



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM

MAY 26 TH, 2014

The Repeater Project - Almost Home

It's Memorial Day weekend and a dedicated team of hams are busy finishing up phase two of our Centralia Amateur Radio repeater project. Phase one was our recent antenna party using Riverside Fire's huge ladder truck to mount our newly donated dual band antenna at 70 feet on the Cooks Hill Fire Station's radio tower.

This weekend's project, phase two, was installation of the new 2 meter repeater and mounting of our current 440 repeater all into one professional looking equipment rack.

Steve Szombathy, W7UDI, donated and built our new 2 meter repeater. Steve is ARES team member Bill McGowan's son-in-law and currently lives in Ellensburg. Arriving Saturday morning, Steve worked through the day to assemble and test the 2 meter repeater and then returned Sunday morning to install the 440 repeater into the rack and tune it. But wait... there's more!

Steve has already reprogrammed a handful of used VHF and UHF land mobile radios and given them to the team. Within the next few weeks, he will bring us more radios that will go into the Centralia City Light building, the Yelm Hydro Plant, the Cooks Hill

Fire Station and our new Communications Vehicle completing several of our Centralia communication backbone projects.

Needless to say, we kind of like

this guy! Generous doesn't begin to describe a ham like this. We're almost there. We're using regular coax in the 120 foot run from repeater to antenna and it needs to be replaced with good hardline. That's phase three, hopefully completed soon.

Thanks to Steve Smith, W7HDO and Kim Aiken, AC7YY who donated the 440 machine and to Bill McGowan, W7FQQ and Steve Szombathy, W7UDI for the 2 meter repeater and general installation. K7CEM now has a wonderful new dual band repeater system.

Thanks go as well to the Centralia ARES crew who helped with the antenna installation and repeater work. You know who you are! Finally, many thanks to Chief Mile Kytt, KG7GQT and his Riverside Fire team for making this project happen.



Repeater cans being tuned by Steve, W7UDI



Steve, W7UDI, and the completed repeater rack at Cooks Hill Fire Station



Bill McGowan
W7FQQ

Centralia ARES team advisor, Bill McGowan, W7FQQ is a very generous guy. He also has a very generous son-in-law, Steve Szombathy, W7UDI. Steve has a real talent for repurposing used Land Mobile radios into amateur radios. He previously provided Centralia ARES with two great VHF and two UHF radios. Now he is bringing eight more radios and a full 2 meter repeater for use in our communications backbone system. He is even going to install the repeaters for us.

Our 440 repeater was previously owned by Steve Smith, W7HDO (one of our Members-At-Large) who gave it to Kim Aiken, AC7YY (another of our Members-At-Large) who generously donated it to the Centralia ARES team. Nobody can say hams aren't generous people.

Now both repeaters will be installed together at Riverside Fire Authority's Cooks Hill fire station. With the antenna at 70 feet, the coverage maps look pretty good for the area.



Firefighters Casey McCarthy, KG7GQL and Jade Gross KG7AQJ who volunteered their time to run the RFA ladder truck.



Carol, KE7YZB, Lyle, KB7PI, Teresa, N4MBA, Bill, W7FQQ, Ricardo, KE7YYY and Linc, K0ZCO



Chief Mike Kytta, KG7GQT



Firefighter Jade Gross, KG7AQJ and Lewis County Radio Technician Scott Mattoon, WA7SM

*Thanks to everyone involved in this antenna project.
You are GREAT!*