



The ALERTER



Outreach to Seniors at Village Knolls II, Gilford

Emergency Preparedness (Story on Page 3)

Coming Up

28 March

Monthly Training

6:00, Gilford Public Library. A presentation by Major Cameron Thompson on the NH Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and its mission.

18 April

Monthly Training

6:00, Gilford Public Library. Traffic Control is the subject, with Ron O'Keefe from LGC (Local Government Center) as the presenter and David Stamps, Traffic Control Leader, as facilitator. This training is for new members and is an important refresher for the rest of the team. Please make every effort to attend.

Editor's Note

A new feature has been added this month: a profile of a team member. The "subject," Dick Christopher, and I had an interesting chat at Awakenings coffee shop. See Page 4.

I'm looking for more material that's not time sensitive to use in future editions of The ALERTER. How about reviews of gear that really impressed you?



At top, Village Knolls II residents gather with LR CERT and Gilford Fire Department personnel for a photo op. Second row: Lt Frank Latosek explains emergency medical forms; Roger Turgeon (left) discusses emergency preparedness. Third row: Dick Christopher (left) and Norma Jo Sorgman work with residents. Left: Jennifer Muzzey enjoys her conversation with a resident.

Photos: Jim White, Richard Alan Dow

Generator Safety

February Training



Dick Christopher with Tom Richardson, speaker for the February training.

LR CERT's well-attended monthly training was held on 15 February at the Gilford Public Library.

Following an update by Kathleen, David Stamps set up a scenario where the weather forecast was calling for a major snowstorm to hit in 48 hours, with an expected accumulation of two feet. How would we prepare?

Dick Christopher next introduced the evening's speaker, Tom Richardson, a ham radio operator and experienced Master Electrician from the seacoast area.

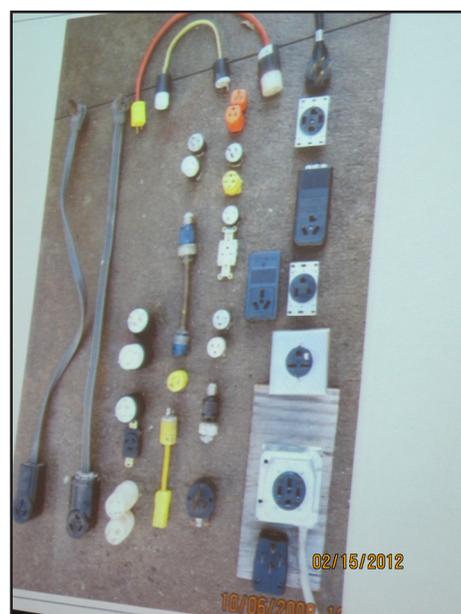
Tom described different types and sizes of generators, discussed various means of connecting them, and pointed out many safety aspects and potential hazards. His excellent talk was enhanced by a variety of hardware that he passed around.

Key take-away point: The first hazard we should look for on scene is CO buildup due to a poorly located generator.

—Richard Alan Dow



Photos: Gerie Pingol



Senior Outreach

Emergency Preparedness —by Roger Turgeon

In a program conceived and co-sponsored by Gilford Fire Department's Lt. Frank Latosek, LR CERT members, and Gilford firefighters met on February 11, 2012 with 23 residents of Village Knolls II, an independent living facility in Gilford. The purpose of the visit was to assist the residents in the completion of a medical information form and emergency preparedness checklist to aid first responders should any of the Village Knolls II residents require emergency medical treatment or evacuation.

Lt. Latosek kicked off the session with a statement of objectives and a brief overview of the emergency medical information we would be helping the

resident's collect. Next, Roger Turgeon, LR CERT Outreach Leader, provided information on the "Stay, Leave, Connect" emergency preparedness program.

Following the introductions, each resident was provided with a tote bag containing the emergency medical form, new 911 stickers, emergency preparedness documents, other senior oriented services contact information, a flashlight (provided by a grant from Home Depot), and other items. Each resident was then paired with either an LR CERT member or a Gilford firefighter to complete the emergency medical form. By all accounts this was a successful program enjoyed by the

residents and volunteers alike.

An after action is being scheduled to review how this pilot program worked in the hopes of extending it to other senior communities throughout the Lakes Region.

Gilford firefighters participating included Marty Barrett, Frank & Lynn Latosek, Ricky Raper, and Ron Skinner.

LR CERT participants included Mary Lou Anderson, Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, Nancy Fuchs, Connie Leggett, Kathleen Merriam, Jennifer Muzzey, Norma Jo Sorgman, Roger Turgeon, Lisa and Sheila Vermacy, and Jim White

After Action Review — by Sally Porter

On 29 February, nine CERT members met at LRPPH to conduct an after action review of the Senior Safety Outreach Project that was held on 11 February at Village Knolls II in Gilford.

There was a lot of discussion by those present about the lessons learned and successes of the day. The lessons learned ranged from items needed to bring the next time, reworking of the forms, suggestions of ways to improve the process and inclusion of seniors not present that day, as well as general privacy concerns for the seniors and the mission of CERT. Those who attended the Safety Project day felt the experience of helping those residents was fun and satisfying, consistent with CERT's mission, good exposure, and a positive end to working with the Gilford Fire/Rescue Dept. Many thanks was also given to Lisa Vermacy for obtaining flashlights and hand sanitizers from Home Depot for the bags that were handed out to the residents.

All members look forward to repeating the project with Village Knolls I in the future.

Attending the meeting were Mary Lou Anderson, Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, Kathleen Merriam, Sally Porter, Ethie Ritson, Norma Jo Sorgman, Roger Turgeon, and Jim White.

Photos: Richard Alan Dow.



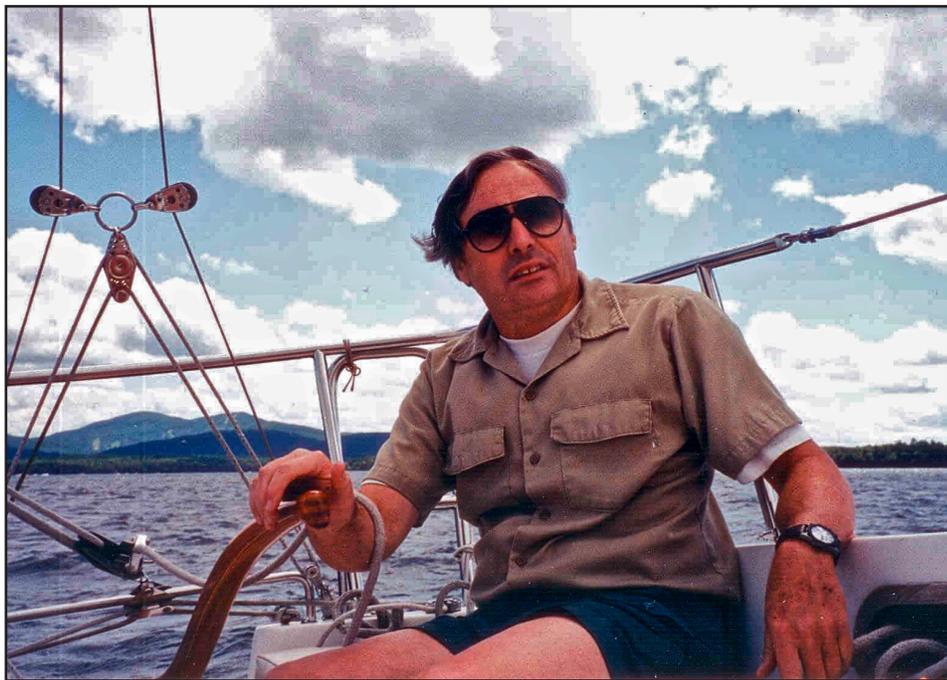
LR CERT Profile

Richard Christopher

A New Hampshire native and UNH graduate (in physics and math, with a minor in English lit), Dick Christopher was one of the original members of the Lakes Region Community Emergency Response Team.

After teaching high school physics for three years, he enlisted in the Navy. "I wanted to go to Officer Candidate School, but the classes were full at the time." Following basic training, he served as an Electronics Technician until an opening came at OCS. He was commissioned and sent to Engineering Officer training in California. "That was a good time," he recalls. "My wife and I took six days driving across the country, and had plenty of opportunity to see all the sights in the San Diego area." He served in the Engineering Division and later, the Electronics Division, on the aircraft carrier USS Wasp, operating around Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Following his Naval service, Dick went to work for New England Telephone, now Verizon. Among his accomplishments there, he designed the underground conduit and fiber optic system in downtown Laconia and other cities. He took early retirement in 1996, but



continued as a contractor for the next ten years, while also teaching physics and chemistry at the vocational technical colleges in Laconia and Concord.

In March of 2007, Dick volunteered for LR CERT, which was being formed. "At that time we were interviewed first, then did two eight-hour weekend training sessions." He remembers his interview vividly: "There was a huge conference table in a dimly lit room. I was on one side and a whole row of police, fire, and other personnel on the other asking questions." Of fifteen people who attended the training, Dick

was one of six who joined the team.

A passionate ham radio operator and teacher, Dick got his first license at age 16. He has also enjoyed years of sailing on Lake Winnepesaukee.

Dick is the Communications Leader for LR CERT, handles PR, keeps the CERT-Mobile up to snuff, and serves on the Emergency Preparedness Committee for Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, LR CERT's parent organization. And at any activity or deployment, you'll find Dick Christopher lending a capable hand.

The ALERTER / LR CERT

Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, Inc.
67 Water Street, Suite 105
Laconia, NH 03246