



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM July 2022

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



FIELD DAY 2022 didn't quite come up to the 109 degree temperatures of 2021 and that is a good thing. We set up, once again, at the beautiful property belonging to Don, AI7CE which allows us plenty of room to spread out for our long-wire antennas, the two HF towers and four stations. The ARES comm vans provided two stations and a shady area under some large trees held the other two.

Propagation was up and down throughout the weekend but for our ARES team, it has never been about the contact numbers. Rather, we wanted to exercise our emergency equipment, test backup antenna systems and cycle our generators as much as possible. The vans did well on battery power all weekend long and we were able to thoroughly test everything on Comm IV, our shelter communications trailer as well.

With some great food, lots of shade and plenty of cold soft drinks and water, everyone managed to make it through the weekend. With 109 voice and 139 CW contacts we likely won't break any records but any way you look at it, Field Day is all about fun!

Wildfire / RED FLAG Season

It is wildfire and RED FLAG season in Centralia and Lewis County. While this time of year can mean warm weather, summertime events and life (for a short time) without rain, for one of our served agencies, Riverside Fire Authority, it means busy days checking on smoke calls and even busier days fighting regional wildfires. It also means time to change out our team go-bags. Out go the winter gloves and hand warmers and replacing them with N95 masks, leather gloves and plenty of water just to name a few changes.

Centralia ARES trains to provide windshield surveys in front of and around local wildfires. While RFA fights wildfires from burned off areas for protection against fast moving wildfires, windy conditions can kick up allowing fire brands and burning embers to create new spot fires ahead of the current fire line. ARES volunteers train to monitor those areas, at a safe distance, ahead of the active fire and can provide communications directly back to the fire commander if necessary. This mission requires a high level of safety and team coordination. Prior to entering a fire area, ARES team members are briefed on the situation, go-bags are checked and map routes both into and out of the fire area are made clear. Team member then move into the area and contact our forward comms van where they again receive an up to date situation report, making sure all map coordinates are clear before moving to an active fire area. Constant comms keep everyone safe and exposure time is limited in smoke conditions. Safety is the number one concern for both RFA and ARES. While we have not been used on a wildfire as yet, Riverside Fire Chief Mike Kytta says: "it's not if, it's when". We want to be ready when the time comes and training is the key.



Coming Up In August—Wildfire Field Exercise and National Night Out

August is just around the corner. Hot weather is already here and with more on the way, the threat of wildfires increases daily. At our July 18th ARES meeting we received our annual wildfire windshield survey training updates and the follow-up field training exercise occurs August 1st. During this field exercise, team members will practice all phases of a wildfire response, with a pretend set of small spot fires created by a moving train with broken spark arrestors. Locating and reporting each fire's map coordinates and burn behavior as well as



communicating with the ARES command van will keep us busy. Trains can create multiple spot fires along the tracks which can require multiple ARES spotters as well. It will be a busy evening of valuable training.

National Night Out Against Crime returns on Tuesday, August 2nd with celebrations at Washington Park including music, hotdogs, games and vehicle displays. Our ARES communications van will be part of the fun as well educating the public about what we do and giving youngsters an opportunity to talk on the radio.

July 4th Parade & Fun Run



Chief Denham and Skip Kingman, K1HEK

You have to love summer. Warm temps, no rain (mostly) and lots of fun activities. One week after Field Day July 4th arrived and this year, the downtown parade was back in operation with a new addition for our ARES team when we were asked to help with the "I Ran From The Cops" 8K fun run.

The morning began early with set up of our communications van at Fort Borst Park for the run. An estimated



Paul Barwick, KE7PCB
working the Fun Run

100 runners taking part and the cool weather during the morning hours made the fun run...fun. In the afternoon, we changed locations to the downtown area for the local parade. Our comm vans were placed at the north and south ends of the parade route and team members were assigned one block areas throughout the route. A three person traffic team was also placed at the first 90 degree left turn where most of the larger floats had difficulty and often required some support making the turn. Within an hour, the parade completed its circular run of the downtown area and our ARES team members began checking out as they headed home to their own holiday celebrations. Summer is a busy season for our volunteers and there is always some additional training to be done as well. Thanks to all the hams who volunteered to help with the community events.

YOU REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Ken Adams, K6YUQ, Kevin Rasku, KI7KKS and
Chuck Verdon, W5KAV working the parade.