



## 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: Vacant, 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

## NOVEMBER - 2011

### In this Issue:

*Presidents Message / October Club Minutes  
RACES Report / Books for Sale*

### County wide Monthly Roll Call

#### First Monday of the Month

*Will be on November 7<sup>th</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**

November - Wednesday Roll Call

is held at 1900 Hours

This month's callers are;

2<sup>nd</sup>: Al N6TEZ                      9<sup>th</sup>: John K6CEH  
16<sup>th</sup>: Chris K6IDY                23<sup>rd</sup>: Pat KG6AVZ  
30<sup>th</sup>: Vi K6VBH

### November Meeting @ Idyllwild

**Fire Department – Training  
Room Mark Your Calendars!**

**MHRC / RACES: Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>  
General Meeting at 6:30 PM**

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

### Presidents Message

The days are getting colder and winter seems to be on its way. Also, these are the times of greater fire danger and winter emergencies. I am asking MHRC members to keep their scanners and amateur radios on when the weather is windy and dry or when road conditions are bad. Emergencies may not be big ones but to someone sliding off the road or witnessing an accident it can be very frustrating to try to get help and realize no one is listening.

Ham radio is great but it only works if someone is on the other end. I have one of the MDP radios and I noticed when we had the recent power outage many MDP people were on the radio reporting their outage but I didn't hear any hams. In spite of the recent advances in finding the extent of an outage, Edison still needs to know where the power is out. It also fosters a sense of community to know others are having the same problem. If you have a scanner, you can input the MDP frequency 462.175 and you can also put it in your ham radio and listen but you will not be able to transmit on that frequency

There have been more people participating in the message handling at roll call time but we need more. All RACES members should be taking advantage of the opportunity to practice sending and receiving messages. It sounds easy when an expert like Bill Baker is talking, but the rest of us still sound like amateurs and stumble



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around and get it wrong. It may be the only way you will get training like this so take advantage of it.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH  
President

### ***Mile High Radio Club Board & General Meeting Minutes Meetings Held on October 13<sup>th</sup>***

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The Mile High Radio Club general meeting was called to order by President Vi Hallacy at 1830 hours with 19 members present, thereby constituting a quorum. One guest was attending: Ann Larson, KJ6QWC. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rick Foster.

President Vi reported that Secretary Christie Huss will not be able to attend this meeting because of car trouble experienced in Hemet. Christie is riding in the tow truck which is towing her car home.

Vi called for any corrections or additions to the Minutes as published in the newsletter. The minutes were corrected to show Wayne Laube as a member of the Nominating Committee. Rick Foster then moved to accept the minutes as corrected, motion seconded by Don Hamilton. There being no further discussion the vote was taken approving the minutes unanimously.

**II. TREASURER REPORT:**

- A.** Treasurer Bill Tell recapped this month's activity as shown on the monthly statement. Bill Tell moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, motion seconded by Rick Foster. This motion was passed unanimously.

Bill has a number of new Technician Q & A books available at the reduced price of \$13.75 each. Please contact Bill if you can use these or know someone or some organization that can use them.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A.** The Idyllwild Jazz Festival donation of \$500.00 was received and a letter of thanks will be sent.
- B.** We received a letter from Secretary of State with notification that we have until the 30<sup>th</sup> of December to file the biennial SI-100 Statement of Information which requires a \$20 filing fee.
- C.** The FCC sent an update to Tom Unwin on the club call sign change to KD60I

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A.** Tom Pierce discussed the problems of the Orange County repeater interference with TASMA. They invited Tom to apply for their assistance and gave him a form (that form can be obtained on the TASMA web site). Club Trustee Bill Baker must sign it. Bill Baker also will offer his assistance.
- B.** Rick Foster reported on Message Handling after Roll Call. We need active participation; Rick Foster stated that in particular all RACES people need to practice passing messages for better success because absolute accuracy can be critical to saving a life. Bill Baker suggested passing messages before Roll Call and reading back by recipients after Roll Call. Roll Call should then start 15 minutes (or more) earlier to practice taking a message word for word as given, taking care with abbreviations (and so state: when something is an abbreviation. Bill says we must do this practice as protocol is very, very



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important on this. By show of hands the meeting attendees agreed.

- C. Tom Unwin reported that they are still working on the repeater. So far \$320 has been spent with the final cost estimated at \$400. Bill Tell thinks there are sufficient funds available
- D. MDP invited MHRC to join them in a disaster drill to present us with an opportunity to learn how to set up radios faster, to deal with the large amount of communications to and from RACES and the Fire Department re: providing transportation and the so called injured and dead. Messages need to be read, readable and passed accurately. Vi Hallacy, Tom Huss, Tom Unwin, Kathy Hamilton, Bill Baker and Ted Hoberg participated.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Election of Officers: Bill Tell, President; Wayne Laube, Vice President; Chris Johnson, Treasurer; Christie Huss, Secretary & Marilyn Peck, Asst. Secretary; Bill Baker, RACES; Tom Pierce, Tom Unwin and BJ Brix Board Members; Volunteers for other vital functions are Paul Miglin, Newsletter and Website; Bill Tell, & Rick Foster assisting Bill Baker with RACES.
- B. Rick Foster moved to accept this slate of officers and Don Hamilton seconded the motion. This motion was passed unanimously. New officers will be installed at the end of the next meeting. President Vi asked current officers to help new officers by passing on data in their possession. Chris Johnson suggested a Historian to write articles for the newsletter on past events from data collected by President Vi and others.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Rick Foster presented a new membership application from Dorian Paul, KJ6QWL. Rick moved that we accept Dorian Paul as a member, Wayne Laube seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.  
It was moved by Bill Tell and seconded by Rick Foster to keep membership dues for new members the same for the next year. This motion was passed unanimously.
- B. Rick Foster announced that CERT training will be held this weekend on Friday from 5:00-9:00pm; and Saturday & Sunday from 8:00 – 5:00pm each. All who need such training are welcome to come.
- C. Funds are needed for maintenance of our emergency repeater. Rick suggested that we usually request funds from the Rotary with suggested amount ranging from \$500 to \$1000.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Prepared and submitted  
Marilyn Peck KJ6IPT,  
Acting Secretary



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

2011 has been a year with some gains for communications in the mountain areas. RACES membership is on the rise, a good sign, but training has not been as successful for what ever reason. I think that the ease of communicating independent of amateur radio lulls many that have licenses into believing that those systems will really always be there – that one or more of the systems will save their bacon when the bad stuff hits the fan.

If up and running (many systems shut down at some load level) you may never make an intended contact. Batteries don't last forever and charging systems may not be powered.

OK so there's some difficulties – sounds like some of the same problems can affect amateur radio – AND THEY CAN – if you don't back-up power, know how to program your radio, have useful frequencies programmed in you radio, learn how to and practice making contacts both simplex and repeater, face and solve problems, participate in nets and drills.

GEE that takes a lot of time! It does at the start, but so did most things you learned in life or are still learning. What's wrong with the effort of being ready for local or wide-spread disasters or saving someone's life? Roll calls are simple & effective but structured training and active use of amateur radio can mean the difference between life and the alternative.

Bill Baker KN6JV  
Mountain District EC – RACES

### ***For Sale:***

**ARRL's Tech Q&A Books are still available to anyone interested in studying for their Tech License. They cover the current question pool and are good through June 2014.**

**Cost \$13.75 each. Cash or check made payable to MHRC.**

**To reserve a copy of the book e-mail [mhrc@arrl.net](mailto:mhrc@arrl.net) or phone Bill Tell @ 659-4438 with your request.**

**These books are brand new and when they are gone they are gone. They will be at this week's club meeting. After that we plan to offer them to all of the Riverside County RACES Districts.**