



The ALERTER



Disaster Preparedness Class

Spring 2012 Graduates

Coming Up

18 April

Monthly Training

6:00, Laconia Police Department. 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.

16 May

Monthly Training

6:00, Gilford Public Library. A Communications Workshop led by Dick Christopher and Jim White promises to be both informative and fun. Bring your own FMS radio or use one of LR CERT's.

Prep Tips

Sheila Vermacy notes that Facebook is testing a new service called the Disaster Message Board. Currently available only in Japan, it lets you notify friends and family that you are safe following a disaster. Read about it at

<<http://techland.time.com/2012/02/29/new-facebook-feature-lets-you-mark-yourself-as-safe-after-major-disaster/>>



From left: Kathleen Merriam (CERT Coordinator), Dave Bastien, Raymond Moore, Jim White (CERT Communications and Dispatch deputy), Peter Bacon, Marlene Sawicki, Mark Richardson, Ed Hawkins, John Nicol, and Nancy Fuchs (Outreach deputy). Photo: Richard Alan Dow

On 20 March, the Lakes Region Community Emergency Response Team (LR-CERT) graduated eight local citizens from the eight-week disaster preparedness course. John Prickett, RN, Emergency Services Director for LRGH and Franklin Hospital, keynote speaker alluded to the many responses and events that LR-CERT has provided to this community in the past five years. Graduates are invited to apply to the team. As a member, they will be asked to provide support to local first responders and the community in the form of traffic control; sheltering, fire rehab, search and rescue, etc., in times of disaster. —Kathleen Merriam

Gear Review — by Dick Dow Emergency Bivvy

A bivouac, or bivvy, is a simple, temporary shelter used for a quick stop while traveling, climbing, or in an emergency. The SOL Emergency Bivvy by American Medical Kits (AMK) is designed as a tiny, lightweight improvement on a space blanket.

Shaped as a tube, and reusable, this

bag can provide redundant protection in a go-bag, or even as every day carry. It's available on Amazon for \$13.



Role of the Civil Air Patrol

March Training Meeting — by Tom Murphy

Our March meeting was well attended, and after a few updates and a short drill we welcomed our speaker: Major Cameron Thompson of the Civil Air Patrol.

Cameron went through some of the early history of CAP when reconnaissance missions were flown by small aircraft in World War II and actually attacked German submarines. Many film clips were shown to supplement the questions we all had about CAP and its work.

Today the CAP missions are varied. As an all volunteer auxiliary component of the US Air Force, CAP is responsible for most of the search and rescue of missing aircraft. Other missions include support work with Homeland Security and anti drug smuggling operations.

The training done by CAP members, both Seniors and “Cadets” is extensive and varied. The CERT team will be looking into instances where we can do some joint training in areas of mutual interest. Thanks Cameron for an interesting session!



Above: Tom Murphy (left) was facilitator for the March training meeting, featuring Major Cameron Thompson of the New Hampshire Civil Air Patrol.

Below: (Left) A good turnout for the meeting at the Gilford Public Library, including some new members from the recently graduated class. (Right) “It was a dark and stormy night!” David Stamps sets the stage for a what-would-you-bring scenario.

Photos: Richard Alan Dow



“Winnie Dip”

LR CERT Provides Support

The 2012 Fourth Annual “Winnie Dip” to benefit Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH) was held on Sunday, 1 April, at the Margate Hotel in Laconia. And LR-CERT was there.

We were a significant contingent of over 30 volunteers, and we helped with set-up, directed traffic, monitored the shoreline, and handed out towels to 71 shivering dippers who braved the 41 degree waters of Paugus Bay. The total raised was \$39,614, making this the most successful to date.

Participating were Kate Bruchacova, Dick Christopher, Dick Dow, Nancy Fuchs, Mike Hardy, Kathleen Merriam, Sally Porter, Ethie Ritson, David Stamps, and Mike Wheeler.

Photos: Kate Bruchacova, Dick Christopher, Richard Alan Dow



CERT Profile

David Stamps

— by Dick Christopher

Dave, our Team Leader for Traffic, and leader for any other job asked of him, has been a LR-CERT member since its inception in 2007. He is one of the original six that survived the intensive 16-hour, two-day course that was required then. This is all before the eight-week classes that we now have. At the beginning, the group was small and Dave was instrumental in developing training and recruiting programs.

Dave has had many interesting careers in his life. For the most part, he is self-educated and has applied himself to a variety of ventures from owning a computer store, driving large trucks, and being a computer consultant. He now has his own business doing website and data base applications. And if anyone has a computer problem, he is the guy to go to.

So, what does he like to do the most? His answer is “kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing, reading, CERT activities, and ham radio.” On many days in the summer you can find him on some lake or river in his kayak or on a mountain



trail with his ham radio by his side.

Dave obtained his ham license in 2008 and since then has been very active with ARES — Amateur Radio Emergency Service — and has participated in all the activations and training events. Every Wednesday evening he can be found on the local ARES net serving as net control.

What does he like most about CERT? His answer is that “it is all the training it provides” and also the feeling that he is doing something worthwhile for the

community and working with other people of like-mind. Dave is also supportive of the Laconia Police and has completed the Laconia Citizens’ Police Academy courses 1 & 2, something he encourages all CERT members to participate in. Not only do we learn about police work, but they get to know us as individuals and then a trust develops.

Dave is also involved with community affairs. He is Treasurer of the Belknap Mill Society, a member of the Laconia Human Relations Committee, and fund raiser and official photographer of the Laconia Multicultural Market Day. He has also been known to dabble in politics from time to time.

So, what’s ahead? Dave is very happy with the direction that LR-CERT is taking. We are the best in the state and want to continue to be. He is happy for all the new people who have joined the group and hopes that the high standards set by the original members will carry on. As a group, the original members developed the concept of teams and team leadership and worked to provide monthly trainings that bridged the gap between actual callouts. The future looks bright!

The ALERTER / LR CERT

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