. I have two chargers I alternate with. Both are MaHa types with one being an 8 cell model, and the other the "Universal" charger that can accept battery packs. I noticed this lack of "energy" regardless of which charger was used. Calls to MaHa did not answer questions so I came up with a way to "weed out" the troublesome cells. It appears to work very well.

Assuming you are recharging AA cells of the typical NiMH type, you need a digital camera that also accepts TWO of the same cells.

1. Begin with recharged batteries.
2. Install a pair in the digital camera and turn it ON.
3. IF the camera boots properly, wait until the "Battery Indicator" shows. It should show a full battery. If the battery "meter" is not full, change batteries until you DO get a full charge showing. This is important.

4. Remove ONE of the batteries from the camera (always the same one) and substitute one of the just charged batteries. Turn the camera ON and check the battery meter again. IF it still shows full charge, that battery is most likely OK.
5. Continue swapping the one battery spot with the remaining batteries. Any cell showing LESS than full charge, I suggest you either get rid of or keep separate from the others.

Through this process I've "weeded out" 4 "bad" cells out of 12. Bad cells in most cases will not even let a digital camera turn ON, but just blink the power LED. Digital cameras normally require a fairly heavy capacity during turn ON to open the shutter and get the lens out in position.

Important, do not mix cell types. For example, do not use an Alkaline with NiMH cells. Also keep cells "matched" as to manufacture and current rating. For example, do not test a 1500 Ma. Cell with a 500 Ma. Cell. I think you know what I mean.

This has been the most reliable method I've found. Voltage testing is not conclusive at all. My "good" cells now provide "like new" power capacity. Unfortunately, manufactures will not tell you that their cells can loose "Capacity", without losing "voltage".

This is a follow up on this topic.

I noticed that having two digital cameras sheds light on how things work, or don't work. My Sony apparently pulls more power from the batteries than my Canon. Testing batteries with the Canon requires a little "teasing" of the camera. If your having trouble getting the "Battery" ICON to show up to let you know the "charge", try the following.

1. Follow the same basic rules as before. Charge all the batteries you have until they indicate "full" or the timing cycle is complete. Remember, the "Capacity" of



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NiMH cells will decrease over time, although the "Voltage" will remain the same.

2. Select two batteries (usually AA cells) you "hope" are good. Put them in the camera and turn it ON. If the Battery ICON does not show up, use the zoom feature of the camera and zoom out and back in one or more times to "tease" the battery ICON to display and note its contents. I found on my Canon that twice out and back in brought out the battery ICON and sure enough, "weak" or "low capacity" batteries show up quickly, that is, instead of a FULL ICON, it will show as partly used.

I received a couple of emails saying that the user has a fair selection of AA's for his camera and sorting the cells this way allowed him to finally determine which cells were "low capacity". Remember its best to "test" cells of the same capacity, but I find testing cells of "similar" capacity works as well, that is, testing a 600 Ma cell with a 1000 Ma cell. They need to be fully recharged however.

If you discover any other "tricks" let me know so I can pass it on. This sure beats putting a resistor across the battery for "load testing".

73

Ron Baker WA6AZN

President, Lee De Forest Amateur Radio Club

Humor - Only in America

Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a Diet Coke.

Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

Living Will

Last night, my wife and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." She got up, unplugged the TV and then threw out my beer.

Answers to October's Quiz Questions.

1) D; 2) B; 3) D

NOTICE TO ALL RACES MEMBERS

In view of the fact that we live in earthquake country, it would be advisable for all RACES members to download the most recently available **RIVERSIDE COUNTY RACES MEMBERS MANUAL.**

The manual is frequently being updated but the most recent copy can be found at www.rivcoraces.org/.

This manual is very informative about RACES activities and should be read often by RACES members until they are familiar with all aspects of RACES operations.

It also has a list of what you should have in what we have been calling your "Get-Away Bag". It's time for all of us to take a look at our "Bags" and see what we have taken out to use and not replaced, such as batteries and who knows what else. When the call comes we need to **BE PREPARED.**



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*The following equipment is for sale
from the Hemet Area.*

PLEASE CONTACT THE SELLERS DIRECT.

TRANSCEIVERS

HF Icom 761 with specs and manual. Built-in pwr supply. New price approx. \$2700. (Late 80's). Asking \$500.

Kenwood 2 meter, Model TM-2570A, with handheld mic.
Asking \$40 as is.

Kenwood dual band. 144/220 mhz FM. Model TM 631A.
Asking \$40 as is.

AMPLIFIERS

Heath SB220 2KW with assembly manual.
Asking \$400.

Mirage pre-amp. 2Meter 30W-160W, Model B 3016 Asking \$100.

TUNERS

MFJ Versatuner II Model MFJ-941D.
Asking \$50.

MFJ Versatuner V Model 989B, 3KW series, roller inductor. Asking \$100.

RECEIVERS

Drake Model R-4C Asking \$100.

Realistic (Radio Shack) Pro-2023 20 channel direct entry programmable Scanner Asking \$20.

More TRANSCEIVERS (any offer considered)

Midland 2meter 144-148 band, Model 13-510, handheld mic.

Midland 220-224 band, Model 13-513, hand held mic.

Cobra 29, 23 channel CB with hand held mic.

Kenwood VHF Model TH-215A and hand held mic.

Temp FM Transceiver S1. 2 meter. Japanese made, distributed by Henry Radio.

2 each, CB handheld transceivers by Realistic (Radio Shack). Model TRC-217, 40 channel.

D.C. POWER SUPPLIES

Kenwood PS50. Input 120V A.C., Output 13.8V D.C. Asking \$75

Astron RS-20A. Input 120V A.C., Output 13.8 V D.C. Asking \$75

Radio Shack Micronta Regulated 12V DC. Input 120V A.C.,
Out-put 13.8V DC, 2.5 amps. Asking \$ 25.

MISCELLANEOUS

Desk speaker - YORX. Box size approx. 6 in cube. Asking \$5.

Desk mic. Icom IC-Sm6. Elec. condenser type. Gooseneck on base. Asking \$25.

Several earphones \$10 take all.

Code key -- Dual paddle Vibroplex. Asking \$75.

CAL, KB7ZGL

Phone: 909-335-9638,

Or (cell) 909-831-8958

NOTE: The Mile High Radio Club takes no responsibility to the accuracy or condition of the radio equipment being offered. All transactions between you and the sellers are on the terms agreed between the two parties, the buyer and seller. The Mile High Radio Club is to be held harmless for any and all transactions.

Bill Tell KD6KTV MHRC Editor