



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 – October 2008

Teamwork like the pros....

Saturday October 4th turned out to be a truly delightful day. Despite lingering rain showers, hams from throughout Mendocino County gathered at the Pear Tree Center in Ukiah to participate in the Ukiah Fire Safety Expo. Their goal was to demonstrate how amateur radio can help support our communities during time of need, and to encourage others to join our ranks. The event was a smashing success. Hundreds of visitors stopped by to learn about amateur radio, emergency preparedness, CERT, and steps they could take to be ready when the next disaster strikes. More than a dozen of the bravest visitors, ranging in age from about 4 years old to “senior”, ventured into the communications trailer to make their first ham radio contact. My thanks to all the hams that participated, both those on-site at the event and those providing contacts on the radio.

One of the more memorable moments for me, however, came before the event opened to the public. Although I've been involved in numerous Field Day and VHF contest operations, this was the FIRST operation where I had seen a fire department ladder truck used to help erect the antennas. While having this kind of assistance was much appreciated, what really struck me as impressive was the process. It was fascinating to watch the firefighters set the truck and maneuver the ladder into place, working together to accomplish the task at hand. Observing the crew, it was obvious that they had trained and practiced together. Each member of the crew knew not just their own role, but also the role of everyone else on the crew. Working together, as a team, they completed the task safely and efficiently.

It's teamwork like this that allows amateur operators to provide effective emergency communications. This level of teamwork does not just happen, however. It is a result of training, dedication, and practice. If you are interested in supporting your community with emergency communications, please invest the time and effort necessary to become part of an effective team.

Tim – WB9NJS

PREVIOUS MEETING

At the WARS meeting on September 22, Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, demonstrated the latest program for Slow Scan Television using amateur radio, MMSSTV Version 1.11G. A week plus a few days later at the meeting of the Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service (McARCS) in Ukiah on October 2, Tim repeated the demonstration; this time actually taking a real time digital photo, transferring it to a laptop computer, transmitting the audio signal via an HT microphone held close to the laptop speaker, receiving the 2m signal on another HT, transferring the received audio signal to another laptop computer, and displaying the photograph on the 2nd laptop computer and on the overhead projector in the county Emergency Operations Center.

Compact disks containing the SSTV program as well as several sound card digital mode programs were made available to those requesting them.

Also at the WARS meeting on September 22, newest member Elizabeth MacDougall announced that she had passed her technician class license exam on the previous day at a two-day class and test session held in Sebastopol under the sponsorship of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) club. Later in the week, Elizabeth received the call sign KI6TIB. Shortly thereafter Elizabeth installed her new Icom IC-2200H in her vehicle with the assistance of W6FQX and shortly after that ordered another one for installation in her home. If you hear Elizabeth on the air, please be sure to welcome her to ham radio.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, October 27. As usual, the meeting place will be the Brooktrails Fire House and the meeting will start at 7 PM. The program will be a presentation by ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl, KG6GJV, showing photographs of ARRL headquarters and other items of interest on a PowerPoint presentation on the big pull-down screen.

Annual Holiday Dinner

The annual Holiday Dinner will be on Thursday December 11, 2008 at the Broiler Steakhouse in Redwood Valley. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 PM, with dinner served at 6:30 PM. Cost will be \$25 per meal, including tip but not including alcoholic beverage, paid to WARS at the event. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to Arlene Davison (459-2011) no later than December 3rd. Membership in WARS is NOT required to attend, as this event is open to all amateurs and their spouses or significant others.

Public Relations Event

On Saturday, October 4, a group of ham operators participated in the Fire Safety Expo at the Pear Tree Center in Ukiah. George Burton (K7WWA) towed his 5th wheel trailer contesting station to the site and made his equipment available for demonstration. Tim Hanna (WB9NJS) and Jim Cline (W6JRC) strung up an HF dipole antenna from two light standards using extension ladders provided by a Ukiah Fire Department engine. Also participating in this event (in no particular order) were Marcella Chandler (KI6MJC), Chuck Heath (K6ZIZ), Liz Phillips (K6OKO), Teri Wilcox (KI6RIU), Eddie Alexander (AF6AZ), Diane Cline (KI6ISF), Cody Snider (KC6UNN), Cynthia Snider (KI6ISY), Tom Ganoung (KG6WVS), Mike Stewart (KI6ISR), Ukiah Valley Fire Chief Dan Grebil (WD6FKJ), Nick Wharff (KI6RIT), Ron McDaniel (KI6PBH), and Alan Spivak (WA6JBK) – perhaps others.

A number of visitors to the display were given the opportunity to make their first ham radio contact and thus receive a ticket for participating in a drawing for a number of door prizes. Operators John Lemmer (W6FQX) and Len Gwinn (WA6KLLK) provided the off-site VHF contacts. Also participating as an off-site operator was a surprise

visitor, John Thomas (KF6OV) all the way from Pollock Pines in the Sierra foothills. KF6OV was using the Sanel Mountain repeater at 145.470, a component of the WA6RQX county wide linked repeater system. In the Ukiah and Willits areas (and others) this system can be worked on the 147.390 repeater. In Laytonville and north and in Fort Bragg, the system can be worked on the 145.430 repeater.

A total of several dozen persons made a ham radio contact including at least one on HF. A total of 15 drawing prizes was given out ranging from first aid kits and handy bags to a hand crank and solar powered radio donated by merchants and agencies including Friedman's, Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Redwood Credit Union, North Coast Opportunities (NCO) and the Mendocino County Public Health department. In addition, many ham radio information brochures from the ARRL were given out to persons exhibiting an interest.

Public Service Communications

On October 18, a number of amateur radio operators provided communications services to the Ukiah Pumpkinfest Parade. These operators included (in no particular order) Tim Hanna (WB9NJS), Jim Cline (W6JRC), Marcella Chandler (KI6MJC), Diane Cline (KI6ISF), Alan Spivak (WA6JBK), Eddie Alexander (AF6AZ), Onnie Alexander (KI6ISD), Nick Wharff (KI6RIT), Bob Nimmons (KI6IDK) and Joy Kinion (KI6IDU).

Public Service Communications

On October 21, a simulated magnitude 6.9 earthquake hit along the Hayward fault in the East Bay. A total of 71,679 households were damaged with approximately 18,244 persons needing short term shelter. Some simulated damage extended as far as Sonoma County and a number of residents required shelter in that county.

On October 23, many county Emergency Operating Centers (EOC) in the 10 affected counties were up and running in simulated emergency mode and the American Red Cross opened many shelters in the various counties. The American Red Cross opened one practice shelter using volunteers from the Senior Center in the city of Sonoma and two simulated shelters elsewhere in Sonoma County.

WARS member Don Morosi, KF6UDJ, provided communications services to the Marin OA EOC in his capacity as member of the Marin County RACES organization. WARS member John Lemmer, W6FQX, provided communications services to the Sonoma Mendocino chapter of the American Red Cross. From the Santa Rosa chapter, ham radio messages were sent to and from the three shelters, to and from the Sonoma OA EOC, and to and from the bay area Red Cross Disaster Operations Center (DOC) in Oakland. Assisting in the Red Cross effort were Red Cross volunteers KI6REP, KI6TEZ, KI6REJ, KE7KVS, KQ6QNT, KI6HTB, and KI6HTC plus Sonoma County Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) members KI6GOO, KI6MSP, and WB6MVT.

It should be noted that the Sonoma Mendocino chapter of the American Red Cross has some 506 registered volunteers, of which 48 hold amateur radio licenses. Out of that 48, only 14 have been licensed for more than a few months. Out of the 506 total registered volunteers, only 64 come from Mendocino County and out of the 48 ham radio licensees, only 11 come from Mendocino County, mostly on the coast.

Of course, many of these Red Cross hams have other responsibilities in the event of a disaster and not communications. In the event of a major disaster, many more volunteers and operators will be required to assist the Red Cross. Please consider stepping up to volunteer for the ARC even if it is only to offer communications services in time of need. Check out www.arcsm.org for more information or contact W6FQX.

I know that some of you are skeptical of the requirement that all Red Cross volunteers now have to undergo a criminal background check that might incidentally access your credit record. That background check requirement applies only to registered Red Cross volunteers carrying Red Cross identification and does not necessarily apply to temporary volunteers who might be in duty for not more than 7 days.

It should be noted that the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center was also in operation additionally using ham radio operators associated with the Sonoma County Auxilliary Communications Service (ACS) and ham radio operators associated with all of the hospitals in Sonoma County. As far as known, no WARS members were involved in this operation.

LOLOL

The humor pages this month are provided courtesy of Marcella Chandler, KI6MJC.

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here, I'll go on a head.'
14. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
15. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
16. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'
17. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
18. It's not that the man did not know how to juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it.
19. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
20. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
21. A backward poet writes inverse.
22. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
23. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
24. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!