

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team

Members celebrate at end-of-the-year holiday meeting

Team updates, planning, reviews and good grinds mark 2019 finale

The final meeting of the year was productive, fun, festive and full of aloha as the team marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one.

Team Leader Nancy Lakin conducted her final session as head of the Volcano Community Emergency Response Team, and had lots of good things to say about the unit as a whole and its individual components.

"Thank you. Thank you," she said. "You make my heart proud."

"It's been a good run," said Nancy. She and hubby Paul, a CERT instructor and captain of the Volcano Volunteer Fire Department, will be moving to Texas next year to be close to their children and grandchildren.

Our end-of-the-year gathering/meeting was hosted by Terry Evangelista and husband Kurt Shanaman at their home in Volcano Village. Following the business session, we enjoyed a great potluck



The Volcano CERT members enjoy final meeting of the year at annual December holiday gathering.

***Note:
Our first meeting
of 2020 will be at 9
a.m. Saturday, Jan.
4, at The Village
Church, about a
mile up Wright
Road from Cooper
Center. (Details in
minutes.)***

brunch and a rousing game of CERT Jeopardy that tested our knowledge of all things CERT.

Nancy introduced our new co-Team Leaders, Richard Turner and Duane Nakanishi. Richard said he'd like to focus our January program on bandaging techniques, with guidance from the professional nurses on our team. Our first meeting of 2020 will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at The Village Church, about a mile up Wright

Road from Cooper Center, our regular venue. (The switch is needed due to a Hilo-to-Volcano relay run that morning that will impact the community center.)

Patti Pinto reported that the next County CERT basic training will begin on Saturday, Jan. 11, in Hilo, with the final exam and re-certification for CERTs whose two-year credentials are expiring to be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at a venue TBA.

Doug Wilson reported



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five check-ins for the monthly pre-meeting amateur radio practice net. He is still planning for a basic Technician (entry-level) licensing class in January or March. He has five students signed up and needs a few more to register before he can schedule the training. Contact Doug for more details, if you are interested. Classes run for two hours on Thursday evenings for five weeks, with the FCC licensing exam on the sixth week. (There also could be a Saturday morning option, if the group prefers.) Patti will send out an email blast to other area CERT teams to let them know about the ham training class. The course is free, with only a \$15 FCC examination fee.

Hominy Holidays!

By popular demand, here are the basic ingredients for Ellen O'Dunn's Hominy Corn Casserole, one of the many scrumptious dishes we enjoyed at our Christmas potluck.

Says Ellen: "This is basically the recipe I used, although I added more hominy and sour cream, and didn't use any green chiles. I think next time I'll sprinkle paprika on top, too, and possibly add in some Monterey Jack cheese along with the cheddar."

For complete instructions, go to:
<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/hominy-casserole/>

Ingredients for hominy casserole

1 medium onion, chopped
1 tablespoon canola oil
1 garlic clove, minced
1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup Kerrygold shredded cheddar cheese, divided
1/4 cup milk
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
3 cans (15 ounces each) golden hominy, drained

Doug also announced that the Volcano Emergency Response Team, or VERT, will stage three emergency response exercises next year at the Carlson Court adjacent to Cooper Center. The drills will be from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, Feb. 15, May 16 and Sept. 19.

"We hope CERT will participate," said Doug, because it's important for us to practice our emergency response and community support skills in an active scenario with hands-on responsibilities.

[In attendance at 12/07/19 meeting: Nancy Lakin, Richard Turner, Duane Nakanishi, Jimmy Love, Sharon McCartin, Dennis McCartin, Leigh Critchlow, Fran Gonzaga, Doug Gonzaga, Snookie Mello, Joseph Rosenbaum, Hank Schultz, Doug Wilson, Ellen O'Dunn, Claudia Zirolì, Patti Pinto, Terry Evangelista, Debra Chaffin, Paul Lakin and Kurt Shanaman.]

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary

Aloha, Kat, and mahalo

We're sad to report the death of loyal Volcano team member Kat Archer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Hawaii Tribune-Herald printed this obituary: Kathleen "Kat" Marie Castro, 42, of Mountain View died Nov. 26 at Hawaii Care Choices Pohai Malama Care Center in Hilo.

Born in Sitka, Alaska, she was the vice president of operations for Dig It Hawaii. Celebration of life was to be held at the family home.

She is survived by her life partner, Lee Pennington; son, Keanu Peterson; daughters, Deja Sherwood, Kyrie Pennington and Kiara Pennington; mother, Mary Archer; sister, Heather Vares. Arrangements by Dodo Mortuary.