

What is ARES/RACES?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service – initiated in 1935 by the ARRL, is a standby radio service of licensed amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES group for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service – developed in 1952, is a standby radio service that is activated by local, county, and state jurisdictions, uses FEMA protocols, and are the only amateur radio operators authorized to transmit during declared emergencies under certain circumstances.

Our organization in Clark County is registered with both services, allowing us to serve the community regardless of the situation.

Why Join?

Amateur radio emergency communications is fun, challenging and exciting! It is a great way to get involved with the community and work with a group of dedicated volunteer communicators. Amateur radio operators have been responsible for saving countless lives in times of disaster when traditional means of communications may be overloaded or nonfunctional.



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*When All Else Fails
Amateur Radio Works*

Clark County, WA ARES/RACES



For more information visit:
www.ccareswa.org

Where do I fit in?

One of the principles upon which the amateur radio service is founded is that, when needed, amateur radio operators will provide public service and emergency communications. While many amateur radio operators consider themselves able to help in an emergency, very few are trained and certified to do so.

Our group is organized to maximize the efforts of our members and allow them to help in ways that work best for each operator. If you're interested, we have a place that you can help.

Clark County Teams

The county is divided into six geographical regions each served by a dedicated team of amateur radio operators. We also have six special purpose teams assigned to high profile facilities and organizations throughout the county: our primary customer, CRESA; the county's fire depts., law enforcement, hospitals, the Red Cross, Search & Rescue, and more.

Time Commitment

When not activated our group spends about three hours per month on emergency training activities. We have a two hour meeting on the third Monday of the month, and a brief net every Tuesday evening. Some of the special teams have additional levels of activity.

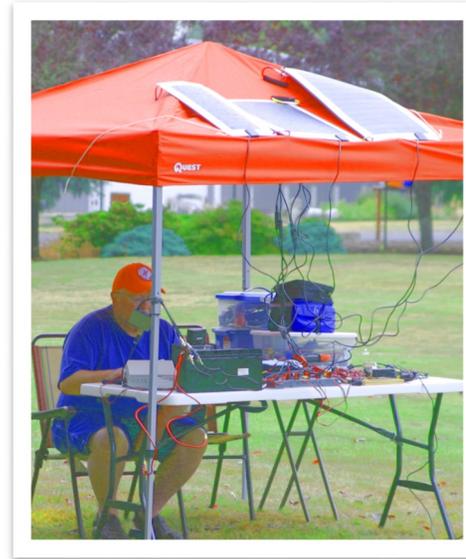
Equipment We Use

Our primary operational bands are 2m and 70cm. These bands offer reliable local communications and small antenna requirements. We operate using both voice and digital modes.

There are no minimum age or equipment requirements to join ARES. The Dept. of Homeland Security and our local served agencies have graciously provided us with many fixed and portable radio stations ready for immediate deployment; all we need are licensed operators to provide communications!

Training Requirements

Working with various governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the county requires us to share a common framework to communicate effectively. We use the FEMA Incident Command System to unify our efforts. Two online self study courses will bring you up to speed in a few hours. CCARES will help you obtain a state Emergency Worker card.



Personal Preparedness

Take care of yourself and your family first. Then you are ready to help ARES/RACES respond to agency requests for help.

72 Hour Kit

Members create and maintain 72 hour kits, which have everything they need to be self sufficient for three full days. Your kit ensures that you can respond to the event instead of requiring aid yourself. Consider one kit for yourself and another for your family.

Radio Go-Kit

Few disasters give us warning when they will strike. Our timely response relies on anticipating it, and having a kit with needed radio equipment ready to go is an important element in emergency response. This kit may be as simple as your emergency worker card and amateur radio license. It might be as extensive as a full DC-to-daylight station complete with antennas and emergency power. The important part is knowing what to take, how to access it quickly, and how to use it effectively.