



Redondo Beach

Community Emergency Response Team

Alumni Association

RBCERTAA

April 15, 2010

Written by: **Sandy Marchese, President**

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Executive Board

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Board Members:

Phil Gilbreth
Nancy Nickols
Susanne Rengo
Monty Ruth
Courtney Steeneken
Marcelle McCullough,
Past President

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 4th – RBCERTAA Board Meeting (All CERT Members Welcome to attend and contribute information & comments)

Billy's Deli - 190th & Anza, MEETING AT 6:30PM, Socializing at 6PM

Sunday, April 25 – CERT Refresher

Saturday, May 8th – Fire Service Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 22nd – RBCERTAA Luau

Thursday, October 21st – Shakeout Drill

Saturday, November 13th – RBCERT Refresher

Notes from Sandy's Desk: Congratulations to class #42 for an excellent job in completing the C.E.R.T. academy and seeing them in action at the graduation drill. Hope to see members of this class at our board meetings, drills, and events. Please read information on the **Fire Service Day, RBCERTAA Refresher and upcoming RBCERTAA Luau.**

RSVP REQUIRED FOR REFRESHER DRILL: Sunday, April 25th is the RBCERTAA Refresher drill. In order to keep your skills fresh RBCERTAA requests that you attend one Refresher annually. We have two refreshers per year. This year April 25th and November 13th. You can attend both drills if you wish. The drill will be at RBF Station #2 at 2400 Grant. Time 10AM to 3PM. Bring your emergency bag (with your PPE's) and wear close toed shoes. Lunch will be included. **YOUR MUST RSVP PLEASE TO RBCERTAA@aol.com by Wednesday, April 21st.**

FIRE SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY - May 8th: Annually on Fire Service Appreciation Day the RBF Station 1 and Station 2 for the community to visit. There are various demonstrations by the Fire Dept throughout the day from 10AM to 3PM. RBCERTAA will be at each location to inform the community about CERT. We need volunteers to sign up for time slots at each station. Please email SRedondoBeach@aol.com if you are available. A two hour commitment would be great (from 8:30 AM to 3:30PM). Please use subject line: Fire Service Day

RBCERTAA LUAU: SAVE THE DATE – MAY 22nd 10AM to 2PM In place of the annual RBCERTAA picnic we will have a new & exciting event, the RBCERTAA Luau at Moonstone Park in RB. This is a great family day with BBQ, games, socializing with other alumni members and fire department! Alumni can bring family and guests. Suggested donation for family and guests is \$10 per person. Chairing the planning committee for the Luau is Sally Plante. Sally is looking for some help with this event (preplanning and execution). Contact: Sally at (310)540-3388. RSVP by May 10th for Luau with number of people attending at RBCERTAA@aol.com. Separate email with flyer on Luau with details and location map will be sent out on April 21st. Parking will be FREE at the event.

SHAKEOUT DRILL COMMITTEE: Monty Ruth, Chair of the Shakeout Committee, reports that the committee is moving forward and if you'd like to be a part of this committee contact Monty at (310) 293-2055 or montgomery.ruth@gmail.com.

DONATIONS

Monetary or Equipment Donations For RBCERTAA are tax deductible. We are a 501(c) (3) Corporation

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: Marcelle McCullough, Chair of the Fund Raising Committee welcomes alumni participants to join the committee and contribute ideas to keep RBCERTAA moving forward. Contact Marcelle at mm@masterpiecemeetings.com

CONGRATULATON RBCERT ACADEMY #42: Congratulation to RBCERT Academy #42. This class had a lot of spirit throughout the classroom time and demonstrated their skills at the graduation drill. We are proud to welcome them as RBCERT Alumni. RBCERTAA extends a special invitation to attend our board meetings and hope they will take the opportunity to participate in drills and committees. They are now part of the prepared group that will be available with skills when called upon. GREAT CLASS #42! Please note: the class will be emailed information on downloads of graduation photos.



HAM RADIO INFO: Doug Rodriguez, RBCERTAA Vice President, has provided the follow website for those interested in the practice tests for preparing for the amateur radio licensing test: <http://www.qrz.com/xtest2.html>

There is an Amateur Radio Course, FCC "Technician" course (entrée level). It will be a 2 session course on April 24 and May 1 from 10AM to 2PM and FCC test will be 10AM to noon on May 8. Location: Hess Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd, RVP. Classes are free, **optional materials** are \$21 for Gordon West book with the FCC test questions, and \$15 for coy of the Power Point charts. Testing is \$15. For classes it is good idea to bring lunch. For further information please contact: Walt at walt.ordway@yahoo.com

ALUMNI STORY by Rick Shigio – CERT CLASS #38:

Tsunami warning, Hawaiian style.

The blare of the Civil Defense sirens awoke me from a sound sleep. It was still dark, and in my waking moment, I had to remember where I was. After having a pleasant Friday evening on the Island of Oahu, I awoke to a sobering reality: the sirens were for real. In the dark, my girlfriend fumbled for her clock-radio to hear the news. An earthquake of magnitude 8.8 had hit Chile, some 7000 miles away, and the tsunami warnings began at 6 AM. My first thoughts were, "Where is my "go" bag, and do we have water?" Water we had, food we had, but my "go" bag was 2500 miles away, in California. Fortunately, being far enough inland, we were not in the evacuation zones posted inside the local phone books.

The Tsunami wave was constant news all day, every channel. Eva Beach was evacuated, and tourists in Waikiki were advised to be above the sixth floor of their hi-rise hotels. (This was to prevent gridlock and panic in the dense Waikiki area, as many of the beachfront hotels were designed to withstand tsunami waves.) Honolulu police and fire were on alert patrolling the streets. The waters were receding significantly more than usual (a precursor to a tsunami), and tensions were high. The emergency operations centers were open and staffed. Mayor Mufi Hannemann was on a flight back to the islands, and the deputy mayor was in operational command. Zero hour was to begin at 11:19 AM Hawaii time. All eyes were on the coast. Zero hour passed, and the surf rose a total about 3 feet. A non-event, despite the mainland news declaring imminent disaster. The warning was cancelled in the afternoon, and the Island slowly returned back to normal.

This was a clear reminder that disaster preparedness is not just a local concern. In Southern California, we have wildfires, earthquakes and flooding. In Hawaii, the concerns are tsunamis, hurricanes and volcanoes. Different locations and conditions, but the same basic needs for preparedness. Also, both Hawaii and California have military bases that are potential terrorist targets. Seeing that I'm spending more time in the Islands, I'm building separate kits there, where my girlfriend can access them quickly. Additionally, I located the CERT link from the city of Honolulu, as well as the Civil Defense information she would need in case of an emergency.

Now if I can just get her to sign up for CERT.....

(Please submit your personal CERT Story for consideration in the RBCERTAA Update. Submit your article to SRedondoBeach@aol.com)

BOARD MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL ALUMNI: The monthly meetings at Billy's Deli are **open to all RB CERT alumni**. We encourage each of you to attend the meetings. Since this is a meeting at 6:30 please try to purchase a meal as Billy's provides us the meeting space without cost. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

