



# Culver City CERT Newsletter



January 2002

e-mail: CERT@culvercity.org

website: www.culvercity.org/cert

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

### **Dave Benson**

President  
253-5903

### **Robert Shallenberger**

Vice Pres. and Logistics Mgr.  
253-5903

### **Robin Turner**

Treasurer  
253-5903

### **Erik Mayer**

Operations Manager  
253-5903

### **Susan Peterson**

Secretary  
253-5903

### **Chief Neil Petzing**

CCFD CERT Coordinator  
253-5903

### **Andra Kai Shaw**

Training and Education  
Manager  
253-5903

### **Perry Waldow**

D.A.T. Manager  
253-5903

### **Chuck Curts**

CCARES Representative  
253-5903



## **President's Message**

*By Dave Benson*

**J**ust as people go through stages of life (infancy through old age), organizations go through life stages as well. As a growing and maturing organization, Culver City CERT will enter its next stage under new leadership and with new goals.

As President, I would like to thank all of the people who have contributed to the growth and success of CERT since its formation. In particular I would like to thank the following people who deserve special mention.

**Captain Kevin Kinnon** of the Culver City Fire Department (CCFD) strongly supported the creation and development of CERT. He wanted to create a community-based organization to assist the CCFD in the event of a natural or other disaster. Capt. Kinnon helped to establish the basic training program for CERT members, offered additional training sessions for interested members and provided CERT with the guidelines necessary to start the Disaster Awareness Training (D.A.T.) program. Without Capt. Kinnon's leadership, CERT would not be the organization it is today.

**Eric Mayer** has served on the Board of Directors since its inception and

served as President for two years. Eric also planned and coordinated all of the disaster drills held for CERT members over the last few years, including recruitment of all of the "victims" from his Boy Scout troop. Eric is now the Operations Manager and in charge of planning future drills. Erik, thank you for serving as President, for all of your efforts in creating interesting and useful drills and for allowing your Boy Scout Troop to participate.

**Susie Thompson** served CERT in a number of different capacities. She initially served as the Secretary. She wrote the proposal requesting funding from the City to implement the D.A.T. program. She coordinated all of the training classes for CERT and served as the lead instructor. Later, as CERT Manager, she was the liaison between the CERT Board of Directors and the CCFD. Susie's efforts are greatly appreciated.

**Robert Shallenberger** and **Derek Brown** spent over 1000 hours transforming a beat-up police truck into a "state-of-the-art" CERT Command Vehicle. Robert and Derek, along with other CERT volunteers, spent time every weekend for 24 months working on the vehicle. As a result of their tremendous efforts, the CC CERT Command Vehicle is among the elite

vehicles of all CERT organizations.

In July 2001, the Board of Directors of CERT reorganized and a new CCFD Coordinator, **Chief Neil Petzing**, was appointed. Chief Petzing has been employed by the CCFD for over 25 years. He currently serves as the incident commander for all major call-outs that involve the CCFD. We are looking forward to serving under Chief Petzing's tutelage.

The Board has identified several goals for CERT in the coming year. One of our primary goals is to increase our membership and include businesses in Culver City. In the event of a daytime disaster, we would like to have at least one CERT member in every business. Our current goal is to increase CERT membership by 300 members in this phase of our development.

We also intend to strengthen our training program for existing members by providing ongoing training, including demonstrations and hands-on experience, on a regular basis. The more often we practice, the better prepared we will be to deal with a disaster.

Our D.A.T. program has been sending instructors to various groups in Culver City to teach people how to prepare, and prepare their families, for a disaster.  
*(continued on page 4)*

## "Retired" Board Members

We are sorry to see three of our Board members step down.

**Brooke Powell** was the CERT secretary for most of 2001 where she had done an outstanding job. She was a district manager before that. Brooke will continue as a CERT instructor so let's help keep her busy with new CERT members! Recruit your friends, neighbors, and family. You'll do them and CERT a big favor.



**Brooke Powell**



**Wendy Shallenberger**

**Wendy Shallenberger** resigned as CERT Logistics Manager. She and her husband, Robert, were a major driving force behind the refurbishment of the command vehicle. Although Wendy has officially resigned, her husband Robert has agreed to take over as Logistics Manager. *Hmmm, do you think that Robert might ask Wendy for help—just a little?*

**Marty Zisner**, District 2 manager, resigned for personal family reasons. Marty has been an active member of Culver City CERT since its inception and he is a hazardous materials expert as well. As you know, CERT's first goal is to take care of yourself and your family. Marty needs time to do that now and we all appreciate his many hours of dedicated service.



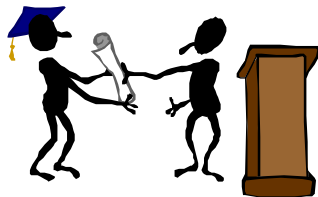
**Marty Zisner**

*Welcome to our newest CERT members!  
Graduated in 2001*

**Gail Ferrer  
Earle Hartling  
Bill Heagy  
Pam Hiserodt  
Marty Kapp  
Laura Krever  
Mary LaVelle**

**Joanne Luna  
Ruth Odell  
Joel Salz  
Josh Salz  
Johanna Scully  
Ben Stapholtz  
Dan Winters**

**Jeff Zisner**



### CERT District Managers

**District 1 Manager: Carol Newman 253-5903**

**District 2 Manager: open position**

**District 3 Manager: Gail Gacharna 253-5903**

### CERT Activation Reporting Locations

**Picnic table areas at the following:**

**District 1: Carlson Park**

(Corner of Braddock and Motor)

**District 2: Veterans' Park**

(Corner of Culver and Overland)

**District 3: Blanco Park**

(behind El Rincon School)



## ARE WE ON THE NORTHBOUND TRAIN?

*By Battalion Chief Neil Petzing*

I'm sure that you're wondering what in the world that means. It's my simple way of asking if we as members of CERT and the Fire Dept. are heading in the same direction. Direction in any organization, be it the largest international company or the smallest volunteer group, needs to be established and communicated to every member of the organization. The first step in determining direction is to establish values. Values give an organization a self-ordering quality, a kind of organizational ballast, which provides direction and stability in periods of turmoil, stress, and change. They give both leaders and followers a basis for looking more confidently beyond the issues of the day. As our organization comes to grip with the need to transform, a well articulated and widely held set of beliefs about substance enables people to understand what the organization wants to accomplish. Shared values express the essence of an organization. They bind expectations, provide alignment, and establish a foundation for transformation and growth.

Several years ago the Fire Department set out on a goal of establishing our Core Values and creating a Mission Statement that would guide the organization not only from one day to the next, but

also provide a road map to the future. There are:

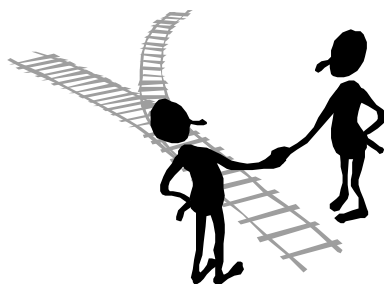
### CORE VALUES

Trust, Professionalism,  
Respect, Compassion, Pride,  
Character.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Culver City Fire Department is dedicated to providing prompt, quality services through personal growth, respect and support for each other, and for the community.

Every decision the Fire Department makes should be guided by these Core Values and this Mission Statement. The same holds true for the Community Emergency Response Team.



Well, you're all probably wondering what that really means and how does it affect me? Hopefully, it's the first step in a long journey. But first, let's set the agenda for 2002. I have loosely communicated my plan for the upcoming year. It is my strong desire to establish a good working relationship between the Fire Department and CERT. The initial step toward this goal was to reassign CERT Shift Coordinators. Those Shift Coordinators are Capt. Mike Bowden "A Shift", Capt. Dave White "B Shift", and Capt. Ray Hendrick "C Shift". Each of them will be coordinating involvement of Fire Department personnel with training and drills. Each shift will hold a combined Fire Department/CERT Drill during the year. Each Shift Coordinator will be responsible for setting the parameters of the drill. There will be three drills, one in each of the three CERT districts. The drills will focus on the basic skills of identification, mitigation, and recovery of neighborhood problems. After each drill, a post incident evaluation will take place so that teams can accurately assess their strengths and weaknesses.

In closing I'd like to thank each CERT member for their dedication and support for the community. I look forward to the challenges that are ahead during 2002.

## Treasurer's Report



Our CERT organization has gone through a lot since the last CERT letter was written. A while back, I was given the by-laws to finish so that we could be a non-profit

organization. We made a lot of progress but had a major hurdle to get over. We're almost finished with the legal issues of going non-profit. We have several attorneys looking at our document. In retrospect, however, we have found that we may not need to become non-profit in order to fundraise for CERT and DAT.

We are now looking at that option as well. We will be discussing all the options open to us at the next general meeting so please join us and let us know what you would like to see for our organization.

Thank you,  
Robin Turner

## FIESTA LA BALLONA 2001

By Dave Benson

Every May, the City of Culver City sponsors the Fiesta La Ballona at Veterans Park to celebrate all of the activities and opportunities offered by City organizations. The theme this past May was "A Rainbow of Colors" to illustrate the diversity within our City.

At the Fiesta, volunteer CERT members provided visitors to the CERT booth with information on the general CERT program and the Disaster Awareness Training (DAT) classes. The CERT booth is one of our best methods for recruiting new members (I became a CERT member myself after visiting the CERT booth three years ago.) This past year, we filled both the July and October training classes for new members with sign-ups from booth visitors.



As a demonstration, Perry Waldow, the DAT Manager for CERT, presented a short DAT class in front of the CERT booth. DAT classes are designed to teach the general public, including businesses, how to prepare for a disaster, including an earthquake, and what to do if a disaster should occur. All of the props used in a DAT class were available for observation and instruction.

One of the key attractions at the CERT booth was the CERT command vehicle. CERT volunteers led "tours" of the command vehicle for interested persons. These tours included photographs of the command vehicle from its acquisition through restoration to its finished state today. In addition, the CERT volunteers also explained all of the functions that the command vehicle would serve in the event of a disaster.

Thank you to the CERT members who volunteered to work the CERT booth during the Fiesta. Your time is very valuable, and the CERT Board very much appreciates the time that you took from your busy schedules to help promote all of the programs and classes offered through CERT.



### Command Vehicle

By Robert Shallenberger

The CERT Command Vehicle is about 98% completed. Currently we are working on stocking the vehicle with tools, lighting equipment, First Aid supplies, etc. At this time, the vehicle is being used for Disaster Awareness Training sessions and various city events.

The vehicle is equipped with an onboard generator, solar panels to keep the batteries at full charge, city radio to communicate with the Fire Department, three ham radios, and a TV. Each electrical device in the vehicle is wired and fused separately, therefore if a short circuit occurs, it will only affect one device.

We will be holding driver-training classes in the near future for those CERT members interested. After successful completion of the class, a certification valid for one year will be issued. In addition, these drivers will be issued keys to aid a quick deployment in an emergency. Only certified drivers will be allowed to drive the vehicle.



**We're looking for a new District 2 manager. If you are interested, please contact Dave Benson at 253-5903.**

CERT Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. All CERT members are invited to attend.

### June Drill



I want to thank all of the members who showed up at the June Drill. We learned a lot and are making adjustments to our training and the way CERT operates. I am currently working on revising our CERT Activation Procedures. We are making changes so that CERT will be more in line with how the Fire Department and CERT will actually be operating during an activation or disaster. The updated procedures will be distributed when they are adopted by the Board.

I am also working on updating the CERT Website. The CERT Website will be moved to the new Culver City Website when it launches in October.

Erik Mayer  
Operations Manager

*Note: This article was written in August 2001. Since then, the new CERT website **has** been launched. The web address is on the front page of this newsletter.*

*(continued from page 1)*

#### **President's Message**

Please contact D.A.T. at 253-5903 if you belong to, or know of, a group or organization that is interested in a training class.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our general meetings, training classes and drills. If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to share, please call me at 253-5903.

# Relay for Life

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In June 2001, the American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life** was held at W.L.A. College. CERT members manned the First Aid station. Most of the injuries were minor except for a broken ankle in the early evening hours. Congratulations to Alan Corlin who walked a 12-hour shift (and visited the First Aid Station later!).

Many thanks to all CERT members who participated in this event by working or by walking. Special thanks to Brooke Powell for organizing CERT's participation. And, last but not least, thank you to the Culver City Fire Dept. for providing a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning.

**Erik Mayer, Brooke Powell, Frank Vidrio, Jody Reichel**

**Brooke Powell, Erik Mayer, Froilan Puente,  
Alan Corlin, Susan Peterson**

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## Western Hemisphere Marathon

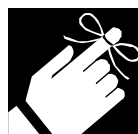
*By Erik Mayer*

CERT ran the First Aid Station for the second year for the Western Hemisphere Marathon. We treated 36 runners this year, which was somewhat fewer than last year. Twenty-two of the runners treated were teens running with Kids Run L.A. from the L.A. Unified School District. Injuries consisted of sprained ankles, pulled muscles, and blisters.

I would like to thank CERT Members Laura Kreever, Carol Newman, Josh Salz, Ben Stapholtz, Ron Williams, Michael Landau, Jose Saenz, Adela Merino, Perry Waldow, Susan Peterson, and Joanne Tortorici-Luna for working at the First Aid Station. I would also like to thank Kris Peters for assisting us.

**Laura Kreever, Carol Newman, Josh Salz, Erik Mayer,  
Ben Stapholtz, Michael Landau**

*Also, congratulations to CERT member Cathy Gianunzio for completing the half marathon!*



**Remember...**

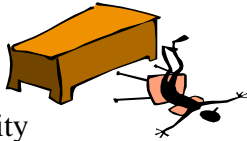
Thursday, February 7  
is the CERT General meeting.  
All members please plan to attend.

# DAT

By Perry Waldow "DAT man"

As we welcome in 2002, the DAT Team is gearing up to maintain the torrid schedule of Disaster Awareness Training workshops that kept DAT extremely busy last year. The program started slowly in 2001, with the DAT program finally kicking off in March with a workshop for the Culver City Middle School. The class, which was initiated and instructed by Cathi Lamm, with co-instructors Marty Zisner and Brooke Powell, was for about 50 members of the staff and faculty.

As our visibility grew, so did the community's awareness and DAT's popularity. With help from the *DAT gods*, recent and numerous seismic offerings on the Newport-Inglewood Fault, and the new reality that accompanied the September 11th tragedies, we finished last year with a thirty day period that included 8 workshops and *over 400 people trained!*



Though we came up shy of our goal of "2001 community members trained in 2001" (we actually trained about 950), we look forward to a busy and active 2002. This year's calendar already includes DAT Sessions with Culver City's Senior Center, the YMCA and Temple Akiba.

If anyone would like to set up a Disaster Awareness Training session, contact the CERT/DAT hotline at 253-5903. The following is a partial list of past sessions: Jack Nadel Advertising Company, Raintree Condominiums, Lakeside Village Condominiums, Heather Village Condominiums, Culver City Homeowners Association, Fox Hills Homeowners Association, The Democratic Club, La Ballona Elementary PTA, Echo Horizon Middle School, SONY Pictures, Mothers-of-Preschoolers (MOPS), Interfaith Alliance as well as many neighborhood watch groups.



DAT Instructor Dale Leider at Lakeside Village

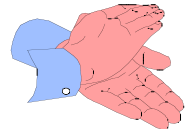
## DAT MEETINGS

Last year, the DAT committee met practically every Tuesday evening. The entire committee helped in the development of the program, from the handout materials to the class curriculum. The meetings also featured: lively banter, educational topics, marketing strategies and an occasional surprise like pizza, birthday celebrations or a batch of brownies, baked by Edie Siegel (a.k.a., the JOKER).

This year, DAT's instructor meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, with the first meeting to be held on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Department Drill yard. We will be distributing and reviewing the instructor's manual. All CERT members are invited. Even if you do not want to be an instructor, your input is valuable and desired. Please, if you will be attending and would like an instructor's manual, please RSVP by contacting the DAT/CERT hotline at 253-5903.

## THANKS

Thank you to everyone on the DAT committee. No matter how large or how small your contribution, it is appreciated. However, a special thanks to **Dale Leider** and **Tom Keller**. Together, they personally initiated and trained the residents at Raintree Condominiums and, with the help of Susan Peterson, the residents of Lakeside Village. Next on their calendar is Tara Hills Condos. Dale and Tom personally accounted for about 150 people trained in eight DAT workshops. *Thank you to Dale and Tom!*



## SPECIAL THANKS

I personally would like to thank those involved with the inception of DAT and their subsequent support: the Culver City City Council, Chief Mike Thompson, Battalion Chief Neil Petzing, Capt. Kevin Kinnon, Firefighter/Paramedic Bill Heins as well as everybody up in Fire Administration.



# CCARES—the beginning

By Dick Heineman

January 17, 1994. Do you remember what happened that day? Of course you do—that's the day that concerned Culver City residents and Ham radio enthusiasts Alan Corlin and H.L. Marks got the idea to start the Culver City Amateur Radio Emergency Services. (It also happened to be the day of the Northridge earthquake—quite a coincidence, huh?)

Anyhow, they thought it would be a good idea to develop a system for Culver City to be able to communicate better after a disaster, such as a 6.9 earthquake. Alan and H.L. put a notice in the local paper and that's how I, Dick Heineman, came to the group to help out. The three of us formed what is now known as CCARES. The group has grown from the three of us to 26 regular members (and a bunch of part timers) with at least 20 members

checking into the Ham radio net each Sunday night. *That even impresses the guys at Jun's, our local Ham radio store.*

So, you ask, how can you become a member of CCARES? Well, you must obtain a Ham radio license by



**CCARES/CERT member  
Walt Shubin working on  
packet radio**

passing a short test. And CCARES is here to help you.

At the February CERT General meeting, you will be able to sign up for the next Ham radio test (date to be announced) and also you can attend Walt Shubin's free review session immediately before the test. The test itself costs \$3. Culver City needs as many Ham radio operators as possible since we don't know if the phone systems will be operable or not after our next major disaster.

If you're unable to attend the February meeting, you can still sign up for the class and test by contacting CCARES member Walt Shubin at 253-6848 or by e-mail at [washubin@worldnet.att.net](mailto:washubin@worldnet.att.net)

Thank you and "73".

## Training 2002

By Andra Kai Shaw

As CERT's training manager, it is my goal to provide you with training that will better equip you to provide assistance to your family and your community in the event of a disaster. This is best accomplished by providing you with as many opportunities as possible to practice and utilize the skills you learned during your initial CERT training. It is my feeling that **each member of CERT** has something to contribute. I invite you to sit in on any scheduled CERT module to find out the many ways you can be of use to your community through CERT.



fire suppression

We all tend to lose skills that we are not required to use on a daily basis. So that we remain effective and feel competent and confident about our

ability to provide assistance when and if the need arises, "re-certification" for all CERT members who have

been in CERT for two years or longer is scheduled for April, 2002. The purpose of this activity is to give you and your CERT instructors an opportunity to see where you may need additional training or skills refreshers. Anyone who is not able to make any of the April dates will need to contact me. If we do not have a record of a CERT member going through the re-certification, they will be placed on an inactive list.

Please read through your CERT book prior to going through re-certification.



**If you have medical or physical challenges that prohibit you from doing any activity, just let us know. We can accommodate you by giving you an opportunity to assist in other ways.**

Additionally, we hope to have skills days at least once during each year. These days will be open to the entire organization and will give you an opportunity to go through skills areas that may need refreshing and an opportunity to practice those skills you may not feel as confident. Skills

days will be held in addition to the regularly scheduled classes and disaster drills.



CERT classes are scheduled for the following dates in 2002:

### Class 2002-01

Tuesday, Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm-9:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm

### Class 2002-02

Tuesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm-9:30pm
Saturday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm
Saturday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm
Saturday, July 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm

### Class 2002-03

Tuesday, Oct., 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm-9:30pm
Saturday, Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm
Saturday, Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm
Saturday, Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am-3:30pm

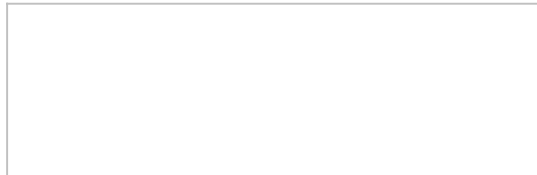
### Your CERT Instructors:

Erik Mayer  
Brooke Powell  
Andra Kai Shaw  
Barbara Vineis



**CULVER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

9770 CULVER BOULEVARD  
P. O. BOX 507  
CULVER CITY, CA 90232-0507



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

- New CERT class begins . . . . . Tuesday, February 5, 2002**
- General Membership meeting. . . . . Thursday, February 7, 2002**
- Final drill for new CERT class. . . . . Saturday, February 23, 2002**
- Earthquake Preparedness Month. . . . . April 2002**
- Re-certification . . . . . April 2002**
- Deadline to submit articles for the next CERT newsletter . . . . . April 22, 2002**
- General Membership meeting. . . . . Thursday, May 2, 2002**
- Fiesta La Ballona . . . . . Saturday, Sunday, May 2002**