



# CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM

MAY, 2018

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

## May 7th ARES Disaster Exercise A First



Comm II Set up for the May 7th Disaster Exercise

With our new communications van completed, our May 7th training exercise allowed us, for the very first time, to utilize multiple emergency communications vehicles in a large scale, flood response drill in the community.

Placing Comm II in Emergency Response Division #4 and Comm III in Division #3 allowed us to practice communications on multiple frequencies to keep in touch with the EOC. Team members practiced windshield surveys and were checked out in the vans radio systems. The Mt. View Baptist Church shelter was also operational pretending to accept four families forced out by flooding in the Galvin area. One of their challenges was establishing a working communications system inside the shelter from whatever they had on hand in their go-bags.

Adding yet another level of difficulty, the exercise called for a pretend RFA response to a near drowning in Galvin which required the ARES team to set up a medical helicopter landing zone in the area near the Galvin bridge.

All systems in Comm III worked as planned and we are very pleased to have the capability for quality communications hubs in multiple emergency response divisions. It was a fun evening for the Centralia ARES team.



Skip and Lyle go over response map area information and check out the radio systems



## May 12th Lewis County Historical Bike Ride



While it has rained often in the past, this year's Lewis County Historical Bike Ride was held under a beautiful blue sky and really nice temperatures. Centralia ARES set up Comm III at Mellen St and Cooks Hill road, the most northerly point on the 100 mile course. As riders began to arrive around 10:30am, team members wrote down their numbers as they passed the checkpoint. These numbers were sent digitally - a first from our newest comm van - back to ride base at Stan Hedwall Park in Chehalis.

Armed with coffee, donuts, water and folding chairs, the team worked hard all day writing down numbers and enjoying the sunshine. This was the first time we had been able to check many of the systems in our new van and everything worked perfectly. A little over 100 bike riders challenged the course. With no injuries and no lost riders, it was a good day. Thanks to everyone who came out to support this great event.

**Centralia Police Department Open House**



On Saturday, May 19th, Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Service team members joined with one of our served agencies, Centralia Police Department, for an Open House event at City Hall. There were static vehicle displays that included a fire engine, SWAT vehicles, police cars and motorcycles, the CPD/RFA command & control van and even our own ARES communications vehicle.

With hotdogs, popcorn, chips and drinks free to everyone, the crowd was large and the weather was perfect. Those taking part could tour the police department, visit the Emergency Operations Center and watch both a K-9 demonstration and an impressive SWAT takedown complete with flash bangs.

Thanks to all the ARES team members who maintained crowd control during the K-9 and SWAT demos and who helped with the vehicle displays and tours.



SWAT Team Takedown

**May 21st ARES Communications Vehicle Orientation**

With 23 onboard systems to learn, our little ARES comm vans require careful and frequent orientation, especially for the newer team members. At our May 21st training, team members were trained on the workings of not only Comm II, but the large CPD / RFA command and control van as well as our smaller tow behind shelter communications trailer, designated Comm IV.

Also presented as part of the evening, was a PowerPoint about communications failures and how they occur. We also welcomed a new team member Jay Boiselle, KI7WLI and prospective team member John Villarreal, KI7YEF.



**Comm III Systems Checks**

Comm III has come a long way from the empty box van we received last summer. Nearly done, we have begun a series of system checks to be sure everything works as planned. These include being sure all radios are programmed correctly, making sure the Tarheel mini-screwdriver antenna for the Icom 7300 HF radio functions with the radio, stocking emergency water and food into the cabinets, testing the scanner and CB radio and working through the Winlink Express digital programming system.

We'll be doing a series of field tests over the next few weeks just to be sure Comm III, as well as our other communications van and trailer, are ready for Field Day operations. If you haven't toured these vehicles join us there June 23/24th in beautiful Borst Park.

