



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 – March 2009

So many opportunities, so little time....

For most folks these days, whether working or retired, the demand for our time and attention grows daily. This makes it all the harder to find the time and energy to put back into our friends, neighbors, and communities. The need for people to support their communities, however, has not diminished, so everywhere we turn, there is an opportunity to contribute. My thanks to those who have chosen to volunteer in their community, by participating in the countywide communications exercise on April 2nd. It is this kind of dedication that helps to make Mendocino County strong. If you have not yet volunteered, there is still time to do so. Additional volunteers are still needed in Fort Bragg area and Anderson Valley, so please see if you can find a little time in your schedule to help.

Tim – WB9NJS

Summary of last meetings

January 26, 2009

8 members in attendance:

New officers.

President: Tim Hanna WB9NJS

Treasurer: Linda Morrison KI6FRW

Secretary: Elizabeth MacDougall KI6TIB

1. Had a 15 minute discussion of alternate meeting times or locations that might build the membership of WARS back up to previous years of 30 or 40 members or more in attendance.

Idea: correlate with club Tuesday AM breakfast. Suggestion made to find a more central location between Ukiah and Willits. Typically 3-4 Brooktrails residents attend WARS meeting, about 50% of attendees.

Is Golden Rule Mobile Village community room, an option? Redwood Valley Grange? Most significant problem is most meeting locations charge or have restrictions. Suggestion made to try restaurant location for occasional or regular meetings. Time to implement change projected to be from 2-3 months.

2. George suggests for a meeting program; Digital television and amateur Radio Digital ATV presenter

3. Treasurer's Report

- Est. 10-15 memberships paid
- Expense at Christmas Party \$107.67
- All meals paid by attendees.
- Balance \$1050

4. Upcoming Events

- Thursday April 2nd, A communications drill on par with the 2007 MCOE exercise. Twelve different locations across the county invited to participate, partners in the Mendocino County Hospital Preparedness Program. Goal: Use amateur radio to link 3 hospitals and 10 clinics to EOC in Ukiah. Exercise is expected to last 1 ½ hour – 2 hours.
- March 26th The Tsunami Alert testing a warning system which is a drill. Bill Woodworth is looking for feedback.

5. Len WA6KLK reported on VHF Contest. Saturday, January 22nd 11AM to 8PM Sunday night. Paths from Fresno to Eugene OR, 10 seconds of Bremerton WA. Advisory committee for ARRL getting requests to change/drop January contest. Reasons; schedule conflicts with football; snow and ice affect east coast rovers and antennas. Western States Weak Signal Society is kaput! Pacific Northwest VHF Society still active, \$10 to join, one time only.

BREAK

Len WA6KLLK: 1-hour program was a demonstration and explanation of antennas that Len had built and used. Many question and answers were exchanged amongst the members.

February 23, 2009

11 members present:

Treasurers Report \$1050, \$129 Deposited, estimate another \$100 to deposit. Paid members about 29

1. Dean KE6COB moved and Alan WA6JBK seconded motion to donate \$200 to the Brooktrails Firefighters Association. Unanimous approval. Tim and Linda will present the \$200 at the Association meeting.

2. More discussion about the location and meeting time of WARS.

John W6FQX proposed Willits Grange as a potential meeting space. Linda suggested to periodically do a dinner meeting, and the Grange has a kitchen. The one dinner meeting per year is a success. Suggested locations; Mission Pizza in Willits, Round Table in Ukiah. John KE6CQK will ask about Redwood Valley Fire Department, Elizabeth KI6TIB will ask about Round Table in Ukiah, John W6FQX will ask about the Grange

Future meetings:

March 23rd - normal meeting

April 27th – Willits pizza or Grange potluck?

May 25th – is the planning meeting for the June Field Day.

3. Pacificon combined with EmComm West; date and location changed. May 1-3rd, 2009 Reno, NV

4. Upcoming Events Mentioned:

- April 28 Valley of the Moon Swap Meet in Sonoma
- March 21, M2 Antenna open house in Fresno; good deals on antennas, parts, pieces, and prototypes.
- Pacific Northwest VHF Society conference will be at Seaside OR this year. In early October or late September.
- April 18th Red Cross is planning an exercise in Sonoma County. Will be using AD6RC call sign.
- March 21st NEW HAM ½ day session in Ukiah. This is not a test session.
- March 25, Tsunami Notification System Test. Details on the McARCS website:
<http://mcarcs.org/mcarcs/index.php5?title=News>
- May 13, Tsunami Alert Activation planned by Mendocino County Office of Education

BREAK

Len Gwinn presented a Part Two of presentations on antennas. All in attendance participated in discussion and comments.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

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

In Mendocino County:

1. A countywide communications drill will take place on 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 the loss of normal communications channels. About 30 ham volunteers will be handling communications between the 13 locations in 7 different communities. There is still time to volunteer for this exercise. Contact Tim WB9NJS at tdhanna@msn.com or (707) 459-4116.
2. A Tsunami drill exercise is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2009. This will be a public safety communications exercise involving the sheriff's department, all police departments, many fire departments, and others. The ham radio community has been requested to participate in several ways. One of the ways is to establish a communications network between the various school district offices and the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) in a manner similar to the exercise conducted in March of 2007. Contact John W6FQX at w6fqx@comcast.net for more information.

Weekly Nets

Here is the most current schedule of regular nets in Mendocino County:

Albion	Monday	3:00 PM	147.570 Simplex
Brooktrails	Wednesday	7:15 PM	146.580 Simplex
Gualala *	Tuesday	7:00 PM	147.825 Repeater (-/103.5)
Hopland	Wednesday	7:15 PM	147.510 Simplex
Piercy/S. Humboldt Co.	Monday	7:00 PM	146.790 Repeater (-/103.5)
Point Arena *	Tuesday	7:00 PM	146.610 Repeater (-/88.5)
Potter Valley	Wednesday	7:15 PM	146.415 Simplex
Redwood Valley/Ukiah	Wednesday	6:00 PM	146.490 Simplex
Willits	Wednesday	7:00 PM	146.460 Simplex
Walking Repeaters	Wednesday	8:00 PM	145.555 Simplex (tx 103.5 requested)
* linked nets			
Countywide	Wednesday	7:00 PM	145.43/145.47/147.39 linked repeaters

Test Sessions

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

25-Apr-2009

Sponsor: VALLEY OF THE MOON ARC HAMFEST

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

Contact: JOEL L NADLER (707) 322-0389

Location: VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

126 1ST ST W

SONOMA, CA 95476

16-May-2009

Sponsor: ANCHOR BAY ARC

Time: 5:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DENNIS K KELLEHER (916) 716-9267

Email: ALBATROS6447@AOL.COM

Location: BILL PLATT TRAINING CENTER

39801 OCEAN DRIVE

GUALALA, CA 95445

02-May-2009

Sponsor: YUBA SUTTER ARC

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

Contact: CLARA M ANSLEY (530) 742-2674

Email: EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM

Location: CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

715 KING AVENUE

YUBA CITY, CA 95991

16-May-2009

Sponsor: SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS

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

Contact: BRIAN D TORR (707) 575-5871

Email: N6IY@ARRL.NET

Location: BLOOD BANK OF THE REDWOODS

2324 BETHARDS DR

SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

16-May-2009

Sponsor: SONOMA MTN REPEATER SOCIETY

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

Contact: DALE WESTERTERP (707) 762-9414

Email: WB6TMS@ARRL.NET

RESERVATIONS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Location: PETALUMA SR CITIZEN CENTER

211 NOVAK DRIVE

PETALUMA, CA 94952

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

EMCOMMWEST'09/Pacificon: May 1 – 3 at Circus Circus Hotel, Reno NV

Pacificon'09, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, is part of EMCOMMWEST this year! Since 1999, EMCOMMWEST has been specifically oriented toward emergency communications in the West, but now will expand with new speakers and events, to include Pacificon, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention.

The ARRL keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Public Service Coordinator from ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT. The banquet will feature Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, who recently retired as head Amateur radio enforcement at the FCC. Special event station N7V will be active from EMCOMMWEST/Pacificon'09

There will be a special "[HAM CRAM](#)" followed by VE testing for those who want to get an Amateur radio license.

Emcommwest is proud to present "The Reno Spring Hamswap" on Saturday morning May 2, from 6am - Noon. For more information, email Gary Grant, k7vy@arrl.net

While full registration is required to attend convention activities, limited registration grants free admission to the vendor area ONLY. Information and reservations can be made thorough the website: <http://emcommwest.org>. Please e-mail comments and questions to info@emcommwest.org.

HAM JOKE OF THE MONTH

Hamfest speak with english translation :

This is a really good CW rig - It doesn't work on SSB.

This is a really good SSB rig - It doesn't work on CW.

I don't know if it works - It doesn't work, probably never has.

I just had it serviced - I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring.

This rig has wide frequency coverage - It drifts up and down and out of band.

It was used in government service - It was stored outdoors on a wooden pallet.

I plugged it in to check that it lights up - The light came from the two foot high flames.

It worked last time I used it - If it still worked, I'd still be using it.

The only lightning damage was a fuse - The only lightning damage I recognized was a fuse.

I'll help you carry it to the car - I'll do anything to unload this boat anchor.

It works O.K. on 80 meters - It had some parasitics but I got in and really screwed it up and now I want to unload it.

There are a couple of other people interested in it - Someone sat on it to tie his shoelaces while walking past the table.

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.