



# CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM

NOVEMBER 2017

*Amateur Radio is a hobby... Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a commitment!*

## Confederated Tribes of The Chehalis Reservation Donation



With a very generous donation of \$5,000.00, this month by the Confederated Tribes of The Chehalis Reservation, the Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Service team is moving forward with some much needed upgrades to several critical communication sites. The vast majority of radios were used when given to us nine years ago when the team was formed. While they have performed well, we have experienced several system failures in the last few months that need attention.

Several sites, including the Emergency Operations Center, the Emergency Coordination Center at Riverside Fire Station #2 and our communications van are being considered for upgrades to radio and antenna systems.

The Chehalis Tribe has donated heavily to support first responders and community preparedness throughout the region and works to provide critical upgrades for volunteer organizations such as Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Thanks to the Confederated Tribes of The Chehalis Reservation for their amazing gift.

## Comm III Updates

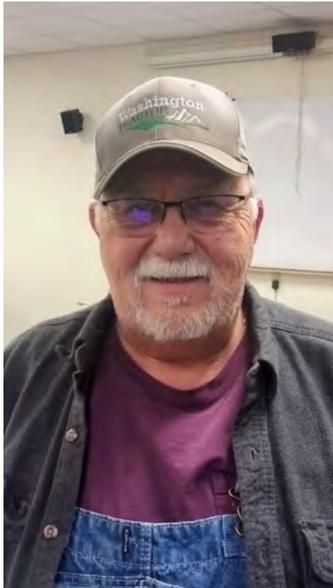


John, AD6KT, Paul, KE7PCB and Skip, KIHEK, work on flooring (top) while Alex, KI7PAZ and John, AD6KT, trim wall boards (right)

As of the last week in November, the floors are down and the walls are up in our newest communication van, designated Comm III. Bulkheads between the driver's cab and the communications area have also been installed. The three cabinets, main desk and radio shelf will come next and will take the most time to build. In the meantime, we will be selecting and ordering the VHF, UHF and HF radios and can now install antennas as well as the Fire / Law radios. We're moving forward!



**Congratulation Frank, KF7RSI**



Congratulations go out this month to Frank Mitalas, KF7RSI, who successfully upgraded to his Amateur Radio General Class license at the recent November 7th testing session.

Frank and his wife, Cindy, (also a ham) live in Toledo after moving from the Yakima area where they were both heavily involved in Search and Rescue work for many years.

The digital bug recently bit Frank and he has been a regular at the team's Ham Radio Lab working to learn more about Winlink Express and how to get his system up and running.

Congratulations Frank!

**Accepting the Check**

Confederated Tribes of The Chehalis Reservation representative Jeff Warnke was on hand to present the \$5,000 donation check to AEC Lyle Olmsted, KB7PI, and EC Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Friday, November 17th.

Thanks to Lyle who got the ball rolling on this exciting donation. His efforts to make this happen will result in some wonderful new equipment for our ARES team.



**Centralia ARES Ham Radio Lab**

The ARES team's "Ham Radio Lab", hosted by Pastor Bill Knepper, N7GWK, at his Mountain View Baptist Church in Centralia has been well attended with an average of 15 or so team members present. Held on the third Monday evening from 6:30 pm—8:30 pm, the lab is designed with information flow and hands on learning in mind.

Attendees may learn how to install Anderson Powerpole connectors one month or try their hand at the CW training key or even get some much needed help programming their HT. Recently, it has been mostly about setting up Winlink Express and learning about how to operate the system.

Whatever your interest or problem, there is usually a mentor available to lend a hand. Bring your equipment and manuals so we can help with a problem or just come to watch and learn. The coffee and cookies are always free.



Marvin, N6XML, Paul, KE7PCB and James, N7LOY working to set up Paul's digital system

**Centralia's Lighted Tractor Parade  
Saturday, December 9th**

The holiday season is upon us and once again, Centralia ARES will be assisting with this year's downtown Lighted Tractor Parade, schedule for Saturday, December 9th from 6pm-9pm.

The team will be responsible for setting up the CPD command van and our own Comm II next to the parade start line on College Blvd. Our volunteers will also provide communications along the parade route and work to keep kids safe as they scamper for candy thrown by parade vehicles.

This is an important event and we need you. Because the parade happens after dark, there is a critical need for volunteers to keep the event safe. If you can help, let us know. It can be cold and wet at times but our volunteers do a very necessary service during this holiday parade.



Ernesto, KI7GOI and Lyle, KB7PI, work on a Raspberry Pi at November's Ham Radio Lab