



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 an informal breakfast meeting held every Friday starting at 8:30 AM at Denny's Restaurant in Fort Bragg.

From the prez – May 2008

A long journey is comprised of many small steps....

Last week I was fortunate enough to participate in what may have been a first in Mendocino County. On May 14, public health facilities from the coast to the inland valleys were linked via a network of amateur radio stations installed at each facility. Dozens of amateur radio volunteers took part in this exercise, organized by the Public Health Department, demonstrating that this county has not only the equipment, but also the human resources needed to support emergency communications.

Now this drill was not particularly complex, lasting only a little over 45 minutes. No life and death traffic was passed between the locations, but information did flow to and from the various facilities. The exercise was limited to just the amateur operators, with almost no direct involvement by the administrators of the health care facilities. Some may be inclined to pass this off as a relatively insignificant event, as it was such a "small step".

During the exercise, however, I had time to reflect on the significance of what I was involved in. I was logging the transmissions between the net control station at the Emergency Medical Services office in Ukiah, and Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, so I had a few minutes to think between calls. As I listened to the operators at each facility respond to several different queries by net control, I thought about what it had taken to make this exercise a reality.

The journey began over a year ago, when many elements, like individual hams, CERT groups, and "Ham Camp" started coming together. Momentum grew as newly licensed hams from Ham Camp joined with some of the more experienced hams in the county and began discussing ways to become better prepared for emergency communications in Mendocino County. The discussions lead to ideas, which grew into plans, which resulted in actions. Regular local nets were formed, links between repeaters up and down the 101 corridor were revamped and a weekly county wide net was started. Throughout the course of the last 9 months, an increasing number of communities organized local nets and began participating in the weekly county wide net. Those participating in the nets, whether fresh or seasoned hams, gained experience, confidence and poise.

I realized that it had taken numerous small steps, and the commitment of many in our communities, to make this exercise a reality. Sure, the success of this drill does not mean that we are ready to face "the big one", but it is a sign that we are taking the steps needed to be better prepared to respond when that time comes. Preparation for

emergency communications is not a destination, but an ongoing journey, one comprised of many small steps. So I ask everyone to celebrate these steps, however small they may be, and invite everyone to join us on this journey, one step at a time.

Tim – WB9NJS

LAST MEETING

The last meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society on April 28 featured our own Janet Rayner, KI6FRT, teaching some of us the basics of drawing simple objects using pencils on paper. The lesson involved each of us drawing the back of our hand by measurements and observation and appropriate technique and methods. Some of the participants found that they had a previously undiscovered talent and some of us found that our talent in that area remained undiscovered.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society on May 26 (yes we know that is the observed Memorial Day holiday) will be a presentation organized by our own Sharon Hanna KE6YKY on school Science Fair participants and their projects.

The California State Science Fair, held in Los Angeles on May 19 and 20 this year, features projects from over one thousand students from across the state. This year, fifteen students from Willits represented Mendocino County in this prestigious event, and WARS members will have an opportunity to meet some of these students at the WARS meeting on Monday, May 26th. Several of the state fair participants, ranging from 6th grade to high school, will bring their projects to the meeting and talk about their research. Some of the younger scientists, in grades 3 -5, who are too young to participate in the state competition, will also be present, to display their projects. Please don't miss out on this chance to meet these exceptional students. They deserve to have a room full of WARS members present to recognize their accomplishments.

TEST SESSIONS

To locate posted test sessions, go to <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> and enter your ZIP code and mileage radius for which you are interested in traveling. These are the known test sessions within 100 miles of Willits:

06-Jun-2008 (FRIDAY)

Sponsor: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Time: 9:00AM Technician Class Review, 2:00 PM Testing Sessions

Reservations Required -- Limited to 25 persons

Contact: Annie Robinson

(707)-472-2750

Email: robinsoa@co.mendocino.ca.us

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec) SMRS Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society

Location: Mendocino County Public Health Department
1120 S. Dora Street, Ukiah Conference Room 1

07-Jun-2008

Sponsor: SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS

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

Contact: BRIAN D TORR

(707)575-5871

Email: N6IY@ARRL.NET

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#) SCRA Sonoma County Radio Amateurs

Location: BLOOD BANK OF THE REDWOODS

2324 BETHARDS DR

SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

12-Jul-2008

Sponsor: YUBA SUTTER ARC

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

Contact: CLARA M ANSLEY

(530)742-2674

Email: EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

715 KING AVENUE

WALKINS ACCEPTED BET 9-10AM

YUBA CITY, CA 95991

23-Aug-2008

Sponsor: VALLEY OF THE MOON ARC

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

Contact: JOEL L NADLER

(707)545-1782

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

MCDUGAL HALL

WILSON STREET AT ARNOLD DRIVE

GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

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. Some of the frequencies and times have been changed recently. Here is what is known at this time:

Albion	Monday	3:00 PM	147.570 Simplex
Brooktrails	Wednesday	7:15 PM	146.580 Simplex
Hopland	Wednesday	7:15 PM	147.510 Simplex
Mendocino/North Coast	Wednesday	7:00 PM	146.520 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/Ukiah	Wednesday	6:00 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 as a resident or as a visitor. Net control duties usually rotate 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.

To facilitate hearing the desired stations and rejecting other stations out of the area on the same frequency, all stations are requested to transmit a tone of 103.5 Hz in the same manner as would be used to access a repeater. You may set your receiver for tone squelch (also known as CTSSS squelch) at your option.

There is also a county-wide net at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays using the linked 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.

Following the county wide repeater net, there is often a county wide simplex net checking on which stations can hear and work other stations. At the present time, this net is being conducted on a somewhat non-standard frequency, 145.555 MHz. Also for this simplex net, stations are requested to transmit a tone of 103.5 Hz. You may set your receiver for tone squelch (also known as CTSSS squelch) at your option.

All of these nets are organized under the auspices of the Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service (McARCS), an association of amateur operators interested in preparing for communications in the aftermath of a disaster. The web site for McARCS can be found at <http://mcarcs.org>.

2008 CALENDER OF EVENTS

Here are some of the interesting events in ham radio for the remainder of this year. Check out the web sites listed for more information.

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>
June 14-16	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS
June 28-29	Field Day	WB9NJS
July ?	WARS Picnic	Open
August 30	W6OMF Hamfest, Vacaville	WA6KLK
September 12-14	SW Div. Convention, Mesa, AZ	www.azhamcom.org
September 13-15	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS
September 26-28	SF Section Conv., Ferndale	www.humboldt-arc.org

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

May 10, 2008

On May 10 hams from across Mendocino County assisted in the "Human Race" event in Ukiah. This fund raising event for local non-profit organizations features a 3 and 5 km run/walk from the Alex Thomas plaza in downtown Ukiah, to Todd Grove Park on the west edge of town. Several hundred participants made their way along this course on a beautiful spring morning. For the second year in a row, volunteer amateur operators were positioned along the course, providing an opportunity for event organizers to keep tabs on the event and participants. As is usually the case, participation in such an event was a learning experience for the hams involved.

Participating in this event alphabetically by suffix: AF6AZ Eddie Alexander, W6FQX John Lemmer, KI6IDK Bob Nimmons, KI6ISF Diane Cline, KI6ISH Christine Dektor, KI6ISS Doran Lincoln, KI6JHT Norma Gibson, W6JRC Jim Cline, KI6MJC Marcella Chandler, WB9NJS Tim Hanna, KI6PBH Ron McDaniel, and KG6PBS Betty Lemmer.

Many things went well. None of the participants got lost or injured during the race, and the hams were able to effectively cover the course using primarily handheld 2 meter radios. The addition of a bicycle "rover" station increased the effectiveness of the ham coverage, while adding to the positive public exposure.

As usual, a number of lessons were learned to be applied to another event. Among these were the necessity to be sure that your batteries were fully charged and that any power cords were compatible with the equipment. Operators are urged to become thoroughly familiar with their equipment in order to facilitate frequency changes as necessary. Operators of Yaesu brand equipment are particularly urged to become familiar with the WIRES mode in their equipment so that mode can be turned off.

A discrepancy was noted between two different sets of PowerPole connectors. Please be sure that any cables that you make using these standard connectors have the Red (positive) connector on the left and the Black (Ground) connector on the right as you are looking at the mating face (opposite the wire end). The square hoods should be uppermost and the connector contacts should lie on the bottom of the connector housings. The contacts should be pushed fully into the housing so that they snap over the retaining spring. Too much solder may interfere with this action.

While conveniently located near the center of the plaza, the operating location was a bit too close to the stage and PA system, sometimes making communications with the stations on the course difficult. The net control operator was not assigned that duty until the day of the event, so was not fully prepared for that task. The last minute assignment of hams to specific positions along the course made it difficult to assign good tactical call signs and for net control to track the progress of the participants along the course. All in all, both the event organizers and the hams involved were pleased with the outcome. The lessons learned this year will make for an even better result next year.

May 14, 2008

On this date, a practice session was held to activate the ham radio equipment in the various hospitals and public health clinics in Mendocino County. Some of the hospitals have had the previous equipment there upgraded and there has been new equipment installed at other locations. The facilities utilized in this session were the following: Coastal Valley Emergency Medical Services, Ukiah; Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Ukiah; Hillside Health Center, Ukiah; Howard Memorial Hospital, Willits; Little Lake Health Center, Willits; and the Mendocino Coast District Hospital, Fort Bragg. Participating in this activity alphabetically by suffix were: W6ANI Annie Robinson, KG6CBH Marlene Goforth, KI6CHA Janie Tate, W6FQX John Lemmer, KI6FRU Chuck Harden, KI6FRV Annie Hinchey, KI6FRW Linda Morrison, KA6GBQ John Wilder, WD6HDY Richard White, KI6IST Suzy Miller, KI6ISY Cynthia Snider, W6JRC Jim Cline, K6KOH Fran Kohler, KI6MJC Marcella Chandler, WB9NJS Tim Hanna, KG6PBS Betty Lemmer, KI6PPT Troy Gustafson, KF6UDJ Don Morosi, W6UME Frank McGarvey, KC6UNN Cody Snider and Steve Turner ex WA6HCJ but soon to be licensed again.

Several operators commented that a set of earphones would be helpful in screening out external sounds and conversations. Perhaps operators should be prepared with plug-in extension speakers having non-switching headphone jacks so that both speaker and headphone audio could be available simultaneously.

This practice activity is in preparation for the combined Lake and Mendocino Counties Mass Casualty and Hazardous Material spill exercise on May 28. Many of the amateur radio operators in Mendocino County have been previously informed about this exercise. A report will be in the June issue of the WARS newsletter.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of the public service communications opportunities in the upcoming months in Sonoma County:

You might want to put these events on your calendar and plan on participating. Please contact Craig Gaevert, K6XLT, at 545-4133 or cgarch@sonic.net for more information on the Sonoma County events. The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) club is coordinating the ham radio communications for these events in Sonoma County.

June 21 The Terrible Two

According to the SCRA newsletter, "(if you only work one event a year, this is the one)" This is a 200 mile bicycle ride starting in Sebastopol, going through Santa Rosa and east into the Napa valley and back, up to the Russian River near Cazadero and back to Sebastopol. 5:30 AM start, finish 11 PM. SCRA gets a donation for providing radio communications. Google "The Terrible Two" to get all the details.

August 23, The YWCA Ride

This ride of 10k, 50k or 100k (rider's choice) is a fund raiser for the Sonoma County YWCA. A Google search of "The YWCA Ride" yields only sketchy information about the 2008 ride but there is more information about the 2007 ride from the santarosacyclery.com site. Follow through on the ywca.org/sonomacounty link for more information.

September 13-14, Waves to Wine.

Another bicycle ride. This is a two day bike ride from AT&T park in San Francisco to Sonoma County (with an overnight festival) ending up in Sonoma. Two legs, each of 75 miles. This is a fund raiser for MS. Google "Waves to Wine" for more information.

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.

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 in a Word or compatible format. (I can open nearly all modern word processing programs but may have to edit some of them into a Word format.)

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

Here is an article that I found on the Emcomm Monthly Archives

I thought that we could all learn something by it!

"Making Good Operating Procedures A Habit"

Let's face reality folks. When push comes to shove, and when the chips are down, the majority of emergency communications will be voice (radiotelephone). At least in the United States. 100 years ago it was *all* in Morse. Spark gap was the mode-o-day...then later CW dominated. That was all there was. If you weren't a Morse operator...you didn't communicate. 50 years ago a reasonable guess might be that it was 50% Morse and 50% AM 'phone. (some SSB maybe) and a little FM.

It makes no difference if your favorite mode is CW or digital, and that voice is the least efficient, the reality is that most EmComm is on voice...and will probably remain their for a long time. CW, digital, and other modes are more effective in many ways and still have their place, and can (and will) be used very effectively to *supplement* voice communications...in certain situations and for specific functions. However, the reality remains...like it or not...voice is where we are at.

We all learned to speak before we entered kindergarten. By the time we left grammar school, most of us could read and write fairly well. By the end of high school we all (should have at least) mastered basic verbal and written language skills. (While some of us had learned the Morse language by that time, many had not, and struggled to learn it later in life. Many hams learned just enough Morse to pass an exam...and unfortunately never or rarely use it.) SSB and FM prevail.

In all public service good communication skills are essential. But, unfortunately what we hear on the bands...is (usually) NOT a good example of effective communication skills. As EMCOMM operators, we must NOT allow ourselves to become mediocre (or worse) voice communicators. Sadly, many operators emulate what they hear on the air and assume that what they hear, by both newcomers and old timers, is proper. NOT!

So how does a skilled voice radio operator...operate?

A GOOD VOICE EMCOMM OPERATOR:

1. **ALWAYS** makes sure that his/her transceiver is properly adjusted. Mic gain level, on the proper frequency, not using excessive power, etc.
2. **ALWAYS** speaks clearly and succinctly...and not too fast.
3. Establishes two-way contact and obtains for a signal report before starting a transmission. (If you want a "radio check" take your radio to a repair shop.)
4. Avoids talking directly into a microphone. Rather talks "across the mic but close to it" and thus avoids plosive breath sounds or weak voice.
5. Knows and uses ITU Phonetics – not funny ones.
6. Uses **ROGER solely** to indicate that a transmission has been received and is understood. (ROGER is the voice equivalent of R in Morse.)
7. Does not use ROGER for "yes", "affirmative", or "I agree with you" and does not say: "That's a big ROGER" or some other similar slang term.
8. Says **AFFIRMATIVE** for "yes" and does not use it in place of ROGER. (They are not the same.)
9. Says **NEGATIVE** for "no". "Nega-tory" is not in his or her vocabulary.
10. Uses **SAY AGAIN** when they need something repeated. "Repeat" or "please repeat" may be confused with "received"
11. Says the call sign or tactical call sign of the station he or she is turning the contact over to followed by **OVER** or **GO AHEAD**. (Same as K or KN in Morse.)
12. **NEVER** "quick keys." On 'phone allow a pause of 0.5 to 1.0 seconds before PTT to let others break in, and then pause another 0.5 to 1.0 seconds before speaking. (To avoid cutting off the first letters or word of your transmission.)
13. Keeps transmissions reasonably short.
14. Pays attention and practices "TLC"...("To Listen Carefully").
15. Knows where he or she is located and knows how to effectively communicate that location to another station.

16. Says: "Say your location" or "What is your location?" Never: "What's your QTH?", "What's your 10-20", or (worse yet) "What's yer twenty?". (Note: Law enforcement uses the "10 code" and their own phonetics. Amateur, commercial, maritime, aeronautical and other operators use ITU standard prowords.)

17. Stays in a net (and pays attention) unless checked in and checked out.

18. Does not ask another operator to "check me in" (to a net) unless he/she is in **radio** contact with the relaying station during the net period. Telephone, email, Internet and other landline circuit relays are not radio...and do not count. Nor does: "Check me in to the net tonight. I'm going bowling." This puts the other operator on the spot and is useless.

19. **NEVER** whistles, says "hell - oh", or blows into a mic when transmitting over the air. (Use a dummy load instead.)

20. **NEVER** keys down on a frequency that is in use to adjust an antenna matching unit, and NEVER fails to identify when tuning up.

21. **NEVER** slurs his or her call sign when identifying in voice.

22. **NEVER** transmits using excessive power but uses enough power to ensure that communications is clearly received..

23. **ALWAYS** identifies at least every ten minutes during a communications session.

24. **ALWAYS** remains courteous and respectful of others on-the-air. (Even if the other operator is "a world class lid".)

Adapted from Emcomm Monthly, April 2005

Used with permission www.emcomm.org www.wrrl.org

You Might be Addicted to Ham Radio if...

A friend received a ride from you and remarked that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle. It turned into an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.

You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.

You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.

Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.

A clerk asked you to spell your name and you did so phonetically.

Your spouse asked: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"

You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.

When you see a house with a metal roof your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.

Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.

The first question you ask the new car dealer is "What is the alternator's current output"?

You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.

You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.

Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.

Your spouse (or mother) has had to ride in the back seat because you had radio equipment in the front seat.

You always park on the top floor of the shopping center parking garage, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.

When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack and scan the property for possible tower placement.

You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.

Instead of just saying no, you have said "negative" -- on the phone or in person.

Instead of just saying yes, you have said "affirmative" -- on the phone or in person.

You have used a person's name to indicate acknowledgement..

You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.

You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.

You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.

You've answered the question "what's your address?" with your grid square and GPS coordinates.

You pleaded with your spouse with the words, "I promise, Honey, just one more antenna. Honest! I only need one more antenna, and I won't ask for another one again, ever!" (or replace antenna with radio or whatever else you need just one more of)

Your garage has enough cable, antennas, masts, generators, etc. to put together one large or two small Field Day operations (or wire a half-dozen houses for RF, data, etc.).

You translate any Morse code used in pop music, commercials, the soundtracks of movies, etc. for anyone who will pay attention.

You sometimes sign your non-radio related correspondence with "73"

You and your spouse are watching the movie "Frequency" and you pause the movie to look at the radio and the desk mike.

You get mad at a movie when you discover that they are only using a 'receiver' and acting like it is a 'transceiver'!

When you are on the telephone to the mother in law and she says "goodbye" , you reply "73 and good luck in the contest".

When your living room (and/or basement, car, whatever) looks like an explosion in a radio store - or worse, a collision between a radio truck and a computer truck....

Your boss asks if you understand? And you reply "QSL" !

Your most notable quote is, "Don't throw it out, I can make something out of it".