



# CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM

August 2021

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

## Special Event Station

**K7PG**

*Celebrating the life of  
Gary Litter*

Saturday, August 7th, the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society (CVARS) sponsored a very special event station as we celebrated the “*passing of the call sign*” honoring long time member Gary Litter, K7PG

(SK), and accepting his call sign, as he requested as our official club call sign. Gary’s wife, Corene, N7FAO, officially transferred the call sign to CVARS President Bill Knepper, N7GWK, at 11am. After making a little history, Corene and I spent the next few hours taking check-ins from hams around the region wanting to receive the special event Certificate of Participation and special QSL card and just sharing some memories of their time with Gary.

Gary’s favorite saying was “*Such a deal I’ve got for you!*”. He served a variety of CVARS board positions and was a Volunteer Examiner teaching amateur radio classes to so many hams. Most of all, Gary was a prolific mentor and elmer to everyone. Photos of Gary and Corene’s tower and ham shack are below. It was an honor to celebrate Gary’s life with this special event station from the very hamshack where Gary spent so many enjoyable hours. We will miss him but his call sign, K7PG, lives on.



Corene Litter—N7FAO



## Fire Along The Tracks Training Exercise

It is August and it has been HOT here in beautiful Lewis County. ARES training exercises during the summer revolve mostly around parades, National Night Out and potential wildfire responses to assist Riverside Fire Authority. Unfortunately neither the July 4th parade nor National Night Out happened again this summer due to Covid related precautions so fire related training exercise have taken up the slack.

Our first exercise of the month was a simulated response to multiple spot fires along railroad tracks, a scenario which occurred in real life two years ago when Riverside Fire was called to extinguish nine small fires along the Tacoma Rail line caused by sparks created by a local train. One of the spot fires managed to reach a nearby house as well.

During this exercise, ARES team members staged with our communications van in a nearby college parking lot before receiving assignments and deploying among the many nearby streets and alley ways. This was an opportunity to use map book coordinates, learn streets and train in a fairly densely populated residential area. We used the exercise to also check everyone's go-bags and mandatory response equipment. The chance to practice using the comm vans, testing net control procedures as well as various radio equipment and frequencies is always fun and educational. Our second August training night will prove interesting with swimsuits optional!



## Time To Get Wet

Covid-19 really messed up our training schedule last year. Without the ability to get together, even our comm vans missed their annual bath, and they are filthy! Time to break out the hoses, soap and brushes and our 90 degree temps lately seem like the best time to give these beasts a washdown. As the training announcement stated, we will have root beer floats and swimsuits are optional. While not many of us will be showing off our white pasty legs or much else, it is pretty much guaranteed that we will get wet.



Ken Adams, K6YUQ, and John Campeau, AD6KT,  
making the Comm Vans Shine!



Cheryl Freese, NW7Z  
has the windows