



March 2002

HOTLINE PHONE: 310-217-7628

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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, I was elected President of CERTAA. I am proud to be your President. My tenure may be brief, as there will be a general CERTAA election for Board members by mid-year. The Board will then elect the President from the Board of Directors. Until that time, I will do my best to keep the Association headed towards a higher level of emergency readiness. This can be accomplished, I believe, by being well trained and personally prepared.

In the area of training, Pete Villasenor, our liaison from the RB Fire Department, will provide on-going training. The next training date is March 23, at 0930 (9:30 am), in the RB Library. This training is vital to being personally prepared for the possible emergencies that can befall our community. Having one's CERT bag complete and ready to go will make us better prepared Team Members when that emergency strikes. (See page 23, in the CERT Pocket Guide, for recommended CERT Bag contents.) Our aim is to be ready and able to respond quickly when called out to an emergency by the RB Fire Department, and I believe we are well on our way to meeting that challenge.

Jared Van Sloten  
CERTAA President

## **GENERAL MEETING CHANGE NOTICE**

Jared Van Sloten

The March 2, 9:30 am, general meeting at the RB library was canceled. At the March 23<sup>rd</sup> drill, nominations will be taken for CERTAA Board of Directors prior to the actual drill. Nominees are required to have a current (with 2 years) CPR and First Aid card on their person. To make proxy nominations please call Jared at (310) 376-0409 or Garth at (310) 540-7701.

Nominated candidates will write a personal bio, including civic organization memberships, which will become part of the election package. At the June 22<sup>nd</sup> drill, ballots will be cast by present members for those nominated. Each member will vote for 11 candidates. The 11 nominees collecting the most votes will become Board members.

## **RECERTIFICATION**

CPR and First Aid certification must be renewed every two years. CERT Class #18 began on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The CPR certification portion of the course will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> and First Aid on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Class is held in Room A of the Redondo Beach Library, 6:30 – 9:30 pm). Please plan on attending these classes if you certification has expired. Class #19 will begin on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Tony Isreal at [tony.isreal@redondo.org](mailto:tony.isreal@redondo.org) for more information.



***Congratulations  
on your graduation!***

***CERT Class 17***

## ***PHONE TREE***

Thanks to the Redondo Beach Fire Department, the Redondo Beach CERT has approximately 400 graduates to date. About 260 graduates are still active. On occasion, members need to be called concerning activities or emergencies. Our hard working Phone Tree Coordinator, Mike Grady, needs **at least** five volunteers to accept a portion of the list of phone numbers to be called when necessary. In an effort to make this task quick and uniform, wording and protocol for calls is being written. The procedure should require about thirty minutes of your time, once every three months.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Mike Grady at (310) 376-7963. Also, if you have not filled out a Phone Tree Questionnaire, updating CERT readiness files, please ask Mike for one. Thank you.

Here is an example of how the Phone Tree will work:

- 1) Pete finds a house soon to be demolished and receives permission to use the premises for a search and rescue drill. But time is very limited, three days.
- 2) Pete activates the Phone Tree by calling the District Leaders.
- 3) District Leaders call the people (approximately 6) on their list to notify them of the drill details.
- 4) These 6 people call the six people on their list, relaying the same information.
- 5) This procedure continues until all 260 active members have been contacted.

### ***THANKS!***

CERTAA volunteers would like to thank the former CERT Board Members for their participation and efforts to further the cause. The members include: Paul Goss, Marilyn White, TJ Schmidt, Gary Olson and Lisa Burke.



## ***COMMUNICATION***

Glenn Willis

Welcome to the New Year, 2002. Your fellow Redondo Beach Fire Department CERT graduates now number upwards of 400, approximately 260 are still active on the team.

In the event of activation, phone systems might very well be down, so battery operated radios will be of inestimable value. At our disposal we have the venerable CB (Citizens Band); FRS (Family Radio Service); and HAM (which no one alive actually knows what it stands for.)

CB and FRS require no license, but HAM does. The CB offers five watts of broadcast power with a range of two blocks to several miles, depending on terrain. The FRS starts at ½ watt of broadcasting power for two blocks to two miles range in the smaller “walkie talkies” we see everywhere and up to two watts for up to five miles range in the more expensive versions. Prices run from thirty to two hundred dollars.

HAM radios start at just below two hundred dollars and go up from there. The five watt hand-held I am familiar with (called Simplex) will broadcast by itself as far as you can see. From Northern PV I have spoken to a person under the Hollywood sign as clearly as tabletop conversation. HAM adds the benefit of “Repeaters,” machines catching your broadcast and rebroadcasting it on a slightly different frequency, increasing range to literally hundred of miles due to the increased power of the repeaters. Repeaters can be linked, bringing range to thousands of miles. And now I have learned of a hook up between repeaters and the internet that allows conversations between Redondo Beach and anywhere in the world; Antarctica, Hawaii, Australia, anywhere the internet and HAM exist side by side.

Radio communication could become life-and-death important. In the interest of CERT communications, we are offering a class on radio use, lingo, protocol and procedures. It will be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the library conference room. It may last an hour or two. If you are interested in the class please RSVP to Glenn Willis at (310) 379-2304.

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

March 7 (Thursday)	CPR Certification
March 14 (Thursday)	First Aid Certification
March 21 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
March 23 (Saturday)	CERT Drill, Board Nominations
April 6 (Saturday)	Class #18 Graduation
April 20 (Saturday)	Radio Protocol Class
May 5 (Sunday)	Fire Station Open House
June 6 (Thursday)	Class #19 Begins
August 17 (Saturday)	CERT Appreciation Day



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Sometimes a member steps forward, without hesitation, and takes on a challenge, considered so overwhelming, that it had bewildered others for a very long time. We are fortunate to have such a man among us. He has met the challenge and prevailed. CERTAA is proud to recognize Michael Grady for his outstanding efforts. With the help of many others, Mike has worked tirelessly to make RB CERTAA better prepared to assist the Redondo Beach Fire Department when called upon. Mike, the Redondo Beach CERTAA Board and Members, and the Redondo Beach Fire Department, salute you.

## CERT APPRECIATION DAY

CERTAA is planning a CERT Appreciation Day for August 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 4pm. Plan on joining fellow CERTAA members for a bar-b-que, party and activities at the King Harbor Yacht Club at the Marina. Please call Tom Henderson at (310) 675-6570 to you would like to help to put this event together.

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

## Pete's Corner

Hello again! This is the first newsletter of the New Year and a lot has occurred since our last publication. Redondo Fire CERT training has now produced over 400 "elite" citizen disaster volunteers since 1996 who can be counted on by visitors to our city, businesses and their workers, and the 65,000 residents of our community if disaster strikes. The Fire Department along with CERTAA has been busy and there are some exciting opportunities for us in the immediate future.

A new generation of Americans recently learned how quickly this country can change. Just when the bomb shelters of the 50's had become a faint memory for us we were brutally reminded that our security at home can never be guaranteed. We must always remain prepared as a Nation and as individuals to protect our way of life. As CERT members, you have all taken a huge step toward ensuring our community is ready to handle the biggest challenges it could face. Now, the value of your training and service has taken on an even greater significance.

The President recently outlined his plan for Homeland Security and put great emphasis on the USA Freedom Corps. The anchor group of the corps is CERT trained citizens and he would like to triple your numbers across the nation. Mayor Greg Hill just echoed these goals for our community in his State of the City Speech on February 14 and recognized our CERT group for its exemplary readiness. As usual, Redondo Beach was already ahead of the game with our CERT, Neighborhood Watch, and VIP (Volunteers in Policing) programs.

Now, in our effort to continue your advanced CERT training, I am pleased to announce Part II of the CERT Teamwork and Leadership Series. It will take place on **March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am in the large upstairs meeting room of the Main Library**. We will discuss team organization, responsibilities, and tactics. I am hopeful to have a very important surprise guest and lunch will be served at our conclusion around noon. Thank you for your continued dedication to our community and I look forward to seeing you at our March training

***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 dropped off at RB Fire Station 2,  
attention Pete Villasenor. 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.*