



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM

May 2021

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



Lewis County Historical Bike Ride May 8th

The Centralia Chehalis Optimist Club will once again be hosting its multi-layered bike ride around Lewis County. On Saturday, May 8th, they will offer a 13, 48, 68 and 100 mile ride package starting and ending from the Jackson Prairie Assembly of God Church. Event communications and sag wagon will be run by the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society.

Several locations along the routes will be monitored by volunteers just to make sure no rider becomes injured or otherwise has to leave the ride. The Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Service team will be working the northern most check point just a few feet south of Mellen Street near Airport Road. Look for our ARES communications van next to the Park-N-Ride. Some of our team will also be monitoring the Claquato Church location as well this year. We'll be using the BawFaw Repeater and Winlink to pass rider information along to ride base. Team members will be checking rider numbers, helping with directions and passing out water. The Lewis County Historical Bike Ride is a great way to test yourselves for the Seattle To Portland (STP) weekend ride coming up later in the summer.

2021 Field Day Plans Are Under Way



Summer is approaching and summer's premier amateur radio activity is Field Day, held this year on June 26/27. The event location will be at the spacious property of Don, AI7CE for several reasons. It is a beautiful location, it sits at nearly 400 feet, there is plenty of room and Don and fellow ham Ken, K6YUQ are EXCELLENT cooks who love to share. Centralia ARES's two communication vans will be there and the plans include erecting a portable tower / antenna system so we can talk to the world. The vans will be running off battery power and most if not all of the rest of the radios will be operating off generators allowing us to be 100% emergency power.



Centralia is still in the grip of Covid-19 and it's ongoing phase issues making it unknown when Borst Park will be available as a Field Day site. Thankfully Don's generosity will provide a great alternative location. Join our team for a fun weekend of amateur radio contacts and good food. We may even have the Fir Tree antenna up for this year's event!

Wind Speed Anemometers For Comm II & Comm III



The ARES team recently acquired two Holdpeak HP-866B wind speed anemometers. Anemometers measure current or average wind speed and these also measure temperature, and wind chill as well. They are battery operated and come in a nice soft shell carrying case. One will be placed in each comm van as soon as wall holders are completed. They will remain in their shipping boxes which will also contain spare batteries and a small screwdriver to open the battery door.

The anemometers will be useful should we need to support Riverside Fire during wildfire season and at helicopter landing zone operations. Thanks to Don, AI7CE for the idea!

The Team That Keeps Our Comm Vans Running

Centralia ARES is somewhat unique among smaller Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams in that we possess two identical communications vehicles we call Comm II and Comm III. These vans were military aircraft maintenance vehicles in a former life before our police department obtained them and subsequently passed them on to the ARES team. With lots of hard work by dedicated volunteers and some valuable donation money for the wide range of communications radios inside each van, the ARES team turned them into two amazingly versatile emergency response vehicles that have served us faithfully over many years.



Bruce Blair (left), Terry Driver (center) and Matt Heikkila (right)

While the Centralia Police Department owns, licenses, fuels and insures these vans, we also have a great team of maintenance people who make sure they are always running well. Behind the scenes, Centralia City Shop Manager, Terry Driver (25 years of service), Matt Heikkila (10 years) and Bruce Blair (8 years) work to keep everything running. Besides annual checks on fluids, tires, headlights, taillights, batteries and engines, this crew is just a phone call away for help with any issues. Like many others who work diligently behind the scenes every day, these dedicated mechanics never get enough credit for the amazing work they do.

Thanks, Terry, Matt and Bruce for all you do to support our mission and our volunteers.

Photos of Comm II and Comm III Flashed Around The World!

Were you among the thousands of hams who participated in the 2021 Comm Academy held online over the weekend of April 10/11th? If so, you may have seen photos of the many assorted communications vans displayed at previous Comm Academy events, and there for everyone to see were our own Comm II and Comm III. Interestingly enough, we were told these photos were seen by over 3,700 viewers in 43 countries across 6 continents! Now we can claim to be the “world famous Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Service team”. I wonder if we need to change our ARES logo on our yellow vests to reflect our new world wide status. Perhaps best not to let the notoriety go to our heads just yet.