



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 8:15 AM at the Laurel Street Deli near the Skunk Depot in Fort Bragg.

From the prez – June 2008

A great time to meet new friends....

With the start of summer just around the corner, it's time for to think about getting out and enjoying the long days of the summer solstice. What better way to do this than participating in a nationwide event, involving thousands of hams throughout North America? Even better, to be able to do this within a relatively short drive from home (just a couple gallons of gas away)! Of course, this means the joint WARS/McARCS Field Day operation at Low Gap Park in Ukiah, on June 28 and 29.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a classic ham radio event, that brings local hams together and give us a chance to show our hobby and skills to our communities. This is also an exceptional chance for the local amateur community to get better acquainted, and the timing could not be better.

Just three weeks before Field Day, the Mendocino County Department of Public Health conducted "Ham Camp II", featuring a one-day training and test session. As a result of this effort, 15 new licenses were issued. The new calls run from KI6RIS to KI6RJH (excepting KI6RIV which was previously issued as a vanity call elsewhere). The entire class was invited (and encouraged) to participate in Field Day. Not only will this give many of them their first opportunity to get on the air, but also a chance to meet other local hams.

This is makes Field Day 2008 a unique opportunity for some of us "old timers" to welcome these new hams to our community, and help accelerate their development. Eager to learn more about their new hobby, this is a great chance for us to share our knowledge and experience with the some of the newest members to our hobby.

So whether you have been licensed for more than thirty years or less than thirty days, come out and make some new friends, and just have a great time.

Tim – WB9NJS

LAST MEETING

The last meeting held on May 26 saw two participants in the recent science fair competition bring their exhibits and present an explanation of their experiments.

Janeth Alejandra Alvarez (a 6th grader) had an experiment evaluating the effect of caffeine consumption on typing speed and errors. The observation was that students that consumed caffeinated diet cola typed faster but made more errors than if they had not consumed caffeine. This project qualified at both the Willits and Mendocino County Science Fair judging and was entered in the state competition in Los Angeles. This is her fourth year participating in science fair and hopes to compete at the state level again next year.

Daniela Alvarez (a 4th grader) had an experiment involving the longevity of soap bubbles in high or low temperature environments. The observation was that bubbles lasted at low temperatures longer than at high temperatures. Perhaps a simple experiment but followed the scientific method of testing an initial hypothesis to see if the experimental data confirmed or refuted the initial hypothesis. This project was qualified at the Willits science fair and also entered into the Mendocino County science fair. Following in her sister's steps, she plans to continue doing science fair projects too.

This special program brought forth a number of visitors to the meeting that were interested in supporting the science fair activities in Willits and elsewhere. The Willits Unified School District science fair program produces a number of participants each year in excess of the average participation of school districts around the county, state, and nation. Much of this is due to the encouragement and activities of our own KE6YKY Sharon Hanna.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society on June 23 will include a planning session for the Field Day activity on June 28 and 29. Once again this event will be held in the pavilion in Low Gap Park in Ukiah.

At this planning session we will be collecting lists of equipment and operators for the Field Day event. We will want to know what radios, antennas, cables, and other equipment can be made available as well as your operating and assisting interests. We will be having a pot luck dinner on Saturday evening so plan on attending that as well.

Provisions have been made to allow overnight camping in the area including recreational vehicles and the sheriff is expected to make an appearance at field day as he did last year. We even had him make a somewhat difficult contact last year.

NEW HAMS

The test session held in Ukiah on June 6 resulted in 15 new Technician Class licensees. Please welcome the following new licensees:

KI6RIS Christopher Aplet, Potter Valley
KI6RIT Nick Wharff, Ukiah
KI6RIU Theresa Wilcox, Willits
KI6RIW, Doug Taylor, Hopland
KI6RIX, Carolyn Ruddock, Ukiah
KI6RIY Mary Rosenthal, Mendocino
KI6RIZ Trina Reed, Lakeport
KI6RJA Elizabeth Phillips, Ukiah
KI6RJB Cassandra Kennedy, Clear Lake Oaks
KI6RJC Theresa Hanson, Redwood Valley
KI6RJD Natilie Guster, Ukiah
KI6RJE Cathleen Francis, Marysville
KI6RJF Linda Edgington, Ukiah
KI6RJG Jennifer Creekmore-Juenke, Redwood Valley
KI6RJH Guadalupe Chavez, Ukiah.

TEST SESSIONS

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

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

13-Sep-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

27-Sep-2008

Sponsor: HUMBOLDT ARC

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: IRMA D RUEGG

(707)826-0767

Email: JRUEGG3.1@JUNO.COM

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: REDWOOD COAST AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION

FERNDALE FAIRGROUNDS HAMFEST

FERNDALE, CA 95536

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
Gualala/Point Arena	Tuesday	7:00 PM	147.825/146.610 Linked
Hopland	Wednesday	7:15 PM	147.510 Simplex
Mendocino/North Coast	Wednesday	7:00 PM	146.520 Simplex
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 28-29	Field Day	WB9NJS
August 30	W6OMF Hamfest, Vacaville	WA6KLLK
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 28, 2008

On this date, a drill was held to activate the ham radio equipment in the various hospitals and public health clinics in Mendocino County and to connect with traffic from the mass casualty and hazardous material contamination incident exercise in Lake County. This was a bi-county exercise with victims being transported (figuratively) to hospitals in both counties.

The facilities utilized in this session were the following:

Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Ukiah -- participants KI6MJC Marcella Chandler, KI6IST Suzy Miller, W6UME Frank McGarvey, and KF6UDJ Don Morosi. This was the Mendocino County net control station location.

Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Ukiah – participants AF6AZ Eddie Alexander and W6JRC Jim Cline.

Howard Memorial Hospital, Willits – participants KI6FRV Annie Hinchey, KI6FRW Linda Morrison, and WB9NJS Tim Hanna

Little Lake Health Center, Willits – participants W6FQX John Lemmer, KI6FRU Chuck Harden, and KG6PBS Betty Lemmer. The center was not participating except for the communications exercise with simulated traffic.

A number of amateur operators on the coast were prepared to participate but the Mendocino Coast District Hospital in Fort Bragg declined to participate in the exercise. Although invited to participate were the facilities at the Hillside Health Center in Ukiah and the Redwood Coast Medical Services clinics in Point Arena and Gualala but those clinics also declined to participate. All of these facilities have amateur 2 meter stations either installed or available for connection.

Howard Memorial Hospital decided to use the exercise as an opportunity to hold a full out disaster drill with triage at the street, decontamination tents on the lawn, victims with realistic looking simulated injuries, and even involvement of the emergency room and department. Also participating in these activities as CERT members were KC6CTM Bob Terry, KI6FRT Janet Rayner, and Theresa Wilcox (not licensed at the time but now KI6RIU).

Ukiah Valley Medical Center also held a disaster drill with similar activities as at Howard Hospital. Also participating in these activities was W6ANI Annie Robinson. Annie was primarily involved in organizing the overall ham radio response in Mendocino County for this event. Annie was not able to participate in the communications part of the exercise but helped prepare realistic looking victims.

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.

August 23, The YWCA Bicycle Ride

This ride of 10k, 50k or 100k (rider's choice) is a fund raiser for the Sonoma County YWCA. Google "The YWCA Ride" for information or follow through on the www.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.

On the next pages is an article from the archives of Emcomm.org.

From the Archives of Emcomm.org

VOICE COMMUNICATIONS -- ITU PHONETICS, WHY? -- by D. W. Thorne, K6SOJ

The use of ITU phonetics in both tactical and formal message (record) traffic handling is essential for accurate and efficient communications. (I use them on a daily basis just to keep in practice.) It is my experience that some hams simply haven't ever researched "the why". Others just haven't ever taken the time to learn them.

From the earliest days of radiotelephone communications, several different "official" phonetic alphabets have been used. During WW II the British used one version, while the U.S. had another. Others forces had yet even different phonetic alphabets.

In 1947 the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), adopted rules and procedures that standardized phonetics. The reason? TO SAVE LIVES. There are documented incidents where aircraft (and lives) have been lost as a result of phone traffic being misunderstood or unreadable as a result of non-standard phonetics and thereby miss-communication between pilots (usually by those whose primary language was not English) and ground control stations.

In 1956 the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) adopted the ICAO phonetic alphabet. Today it is THE worldwide standard for military, naval, civilian aeronautical and maritime, search and rescue groups, public safety, (law enforcement being an exception); and...the A.R.R.L.

Below are a few reasons that the ITU Phonetic alphabet is used by proficient EMCOMM and NTS radiotelephone operators:

- 1) It is the INTERNATIONAL standard. Operators for whom English is not their primary language can clearly spell out a word that is difficult to copy. Use of standard ITU phonetics is crucial under conditions of weak or poor propagation or interference. I know personally, of an incident, where EMERGENCY traffic (reporting a traffic accident), originated by an operator with a heavy foreign accent operator (who was visiting in the U.S.), calling for assistance on 2 meters FM was bungled, because the responding ham did not understand ITU phonetics.
- 2) In handling RADIOGRAMS, or other traffic, a skilled operator that is familiar with ITU phonetics will automatically recognize that a phonetic is NOT part of the text of the message. If non-standard phonetics are used, it may confuse the receiving operator and delay the traffic.
- 3) It sounds "professional" and is efficient.

ITU phonetics with the correct pronunciation

A--Alfa	“AL-FAH”
B--Bravo	“BRAH-VOH”
C--Charlie	“CHAR-LEE”
D--Delta	“DELL-TAH”
E--Echo	“ECK-OH”
F--Foxtrot	“FOKS-TROT”
G--Golf	“GOLF”
H--Hotel	“HOH-TELL”
I--India	“IN-DEE-AH”
J--Juliett	“JEW-LEE-ETT”
K--Kilo	“KEE-LOH”
L--Lima	“LEE-MAH”
M--Mike	“MIKE”
N--November	“NO-VEM-BER”
O--Oscar	“OSS-CAH”
P--Papa	“PAH-PAH”
Q--Quebec	“KEH-BECK”
R--Romeo	“ROW-ME-OH”
S--Sierra	“SEE-AIR-RAH”
T--Tango	“TANG-GO”
U--Uniform	“YOU-NEE-FORM”
V--Victor	“VIK-TAH”
W--Whiskey	“WISS-KEY”
X--X-ray	“ECKS-RAY”
Y--Yankee	“YANG-KEY”
Z--Zulu	“ZOO-LOO” sometimes informally in a call sign “Zed”

Numbers pronunciation

- 0 - “ZEE-RO”
- 1 - “WUN”
- 2 - “TOO”
- 3 - “TH-UH-REE”
- 4 - “FOW-ER”
- 5 - “FI-IV”
- 6 - “SIX”
- 7 - “SEV-EN”
- 8 - “ATE” or “A-IT”
- 9 - “NIN-ER”

DECIMAL = “DAY-SEE-MAL”

YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN THE 21st CENTURY when...

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 70) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

AND NOW YOU ARE LAUGHING at yourself!