



## CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM February 2022

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



My thanks to Diane Dempster, W7DWD, and all the wonderful Amateur Radio Emergency Service team members for this beautiful Certificate of Appreciation. It states "The Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Services Team hereby recognizes Bob Willey for his exemplary leadership, inspiration, dedication and camaraderie in sustaining high levels of C.A.R.E.S. operational excellence in our team's mission & commitment, participative learning, professionalism, practice, continuous improvement and readiness to provide emergency communications, supporting the City of Centralia's Police Department, Riverside Fire Authority and the citizens of local communities we serve." Thank you all so much for your support and dedication to our community.—Bob Willey, KD7OWN

### January 6/7 2022 Flood Response

Starting the new year off with a region-wide flood event here in beautiful, historic Centralia should seem routine by now. Each flood, however, is unique. Most often it is the Chehalis River that overflows but this year it was the Skookumchuck River that created most of the problem nearly topping the levies built to contain that waterway through much of Centralia during flooding events. January 6th



Chehalis River Flooding - Mellen Street Bridge

brought water over much of the downtown area by late afternoon with localized flooding throughout the community over the next 24 hours. Eleven ARES team members assisted during the flood with 26 hours in the Incident Command Center, 35 hours doing community windshield surveys and 8 hours at traffic control stations. Thanks to those who helped with this flood and to those who tried to get here to help but couldn't because of closed roads / freeway. I'm sure we will get another opportunity all too soon.



Testing the Starlink Satellite Internet system in Comm III

## ARES Participation At ATM Bombing Goes Viral

Sunday, December 19th 2021, when the Centralia Amateur Radio Emergency Service was called upon to assist the police department with evidence searches at the 1st Security Bank after the ATM bombing, we were happy to help and thrilled to finally put our evidence search training to work. What we didn't expect was the media fallout surrounding that job. First the Chronicle gathered the story. Next KING 5 TV came down and conducted an interview with EC Bob Willey as part of their story. Over the next week, newspapers from around the United States must have had a slow news day because several papers from Texas and the east coast ran the article. The story ended up on the ARRL E-newsletter available to all members and now we are the final story in this month's ARRL Audio News for January 28th. The podcast is just 10 minutes long and talks about new updates of interest to hams. The final story (the last three minutes or so) was all about our response to the bombing. Check out the podcast at [www.arrl.org/arrl-audio-news](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-audio-news). [ARRL Audio News - January 28, 2022 \(blubrri.com\)](#). Thanks Diane.



## Our Newest ARES Vehicle?



Look somewhat familiar? Several years ago, Centralia Police Department received three medium sized box vans from military surplus for the grand total of \$1 each. Two of the original three vans have become our much used and much loved ARES Comm II and Comm III. This last of the three vans was used as a jail transport van for a couple of years but CPD has no use for it any longer and has offered it to us. It's home will remain at the Mellen Street facility. As with the other vans, CPD will maintain ownership, keep up the maintenance, insurance and fuel. We will have it checked out by the great folks at the City Shop in the next few weeks. While I don't think this van will become a communications vehicle, we will put it to good use as a cargo type van to carry ARES equipment wherever it is needed. We're working on an interesting outreach program that I hope you will hear about in the next few weeks and this van will certainly come in handy.

## Updates

The CARES repeater has recently undergone an extensive upgrade. It now rests comfortably at Bill Knepper's home and has received a brand new antenna. Problems were discovered in the coax and with the coax connectors. Thanks to Chuck Tift, W7RD, for repairing those issues as well as retuning the repeater itself. We believe it is now in great shape but we will be testing it Monday, February 7th with another of our area-wide propagation tests. Then we will rebuild the map you've seen before. Thanks to all who helped with this.

We are currently working on a grant proposal from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications AMPRNet—TCP/IP *Networking For Amateur Radio* group. We will let you know more about this grant when it is ready for submitting. Stay tuned and we'll see where this takes us.