



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 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.

## **From the prez – November 2007**

Much to be thankful for....

My recent visit to San Diego County made me stop and take stock of a few things. Just the thought of the thousands of homeowners who lost everything in the October fires is quite sobering. The realization that a similar conflagration could visit Mendocino County is downright chilling. The range of natural disasters which could strike our county doesn't stop there. Earthquakes, landslides, floods and tsunamis are all real possibilities. It's easy to convince yourself that it "won't happen here", but think about recent headlines. Devastating earthquakes, floods and fires have all been reported in recent months, and there is no magical force protecting Mendocino County from such disasters. In fact, if a regional disaster strikes, Mendocino County residents can expect to wait awhile for relief services.

So what is there to be thankful for? Well, first of all, that these things have NOT happened recently in Mendocino County. Secondly, that we live in an area where people care about each other. More specifically, I'm incredibly thankful that there are people in our community willing to step forward and prepare to help others when disaster strikes. In the last year I've come to know several wonderful hams who have contributed their skills, time, and effort to moving Mendocino County closer to being prepared to deal with the inevitable. From me and your neighbors, a heartfelt THANKS!!

Tim – WB9NJS

## **LAST MEETING**

At the meeting on October 22, attendees viewed the ARRL presentation on the ham radio involvement in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. A nominating committee consisting of KE6COB and WA6KLG was appointed to solicit for officers of WARS for the upcoming year.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Willits Amateur Radio Society will be held on Monday, November 26 starting at 7 PM in the Brooktrails fire station.

The election of officers for the next year will be held at this meeting.

## **NETS**

A number of communities have been holding local nets on simplex frequencies in order to prepare for the upcoming disaster – not if, only when. At the present time, the greater Willits area is holding their net at 7 PM on Wednesdays on 146.460. The Brooktrails area is holding their net at 7:15 PM on Wednesdays on 146.580. The Brooktrails net control station usually operates from the Brooktrails fire station.

All stations within the simplex range of the net control station are invited to check in either on a regular basis via roll call or as a visitor. The use of simplex frequencies for local operations is being emphasized in order to reserve the repeater facilities for wider area communications in the event of a major disaster.

Other communities in the county have their own nets. Please consult the web site of the Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service (McARCS) at <http://home.comcast.net/~mcarcs> and go to the Local Nets page to see what may be operating in your area. Other inquiries about McARCS may be directed to [mcarcs@comcast.net](mailto:mcarcs@comcast.net)

There is also a county-wide net at 7:30 PM using the facilities of the 147.390 and 145.439 linked repeaters. The initial roll call for this net is for the net control operators of the various communities although there is usually an open call following the initial roll call.

## **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 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	<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>
Sonoma	December 1, 9 AM	Joel Nadler 545-1782 <a href="mailto:jnadler@sbcglobal.net">jnadler@sbcglobal.net</a>
Mill Valley	December 8, 9 AM	Alan Weisman (510-237-1978) <a href="mailto:alweisman@juno.com">alweisman@juno.com</a>

## Growing Up

(Editor's note) I received this via email and modified it a little bit to reflect my experiences.

"Hey Dad," one of my kids asked the other day, "What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?"

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow."

"C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?"

"It was a place called 'at home'," I explained. "Grandma cooked every day and when Grandpa got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears AND Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore. Maybe he died.

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). I went everywhere on that bike.

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 17, but my some families had one before that. They were, of course, black and white. Some people had a lens taped to the front of the TV to make the picture look larger.

I was 13 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called "pizza pie." My dad was the first one in our family that was brave enough to order that exotic foreign dish.

We didn't have more than one car until I was 12. Before that, the only car in our family was kept in a rented garage four days of the week as my dad was in a car pool going to work.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room. It had a rotary dial.

One of my sets of grandparents had a tall stick shaped telephone without a dial. When you picked up the receiver and held it to your ear, a soft voice said "Number please?")

The other set of grandparents had a phone on the wall with a crank attached. One turned the crank to alert the operator that we wanted to make a call. They lived in a very rural area but he was the town physician and surgeon (the only one for many miles around). He also owned the only drugstore for miles around.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk was. The glass bottles of milk were delivered to an opening in the wall between the outside and inside of the house -- the milk chute. On very cold winter mornings, the milk would freeze and the cream would push up through the top of the bottle and hang there in a weird sort of icecicle. (I lived in Wisconsin.)

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers. I delivered a newspaper, seven days a week. It cost 5 cents a paper for weekdays, 10 cents for Sunday. I delivered the afternoon paper after school but I had to get up at 4 AM every Sunday morning. On Saturday, I had to collect the 40 cents from my customers -- I got to keep 10 cents. My favorite customers were the ones who gave me 50 cents and told me to keep the change. My least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day. We bought and sold our routes from and to other boys at a price fixed by the number of customers.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. Touching someone else's tongue with yours was called French kissing and they didn't do that in movies. I don't know what they did in French movies. French movies were dirty and we weren't allowed to see them.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?