



# 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 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>

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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. Families of members are invited to the breakfast.

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 – JULY 2009

Another Field Day to remember....

After all of the planning, anticipation, and wildfires that marked the 2008 Mendocino County Field Day efforts, it was refreshing to find smoke-free skies in Mendocino County on 2009 Field Day weekend. Although the planning efforts were less intensive than last year, the activities were just as exciting as the 2007 Field Day events. Despite the unseasonably warm (actually downright HOT) weather this year, several folks showed up to help set up 3 stations and the respective antennas, and enjoy an evening potluck meal.

No records were broken for the number of contacts made or points scored during our operations, but Field Day was a resounding success, nonetheless. A total of 243 contacts (all phone) were logged, on 5 bands, with the following breakdown:

<b>BAND</b>	<b>QSOs</b>
80 m	38
40 m	144
20 m	31
15 m	29
2 m	1

What is really special about these numbers is not the grand total, but the individual QSOs. Non-hams, who stopped by the site to learn more about amateur radio, made some of these contacts. Other contacts in this total represent the first HF contacts made by some recently licensed hams. Also included are the first DX contacts made by one lucky operator.

So, while by the numbers, this may not appear to be a memorable Field Day, in reality it is truly a Field Day to remember. Why, you ask? Because this operation yielded many positive accomplishments, that is why. Local hams gained valuable experience setting up and operating emergency stations, members of public had a chance to learn first hand about amateur radio, and some of our newest hams now have the confidence to explore the HF bands.

Thanks to all that made it happen.

Tim – WB9NJS

\*See map below for ARRL Sections worked by WARS/McArcs on Field Day.

### July Meeting

The July 2009 WARS meeting will be held on Monday July 27, at the Brooktrails Firehouse. The meeting will begin at “approximately” 7:00 PM. Given recent interest in hidden transmitter hunts (i.e. fox hunts), the topic of discussion will be transmitter hunting equipment and techniques. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite fox hunt equipment and stories (watch out for the poison oak!).

## 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 on linked repeaters:			
Countywide	Wednesday	7:00 PM	145.430 -103.5 nor coast&inland 145.470 – 103.5 sou coast&inland 147.390 + 103.5 central coast&inland 147.270 + 114.8 fish rock/pt arena

### Inland Mendocino County - HAM ACTIVITIES:

1) KC6UNN Cody and KI6ISY Cynthia Snider did a fantastic job of hosting a Mendocino County Amateur Radio foxhunt Saturday July 11. This was great fun with barbeque and a potluck that kept every one around until lunch, also included delicious cake. Many from Lake County and Mendocino County searched through the poison oak at Lake Mendocino picnic grounds for several hours before lunch. After lunch, Ron KN6U of Lucerne tracked down the radio signal. As reward, Ron is organizing the next foxhunt for Lake County hams on July 25.

### 2) To Mendocino County residents interested in teaching Teen CERT:

Mendocino County Office of Education, in collaboration with Eastern Michigan State University, is offering a three-day Teen CERT Train-the-Trainer course, July 29, 30 and 31. Registration for this training is \$10.00, all other equipment is provided by the Department of Homeland Security grant.

Craig Zachlod, Ed.D., CEM, Mendocino County Office of Education

Director School Community Emergency Management

Senior Advisor and Emergency Management Coordinator

California Community Colleges System

Telephone: 707.467.5025, Cell: 415.265.1662, czachlod@foundationccc.org

czachlod@mcoe.us

## Minutes of June 22nd meeting of WARS:

1.) Chuck Heath, K6ZIZ contacted the media with Field Day radio spots for the week prior to Field Day including KWINE, KZYX and Q106/KXBX. "I dropped off a special (exclusive) article for the Ukiah Daily Journal earlier today. Articles for the Lake County News as well as the Record-Bee were covered earlier and should appear this week.

Annie Robinson hopes to produce flyers shortly. I'll need your help by asking you to post them in public places. Again, TIA for any help. Check the public bulletin boards at your local grocery store and other such places - bring some thumbtacks!

"The weather promises to be much better than last year's lightning-induced fires that hindered participation by at least one group (WARS). This will be a huge improvement over all that smoke!"

There will be a video interview posted Thursday, June 25 at [www.ukiahvalley.tv](http://www.ukiahvalley.tv) on "The Pipeline," featuring Tim Hanna, WB9NJS and Jim Cline, W6JRC.

2.) The Field Day invite of W6FQX, John Lemmer: "The Willits Amateur Radio Society (WARS) and the Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service (McARCS) will operate a Field Day station on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28.

This exercise in communications under simulated emergency conditions is a good practice in setting up a station after a disaster, an exposure to amateur radio for the general public and for public safety officials, and fun for all. All operations will be conducted using only battery power."

Come join us if only for a few minutes at Low Gap Park in Ukiah, just west of the sheriff's station and Ukiah High School. Come as early as 9 AM on Saturday to help us set up temporary antennas. Come any time and take a turn in making contacts in this nation-wide event. Even Technician Class or non-licensed operators will have an opportunity to make contacts on the high frequency bands as we will have General and higher class operators present to make these operations legal."

3.) Field Day planning notes provided by Nick KI6RIT:

\*set up begins at 8 am saturday, operation begins at 11.

\*using w6mmm callsign, get on the air station, ki6rit?

\*Need photographer for newsletter, KI6RIT can use phone camera if needed.

### Equipment list

K7WWA: trailer (w/winch tower), operation either inside or under awning. TS440, TS50, IC7000, IC706

W6FQX: motor home, 32' vertical, TS430, IC7000, NVIS?, 40/80m from pavilion.

WA6JBK: 55w solar panels?

KI6RIT: laptops for logging, n3fjp network field day logger. Network dell and eee, possibly jim and eddie's laptops as well. Grab hub and cable. Maybe bring 2m equipment for GOTA station.

WB9NJS: IC706, deep cycle battery.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS**

KI6TIB newsletter editor came on this internet article, and received permission to publish it in the Willits Amateur Radio newsletter. Mendocino College might want to consider offering a weekend of Ham Radio. It would be nice to prepare students to participate as ham radio operators. For the new ham who may be reading, it's a great description of what also happens with the Wednesday evening nets in Mendocino County.

### **HAM RADIOS FOR SAFETY: Campus seeks radio users to keep communication lines open during emergencies**

By Julia Ann Easley published Jan 30, 2009 in the UC Davis news.

[http://www.dateline.ucdavis.edu/dl\\_detail.lasso?id=11090](http://www.dateline.ucdavis.edu/dl_detail.lasso?id=11090)

A lone voice rode out on a very high frequency into amateur radio bands to conduct a roll call. And one by one, about a dozen UC Davis volunteers transmitted their call sign and reported their locations across campus.

It was the weekly check for the recently established UC Davis amateur radio group, an important part of the university's plan for communicating across campus and with other agencies in an emergency.

"It's a backup communication system that is outstanding in communicating when other systems are overloaded," said John Berg, who helped found the group and is a member of the campus team that regularly trains and coordinates response to emergencies.

Berg works as a laboratory manager in the Department of Chemistry and is known on the airwaves as K6JRB. After the 2007 shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech, he responded to a chancellor's message about campus safety initiatives and offered to help set up an amateur radio group.

Amateur radio, which transmits and receives messages on radio frequencies set aside for noncommercial use, is a reliable and powerful means of emergency communications when telephone, cell phone and Internet services are overloaded or damaged.

UC Davis recently purchased a transmitter/receiver and scanner for its base station, adjacent to the Emergency Operations Center, and installed an antenna on top of the building. "It's a really big achievement," Berg said.

In an emergency, a controller at the UC Davis base station would dispatch group members to areas of campus where communication support was needed. The base station would feed information to and from the campus emergency operations team.

Currently, the amateur radio group includes men and women from across campus. Some have been licensed for more than 40 years; others have just earned their license.

Gary Matteson, who is a researcher in biological and agricultural engineering and WA6TQJ, performed the recent net check. Among others, Gary Ford, associate vice provost for undergraduate studies and call sign N6GF, reported in from Mrak Hall.

Nancy Flagg, budget and finance manager for Student Affairs and KI6KWB, responded from the South Silo. And nurse practitioner Pamela Porter, or N6OLO, checked in from the Cowell Student Health Center.

Other ham radio operators from Sacramento and Vacaville reported in as guests. "You've got a great signal," said Greg

Kruckewitt of Vacaville, also known as KG6SJT. "It's booming right in down here."

Alison Kent, publications coordinator for the Wildlife Health Center and KI6IMU, earned her license two years ago and values the chance to provide help in an emergency. "Last year when we had the big storm," she said, "here were the hams with all their backup equipment."

Diana Cox, emergency and continuity planner for the campus and also a licensed ham radio operator, is recruiting other members of the campus community—including students—to participate in the amateur radio group.

While amateur radio operators must be licensed by the Federal Communication Commission, Cox said, people should not be intimidated by the little bit of studying it takes. The written test covers some electronics theory and amateur radio rules and regulations. The FCC recently eliminated a Morse code requirement.

The UC Davis group conducts its weekly checks at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays at 146.475 MHz.

## Test Sessions

Below are listed the known test sessions in the next two months within 100 miles of Willits, from <http://www.arrl.org/>.

08-Aug-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](#)

**Location:** PETALUMA SR CITIZEN CENTER

211 NOVAK DRIVE

HTTP://SMRS.US

RESERVATIONS HIGHLY PREFERRED!

PETALUMA, CA 94952

22-Aug-2009

**Sponsor:** VALLEY OF THE MOON ARC

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** JOEL L NADLER

(707)545-1782

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

**Location:** SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

MCDUGAL HALL

WILSON STREET AT ARNOLD DRIVE

GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

03-Sep-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA MTN REPEATER SOC

**Time:** 1:30PM (No walk-ins)

**Contact:** DALE WESTERTERP

(707)762-9414

**Email:** [WB6TMS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB6TMS@ARRL.NET)

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

**Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS

5297 AERO DRIVE

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED!

HTTP://WWW.SMRS.US/

SANTA ROSA, CA 95401

12-Sep-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](#)

**Location:** CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

715 KING AVENUE

WALKINS ACCEPTED BET 9-10AM

YUBA CITY, CA 95991

19-Sep-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

10-Oct-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

22-Oct-2009

**Sponsor:** SONOMA MTN REPEATER SOC

**Time:** 1:30PM (No walk-ins)

**Contact:** DALE WESTERTERP

(707)762-9414

**Email:** [WB6TMS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB6TMS@ARRL.NET)

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

**Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS

5297 AERO DRIVE

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED!

[HTTP://WWW.SMRS.US/](http://WWW.SMRS.US/)

SANTA ROSA, CA 95401

07-Nov-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

**Buy, Sell, or Trade** – email the newsletter editor to include recent bargains up for sale, trade, or wish list to find.

FROM Eddie Alexander, AF6AZ decided to sell his Icom 735 and MFJ 993B intellitunner. "The transceiver is in good condition. Icom went over it 2 years ago with no problems found. I have the mounting bracket and hand mic., included. The tuner is 2 years old and works great. This unit works well as a mobile or desk top.

You would need a power supply and antenna to be on the air. Optional: headphones and CW keyer." Contact: eddieal@comcast.net.

## 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. If you have run across a published article in another medium that you think should be published here, obtain permission to publish it from the author or publisher and WARS will gladly re-publish the article.

ARRL sections that McArcs/WARS worked during Field Day

