



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM

April 2020

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

Updates From Chief Mike Kytta - Riverside Fire Authority



Over the last several weeks many of the FD's in our area are reporting call volume reductions up to 50%. RFA call volume is off by about 10% for both EMS and Fires. We believe that senior citizens may not be calling 9-1-1 because they may fear being exposed to COVID19 by our personnel or by going to the hospital ER. While there is no way to guarantee that EMS or hospital personnel are not infected both groups are taking extensive measures to prevent the spread of any communicable disease. While this may explain why EMS calls are occurring less than expected our vegetation fires are off track as well. We normally have a significant bump in escaped burn pile fires from late February to early April. This did not occur this season because fewer people have been venturing outside so this may come back to haunt us when things dry up this summer. Most counties and the DNR placed restrictions on burning due to dry conditions

and not really knowing yet how to separate fire crews especially in a base camp environment. Right now the danger is fairly low here because we are in the grow season and things are lush and green this will change just like COVID will. Overall our personnel have weathered the COVID crisis pretty well. We have had one employee come back positive who has recovered and a few others that suspected that COVID might be the cause of their illness but testing has been very hard to come by and the tests are questionable in reliability. We are well stocked with PPE and decontamination supplies and have excellent laundering facilities to keep employees from taking home any virus on uniforms. I hope all ARES members will embrace the fact that we all train for things we really hope never happen. Earthquakes, haz-mat spills and releases and wildfires to name a few. Covid19 does not reduce the chances of any of these incidents occurring but it does compound the challenges doesn't it? We are all guardians of public safety and security and as such we will remain vigilant and committed to our missions I am glad to know that each of you is on our team when and if needed. Lastly, we are very busy with annual equipment maintenance and confidence testing. The following are some fun facts for you about the Riverside Fire Authority.

Calls for service in 2019, 4,102, Size, 184 sq miles, population served, approximately 25,000 (17,000 in city 8,000 rural) this is 1/3rd of the population in LC protected by one Dept with minimum staffing of 4 people on duty. Full time uniformed personnel, 22, Volunteer personnel, 48, paramedics, 13, emt's 30, Fire Stations, 8, Fire Engines, 8 front line with 1 in reserve, ladder trucks, 1, Water Tenders, 4, 1 in reserve, ambulances, 4, 1 in reserve, brush fire trucks, 3, gallons of water on wheels, 24,250 (most of our land mass does not have hydrants), hydrants, 515, feet of fire hose tested annually, 32,500, length of 5" inner diameter supply hose in inventory 1.35 miles, I could go on but that's a lot to think about right there isn't it. In closing, I do hope that everyone is taking good care of themselves because we have been seeing some very sick people due to a variety of illnesses. We value your service and capabilities and look forward to future opportunities to work together.

SKYWARN Weather Spotter Training

Here is your opportunity to be the "eyes and ears" for the US National Weather Service and train to be a certified SKYWARN weather spotter. Weather spotters serve as a "boots on the ground" local reporting system. While the National Weather System (NWS) depends on their weather radar and computer modules, local "eyes and ears" are often more accurate, especially with unusual and fast moving weather changes. For now, COVID-19 prevents in person classes so the NWS has come up with on line training at no cost. This training is being hosted by the Pendleton, Oregon NWS center. Four training dates are available: April 30, May 12, May 22 and June 3rd. All training sessions begin at 6:00 PM and last approximately 90 minutes.

To register for any one of these classes, go to <http://weather.gov/pdt/spotterTraining!>. For more information, contact Bob Willey, KD7OWN at kd7own@comcast.net.



Updates From Chief Carl Nielsen - Centralia Police Department

Hello all,

I hope this article finds you and your family in good health. Bob asked me if I could update you on things happening at the Police Department through this pandemic. As I shared with staff at the onset, crime does not abide by the same rules as normal society. As such, we are still out protecting our community as we did before. The only real changes are that our front office is closed and we have some personnel working from home.



For those of you who are wondering if you are doing enough for public safety during these trying times, I would tell you unequivocally YES! I have always considered it a privilege to have all of the ARES staff committed to helping us keep our community safe. You have always been a force multiplier for us when needed. Your willingness to help out at a moment's notice is appreciated by both our staff as well as the community we all serve. Unfortunately, this current crisis our nation is facing is not one that we have needed you – YET. While I can understand how frustrating it is for a group of dedicated “doers” to be sitting at home, doing so is actually the best way you can help us at this time. By keeping yourself and your family healthy, I know that I can count on you to only be a phone call away when needed.

As most of you are aware, I will be retiring on June 1. I am taking some time off between now and then and will be in and out of work for meetings. So if I don't get a chance to meet with you either individually or as a group, please accept my sincere gratitude for all you do. It has been an honor to serve as your Police Chief. You're an amazing group of people and I wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors!

The K7CEM VHF / UHF Repeater System - April Update

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association Certificate of Coordination

Where as Bill Knepper, Bill has agreed to abide by the Bylaws and Coordination procedures of the WWARA and has requested Coordinated usage of: 145.49 MHz transmit, and 144.89 MHz receive, the WWARA grants coordination status to the following described station:

Station	Station Location	Latitude:	Longitude:	Primary Geographic Area
K7CEM	Centralia	46.725°	-123.025°	CHEHALIS VALLEY

The following Tracking Number has been assigned to this coordination 3182

Station Coordination Holder: Bill Knepper 1707 Winterwood Dr Centralia, WA 98531	Station Technical Data: Height above Sea Level: 400 Ft Antenna Height above Ground: 70 Ft Antenna Azimuth: OMNI Antenna Gain: 6 db Transmit ERP: 87 Watts	Station Access: 110.9	Station Features: e
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It is the Station Coordination Holders responsibility to keep the WWARA informed of the status of this station at least once every five years, including any address changes of the coordinated holder. This coordination is for the above-described system only and expires on the date shown. Any changes in any of the parameters listed must be presented to the WWARA for approval before being implemented. Failure to abide by the coordination policies of the WWARA will result in immediate cancellation.

Date of Original Coordination Apr 12th 2015	Granted By:  Frank A Wolfe, NM7R, Chairman	Coordination Expiration Apr 03rd 2025
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Thanks to Bill, N7GWK, both of our Cooks Hill ARES repeaters are now coordinated and up to date. Every five years, the Western Washington Amateur Relay Association requires amateur radio repeater information be updated with station location, latitude and longitude, height above sea level, antenna height above ground, antenna gain, transmit ERP and frequencies as well as offsets.

While nothing has changed in the last five years, it still must be re-approved and there is plenty of paperwork to be done.

Just in case you have never seen an official “Certificate of Coordination”, I thought you might like to see the results of all that work. This certificate is for the VHF repeater. We have a similar one for the UHF as well. Thanks again to Bill for making this happen.

What Does It Take To Make A Satellite Contact With Amateur Radio?

Satellite communications is an amazing part of our amateur radio hobby. But there are often questions. What equipment do I need to talk to a satellite? Who am I talking to during a contact? How much does it cost? We may have some answers for you.

We are working to create a virtual training session about contacting the satellites in the coming weeks. Jim Pace, K7CEX, has demonstrated how to make satellite contacts during Field Day on several occasions and continues to work them from home. Merle Olmsted, AA4QE, has made over 1,500 satellite contacts since 1979. Both are willing to share their knowledge with you.

We will have more information out soon so stay tuned. This should be a fun session.