

Aloha fellow Volcano CERTS.

This is an amended version of the January meeting minutes: Please note changes to time and location of Feb. 2 Volcano CERT team meeting and dates for Discovery Harbor Technician license amateur radio classes.

(Team Leader Nancy Lakin notifies us of the passing of Richard Bingham. Services are pending. We send our prayers and aloha to his family and friends.)

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team
January 5, 2019 meeting minutes

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened our first meeting of the new year at 9:10 a.m. in the sanctuary of Volcano Village Church. Also present: Doug Wilson, Larry Roy, Claudia Zirolì, Sharon McCartin, Dennis McCartin, Beatrice Nakanishi, Duane Nakanishi, Patti Pinto, Hank Schultz, Ray Burden, Ting Ortiz, Snookie Mello, Jimmy Love, John Butler, Jesse Thornton, Balmore Vasquez, Lee Pennington, Kat Archer, Richard Bingham, Teresa Evangelista, Carole Slattey, Chris Corley, Sher Glass, Debra Chaffin, Paul Lakin and Leigh Critchlow.

Nancy noted that the Volcano team now numbers about 40 affiliated CERTs. Those who didn't take the residential damage assessment training last year are asked to sign up for the 9 a.m.-noon Feb. 2 session at the Keaau Community Center. (Because more than 20 of our members will be attending, we decided to hold our monthly meeting there after the training. Bring something to share and we'll have a potluck lunch, said Nancy.)

ICS (Incident Command System) classes continue to be available online, with several evening group sessions upcoming in Hilo. For details, check the updated 2019 Hawaii County CERT Calendar, which has been circulated via email.

Doug announced the year's schedule for amateur radio Technician License classes: The six-week classes include five training sessions, with licensing exams given on the final week. The scheduled starting dates: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at Aupuni Center, Hilo; March 14, West Hawaii Civic Center, Kona; (Because of a scheduling conflict, the Discovery Harbor classes have been changed from the earlier announced schedule, as follows:

April 19 and 26, and May 3, 10 and 17, with May 24 being the date for the exam); May 23, Waimea (TBA); Oct. 17, Keaau Community Center.

Doug noted that he had four radio check-ins on this morning's practice net and encouraged licensed hams to participate in the monthly half-hour net that precedes our usual 9 a.m. meetings. Teresa suggested that we reinstitute our Monday 7 p.m. practice net, perhaps once a month. The weekly Monday net was deactivated late last year due to waning interest. Doug said he's up for whatever the group decides.

Doug also reported on VERT, the Volcano Emergency Response Team, which has reached a Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, with the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, subject to some tweaking of the wording by the Corporation Counsel's office. This official agreement will provide liability coverage for VERT volunteers, including CERTs. And, Doug said, VERT now has the keys and official approval to use Carlson Court as its ops and comms center during emergencies.

In an update on VERT, Doug noted that 25 volunteers throughout the community have signed up for a special mission in emergencies: Size-up. This means they share info from their respective neighborhoods. With this

combined understanding of what's going on, they determine whether it's necessary to activate VERT in response to a situation. And throughout the activation, they will continue to share information from the field with emergency communications HQ at Carlson Court. Tim Bryan will be the comms leader.

Doug noted that a training session for the 25 volunteers will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at Cooper Center, and we also are invited. He said VERT also wants to recruit additional volunteers for the communications network. You don't need a ham license, because the network also will include cell phones, computers, etc.

There will be a special VERT presentation at the Volcano Community Association annual meeting, at 6 p.m. Jan. 21 at Cooper Center. He said that additional training and exercises are in the works for VERT, which will serve the same geographical area as the Volcano Volunteer Fire Department: from Akatsuka Orchids to the 40-mile marker area on the Pahala side of the national park. And, within the Volcano area, VERT has arranged for five shelters to be used on a very temporary basis in cases of residents not being able to return to their homes after a disaster.

Following the meeting, two new committees met: Puna Waena (middle Puna), to plan for secondary ops center in case Volcano is cut off from downslope CERTs (team members are Patti, Leigh, Claudia, Kat, Lee, Larry, Ray and Hank), with staging to be at the Fern Acres Community Center; and 2019 Volcano Educational/Training Calendar planning group: Patti, Ray, Doug, Carole and Chris.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary