



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM

July 2021

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

Field Day 2021 is a wrap! Last year it was all about Covid-19 and this year we experienced our hottest field day temperatures in HISTORY!

With our traditional Field Day site at Fort Borst Park closed again this year awaiting release from Covid restrictions, we once again headed up to team member Don Lockridge's home and were thankful for the cooling breezes during parts of Saturday and Sunday with temperatures in the 112 degree range both days. Our ARES Communications vans were set

up for 15/80 meters and 40 meters, while team member Skip Kingman worked 10 meters from his well equipped pickup. A crank-up tower supported our 6 meter and 20 meter stations under the canopy tent.



This year, we changed directions slightly. In addition to the normal Field Day events, the team also worked around a disaster exercise using our Field Day site as a field "EOC" as well. Saturday morning before Field Day start times, mobile stations tested propagation on simplex, repeaters and HF from Davis Hill, a high point approximately eight miles away. Alert messages were sent from our local airport back to our pretend EOC to inform us that a food, water and supply drop had been delivered and was being stored in a hanger. Later in the afternoon, John Campeau used willing volunteers to demonstrate how to erect the military NVIS antenna, and determine its operating frequency which worked within the 40 meter band. For the next hour or so, several operators made contacts from that antenna.

No one went hungry during all this important work either. We started the day with a great breakfast cooked up by Don and his son (and new general class ham) Byron and of course we were blessed with the very best cinnamon rolls in the world by teammate Evelyn who starts cooking around 3am each and every Field Day. Later in the day, we held our potluck dinner which allowed us to take a break and find some shade for awhile. Both Police Chief Stacy Denham and Riverside Fire Chief Mike Kytta (KG7GQT) stopped by to talk to the volunteers and inspect our communications setups. Chief Kytta took the opportunity to speak to the group about the dangers of our upcoming summer fire season as well as to discuss our joint Red Flag Spotters program which uses mobile ARES hams to patrol our local fire jurisdiction during the worst of the fire dangers. With our Field Day temperatures, it was a timely discussion.



Field Day - Continued

Sunday morning brought about another propagation test from the Riverside Fire Station #2's amateur radios back to our pretend "EOC" with the help of a mobile relay station just to be sure everything was copied correctly. Once Field Day finally made its last contact, exhausted and overheated hams headed for home. Field Day is always fun and usually challenging as well and this year was no exception. Hopefully, next year's event will be back down in the 70 degree range. We can't take those record temperatures here in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Photos below show team members listening to the NVIS demonstration (left) and John Campeau, AD6KT, presenting (middle). The photo on the right is the 20 meter / 6 meter Field Day station with Byron Lockridge, KJ7YRP, Chuck Tiff, W7RD and Cheryl Freese, NW7Z.



CVARS Tailgate Swap Meet

Make sure you don't miss the 22nd annual Ham Radio Tailgate Swap meet and consignment auction coming up on Saturday, July 24th at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Chehalis from 9am—Noon. There will be lots of radio gear for sale as well as computers, door prizes and most anything electronic. \$5 will get you in the gate or \$10 for vendors. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning! More information can be found at <http://cvars.org/>.

Special Event Stations

Summer is the perfect time to get out and play with radios. We, as amateur radio operators, are always looking for a reason to talk to others on our equipment and operating during a Special Event is a perfect excuse. During our first one, we transmitted from all ten police stations in Lewis County in one day taking contacts from each location which earned participants a certificate and a one of a kind QSL card. On another occasion, we transmitted from all the libraries in Lewis County. (why not?). We've activated the historic McKinley Stump in Chehalis. Hey, a president stood on this stump... but not McKinley. We were there with our radios on opening day for the Veteran's Day Museum. We celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Mt. St. Helens eruption. Do you know just how cold it is on Johnston Ridge (4,314 feet) on May 18th? Most of you remember working the total solar eclipse in 2017 from the park and ride in Centralia and then, in 2019, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first man on the moon.

Now it's time for another. After 48 years as WA7UHD, CVARS has adopted a new callsign - K7PG. K7PG was the callsign of Gary Litter, long time member of CVARS and we're celebrating the new club callsign and Gary's legacy in a Special Event scheduled for Saturday, August 7th from 11am - 1pm. Join us on the Bawfaw Repeater and earn a certificate of participation and maybe a QSL card as well.