

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

August 2009

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT 2009
Save-A-Life
Saturday Classes

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CLASS 1

CERT Participation in the 4th of July Parade

Brevyn Mettler, Asst. Emergency Services Coordinator

Traditionally, HB CERT participated in the pre-parade, but due to the increasing size of the parade, the pre-parade was discontinued this year. However, our contribution to the parade this year was a great opportunity to show the community CERT's affiliation with the fire department. The Huntington Beach Fire Department was led by the prestigious HBFD Honor Guard, and immediately followed by a California State Firefighters Association's restored 1800's Steamer. Following the Steamer was HT-45 ladder truck and the HB CERT volunteers. This year we carried banners and were fortunate to use two fire department utility trucks UT-45 and UT-48 as our mode of transportation.

In the trucks were 2008 honorees, EOC CERT Volunteer of the Year Anna Pinter, Management Team Volunteer of the Year Al Collins, Dick White Award recipient Tara Twitty, and CERT President Judy Ann Morris. In addition, walking or riding in the trucks were: Art Weiland, Michael Depin, Austin Thompson, Brian Thompson, Justin Thompson, Jay Thompson, Virginia Petrelis, Peter Petrelis, Rhonda Migliorini, Bill Worth, Karin Reed, Miriam Daugherty, Miguel Munoz, Kelly Munoz, Kimberly Munoz, Joe Tom, the VanDeWalker family and I.

SUPER STARS

I would like to thank everyone who participated this year and especially the Super Stars Miriam Daugherty, Bill Worth, and Karin Reed for the hours of preparation it took to make our participation such a success. Our group was enthusiastically acknowledged by the large crowd lining the parade route. The 4th of July Parade is a great Huntington Beach tradition and CERT is proud to have been a part of the

parade since 1995. I hope we can make next year's parade participation even better.



CERT CUSTOM MERCHANDISE

By Judi Fagan

Attention! All CERT Volunteers! The CERT Management Team is making a fine selection of Custom CERT Clothing available for purchase beginning July 1st. The purpose of this offering is to give CERT volunteers more variety in their CERT uniform choices, especially on colder days. Your basic CERT uniform consists of your black CERT t-shirt, long pants (preferably black or beige), your CERT yellow jacket, and your CERT ID card. Whenever attending a CERT event, you should wear your uniform.

Once a year additional uniform pieces are available for purchase, such as a long sleeve t-shirt, a crewneck sweatshirt, and a hooded-zipper jacket. All of these items are black and will have the CERT logo imprinted on the left chest in CERT yellow. In addition to clothing, we now have baseball caps (black), visors (black), flap hats (CERT yellow), fanny packs (black), and grab-n-go bags (CERT yellow & black) available for purchase. Custom embroidery is available for some of these items; please inquire with Judi Fagan for more information.

If you would like to purchase any of these items, please look for the "Huntington Beach CERT Custom Printed Adult Clothing" flyer at the next CERT class or meeting. Complete the bottom portion of the flyer and return it with your payment no later than Saturday, August 15, 2009. Your items will be available for pickup at the September 19th CERT class. You will not be contacted about your order unless there is a question or problem. If you have any questions about ordering, please leave a message on the CERT Line at (714) 536-5974 or email certhb@gmail.com



President's Message

By Judy Ann Morris

Here we are in August, almost finished with our 2009 Save-a-Life Classes. I have to salute this year's students and instructors for giving us one of our best years ever!!! I really admire our instructors for their excellent skills and their creativity in teaching the CERT classes. Every time I have attended or repeated a class, I always come away with new information, skills, and insight.



Our students have been awesome this year because they have been one of the most involved groups that I can remember. Almost everyone has participated in all of our "hands-on" teaching experiences. Last month's Light Search and Rescue was a great example, I do not ever remember it raining when we have conducted classes in June at the Training Center. I went out to the group that was learning "cribbing and shoring" and asked if anyone wanted to come inside and they said "no". Everyone stayed at their training areas and continued with the hands-on training despite at times it was not just sprinkling but raining hard. They wanted to continue on with the instructors even in the rain and cold. Now, that is dedication! These are the neighbors that I want living in my neighborhood.

Emergency Preparedness Task for August

For many of us, our pets are considered to be members of our family. This month, Disaster Prepped.com focuses on helping you prepare those pets for potential emergencies or disasters. I wanted to share these websites with you because they are very complete and cover every situation.

First, the "PETS" preparedness section highlights many valuable tools and solutions at www.disasterprepped.com/pets.php.

Second, there are several articles now available at the website addressing this topic:

"Disaster Preparedness for Pets"

www.disasterprepped.com/pets.php

"Disaster Tips for Reptiles and Amphibians"

www.disasterprepped.com/reptiles.php

"Disaster Preparedness for Horses"

www.disasterprepped.com/preparedness_horses.php

"What's Best for My Pets? Deciding to Stay or Go"

www.disasterprepped.com/pets_evacs.php

"Animals in Public Evacuation Centers"

www.disasterprepped.com/pet_shelters.php

In Memoriam: Harold "Hal" Plotkin, 1926-2009

Hal Plotkin a longtime member of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) died on April 5, 2009. Hal graduated as a charter member of CERT in 1994.

A touching memorial was held on July 28, 2009 at Huntington Landmark. Hal and Diane, his wife, moved to Huntington Landmark in 1976 and became active community members. He was a founding member of the Huntington Computer Club. Hal was elected and served on the Huntington Landmark Association Board as Director and then as President. He served on the council for Landmark Huntington CERT Team for many years. As a member of the CERT Communications Team (KE6NIZ) he received an award for the communication/color team in the year 2008. Over the years Hal participated in many CERT activities. In 1999 he received a shelter team and communication team patch. In 2005 Hal was awarded a 10 year pin. Hal was a lifetime member of the Elks Club and Toastmasters International. He enjoyed tennis and loved to dance with Diane. Diane and Hal cruised so much they achieved elite status on most major cruise lines. He was also a devoted dog owner of his miniature schnauzers, Sneakers (deceased) and Sneakers II.



Hal will be missed by his wife Diane, family, and many friends.

HAM RADIO CLASS

By John Fort

A FCC Technician level HAM radio class is scheduled to offer six weekly classes in September and a part of October. Classes will be held on the following Wednesdays: 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7 and 10/14 in the EOC from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Testing for the FCC Technician level HAM radio license will be held on Wednesday 10/14 or Thursday 10/15. The final date for the test will be scheduled.

Class fee for materials, including the book, is \$30.00. Money will be collected starting Wednesday August 1 and the class enrollment will be closed August 19th. Class fee must be in no later than August 19. If you are interested, please email John Fort at jefort1@earthlink.net.

Advanced Search & Rescue Class.

By Al Collins, Team Leader

An advanced CERT Search and Rescue training was held on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Students received one-on-one hands-on instruction in S & R techniques. Special thanks to students: Patricia Wolz, Richard Batistelli, Mike Cohen, Virginia Petrelis, and Cheri Smith for their attendance.

Advanced Search & Rescue Class. (cont)

I thank my search & rescue team mentors: Peter Petrelis, Joe Tom, Bill Worth, Judi Fagan, Lionel Grove, Elizabeth Martin, Velda McBride, Robert Rico, Donna Stefferud, Einar Stefferud, Jennifer Thomas, Marshall Shipley, and Richard Batistelli.

A thank you to all attending members of the CERT moulage team: Donna Stefferud, Virginia Petrelis, and Tara Twitty. A special thank you to all the volunteers



who were moulaged for the drill: Paul and Mary LaGreek, Raji Shunmugavel Cathy Smith, Barbara Benjamin, John Sliney, Cathleen Sliney, Nivaldo Fonte, John Fort, and Kenneth Mailman.

Marianne and Adam Huntley, my friends from Community United Methodist Church, attended and volunteered.

The CERT Logistics Team arrived on Friday, April 24 for class set-up. The team members were Ron Roth, Cecil Wright, Bill Worth, and Joe Tom.

The knowledge derived from skills in search and rescue is very important. During the search and rescue advanced classes, participants learn to mitigate problems in the home, avoid losses to property and protect themselves. We search, rescue, and triage people in the aftermath of a disaster. Best of all, we hone our skills by training neighborhood teams to take care of their neighborhoods and survive an event when outside help cannot respond.

As team leader, I would appreciate a response from all present team members. Please confirm your email address, phone number, and your availability to participate in the search and rescue team activities. It is the time of the year that the team needs to update their membership information. If you will be a new CERT graduate and are interested in becoming a member of the 2009 Search and Rescue Team, you are welcome.

Please contact me, Al Collins, by e-mail: alsurfcity@aol.com or by phone at 714-847- 4352. When you respond, please confirm your e-mail address and phone number.

JOB WELL DONE!



Congratulations to the CERT Instructors for a great June 2009 Search and Rescue Class. Al Collins, Bill Worth, Barbra Beck, Valerie Jordan, Shelly Real and special thanks to the crew from Truck 45.C,

Getting to know your Management Team

Richard Batistelli



Born and raised in Southern California, I believe being a member of Huntington Beach CERT was a natural fit for me. I grew up in a family of firemen, policemen and civic volunteers. I have two nephews who are members of city fire departments, Los Angeles and Seattle, three

other relatives formerly with LAFD, and one other family member with LAPD. But I believe my early introduction to community service began with an uncle who volunteered with an organization predating CERT, namely California Civic Defense. I was too young to remember those fearful days in WWII, when he was walking the streets of his neighborhood checking on the safety of his local community. As can be understood, my relationship with HBCERT is not difficult to appreciate, since my present responsibilities mirror many of his activities some sixty years ago.

My present efforts center on Care and Shelter, Communications, and Senior Response Teams. Anyone who understands my background will soon note my family has always come first. With a gaggle of female children wanting to be entertained in the less demanding outdoor activities, I always found them an enjoyment when we went camping at Carpenteria State Beach or in the mountains near Big Bear. After spending time with the Boy Scouts and service with the California National Guard, I was prepared to show them how to survive in the wilderness. Not a chance that was going to happen, but I tried! Maybe I can teach a CERT member a thing or two about sheltering.

My enlistment with the California Guard also taught me the basics of communications. I wanted to learn about radios, so the Army put me in charge of a switchboard and laying field wire between distant encampments--that's the Army way. So all my training in radios really began with John Fort, the very capable Communications Leader for HBCERT. I plan to make the most of this training, knowing the importance of HAM radio in an emergency.

Finally, my leadership position with the Senior Response Team stems from a very special need I saw in the care of older and frail members of this community. Until I lost them both recently, I was responsible for the care of a 92 year old aunt and a 102 years young mother. I personally saw what is required for their well being and comfort and I hope to assist in any way possible here in Huntington Beach should a disaster occur.

I can only hope that my efforts and experiences can be of help to my friends and neighbors. If you have similar interests, join me and become active in a Huntington Beach CERT team.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 9, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

- **Aug 6, 2009-6:00PM: Management Meeting, open to all HB Disaster Service Workers in EOC**
- **August 15, 2009 7:45 AM –noon Drill Your Skills Save-A-Life Class at the Fire Training Center**
- **Sept 19, 2009 7:45 AM –noon CERT Graduation and Awards**

*To register for classes call 714-536-5974 or online at www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT

* Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee of \$35. Dates are listed below. To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277.

Saturday, August 21, from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Please help save postage, if you can view the newsletter via the internet at www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT
Please call (714) 536-5974 to take your name off the mailing list.

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Attention!

If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events e-mail Brevyn at bmettler@surfcity-hb.org



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Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors

MISSION STATEMENT:The mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to provide information and training on disaster preparedness; provide leadership and coordination during an emergency, and assistance to help victims recover from an emergency.