



# CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM

FEBRUARY 2018

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

## Centralia ARES Invited Back To Communications Academy



Comm II and Communications Trailer on display at the  
Seattle Communications Academy

2017's Seattle Communications Academy was the first time we displayed our communications van and trailer at their popular emergency vehicle display. Amid high winds and nasty weather, we had lots of participants interested in our equipment. The winds finally forced us to take down the protective tent and button up the trailer but we made it through half the day before doing so.

While there are quite a few large, emergency management motorhomes on display each year, many enjoy viewing the smaller, more tactical vans like ours and see them as a project they too could build.

We have been invited back for the 2018 show, scheduled for Saturday, April 14th. We hope to bring both of our vans this year. It will be tight but that's the goal, so when you attend this year's event, sign up to help or stop by and give us some support.

## We're Learning Soldering Techniques At The Ham Radio Lab



This month we had a request for help learning how to solder coax connectors. These pesky connectors, designed by the devil, can be a real balancing act when it comes to getting temperatures right and making the solder flow where you want it without melting the coax.

Paul, KE7PCB, shows how it is done in the photo to the left. We discussed programming HT's, examined some solar panels and a charging system that Marvin, N6XML set up, and shared ideas about what items would be needed in the Short Deployment Go-bag

Challenge set for our February 19th meeting.

The Ham Radio Lab has become a fun place to seek advice about anything amateur radio related. No one seems afraid to say "I don't know how to do that" and just about everyone has run into similar issues and can offer a solution or show you how to fix the problem. Ham Radio Lab meets the second Monday of each month at the Mt. View Baptist Church starting at 6:30.

## Short Deployment Go-bag Challenge Winner

QST magazine recently asked for an article describing our philosophy on smaller, short deployment go-bags. Packing a go-bag unique to a specific type of exercise or deployment is apparently unusual. We decided to set up a challenge to see who could come

up with the very best go-bag for a 2-6 hour flood deployment. The only rules were that the bag had to weigh 10 pounds or less when stocked and must include at least one HT.



At our February 19th ARES training, team members displayed each entry and its contents. In a silent vote, the team selected Skip Kingman, K1HEK, as the winner and he was presented with the \$25 cash award. A photo of Skip and his go-bag plus contents will be included with the QST article.

**Saturday, March 17th Training Exercise**



The Saturday, March's 17th training exercise will be a little different for us. Centralia ARES has been working on cross training with Thurston County and the cities of Yelm and Lacey to support each other during region-wide disasters. Each agency, however, works differently. For example, other agencies may not use a communication van or may do sheltering differently. On March 17, those agencies will visit Centralia. The training exercise will involve a flood scenario requiring sheltering at one of our local churches. Centralia will demonstrate how we evaluate a local church shelter and assist with setup including communications.

We'll also be showing our communications vans and answering questions about how they were put together and how we use them to support our served agencies and our community. Evaluating local churches for potential shelter use, setting up a communications system within the facility and using vans as an alternate command and control system is not something Thurston County, Yelm or Lacey have used and they are interested in seeing how they work for Centralia.

The entire exercise will run from 9am - noon. Yelm, Lacey and Thurston County, will begin the exercise at 9am with a simulated mutual assistance request from Centralia. They will drive south using the Olympia Amateur Radio Society repeater until they near our community when they will switch over to the K7CEM repeater for directions to the church. Please mark your calendars and plan on participating in this exercise. Our team has not had refresher training on shelter set up or the comm vans yet in 2018 so it will be a great opportunity to get those checked off. It should be a fun way to get to know the other teams and learn from them as well.

**Comm III Build Coming Along**



Amid the sawdust, smell of polyurethane, and stacks of wood, it is often hard to see the finished product but work on Comm III is progressing nonetheless. The photo to the left includes the cabinet under the desk, the shelf above the desk and edging for the bulkheads. Each piece, before it is assembled, must be cut and sanded before three coats of polyurethane is applied — each coat taking 24 hours to dry and be sanded again.

This week we purchased the electrical components for all the plugins, coax pass throughs and mats for the floor. Replacement antennas have been ordered (since we need two new dual band antennas that replace the two single band antennas). The electrical work was completed Saturday, February 24th. The cabinet, desk and shelf can now be installed followed by the main radios. Comm III is coming along!

**Welcome Rich Leon, KI7TZZ**

Our newest Centralia ARES team member, Rich Leon, received his brand new FCC callsign recently and is now officially KI7TZZ .



Rich is married with three children and has lived in the area for twenty years and Centralia for the last three years. After leaving the Army, Rich has been working in communications for thirteen years.

His hobbies include building and racing cars, motorcycles, and RC cars, shooting, welding, metal art and learning.

Rich joined Centralia ARES to learn about ham radios and their operators and is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

**Mike & Key Electronics Show**



The Mike & Key Electronics show and Flea Market - perhaps better known as the Puyallup Hamfest - is one of the first large hamfests each year in our area.

Held in the Pavilion Exhibition Hall at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, this is the place to find almost everything - new or old - relating to amateur radio. This year's event occurs on Saturday, March 10th. \$10 will get you in the door but arrive early as the tables begin to thin early in the afternoon. Parking is free in nearby lots.