



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM

DECEMBER 2017

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

TwinStar Credit Union Donates \$6,350



AEC Lyle Olmsted and EC Bob Willey accept donation check from Centralia Branch Manager Jon Brein and Chief Marketing Officer Matt Devlin at TwinStar's corporate offices on December 12th.

When the ARES team approached TwinStar Credit Union Branch Manager Jon Brein and asked for a \$1,500 donation, he said he would see what he could do. When he found that we actually needed \$6,350 to completely renovate our newest communication van project, he went to work and before long, we were notified that TwinStar would fund the entire project.

On December 12th, AEC Lyle Olmsted and EC Bob Willey visited the TwinStar corporate offices in Lacey to receive a check from Jon and Chief Marketing Officer Matt Devlin.

We thank the TwinStar Credit Union for their community spirit and their generous support. Volunteer communications teams such as ours simply could not do what we need to do without some financial backing. TwinStar Credit Union made the donation process fun.

Floors, walls and bulkheads have been installed in the new van and we are beginning work on the cabinets, desks and radio shelf which take the most time to build. 2018 is going to be a great year!

2017 Lighted Tractor Parade



This year's Lighted Tractor Parade was the biggest ever with an estimated 10,000 people in attendance despite the cold temperatures. There were tractors, of course, as well as big rigs, floats, high school bands, and just about anything else that could be wrapped in lights. With candy galore, well meaning kids became an issue when they pushed so far into the parade route, the parade had to come to a stop until order could be restored. The "largest fireworks display ever in Lewis County" culminated the evening near Borst

Happy New Year!

Congratulation Paul, KE7PCB



Paul Barwick, KE7PCB, joined Centralia ARES in April of this year after hearing a presentation at the CPD Citizen’s Academy. He quickly passed his Technician license and became heavily involved with several team projects, dedicating much of his time to our new communication van, local radio nets and building up his home station.

When Paul decided to upgrade his amateur radio license class, he did so in a big way successfully passing both his General Class license and his Extra Class license at the same VE session.

Congratulations to Paul who purchased a new IC-7300 a few months ago.

Welcome Scott Dakers, W7SGD



Welcome to our newest Centralia ARES team member, Scott Dakers, W7SGD. Scott, who lives in the Olympia area, is the Assistant Emergency Coordinator in charge of training for the Thurston County ARES team.

Scott approached us a few months ago with the thought of working out some sort of mutual assistance plan that would allow our two ARES teams to support each other during a disaster response. Thurston County is, of course, our nearest Amateur Radio Emergency Services neighbor.

One of the first issues we ran into was cross border certification and insurance coverage. One simple way to overcome the problem was simply to become a member of both teams.

During 2018, we will be working together to provide cross border training. We need to get to know each other if we are to depend on each other’s support when needed most. Please make Scott feel welcome as he joins Centralia ARES.

Projects On The Horizon For 2018

EOC and ECC Amateur Radio Upgrades

The Emergency Operations Center at City Hall currently has a dual band radio, a VHF radio and a UHF radio. All of these systems were used when we received them and, while thankful for the donated equipment, it is time to upgrade and the generous donation from the Chehalis Tribe has made that possible. The Riverside Fire Authority’s Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) houses one VHF radio. Sadly we have experienced several radio failures at the ECC and what is being used now is a radio currently on loan from Chuck .

Just after the first of the year, we will install new Kenwood TM-V71A dual band radios in the EOC, and an Icom IC-7300 HF radio and upgrade the rooftop antenna systems.

RFA’s Emergency Coordination Center will receive one new TM-V71A dual band radio and a dual band antenna will be installed there as well.

Net Control Assignments

Our net control procedures are due for some overhaul and a fresh, new look. John , AD6KT has been assigned to create an up to day disaster net control procedures plan. He will be working on net procedures during a callup or activation, how we can use different frequencies based on our needs and will also be working on check in procedures for training nights.

Paul, KE7PCB, has been actively working to mentor newer team members to become involved in the Sunday night nets such as the CVARS and Lewis County ARES nets. He has been tasked with developing not only this project but to come up with other ideas such as mid week K7CEM repeater or simplex training nets or other fun activities.

Much of our spring exercises will deal with net operations and tightening up our radio procedures. Time to brush up on your phonetic alphabet.

Manner’s Hill Repeater Project

Manner’s Hill is located just a short distance from Riverside Fire Authority’s Lincoln Creek fire station. Near the top of the hill stands a small radio building and a 120 foot antenna tower which allows communications with the Independence Valley and Garrard Creek volunteer fire stations.

For some time, Centralia ARES and RFA have been discussing how to place an amateur radio repeater on the tower to provide back up amateur radio out to these stations and beyond. Equipment and costs have been the prohibiting factors in moving forward.

Then, along came the donation from the Chehalis Tribe. While funds from this donation will not go towards a repeater on Manners Hill, the Chehalis Tribe did indicate they were interested in possibly funding the repeater project after the

first of the year. Now we need to do some planning and work up cost estimates. Chief Kytta has agreed to provide space in the radio building for the repeater equipment. There appears to be space to place an antenna on the tower – perhaps near the 100 foot level, and there is backup power at the site in the form of a propane generator.

A repeater at this location would enhance communications ability in the Centralia area and would provide amateur radio capability for the two Riverside Fire Authority stations. Should the region experience a catastrophic earthquake, the Manner’s Hill site could be useful in assisting with relief efforts out of the counties nearer the coast.

While still in the planning stages, you will hear more about this project in the coming months. Stay tuned.