



## 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 KD6OI 146.895 (-) pl 118.8



**Officers** - President: Bill Tell KD6KTV, Vice President: Tom Pierce K8EBR, Membership: Rick Foster KG6TIJ  
Secretary: Bill Baker KN6JV, Treasurer: BJ Brix KJ6IPX  
**Board Members:** Ann Larson KJ6QWC, Jeff Smith KK6HOM, Tom Unwin WA6SSS  
**RACES Emergency Coordinator:** Paul Miglin KG6TIL

# MOUNTAIN FLASHES – NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST - 2014

### *Mile High Radio Club*

### *TEAM MHRC*

### *Celebrating 25 years of Community Service and providing Emergency Communications.*

Wishes to thank the following Organizations and Individuals for their kind Contributions in Support of our Efforts within the San Jacinto Mountains.

*Idyllwild Community Fund*

*Pine Cove Property Owners Association*

*Idyllwild Rotary*

*Idyllwild Rotary Ann's*

*Jazz in the Pines*

*Pine Cove Water District*

*Lemon Lily Festival*

*Lowes Incorporated - Hemet*

*Sandlin & Sons Refrigeration*

*Idyllwild Cycling*

*The Carroll Lindholm Family*

*Steve, Jay & K6GUN Johnson*

*Danny & Terry Richardson*

*Steve Espinosa*

*John Graham*

*And the entire MHRC Team*

### *Presidents Message*

This year's highlight has to go to Bill Baker KN6JV, Bill was selected as this year's Independence Day Parade Grand Marshall hosted by the Rotary Club of Idyllwild.



Here Bill is riding in Norm Walkers jeep along with members of both the Woodies and MHRC team mates. It's a true honor to know Bill and for his many accomplishments in Radio, the Woodies and Wood Carving, he brings a smile to all with his quick wit and humor.

Bill Baker has served us all so well. He has taught us what the true spirit of volunteering is. His leadership and willingness to lead is second to none, he is simply the class of the field.

Hats off to you KN6JV,

KD6KTV



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### Repeater Site

Pine Cove Water District has done a superb job with upgrades to the repeater site. They first poured the nice concrete retaining wall, sidewalk and ramp leading up to the building. Now a generator can be wheeled up alongside of the building should we need to power the room with emergency power.



In addition to the newly poured concrete the surrounding security fence has been fully installed. The fence as you recall was funded by the MHRC, MDP and the Sheriff's team. Kudos to PCWD for a job well done.

The MHRC has also supported the recent install and testing of a new MDP Medical Communication repeater. Both the coax and connectors were donated by the MHRC for the efforts and installed by BJ Brix and Bill Tell. Let's hope that MDP's tests are successful and that they can fill the missing communication gap for their all-important medical team headed by Dr. Goldberg.

### Field Day 2014

Patti is telling everyone the Rotary Club knows how to Bar B Que. The MHRC celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during this year's ARRL Field Day event.



The Rotary Club's Danny and Terry Richardson along with Steve Espinosa and John Graham all pitched in to flip the burgers and roll the dogs across the grill



Many from the Idyllwild Fire Protection District dropped in as well for a bite and chat about the MHRC and anything else that came to mind. No one left hungry as there was plenty to go around.



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### ***A quick Background – Overview of TEAM MHRC's activities***

#### MHRC Completed Communication Events

- Four Communication Events – in Rapid Fire Succession
- Field Day – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary received certificate from Supervisor Stone
- Independence Day Parade – Bill Baker KN6JV – Grand Marshall
- Lemon Lily Festival July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – Parking and Communications
- Open House at Idyllwild Fire Protection District – July 20<sup>th</sup>

#### MHRC – August Communication Event

- Jazz Fest at Idyllwild Arts – Switchboard operations – 8 Frequencies

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.

Volunteer Time – A minimum of 500 hours of Direct Hours go into supporting these events. Team MHRC you all deserve a big round of applause!!!!

N6MRN – Repeaters – Will now be under our (MHRC / MRN) control. No planned changes, just keeping them maintained and supporting emergency communications well into the future.

- Mountain Radio Network and Call Sign has been transferred by the FCC
- 70 CM – Pine Cove is operational and on the air – Skywarn is ran on this repeater. More to follow.

- 2 Meter – Anza – Repeater Site Move – Supported by OES / Chet Ashbaugh

#### TASMA – Proposed 2 Meter Band Plan Changes

- Suggest all districts study the proposed plan and make informed district plans, suggestions or adjustments.

#### TASMA – Cleaning up their data base

- It was pointed out a number of repeaters exist on paper and are not truly operational, need we mention Rim Forest or Mt. Edna. Chances are these repeaters will be served letters in the near term.
- It's vital that repeaters maintain on air status and in good repair.

#### STATION 23 Pine Cove – Communications Site

- An on-site Hardened Facility for Mountain District RACES is needed.
- OES is aware of our requests – hopefully plans are in the works.

#### STATION 53 Garner Valley – Antenna Inspection

- This is being addressed by OES / Chet Ashbaugh

### ***Amateur Radio Newslines (tm) Report 1928 July, 25 2014***

### ***RESCUE RADIO: FEMA AND ARRL ANNOUNCE NEW COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT***

The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have announced a new Memorandum of Agreement. One that is destined to enhance cooperation between the League and FEMA in the area of disaster communication.



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Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the Newsroom with the details: Calling radio is one of the most resilient communications technologies we have, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, penned his name to a Memorandum of Agreement with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). This to further mutual cooperation in times of disaster and preparing for such emergencies.

The new agreement will allow FEMA and the ARRL to work together to provide resources, services and personnel to fortify the relief agency's capacity in certain areas. These include emergency communications, disaster preparedness along with response and recovery assistance. It will also task the two with jointly raising public awareness about the use of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource.

The agreement also outlines the ways in which the two organizations will cooperate to carry out their individual responsibilities with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery operations. This, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

The signing ceremony took place on July 18th at the ARRL's Centenary Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, with League President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signing the document for the League. This agreement takes the United States Amateur Radio service yet another step forward in becoming a vital communications resource when disaster strikes and especially in those instances when all other means of communications fail.

And to quote FEMA Administrator Fugate: Amateur Radio is taking that hobby and turning it into saving lives.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.



**SKYWARN** is defined in the Weather Spotter's Field Guide as a National Weather Service (NWS) program developed in the 1960s that consists of trained weather spotters who provide reports of severe and hazardous

weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions. Riverside County SKYWARN is a program of the San Diego NWS office and serves western Riverside County and the Coachella Valley.

SKYWARN spotters act as the NWS eyes and ears in the field. Their reports provide vital "ground truth" to the NWS. They also help meteorologists issue timely, accurate, and detailed warnings by confirming hazardous weather detected by NWS radar. Spotters provide critical verification information that helps improve future warning services. Without them, NWS would be less able to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property.

Riverside County SKYWARN is activated by the NWS when needed during severe weather events to provide weather observations from affected areas. Amateur radio plays an important role in the communications process by allowing trained spotters to report hazardous situations to a net controller who is continually in touch with the San Diego NWS office during activations.

Weekly Riverside County SKYWARN roll call nets are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on the N6MRN Pine Cove Repeater (447.480- 156.7). All amateur radio operators are welcome and invited to check in on the nets. Severe weather conditions in the Riverside County Mountains are frequently the cause of SKYWARN activations. MHRC members can benefit by having the Pine Cove repeater programmed into their radios in



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order to be aware of local weather conditions and hazards. For those interested in becoming a spotter, free training can be obtained online for individuals and in-person for groups such as the MHRC at an upcoming meeting. For more information please send an e-mail message to [edsherman@wxobs.org](mailto:edsherman@wxobs.org).

Ed Sherman, K6UYL  
Riverside County SKYWARN Coordinator

### *Buying a Watch in 1880*



If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store

watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

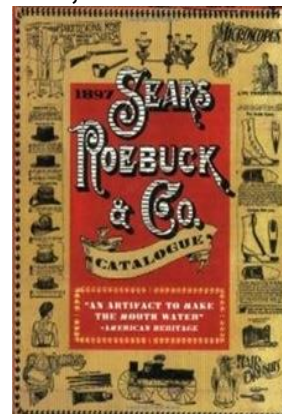
Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line. Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked!

It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded too many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

**YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT** that for a



while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: **Richard Sears** and his partner **Alvah Roebuck!**

**Bet You Didn't Know  
That!!! Now that's  
History!!!!**



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### **TEAM MHRC Shirts and Hats**

If you think Mile High Radio Club needs some new badges, a club shirt or hat, now is the time to speak up. We really should have an identifiable shirt for special events like, Lemon Lily Festival, Jazz Festival, parades and bike races, or whatever event where the club is represented. Mike Andelson, Bill Tell, and I have been mulling this around and have a few ideas but we need club input. Please bring your ideas to the next meeting or give them to a club member. If anyone knows a good place to buy these items, now is a good time to share.

TEAM MHRC

Mountain Radio Network

KD6OI - N6MRN

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EST. 1989



We are looking to have at least a club t-shirt. Think about what it should say, what color, what style... How much money are you willing to spend on a shirt, a cap, or a badge? If you cannot attend the next meeting, please let it be known your preference to a club member. If you don't share your opinion, you may be left out and someone else will decide for you...I like purple!

Annie Larson KJ6QWC

Where to start. It's hard to believe but it's been a year since our last newsletter and a ton of great things are happening. Thank you Christy, Ed, Annie and Bill Sr for sending in the cool articles.

We need someone from the team putting these letters together and sharing what is going on, would you like to step up and start putting these together? All it takes is a little effort and a creative mind, heck I will send you some articles if you can talk others out of a few from time to time, it's a team effort! It's been since 2011 that we have had monthly newsletters, let's see if we can start doing quarterly newsletters!

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 this year's training events was and continues to remain first class, our community recognizes your efforts. Kudos to all!

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> 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 thoughts on the clubs direction. Do you want to see some presentations such as ARES and or Skywarn? What do you think about getting some shirts or ball caps? There are still those ideas on building new antennas for next year's Field Day event, Fox Hunting and so on, so let's step up and take the lead on these ideas you all have had, make it fun and the others will follow.

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

Thank you,

Bill Tell KD6KTV  
MHRC President  
951-659-4438