



# 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 2008**

PRESIDENT: Tim Hanna, WB9NJS

SECRETARY: John Lemmer, W6FQX

TREASURER: Dean Durbin, KE6COB

WEBMASTER: Danny Richardson, K6MHE

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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 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 – September 2008**

A chance to show our stuff....

Earlier this year, a lot of planning and effort was put forth to make Field Day 2008 a showcase for amateur radio in Mendocino County. A public display of amateur radio and emergency communications capability was planned to demonstrate how amateur radio can help support our communities during time of need, and to encourage others to join our ranks. The lightning sparked fires which engulfed Mendocino County in June caused many residents to think about being prepared for natural disasters, but unfortunately forced cancellation of our centerpiece event.

As the hot days of summer now fade to the cooler (and less flammable) days of autumn, the memories of this summer's fires are still fresh enough for county residents to be thinking about our next natural disaster. To capitalize on this, hams throughout Mendocino County are planning to participate in a public event to get some of the exposure missed in June. On Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>, members of WARS and McARCS will participate in the annual Fire Expo, at the Pear Tree Plaza in Ukiah. This operation will include HF and VHF stations and information on amateur radio, emergency communications, and disaster preparedness. Visitors will be given the chance to get on the air and learn about amateur radio from local hams.

I would like to invite all hams from Mendocino County to participate in this event. You can come by and help operate the station or answer visitor's questions. If a trip to Ukiah doesn't fit your plans, you can listen on local VHF frequencies and be available to be someone's first ham radio contact. If you appreciate our hobby as much as I do, please take the time help others discover it. This is our chance to show our stuff to our friends and neighbors.

Tim – WB9NJS

### **LAST MEETING**

The last meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society on Monday, August 25, found a trio of emergency preparedness tips being presented.

Annie Robinson W6ANI showed several of her grab-and-go personal preparedness kits. Her kits range in size from a small zippered bag hardly larger than a coin purse to a fanny pack near her desk, a back pack stored near her bed, and a 5 gallon bucket loaded with many more survival items stored in her truck. Several pages at the end of this newsletter provide a check list that you may want to look at and adapt for your needs.

Anne Dent KI6ISL used her knowledge as a Registered Nurse and her present position at UVMC as the Diabetes educator to explain how to care for medical conditions (such

as diabetes, etc.) in an emergency. She demonstrated a blood sugar meter as well as several types of syringes.

Marcella Chandler KI6MJC presented some ideas for ham radio grab-and-go kits for responding to an emergency or disaster. A page at the end of this newsletter provides some more information as well as many links for more information.

Alan Spivak WA6JBK brought several all copper 2 meter J-pole antennas for donation to needing amateurs. Contributions to defer the cost of materials were accepted.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, September 22. As usual, the meeting place will be the Brooktrails Fire House and the meeting will start at 7 PM. The program will be a surprise.

## **Public Service Communications**

On Sunday, September 14, the team of Tim Hanna, WB9NJS; John Lemmer, W6FQX; and Alan Spivak, WA6JBK set up to provide communications to support the parade associated with the Mendocino County Fair in Boonville. Changes in the sequence of participants were relayed from the parade start point to the reviewing stand and the announcer's booth in the arena. Some of the usual problems involved in setting up stations in unusual locations were experienced but promptly corrected. Sheriff Tom Allman noticed our efforts and gave us his usual encouragement and appreciation.

## **NETS**

A number of communities have been holding a weekly local net. 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
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>.

There is also a Mendocino-Sonoma Emergency net held every Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM on 3925.0 kHz, LSB. If not on the roll call, check in as a visitor when invited.

## **2008 CALENDER OF EVENTS**

Here are some of the interesting events in ham radio for the remainder of this year.

September 26-27 These are the dates of the annual San Francisco Section Convention in Ferndale <http://www.humboldt-arc.org> for more information. This is usually a fun event although it is a lot smaller than some other conventions.

October 17-19 These are the dates of the annual Pacificon (Pacific Division Convention) in San Ramon, California <http://www.pacificon.org> for more information. There is a lot of information about this event on the web site. Check it out!

## **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.

<b>Mini Kit</b> (small case or zip bag)	(Glove compartment - small enough for hiking etc)	important items on top
	space blanket	
	trash bag	
	mini first aid kit	
	dust mask	
	TP	
	fruit snack roll	
	life savers	
	mini flashlight with extra battery	replace battery 1 x yr
	pocket knife	
	lighter or waterproof matches	
	whistle w/compass/matches/small piece of pitch	

<b>Fanny pack</b>	(Office desk drawer or work space)	important items on top
	<i>whistle &amp; knife (attached to key chain on outside of bag)</i>	
<i>back pocket:</i>		
	mini first aid kit	
	N95 mask	
	latex gloves	
	CPR mask	
<i>front pocket:</i>		
	granola bar	
	mini flashlight with extra battery	replace battery 1 x yr
	waterproof matches	
	folding eye glasses in case	
<i>main pocket:</i>		
	mini am/fm/weather radio w batteries duct taped to outside (duct tape can be reused for something else)	replace battery 1 x yr
	space blanket	
	trashbag	
	TP	
	pen/pencil/sticky notes	
	Emergency list contact phone numbers	
	24/7 family communication plan (keep updated)	

<b>Backpack</b>	(Beside Bed)	* Important items on top * Keep like items in separate zip plastic bags
<i>attached outside:</i>		
	boots with socks	
	flashlight	
	whistle	
	multi purpose knife/tool	
<i>front pocket:</i>		
	first aid kit (individualized & including 3 days important meds)	
	N95 mask	
	latex gloves	
	eyeglasses in hard case	
	gloves	
<i>main pocket:</i>		
	space blanket	
	trash bag	
	comfort kit (bandana, toothbrush, bug spray, TP etc)	
	water	replace 2 x yr
	granola bar, fruit snacks	
	small amount of pet food & water dish	
	small roll of rope and duct tape	
	solar/windup/battery radio	replace batteries 1yr
	headlamp with extra batteries	
	extra socks	
	zip off pants/shorts	
	short sleeve shirt	
	long sleeve shirt	
	zip bag - w/ pen, pencil, marker pen, small tablet, 24/7 family comm plan, pre made flyers w/ family & pet photos, description and contact info	
	gas shut off tool in front/on top of bag - can be used to break windows to get out of house	
	24/7 family communication plan (keep updated)	

W6ANI's Personal Grab 'n' Go Kits Check List – Page 2

<b>5 gal bucket</b>	(Car trunk or back of truck)	* Important items on top
	W/toilet seat cover that fits on top of 5 gal bucket (can be purchased at most GIGJoe/camping stores or on-line survival sites)	* Keep like items in separate zip plastic bags
<i>attached outside:</i>		
	boots with socks	
	flashlight	
	whistle	
	multi purpose knife/tool	
<i>Inside:</i>		
	sanitary bags for bucket	
	TP	
	small backpacking stove & fuel canister	replace canister 1 x yr
	food (instant oatmeal, soup, tea, coffee) granola & fruit bars	
	water	replace 2 x yr
	small amount of pet food and small water container	
	first aid kit (individualized & including 3 days important meds)	
	N95 mask	
	latex gloves	
	eyeglasses in hard case	
	work gloves	
	space blanket	
	trash bag	
	comfort kit (bandana, toothbrush, bug spray, TP etc)	
	rope and duct tape	
	solar/windup/battery radio	replace batteries 1x yr
	headlamp	replace batteries 1x yr
	extra socks	
	zip bag - w/ pen, pencil, marker pen, sm tablet, 24/7 family comm plan, pre made flyers w/ family & pet photos, description and contact info	
<i>Optional:</i>		
	fold up shovel	
	small inexpensive tent	
	personal PPE kit (gloves, mask, gown or plastic bag to cover up with, plastic bag to hold contaminated clothes & items)	
<i>Essentials:</i>		
	fire extinguisher	
	gas/water shut off tools	

This is part of the presentation by Marcella Chandler, KI6MJC

Ideas for **Grab 'N' Go** bags, kits, boxes, etc.

The recent fires in Mendocino County and throughout the State were a wakeup call for most of us. Locally, this particular emergency was not a radio event, however, radios were used by the fire crews and main command centers in all of California; some of you may have listened on the emergency frequencies used. Fortunately, only lots of land burned and a few structures; there was not much danger to residents in general. Still... it COULD have been much worse, and our services *may* have been enlisted.

While many of the items on these sample lists seem simple, and you may think you're ready for everything, please look at the various suggestions and take an inventory of your personal readiness. These bags or kits are very personal, and though many of the items are heavily suggested, you need to determine what you're willing or capable of doing in an emergency and what equipment you realistically have that you can keep at the ready at all times.

Rather than print a lot of the pages in this newsletter, you may wish to visit the following web sites and print out what you find useful:

<http://gcares.febo.com/jumpkit.htm>

<http://www.ocraces.org/bags.html>

<http://home.comcast.net/%7Ebuck0/combox.htm>

<http://home.comcast.net/%7Ebuck0/hamgear.htm>

<http://www.gsl.net/kc0nrk/go-bags.html>

<http://nielsenhayden.com/makinglight/archives/009528.html>

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/lah/laheocMAY2002.pdf>

<http://www.ares.santa-cruz.ca.us/newsarchive.htm>

When you are in deep doo-doo, say nothing and try to look like you know what you're doing.

