



# W i l l i t s A m a t e u r   R a d i o S o c i e t y



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 2009**

PRESIDENT: Tim Hanna, WB9NJS

SECRETARY: Elizabeth MacDougall, KI6TIB

TREASURER: Linda Morrison, KI6FRW

WEBMASTER: Danny Richardson, K6MHE

TRUSTEE OF W6MMM, Tim Hanna, WB9NJS

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Sharon Hanna, KE6YKY and Elizabeth MacDougall, KI6TIB

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 an informal breakfast meeting held every Friday starting at 8:00 AM at Laurel Street Deli located adjacent to the Skunk Train Depot in Fort Bragg.

## **From the prez – January 2009**

New Year, new faces, same challenges....

With a new year upon us and two new officers in WARS, things look a little different, but remain the same in several ways. Many hams in Mendocino County still strive to become better prepared for emergency communications, training classes and test sessions continue to yield new hams and upgraded licenses, and WARS struggles to develop an active and engaged membership. The new slate of officers (67% new) is looking for ideas to reinvigorate our club. All ideas will be welcomed. I feel quite strongly that Mendocino County needs at least one (or more) vibrant, general interest amateur radio club. Clubs such as this are often the best way to introduce new people to our hobby and help newly licensed hams gain the skills to really enjoy ham radio. Please help us by sharing your ideas and energy so we can continue to provide local support for our hobby.

Tim – WB9NJS

### **2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Dues for 2009 WARS memberships are now due and payable. Annual dues are \$15 for individual memberships and \$22.50 for family memberships. Along with dues, members may include an additional, voluntary contribution which will be applied to the annual WARS contribution to the Brooktrails Volunteer Firefighters Association. Dues may be paid in person at a WARS meeting or by sending payment to PO Box 73, Willits, CA 95490. Both new and renewing members are asked to provide a completed membership application form (available on the WARS website) with their payment, to ensure that membership records are up to date. 2008 members who fail to renew by March 31, 2009 will be dropped from the roster of paid members

### **LAST MEETING**

The focus of the last meeting, held on November 24, 2008, was the election of new officers for 2009. Following the election, several ideas for increasing attendance at WARS meetings, and overall participation in WARS activities were discussed. Dean Durbin provided an outstanding slide show of his recent trip to England.

This is a short run down of the meeting, provided by Len WA6KLK:

1. 10 folks in attendance
2. Officers for 2009 are:  
President Tim WB9NJS  
Secretary Elizabeth KI6TIB  
Treasurer Linda KI6FRW

3. Discussion of a change in meeting dates/times. Change of constitution? Possibilities include going to quarterly dinner meetings, Tuesday meetings at breakfast, other days, and other times. Can we seek information about why people don't you attend, what needs to change to boost attendance? Change focus of group from general interest to emergency communications?
4. BREAK - Cookies provided by Claudia and Tim, coffee by Tim.
5. Dean, KE6COB told the group about a five week trip he and his wife took to England. Dean's son is currently doing engineering work on the venues for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Lots of nice pictures of London and the countryside, and interesting stories, including attending a local ham club meeting.
6. SPECIAL NOTE - World Radio magazine has been sold to CQ Magazine. Information coming soon if not out already on how the rest of your subscription will be handled. Most likely by a subscription to CQ. Believe any remaining subscription cards the club has and have not been used are considered "dead".

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Two out of the three WARS offices have been filled by new people. After several years of dedicated service, John W6FQX and Dean KE6COB have "retired" from their respective positions of secretary and treasurer. A big THANKS to John and Dean for all of the time and energy they devoted to WARS over the years.

The vacated offices were filled by two YL's relatively new to WARS. To help introduce themselves to the WARS membership, our new officers have provided the biographical sketches below.

**Elizabeth MacDougall, KI6TIB**, is our new WARS secretary. With no prior experience with electronics, or radio, she attended the WARS meeting in June 2008. This was two days after the fires started and was encouraged to get her license. She received her Ham radio license this past September and her first radio in October. Elizabeth grew up in Ukiah, went off to college and graduate school to study music. She returned to Ukiah in 1985 to teach piano part-time at Mendocino College. Elizabeth says a special thanks to "Elmer" John Lemmer for helping her get her first radio on the air in her car and another thank you to "Elmer" Len Gwinn for making sure her home radio had a working antenna!

Hi! My name is **Linda Morrison, KI6FRW** and I am your new Treasurer. I was born and raised in the bay area. After several years away, I returned to the bay area. I retired after 28 years of Federal service and I moved to Willits in 2001. I have one daughter that lives in the bay area with her husband and their son. Yes I'm a proud Grandma! I am the caregiver for my Mother who lives with me and has dementia. I have two dogs and one cat and would have more if I could. My mom and I share the love of animals.

I am the one that will collect all your dues, which are now due. If you have not paid your dues please bring it to the next meeting or mail it to: Post Office Box 73, Willits, CA 95490. I also get to pay the bills. Feel free to contact me if I can give you any assistance or if you have any ideas on how we could do things differently.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Leonard Gwinn, WA6KLK will be showing some innovative designs for home built antennas. This will include examples of several construction materials and techniques, along with practical suggestions for antenna assembly and testing. Len will be providing printed handouts for those wishing to try out some of the featured designs. This presentation will provide useful information for new and experienced hams alike, so don't miss out!

## **TEST SESSIONS**

The December 6 test session at Public Health in Ukiah brought a total of 28 reservations. 24 candidates showed up for the testing. A total of 18 successfully passed their examination for a new license or upgraded from their existing license. Our congratulations to the 12 new Technician Class licensees, 5 General Class and 1 Extra Class upgrade.

The new Technician Class call signs are listed alphabetically by call sign:

Leo Buc	KI6URG	Willits
Clare Gregory	KI6URH	Cobb
Mary Desautels	KI6URI	Caspar
Jackson Judd	KI6URJ	Ukiah
Michael Porter	KI6URK	Ukiah
Danny Contreras	KI6URL	Hopland
Cody Snodgrass	KI6URM	Ukiah
Marvin Boss	KI6URN	Ukiah
Donald Pflieger	KI6URO	Ukiah
Brock Archer	KI6URP	Hopland
Roy Morelli	KI6URQ	Hopland
Sean Spicer	KI6URR	Willits

5 candidates earned or upgraded to a General Class license:

Cynthia Snider	KI6ISY	Nice	Upgrade
Elizabeth Phillips	K6OKO	Ukiah	Upgrade
Nick Wharff	KI6RIT	Ukiah	Upgrade
Robert Feltman	K6BPK	Potter Valley	Passed both Tech and General
Jason Hutton	KG6YSF	Clearlake Oaks	Upgrade

And one candidate earned the top-level Extra Class license:

Alan Judd	N6VUD	Ukiah	Upgrade
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Again, congratulations to all, and for the new licensees, Welcome to Ham Radio!

The next area Test Session will be in Lakeport, Saturday, February 21. The location is the Sheriff's Alternate Work Center. Contact Monte, K6FE, to pre-reserve your seat by calling (707) 998-1050.

*(Contributed by Chuck K6ZIZ)*

Below are listed the known test sessions in the next two months within 100 miles of Willits:

07-Feb-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** BRIAN D TORR

(707)575-5871

**Email:** [N6IY@ARRL.NET](mailto:N6IY@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](http://ARRL/VEC)

**Location:** BLOOD BANK OF THE REDWOODS

2324 BETHARDS DR

SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

21-Feb-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA MOUNTAIN REPEATER SOC

**Time:** 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** DALE WESTERTERP

(707)762-9414

**Email:** [WB6TMS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB6TMS@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](http://ARRL/VEC)

**Location:** LAKE COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY-AWP BLDG

1375 HOYT AVENUE

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED!

[HTTP://WWW.SMRS.US/](http://WWW.SMRS.US/)

LAKEPORT, CA 95453

21-Feb-2009

**Sponsor:** VALLEY OF THE MOON ARC

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** JOEL L NADLER

(707)545-1782

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](http://ARRL/VEC)

**Location:** SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

MCDUGAL HALL

WILSON STREET AT ARNOLD DRIVE

GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

07-Mar-2009

**Sponsor:** YUBA SUTTER ARC

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** CLARA M ANSLEY  
(530)742-2674  
**Email:** [EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM](mailto:EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](http://ARRL/VEC)  
**Location:** CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
715 KING AVENUE  
WALKINS ACCEPTED BET 9-10AM  
YUBA CITY, CA 95991

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.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITIES**

Here are some of the public service communications opportunities in the upcoming months.

### **In Mendocino County:**

A countywide communications drill is being organized for Thursday April 2. The purpose of this drill is to connect the hospitals and clinics throughout the county, simulating a natural disaster which results in injuries, infrastructure damage, and loss of normal communications channels. Up to 35 ham volunteers may be needed to handle communications between 14 or more locations. Details of this drill are still being developed, but if you are interested, please mark the date on your calendar and contact Tim WB9NJS at [tdhanna@msn.com](mailto:tdhanna@msn.com).

### **In Sonoma County:**

The *Tour of California* bicycle race is coming up in mid February. Stage 1 of the race begins in Davis, and will end in Santa Rosa on Sunday, February 15. Craig Gaevert, K6XLT, of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) club is coordinating the ham radio communications for this event. If you are interested in participating, please contact Craig at 545-4133 or [cgarch@sonic.net](mailto:cgarch@sonic.net). For more information on this and other Sonoma County events, check the SCRA website at: <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/>

## **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.

## **HAM JOKE OF THE MONTH**

During a recent trip my wife and I were on, we drove around the back woods of East Texas. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." Well I needed a break so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and see a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there

"You talk?" I asked.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?"

"Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a VUU screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?"

"How did you know that," I asked?

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communication centers and with my keen hearing I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years. Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio."

"Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party?"

I said "let me see what I can do." I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Technician!"

## **CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED**

If you have written an article relating on any way to ham radio and are looking for a publisher, please submit it to the editor of this newsletter. Just send it as an email attachment.

If you have run across a published article in another medium that you think should be published here, let the editors know. We may have to obtain permission to publish it but this is generally not a problem for ham radio related publications.