



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>  
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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 **Denny's** Restaurant in Fort Bragg. **NOTE THE CHANGE**

## **From the prez – October 2007**

What is the future of WARS?

Throughout this year, my column has highlighted many of the positive events which have taken place in the Mendocino county amateur radio community. This has indeed been an outstanding year. There are several new hams in the county, many of whom have become active in their local community. Some of the “old timers” have reached out to help these new hams become more familiar with the hobby, demystifying the terms, procedures, and equipment common in amateur radio. Amateurs have participated in an increasing number of public service events, which not only provide valuable training, but also much needed public exposure. County-wide, there is more interest and activity than I’ve seen in years, preparing for the day when our communities will depend on amateur radio for emergency communications.

The future of the Willits Amateur Radio Society, however, appears dim against this bright backdrop. For much of the year, attendance at the monthly WARS meetings has been falling. In the past few months, only a handful of members have attended the regular meetings. This parallels a broader trend in WARS. Over the last ten years, the paid membership has fallen by nearly 50%, along with a similar, if not steeper drop in attendance and participation. As part of this trend, we find there are few people willing to accept a leadership role in our society. The result is the responsibility for running WARS has fallen on the shoulders of just a few. Many of these members have held one office or another non-stop for 6 years or more, and may be growing weary of the burden.

Unfortunately, I don’t believe there are easy answers to the situation WARS faces. Perhaps the time for WARS to be one of the leading amateur radio groups in this county has come and gone. I’m not ready to give up on WARS just yet, and I hope there are others that feel the same way. At the October meeting a nominating committee will be formed (appointed?) to develop a slate of candidates for the three WARS officers, with elections to follow at the November meeting.

Without a willingness to participate, WARS cannot continue as we know it. Please do what you can to ensure that the dawn of greater amateur participation within Mendocino County does not coincide with sun setting on WARS.

Tim – WB9NJS

## **LAST MEETING**

The last meeting on September 24 saw a considerable discussion about the evolving Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service (McARCS) project. The need now is to develop local simplex nets to handle emergency and disaster related traffic off of the wide area repeaters and to develop a connection to the local fire station or other agency to report such emergency traffic. There is a considerable such effort on the coast but not much inland other than in Brooktrails. WB9NJS will be starting such a net in the greater Willits area and W6JRC (and others) are working on such a net in Ukiah. Other communities need to organize their areas.

There is a county wide net starting up on the 147.390/145.430 linked repeaters at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays. At this time, the county wide net only calls the roll by community or town name but individual station participation is invited later. More participation is needed. Check on the McARCS status and information by going to <http://home.comcast.net/~mcarcs/>. The status of the local nets will be carried on the Nets link from the McARCS home page if known to the editor of this newsletter.

President Tim Hanna, WB9NJS, reported on the ham radio activity associated with the Mendocino County Fair parade in Boonville on September 23. He and two other (fairly new but not WARS member) hams from the Ukiah and Boonville areas monitored parade unit assembly and departure status and communicated this information to the reviewing stand and arena announcer positions. He was able to demonstrate the instant communications between all stations as compared with the slow and one-on-one communications effected by the cell phone system. Another station or two would have been helpful to assist in parade route management.

Tim also reported on his VHF contest activity as a rover in the Sacramento valley. It appeared that there was no other VHF contest activity by WARS members.

A contribution of \$200 to the Brooktrails Firefighter's Association was authorized as our thanks for the use of their meeting room. This is our annual contribution which, for some reason, was not delivered earlier in the year.

The entertainment portion of the meeting consisted of George Burton, K7WWA, presenting some photographic highlights of his three month journey around the country. The loan of the fire department's projector made all of this possible on the pull down big screen.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, October 22 starting at 7 PM in the Brooktrails fire station. Note that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, not the last Monday in the month. The meeting is always held on the 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday. A nominating committee to help select candidates for officer positions for the next year will be appointed.

Program will be viewing ARRL video *Katrina, The Untold Story* and some other ARRL PR material aimed at informing local officials on the role that Amateur Radio can play. A discussion about using these tools to promote amateur radio with local officials will follow.

## **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.

## **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 as 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	<a href="http://www.quartzfest.org">www.quartzfest.org</a>
April 26	VOMARC Hamfest, Sonoma	<a href="http://www.vomarc.org/">www.vomarc.org/</a>
April 25-27	DX Convention, Fresno	<a href="http://www.dxconvention.org">www.dxconvention.org</a>
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention, OH	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">www.hamvention.org</a>
June 7-8	SF Section Conv., Ferndale	<a href="http://www.humboldt-arc.org">www.humboldt-arc.org</a>
June 6-8	VHF Contest from Walker Ridge	WB9NJS
June 28-29	Field Day	Open
August 2	Fresno Hamfest, Fresno	<a href="http://www.w6to.com/">www.w6to.com/</a>
August 30	W6OMF Hamfest, Vacaville	Google Runt Ranch
September 12-14	SW Div. Convention, Mesa, AZ	<a href="http://www.azhamcom.org">www.azhamcom.org</a>
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>
Napa	November 11, 1 PM	Mark Evans 494-6534 <a href="mailto:ke6o@napasars.org">ke6o@napasars.org</a>
Novato	November 17, 9 AM	(415)-382-8135 <a href="mailto:members@k6bw.org">members@k6bw.org</a>
Sonoma	December 1, 9 AM	Joel Nadler 545-1782 <a href="mailto:jlnadler@sbcglobal.net">jlnadler@sbcglobal.net</a>
Mill Valley	December 8, 9 AM	Alan Weisman (510-237-1978) <a href="mailto:alweisman@juno.com">alweisman@juno.com</a>

## **FROM THE MYSTERIOUS MIND OF STEPHEN WRIGHT:**

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

I had amnesia once -- maybe twice.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart.

Photons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove money can't make me happy.

I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible.... and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to edge his car onto a freeway.

Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

One nice thing about egotists... they don't talk about other people.

When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to look like a nail.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

What was the greatest thing before sliced bread?

My weight is perfect for my height.... which varies.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

The high cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

How can there be self-help "groups"?

Is there another word for synonym?

The speed of time is one second per second.

Is it possible to be totally partial?

What's another word for thesaurus?

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

It's not an optical illusion. It just looks like one.

Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?