



RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

PO Box 1204

Idyllwild, CA 92549-1204

E-mail: mhrc@arri.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 SEPTEMBER - 2010

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County wide Monthly Roll Call

First Monday of the Month

*Will be on **September 13th**, 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

September - Wednesday Roll Call

is held at 1900 Hours

This month's callers are;

1st: Vi K6VBH 8th: Pat KG6AVZ
15th: Danielle KI6DDR 22nd: Paul KG6TIL
29th: Kathy KA6MOM

September Meetings @

Idyllwild Fire

Mark Your Calendars!

MHRC Board / Club / RACES: Thursday,
September 9th, 6:30 PM All are welcome to attend
any of the above meetings or call in on the nets.

President's Message

It has been a very busy summer this year. It started off with a bang when we got 26 newly licensed amateur, 14 of which joined the Mile High Radio Club and increased our numbers to 53.

Field Day followed and while our communication numbers were down some. We made many more personal contacts and for me that was the most important thing. Working the 4th of July parade gave some of the new people a good idea of one of the ways amateur radio could be used and then we had a very successful communication drill. Now we are about to handle the communications for the Jazz Festival.

All of this takes a lot of planning and participation. Somehow, most of it is done by a small group of dedicated people. I would like to encourage all of you to take an active part in all our radio activities and get more experience in the planning and execution of these events.

Spreading the work load makes it easier for everyone and increases the base of knowledgeable people. So step up and offer to help when these activities come up. You will be glad you did.

Vi Hallacy K6VBH
MHRC President
RACES – Mountain District – AEC



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Board Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on August 12th, 2010

President Hallacy opened the meeting at 1815 hours with a quorum of the Board present. The single item on the agenda was consideration of changing the Club repeater's call sign from Tom Unwin's WA6SSS to a club call sign.

After a short discussion, Jim Kent moved that the Club apply for a club call sign using the late George Covington's call sign of KD6OI, if possible. The motion was seconded and adopted.

The agenda being completed, President Hallacy closed the meeting at 1820 hours.

J.M. Kent KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary

General Meeting Minutes for Meeting Held on August 12th, 2010

President Hallacy opened the meeting at 1830 hours with 16 members present, thereby constituting a quorum. Rick Foster led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's motion to accept the July Meeting minutes as published in the newsletter was seconded and adopted.

Treasurer Bill Tell discussed the attached monthly Financial Report. By discussing the attached letter, Bill described the difficulty he has been having with TESSCO (a vendor for repeater components) in getting the proper credit for invoices paid by Club. Rick Foster's motion to accept the report was seconded and adopted.

The President reported that pursuant to a request from the Idyllwild Fire Commission, she will attend its September meeting to discuss what we do and our communication capabilities.

She will be accompanied by Bill Baker and Bill Tell.

Bill Tell said he would write up a report on the ARRL Filed Day for publishing in the next Newsletter.

As the Nominating Committee Chairman, Bill Baker asked for members interested in holding offices in the Club. Several members expressed interest and Bill said he would send out an e-mail to more widely disseminate the request.

The President said there would be training for new Hams Tuesday, August 17, at 1300 hours at a place to be announced. She said to bring a folding chair, radio and manual. She also asked for experienced members to help out.

Tom Unwin said he had received and tested the cavity for the portable repeater rig and coverage was good. He said the frequency would be 440.340 MHz, negative shift, PL 118. Vi noted that a report was due to the Idyllwild Community Fund in September and asked if we would have anything to show them for the money spent. Tom replied in the affirmative.

The membership was advised of the Board of Director's decision to replace the repeater's current use of Tom Unwin's call sign (WA6SSS) with a club call sign, preferably that of the late George Covington: KD6OI.

Bill Baker announced that there would be a short RACES Meeting after the Club Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the membership, President Hallacy adjourned the meeting at 1914 hours to enjoy refreshments provided by Rick Foster.

J.M. Kent KF6TYZ
MHRC Secretary



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RACES Report – Mountain District

RACES have had some activity worth mentioning this last month and hope to have more as time moves forward.

We just completed a very interesting communication exercise covering our entire mountain range. This exercise tested our ability to contact operators within and between individual districts. As expected, we uncovered problems but we also solved problems and tested message handling in the process. This exercise was largely the result of the interest from county OES Gina Moran-McGough the OES Coordinator for our area. RACES in Anza District under Bruce YOHO and I in the Mountain District, and Disaster Preparedness groups in Idyllwild, Pinyon, Lake Riverside, Aguanga and Poppet flats all got a chance to communicate and learn.

RACES Membership has been enhanced by the addition of two new members. John Hauer K6CEH, & Jim Mettler, AF6XL joined the ranks & 4 other applicants are filling out the required forms.

With our mild summer suddenly turning hot, we may need all the help we can get for fire watches. Unfortunately, we no longer do the active, very effective, roving patrols, due to fuel costs. However, we do have fixed locations that are effective for viewing and if called upon we will staff them. We do this with both RACES and non-RACES volunteers (non – RACES are not covered by the insurance as are activated RACES personnel).

The sudden growth of the Mile High Radio Club has created opportunities for training new hams in radio use and Vi Hallacy K6VBH (MHRC President), with the help of other MHRC members, has undertaken just that. Starting the program uncovered some confusion that we hope to smooth out with tweaking radio settings. Then, we'll get into communication practice.

Also, local camps were given the opportunity to get one of their camp staff employees licensed and were provided a radio by a Grant from the Idyllwild Rotary Club. Now, for the first time, camps have some common communications with each other and with local RACES and other Hams. This is a vital link in case of an event requiring their mutual support with other communications down.

Coming up is RACES Mountain's annual communications support for the local Jazz in the Pines event. We set up with at least 4 operators, 2 shifts, 2 days during event hours. Thank goodness for VOLUNTEERS.

See-ya next month.

Bill Baker KN6JV
Mountain District EC - RACES

Elmer – Building a 2 Meter Base

Putting together a 2 meter home base Station

You are not going to reach Anza or Temecula on your handheld. You might be able to get Hemet. You are going to need the following. All prices are approximate.

1. Fifty watt mobile \$120 used \$250 new
2. 25 amp power supply \$50 used \$125 new
3. Diamond x-200 antenna \$100 new
4. Good 1/2 inch all weather coax \$1 a foot

Total is \$525 new or \$300 used

I have used my fifty watt mobile radio all day on a car battery, so you could get by without a power supply. Check www.arrl.com or www.eham.com classifieds for a radio. You can use a mobile radio in your car and for your base station. Vhf needs a good coax. The antenna is the key to the whole thing so do not skimp there. Lag screw PVC pipe to the eave of your house and bolt the antenna to the pipe. Use continuous



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unbroken coax. Seal the uhf connector to the antenna with a product called coax seal. Do not place your station within 20 feet of your station because of RF radiation and feedback. Keep learning, asking questions, and spending money.

Enjoy!!!

Chris Johnson K6IDY
Board Member

Call for Board Members

As usual I've been really lax on getting members to volunteer to be officers in the Club.

We need the following for the coming year.

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Membership
5. Treasurer
6. 3 Club Directors
7. Plus one representing RACES

Christy Huss has indicated that she would be willing continue as Vice President if no others choose to run, but would prefer not to hold office. Others may choose to run for that position.

Bill Tell has indicated he would be willing to continue in the Treasurer position. Others may choose to run for that position.

Bill Baker indicated he would be willing to continue as a Board member representing RACES. Others may choose to run for that position.

REMEMBER, IT IS YOUR CLUB. MHRC HAS GROWN REMARKABLY IN 2010. IT'S CONTINUED GROWTH AND SERVICE TO THE MOUNTAIN AREA IS DEPENDANT ON MEMBERS LIKE YOU TO HOLD OFFICE,

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND HONE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

Being a club member is great, being an active member is super, being a trained, active club member is beyond super-great – it's what amateur radio is all about.

Bill Baker KN6JV
Mountain District EC - RACES

Field Day – 2010 Report

This years Field Day event was a tribute to the late Jim Johnson K6GUN. "6GUN" will long be remembered for his fondness of Ham Radio and generosity to the MHRC. God bless you Jim.

Below are Vi Hallacy and Rick Foster (backs to us) discussing Ham Radio with some of our clubs newest members at this years Field Day event.



We had a number of very interested visitors drop by this year. It certainly kept us busy spreading the word about Ham Radio and what it offers in the event of an emergency.

As noted in our clubs last meeting. It's not the points that count. It is all about meeting the public and keeping our operations in the publics



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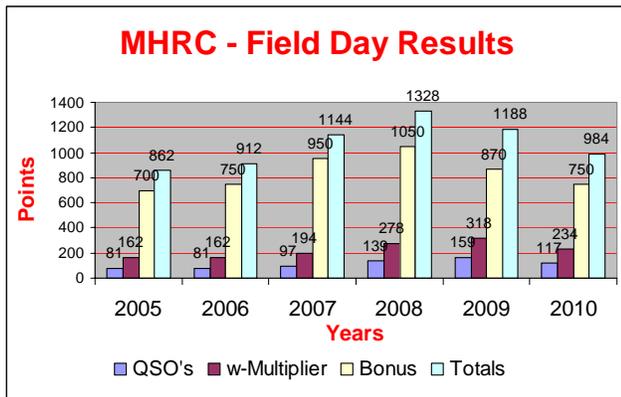
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view. By the turn out of visitors we had, we did an excellent job.

The number of contacts we made this year placed 3rd as compared to the past 6 years that I have been keeping records. The chart below provides the past 6 years in comparison.



Regarding the number of contacts made this year. We had a number CW contacts, 10 in total, thanks to Jerry Rustad KG6TIS and Chris Milford KC0CRU who brought out his Digital Communications and made 31 contacts working the night shift. Both of these forms of communications had not been present during recent years at our site. So for many of us this was a real treat to gain this exposure.

Think about what activities you would like to support at next years field day event. There is plenty of time to plan and discuss. You may even want to Chair the event!!!

Till next year,

Bill Tell KD6KTV
MHRC - Newsletter Editor

Portable Repeater Update

We have received a number of the key components for the luggable repeater. Tom Unwin WA6SSS has it up and running, with antennas mounted on his roof. It's not ready for

transport (deployment) just yet. Being that this type of repeater, based on Amateur radio gear, they are not readily available off the shelf at the local Ham store. Therefore, we must be creative and think outside the box, test components and read a number of specifications. Then make the equipment selection and hope everything is compatible. So far all is looking very good and Tom Unwin is doing an outstanding job.

Next task is sizing up the equipment and select a case size, mount the radios to a panel and complete the final wiring.



Here Tom is tuning the portable repeater in his garage. The solar panels you see were also recently received by the club. Currently we are waiting for the charge controller, and then we will be able hook up the panels with the new AGM batteries that were recently donated to the club.



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As for the back pack repeater, we are waiting to see the current repeater completed before jumping ahead. The current build will provide a lot of insight to equipment selection for the back pack build.

Our new Honda 2,000 watt generator was used at this year's field day, very quiet and a great addition for portable (only 50 pounds) deployment in an emergency situation.

For the portable repeater builds, solar panels and generator, we have been supported by many organizations and individuals in our community. Here are just a few of the donors;

- Idyllwild Community Fund
- Pine Cove Properties Association
- Rotary Club – Idyllwild
- Rotary Ann's – Idyllwild
- Idyllwild Jazz Festival

Look forward to more details of the repeater build in the following months. We should be in position for actual field testing this fall. With the Santa Ana winds that we experience, during a fire watch would be a great time for testing the repeater and training of operators along with equipment set up and test area of coverage.

Stay tuned,

Bill Tell KD6KTV
MHRC - Newsletter Editor

Classifieds, From the HEMET area.

Attention HF Hams. This is a special "deal" worth looking at:

Yaesu FT 1000D with MD-100 Desk Mike \$2200

55' crank up tower, rotor, TH-6 beam \$1300

The tower and beam are still UP attached to the house. Buyer will need to help in taking it down.

The seller would like to offer this as a "Package" deal.

Special note: The house is also up for sale. If you're interested in moving to the East side of Hemet, this is a really good deal as the tower; rotor and beam are "Ready to go".

Contact information:

Bart Doering N7OD

Ar-Cluster: telnet n7od.pentux.net

IRLP 3341, Echo Link: 3341

Phone: (951) 927-4280

"Positive calls only please"

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