



SPECIAL EVENT

On March 28 there will be a disaster communications exercise involving the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) in Ukiah, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) emergency communications trailer in Ukiah, and the district office of all of the school districts in Mendocino County. These school district offices are located in the cities of Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Manchester, Point Arena, Boonville, Ukiah, Potter Valley, Willits, Laytonville, Covelo, and Leggett respectively.

Linked repeater systems will be used to communicate with Leggett, Fort Bragg, Covelo, and Laytonville and the MCOE station in Ukiah. If the linked repeaters on Cahto Peak (145.430) and Sanel Mountain (145.470) are repaired and installed in time and linked to the 147.390 repeater on Laughlin Ridge, we will be using that system. Alternate systems have been identified as a backup.

In addition, there will be a relay station on Albion Ridge to pass messages between the stations in Point Arena and Manchester using the repeater on 146.610 to the repeater on Laughlin Ridge between Willits and Ukiah to the MCOE station in Ukiah.

Those of you that have previously volunteered for this exercise have your assignments. If you have not previously volunteered for this exercise and wish to, please contact WB9NJS. Use the email link on the Membership Roster page of the WARS web site. Some locations still do not have operators assigned as of the date of this newsletter.

If you are not participating in the exercise, we are requesting your cooperation in making time available for the exercise message traffic but you are welcome to use the repeaters or simplex frequencies on an available basis. Please make your transmissions relatively short and allow for breaking traffic.

Those participating in the exercise will be kept up to date with the plans and assignments as they develop.

WARS OFFICERS for 2007

PRESIDENT: Tim Hanna, WB9NJS

SECRETARY: John Lemmer, W6FQX

TREASURER: Dean Durbin, KE6COB

WEBMASTER: Danny Richardson, K6MHE

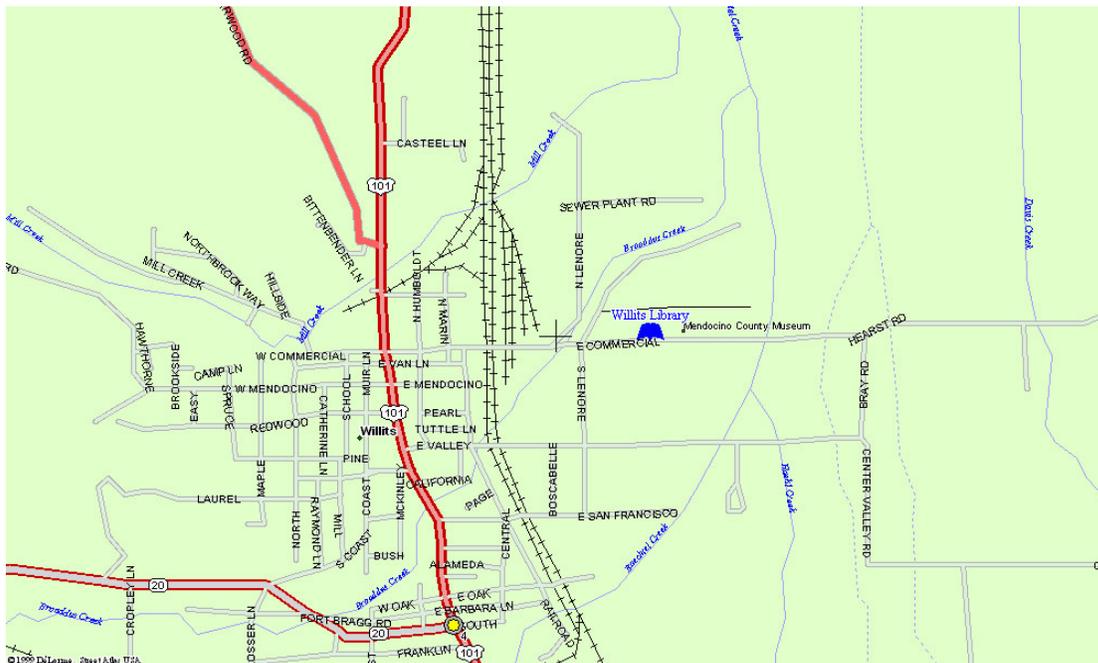
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The Willits Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday (not the last Monday) of each month except for December. **The meetings are normally held at the Brooktrails Fire Department training room, but the March and April meetings will be held at locations in Willits, to eliminate the unnerving drive on Sherwood Road for some attendees. The March meeting will take place in the conference room of the Willits Branch of the Mendocino County Public Library at 370 E. Commercial Street. A map is posted below. Parking is out front or between the Library and the Museum. The suitability of this location for future meetings will be discussed at the March meeting.**



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 Tuesday mornings at the Tradewinds Restaurant in Fort Bragg and a weekly informal breakfast meeting held every Friday morning starting at 8:30 AM at Perko's Restaurant in Fort Bragg.

All interested in amateur radio are welcome to attend any of these meetings whether licensed or not. Please introduce yourself.

In Willits, Ukiah, and surrounding territory, call in on the 145.130 MHz repeater, PL 103.5. In Mendocino or Fort Bragg, call in on the 146.820 or 147.030 repeaters respectively, PL 103.5. Many times these repeaters will be quiet but a call for assistance will often be answered.

From the prez – March 2007

Share your experience....

At a time when the number of licensed radio amateurs is dwindling, any efforts to expand our ranks is welcome news. In the past few months, several groups in Mendocino County have recognized the value of having licensed amateurs available as part of their emergency communications plans. As a result, Technician classes and test sessions have been organized, including a 30 seat "ham camp" slated for mid-March.

While the prospect of adding 30 or more licensed hams in Mendocino County is encouraging, simply holding an FCC amateur radio license does not make one an effective communicator. Obtaining a license is merely the first step, with additional education and nurturing needed to develop the skills and confidence of the new licensees. This action, commonly known as "Elmering", is an essential part of amateur radio. For this to happen, hams with some experience must be willing to step forward and help the "newbies" get comfortable with being hams. The best "Elmers" are not necessarily those with years of experience under their belts, but someone willing to share their knowledge and experience with others.

In the coming months, I would like to see WARS provide opportunities for new hams to become more familiar with their equipment and the hobby in general. Such opportunities will become reality only if our members are willing to make the effort to share their experience. Even if you have held a license for a relatively short period of time, you can help welcome a new licensee to our hobby. Please think about what you can and are willing to do to transform that new licensee into a real ham.

Tim – WB9NJS

HAPPENINGS

The meeting on February 26 was held in the face of a forecast of snow which held down the number of attendees to 11. As it turned out, there was no snow prior to the end of the meeting but there was lots of snow on the ground by daylight next morning.

After introductions all around the room, we found that we had three attendees that came from Redwood Valley independently including two prospective new members. They were all hoping that the snow would hold off over the summit before they went home.

There was an extensive discussion about moving the meeting place to some location in Willits itself to accommodate those members that found driving on Sherwood Road at night uncomfortable. A number of locations were discussed but no decision was made at that time. K6AFL mentioned that he had found out about a possible meeting room in the Insurance/Dentist building across from the hospital that would be made available by the hospital at no charge. This room is fairly small and is not available on Monday nights.

W6FQX mentioned that the training room at the Little Lake (Willits) Fire Department might be a good alternative but that nothing was known about it. Other suggestions were the county museum and the library. W6FQX and WB9NJS volunteered to survey those and any others that came to light and make a recommendation.

W6FQX and WB9NJS made a presentation about the school disaster communications exercise scheduled for March 28. The scope of the exercise was considerably reduced from the program discussed by Sheriff Tom Allman to just communications from the various school district offices instead of all the schools in the county. The initial plan from the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) was just to demonstrate that a message from each of the district offices could be received at the MCOE via ham radio. Our teams of volunteers had been checking this out all month and proved that it could be done.

The sense of the meeting was that it would not be beneficial to anybody if that was all there was to do. A suggestion was made that if the district offices would buy into the program and participate by actually generating simulated emergency traffic, that a considerable participation by the ham radio community in Mendocino County could be arranged. John and Tim volunteered to take that message to MCOE and the county OES coordinator.

There was a considerable discussion about the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) project being pushed by the FCC in the face of considerable opposition by both the ham radio community and broadcasters due to the extensive interference potential of those signals.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on March 26, 2007 starting at 7 PM. **The meeting this month will be held in the conference room of the Willits branch of the Mendocino County Public Library at 370 E. Commercial Street in Willits.**

The program for this meeting will include a final discussion of the plans to support the disaster drill on March 28 including assignment of operators to specific locations as well as a discussion of frequency plans for local nets and linking of traffic. The plan now calls for operators to be stationed at the various school district offices only plus an operator or two at the MCOE office in Ukiah and another operator or two at the sheriff's Emergency Operations Center or communications trailer. This exercise also requires operators at an intermediate locations to handle traffic by relay between the various repeater networks.

2007 CALENDER OF EVENTS

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
March 28	School Disaster Drill	WB9NJS
April 28	VOMARC Hamfest, Sonoma	www.vomarc.org/
April 27-29	DX Convention, Fresno	www.dxconvention.org
May ?	WARS Campout	Open
May 20	NHRC Hamfest Sacramento	www.k6is.org
May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention, OH	www.hamvention.org
June 1-2	SF Section Conv., Ferndale	www.humboldt-arc.org
June 9-11	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS or WA6OEM
June 16	Santa Maria Radio Swapfest	www.satelliteARC.com
June 23-24	Field Day in Willits	Open
July 4	Willits 4 th of July Parade	Open
July ? or August ?	WARS Picnic	Open
August 4	Fresno Hamfest, Fresno	www.w6to.com/
September 7-9	SW Division Convention, LA	www.hamcon.org
September 8-10	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS or WA6OEM
September 28-29	TEN-TEC Factory HamFest	http://radio.tentec.com
October 19-21	Pacific Div. Conv., San Ramon	www.pacificon.org
November ?	Hospital Disaster Drill	W6FQX
December ?	WARS Holiday Dinner	Open

Anyone with additional information about any activity is encouraged to contact the editor of this newsletter with this information for inclusion in a future edition of this newsletter.

The activities shown as open indicate an opportunity for you to step up and organize something. The significant opportunities are as follows:

WARS Campout. It has been several years since we had a group camping activity. I thought that it was fun. If you are so inclined, please organize the event. We can solicit interest from members and others at meetings and via this newsletter and you can arrange for a location. Please volunteer.

Field Day. This is the annual event at which we demonstrate our ability to operate away from commercial power sources and pass messages (however trivial) to other stations outside the area. We camp out and picnic at a public location. Even non-licensed and Technician Class hams can operate on HF as long as there is a General or higher class licensee present as control operator. We need a chairperson to obtain commitments from operators and arrange for a location – public access and/or visibility is a plus. Please volunteer.

Willits 4th of July Parade. Do we want to participate? Do we want to march? Do we want to ride in a truck? Do we want to offer our services as communicators to the parade organizers? Who wants to organize this? Please volunteer.

WARS Picnic. We didn't have a WARS picnic last year so maybe we should have one this year. It can be at a private home or in a park. Who wants to organize this? Please volunteer.

WARS Holiday Dinner. Charlie and Arlene Davison (W6FXO and KG6CTJ) have done this for several years now. I think that they have done an excellent job. Maybe they want a rest or maybe someone else wants to organize the event. Maybe you can help. Please volunteer.

Fox Hunt. Do you want to start a monthly or less often hidden transmitter hunt. Let's get together and set up the program again.

Is there anything else that you would like us to do as a group? Some have suggested a Skunk Train trip as a group. Some have suggested a booth display of ham radio at a Roots of Motive Power steam-up event or at the 4th of July Bar-B-Que. How about a spot at one of the Brooktrails flea markets (buy or sell equipment or simply a public information presence)? What do you want to do?

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

What would you like to see as a meeting program? Do you have any suggestions for speakers? Can you put on a program. Please contact the President of WARS to communicate your wishes and abilities. Check the WARS web page for all contact information.

ONGOING HAM RADIO SWAP MEETS

Some of you travel out of the area occasionally and are looking for a ham radio connection. Here are some of the ham radio swap meets in California that I know of:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Livermore	1 st Sunday except when raining	www.livermoreark.org/swap
Cupertino	2 nd Saturday March-October	www.asvaro.org
Manhattan Bch.	Last Saturday	www.w6trw.com
Santee	1 st and 3 rd Saturday	www.ac6v.com/sdswap.htm
Upland	2 nd Saturday	www.qsl.net/w6ier
Chino Hills	3 rd Saturday	www.ac6v.com/sdswap.htm

If you know of more, please let the editor of this newsletter know.

TESTING SCHEDULES

The following is a schedule of the known ham testing sessions in the northern California area in the next few months. Call or email for info or appointment. Remember that the CW Morse requirement for General and above class licenses has been dropped so those of you that have been holding back because of that can now study for the General license.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Petaluma	April 14, 2 PM	Dale Westerterp 762-9414
Carmichael	April 21, 8:15 AM	Kenneth M. Hall 916-492-6115
Sonoma	April 28, 6:30 PM	Joel Nadler 322-0389
Yuba City	May 5, 9 AM	Eddie Ansley 530-742-2674
Carmichael	May 19, 8:15 AM	Kenneth M. Hall 916-492-6115
Novato	May 19, 1 PM	William B. Smith 415-456-4481
Carmichael	June 16, 8:15 AM	Kenneth M. Hall 916-492-6115

If you know of more, please let the editor of this newsletter know.

In addition, there is generally a testing session at any of the hamfests or conventions listed in the schedule of events. If a group of six or more wishes to have a testing session in Willits, it may be possible to bring together a testing team. Please contact K6AFL to register your interest.

TECHNICAL DATA

Following, please find a list of the 2 meter repeaters found in sequence along the route of California 1 from Fort Bragg to the Golden Gate. This list, in tabular form, was created from the ARRL TravelPlus CD ROM, 2006-2007 edition, with corroborative data from the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC). Note that, in some areas, there is some discrepancy between the two sources. Your assistance is solicited in correcting this list by eliminating duplications or repeaters no longer in operation and by adding repeaters known to be currently operating. Please email any known additions, deletions, or corrections to the editor of this newsletter.

If you know the actual physical location of any repeater (peak, mountain, ridge, etc.) please send that information to me also.

<u>SEQ</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>RX</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>MAP</u>
1	Fort Bragg	147.030	+	103.5	K6MHE	S. Corry St.	o	NARCC	ARRL2006
2	Mendocino	146.820	-	103.5	WD6HDY	Mathison Peak	oe	NARCC	ARRL2006
3	Point Arena	146.610	-	88.5	W6ABR		oe	NARCC	ARRL2006
4	Anchor Bay	147.825	-	103.5	W6ABR		oae	NARCC	ARRL2006
5	Sea Ranch	147.945	-	88.5	N6OFR		oael	NARCC	ARRL2006
6	Annapolis	146.715	-	88.5	AC6VJ		#el	NARCC	
7	Cazadero	147.975	-	88.5	K6ACS		oel	NARCC	ARRL2006
8	Guerneville	146.940	-	88.5	KI6B		SMRS		ARRL2006
9	Bodega Bay	146.670	-	88.5	WA6M		ol	NARCC	ARRL2006
10	Inverness	145.170	-	88.5	KF6CLH		SMRS	NARCC	ARRL2006
11	Mill Valley	146.700	-	179.9	K6GWE	Mt. Tamalpais	#oerx	NARCC	ARRL2006

NOTES

#	Not a coordinated system
a	Autopatch
e	Emergency power
l	Linked/Crossband repeater
o	Open system
x	Wide area coverage
z	Direct law access (usually 911)
Exp	Experimental
SMRS	Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society linked system

73,
John Lemmer, W6FQX
Secretary, Willits Amateur Radio Society

Andy Rooney's Tips for Telemarketers

The problem of telemarketing calls has declined somewhat since the advent of the "Don't Call" list but we still get some unwanted calls and a lot of junk mail. Here are some possible solutions to the problem:

Three Little Words That Work !!

(1) The three little words are: "Hold On, Please..."

Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off (instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.

Then when you eventually hear the phone company's "beep-beep-beep" tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task.

These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting.

(2) Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?

This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone.

This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a "real" sales person to call back and get someone at home.

What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer !!!

(Sounds good but I don't think it actually works. W6FQX)

(3) Junk Mail Help:

When you get "ads" enclosed with your phone or utility bill, return these "ads" with your payment. Let the sending companies throw their own junk mail away.

When you get those "pre-approved" letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return envelope.

Most of these come with postage-paid return envelopes, right?

It costs them more than the regular 39 cents postage "IF" and when they receive them back.

It costs them nothing if you throw them away! The postage was around 50 cents before the last increase and it is according to the weight. In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-paid return envelopes.

Send an ad for your local chimney cleaner to American Express. Send a pizza coupon to Citibank. If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their blank application back!

If you want to remain anonymous, just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them.

You can even send the envelope back empty if you want to just to keep them guessing! It still costs them 39 cents.

The banks and credit card companies are currently getting a lot of their own junk back in the mail, but folks, we need to OVERWHELM them. Let's let them know what it's like to get lots of junk mail, and best of all they're paying for it...Twice!

Let's help keep our postal service busy since they are saying that e-mail is cutting into their business profits, and that's why they need to increase ! postage costs again. You get the idea !

If enough people follow these tips, it will work----

I have been doing this for years, and I get very little junk mail anymore.

Andy Rooney, CBS News

Now if there were only a good way to kill the spam email !!