



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
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 – November 2008

All shiny and new....

With the holidays just around the corner, I began to reminisce about years past. I remember the simple excitement of finding something shiny and new underneath the tree on Christmas morning. Although the level of excitement may have waned somewhat over the years, it is still fun to have something new to play with on Christmas day. This year, several Mendocino county residents may find a brand new amateur radio license arriving in late December. How is that for something new to play with?

We have been most fortunate to have had at least two training sessions for the Technician class license conducted in Mendocino County this year. As a result of these efforts, several newly licensed hams have joined our ranks. However, like the batteries that are not included with most toys, knowing how to be a ham does not come in the envelope with the FCC license. All of us had shiny and new licenses at one time, and many of us were fortunate enough to have one or more experienced hams willing to show us the ropes.

If you enjoy ham radio, even if you have been around it only a short while, please think about what you can do to welcome new hams to our community. You don't have to be an "expert" with decades of experience to help a newcomer get started on the air. Just be willing to share some of your experience, as great or limited as it may be, and help them feel welcome.

Tim – WB9NJS

PREVIOUS MEETING

At the previous meeting on October 27, our guest speaker was Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, San Francisco Section manager. He provided a PowerPoint presentation covering the Five Pillars of the ARRL including Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership services. There was a general discussion about various regulatory issues and the problems that may arise with the retirement of Riley Hollingsworth. It seems that the FCC as presently constituted has lost interest in enforcement of violations of the FCC regulations in the amateur service.

There was also a discussion about the space communications telebridge station at the Santa Rosa Junior College that is often used to communicate with the International Space Station. The station at SRJC costs in the vicinity of \$40,000 and has the means to connect various school classrooms around the country to ham radio operators on the ISS. For more information go to the following web site:

<http://www.santarosa.edu/NASA/Sarex.html>

ARRL Certificates of Merit were awarded to Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, and John Lemmer, W6FQX, for service in Emergency Communications.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, November 24. As usual, the meeting place will be the Brooktrails Fire House and the meeting will start at 7 PM. This will be the annual election of officers for the next year.

In addition to the election of officers, this will be an opportunity for someone else to step up and take on the job of newsletter editor as this editor will be resigning from this job effective with this newsletter.

The entertainment portion of this meeting will consist of pictures and anecdotes by Dean Durbin (KE6COB) from his recent trip to the United Kingdom including London, Bath, and parts of Wales.

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 Service Communications

On November 1 a group of ham radio operators provided communications service to a fund raising 5k and 10k walk and/or run to raise funds for the proposed dog park in Ukiah. This was organized by Jim Cline (W6JRC) and included WARS members Eddie Alexander (AF6AZ), Alan Spivak (WA6JBK), and Elizabeth MacDougal (KI6TIB) plus Ron McDaniel (KI6PBH) and Joy Kinion (KI6IDU).

This following report from W6JRC:

Weather at the Lake Mendocino Pomo Cultural area at 0830 hours was cool and dry, quickly changing to slight wind and raining cats and dogs, (hi,hi). Hams, and others, were positioned as course marshals, and were set up to direct participants into parking areas prior to the event start at 1000 hours.

There was less than 20 participants and dogs.

The positioning and number of Hams would have handled probably up to 100 participants, including parking. Unfortunately, the event was not promoted very well, suffered some from weather, and a competing event, (Public Health flu immunizations to simulate "Pandemic" inoculations), held at the Fairgrounds in Ukiah.

Some technical issues were encountered: A course change would have allowed us to use Simplex, but operator lack of familiarity with one unit kept us on the 145.130 repeater. Topography did not allow good linkage to the repeater. One mobile rig placed a tone covering some transmissions, a wet microphone membrane on a portable added to the problems. Some relayed information kept us in communication. The event coordinators were very happy with our assistance, and we had a good exercise.

73, Jim

Tool Envy Syndrome (TES)

Tool Envy Syndrome (TES) is a serious condition that afflicts, in varying degrees, nearly all men who are interested in mechanical things. It is very important to recognize and deal with this condition before it becomes serious; left untreated it can lead to a far more serious condition: Inflammation of the Credit Card (ICC). TES is known to strike under the following circumstances:

- Browsing the latest tool catalogs or sale flyers
- Visiting stores such as Grizzly or Harbor Freight (Warning: while much less so than in earlier years, the tool department at Sears can still trigger small attacks)
- Visiting the shop of a friend who has more and/or better tools than you have
- Surfing the web site of someone with a well-equipped shop
- Seeing a well-equipped shop in magazines such as Home Shop Machinist

Tool Envy Syndrome tends to strike young men particularly hard, due its close relationship to a similar condition: Gear Acquisition Syndrome (GAS). Over time, in most men, both of these conditions tend to lessen in severity. In fact, it can be shown that gradual accumulation of tools and gear over a period of years can control both conditions while minimizing the risk of Inflammation of the the Credit Card (this is known as the Mature Phase). It has also been widely observed that getting married and having children can moderate the risk; primarily, it is believed, due to counseling from a loving wife and the sobering effect of having lots more bills to pay.

Tool Envy Syndrome cannot be controlled by any known drugs (although its effects can be exaggerated by the use of alcohol). Therefore, treatment is currently limited primarily to counseling methods. The first step is admitting that you have a problem. Here are some additional pointers:

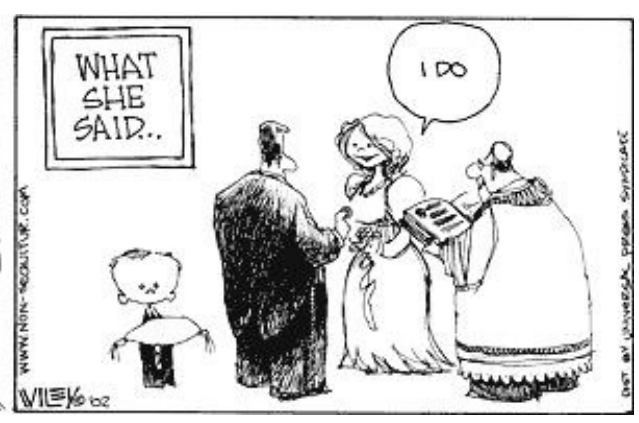
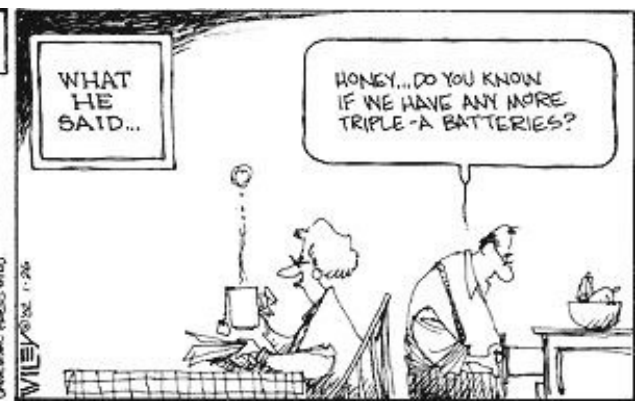
- Avoid situations that are likely to cause an attack
- When visiting tool stores, leave your credit card at home (Warning: in severely afflicted individuals this can trigger emotional breakdown, fits of crying and other irrational behavior)
- Meditate on the fine collection of tools that you already have; recognize that time will make it better
- Find a quiet place. Visualize your ideal shop. Repeat to yourself "It is coming"

I hope you have found this information to be helpful. As a TES/GAS sufferer myself (now in the Mature Phase) I felt compelled to pass it on to you.

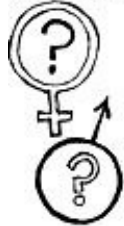
WHY WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.



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