



# 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 2009**

PRESIDENT: Tim Hanna, WB9NJS

SECRETARY: Elizabeth MacDougall, KI6TIB

TREASURER: Linda Morrison, KI6FRW

WEBMASTER: Danny Richardson, K6MHE

TRUSTEE OF W6MMM, Tim Hanna, WB9NJS

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Sharon Hanna, KE6YKY and Elizabeth MacDougall, KI6TIB

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. Families of members are invited to the breakfast.

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 8:00 AM at Laurel Street Deli located adjacent to the Skunk Train Depot in Fort Bragg.

## From the prez – September 2009

### Time for a change...

Change is one of the few constants in life. Whether we are ready for it or not, change will happen, so we might as well embrace it. Nothing is immune from the forces of change, including WARS. It is time for the members of WARS to look at our organization and decide what it will look like in the future. Over the past year, meeting attendance has increased somewhat, after several years of decline. While this is encouraging, some changes will likely be needed for WARS is to continue into the future.

I am not certain what changes may be needed, whether it be meeting time or frequency, or combining efforts with other amateur radio groups. I do know of one change, however, that must take place. For close to a dozen years, I have held an “elected” position in WARS, be it board member or officer. For more years than I can remember, that position has been president of the society. Although my memory is still fairly intact, the fact that I can’t recall what it is like to NOT be president of WARS tells me it has been too long. With that thought, I feel it is time for others to step up and lead WARS into the future.

A nominating committee will be appointed at the September WARS meeting to select a slate of candidates for 2010 WARS officers. Please think about how you can contribute to the future of WARS and help bring about the changes that may be needed. If you are asked to consider an office, please think twice (or longer) before saying no. The future of WARS depends upon it.

Tim – WB9NJS

### Weekly Nets

Here is the most current schedule of regular nets in Mendocino County:

|                                    |           |         |   |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---|
| Albion                             | Monday    | 3:00 PM | 147.570 Simplex   |
| Brooktrails                        | Wednesday | 7:15 PM | 146.580 Simplex   |
| Gualala *                          | Tuesday   | 7:00 PM | 147.825 Repeater (-/103.5)  |
| Hopland                            | Wednesday | 7:15 PM | 147.510 Simplex   |
| Piercy/S. Humboldt Co.             | Monday    | 7:00 PM | 146.790 Repeater<br>(-/103.5)   |
| Point Arena *                      | Tuesday   | 7:00 PM | 146.610 Repeater (-/88.5)   |
| Potter Valley                      | Wednesday | 7:15 PM | 146.415 Simplex   |
| Redwood Valley/Ukiah               | Wednesday | 6:00 PM | 146.490 Simplex   |
| Willits                            | Wednesday | 7:00 PM | 146.460 Simplex   |
| Walking Repeaters                  | Wednesday | 8:00 PM | 145.555 Simplex<br>(tx 103.5 requested)   |
| * linked nets on linked repeaters: |           |         |   |
| Countywide                         | Wednesday | 7:00 PM | 145.430 -103.5 nor coast&inland<br>145.470 – 103.5 sou coast&inland<br>147.390 + 103.5 central coast&inland<br>147.270 + 114.8 fish rock/pt arena |

## **Inland Mendocino County - HAM ACTIVITIES:**

On September 12 WA6KLLK went to Walker Ridge northeast of Clear Lake, and east of Indian Valley Lake. This is the top of Mt Baldy at 3,600 feet. Contesting has been done from here before and it is a great site. On a clear day you can see from Mt Shasta down to near Yosemite, and on a clear night lights are visible over nearly that distance also. The radio paths are great also.

It is about a two hour trip from Willits and has about eight miles of gravel road that is very rough in spots. The site I used, and have used in the past, is near to a state repeater vault. I learned of this site in the 1970s when I worked at Calfire Leesville which is just a few miles away.

I spent only three hours there this time. That included setting up, operating, and tearing down. It was not so much of a hardcore contest effort, but rather an effort to test some antennas and check out a new band--900 Mhz.

Mostly folks from north of Fresno to Redding were heard and there were not that many of them. Activity seemed rather poor but many of the folks had three, four, or five bands. Only one that I worked had all six bands that I did. They were 50, 144, 222, 432, 927, and 1296. While I had chances at FM also on several of the bands, I did no FM except on the 222 and 927 bands. The rest were ssb and a couple cw contacts.

To the south, the best worked was K6MYC in southern DM07--northeast of Fresno. This was on 1296 ssb and a couple of other bands. Probably around 260 miles airline. To the north was the surprise of the day and showed some good propagation. I worked WB6FFC in CN82--east and slightly north of Ashland Oregon, on Table Mountain. This was at 214 miles airline. These contacts started on 50 Mhz with just quarter wave whips on each end and 100 watts. On 144 Mhz I had about 150 watts and two horizontal loops while he had a quarter wave vertical whip and 50 watts. Cross polarized !! On 432 Mhz I had about 75 watts to a small 11 element horizontal beam and he had a vertical antenna with 3 db gain and 20 watts. Again cross polarized. We both were greatly surprised at the contacts and it showed the good propagation. However no one else was hearing him from the south and I heard no one else from the north.

The antennas tested worked great and I had fun. Total actual contacts were 84, (50--17 and 6), (144--21 and 9), (223.5--12 and 6), (432--18 and 8), (927.5--8 and 4), and (1296--8 and 5).

Allowing for various point differentials, my score was about 5.548. Not too bad for less than three hours operating. Now onto making and trying a few more antennas for the mountain top.

73 Len WA6KLLK

## **FROM KI6MJC, Marcella Chandler in Ukiah:**

There are two upcoming bicycle events for which HAM radio operators are needed:

The first is an event in Sonoma County on Saturday 10/3: <http://www.levisgranfondo.com/>  
These are typically well organized and well run, but a few HAMS backed out and the HAM/SAG coordinator could use more people. If interested, please email me and I'll give Graig Gaevert your information, he is with the [Sonoma County Radio Amateurs](#) and Santa Rosa Cycling Club.

The second event on Sunday 10/4 is local and 100% of the proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club: [http://www.harvestride.com/Harvest\\_Ride.html](http://www.harvestride.com/Harvest_Ride.html)

This event is not so organized but will be a fraction of the immensity of the Fonda. Our assistance was specifically requested, though very late in the game. Nonetheless, I feel we can help make the event better than if we didn't join and this opportunity is ripe for learning!!!

Basics on our local event:

- 4 routes of cyclists, with 4 different start times beginning around 7 a.m., ranging from 11 miles to 103 miles
- 8 total rest / water / food stops (ideally, a radio operator at each)
- 10 HAM radio operators are signed on thus far, so we'll operate a net control, 2 SAGs, and several key stops perhaps in different shifts
- about 200 riders participated last year

If interested, please let Marcella know!! She can be found on the Ukiah/Redwood Valley Net most Wednesday's.

## **OTHER NEWS:**

1. For those of us who don't have the latest ARRL Repeater Book., A Free Online RepeaterList of all US based Amateur Radio Repeaters: <http://www.repeaterlist.us/>

2. Jim Cline: "We also had a SAR call-out for a search in Philo, resolved well by finding the missing 3 year-old, but my participation was limited."

3. John Lemmer, W6FQX and several other inland Mendocino County Hams attended a class on radio net procedures and written message handling Monday, August 31 at the Red Cross chapter facility in Santa Rosa. Rich Freitas, KF6SZA, of the Sonoma County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) presented Net Control Protocol, Logging, Prowords and Written Message Traffic.

4. Newsletter Editor KI6TIB, who received her first FCC license Technician September 25, 2008, just completed a ten-week course on AM/FM Broadcast Receiver Construction. The course was taught at the Red Cross chapter facility in Santa Rosa, sponsored by the Sonoma County Radio Amateur Club and instructed by John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ. The Radio Kit was a Elenco Electronics, inc. MODEL AM/FM-108K with INTEGRAL CIRCUIT, 9 TRANSISTORS, 4 DIODES. WB6FRZ had a range of students from the ham who completed the kit in one evening, to the few of us who were able to almost complete the am portion of the project. For the true beginners, the first evening was spent practicing soldering. Each student was paired with a more experienced ham, who understood electronics, with the testing of the circuits. Rolo's and Kisses chocolate accompanied our efforts.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

John Lemmer presented this following article to published in this newsletter, from the Amateur Radio Newslines 9/18/09, as a piece of great interest.

### **EMCOMM VS PECUNIARY INTEREST: WB6NOA REPORTS THE FALLOUT**

Ham radio educator and emergency communications expert Gordon West, WB6NOA, is weighing in on the growing controversy that is pitting proponents of providing ham radio communications while on the job versus the FCC position that any communications by any ham who is at work, off work, or even on a lunch break and being paid is illegal. The problem says West is that the FCC deems as not legal is for paid personnel conducting a ham radio net. This he says is driving away all forms of amateur radio volunteers from public service and he has thrown his political weight in with those who are calling for the FCC to continue to work with the ham community as the two work together to find a solution. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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According to Gordon West, WB6NOA, the sky is literally beginning to fall. And its falling in on amateur radio participation in emergency communications activities.

In an e-mail to Amateur Radio Newsline, West notes that in recent days he has heard directly from a growing number of hams who were associated with emergency service operations. Hams who are simply walking away from the hobby and from emergency communications work within it. To quote WB6NOA:

"Today , I had calls from a Red Cross chapter indicating they may no longer participate or encourage American Red Cross ham radio training nets . A Red Cross staff member who is a ham, says he is out .

"Another call from a fire department ham who just formed a ham radio disaster communications team. He says he is over and out working with ham volunteers over the air .

"Ans a CERT City coordinator, also a ham, has called it quits for over the air disaster drills on 2 meter simplex."

West notes that as with emergency communicators with ARES and RACES, there is usually a ham or two on staff of various agencies that other ham volunteers work with on the air. He says that all radio amateurs fully understand the rules on pecuniary interest, but without hams embedded in agency staffs who operate in drills and disaster preparation, that ham radio has no one to serve.

In addition to being an acclaimed amateur radio instructor, Gordon West, WB6NOA, is an ARRL District Emergency Coordinator. He is also active with his Red Cross chapter and runs a daily preparedness net on 40 meters. And now he is asking the FCC for its opinion on how volunteers can best work with fellow hams who may be on staff with their local agency and who are wanting to legally run nets for disaster relief training and preparedness.

West adds that he is hoping that the FCC rules enforcer Laura Smith will continue to weigh the many comments from served agencies on this important subject. He points out that both Smith and FCC rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, responded to his initial e-mail within minutes of it being sent. He says that to him this is an indication that the regulatory agency's door is open for constructive comments.

WB6NOA ends by offering his own expertise to the FCC in crafting a solution to the current dilemma. He also quotes section 97.1(a) of the Commissions own rules. A rule which not only defines the reason ham radio exists but recognizes and specifically spells out the value of the amateur service to the public. This, as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the Amateur Radio Newsline studio in Los Angeles.

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Gordon West says that this bru-ha-ha has just undone all that hams have been trying to do to find a purpose, with their local County or City emergency services. He adds that this controversy has likely set back the cause of ham radio emergency preparedness, growth, and cooperation between volunteers and the various agencies that they serve. (ARNewsline™)

### **KI6TIB NEWSLETTER EDITOR CORRESPONDANCE:**

While I, KI6TIB, was traveling HWY 101 South from Cloverdale, around/about Sept. 11, I heard the favorite broadcast radio announce that Sea Ranch had no 911 service and that the outage was caused by a fire burning the fiber optic cables. True or not, I thought the situation was interesting so the next time driving the same trip and listening to the Sonoma Mountain repeater I heard a ham in Sea Ranch. After waiting for that qso to end I put out a query and Sept. 15 received this interesting letter:

I  
Hi Elizabeth,

We talked this morning on the air. Here's some more info on the outage last Thursday. In addition to knocking out 911 service, we had NO service outside of our local area for several hours; we could make local calls, but no outside calls, in or out.

From the Sea Ranch Emergency Management Dept at 3:47pm:

Dear Sea Ranch Members,

There is NO disaster or fire at The Sea Ranch. We have heard reports that news stations out of the area are broadcasting concerns about a fire or disaster at The Sea Ranch. These reports are NOT true. Currently our capability to call 911 is out, but The Sea Ranch Amateur Radio Auxiliary has tested the roadside call boxes and they are functional. Signs advertising "911 Assistance" have been posted at these roadside call boxes. You should call Sea Ranch Fire Dept (707) 785-2648 if you have a request for emergency response. This is the only issue at The Sea Ranch. Cellular phone service is working.

Louise DeWilder  
Director, Emergency Management

From news reports:

911 Service Restored To Coastal Sonoma County  
Posted: 5:16 pm PDT September 10, 2009  
Updated: 8:32 pm PDT September 10, 2009

SONOMA, Calif. -- Sonoma County officials said 911 emergency service has been restored to the north coast area of the county after a fire caused an outage Thursday afternoon. Service went out because of a small vegetation fire in the Fort Ross area, emergency services manager Sandy Covall-Alves said. The outage affected the Sea Ranch, Timber Cove, Fort Ross and Annapolis areas of the north county, but regular service was restored as of 7 p.m. Copyright 2009 by KTVU.com and Bay City News. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

The local ham group gets activated on phone outages; we have either cell or landline outages several times a year. One of our local repeaters is linked into the Sonoma Mountain system, so we can contact Santa Rosa; that's the one we were talking on today. We can also reach the Mendocino County-Wide repeater network via the new repeater installed recently in Gualala. And another repeater has an autopatch on a different phone network. So we're in pretty good shape for backup communications. We had a drill this summer at the request of one of our local emergency agencies, testing our ability to contact both Ukiah and Santa Rosa EOCs via 2 meter; it worked well.

73,  
David  
KI6VEU

## **Agenda for WARS Meeting Monday, 7PM; September 28, 2009**

1. Appointment of nominating committee
2. Discussion/planning for WARS Holiday Dinner
3. Presentation: Alan WA6JBK will give a presentation on basic test equipment used by hams, including oscilloscopes, signal generators, and spectrum analyzers. Tim WB9NJS will also demonstrate the use of an antenna and feedline analyzer, so bring any VHF or UHF antennas that you would like to have checked. Others are invited to participate in a "show and tell" of other basic test equipment which they find useful.

Below are listed the known test sessions in the next two months within 100 miles of Willits, from <http://www.arrl.org/>.

### **Test Sessions**

10-Oct-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA MTN REPEATER SOCIETY

**Time:** 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** DALE WESTERTERP

(707)762-9414

**Email:** [WB6TMS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB6TMS@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** PETALUMA SR CITIZEN CENTER

211 NOVAK DRIVE

[HTTP://SMRS.US](http://smrs.us)

RESERVATIONS HIGHLY PREFERRED!

PETALUMA, CA 94952

22-Oct-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA MTN REPEATER SOC

**Time:** 1:30PM (No walk-ins)

**Contact:** DALE WESTERTERP

(707)762-9414

**Email:** [WB6TMS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB6TMS@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS

5297 AERO DRIVE

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED!

[HTTP://WWW.SMRS.US/](http://www.smrs.us/)

SANTA ROSA, CA 95401

24-Oct-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS

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

**Contact:** BRIAN D TORR

(707)575-5871

**Email:** [N6IIY@ARRL.NET](mailto:N6IIY@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** BLOOD BANK OF THE REDWOODS

2324 BETHARDS DR

SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

07-Nov-2009

**Sponsor:** YUBA SUTTER ARC  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** CLARA M ANSLEY  
(530)742-2674  
**Email:** [CMA1932@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CMA1932@YAHOO.COM)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
715 KING AVENUE  
WALKINS ACCEPTED BET 9-10AM  
YUBA CITY, CA 95991

07-Nov-2009

**Sponsor:** THE SEA RANCH AR AUXILIARY  
**Time:** 5:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** DENNIS K KELLEHER  
(707)785-1089  
**Email:** [KI6HHA@AOL.COM](mailto:KI6HHA@AOL.COM)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** BILL PLATT TRAINING CENTER  
38901 OCEAN DRIVE  
GUALALA, CA 95445

15-Nov-2009

**Sponsor:** VOMARC  
**Time:** 1:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** JOEL L NADLER  
(707)545-1782  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** SONOMA SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EOC  
175 1ST ST W  
SONOMA, CA 95476

15-Nov-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA COUNTY R.A. INC.  
**Time:** 2:00 PM (No walk-ins)  
**Contact:** BRIAN D TORR  
(707)575-5871  
**Email:** [N6IYY@ARRL.NET](mailto:N6IYY@ARRL.NET)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** RED CROSS BUILDING  
5297 AERO DR  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95401

12-Dec-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA MTN REPEATER SOCIETY  
**Time:** 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** DALE WESTERTERP  
(707)762-9414  
**Email:** [WB6TMS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB6TMS@ARRL.NET)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** PETALUMA SR CITIZEN CENTER  
211 NOVAK DRIVE  
HTTP://SMRS.US  
RESERVATIONS HIGHLY PREFERRED!  
PETALUMA, CA 94952

**Buy, Sell, or Trade** – email the newsletter editor to include recent bargains up for sale, trade, or wish list to find.

Jim Cline items for sale:

Cushcraft Ringo 2m/440 antenna, (short model), \$40,  
Heathkit TX-1 Apache transmitter, AM/SSB, 150 watts,(aka-"the scratchy Apache"). \$100.  
Kenwood HM-8 microphone, \$5.  
Misc. panel meters, to 10 amps, and micro-ammeter, either, \$15.  
Micronta analog Volt/Ohmmeter, w/new test leads, \$10.  
Heathkit 2060A full power tuner, very clean and smooth, \$225.

Editor note: This following may be too late, but just incase...

Carl Heft, KM6GU is leaving the area and moving to a place that does not allow ham radio. He would like to sell the following radios before he goes.

**KENWOOD TS-430S**

GOOD OLDER HF TRANSCEIVER – RECEIVES .150 TO 30 MHz  
160 THROUGH 10 M + WARC 1980 BANDS  
HAS EXTERNAL TRANS-VERTER CAPABILITY  
CAN BE CONVERTED FOR ALL HF FREQUENCY TRANSMISSION  
\$300 OR BEST OFFER

**ICOM IC-255A**

OLDER 2m FM 25 W TRANSCEIVER  
5 MEMORIES, 25W  
NEEDS TONE BOARD FOR REPEATER OPERATIONS  
PERHAPS PACKET OR APRS RADIO  
MAKE AN OFFER

You can call Carl at 459-4133 to discuss terms.

**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, [ki6tib@arrl.net](mailto:ki6tib@arrl.net). If you have run across a published article in another medium that you think should be published here, obtain permission to publish it from the author or publisher and WARS will gladly re-publish the article.