



FIELD DAY

The weekend of June 23 and 24, 2007 will find thousands of amateur radio operators all over the country enduring hot winds, high humidity, hordes of pesky bugs, and general discomfort in order to enjoy the thrills of operating their stations in the great outdoors.

It is a good thing that we in California have such pleasant conditions in which to enjoy the great outdoors while practicing our skills operating from temporary locations using other than commercial AC power and in the company of many of our friends. This is great practice for operating after a disaster when AC power is disrupted but it is also great fun.

This year, members of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will join operators affiliated with the McHam group (mainly based in Ukiah) in operating a Field Day station from Low Gap Park in Ukiah. We have reserved the entire Harrison Grove picnic shelter in the park and have permission to remain for the entire period including during the normal park closed period from dusk to dawn. The Ukiah group has promised moderate temperatures – at least moderate for Ukiah.

We will be operating a minimum of two and possibly three stations on battery power. We like battery power because of the noise that the batteries make while they are in use. Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, has donated the use of at least three sets of deep cycle batteries for these stations. We will be operating mainly from tables within the shelter and we will have at least three recreational vehicles on the site to provide water and refrigerated food and drink storage space and perhaps a respite site.

This event is structured as a contest and each operator should have a scribe to log contacts and check for duplications. Laptop computers will be used for this task. At least three are available at this time with appropriate software.

The shelter has an extensive overhead sun shelter with sufficient overhead clearance to let the cooling breeze sweep through. Families are invited even if they are not licensed. Non-licensed, Novice class, and Technician class operators will be invited to operate under the supervision of appropriately licensed operators. This can also be a family picnic and/or fun event and you may even want to set up a tent.

The event starts with antenna and rig set up starting at about 8 AM with active operations starting at 11 AM on Saturday. Operating will continue all day and into the night. We are thinking about a potluck supper from maybe 6 to 8 PM. Bring something to grill (if you like) and something to share – salad, side dish, or dessert. The shelter has some great BBQ pits so you may want to bring some firewood or charcoal.

Operating will continue throughout the night (operators willing) with possibly a group breakfast the next morning. Pot luck again. Bring a camp stove if you have one.

The event will conclude at 11 AM on Sunday followed by de-installation of antennas and removal of all equipment.

If you have a portable or temporary antenna that you would like to try out, bring it along. If you have a favorite rig that you would like to operate, bring it along. In order to judge how much space for antennas and other equipment will be needed, please email John Lemmer, W6FQX(see the Roster Page), with your antenna and equipment list. Be sure to include coaxial and DC power cables.

If you have picnic or camping gear that will make your stay more enjoyable, bring it along. If you have a camp cooking stove or ice chest, bring them along. The number of vehicles staying on the site may be limited but a shuttle of equipment in will be allowed as will be parking all night in the lot out near Low Gap Road.

For those of you not familiar with the park, it is on Low Gap Road west of State Street – past the county offices, past the sheriff's office and jail, and past the high school. The parking lot is just off the road to the left before you head out into the country. The park road goes down a slight hill, over the creek on a wooden bridge, and up a slight hill to the right to the Harrison Grove area. We will have the key to the gate over the park road but the gate will remain closed and locked anytime that our group is not passing through it.

Note how this event fits in with some of the objectives of the Willits Amateur Radio Society on the next page as stated in our society's constitution.

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 2007

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 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.

From the prez – June 2007

Field Day, the summer classic!

For the first time in several years, WARS is set to participate in ARRL Field Day in a big way. Thanks to help from some folks from the McHam group in Ukiah, Field Day operations will be taking place at Harrison Grove at Low Gap Park. Details about this operation can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the WARS website.

For many people, their first exposure to amateur radio comes from a Field Day operation, and this Field Day will be no exception. By selecting a public park for our operations, this will be an opportunity for members of the public to see amateur radio in action. Many of the participants from the Ukiah McHam group are recently licensed hams, just getting their feet wet in our hobby. For some of these hams it may be their first time on the air, and the first HF experience for many of them.

So why not come out and join the fun? This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in many ways. Sit down and operate for awhile and hone your skills at pulling a call out of a pile up. You can stop by and socialize, visiting with old friends and making new ones. Or you can take a little time to help a new ham get more comfortable on the air. Whatever your choice, come and be part of one of the premier amateur radio events of the year.

Tim – WB9NJS

Happenings

The Human Race. This fund raising event for a number of non-profit organizations in Mendocino County was held on May 12 in Ukiah. Runners and walkers got sponsors to pledge various amount of money for them to participate in this 10 kilometer run or walk from Alex Thomas Plaza to Todd Grove Park and return. Ham radio was used to coordinate activities between the various check points and aid stations. Our very own Tim Hanna, WB9NJS was one of the participants. Other participants are unknown to the editor at this time.

Brooktrails Evacuation. As a part of the annual emergency planning session held at the Brooktrails Fire Station, members of the Brooktrails Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) participated in a simulated evacuation of residents. The exercise consisted of sending teams out into the field to notify residents in conjunction with fire department instructions. Ham radio was used to coordinate and provide safety backup for the teams. WARS members participating included KE6COB, KG6CTB, W6FQX, and KI6FRW. Also participating were KI6FRT, KI6ISV, and KG6PBS.

LAST MEETING

It does seem that a number of our members were otherwise occupied on the date of our last meeting, May 28. It was Memorial Day. The meeting attendance was only four so not much action was taken. No field day planning was accomplished at this meeting so the field day planning was shifted to the McHam meeting in Ukiah on June 6. The results of this planning are given on the first two pages of this newsletter.

Willits 4th of July Parade.

The Willits Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) with assistance from the Brooktrails CERT will be assisting the Willits Police Department with traffic control along the parade route. Ham radio will be used to coordinate the efforts of the CERT volunteers using licensed amateurs that are also CERT members. FRS radios may be used to coordinate with CERT members that are not licensed hams. Look for us along the parade route.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on June 25, 2007 starting at 7 PM. As usual, it will be held in the Brooktrails Fire Station on Birch Street in Brooktrails. Talk in on 145.130, PL 103.5.

We have enhanced the value of the raffle offerings with the help of a discount from HSC Electronics in Rohnert Park. Thanks Ed.

2007 REMAINING CALENDER OF EVENTS

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
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 14-16	WARS Noyo River Campout	Open
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 below indicate an opportunity for you to step up and organize something. The significant opportunities are as follows:

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 Campout. How about a campout in the Noyo River area after the summer activities. Anyone interested.

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?

ONGOING HAM RADIO SWAP MEETS

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.gsl.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. Some of these PM testing sessions have a brief class in the AM.

PLACE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Yuba City	July 7, 9 AM	Eddie Ansley 530-742-2674
Eureka	July 21, 10 AM	Irma Ruegg 826-0767 jruegg3.1@juno.com
Petaluma	July 28, 2 PM	Dale Westerterp 762-9414 dalewestretrp@juno.com
Novato	August 18, 9 AM	(415)-382-8135 members@k6bw.org
Sonoma	August 25, 9 AM	Joel Nadler 545-1782 jlnadler@sbcglobal.net
Napa	September 2, 1 PM	Mark Evans 494-6534 ke6o@napasars.org
Mill Valley	September 8, 9 AM	Alan Weisman (510-237-1978) alweisman@juno.com
Petaluma	October 13, 2 PM	Dale Westerterp 762-9414 dalewestretrp@juno.com
Napa	November 11, 1 PM	Mark Evans 494-6534 ke6o@napasars.org
Novato	November 17, 9 AM	(415)-382-8135 members@k6bw.org
Sonoma	December 1, 9 AM	Joel Nadler 545-1782 jlnadler@sbcglobal.net
Mill Valley	December 8, 9 AM	Alan Weisman (510-237-1978) alweisman@juno.com

If you know of more, please let the editor of this newsletter know. 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 Jay Haegele K6AFL to register your interest.

Buy, Sell, or Trade

As usual, this space is reserved for ham radio items for sale or trade or items that you are looking for. Your ad here will run once unless you contact the editor of this newsletter and request another listing.

Swan Mark II HF Linear Amplifier. 100 W PEP input, 1500 W PEP SSB, 1000 W CW Output. Five traditional bands (including 10 m) but will also tune 17 m and 12 m bands. Uses a pair of 3-500Z tubes but is without tubes or plate cap connectors. Tubes available on ebay and from RF Parts Inc. Complete with separate HV power supply and original Operation and Maintenance manual. \$100 or best offer. John Lemmer W6FQX, 459-6342, lemmer@cwia.com.

Lottery Madness

If you think lotteries are harmless fun, read on. Brigham Young University math professor Tyler Jarvis has pointed out: "The chances of winning the California Lotto Jackpot are approximately one in 18,000,000. If you have to drive 10 miles to buy this ticket, you are three times more likely to be killed in an automobile accident on the way than to win the jack-pot." He added that if you stood all the losers of this lottery in a line, it would be 6,800 miles long, more than the distance from Manhattan to Tokyo.

Here's another way to think about it: If you bought 50 tickets per week, you ought to win once every 6,923 years. So you'd be due to win today — if you'd started playing around 5000 B.C.

McMaster University mathematics and statistics professor Fred Hoppe asked this question: "Would you pay \$1 to bet on 24 heads in a row? The chances of that happening, as anyone who flips coins knows, is virtually impossible."

Yet millions play lotteries, pinning hopes on similar odds. Hoppe has explained that if you spend \$25 on lottery tickets each week for 20 years (total: \$26,000), you can expect to lose \$13,000. The Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance reported: "If a person bought 100 \$1 lottery tickets every week for his entire adult life from age 18 to 75, that \$296,400 investment would still only give him less than one chance in 100 of hitting the jackpot."

Payout rates for lotteries stink. Lotteries often keep about 50 percent of gambled money, while slot machines keep 5 percent to 25 percent, roulette games keep 5 percent, and horse racing keeps 13 percent to 17 percent.

The biggest lottery losers are the poor. Those in the lowest income bracket are much more likely to play the lottery heavily than wealthier folks. As many have quipped, lotteries are "a tax on people who aren't good at math." Don't buy more than occasional tickets for fun. Humorist Fran Lebowitz is reputed to have observed, "I figure you have the same chance of winning the lottery whether you play or not."