



The ALERTER



Coming Up

December 17

Christmas Party

6:30 PM at Margate Hotel, Weirs Blvd.
Instead of Yankee Swap, bring item for pet shelter or donate at <www.nhhumane.org/help-wishlist.php>.

Watch your eMail ...

for future monthly training meetings!

From the Editor

The seven month period covered in this issue of the ALERTER saw only one emergency deployment, which was good news for the communities we serve but understandably frustrating to a group that wants (and trains) to be in the thick of things! On the other hand, we had a full schedule of service events: including the Makris Run, Sandwich Fair, flu shot clinic assistance at area schools, and expanding involvement with newly added towns in our coverage area.

While not as exciting as emergencies, these events allow us to practice many of our skills, liaise with first responders, and to grow into a cohesive unit.



Laconia Motorcycle Week Makris Run



The Annual Peter Makris Memorial Ride and Run Around the Lake (Win-nipesaukee) is a firmly entrenched tradition of Bike Week, and has benefited two public service organizations. Peter Makris was the owner of the

NASWA Resort at the Weirs, a community leader, US Marine Corps veteran, and an avid biker and boater. Lakes Region CERT has helped with registration for several years, but this year became an official beneficiary, in addition to Laconia Fire Department's Lifesaving Fund and the Easter Seals NH Veterans Count, thanks to the good offices of LFD Chief Ken Erickson and the generosity of Cynthia Makris, President of the NASWA Resort.



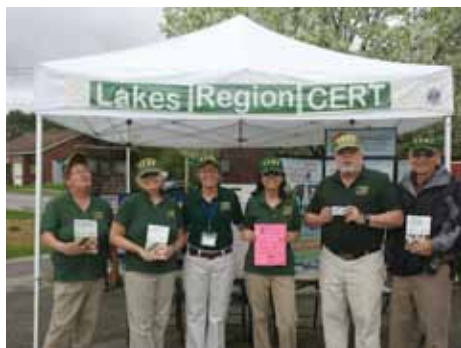
Wires Down on Weirs Boulevard

At 4:50 PM on Tuesday, July 2, Kathleen Merriam notified LR-CERT Dispatch that the Laconia Police Department had deployed us to close a section of Weirs Boulevard (Rte 3) due to high voltage wires down following a severe thunderstorm. Kathleen, our usual liaison with the first responder IC, was on medical leave, and it took us some time to learn the exact location of the problem so that we could allow some vehicles to reach resorts and homes along the routes

Dick Christopher, Cliff Dickinson, Richard Dow, Amanda Ewing, Marlene Sawicki, and David Stamps set up road blocks at the White Oaks Rd junction to the south and Christmas Island to the north. On call were Deb and Tom Murphy, Jennifer Muzzey, and Jim White. Available for a second shift were Peter Bacon, Cassidy Harper, Gerie Pingol, and Mike Wheeler.

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Public Service Events: Showing the Flag and Training Up



May 17, Laconia Kiwanis Bike Safety Rodeo, Opechee Park



August 5, National Night Out for Safety, Laconia Police Department.



August 27, WOW Trail 5K Race, Laconia



August 16-17, Timberman Triathlon, Gilford

Anyone who has participated in Emergency Response, whether military or civilian, knows that there may be long periods of inactivity, but that readiness and training must go on. Our LR-CERT is unusual in that we don't work scheduled shifts. We are on call 24/7 unless we've notified the team otherwise. One important mission (between "the Big Ones") is to help out our communities with traffic control for public events, first responder support for training exercises, and just being visible to present our message of emergency preparedness and to recruit potential new members. With about 30 active members, we are available to a recently expanded area of 18 cities and towns in the Lakes Region. We take pride in being responsive, helpful, and, above all, professional in the services we provide.

Franklin Fire Department Open House



Above: CERTer Cassidy Harper (right) prepares to be taken aloft.

When we were asked to assist the Franklin Fire Department by handling parking at their annual Open House on October 4, we were glad to oblige. Franklin is one of the new communities in our expanded coverage area. Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, Cassidy Harper, and David Stamps turned out for the detail. We weren't disappointed. Chief Kevin LaChappell and his crew made us welcome, and we enjoyed meeting them and getting to know more about Franklin, including FFD's wonderful museum of Fire Department history.

The day was dreary, but the major rain held off and a good number of Franklin residents visited their fire station.

August 30, we provided traffic control for Meredith Public Library's Book-it 5K Race.

October 11-13, once again this year we directed handicap parking at the Sandwich Fair.



September 6, Laconia Multicultural Day

CERTMobile Gets Fall Clean Up



Above: David does the suds. Far left: Jenn paints the line. Near left: Dick and Mike test the generator. (Richard took the photos.)

On October 8th, members of the Leadership Team met at the Lakeport Fire Station, the current home of the CERTMobile. Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, Kathleen Merriam, Jennifer Muzzey, David Stamps, and Mike Wheeler washed and vacuumed the vehicle, checked and inventoried all supplies, and tested and added our new portable generator, propane heater, and cook stove. Jenn, who is a fine arts muralist, had no problem refreshing the “back-up line” on the station floor!



July 16, Scenario Training. Building on lessons learned during the Weirs Blvd. incident, we held a Traffic Control and Rehab training at the Fire Mutual Aid Center in Laconia. Thanks to David Stamps, Dick Christopher, and Cliff Dickinson for the long hours spent putting it together.

Weirs Blvd — Continued from Page 1

It rained off and on for most of the time we were on scene, making conditions unpleasant, particularly after dark. This is a heavily traveled road, especially in summer, and many of the vehicles we had to detour were pulling boats on trailers. Once we determined that the incident was at the entrance to the Evergreen resort, we were able to let people through from both ends to that point. Through traffic was impossible for the duration of the incident.

We were released about 9:45, with many thanks from our LPD liaison officer.

Ongoing Training



May 21, CPR/AED recertification.

October 22, Tour of the Emergency Operations Center in Concord.



November 12, Matt Cahillane (above), who manages the Climate and Health Program within the NH DHHS Division of Public Health Services, spoke on climate change and its implications for emergency response. Whatever your theory, there’s no doubt that we are in a pattern of extreme weather conditions, and we need to prepare to respond accordingly.

Extended Training

In addition to monthly training meetings, members of Lakes Region CERT participate in statewide training events and also assist with the Emergency Preparedness class.

On June 11, Kathleen, Kate, and Richard attended the annual Emergency Preparedness Conference in Manchester.

On August 21, Richard attended a program at the Sheriff's Office: Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM).

On October 28, Mary Lou, Richard, Kathleen, Diane, Jennifer, and David participated in an Emergency Point of Distribution (POD) exercise in Tilton, which included a flu vaccine clinic for town residents.



Tylergraphics

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The ALERTER / LR CERT

Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, Inc.
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Laconia, NH 03246

Fall 2014 Emergency Preparedness Class



Seventeen Lakes Region citizens are attending the Emergency Preparedness course at Laconia High School. Offered twice a year by CERT as part of our education mission, the free nine week course covers subjects like home preparedness, fire safety, use of fire extinguishers, search and rescue, and terrorist threats. Each student becomes certified in first aid, CPR, and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). First responders from fire, police, and the Sheriff's departments present much of the material. The class is coordinated by CERT Chief Kathleen Merriam and is a prerequisite for membership on the Community Emergency Response Team. The Fall 2014 class graduates November 25.

Area Schools Flu Shot Clinics

Once again, Lakes Region CERT members gave up much of their time to help with the School Based Flu Clinics. The Team put in 146.4 hours of volunteer time at 16 clinics and one POD. A whopping 1,200 plus kids were vaccinated. This endeavor will undoubtedly keep our public health region more resilient to the flu this year.

Thanks to Mary Lou Anderson, Richard Dow, Mandy Ewing, Joyce Messer, Diane Monaco, Tom & Deb Murphy, Gerie Pingol, and David Stamps. Special kudos to Jennifer Muzzey, who attended every clinic, putting in a total of 43 hours!