



# CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAM December 2021

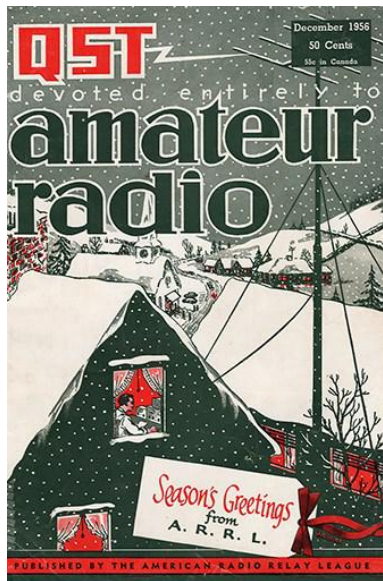
*Amateur Radio is a hobby ... Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a commitment!*



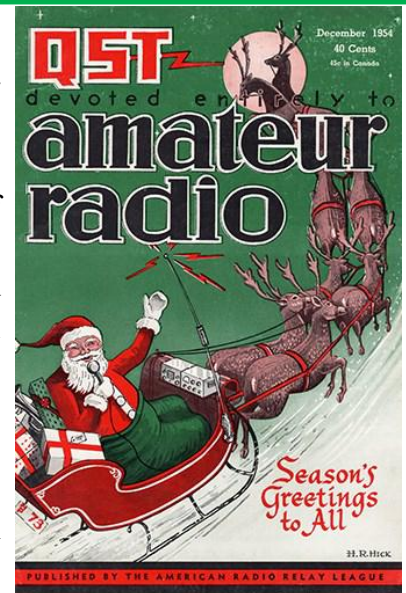
2021 is winding down and the Christmas season is upon us once again. December has been a busy month with near misses on local flooding, the Centralia Tractor Parade, and now our ATM bombing deployment. We end the year with a bang! (Sorry, had to say it). World problems aside, I hope each and every one of you have a safe and joyous Christmas and even survive what looks like some SNOW before the end of the year.

Next year looks to be nearly as problematic as 2021 has been but we won't worry about those issues just yet. They will certainly come in their own time. Thank each and every one of you for the tremendous volunteer support this year. There are some interesting changes coming in 2022 but we'll wait for the new year to discuss those. In the meantime, enjoy the Christmas holiday and bring in the new year safely. Always remember... YOU make our community and our region a safer place to live. Thank You!

## Remember These QST Covers?



Many of you are old enough to remember these two great QST magazine covers from December 1954 and 1956 issues. They bring back memories of better times with less worries or problems in our lives. I might note they also remind us of times when radios were less expensive and some - a rare few, built their own ham sets. Were you one of those who had to wait weeks or even months to get your license after passing the FCC test? I would like to hear a few of your stories and share them with our team members. Until then, enjoy these priceless memories. There may even be snow in the futures to make them that much more realistic.



## Christmas Came Early



Santa, aka Paul, KE7PCB, visited Centralia ARES early this year delivering a brand new Hustler G6-144B antenna for our CARES repeater, replacing the original antenna installed when the repeater was new. The CARES repeater has a new location, now with Bill, N7GWK. The antenna should make it good as new! Paul also decided we could use two new Voltworks 600 watt pure sine wave power inverters. One will be going into each communications van. I always knew Santa was a ham. I just didn't know he looked like Paul.



## ATM Bombing Brings ARES Out For Evidence Search

Sunday, December 19th, the ARES team was called out to assist Centralia Police after a bomb exploded, destroying the ATM machine at 1st Security Bank in the early morning hours. Washington State Patrol's Bomb Squad as well as the FBI responded to assist Centralia PD's investigation.

CPD also requested the Amateur Radio Emergency Service team to assist with additional evidence searches once WSP and the FBI completed their initial evidence collections.

Comm III set up in the Fuller's Market Place parking lot where we logged those team members responding and conducted situation reports while we waited to be called into the scene.

Shortly after 11am, ARES team members began searching the east side of the bank near the railroad tracks as well as the north side parking lot. Once gloved up, each team, accompanied by a Centralia PD detective worked slowly through their search area recovering bits and pieces of evidence. By early afternoon, the scene had been searched and our ARES team was released to go home. Thanks to everyone who deployed to this event. You did GREAT.



## The Centralia Lighted Tractor Parade Is Back!

The Centralia Lighted Tractor Parade was back this year with 63 float entrants. Even with rain, wind and nasty weather, everyone enjoyed the night with lots of Christmas cheer amid a zillion lights, horns and loud music. ARES volunteers managed to cover just about every intersection even with four intrepid traffic control team members at the corner of Tower and College Blvd. For the first time, the police department tried out electric patrol bikes and it appears they liked them. No more "peddling" police bicycles around the parade route! You'll notice that I got the best job, which included a hug and kiss from Miss Lewis County!



Bob, KD7OWN with Miss Lewis County  
(aka Granddaughter Sophie Moerke)

Thanks to all the volunteers who braved the terrible weather to once again bring some Christmas spirit back to the Centralia downtown.

**Merry Christmas Everyone!**



Bill, N7GWK and Ken, K6YUQ  
in the wind and rain!