



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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: John Lemmer, W6FQX

WEB PAGE: <http://www.k6mhe.com/wars>

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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.

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 – May 2007

Get involved and have some fun!

With summer just around the corner, the opportunities to get involved in various ham activities are about to explode. From community service events to summertime contests and special events, to ham radio swapmeets, there is something happening about every weekend for the next several months. There is absolutely no better time to get out and have some fun with ham radio!

These events are wide ranging, and can be as laid back as providing communications for a local event (such as the Human Race in Ukiah on May 12) to nearly overwhelming as the world renowned Dayton Hamvention (May 18 – 20, in Dayton, OH) with its acres of fleamarket.

There are many events closer to home. For those who cannot make it to Dayton, the same weekend the North Hills Radio Club is sponsoring the NHRC Hamfest 2007 at Bella Vista High School, 8301 Madison Avenue in Sacramento. If a cooler climate is more your style, there is the ARRL San Francisco Section convention at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale CA on June 1 -2. Further up 101 on the same weekend is the Northwestern Division Convention in Seaside, OR.

If buying or selling isn't your thing, try one of the operating events in June. The WARS club call W6MMM will be on the air June 9 – 10, during the June VHF Contest, from Walker Ridge in eastern Lake County. Two weeks later, W6MMM will be heard nationwide, participating in Field Day operations. While plans have yet to be finalized, Field Day operations will likely take place in Ukiah. All hams, whether WARS members or not, are welcome to stop by and participate. Prefer to stay even closer to home? Just turn on your rig, pick up the mic, and join in the fun of one of these on-air events.

Regardless of your interests or experience level in amateur radio, there is something going on to get involved in. What better way to meet new people, see familiar faces, learn something new, and best of all, have some fun!

Tim – WB9NJS

PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting on April 23 was again 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 had one member that had not been previously attending regular evening meetings show up but the two others that came last month did not show up this month. We did have one visitor, KI6CHA, all the way from Albion come to our meeting.

Because we will not be allowed to use the library on a regular basis and because we have not been able to find another suitable location in town, the regular meetings of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be returned to the Brooktrails Fire Station.

President Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, again urged the society to consider organizing and operating a Field Day activity after not having an activity last year and only two operators the year before. As no one else volunteered, Tim volunteered to organize this effort himself. Operators and stations will be needed. Please email Tim with your offers of equipment and/or operating interest,

Secretary John Lemmer, W6FQX, reported that the Jackson State Forest will be open for general camping after May 13 including the group camp site near the egg take station. This left only one weekend prior to the Memorial Day weekend, May 18-20. Although prior information indicated otherwise, a call to Jackson State Forest at 964-5674 indicated that no reservations will be accepted – strictly first come, first served.

The opinions expressed at the meeting were that there was not enough time for persons to make plans for that weekend for a WARS campout. As June is fully occupied with other ham radio activities, there was no action taken on an official WARS campout prior to perhaps September.

HOWEVER, anyone wanting to make this an unofficial campout is welcome to go there and provide a report later possibly aiming for a WARS campout in September. Be aware that large camping rigs may have trouble negotiating the turns on the road. For more information on the site, Google on Jackson State Forest and select the noyopacific link for the best description. Be aware that the organization that created this web site is no longer in business and the link may not work in the future.

For a map, click on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest link and follow the link trail to State Forests and Jackson or go to www.fire.ca.gov/rsrc-mgt_jackson.php and download Base Map Detail 1. I think that the site that we have used in the past was Tilley. Services are minimal at this campground with no drinking water available.

There was a discussion at the meeting about the lack of a coordinating organization in Mendocino County to organize the response to a disaster requiring amateur radio facilities. The relative merits of ARES, RACES or ACS were considered but no action was taken at the meeting. Some members thought that the sheriff should be the focal point (RACES or ACS) while others had different ideas and thought that an ARES organization would be better.

The secretary and editor of this newsletter urges that all amateurs in Mendocino County interested in participating in a county-wide ARES organization email him with their opinions and interest. This will be a county wide operation and not limited to Willits or WARS. It is expected that the various areas within the county will have their own nets and other activities but that an ARES activity may be able to coordinate between the various areas. Any interest in this organization will be passed on to ARRL section and district officers.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on May 28, 2007 starting at 7 PM. Yes, we know that it is Memorial Day. The program for this meeting will include a discussion about the 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.

We have enhanced the value of the raffle offerings with the help of a discount from HSC Electronics in Rohnert Park. Thanks Ed.

2007 REMAINING CALENDER OF EVENTS

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
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	WB9NJS
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 14-16	WARS Campout	Open
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:

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. Contact WB9NJS to offer equipment, vehicles, or your presence.

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 Campout. How about a campout in the Noyo River area after the summer activities. Anyone interested. Contact W6FQX to register your interest.

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

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.qsl.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	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 dalewestretrp@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

As usual, this space is reserved for ham radio items for sale or trade or items that you are looking for. Your ad here will run once unless you contact the editor of this newsletter and request another listing.

TECHNICAL DATA

In a separate pdf file on the WARS web site under Operating Aids, please find a revised list of the 2 meter repeaters found in the Redwood Empire from the Oregon border to the Golden Gate. The frequency of the repeater in Dinsmore has been changed since the last listing and the repeaters listed for Yorkville and Annapolis have been deleted. The latest list is dated May 2007.

Also in a separate pdf file under Operating Aids, please find a list of the open 440 MHz repeaters in the Redwood Empire from Crescent City to the Golden Gate. Note that there are many more closed repeaters and those listed are only those listed as open to all users in the ARRL repeater guide and the NARCC listing.

Your assistance is solicited in correcting these lists 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.

MAP OF HAM QTH

Here is a neat link to find yourself or any of your ham buddies on the map or in the satellite picture: <http://www.vanityhq.com> and click on N4MCs Ham Locator

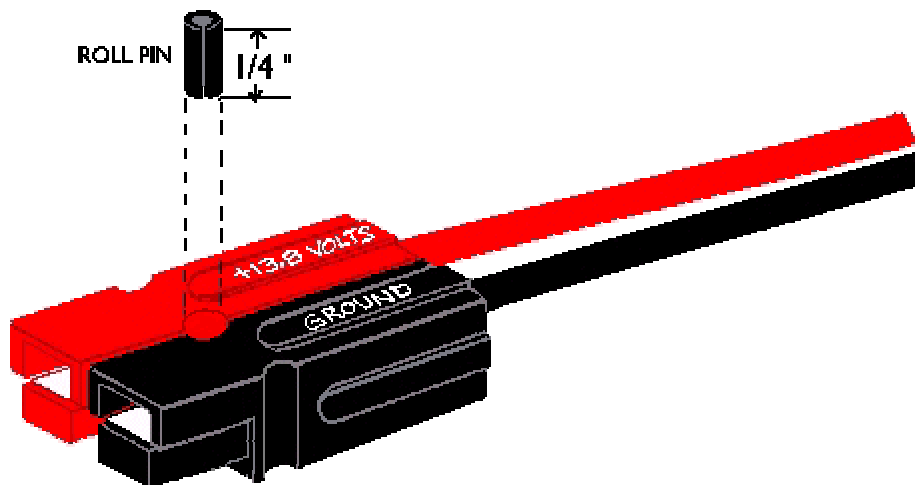
To use simply type in the ZIP code and select map resolution. If you have a fast internet connection, you may also want to select the satellite or hybrid views. You can zoom in and move around in the picture. Click on any of the simulated push pins to display the name, call sign, and address. Naturally this does not work for post office box addresses.

PowerPole Connector

The State of California Office of Emergency Services (OES) prescribes the Anderson PowerPole as the standard DC power connector for use by State Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) personnel, and recommends its use by County and City RACES personnel as well. RACES groups throughout California and the United States have now adopted this connector. Many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) units have also adopted this connector as a recommended standard.

Using this standard, highly reliable, connector allows quick and easy installation and substitution of radios, power supplies, batteries, and other equipment. This may become important in the aftermath of a disaster as substitution of malfunctioning equipment becomes necessary. This standardized connector also facilitates checking out of any radio on a test bench if the test bench power supply is also so equipped.

Either the 15, 30, or 45 ampere rated contacts may be used, and all contacts mate with each other. The plastic parts are the same for all sizes. The barrel area (which holds the wire) varies with the contact rating varies but the contact area is the same. The connector bodies dovetail together into a compact unit.



Housings should be paired according to the diagram above, viewing from the contact side (opposite the wire side), tongue down, hood up, RED on the LEFT, BLACK on the RIGHT. An optional 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin, 1/4 inch long, may be used to keep the housings from sliding apart. The connector halves may also be cemented together using a plastic welding cement.

Highly conductive silver-plated copper contacts allow minimal contact resistance at high currents. Self-wiping action on make and break keeps conducting surfaces clean. Contact

shape keeps connectors mated in high-vibration applications and provide quick-break, snap action upon disconnect.

Noncorrosive stainless-steel leaf springs maintain constant contact pressure—ideal for frequent connections/disconnections and intermittent overloading. Durable, high impact-resistant, polycarbonate housing with UL94V-2 flammability ratings comes in many colors for circuit traceability and coding although the recommended standard is Red for vehicle (or equivalent) power and Black for ground.

Identical connector halves are genderless—making assembly quick and easy and reducing the number of parts stocked. Molded-in dovetails allow for a customized harness in a variety of configurations including stacking (red over red, black over black) and linear (red-black-red-black). When the connectors are disconnected, no metal parts are exposed.

The 15-ampere contacts are designed for 16-20 AWG wire, the 30-ampere contacts are designed for 12-16 AWG wire, and the 45 ampere contacts are designed for 8-10 AWG wire. The contacts can be soldered or crimped to wires. Some people both crimp and solder the connections – the belt plus suspenders approach. A crimping tool (#1367G1) is available from Anderson. Other, less expensive, crimping tools may be available. After a contact has been attached to a wire, it should be installed into the housing so that the housing spring latches the underside of the contact.

To remove a contact from the housing, use Anderson insertion/extraction tool #111038G2. You may also substitute a very small blade (jeweler's screwdriver or X-acto knife) to depress the housing spring, allowing the contact to be removed.

Connector parts may be obtained from a variety of sources including the major amateur radio supply houses (e.g. www.aesham.com and www.hamradio.com). West Mountain Radio (www.westmountainradio.com) sells these parts under their RigRunner label and Quicksilver Radio Products (www.qsradio.com) also sells these parts. Powerwerx (www.powerwerx.com) sells a variety of made up cables and power splitters and West Mountain sells a selection of power distribution panels all made up of PowerPole connectors. Some individual stores such as Burgh's Electronics in Eureka also carry some of these parts.

When purchased in a lot of 10 or 12 or more pairs, the 30A connectors generally cost in the vicinity of \$2 for a set suitable for one radio and its associated power cable (2 pairs). If you have not done so before, you should consider doing so for all your radios and other DC powered equipment. If nothing else, the next time that you order a radio, include a set of PowerPole connectors and proceed to convert all your DC power to these connectors.

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

Engineer in Hell

An engineer dies and reports to the pearly gates. St. Peter checks his dossier and says, "Ah, you're an engineer -- you're in the wrong place."

So, the engineer reports to the gates of hell and is let in. Pretty soon, the engineer gets dissatisfied with the level of comfort in hell, and starts designing and building improvements. After awhile, they've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan up on the telephone and says with a sneer, "So, how's it going down there in hell?"

Satan replies, "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God replies, "What??? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake -- he should never have gotten down there; send him up here."

Satan says, "No way." I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers, "Yeah, right. And just where are YOU going to get a lawyer?"