



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 2007

PRESIDENT: Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
SECRETARY: John Lemmer, W6FQX
TREASURER: Dean Durbin, KE6COB
WEBMASTER: Danny Richardson, K6MHE
TRUSTEE OF W6MMM, Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
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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 meetings are normally held at the Brooktrails Fire Department training room, but the April meeting will take place in the conference room of the Willits Branch of the Mendocino County Public Library at 370 E. Commercial Street. Parking is out front or between the Library and the Museum.**

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 Tuesday mornings at the Tradewinds Restaurant in Fort Bragg and a weekly informal breakfast meeting held every Friday morning starting at 8:30 AM at Perko's Restaurant in Fort Bragg.

All interested in amateur radio are welcome to attend any of these meetings whether licensed or not. Please introduce yourself.

From the prez – April 2007

Are you willing to step up???

The past few months have been a great time for Amateur Radio in Mendocino County. Activities across the county have prompted more amateur involvement than I can recall over the past decade. The McHam Camp training session conducted in Ukiah and the communications drill with MCOE on March 28 were fantastic events, bringing amateurs together and more people into our hobby. These events did not just happen, however. It took many hours of work and planning to pull these events together and make them successful. The work and planning was done by people who were willing to step up and devote some of their time and energy to a good cause.

I understand that none of us seem to have enough time to do everything we want to do. Time is a commodity which is forever in short supply. This didn't stop the volunteers involved in the March events from making them happen, however. If good things, fun things, and educational things are to take place, **somebody** has to step forward and help make things happen.

Several upcoming activities were discussed at the last WARS meeting, including a follow up elmering (mentoring) session for the newly licensed hams, WARS participation in ARRL Field Day, and even the possibility of a WARS campout (for the first time in several years). These things won't happen just because we **want** them to happen, they will happen only if people **make** them happen. This means we need people who will donate some of their time and energy to help organize these events. The pool of people willing to make things happen must extend beyond the WARS officers to the entire membership if desired activities are to become reality.

So, at the next WARS meeting, when the call goes out for someone to help with the planning and organization of activities, please don't look down at the table and hope that somebody else will volunteer. Instead of telling yourself (or me) why you **can't** help, please stop and think of how you **can** find a way to step up and help make good things happen.

Tim – WB9NJS

PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting on March 26 was convened in the Willits Public Library in an effort to gain more attendees that did not wish to drive on Sherwood Road at night. We were partly successful in that 2 members that we had not seen at a regular meeting for more than a year did show up. We had 14 members in attendance plus our section manager Bill Hillendal, KH6GJV. So as not to embarrass anybody, they will not be named in this report.

There was an inquiry about the WARS campout that had not been previously scheduled. It seemed at first that no one wanted to take the initiative to coordinate this event. There was a suggestion that WARS members associate with the Willits chapter of the Good Sam club, the Little Stinkers, as a number of WARS members were already members and officers of that group. That idea was squashed as the Little Stinkers already have almost more participants than they can handle at the events that they attend. There was also a discussion about the size of some of the camping rigs versus the capability of the location where the WARS campouts had been previously held. Finally, George Burton, K7WWA volunteered to make a few phone calls to locate a place for a WARS campout to be held at a future date.

District Emergency Coordinator Len Gwinn WA6KLK mentioned the upcoming Emergency Communications Convention to be held in Reno on May 4-6. Information on-line at <http://emmcomm.org>.

Several items for sale, trade, or give away were mentioned. See the appropriate section of this newsletter for details.

President Tim Hanna, WB9NJS urged the society to again consider organizing and operating a Field Day activity after not having an activity last year and only two operators the year before. With all the new Technician Class licensees coming on board, this would give them a chance to experience an HF operating session as well as provide much-needed public relations exposure to ham radio. There was no one who volunteered to organize and coordinate the effort at this meeting. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

On March 28, members of WARS and many others around the county participated in a communications test from each of the 11 school district offices around the county plus the office of the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) in Ukiah and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) emergency communications trailer. We had hams from Piercy to Gualala staffing school district offices from Leggett to Point Arena. Some 22 licensed amateurs in all participated and demonstrated to the educational establishment that ham radio could provide a useful alternate communications utility in the event of a disaster

making normal communications means unavailable. This exercise was observed by Sheriff Tom Allman and county OES Coordinator Bill Woodworth, both of whom were impressed with the capability of ham radio to perform.

This was the first time for many hams to pass formal written traffic using the ARRL radiogram format. There were mistakes made but we all learned something and will do better in the future. If you would like to review the ARRL radiogram format and instructions, go to the WARS web site, click on Operating Aids and download your choice of format.

By coincidence, a similar exercise also involving formal written radiogram traffic was held in Marin County on April 6 and in Sonoma County on April 7. The Sonoma County traffic could have been and was monitored on 146.955 from Ukiah or 146.655 from Laytonville. A similar exercise is being planned for the Lake County health department and hospitals on May 2 also involving radiogram formatted traffic. It may be possible to monitor this traffic on 146.775 or 147.675.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on April 23, 2007 starting at 7 PM. **The meeting this month will be held in the conference room of the Willits branch of the Mendocino County Public Library at 370 E. Commercial Street in Willits.** The program for this meeting will be a discussion about the possible WARS campout and planning for the Field Day event. Other program items will be announced on the WARS web site Bulletin Board as they become available. Check often.

2007 CALENDER OF EVENTS

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
April 28	VOMARC Hamfest, Sonoma	www.vomarc.org/
April 27-29	DX Convention, Fresno	www.dxconvention.org
May 4-6	Emmcomwest, Reno, NV	http://emmcommwest.org
May ?	WARS Campout	Open
May 20	NHRC Hamfest Sacramento	www.k6is.org
May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention, OH	www.hamvention.org
June 1-2	SF Section Conv., Ferndale	www.humboldt-arc.org
June 9-11	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS or WA6OEM
June 16	Santa Maria Radio Swapfest	www.satelliteARC.com
June 23-24	Field Day in Willits	Open
July 4	Willits 4 th of July Parade	Open
July ? or August ?	WARS Picnic	Open
August 4	Fresno Hamfest, Fresno	www.w6to.com/
September 7-9	SW Division Convention, LA	www.hamcon.org
September 8-10	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS or WA6OEM

September 28-29	TEN-TEC Factory HamFest	http://radio.tentec.com
October 19-21	Pacific Div. Conv., San Ramon	www.pacificon.org
November ?	Hospital Disaster Drill	W6FQX
December ?	WARS Holiday Dinner	Open

Anyone with additional information about any activity is encouraged to contact the editor of this newsletter with this information for inclusion in a future edition of this newsletter.

The activities shown as open indicate an opportunity for you to step up and organize something. The significant opportunities are as follows:

WARS Campout. It has been several years since we had a group camping activity. I thought that it was fun. If you are so inclined, please organize the event. We can solicit interest from members and others at meetings and via this newsletter and you can arrange for a location. Please volunteer.

Field Day. This is the annual event at which we demonstrate our ability to operate away from commercial power sources and pass messages (however trivial) to other stations outside the area. We camp out and picnic at a public location. Even non-licensed and Technician Class hams can operate on HF as long as there is a General or higher class licensee present as control operator. We need a chairperson to obtain commitments from operators and arrange for a location – public access and/or visibility is a plus. Please volunteer.

Willits 4th of July Parade. Do we want to participate? Do we want to march? Do we want to ride in a truck? Do we want to offer our services as communicators to the parade organizers? Who wants to organize this? Please volunteer.

WARS Picnic. We didn't have a WARS picnic last year so maybe we should have one this year. It can be at a private home or in a park. Who wants to organize this? Please volunteer.

WARS Holiday Dinner. Charlie and Arlene Davison (W6FXO and KG6CTJ) have done this for several years now. I think that they have done an excellent job. Maybe they want a rest or maybe someone else wants to organize the event. Maybe you can help. Please volunteer.

Fox Hunt. Do you want to start a monthly or less often hidden transmitter hunt? Let's get together and set up the program again.

Is there anything else that you would like us to do as a group? Some have suggested a Skunk Train trip as a group. Some have suggested a booth display of ham radio at a Roots of Motive Power steam-up event or at the 4th of July Bar-B-Que. How about a spot at one of the Brooktrails flea markets (buy or sell equipment or simply a public information presence)? What do you want to do?

ONGOING HAM RADIO SWAP MEETS

Some of you travel out of the area occasionally and are looking for a ham radio connection. Here are some of the ham radio swap meets in California that I know of:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Livermore	1 st Sunday except when raining	www.livermoreark.org/swap
Cupertino	2 nd Saturday March-October	www.asvaro.org
Manhattan Bch.	Last Saturday	www.w6trw.com
Santee	1 st and 3 rd Saturday	www.ac6v.com/sdswap.htm
Upland	2 nd Saturday	www.gsl.net/w6ier
Chino Hills	3 rd Saturday	www.ac6v.com/sdswap.htm

If you know of more, please let the editor of this newsletter know.

TESTING SCHEDULES

The following is a schedule of the known ham testing sessions in the northern California area in the next few months. Call or email for info or appointment. Remember that the CW Morse requirement for General and above class licenses has been dropped so those of you that have been holding back because of that can now study for the General license. Some of these PM testing sessions have a brief class in the AM, technician and/or general class test.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Carmichael	April 21, 8:15 AM	Kenneth M. Hall 916-492-6115
Sonoma	April 28, 6:30 PM	Joel Nadler 322-0389
Yuba City	May 5, 9 AM	Eddie Ansley 530-742-2674
Carmichael	May 19, 8:15 AM	Kenneth M. Hall 916-492-6115
Novato	May 19, 9 AM	Hamilton Wireless 415-382-8135
Eureka	May 19, 10 AM	Irma Ruegg 826-0767 jruegg3.1@juno.com
Novato	May 19, 1 PM	William B. Smith 415-456-4481
San Rafael	June 2, 9 AM	Alan Weisman 510-237-1978 alweisman@juno.com
Ferndale	June 2, 10 AM	Irma Ruegg 826-0767 jruegg3.1@juno.com
Carmichael	June 16, 8:15 AM	Kenneth M. Hall 916-492-6115
Yuba City	July 7, 9 AM	Eddie Ansley 530-742-2674
Eureka	July 21, 10 AM	Irma Ruegg 826-0767 jruegg3.1@juno.com
Petaluma	July 28, 2 PM	Dale Westerterp 762-9414 dalewesterterp@juno.com

If you know of more, please let the editor of this newsletter know.

If a group of six or more wishes to have a testing session in Willits, it may be possible to bring together a testing team. Please contact Jay Haegele K6AFL to register your interest.

Buy, Sell, or Trade

FREE

35+ foot steel lattice 3 section crank up mast that is severely challenged in appearance. In other words, there is more rust than paint. There is a light weight Alliance rotor and controller of unknown condition. It may or may NOT work. If you have an isolated location and cheap antenna at your summer cabin, this the mast for you. I'll even help you haul it off.

Eddie Alexander AF6AZ Redwood Valley 485-7256

TRADE OR SALE

A 2 meter beam, 23 Ft. boom, 3 reflectors and 15 directors, gamma tuning system. I tuned and tested this, but didn't have a field strength meter to determine the gain. It does work, we had it up on a couple of saw horses and used a hand held and a mobile to good effect. I don't want this much antenna. I would like a lesser 2 meter beam. If you would like to upgrade yours, you may try it before taking the plunge. One of the directors is broken. Actually it's just a piece of aluminum wire. Cheap or leave one element off...

Eddie Alexander AF6AZ Redwood Valley 485-7256

SELL

I have 2 sections of Rohn 25 tower that I would like to sell. I am asking \$75 for the pair.

Rod D. Whitney WD6FGX Willits 459-2025

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Are you interested in emergency communications? In addition to the usual books and monthly columns in "QST" and "World Radio", you may want to check out the web site of the World Radio Relay League, <http://wrrl.org>.

There are a lot of interesting articles and opinions on that site including from some of the leading authors on that subject and links to other interesting sites on the same subject.

GUEST COLUMN

With permission, I extracted this column from the February 2007 edition of "Short Skip", the newsletter of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA). I thought that the comments of SCRA President Dave Harrison, W6IBC, were also appropriate to WARS.

"We live in a fast-paced world. Never enough time to get all the things done that await our attention. Work, school, church, sports, family, home; whatever it is, there just isn't enough time to go around. But wait! We're also radio amateurs. As such, are we active; or, are we passive or inactive?"

"How long has it been since you pushed the mike switch on your ham rig? Does your rig still work? Do you remember how to use it? Where's the manual? Is the antenna working, or has a connector become loose or corroded? There's an easy way to find out: Get On The AIR ("G.O.T.A.")! Get connected with and by ham radio. You studied hard for your license; now make use of it. Start making contacts with other hams. Once you do so, I bet you'll be surprised by the breadth of interests manifest every day on the ham bands."

At least let us hear some of you on the 145.130 repeater once in a while. If you go mobile, announce your call sign. If you are at home and listening, let us know you are there. If you hear somebody on the repeater, give him or her a call for even a short QSO.

TECHNICAL DATA

In a separate pdf file on the WARS web site under Operating Aids, please find a list of the 2 meter repeaters found in the Redwood Empire from the Oregon border to the Golden Gate. The listing order is generally from north to south along US-101 with the listing at the end from north to south along CA-1. This listing includes actual repeater locations as far as can be determined as well as an indication which repeater systems are linked together.

Your assistance is solicited in correcting this list by eliminating duplications or repeaters no longer in operation and by adding repeaters known to be currently operating. Please email any known additions, deletions, or corrections to the editor of this newsletter.

If you know the actual physical location of any repeater (peak, mountain, ridge, etc.) please send that information to me also. If you wish to have this file in it's native Excel format, please email the editor with your request.

73,
John Lemmer, W6FQX
Secretary, Willits Amateur Radio Society

For those who love the philosophy of hypocrisy and ambiguity....

1. Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.
2. One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor...
3. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
4. If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
5. The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.
6. I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.
7. What if there were no hypothetical questions?
8. If a deaf person swears, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
9. If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?
10. Is there another word for synonym?
11. Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"
12. What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
13. If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
14. Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
15. Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?
16. If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
17. Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
18. If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
19. Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?
20. How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?
21. What was the best thing before sliced bread?
22. One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.
23. Does the Little Mermaid wear an algebra?
24. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
25. How is it possible to have a civil war?
26. If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown, too?
27. If you ate both pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?
28. If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?
29. Whose cruel idea was it for the word "Lisp" to have "S" in it?
30. Why are hemorrhoids called "hemorrhoids" instead of "assteroids"?
31. Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot them?
32. Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?
33. If you spin an oriental man in a circle three times does he become disoriented?
34. Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?