



# MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2021

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

We begin, as always, with some thoughts from our leader, Program Manager Carol Hallett.

Elsewhere in this issue: July started out with, of course, our celebration of our nation's independence; our UAS unit had an opportunity to practice their SAR skills; Supervisor Ryan Campbell joins us to update us on what the Tuolumne County Fire Safety Advisory Committee has been up to; Twain Harte hosted the Outdoor Summer Market; it got hot, hot, hot and Lise Lemonnier tells you what we did to help; Carol Hallett was a guest on KAAD-LP, 103.5 FM, in Sonora to talk about CERT; and we'll let you know what interesting things are coming up in August.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on safety and health. If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) for consideration of the topic by the board.



(Above) The flag at the Arch in Twain Hart on 4th of July

# NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

One of the most rewarding things that we do in our life is to give birth to something, nurture it and watch it grow. That is exactly the way I feel about THA-CERT.

In the beginning we had trouble knowing who we were, what we could do for the community and how to make it happen. We had such limited resources and limited number of people. We had no road map or guidance as to how to make this successful but we kept taking one step at a time and soon we were walking.

We scheduled lots of meetings to talk about CERT. To share with people the commonality of giving back to our community, the concept of people being more prepared. We created helpful educational courses like “Preparedness Workshop” and “Go Bag Demo”. We presented them to small and large groups.

Then meetings turned into trainings, manpower requests (parades, events) turned into deployments (Butte Fire, Moc Fire, Vaccine Clinic) and concepts turned into reality (Traffic Control, Cooling Station, UAS, and FF Rehab Units). All at the same time while growing our staff and group of volunteers to a level that is exceptional...now we can run!

No one can accuse us of not being enthusiastic about training! CERT First Aid/Triage Training, 2019



Today, I am able to call a couple of key staff members, let them know what I would like to do for the community and they execute...it is a beautiful thing to see. Thank you to each and every CERT volunteer, you make me proud!



# CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

In honor of Independence Day, our "flag crew" once again made sure downtown Twain Harte was appropriately dressed for the occasion by putting up 42 flags. Many thanks to John Buckingham, John Bagnall, Allan Hancock, Vince Carini, and, especially masermind Lise Lemonnier for making sure we are able to show our patriotic pride!



Clockwise, from left: John Buckingham, John Bagnall, Allan Hancock, Vince Carini, and Lise Lemonnier

# UAS SEARCH EXERCISE

by Michelle Wagner, Unit Leader, THA-CERT

Our UAS Unit was contacted in early July to help with a search for a model aircraft that was lost near the Peoria Flat R/C Field. We thought it would be a great training exercise for a Search and Rescue operation, so Doug Simmons, Randie Revilla, and Michelle Wagner responded to the call.

Because of the proximity to Columbia Airport, we notified the airport and got the okay to fly our mission and filed a Notice to



Doug Simmons (left) is the pilot, and Michelle Wagner (right) is the observer for the UAS SAR exercise

## UAS SEARCH EXERCISE, cont'd



Randie Revilla (right) watches the monitor with the owner for signs of the missing RC airplane

Airmen, as required. We made two flights of approximately 25 minutes each to search the surrounding areas. We, regrettably, did not locate the aircraft, but there was great training value in the exercise. Our pilots got flight time and our newest crew member (Randie) got practice in set-up and tear down and visual observation. And, most importantly, we came to the aid of a member of our community.

I am also very pleased to announce that two new members of our UAS

Unit have completed their crew training this past weekend. Congratulations to Teron Tidaback and Randie Revilla! It's great to have a few more qualified folks to help out. We have a few more members to get through training and are hoping to complete this process in the not-to-distant future!

## FROM THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S DESK

by Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County Supervisor, District 2



Greetings and happy August. We have had a number of close calls over the past month related to lightening strikes and human activity, but fortunately our hard-working fire fighters have thus far managed to control the spread of spot fires. This highlights the need for greater preparation and fire fuels reduction in our community, which is exactly what the Tuolumne County Fire Safety Advisory Committee is all about.

We have been hard at work on a number of important issues that we hope will advance the cause of fire preparedness in our community.

**Alert FM:**

We are looking at the possibility of contracting with a company called Alert FM, which builds and maintains a proprietary RF band emergency notification system. The cost of the system is high (nearly \$1 million) but it does not rely on existing cell tower or

## FROM THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S DESK, *cont'd*

electrical grid infrastructure to operate. Homeowners would need to purchase their own receiver, which can cost from \$60 to \$350. The receiver would display basic fire and evacuation information, will set off a loud alarm and will continue to operate even during a PSPS event. Please find more information here: <https://www.alertfm.com/>. I would very much appreciate your feedback on whether or not this is good backup notification system.

### Evacuation planning:

Tuolumne County GIS has developed an extremely useful tool for evacuation planning that you can view here: <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1163/Create-Your-Plan>. This site will allow you to develop an evacuation plan based on your home's location, and print out hard-copy maps of your surrounding area.

### Vegetation ordinance:

The Citizen Fire Advisory group is in the process of developing a countywide vegetation ordinance that will encourage fire fuels management on private property beyond the state Public Resources Code. We are actively seeking public input on this ordinance, as the only way to increase vegetation management and fire risk reduction is to get public buy-in. Many other rural counties have passed similar ordinances, and recent rulings from the state Board of Forestry will likely make such ordinances mandatory.



The Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee will be held Wednesday, August 25th at 10:30. Visit <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1341/Fire-Safety-Advisory-Committee>

Be prepared, be informed and stay safe.

*If you have questions or comments for Supervisor Campbell, please contact him at: [rcampbell@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:rcampbell@co.tuolumne.ca.us)*

# SUMMER OUTDOOR MARKET

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT



along with gift-worthy food items (for those who have everything).

For those who were tired of (or just not interested in) shopping, there was a classic car show to keep you entertained. Forty cars of several makes, models, and vintages were on display...enough to satisfy all classic car enthusiast.

Food booths and local restaurants ensured that no one went away hungry.

Our CERT members were out in force, too, keeping people safe crossing the street, keeping people cool in our Cooling Station, and keeping people refreshed with ice cold beer, and water, in our beer booth.

For those who like to get a jump on their holiday shopping, there is nothing like a good crafts fair to get you started.

Twain Harle hosted the Summer Outdoor Market on July 25th and 26th and it literally offered something for everybody. Just as a sample of the variety offered were handcrafted items of all kinds, including dog leashes, leather handbags, ceramic ware, jewelry, clothing items,



THA-CERT members (from left) Lise Lemonnier, Matt Kain, Bill Bleakley, and Mike Mandell in the beer booth



Classic Car Show at TH Outdoor Summer Market

## SUMMER OUTDOOR MARKET, *cont'd*



(Above) CERT member Bob Schreiner was one of the crossing guards for the market

Thank you to all of you who patronized our booth; funds raised in the beer booth will help CERT continue to expand and grow to assist our community in even more ways.



CERT member Matt Kain (above, left) welcomes guests to the cooling station, while Ron Kessler (right) pours a beer



## WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

July was another busy month for us. Our hours were spent as follows:

Administration = 96.5  
Training = 28  
Deployment = 408  
Total Hours = 532.5

# HOT FUN IN THE SUMMER TIME

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

I'm not sure about you, but I think it's been hotter than Hades. Even though we were not "officially" dispatched to set up a cooling station by the Health Department, our Fire Chief felt it would benefit our community if we made a room for people to cool down.

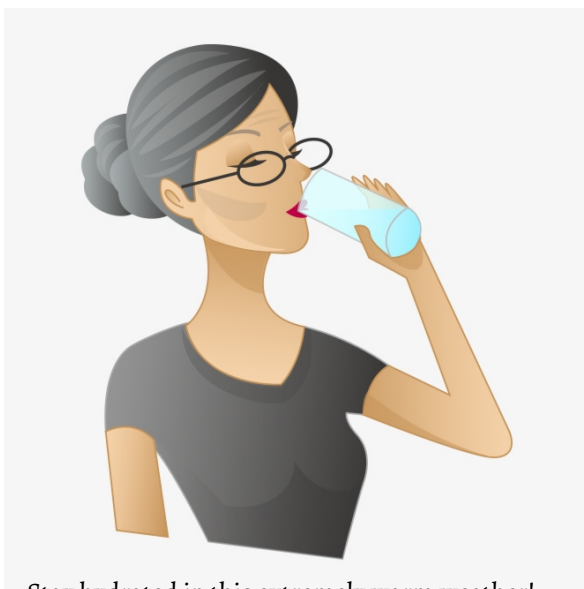
From Friday, July 9th, through Monday, July 13th, we opened the Community Center so that anyone who needed it could come in to cool off. The Fire Department provided the Center with water, ice, and Gatorade for our coolers. We CERT volunteers opened the doors at noon each day and kept the cooling station open until 6 PM, hoping to be a cool spot through the hottest part of the day.

For those five days, the daily high temperatures ranged from 106 F to 111 F. Even though we had only a few hot guests, we felt we were ready for several, and the volunteers, at least, stayed cool. Next time it's hot and you see our signs around town, please stop in to visit and get a cool drink. Those signs let you know to be on the lookout for neighbors who may need a cool spot to tide them over. If they need a ride, bring them.

I would like to thank Mike Mandell, John Bagnall, Charlie Freeman, Karen Lytle, Linda Postma, Lee Smith, Carlene Smith, Mary Schreiner, Bob Schreiner, and Diane Schallert who helped to staff the cooling station.



Lise Lemonnier opens the Cooling Station in Twain Harte



Stay hydrated in this extremely warm weather!

## Another Hot Time

On July 24th & 25th our cooling station was erected next to our beer booth at the Twain Harte Outdoor Summer Market (see article, above). As temperatures reached 100 F, we had several people come into our popup tent and cool off under the misting fan.



# ON THE AIR WITH CERT

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

If any of you were listening to KAAD-LP, 103.5, Mother Lode Community Radio, on Friday, June 30th, you might have heard a familiar voice. Our very own Program Manager, Carol Hallett, was a guest on the "Friday Afternoon Traffic Jam" with David Simmerly and Sue Thoms.

Sue, who had never heard about CERT, interviewed Carol, while David interjected "helpful" comments, such as, "CERT, that's a breath mint, right?". Sue's enthusiasm for CERT was obvious...and contagious. We, who are part of CERT, almost take for granted all of the things we're trained to do. Sue's enthusiasm helped remind me of why I wanted to be part of such a wonderful organization.

(Below) Carol Hallett prepares for her radio interview.



(Above) David Simmerly (top), Carol Hallett (below, right), and Sue Thoms (below, left) talk about CERT on KAAD-LP

Carol started with the history of CERT, which, in case you weren't able to listen, was started by the LAFD in 1985. Former Twain Harte Fire Chief, Todd McNeal, started the Twain Harte Area branch in 2014, following the Rim Fire, and Carol was one of twelve who were in the first class to go through Basic Training in Twain Harte, also known as "the founding members".

The hour just flew by and before you know it, it was time to go. Carol finished the interview by telling about all of the really incredible things we're doing now, and with a few words about upcoming events.

Unfortunately, Friday's program was not recorded, so I can't share a link with you. But Sue reached out and offered to have Carol interviewed again, and be recorded, so the interview would be in the KAAD-LP archives, and shareable. I'll share the link when it becomes available.

If you are interested in learning more

about the history of CERT, or about CERT in general, I encourage you to join us in supporting the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office at "National Night Out" in Jamestown, on Tuesday, August 3rd, from 6 pm to 8 pm, at Rail Town. All of THA-CERT Units will be there to provide information and demonstrations. We hope to see you there!



(Above) Carol Hallett (l) and Sue Thoms (r)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*With the resurgence of COVID-19 in Tuolumne County, please check for updates for event locations/restrictions.*

## **National Night Out**

Tuesday, August 3rd

6 pm - 8 pm, Rail Town, Jamestown

Please help support the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office and join THA-CERT for National Night out in Jamestown. All CERT Units will be represented for demonstration and information.

## **Tuolumne County Volunteer Fair**

Thursday, August 26th

4 pm - 7 pm, Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora

Please visit THA-CERT and other organizations at the Volunteer Fair!

## **Concert in the Park and Farmers Market**

Wednesdays, through September 1st

Farmers Market begins at 4 pm; music from 6 pm - 8 pm

Tuolumne Park, Tuolumne

## **Twain Harte Outdoor Market**

Thursdays, through September 16th, 4 pm to dusk

Eproson Park, Twain Harte

## **Concert in the Pines**

Saturdays, through August 16th

6 pm - 8 pm, Eproson Park, Twain Harte

## **CERT Training and Bi-Monthly Meeting**

(tentative date) Saturday, August 28th

This will be a training and potluck picnic

Date and time will be confirmed via email and Facebook

## **Sierra Bigfoot Music Festival**

Friday through Sunday, August 27th, 28th, & 29th; 1p-10p Fri, 10a-10p Sat, 10a-6p Sun

Eproson Park, Twain Harte

Music, art, open air market, and food booths



Families and friends enjoy the music at Tuolumne's Concert in the Park in July