



# CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM

JUNE, 2018

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

**Field Day 2018..... Field Day 2018.....Field Day 2018**



2018 marks our team's eighth Field Day communications exercise in beautiful Fort Borst Park. Held the last full weekend in June, Field Day gives us the opportunity to display our communications vans and trailer to the community. Just as important, it is designed to test just about everything we do as volunteers. Every piece of equipment is put through its paces. Radios and generators are tested, backup antenna systems are erected and our ability to contact other stations across the U.S. and Canada, no matter the conditions, is put to the test.

But Field Day is also about volunteerism. ARES folks do what they do to support our community, to support our served agencies, and to support each other.

One popular activity each year is our annual hidden transmitter hunt, also called a "fox hunt", where a small box containing a tiny transmitter is hidden somewhere in the park. Finding this box using only a handheld portable amateur radio is challenging. This year, an eleven year old named Andrew, who has only had his FCC license two weeks, was the first to find it and win the prize. Second and third place went to more senior hams.

Comm II & trailer at Field Day



Andrew, right, won the Fox Hunt



The Olmsted's enjoying the potluck meal

**Field Day 2018...continued**

Saturday afternoon also included our annual potluck feast. Our Field Day chef, Dan, bought a brand new grill just for the occasion and supplied all the hamburgers and hotdogs the group could eat.

Those operating the radios worked late into the night trying to find one more elusive contact. By 11:00am Sunday as Field Day came to a close, 117 CW and 114 voice contacts were in the books and we began to dismantle all the equipment.

During this years exercise, we tested and tried some new equipment and some new techniques. Some worked and some will need changing. Five independent radio systems were used during Field Day covering all the available amateur radio bands. Two radio towers were erected as well as one smaller push up antenna and two long-wire antennas systems. Each tower required approximately 10 people to safely set it up, guy it and then later take it all down once again. At the end of the day, we were able to demonstrate our ability to setup and establish emergency communications *“anywhere...anytime”*.



Dan’s new grill, below, and setting up the large comm van, right

Securing an antenna with ropes, left, and working CW, right



**Helicopter Landing Zone Practice — June 4th Training**

At our June 4th training, new ARES members learned how to set up an emergency landing zone for medical evacuation by helicopter. Using a field in north Centralia, they selected a level area and established a 100’ x 100’ LZ, setting out orange cones and flashing lights for pilot recognition. Next they determined the latitude and longitude for the site, and created a list of known overhead obstacles such as power lines, tall trees and street lights . Using all this information, they developed briefing notes to be transmitted to the pilot upon approach. Two team members were then selected to practice giving the pilot briefing over the air.

While no real helicopter arrived during this training, the pressure to get it right was ever present. This is an exercise we will conduct several times throughout the summer, testing our knowledge at different potential landing zones. As fall arrives, we will also practice setting up landing zones for operations during darkness.

Riverside Fire Authority currently uses two separate medical helicopter response groups - one in Olympia and one in Longview. While our ARES team has practiced several times with Airlift Northwest out of Olympia, we have not had the opportunity to work with Life Flight out of Longview but hope to do so in the near future.

Ongoing training is the key to safe helicopter operations, especially when using non-regulated landing zones. Should the need arise for our served agencies to call on us for help with evacuations or to establish a medical evacuation by helicopter, we’ll be ready.



Paul, KE7PCB, setting out cones for a helicopter landing zone