



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.

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 – April 2009**

This is why we practice...

Headlines in just the past few weeks included these stories: “Magnitude 6.3 earthquake strikes central Italy”, “Vandals cut fiber optic lines, disrupting communications for tens of thousands”. While half a world apart, and significantly different in the scope of human suffering, these two events had something important in common. In both cases, amateur radio operators stepped up to fill the void caused by damage to the regular communications network. I am certain that the hams who stepped forward during these events shared some common traits. First, they had the desire to help others in time of an emergency. Then they acted upon this desire by taking steps to be prepared to help when the time came. They made sure their equipment was tested and ready to go, and that they had the knowledge needed to use their equipment. Finally, they practiced, to refine the skills to necessary to effectively communicate under difficult circumstances.

I am delighted to report that hams with many of the same traits reside right here in Mendocino County. This was clearly evident on April 2, 2009, when dozens of hams from across the county participated in an emergency communications drill with hospitals and clinics across the county. While some of these hams can claim to be seasoned emergency communicators, many have only recently begun to develop their emergency communications skills. All who participated, however, benefited from the practice that the drill provided.

None of us know when the next event that disrupts communications will strike Mendocino County, but all of us should realize that now is the time to prepare. Regular practice leads to the skills and confidence needed to perform when the chips (and regular lines of communications) are down. Another countywide emergency communications exercise, this time involving the school district offices, is being planned for May 13. If you missed the April 2 drill, or if you participated on April 2 and want to gain some more experience, please sign up today for the May 13 exercise. Details can be found in the Public Service Communications Opportunities section below.

Tim – WB9NJS

## Summary of March meeting:

Program was presented by George Burton, K7WWA, on RFID Radio Frequency Identification with an online/computer presentation. Most discussion was on the radio use of tracking movement of packages. Pre-meeting were observations of Google Earth.

Plans were made of the April 2<sup>nd</sup> County Wide Exercise with Health Clinics. John Lemmer, once again, encouraged “portable stations with battery, antenna, and antenna stand.

John Lemmer reported on plans for the May 13<sup>th</sup> MCOE Tsunami Test.

Keep ears open for a beginner’s antenna class that includes the very basics of “how to put a connector on an end of a piece of coax”. This class will be directed towards new hams with no experience in electronics such as KI6TIB, newsletter editor.

Due to the unavailability of appropriate alternative locations of WARS potential meeting spaces the present membership agreed to continue meeting at the Brooktrails Fire Station for the foreseeable future.

March 23, 2009

Members in attendance:

K7WWA  
KE6CAK  
KE6COB  
KE6RTV  
KE6SPL  
KG6CTM  
KI6FRU  
KI6TIB  
W6FQX  
WA6JBK  
WB9NJS

Future meetings: Brooktrails Fire House.

April 27 – Regular Meeting

May 25th – planning meeting for the June Field Day

June 22 – Final meeting before Field Day.

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of the public service communications opportunities in the upcoming months.

1. A Tsunami drill exercise is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2009. This will be a public safety communications exercise involving the sheriff's department, all police departments, many fire departments, and others. The ham radio community has been requested to participate in several ways. One of the ways is to establish a communications network between the various school district offices and the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) in a manner similar to the exercise conducted in March of 2007. Contact John W6FQX at [w6fqx@comcast.net](mailto:w6fqx@comcast.net) for more information.
2. May 2 - Wine Country Century bicycle tour. Santa Rosa Cycling Club's biggest yearly event. Amateurs needed for field communications. Contact SCRA's Public Service Chair: Craig Gaevert, K6XLT -- [K6XLT@sonic.net](mailto:K6XLT@sonic.net)
3. May 9 – Human Race, The Volunteer Network of Mendocino County
4. May 9 - The Human Race, Sonoma County Volunteer Center. Amateurs typically operate pedestrian portable for this event. Contact SCRA's Public Service Chair: Craig Gaevert, K6XLT -- [K6XLT@sonic.net](mailto:K6XLT@sonic.net)
5. June 20- Terrible Two 200 mile bicycle tour. Amateur radio operators needed throughout Sonoma County for this event. Contact SCRA's Public Service Chair: Craig Gaevert, K6XLT -- [K6XLT@sonic.net](mailto:K6XLT@sonic.net)
6. Sun, May 3 - Avenue of the Giants Marathon 9:00 a.m. Various locations: Dyersville, Myers Flat, Bull Creek Road. Volunteer communicators needed! Contact [kg6mar@arri.net](mailto:kg6mar@arri.net)
7. Sat, May 9 - Tour of the Unknown Coast Bicycle Century. Various locations from Ferndale to Petrolia Volunteer communicators needed. Contact [kg6mar@arri.net](mailto:kg6mar@arri.net)

## 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 (-/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 (tx 103.5 requested)
* linked nets			
Countywide	Wednesday	7:00 PM	145.43/145.47/147.39 linked repeaters

## Test Sessions

Below are listed the known test sessions in the next two months within 100 miles of Willits:

02-May-2009

**Sponsor:** YUBA SUTTER ARC  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** CLARA M ANSLEY  
(530)742-2674

**Email:** [EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM](mailto:EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM)

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

**Location:** CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
715 KING AVENUE  
WALKINS ACCEPTED BET 9-10AM  
YUBA CITY, CA 95991

16-May-2009

**Sponsor:** ANCHOR BAY ARC  
**Time:** 5:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** DENNIS K KELLEHER  
(916)716-9267

**Email:** [ALBATROS6447@AOL.COM](mailto:ALBATROS6447@AOL.COM)

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

**Location:** BILL PLATT TRAINING CENTER  
39801 OCEAN DRIVE  
GUALALA, CA 95445

16-May-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](http://ARRL/VEC)

**Location:** PETALUMA SR CITIZEN CENTER  
211 NOVAK DRIVE  
[HTTP://SMRS.US](http://SMRS.US)  
RESERVATIONS HIGHLY PREFERRED!  
PETALUMA, CA 94952

16-May-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS  
**Time:** 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** BRIAN D TORR  
(707)575-5871

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

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

**Location:** BLOOD BANK OF THE REDWOODS  
2324 BETHARDS DR  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

11-Jul-2009

**Sponsor:** YUBA SUTTER ARC  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** CLARA M ANSLEY  
(530)742-2674

**Email:** [EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM](mailto:EOAN6VRH@NETEZE.COM)

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

**Location:** CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
715 KING AVENUE  
WALKINS ACCEPTED BET 9-10AM  
YUBA CITY, CA 95991

## **EMCOMMWEST'09/Pacificon: May 1 – 3 at Circus Circus Hotel, Reno NV**

Pacificon'09, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, is part of EMCOMMWEST this year! Since 1999, EMCOMMWEST has been specifically oriented toward emergency communications in the West, but now will expand with new speakers and events, to include Pacificon, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention.

The ARRL keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Public Service Coordinator from ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT. The banquet will feature Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, who recently retired as head Amateur radio enforcement at the FCC. Special event station N7V will be active from EMCOMMWEST/Pacificon'09

There will be a special "[HAM CRAM](#)" followed by VE testing for those who want to get an Amateur radio license.

Emcommwest is proud to present "The Reno Spring Hamswap" on Saturday morning May 2, from 6am - Noon. For more information, email Gary Grant, [k7vy@arrl.net](mailto:k7vy@arrl.net)

While full registration is required to attend convention activities, limited registration grants free admission to the vendor area ONLY. Information and reservations can be made thorough the website: <http://emcommwest.org>. Please e-mail comments and questions to [info@emcommwest.org](mailto:info@emcommwest.org).

## **Seapac 2009 - June 5, 6, 7, 2009. at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon** <http://seapac.org/>

One of the largest Amateur Radio conventions on the Pacific Northwest. Free seminars on Saturday, three free 90 minute seminars on Friday, new equipment dealers and flea market tables. Evening dinner banquet on Saturday with a guest speaker.

### **EVENTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS**

KI6TIB found these ham events potentially interesting to other hams, a little bit further than a day's trip.

**May 14-May 17, 1600Z-0100Z, Angels Camp, CA. Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, N6FRG. Calaveras County Fair and Frogjump Jubilee. SSB 14.320 7.290 PSK 14.070 IRLP 3428. Certificate. Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 391, Angels Camp, CA 95222.**  
[www.frogstown.org](http://www.frogstown.org) and [www.calaverasars.org](http://www.calaverasars.org)

**Jun 6-Jun 7, 2000Z-2000Z, Eureka, CA. Humboldt Amateur Radio Club, W6ZZK.**  
Normandy Invasion (D-Day) and Museum Ships Weekend. 14.260 14.039 7.260 7.039 3.860 3.539. QSL. Jim Falls, HARC, 2605 R St, Eureka, CA 95501-3135. *From the USS LCI(L)-1091. TCS-8 used on AM/CW top of the hour.*  
[www.navsource.org/archives/10/15/151091.htm](http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/15/151091.htm) or [www.humboldt-arc.org](http://www.humboldt-arc.org)

## **Buy, Sell, or Trade**

Jim Cline, W6JRC, in Ukiah has many radio items, "boat-anchor", (i.e., big and heavy)- 2 Heath Kit transmitters and 1 Receiver, a National Receiver, (NC-138D), 2m antennas, (mobile whips, Cushcraft Ringo and Yagi), panel meters, microphones, 2m and 440 HTs, vertical antenna mounting brackets, 3- magnet mobile mount, analog volt/ammeter, rotator and control for vertical antenna, TV transverter, Heath Kit Q-multiplier. Call Jim at 272-4366, or e-mail at [w6jrc@arrl.net](mailto:w6jrc@arrl.net), to see any of this, and more, photos are available by e-mail. This will be an on-going sale, no specific date. Dates not available: 4/23-27, 5/1-4, 5/15-18.

Others with items to buy, sell, or trade are invited to post their information in the newsletter by contacting the editor.

## **Ham Joke of the month:**

Fred walked into the house after a long day at the hamfest. His hair was matted with sweat, there was a rip in the knee of his pants and both hands were blistered. His wife said, "You look awful! What happened to you?" Fred replied, "This was a terrible day! We had just started down the first aisle at the hamfest, when Bob fell over dead from a heart attack". "Oh, no" his XYL responded "that's awful!" "Tell me about it" replied Fred. "All day long it was look at radios, drag Bob, look at radios, drag Bob".

## **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. Just send it as an email attachment.**

**If you have run across a published article in another medium that you think should be published here, let the editors know. We may have to obtain permission to publish it but this is generally not a problem for ham radio related publications.**