



RACES – Mountain District – Mile High Radio Club

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www.milehighradioclub.org

Repeater Station KD6OI 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: Paul Miglin KG6TIL

MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - 2013

Presidents Message

The Mile High Radio Club is actively working with its membership by training our licensed radio operators through the Mountain District RACES operations.

Current Radio Club membership is running at 50 plus licensed amateur radio operators

RACES applications and roster still stands at 24 plus.

Our local team has and will be supporting the following events all beginning in May of 2013;

1. Idyllwild Spring Challenge, staffing more than 10 check points all throughout the May Valley and South Ridge Mountain Bike trail system.
2. American Radio Relay League Field Day Event – making radio contacts across the country with only emergency power and less than 100 watts output.
3. The Rotary Club's Independence Day Parade – we provided communication between each of the 4 announcer's stations.
4. The Lemon Lily Festival needed a communications team to work and communicate between parking lots at the Nature Center. We pulled it off in short order!

5. Idyllwild Jazz in the Pines, coming up August 17th and 18th our team will be the on-site switch board for all communications during the festival. The MHRC will interface with Security, Administration, House-keeping, Paramedics, Stage, Patrons and Musicians check in and a host of other volunteers.

Each of these events has a training component built in with regards to radio operations and message relay. It provides for our team, an opportunity to continue our education with radios and the skills needed when we run into a blip with our equipment, All in all, very valuable lessons in radio communications.

Station WNKI 578 1610 AM had a work out during the Mountain Fire. Hats off to Rick and Nancy Layton for putting the messages on the air. From this recent event we have all learned a bit more as to the stations operations. The dial in number 659-WNKI did not work according to plan, nor did we want to fool with the system during the event as the transmitter was working correctly.

The purpose of the 659-WNKI phone line is to allow those outside of the transmitters broadcast range to dial in and listen to and quickly obtain the current advisory or emergency message over their telephone. Once the event was over and WNKI was no longer in emergency mode, we



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corrected the issue and tested the system with the public dial in number, its back to normal.

As many of you know, back in January the Mile High Radio Club took up the issue of WNKI's succession and drafted an MOU on behalf of the community, at the request of the IFPD, the current station Trustee. We are still waiting on the IFPD to respond and provide their input towards the draft MOU. Members of the radio club bring the technical expertise to the table along with a non-profit status making donations to the station more attractive to donors.

In the meantime we have also discussed amongst the MHRC the possibility of moving the station to Pine Cove. This is still on the table and would need to obtain coordination approval through the FCC before relocating the transmitter. The thought behind such a move would be the ability to broadcast to a wider range of local listeners given Pine Coves higher elevation.

Our Mountain District RACES team was not officially activated during the Mountain Fire. However our team, under the direction of Paul Miglin KG6TIL Mountain District Emergency Coordinator asked that we conduct a roll call prior to the evacuation orders given locally. Our goal locally was to maintain status of our radio operators throughout the entire event no matter where they were, plus planning the possible need to deploy an alternate portable repeater site should our fixed site communications fail for any reason during the event.

In closing I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and efforts in keeping our organization moving forward. The hard work and passion everyone displayed during the training events was and continues to remain first class, Kudos to all.

Over the next few months we want to hear from you the members of the Mile High Radio Club, we want to know what you want out of the club. So please speak up and let your voice be heard. Be

thinking about what support big or small you can contribute to the Board and or the Club. There is no I in team and we need to be firing on all cylinders.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 20th at the Idyllwild Fire Protection District Training Room. Time is 6:30 PM. For this meeting we would like it to be an open form (more so than normal) so that we can re-cap on the recent events, our rolls in emergency communications and your experiences during the recent events.

Stay safe, keep your batteries charged and your radios in good working order.

Thank you,

Bill Tell KD6KTV
MHRC President
951-659-4438