



The objectives of the Willits Amateur Radio Society are:

- to promote interest in fellowship and fun in Amateur Radio;
- to further the cooperation between Mendocino County Amateur Radio Operators;
- to provide emergency or public service communications when normal means of communications are disrupted;
- to advance the state of the Amateur Radio art through individual and collective research;
- to conduct programs and activities so as to increase the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community including classes and testing;
- to support lawful, responsible conduct by its members and the amateur fraternity in general.

WARS OFFICERS for 2008

PRESIDENT: Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
SECRETARY: John Lemmer, W6FQX
TREASURER: Dean Durbin, KE6COB
WEBMASTER: Danny Richardson, K6MHE
TRUSTEE OF W6MMM, Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: John Lemmer, W6FQX

WEB PAGE: <http://www.k6mhe.com/wars>
MAIL TO: P.O BOX 73, WILLITS, CA 95490

The Willits Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:00 PM on the **fourth** Monday (not the last Monday) of each month except for December. The normal meeting location is the Brooktrails Fire Station on Birch Street in Brooktrails.

There is a weekly informal breakfast meeting held every Tuesday morning starting at 9 AM at Perko's Restaurant in Willits.

On the coast, there is also a weekly Koffee Klatch starting at 10:30 AM on Tuesdays at the Tradewinds Restaurant in Fort Bragg and a informal breakfast meeting held every Friday starting at 8:30 AM at Denny's Restaurant in Fort Bragg.

DUES ARE NOW DUE

WARS membership dues are now due for 2008. If you have not already done so, please send your check in the amount of \$15 or more to Post Office Box 73 in Willits. A special family rate of \$22.50 is available as well as a junior rate of \$7.50. The dues fund the various activities of the society including the liability insurance that is required whenever we conduct any activity as a society. In addition, we usually make a contribution to the Brooktrails Firefighters Association to support their activities and to thank them for the use of their room in which our regular meetings are held.

If you are a new member or if some of your personal information has changed (phone number, address, email address, etc.), please download a membership application from the JOIN US page on the WARS web site, fill it out, and include it with your check.

From the prez – January 2008

What will you bring to our community

I looking over my "words of wisdom" from the 2007 newsletters, I realized that many good things were accomplished last year. I won't go over all of the details again, but the central theme that I noticed was people getting involved for the betterment of others. As a result, I feel that a much greater sense of community has developed.

So what is needed to keep the momentum going? It is as simple as having a willingness to be involved in our community. Each and every one of us has something that we can contribute to our ham community. Some contribute by stepping forward as leaders, while others prefer to work in the background. Others are willing to share their knowledge and experience with those eager to learn more. Those with a desire to learn can use their education to become better prepared to step up when needed and support the broader community. It's the people who choose to sit on the sidelines and watch it all happen that miss out the most.

If we are going to have viable amateur organizations in Mendocino County, we must have participation. These organizations cannot thrive if just a few shoulder the burden while the rest look on. Please think about what you can bring to our ham community. It might start with something as simple as turning on your 2 meter radio and participating in your weekly local net. We need participants, not just observers

Tim – WB9NJS

p.s. Thanks to all who signed up to give a presentation at a WARS meeting in 2008. It's this kind of participation that will make us a stronger, more vibrant organization.

LAST MEETING

The last regular meeting was held on November 26 as scheduled. On the agenda was the election of officers for the next year. There was a decided lack of volunteers to assume any of the offices. President Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, mentioned that his consulting business might be taking him out of the area frequently making his participation intermittent. Secretary John Lemmer, W6FQX, volunteered to keep the secretary's position and Treasurer Dean Durbin, KE6COB, volunteered to keep the treasurer's position and one or the other of them would conduct the meetings in the absence of the President. This was accepted by the members present and the previous slate of officers was maintained for 2008.

HOLIDAY DINNER

The WARS annual holiday dinner was held at the Broiler Restaurant in Redwood Valley on December 13. I think that the count was 38 members and guests.

We all had a good time meeting friends that we perhaps had not seen in some time and I think that all enjoyed the experience. A special thanks to Arlene Davison, KC6CTJ, for the table decorations, to Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, for an outstanding and humorous master of ceremonies act, and to Dean Durbin, KE6COB, for handling all the sign in and money collection duties as well as making out the check to pay for the dinner.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

In the aftermath of the severe wind and rain storm on Friday, January 4, 2008, WARS members KG6CTM Bob Terry, KI6FRU Chuck Harden, KI6FRW Linda Morrison, and K7WWA George Burton together with non-WARS members KI6FRT Janet Rayner, KI6FRV Annie Moris-Hinchey, and KI6ISV Tara Shannon were activated with the Brooktrails Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to provide traffic control around downed tree and live power line pending arrival of a PG&E repair crew.

Ham radio was used to provide safety and security communications for the deployed members in two separate locations and to keep the Brooktrails fire department informed of the status of the various repair crews (Comcast and AT&T) pending arrival of the PG&E crew. This activity utilized the ham radio station installed in the fire house as well as individually owned radios and CERT owned HTs.

This activity extended from approximately 8 AM to 4 PM and involved rotation of team members for needed rest and nourishment during that interval. This activity relieved the Brooktrails fire department of the need to station firefighters for that duty so that they could attend to more urgent matters.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, January 28 starting at 7 PM in the Brooktrails fire station.

The program will be our own George Burton, K7WWA, presenting information about the construction and operation of 2 meter repeater stations.

TEST SESSIONS

To locate posted test sessions, go to <http://www.arrl.org/arrlivec/examsearch.phtml> and enter your ZIP code and mileage radius for which you are interested in traveling to.

To schedule a test session in the Willits area, please contact Jay Haegele, K6AFL, using the contact button on the WARS web site. If a group of 5 or more wish to be tested, Jay can arrange that.

NETS

A number of communities have been holding a weekly local net. Here is a listing of what is known at this time:

Albion	Monday	3:00 PM	147.570 Simplex
Brooktrails	Wednesday	7:15 PM	146.580 Simplex
Gualala/Point Arena	Tuesday	7:00 PM	147.825/146.610 Linked
Piercy/S. Humboldt Co.	Monday	7:00 PM	146.790/146.940 Linked
Redwood Valley	Wednesday	6:30 PM	146.490 Simplex
Ukiah	Wednesday	5:30 PM	146.490 Simplex
Willits	Wednesday	7:00 PM	146.460 Simplex

All stations within the range of the net control station are invited to check in either on a regular basis via roll call or as a visitor. Net control duties usually rotates among the regular participants. The use of simplex frequencies for local operations is being emphasized in order to reserve the repeater facilities for wider area communications in the event of a major disaster.

There is also a county-wide net at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays using the facilities of the 147.390 repeater on Laughlin Ridge, the 145.430 repeater on Cahto Peak near Laytonville, and the 145.470 repeater on Sanel Mountain near Hopland. The initial roll call for this net is for the net control operators of the various communities although there is usually an open call following the initial roll call. Net control duties for this net are rotated between the various communities participating.

Janie Tate, KI6CHA, has made a recording of a typical county-wide net session. If you would like to receive a copy (CD or email MP3 attachment) please contact Janie at her email address, Janie@SeaAngel.org.

2008 CALENDER OF EVENTS

It is not too early to consider planning to attend some of the significant amateur radio events in 2008. Here is an advance look at some of the events. In some cases, the web site listed has not yet been updated but you can see what was planned in 2007.

If you know of some more interesting events, please communicate that to the editor of this newsletter.

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
May 3	VOMARC Hamfest, Sonoma	www.vomarc.org/
April 25-27	DX Convention, Fresno	www.dxconvention.org
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention, OH	www.hamvention.org
May ??	Noyo River Campout	Open
May 31	Fresno Hamfest, Fresno	www.w6to.com/
June 7-8	SF Section Conv., Ferndale	www.humboldt-arc.org
June 6-8	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS
June 28-29	Field Day	Open
July ?	WARS Picnic	Open
August 30	W6OMF Hamfest, Vacaville	www.grz.com/W6OMF
September 12-14	SW Div. Convention, Mesa, AZ	www.azhamcom.org
September 12-14	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS

BUY, SELL, TRADE, OR GIVE AWAY

This space can be made available for your ham radio related equipment that you wish to transfer ownership to another. Please provide your ad as a Word or compatible format as an attachment to an email to the editor of this newsletter, w6fqx@comcast.net.

This is From Emcomm Monthly January 2008 (www.emcomm.org or www.wrrl.org)

TACTICAL CALL SIGNS -- HOW, WHY and WHEN?

An EM basic studies training module)

Tactical call signs, when used properly by well-trained and practiced operators, can prevent confusion, save a great amount of time, and also aid in making a net or operation run smoothly and efficiently. When used improperly, or with poorly-trained and inexperienced operators, they will usually cause delays and confusion.

Typically, "tactical call signs" are used during disaster or other emergency situations to identify a *specific location or a function*. They are especially helpful when multiple operators are being rotated (in shifts) at stations such as a shelter, a net control station, or for a certain job/position (e.g. - logistics or "tech support") which may be a mobile unit.

Tactical call signs are also appropriate in regular (daily or weekly) public service, traffic and other nets. Properly used, they provide training, practice and experience. They are more commonly used on 'phone nets, but also can save time on CW nets. In the very early days of radio communication (all Morse) they were rarely needed since call signs often consisted of just two or three letters. Now that call signs are much longer, the use of tactical call signs make a lot of sense.

The use of tactical call signs can be very helpful if "mutual aid" has been invoked and operators with call signs that may be unfamiliar to "locals" arrive in an affected area. For example: A station identifying as "Riverdale EOC"* is immediately known as to where and what it is by everyone on the net or arriving in an area, regardless who is the operator on duty. Likewise, stations in the field who want to contact the "Riverdale EOC", can simply say: "Riverdale EOC", and not have to worry about remembering the FCC call sign of the operator.

ONE COMMON MISTAKE (often heard) is an operator identifying with the station's tactical call sign and then says his or her own call sign. Example: "Riverdale EOC KJ6ERK". *This is unnecessary and defeats the whole purpose.* Amateur operators only need to identify with their FCC-assigned call sign at the end of a transmission when they do not expect to transmit again within ten minutes and at the end of their shift assignment. (Ref. FCC part 97.119) ALSO, it is redundant and unnecessary to say, "for ID". Saying your call sign IS your "ID!"

GUIDELINES for using TACTICAL CALL SIGNS

1. In any NET, INCIDENT, OPERATION or EVENT, every location or station should have its own unique TACTICAL CALL SIGN.
2. TACTICAL CALL SIGNS should be descriptive such as a LOCATION, "Maple Street Shelter," a FUNCTION, "Team Leader," or both, "SEATTLE RELAY"
3. Don't use FCC call signs to identify a particular location or function since it is possible that an operator may be at one tactical location one day and at another the next day, or even the next hour! But be sure to use FCC-issued call signs when, and as required, by FCC Part 97.
4. REMEMBER: A TACTICAL CALL SIGN remains the same for a given station and does NOT change with the time, shift, day or with an operator change. It remains the same until the net or incident is over.

Cats 'n Dogs!

I know that this appeared in a WARS newsletter a few years back but I thought that you might find it amusing anyway. Many of you did not read it earlier in the WARS newsletter although some of you may have read this elsewhere.

What is a cat?

Cats do what they want.

They rarely listen to you.

They are totally unpredictable.

When you want to play, they want to be alone.

When you want to be alone, they want to play.

They expect you to cater to their every whim.

They are moody.

They leave hair everywhere.

They drive you nuts and cost an arm and a leg.

Conclusion: *They are tiny women in fur coats!*

What is a dog?

Dogs lie around all day, sprawled on the most comfortable piece of furniture in the house.

They can hear a package of food opening half a block away, but they don't hear you when you are in the same room.

They growl when they are not happy.

When you want to play, they want to play.

When you want to be alone, they want to play.

They are great at begging.

They will love you forever if you rub their tummies.

They leave their toys everywhere.

They do disgusting things with their mouths and then try to give you a kiss.

Conclusion: *They are little men in fur coats!*