



January 2003

HOTLINE PHONE: 310-217-7628

Web Page: <http://www.rbcertaa.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2002, what an expansive year for the Redondo Beach CERT Alumni Association! I applaud our Board of Directors for its hard work, dedication and insight guiding our Association into a unified body, ready and willing to perform with tasks we were trained to do. I feel extremely honored to be at the helm during this period when there was so much productive energy produced by our Alumni leadership. It has been intense, like a surfer catching his first ten foot curl. We have been racing ahead this year full speed ahead. Our destination always seems to be just on the horizon when another great idea emerges from our membership.

2002 was a good year for getting our feet wet, trying new things, stretching that horizon. We learned a bunch last year, and we can put those lessons learned into a comprehensive plan. At the January Board meeting, we will begin "hammering" out our first Association annual plan for the coming year. At least we will take a good lick at it. As Socrates said, "Well begun is half done."

We will be open to a new vision and encourage new ideas. We want to be more inventive in our approach to training, using the experiences of other CERT groups to enrich our membership's experience within our CERT experience. We plan to: establish neighborhood teams in our community; interface with Neighborhood Watch; provide more involved, more intense local training for our membership; participate in inter-city CERT competitions; and establish a reliable radio alert and offer advanced first aid courses to our members. We will put more effort into our funding programs. Hopefully, secure our first equipment trailer and find an adequate "CERTmobile" to tow our trailer. In addition, a social event or two would be in order.

2003 is here and our mission has remained constant and undiminished. With the new Homeland Security Department, we will be considered the front line, the first responders in our neighborhoods, supporting Fire and Police in our community. Our role will continue to be more and more important to our community because we will be better trained and better equipped.

Be prepared, participate in continued training, fill your CERT bag, review your Pocket Guide and keep them handy. The future is uncertain.

Jared Van Sloten
CERTAA President

CERT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

When Jared asked me to write about the CERT Member of the Year, I know just whom he was talking about. This honor could only go to two people, Pamela and David Hoole. This special couple, on loan to us from Australia, has done more for our CERT program than most of us can comprehend.

Here's just a sample of what they've done: members of the Board of Directors (Pam is Treasurer); organization and operation of graduation drills; development of CERT display booth; contributions to the CERT Newsletter and web site; Co-Chairing the CERT Appreciation Day Party; working with other CERT programs for future training; representing CERT in presentations to the Police Department; work gaining CERT non-profit tax status; and so much more.

The list could go on and on. The Hoole's are an example of what is right with people today. These are the people to call when you need advise or to just help get something done. Most of all, they are the kind of people you like to call friends.

Pamela and David, I thank you for all you have done for CERT, for all you have done for me and for all that you have done to teach all of us what volunteering and commitment is about. On behalf of the members of the RBCERTAA, you are our CERT Members of the Year.

Mike Grady



Graduation Class # 20

On Saturday 19 October, Cert Class #20 graduated. During the morning, members practiced their techniques in cribbing, fire suppression, fire hose and first aid. After lunch, all participated in a "Disaster Simulation".

An earthquake had occurred, and smoke was billowing from the tower building at Fire Station No. 2. It was also surrounded by fires, and you could hear the anguished screams and moans coming from victims trapped in the tower. The class was put through the complete drill twice. Firstly, they were divided into 3 teams, and went through the drill. For the first time, smoke was used in the tower. Then, everyone stood around and held a debrief with the Firemen. This was the most productive part of the entire drill, as everyone debriefed themselves, and made a lot of positive constructive comments. The drill was then done again, with the teams rotated. Boy! What a difference in performance. Things ran smoothly and efficiently.

Everyone on that day enjoyed themselves immensely, especially the victims. A brave band of CERT alumni volunteered to be bloodied and dirtied, in the spirit of being realistic. We used our vast array of rubber "owies" (fake wounds), and Lisa Burke did an admirable job of ketchupping the victims. Many thanks go to all the other "victims", who cheerfully submitted to being suffocated, totally ignored, strangled in bandages and trod on! Elana lost her foot; George and Karen Anderson were both impaled; and Laurana and Victor were bloodied from head to foot. Safety was again of utmost concern – both for the members and the victims. David Hoole was the Safety Officer, making sure that members did not hurt themselves.

These Simulations are slowly becoming a standard part of each Graduation. They are an excellent learning tool, not only for the new graduates, but also for all those who are involved in them.

Would you like to join us? We are always looking for new ideas and helpers. The next graduation is on March 22, 2003. Mark your diaries, and contact me if you would like to be involved as a victim – we would love to have you. We would also like to "pass the baton" to other people to organize and run the event. It is not a difficult task, as everything is now pretty well organized. We always have such fun, and you would be mixing with great people, and helping others at the same time. How about it?

Pam & David Hoole

HAM RADIO LICENSE "PREP" CLASS

Using a HAM radio can be fun, very useful, and links the user to the official amateur rescue communications groups out there. National CERT Directors are suggesting that Ham radio is the best communication method for Disaster Preparedness Organizations.

I don't wish to bore you with repeated reminders, so this is your last notice. A one day class will be held on Sat., Feb 22, 2003, from 8:30am to 4:00pm, with testing following to about 5:30pm, in a classroom at The Church of Jesus Christ of LaterDay Saints at 501 North Rowel, (at Fifth Street), in Manhattan Beach. RSVP Deadline is 1 Feb 2003 Attendees will be taught to use the radio properly, tested on site, and informed if they passed. (Actual licensing occurs a couple weeks later, notification is by website and snailmail.) The big advantage of this class is that it is finished in one day. Price of the class is \$95 per person, plus \$10 cash per test, maximum three tests, (includes manual, which will be posted to you prior to the class for perusal).

RSVP with a \$95 check to "Charles Pascal." Mail to: Woodclaver Ham Class, 2510 Spreckles Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. Bring also several black pens, one or two calculators, highlighters, and a sack lunch. Call Glenn with any questions at (310) 379-2304, or Woodclaver@aol.com. Minimum of ten attendees to hold the class, or checks will be returned.

Glenn Willis Jr. KG6FKC (That's my license call letters.)

CERT TRAINING SCHEDULE

For 2003, the Fire Department has agreed to provide 4 Special Training courses, in addition to the 4 Quarterly Drills. This is a significant increase over previous years, and we are grateful for the RB Fire Department making this commitment in time and resources.

Thus, it is up to us, the Alumni, to take full advantage of this opportunity. We always have the opportunity to re-attend any of the regular training classes, to refresh ourselves. But these training courses, new for 2003, will add a new dimension to our skills and knowledge. It is vital that as many of us ATTEND these courses, as possible. We would hate to see them so poorly attended, after the Fire Department has taken the trouble to arrange them for us. Or worse, that they be cancelled, due to lack of interest.

So mark your calendars NOW, and plan to attend some, if not all, of these exciting courses:

Sat., Feb 22 Special Training (1) - Triage
Sat., April 5 - am. Quarterly Drill (1) - Bandaging & Splinting
Sat., April 5 - pm. Red Cross course - CPR
April - possible LA CERT drill this month
Sat., May 10 - Quarterly Drill (2) Weapons of Mass Destruction & Terrorism
Sat., June 14 - Special Training (2) Traffic Control
Sat., Aug 2 - Quarterly Drill (3) Search & Rescue
Sat., Sept 13 - Special Training (3) Victim Transport. Possible Social Event.
October - possible month for LA CERT drill.
Sat., Nov 1 - Quarterly Drill (4) Full Deployment Drill
Sat., Dec 6 - Special Training (4) Critical Incident Stress Disorder/ Psychology

Further details, such as times and any changes, will be posted on the Web Site (www.rbcertaa.org), as well as on the Hotline (310-217-7628).

Class # 20



CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

February 6 (Thursday)	Class #21 Begins
February 13 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
February 20 (Thursday)	CPR Certification
February 27 (Thursday)	First Aid Certification #1
March 6 (Thursday)	First Aid Certification #2
March 13 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
March 22 (Saturday)	Class #21 Graduation
April 10 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
May 8 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
June 5 (Thursday)	Class #22 Begins
June 12 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

At the National CERT Conference held in December 2002, several people were commenting on our RBCERTAA web site. It seems that our web site has gained national recognition. I don't know why it has taken so long.

I spoke with several CERT members from around the country; Frank Roesch from Rowlett, Texas, Richard Soltis from Salt Lake City and Michelle Argent from Ashland, Oregon. They were all familiar and impressed with our web site, as I'm sure are all of our CERT members.

Our trip to stardom bahn with **Valerie Heath** and **Randy Stacy**, two bright stars in our local universe. The task of creating our web site had a slow beginning. Valerie and Randy had completed their training in web design so they had a good idea of how to create a web page. But what will it look like? What will it contain and how easy will it be to use? These trivial items took weeks to propose, agree upon and program into the computer. Many nights the midnight oil was burned. Two, three in the morning - the creative process continued. Often they put their heads together with Mike Grady, the third man. As pieces were coming together, the three would huddle and decide on the next step and the creation continued.

Since its beginning in July 2001, hundreds of Valerie's hours and hundreds of Randy's hours went into creating and maintaining the finest, most nationally recognized CERT web site in the USA. There have been thousands of hits. Some came from FEMA and the Office of Homeland Security. Randy has been approached by a CERT group in Florida to use our format and photos to begin to build their web site.

This was a project that outdid itself. Thank you Valerie. Thank you Randy.

RECERTIFICATION

CPR and First Aid certification must be renewed every two years. CERT Class #21 will begin on February 3rd. The CPR certification portion of the course will be held on February 20th and First Aid on February 27th & March 6th. Class is held in Room A of the Redondo Beach Library, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Please plan on attending these classes if your certification has expired. Class #22 will begin on June 5th (CPR on June 19th, First Aid on June 26th and July 3rd). Class #23 will begin on September 4th (CPR on September 18th, First Aid on September 25th and October 2nd).

Contact Tony Isreal at tony.isreal@redondo.org for more information.

CERT POCKET GUIDE

All CERT graduates are eligible to receive a free copy of the 24-page CERT Pocket Guide. Fitting into a shirt pocket, the guide serves as a quick reference to emergency procedures, including some not covered in the classes. Triage, First Aid, CPR, cribbing, fire extinguishers, map, gear to pack, and much more are covered quickly and clearly. Pete has already used the guide during a training drill.

The Pocket Guide was produced by Garth McWhorter and Jared Van Sloten, The guides are available at all training drills, CERT General Meetings and Board Meetings.

VON'S HELPING RBCERTAA

We have exciting news. National Disaster Preparedness has a program that will supply our Community Emergency Response Team with a trailer that's filled with professional style Rescue Medical Equipment and Supplies. All we need for you to do is register your Von's Club Card with us. Then, every time you shop at Von's, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to this special fund.

To register, simply fill out the blanks below, clip and send the form to: Glenn Willis Von's; PO Box 1894, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. Mail the three items of info below on a piece of paper. If you would, please ask your family, friends and neighbors to also sign up. The more cards working, the better prepared we can be. Or send an email to our web site www.RBCERTAA.org, to Glenn, with the three items below.

- 1) Name
 - 2) Address
 - 3) Von's or Pavilions card number, 14 digits
- It's that simple

Thanks for your help. Glenn Willis

The CERT Closet is open!

Show your support for CERT with the purchase of a t-shirt or sweatshirt.
Just fill out the form below and mail, along with your check, to the address listed.
You'll receive confirmation of your order and details on pickup.

**C.E.R.T.A.A.
T-Shirt & Sweat-Shirt Order Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Order: _____

Item	Cost Each	M	L	XL	Total Quantity	Total Cost
T-Shirt	\$15.00					
Sweat Shirt	\$25.00					
					Grand Total	

Make check's payable to: Redondo Beach CERTAA

Completed order forms and checks can be sent to RBCERTAA, P.O. Box 1894, Redondo Beach, CA 90279
You will be notified when your order has been filled. Shirts will be available for pickup at Station 2.

**Redondo Beach CERT Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1894
Redondo Beach, CA 90278**

Address correction requested.

RBCERTAA

The Year in Review

As the end of year approaches, it is a good time to look back on 2002, and to see all the happenings within the Redondo Beach CERT Alumni group. Boy, what an exciting year. We have closed the year with 305 members, after having successfully graduated classes 18, 19 and 20.

January:

A review of the existing phone tree was conducted this month, and a new structure was implemented. All members were questioned, and a database of information was set up. This was a major achievement, as the phone tree is the vital link between the Fire Department and the Alumni, and will be used in an emergency.

February/March:

The Board was working on many administrative and procedural issues in these two months. A detailed set of By-Laws of the Alumni Association was prepared, reviewed and approved. As well, the Articles of Association for the Alumni, and the Board-Guidelines were finalised and approved.

Our critically acclaimed WEB site was launched in March. It contains current information about upcoming events, as well as past events and graduations - complete with photos! As most of our members have Internet access, the WEB is proving to be an ideal way to promote information. Plus, it is a good vehicle to attract prospective members.

In March, we issued the Newsletter in the new 4-page layout, plus provided access to it via the web site. Also, members can now purchase apparel, directly from the web site. The Association has moved into cyberspace!!

April:

This month saw the graduation of Class 18, with a disaster simulation drill in the afternoon. This is the first time that a simulation had been conducted at a Redondo Beach CERT graduation. Valuable teamwork lessons were learnt. Alumni Association members acted as very willing "victims" and provided a touch of realism to the situation.

Also in April, a number of the alumni members joined forces with Torrance CERT to attend the LA CERT Biennial Training Day. This was held at the LA Police Academy in Westchester. It was a wonderful opportunity to update our skills, and to work with CERT members from all over Los Angeles. We formed a "South Bay" Team, and competed in fire hose games, cribbing, triage, and search & rescue exercises.

May:

During the Open House at the Fire Departments, CERT volunteers manned display tables, and explained the benefits of CERT to all visitors. This was a great chance to promote the principles of CERT, and the importance of being "prepared".

The Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce held a "Competitive Advantage Business Expo" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, and asked that CERT participate. We presented a very comprehensive and professional display, and CERT alumni volunteered for the event. Despite the low public turnout, we forged many good alliances with the Chamber and its members.

In May, we reached the first stage in the process to have the Redondo Beach CERT Alumni Association registered as a Charitable Non-Profit organisation. This was to obtain tax exemption status from the state of California. Whole Foods at Redondo Beach graciously offered to promote CERT and to raise funds for us, through their "5% Day". Through this, the alumni group received a donation of \$1,867. A small band of volunteers made themselves known at the entrance of the store, and promoted the concept of CERT.

A huge amount of time and work was put into the Appreciation Day Picnic, held at the King Harbour Yacht Club. Unseasonal weather, with rain and overcast skies, kept the attendance down. However, those who did attend had a wonderful time, and joined in Fire Department games, yacht rides, Ocean Racer rides and raffles. There was a spectacular display from the Coast Guard and the Harbor Patrol. City, State and National Officials attended, praising the activities of our CERT group, and explaining the role they saw for us, in homeland security. It was great to realise that they all hold Redondo Beach CERT in

high esteem.

June:

A group of volunteers posed as “victims” for the Torrance CERT graduation of Class 4. Those who participated gained an insight into how another city conducted its CERT training, and made some valuable links with fellow “CERTies”. Even better, we gained some great experience in doing make-up for victims. This proved to be very useful at the next two Redondo Beach graduation days.

General Elections for the Redondo Beach Alumni Association were held on June 22, and a new Board was elected. With a full complement of 11 enthusiastic and active members, plans were made for the future development of the Alumni group.

The American Red Cross, presented our first “Training Day” for the year - on the topic “Disaster Housing Operations”. Part 1 was a classroom presentation in the library, and all who joined, greatly benefited from the experience.

July:

Part 2 of our “Training Day” was a hands-on exercise, again conducted by the Red Cross, and was held at Aviation Gym. We were able to put into practice, all the things we learnt from the classroom session.

Both Redondo Beach and Torrance CERT groups were asked to provide a first aid tent at the “Relay for Life” Cancer walk. This joint activity was a great opportunity to showcase CERT skills (although we did little more than give out a few band-aids!), plus to promote the benefits of CERT to the public. Alumni and friends formed a CERT team, and the 49 volunteers raised \$5,671 for Cancer research. A total of over \$95,000 was raised for cancer research by the entire event.

We graduated Class number 19 and another disaster simulation drill was held in the afternoon. This time, we put them through the entire simulation twice. Between the two, the graduates had a detailed debrief. Then, they had a 2nd opportunity to perfect their skills. Victims were very realistic, as we were using professional-looking “owies” – simulated wounds and broken bones – as well as makeup. All who participated commented that this was one of the most fun-time they have had!

The next stage in our registration as a Charitable Non-Profit organisation was to obtain an Employer Identification Number. This identifies us with other government departments, and was obtained in July.

Torrance Fire Department asked for volunteers to act as ‘victims’, during their regular training of their firemen. They usually only have plastic dummies, and they have to imagine various injuries. This time, they used “live” victims, who had simulated wounds, complete with props and makeup. Torrance Fire Department was very appreciative of the support given by the Redondo Beach alumni.

August:

The co-ordinator of the Phone Tree issued a very detailed manual to all the group leaders and individual team leaders of the Phone Tree. This has proved to be a very valuable document. There are now 305 active members of the Alumni.

Together with other rescue & charity groups from the South Bay, CERT was asked to prepare a display for the Homeland Security Forum. This was addressed by Congresswoman Jane Harman, and supported by members from the FBI, FEMA and LA Emergency Services. We provided an excellent display, and encouraged many new attendees for the next round of classes.

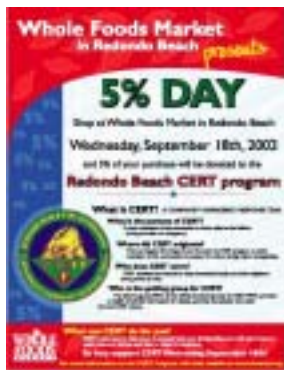
September:

A very detailed document, including strategies, budgets and plans for the Alumni group, was submitted to the INS in August. This was reviewed and our status as a Charitable Non Profit Organisation, under section 501 (c)(3) of the Federal Income Act was recognised in September. This means that we are exempt from both state and federal tax, and any donations to us are now tax deductible.



A series of briefings were given to the Redondo Beach Police Department. Volunteers presented information on what CERT covers, and what alumni are trained to do in an emergency. The Police are now more aware of the Alumni group, and all expressed a willingness to utilise our skills in various situations. A hard core of CERT Board Members braved the early morning (6am) briefings, and presented to the policemen at every single one of their shift changes. CERT Alumni Association was represented at the official commemoration ceremony on September 11. Together with the Mayor, Police Chief and other dignitaries, three CERT board members paid their respects to the victims of the tragedy.

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October:

We manned a CERT booth at the Police Safety Fair, held at the Civic Centre. We promoted the benefits of CERT and training to all those who visited us. Our raffle with prizes donated by Whole Foods, raised \$505.



The final class for the year, Class 20, graduated, and another disaster simulation drill was held in the afternoon. Building on the expertise gained from the two previous drills the graduates benefited from the experience. For the first time smoke was used in the tower. And, as in the two previous drills, the victims had horrific wounds.

We received the final delivery of 141 CERT Kit Bags. These were made to our design, and were financed with a wonderful donation of \$10,000 from Honda. They will be distributed to all attendees of future training drills. The backpacks are an excellent design with ample pockets for all the different gear we have. And, they have a large Redondo Beach CERT logo on the back – they look GREAT!!!

November:

A number of Alumni attended the CERT National Conference, held at the LA Airport Hilton. Groups from around the nation attended, and shared information on how they operate. Many valuable ideas were obtained from this conference, and the Board members are now prioritising these items, to implement as many as possible in the coming year.



A Los Angeles county-wide Disaster Simulation was conducted in November, with Torrance City organising a simulated terrorist bomb attack at the old Montgomery Ward shop at Del Amo. A number of Alumni from Redondo Beach participated as victims. The exercise tested the response and resources of the Police, Fire and Hospitals. Also, Several people from Redondo Beach provided assistance with the make up, which was very realistic. All victims were asked to “stay in character” for the day, and to play up their injuries.

In appreciation of the participation of the Redondo Beach alumni, Torrance City Council presented us with an impressive certificate, at an official ceremony at the Council Chambers.

A Ham radio class was offered at Palos Verdes, and was attended by a number of Redondo Beach CERT alumni. Held over three Saturdays, it was a great way to be trained in this vital skill.

The Daily Breeze ran an article, promoting the benefits of CERT. The article mainly highlighted the graduation day of Torrance CERT class number 5. However, Redondo Beach CERT was also mentioned. The photos in the paper were of the Torrance graduation, however, four Redondo Beach CERT members were there taking part in the drill.

December:

Discussions are underway, between the Fire Department and the Board, to plan and arrange the training schedule for the upcoming year. The current Board wants to ensure that more training is offered in 2003, thus ensuring that all members can keep their skills up to date.

Pam & David Hoole
