



The ALERTER



Preparedness Class Graduates, Fall 2012



Congratulations to (left to right): Tina Hashem, Danielle Hashem, Peter Bacon, Pat Hathaway, Tim Carter, Charles Harrington, and Cassidy Harper. Also in photo Sherrif Craig Wiggin and LR-CERT Coordinator Kathleen Merriam.

Coming Up

23 January

Monthly Training: SWAT

6:00 PM at Belknap County Sheriff's Office, N Main St, Laconia. Presenter Sherrif Craig Wiggins

20 February

Monthly Training: HAZMAT

6:00 PM at Gilford Library. Presenter John Prickett.

27 March

Monthly Training: Earthquake Response

6:00 PM at Gilford Library. Presenters John Beland and Nick Mercuri.

Preparedness Tips

For a super series of podcasts on how to handle blackout conditions — from the simplest response with small battery-powered devices, through increasingly sophisticated equipment such as generators and how (and how not to) hook them up, to a battery bank back-up that can supply your basic home needs and also be made to work in a mobile setting — go to <www.solar1234.com> and <www.battery1234.com>



Tour of 911 and Fire Mutual Aid Dispatch

On 4 December, LR CERT members were invited to join with the Central NH Amature Radio Club for a tour of the NH 911 center in Laconia and the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Communications Center, both located at the former state prison complex off Parade Road.

CNHARC / CERT members David Stamps, Cliff Davison, Jim White, and Dick Christopher, along with CERT member Richard Dow, took advantage of this opportunity to experience the inner workings of our local disaster communications infrastructure.





November Training Meeting / By David Stamps

Urban Traffic Control and LPD Protocols

On Wednesday, November 14, Laconia Police Department's Training Officer Michelle Cardinal provided our monthly training. Her topic was urban traffic control. She began by congratulating CERT on our many helpful past deployments. "When CERT shows up I can move on to my other duties knowing that CERT will manage their position with professionalism and discipline."

Officer Cardinal underscored our Traffic Guidelines to wear Class II reflective vests when deployed, saying "It's smart to be visible and it's also the law now." She went on to say that every scene is different and goes through different stages, first growing and then shrinking as the fire or other incident is brought under control. She said that 360 degree awareness is vital and our duty is first to be safe, then to ensure the safety of others, and finally to help protect property.

Officer Cardinal said that taking control of your station is important because the public looks to you for direction. Now that reflective vests are mandatory, they have become a symbol for the person with authority. While it is always important to be polite, you often have to be firm when directing people.

She said that if you are confronted with a problem that feels threatening just step back and contact your supervisor via radio. If you see a motor vehicle accident (as happened at one CERT post during the chemical spill deployment), don't hesitate to contact Police Dispatch at 524-5252 directly. Say that you are on CERT traffic duty, give your location, and tell the dispatcher what the problem is.

Overall, Officer Cardinal was very complimentary of Lakes Region CERT, and felt that we provide a valuable service to the Laconia Police Department.

Following the training, we had a chance to look at the new CERTmobile, which was nearly complete except for some interior work. (See story on next page.)

Photos: Richard Alan Dow

2012 LPD Citizen Police Academy

Four Lakes Region CERT members were among eighteen graduates of the Laconia Police Department's 2012 Citizen Police Academy.

They were recognized at a ceremony held at the Belknap Mill for having completed a 10-week program covering various topics in law enforcement — a unique experience that allows citizens to interact with police officers in a non-traditional setting.

Congratulations to Jack & Carmen Bishop, Gerie Pingol, and Michael Wheeler.

By Sally Porter

How the Sandwich Fair Helped Our New CERTmobile

First, we'd like to thank all the LR CERT members who volunteered for parking duty at the Sandwich Fair. This was our fourth year, and we plan on many more. It's always a good time, usually good weather, and a great way to meet people and get free publicity. This year 14 members participated, putting in a total of 54.5 hours. As a result, CERT received a check for \$519.75 from the Sandwich Fair Association. By decision of the leadership committee, this money was allo-

cated to fitting the interior of our new CERTmobile.

This is our only scheduled fundraiser. While we occasionally receive grants or donations, we cannot count on these as guaranteed income.

I know it's a year away, but please mark your calendars for Columbus Day weekend 2013, and help us out at next year's Sandwich Fair.

By Dick Christopher

A Tale of Two CERTmobiles

We have come a long way since that day on May 29, 2008, when we took delivery of our first CERTmobile, donated to us by the Laconia Fire Department. It previously was an ambulance, and when it was no longer needed for that purpose, it was converted for use by the fire inspector. When it was given to us, it still was outfitted pretty much as an ambulance.

The first thing we did was gut the interior and install shelving. CERT member Dennis Franciosi repainted the vehicle in our green, white, and black colors, then all the lettering was donated by Gator Signs of Gilford. A tremendous amount of labor over many hours was spent on that vehicle, and it served us well. Unfortunately, good things do come to an end.



This past March, during vehicle inspection, we learned that the brakes had failed and that the frame had rusted through to the point where it was no longer safe to drive. It sat in the garage as a storage place for our gear. When we needed items, such as a tent, rehab, or shelter materials, we had to drive to the garage and load our cars to transport them to the event. This went on for most of the summer while we looked for another vehicle. We even tried to figure out how we could raise enough funds to purchase one — a long shot, since our biggest fund raiser was for a little over \$500 when we worked the parking lot at the Sandwich Fair. Things were looking pretty gloomy.

Then the Laconia fire and police chiefs got together and found a possible surplus vehicle, sitting in the lot of the Laconia police station. It was one of two vans used for prisoner and material transport. The LPD decided they only needed one, and when Chief Chris Adams asked us if we could make use of one of them, we jumped at the offer. Both police vehicles started their lives as postal vans. When the LPD acquired them, they were given appropriate insignias, sirens, lights, blue lightbar, and all that cop stuff. When we said, "Yes, we want one!" it was delivered to Laconia Department of Public Works, where the police equipment was removed.

We then took it to Dennis, who had again offered to re-paint the vehicle. In addition, he stripped out the barrier doors and prisoner seats, and installed a passenger seat and seat belts. Next was a trip to Gator Signs, who again kindly donated the lettering. Since that time, we have installed shelving and transferred items from the old vehicle to the new one.

We are looking forward to using the new CERTmobile for many years in our public service events. It fits our needs perfectly, and we thank the City of Laconia, the Laconia Police Department, and the Laconia Fire Department for all they have done to help us.

In the near future, we hope to have a "coming out party" to show off our new



Photos: Dick Christopher

piece of equipment to the local media and all the groups who have helped us in this endeavor.

From the Editor

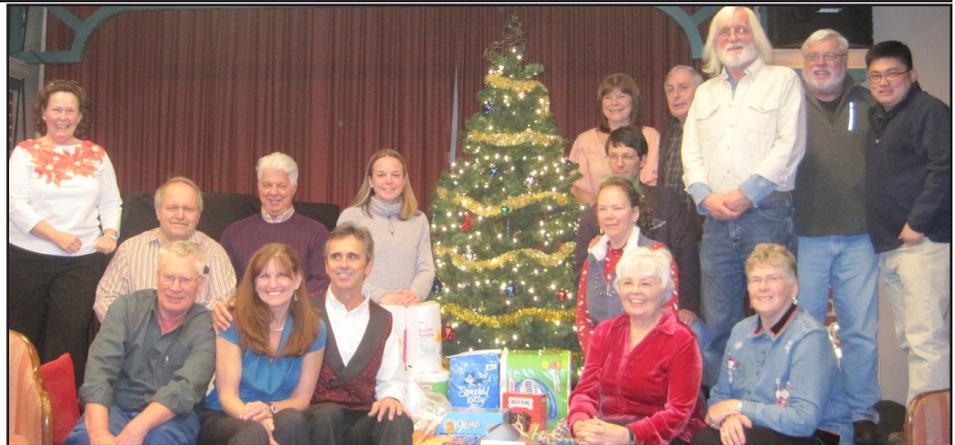
The ALERTER is open to input, both text and photos, from all members. While many members have contributed photos, the reporting (text) has fallen mainly on the shoulders of already busy people — the Leadership Team and the Editor.

As a result, the decision was made to publish our newsletter bi-monthly, and the next issue will cover events in January and February, with publication at the beginning of March.

It will still be easy to procrastinate! The deadline looks a long way off. But there are some benefits: it gives time for you to contact me and let me know if you will report on an event. To make this easier, we will provide a form for you to use when gathering information for a story. Even if you can only gather the facts, we'll be able to put the story together.

Your participation in trainings, deployments, and reporting is vital!

—Richard Dow <dowtech@mac.com>



Our annual Christmas party at the Margate was a wonderful success again! It was so good to see everyone in such a festive setting arranged by Kate, Tom, & Debbie. The buffet provided by everyone was enough to rival the best restaurant. So many wonderful, delicious foods. Dave Stamps provided a slide show with lots of new pictures provided by Richard Dow. Kathleen told us the stats for the year with how many activations and total man-hours (1,266) we have volunteered in 2012. Then Susan Laverick spoke at how successful CERT has been (especially helping out at the flu clinics) as well as a restructuring of Belknap County coming in 2013. And, as always, the swap was a fun highlight of the evening. It's safe to say we have no shy people in our group. All the Humane Society donations were dropped off by the Murphys to much ooh & aaah's by the NHHS staff. Thank you all for a most wonderful donation! **by Debbie Murphy, Photo Gerie Pingol**

The ALERTER / LR CERT

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