



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
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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 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 a informal breakfast meeting held every Friday starting at 8:30 AM at Perko's Restaurant in Fort Bragg.

From the prez – July 2007

Will you help prepare?

Several positive things have taken place on the Mendocino county ham radio scene in the past 6 to 8 months. A new amateur radio group formed in Ukiah, resulting in the licensing of over 20 new hams. Our recently elected sheriff understands that amateur radio will play an important role in the event of a major disaster, and expects the amateur community to be prepared to respond when needed. For the first time in recent memory, Mendocino county hams helped plan and execute a county wide communications drill, linking school districts throughout the county to the Mendocino County Office of Education in Talmage.

All of the above are good, but it is now time to take the next step. The school exercise brought hams from all areas of the county together, but also highlighted some shortcomings in the repeater infrastructure. It also demonstrated that months of planning were needed to execute a relatively simple exercise. In my conversations with Sheriff Allman, it is apparent that he is counting on the amateur community to "be there" when needed. His faith in us is commendable, but when the time comes, we'll need more than faith to respond effectively. Planning, training, practice, and above all, organization, are needed before the disaster strikes.

This need has not gone unnoticed. A group of Mendocino county hams from Willits and Ukiah is taking the first steps toward having prepared amateur operators at the ready. This group is seeking support from hams in communities across the county, to help develop local groups of trained operators. The longer term goal is to unite the local groups into a more formal, countywide organization of hams, prepared to provide a coordinated response. At this point, no decisions have been made regarding organizational specifics or affiliation, but some grassroots involvement is definitely needed.

So if you are asked to help organize (or participate in) a group of hams who are your friends and neighbors, take a minute before saying "no". Our communities and county leaders are counting on us to be prepared when needed, and that means making a commitment to organize and train.

If you don't do it, who will???

Tim – WB9NJS

FIELD DAY REPORT

The annual amateur radio field day event came off as scheduled on the weekend of June 23rd and 24th. We were all pleasantly surprised by the moderate temperatures although the wind did provide some challenges on Saturday evening.

The Low Gap Park setting in Ukiah did provide some creature comforts that exceeded what some of had experienced on previous field day outings. In addition to the overhead sun shelter, we had a generous number of picnic tables available for operating positions and a great BBQ pit for roasting the beef.

WARS members W6FQX, WB9NJS and KI6FRW together with W6ANI, W6JRC, KI6MJC, and WA6JBK provided the operating forces. WA6KLLK, KW6AR, WN6AOH, and KG6PBS visited the site but did not actually operate. We had occasional visitors from the sheriff's office including elected sheriff Tom Allman. With some coaching, we actually got Sheriff Allman to make a contact even though it took several tries to break through the QRM.

WB9NJS took the prize for lasting the longest on the air as he did not quit until about 1 AM. Some of the operators slept on the site in trailers and a motorhome and a few went home overnight. W6ANI came back the next morning with the Sunday edition of the Ukiah Daily Journal. Our field day site with three great pictures made the front page, even above the fold, and a great article accompanied the pictures. Our thanks to UDJ reporter Katie Mintz for a great story and photographer MacLeod Pappidas for some great pictures.

Operators W6ANI, KI6FRW, and KI6MJC had their first field day and HF band operating experiences and, from all indications, had a great time. Although often each position had both an operator and a logger present, even when the logger took some time off, one or another of these YLs stuck to the radios and continued to make contacts.

We made 135 QSOs for 270 points and 750 bonus points for a total of 1020 points. Pictures from this event are posted on the WARS web site under the WARS Archives, Photo Gallery page.

LAST MEETING

The last meeting on June 25 was lightly attended. However, a motion was made and seconded to reimburse the McHam group from Ukiah for some of the expenses that they incurred in preparing for the joint Field Day event.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on July 23, 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. President Tim Hanna WB9NJS will be presenting some photographs on the big screen from his recent trip to London and there will also be a junk box swap meet. Bring some junk to give away, sell, or trade and bring some new junk home with you.

McHam Group Report

The McHam group was started in Ukiah last November primarily to develop a resource of ham radio operators and stations to support the public health department and hospitals and health clinics in Mendocino County in the aftermath of a disaster. More than 20 new operators have been licensed through this program and there is a plan and funding to install 2 meter radio equipment and antennas in some of the health facilities that do not now have them and to relocate existing equipment to more convenient locations within the facilities that currently have stations.

Some of us from WARS have been working with the McHam group to advance this program and to incorporate this program into a general purpose disaster response network. Refer to the following paragraphs for our suggestions.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Sheriff Tom Allman has asked us to organize some kind of ham radio network in Mendocino County that he could call upon in the event of a disaster or any event that would disrupt normal communications including the sheriff's radio network or the fire radio service. This network might be relied upon to support actual emergency traffic in addition to the normal health and welfare or Red Cross logistics traffic associated with a disaster.

In a worst case scenario, strategically placed ham radio stations could provide an input to the 911 dispatch system in the event that telephone communications are disrupted due to damage or system overload.

Recognizing that there are many communities in Mendocino County and only a limited number of repeaters, we are suggesting that each community identify a local simplex frequency to facilitate emergency communications within that community and to use area repeaters for communications between communities and connecting whatever traffic is required to be transferred to a central location via another repeater accessible from the largest number of areas either directly or via relay.

If you represent a community that has identified a common simplex frequency for emergency communications, we would appreciate it if you could email W6FQX, the secretary of WARS (see the links on the "Membership Roster" or "Contact Us" pages on the WARS web site), with your selected simplex frequency and the communities that it covers. We will act to coordinate and publish your local area simplex frequency and any regular nets that you operate on that frequency.

It seems logical to identify the 146.820 repeater as the North Coast area repeater and the 146.610 repeater as the South Coast area repeater. Inland is more flexible but we are suggesting the 147.390/145.430 linked repeaters as the North Inland area repeater and the 147.120 repeater as the South Inland area repeater. Due to it's superior location and backup power access, it seems logical to use the 145.130 repeater as a common repeater from all areas that can access it. A relay may be required to pass traffic from the more remote areas to the 145.130 repeater.

In the advent of a disaster requiring significant ham radio emergency traffic, it will be necessary to operate under a strict net control protocol. Each community and area should identify a corps of potential net control operators to manage communications in the event of a disaster and to practice net operations on a regular basis.

This is a grass roots operation from the ground up and your interest and participation is invited. WARS will act as the coordinator of this effort and will publish any such decisions made from each community or area.

2007 REMAINING CALENDER OF EVENTS

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
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. Perhaps any September weekend. 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 and contact Charlie or Arlene.

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

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Novato	August 18, 9 AM	William B. Smith 415-456-4481 HBCO2@sbcglobal.net
Sonoma	August 25, 9 AM	Joel Nadler 545-1782 jlnadler@sbcglobal.net
Napa	September 2, 1 PM	Richard Rau 252-6276 ko6fr@arrl.net
Santa Rosa	September 8 (or 15)	Brian Torr, N6IY n6iyy@arrl.net
St. Helena	September 12, 7 PM	Paul L Phelps 415-663-9429 phelps@verizoncable.com
Petaluma	October 13, 2 PM	Dale Westertep 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.

Homeland Security

It has been reported that the FBI has developed a new way to keep of suspected terrorist activities in a way that does not require a court order to intercept telephone lines or monitor internet activity. For more information, click on the link below or paste or type it into your internet browser.

http://users.chartertn.net/tonytemplin/FBI_eyes/

Crazy Language

English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. So why doesn't "Buick" rhyme with "quick"?