



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 – September 2007

We are moving ahead...

You may remember my last piece in the July WARS newsletter, outlining some of the efforts underway to better prepare the Mendocino county amateur community to provide emergency communications, and the need for individual involvement. Since that time, several people have "answered the call" and have become involved at both and local and county-wide level. A great deal of effort has also been put into defining the Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service (McARCS).

As a result of these efforts, we are indeed moving ahead. Local simplex nets are now being conducted across the county on a weekly basis. These are often followed by "regional" repeater nets, where different parts of the county use different repeaters to link up local communities. If you aren't currently participating in one of these nets, I encourage you to do so.

These nets are a great first step, and a wonderful way to get people involved, but more is needed to prepare for emergency communications. Training that includes basic "how to be a ham" information for new hams, plus hands on operations and traffic handling for both new and experienced hams is also part of the equation. For about a month now, lunch time sessions for new hams have been held in Ukiah every other Tuesday. These "elmering" classes have helped several new hams become more informed about some of the equipment and terms encountered in ham radio. (Editor's note, the Elmer has been WA6KLLK, Len Gwinn.)

Every once in a while an opportunity comes up to participate in community events, which allow hams to practice while providing a community service. The most recent such event took place on Sunday September 16, when 3 hams provided coordinating communications for the parade in Boonville. While this was not a particularly complex exercise, it proved to be an outstanding training experience for 2 fairly new hams. It also provided excellent public exposure, demonstrating to the parade organizers that local hams are available and capable. (Editors note, Tim was the lead on this.)

We've managed to start moving ahead, now with your help, let's build some momentum. Remember that planning, training, practice, and above all, organization, are needed before the disaster strikes.

Tim – WB9NJS

LAST MEETING

The last regular meeting was held on Monday, August 27. The program for the meeting consisted of a presentation of the evolving amateur radio emergency communications service in Mendocino County. The essence of this service consists of a set of simplex or low level repeater communications nets operating on the 2 meter band with each local community having their own net organized around the local fire station. Simplex or low level operations are conducted to handle local problems with repeater nets operating to communicate over a larger area. A major disaster (such as a major earthquake) would generate so many emergency situations as to overwhelm the relatively small number of wide area repeaters.

At the present time, such simplex nets are operating in Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Albion, Gualala/Point Arena, and Brooktrails. A small net is being started in Ukiah and the Brooktrails net is being expanded to include more than the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). A county wide net for local net control operators is held at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays on the 147.390/145.430 linked repeater system. Net control duties are rotated on a weekly basis but everyone can monitor the activity. To view the latest status of the McARCS plan, please visit <http://home.comcast.net/~mcarcs/>.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, September 24 starting at 7 PM in the Brooktrails fire station. A nominating committee to help select candidates for officer positions for the next year will be appointed. George Burton, K7WWA will be presenting highlights of his 3 month tour of the country on the big screen.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Here is the latest information on the annual holiday dinner:
Thursday Dec. 13, 2007 at the Broiler restaurant in Redwood Valley.
5:00 PM Cocktails, 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Presentations
\$23.00 per person including tip but not including drinks
Choice of NY Steak, Prawns, Grilled Chicken, or Ribs
Reservations: Call Arlene Davison 459-2011 by Dec. 7th
Make dinner choice and pay the WARS treasurer at the restaurant.

WANTED

Used 2 meter radios for donation or low price to equip some very new hams that would like to try out the hobby without making a large financial commitment at this time. WA6KLLK will coordinate this effort to match up sellers (or donors) to recipients. Call or email Len using the Membership Roster button on the WARS web site home page.

2008 CALENDER OF EVENTS

It is not too early to consider planning to attend some of the significant amateur radio events in 2008. Here is an advance look at some of the events. In some cases, the web site listed has not yet been updated but you can see what was planned in 2007.

Due to lack of interest and participation in 2007, no social events for WARS are being planned for 2008 at this time.

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT or INFO</u>
January 19-21	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS
January 20-26	Quartzite AZ Hamfest	www.quartzfest.org
April 26	VOMARC Hamfest, Sonoma	www.vomarc.org/
April 25-27	DX Convention, Fresno	www.dxconvention.org
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention, OH	www.hamvention.org
June 7-8	SF Section Conv., Ferndale	www.humboldt-arc.org
June 6-8	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS
June 28-29	Field Day	Open
August 2	Fresno Hamfest, Fresno	www.w6to.com/
September 12-14	SW Div. Convention, Mesa, AZ	www.azhamcom.org
September 12-14	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS

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>
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 jnadler@sbcglobal.net
Mill Valley	December 8, 9 AM	Alan Weisman (510-237-1978) alweisman@juno.com

TOOLS

Hammer - A tool which acts as a divining rod to locate expensive and delicate parts not far from the object you are trying to "adjust." Also used to tap oil pans and brittle castings to determine the location of the nuts and bolts you cannot find.

Box Knife - Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered by guys in brown uniforms. Particularly effective on boxes containing soft materials such as gaskets, instruction manuals, and liquids.

Gasket Scraper - A device used to score and/or scratch precision machined surfaces. Also used to remove dog poop from your boots.

Pliers - A manual device used to round off bolt heads.

Vise Grips - A highly efficient device for rounding off bolt heads. Also used as an effective device for transferring welding heat directly to the palm of your hand.

Hacksaw - A cutting tool which operates on the Ouija Board principal. It transforms human energy into random, unpredictable motion. The harder you try to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

Straight-slot Screwdriver - Used to mix epoxy resin and hardener to a consistent dark gray color on the torn-off top of an oil filter box.

Cross-point Screwdriver - A tool for opening the inner foil seal of 1-quart oil containers and 1-gallon antifreeze jugs, thus transferring contents of same onto your shirt. Also used to round off cross-point screw heads.

Deep Well Sockets - Normally used as piston-pin and wheel bearing drifts. May also be used for drawing circles when a coffee can lid would be way too big.

Drop Light - An appliance used to apply large red welts and blisters to various parts of a mechanic's anatomy while simultaneously eliciting streams of invective and blasphemy.

Shop Rags - Small pink squares composed primarily of lint which, when saturated with whatever fluids are accidentally spilled within the workshop, add a unique smell to the washer/dryer, and the family's clothes thereafter.

Oxy-acetylene Torch - An expensive tool used almost exclusively for lighting stale workshop cigarettes that you keep hidden in the back of your socket drawer because your wife would never think to look there.

Electric Drill - Normally used for spinning pop rivets until you die of old age.

Socket Drawers - A storage device once used to organize the sockets you have now strategically placed in odd locations throughout the workshop.

Drill Press - A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching pieces of bar stock out of your hand so that they slap you in the chest and fling your last beer across the shop.

Wire Wheel - Cleans rust off bolts then hurls them at the speed of light toward the nearest really expensive and most easily damaged item in the workshop. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned guitar calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "Ouch...."

1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER: A large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

Shop Manual - A book which describes in detail the workings and components of all systems which are currently functioning properly. Through unexplained magic, all reference to the part you're actually trying to fix mysteriously disappears whenever you reach for the shop manual.

Outside Micrometer - A device for periodically reviewing the true meaning of all of those little incremental marks on the barrel and trying to remember whether they translate into thousandths or hundred thousandths of an inch and just how many places to the right of the decimal that is anyway.

Battery Electrolyte Tester - A convenient method of transferring sulfuric acid from the battery to the inside of your toolbox after determining that your battery is as dead as a doornail, just as you thought.

Metric Wrenches - Used on items manufactured in countries whose citizens mistakenly believe that measurements based on an inaccurate estimate of the true circumference of the earth are easier to visualize and more accurate than measurements based on the instep of a dead king. On products using Imperial measurements, metric wrenches are used mainly for rounding off bolt heads.

Table Saw - Expensive storage surface used to store unfinished projects in garages of want-to-be cabinet makers. Called a saw only because when turned on it will cut and clear all contents off the table and scatter them across the garage.