



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2023

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## Contents:

Notes From The Program Manager	Page 1
National Shakeout	Page 2
Papa Smurf Update	Pages 3 & 4
Christmas Fair Fundraiser	Page 5
Squirreling Things Away	Page 6
Lentil Vegetable Soup	Page 7
Founding Member Reunion	Page 8
LUCAS Device Purchased	Page 8
THFD Corner	Page 9
Changing Clocks	Page 10
You Had Me At Tempranillo	Page 11
Where Does the Time Go?	Page 12
What's Next?	Page 12

## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



October was a crazy fast month filled with challenges, surprises and fun.

The team kept the projects moving forward this month pretty much on their own. I mentioned what needed to be done and it was completed. I shared what would be good to accomplish and they made it happen. I came up with some crazy idea and they laughed and, with a smile, did it. This team makes work fun.

We were involved in many different activities during the month like the National Shakeout and the Christmas Outdoor Market. Both were fun and very successful. We also made great progress on Papa Smurf, with lots more planned... the articles are interesting to read.

Our biggest achievement was making our goal and being able to order the LUCAS Device for THFD. Our coffers are empty but we made it happen. Thank you is not enough to say to express the gratitude I have for all of those who contributed to making this a reality.

I enjoy preparing for winter, which starts with cleaning out the freezers, refrigerators, and the pantry so I can cook, can, and prep. Chopping is great therapy for me. I hope you enjoy reading about that and try my recipe.

I can't wait for Tempranillo Day!



Fall Colors Peaking Out

# NATIONAL SHAKEOUT

by Lee Smith, THA-CERT Member



Today is October 19 and at 10:19 we simulated an earthquake that was devastating to our county. With the potential for massive failures of our land lines and mobile phone infrastructure, during a wildfire, there is increased interest in developing neighborhood based radio watch groups. What do you do when that happens? Radios are the answer.

We had 11 people check into the Twain Harte Neighborhood Radio Watch. This includes 3 HAM licensed individuals (of which I am one), several GMRS licensed people, and the rest using FRS. Twain Harte Neighborhood Radio Watch was the largest group to check in during the event. We want to grow the team to include you!



We have found that the GMRS radios are better to use because they have more power. To use a GMRS you need to get a license through the FCC but it is well worth (the \$35- 10 year investment) if that is the only means of communication.



Joining a radio watch group is easy but more importantly it is a time to practice using the radio so that you feel comfortable when it is needed. I feel like I have a new network of friends out there that I can check in with during one of the directed nets or anytime just to check on things. Like the other day helicopters were flying around the skies above Twain Harte... I wanted to know why. I can just pick up my radio and ask.

Our group can be heard in Brentwood, downtown Twain Harte, Mark Twain Dr, Sugar Pine, Lilac Terrace, Lizzy Lane, Soulsbyville, Gina Avenue, and Little Fuller. We meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm and Sunday morning at 9:00am on channel 18.

There is so much going on in the world and we never know what is just around the corner for the world, our country and our county. Having a GMRS radio in your home is an easy preparedness solution. It gives you peace of mind to know that you can communicate with others and get updates on what is happening.



Examples of GMRS radios (above) and FRS Radios (below)



Everyone in a neighborhood can participate with a Family Radio (FRS), General Mobile Radio (GMRS) or Ham Radio and enable local area or county-wide communications without physical infrastructure. When all else fails, these radios will work. The cost of the radios range from \$20 (FRS) to \$40 (GMRS) to \$100 (Ham).

# PAPA SMURF UPDATE

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



The container project is nearing completion. Thanks to our volunteers, we have now painted the interior, and had Two Ton Electric install the electrical panel, wiring, outlets, and lights. Next up is clearing out all of our old storage spots and moving cabinets and shelving into the container so we can get our equipment and supplies inventoried and put away. We have made a good start and should be able to get everything moved over the course of several days.



Bob Schreiner and Mike Mandell paint the interior of the container

Having all of our equipment and supplies housed in one secure, climate controlled, space has been a dream of Project Manager Carol Hallett's for quite some time now and it's great to see it coming to fruition.

We at THA-CERT are nothing if not efficient and having everything under on roof will make us even more so. Kind of boggles the mind, doesn't it?

Thanks to the CERT volunteers who stepped up to help me (Mike Mandell, Matt Kain, Margaret Lawrence, Lise Lemonnier, Ed Proctor, Carol Hallett, Mary Schreiner, and John Buckingham), Two Ton Electrical, and the donor for the cost of the electrical work, who wishes to remain anonymous, we were able to get to this point in record time.



Hey, watch where you point that thing! Our painting crew: Matt Kain, Mike Mandell, and Bob Schreiner

# PAPA SMURF UPDATE, cont'd



Slim, from Two Ton Electric, installs the electrical panel



Two Ton Electric hard at work



Let there be light!



Matt and Mike remove a cabinet from our old office in the THCSD building



Matt, Mike, and Lise dismantle the UAS cabinet in Station 2



# CHRISTMAS FAIR FUNDRAISER

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



Our THA-CERT team had a last fund-raising event for this year, and it was a huge success. We reached our goal of collecting \$20,000 to purchase the LUCAS device, a device that will help our Fire Fighters to save lives. In addition to the fund-raising events we held all year with the help of lots of hard work by our volunteers, we had several private donations, including a check in the donation box from Betty Zertuche, that helped us get to our goal. Thank you, Betty.

So, for our last fund-raiser, CERT set up four booths at the October 14 and 15 Twain Harte Outdoor Christmas Market. We had booths for Beer, Wine, Margaritas, and Swag. Volunteers loaded up pickup trucks on Friday afternoon, brought everything to the firehouse, and began the process of assembling tables and tents to be ready for the next morning's fair goers.

Mike Mandell was our fearless leader, and he did a fearless job. Matt Kain was in charge of the beer booth and kept things flowing, while Mary Dearborn made a mean margarita that was in hot demand. John Buckingham sold lots of Twain Harte Fire Department t-shirts and mugs, and I took care of the wine booth, which netted a total profit, except for the cost of cups, because I had donations from a wine competition.

We were ready on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, with Mary starting up the margarita machine early, and the rest of the volunteers setting everything up. Because the weather was a little cooler than we had had for the summer festival, early morning sales were a little slow, but things had picked up by afternoon.

Thank you to Allan and Carol Hancock, from the Kitchen Store, for making sure the volunteers were fed, providing a great lunch each day.

We thank all of the CERT members who volunteered, and have special thanks to give to our "non" CERT members, our CERT members by proxy, Sydney, Christy, Odette, and Mike D. It was a pleasure to work with you. Thank you to Randie Revilla for doing a shift and then coming back to help us clean up. Also, a special thanks goes out to Mary D. for her generous donation of the alcohol and the alcohol license. Because of all the donations we received, our net sales were up!

This is always a fun and social event. Join us if you can next time.



(Left) Mike Mandell and Victoria Forrester staff the Wine booth, while Lise Lemonnier, John Buckingham, and Tracy Hastings set up the Swag booth (Right)

# SQUIRRELING THINGS AWAY

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager

After the harvest is always a time for canning, freezing and preparing our pantries for the winter.

I can sit in my house and watch the squirrels scurrying around the yard. This year they have been busy chewing off the oak leaves and then gnawing at the stems. A friend said they are hungry and they are getting good nourishment from the oaks. You would have thought that there would have been plenty for them to eat this year. It is obvious that they are getting ready for winter.

Like the squirrels, I have been doing my own prepping for the winter. It was a cold wet winter last year and I was pleased to have so many supplies in my pantry and freezer but those items were used up. It is time to stock up again. I start by cleaning out the freezers, refrigerators, and moving all the items in my pantry to the front and cleaning out the items that seem to just appear on the shelves. Now, I am ready to restock those empty spaces.



I am grateful to have received two buckets of apples from a neighbor, huge shopping bag of peaches from my sister-in-law and I bought cantaloupe and mango when it was really ripe. I spent time canning apple butter, making applesauce and slicing fruit for the freezer. I made sure I had plenty of butter and eggs in the freezer too. Did you know you could freeze eggs? Yes, you can. Eggs were one thing that I was counting at the end of the winter shut in but this year I am planning ahead so I should be fine.

I went through my pantry to rotate and/or replenish things that are necessary, items that we like and some lovely surprises for those cold winter days (hot chocolate, brownies and chocolate chip cookie mixes). I make sure that I have plenty of pasta and lentils. I have a great recipe for lentil soup... we enjoy it every winter.



I cooked some hearty dinners and froze the leftovers. I made huge batches of sauces (Enchilada sauce, Bolognese sauce) so that I would have extra for the freezer. I am going to try to freeze an alfredo sauce this year. I understand that you can freeze a cream based sauce as long as they are stored in an airtight container or double wrapped first with plastic wrap and then wrapped in foil. It needs to be completely thawed in the refrigerator before it is reheated.



I like to have a variety so that we do not get bored with our meals. I made a beef stew and a salsa stew that freeze well and is a favorite when the cold sets in.

It sounds odd to some but I love to chop, cook and fill my freezer and pantry with good food for later. October always feel like I am "squirreling things away".





# LENTIL VEGETABLE SOUP

## Introduction

Minutes to Prepare: 20 min

Minutes to Cook: 1 hour 30 min

Number of Servings: 8-10

## Ingredients

- 1 pound French green lentils
- 4 cups chopped yellow onions (3 large onions)
- 4 cups chopped leeks, white part only (2 leeks)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic (3 cloves)
- 1/4 cup good olive oil, plus additional for drizzling on top
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme leaves or 1 teaspoon dried
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 3 cups medium-diced celery (8 stalks)
- 3 cups medium-diced carrots (4 to 6 carrots)
- 3 quarts vegetable stock
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons red wine or red wine vinegar
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese



## Directions

In a large bowl, cover the lentils with boiling water and allow to sit for 15 minutes. Drain.

In a large stockpot on medium heat, sauté the onions, leeks, and garlic with the olive oil, salt, pepper, thyme, and cumin for 20 minutes, until the vegetables are translucent and very tender. Add the celery and carrots and sauté for 10 more minutes. Add the chicken stock, tomato paste, and lentils. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer uncovered for 1 hour, until the lentils are cooked through. Check the seasonings. Add the red wine and serve hot, drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with grated Parmesan.



# FOUNDING MEMBER REUNION

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



One of the things I love about living in Tuolumne County is the people you meet in the most unexpected locations. Like the other day I stopped to get gas and who drove up to the pump next to mine? Bill Schiavo, one of our THA-CERT founding members. It was so good to catch up with him.

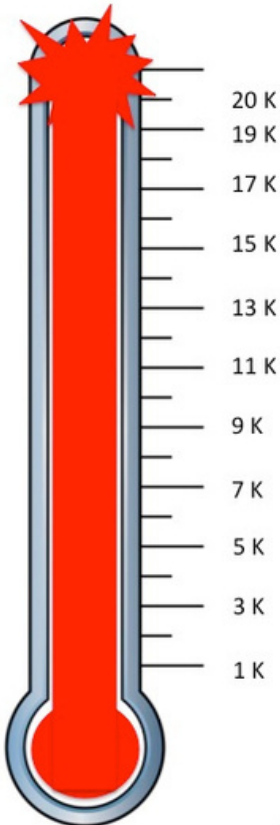
It reminded me how far we have come over the past decade and of the close connection we have with our founding members. It reminded me how blessed I am to have joined such a dynamic organization.



# LUCAS DEVICE PURCHASED

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager

**GOAL!**



# LUCAS DEVICE



It is with great excitement that I share with you the fact that I ordered the LUCAS machine for the fire department in Twain Harte. It will be a couple of months before we get delivery because they are in such great demand.

We were able to make this purchase because of all the hard work that was done by the THA-CERT staff to organize our fundraisers and the volunteer hours that you all gave so willingly. Along with the hard work we had a some very generous donations from caring local residents (yes, I saw you stuffing our donation can). We also received donations from the Homeowners Association and Sonora Sunrise Rotary... those charitable and thoughtful contributions took us to our goal.

Again, thank you for helping make this dream become a reality.



# TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNER

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



## EQUIPMENT

E-722 is still being painted at the Sierra Conservation Center. The paint should be completed in late November.



## 19 INCIDENTS



E-721 responded to a Residential Structure Fire in the Phoenix Lake Estates area.

## THFD STAFF

- Full Time Chief - 1
- Full Time Captains - 3
- Seasonal Engineers - 3
- Relief Captains - 4
- Reserve Firefighters - 4
- Intern Firefighters - 2

## TRAINING HOURS



## DEPLOYED

Captain Albert Desrosiers returned to the SRF Lightning Complex as a Fire-Line E.M.T.



All shifts have been training with other agencies on multi-company drills for a total of 210 hours.

# CHANGE CLOCKS & CHECK BATTERIES

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



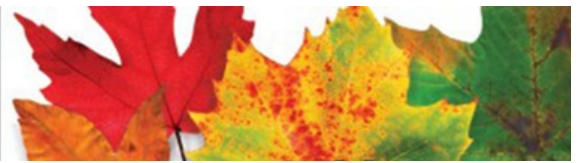
It's that time of year again when we need to turn our clock back one hour and check our smoke detectors. We can help you with both, if you like.

THA-CERT has a group of volunteers who are available to check and replace your smoke detectors and batteries. While we are there, we can change your clocks too.



Daylight saving time is coming to an end on November 5th, the first Sunday in November. Clocks will "fall back" one hour at 2 am on Nov 5, granting most people an extra hour of sleep.

With the change comes earlier sunrises and nightfall well before 7:00 pm



## What is the history of clocks going back?

Benjamin Franklin, an inventor, philosopher and American political heavyweight - first proposed the idea in a letter he wrote when in Paris in 1784. In it he joked that Parisians should be roused from their slumbers an hour earlier by ringing church bells and firing cannons in the street.

However, it wasn't until 1907 that a serious proposal for daylight saving time was made in Britain by William Willett.

Hawaii, most of Arizona and some territories in the Pacific and Caribbean do not observe daylight savings time. The twice-yearly switcheroo is irritating enough to lawmakers of all political stripes that the US Senate passed legislation in March 2022 to make daylight saving time permanent.

The Sunshine Protection Act that the Senate passed has not made it to the US House for discussion. It would require House passage and the President's signature to become law.

**TWAIN HARTE AREA**



**THA-CERT SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM**

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

What/who are Twain Harte Area CERT (THA-CERT)? We are a dedicated team of community-based volunteers who are trained to support our community.

This team provides the following services to senior and disabled residents in Tuolumne County:

- Free Smoke Alarms/Detectors
- Free Installation
- Free Battery Replacement

If you need a smoke detector installed, need a new battery, or need a ten-year-old smoke detector replaced, we can help for free.

If you are interested, please contact us by sending an email to [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com), or call Mike at 209-770-2674.

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/smoke-detector-installation>



If you need a smoke detector installed, batteries checked and/or clocks changed... contact me!

# YOU HAD ME AT TEMPRANILLO

by Mary Schreiner, Public Information Officer



Autumn is my favorite season of the year. We've finally escaped summer's heat and winter's snow and cold are far enough away that we can just forget about them for a bit. Building the first fire of the season in the wood stove is always a special occasion. Of course, by the time winter rolls around, the novelty has worn off, but the first few weeks are always enjoyed and savored.

Another thing that autumn brings is the start of the holiday season. From Halloween to the end of January, it's just one holiday after another (depending on how you celebrate). November has a number of "special" days, in addition to our big National holiday of Thanksgiving, and observing Veteran's Day:

The first day of November alone is National Prime Meridian Day, Day of the Dead, All Saints Day, Autistics Speaking Day, National Biologic Coordinators Day, World Vegan Day, National Cinnamon Day, National Calzone Day, and National Deep Fried Clams Day, just to name a few (yes, there are many more for just that one day!). Some other days in November are set aside for:

Look for Circles Day (Nov 2nd)

Cliché Day (Nov 3rd)

Chicken Lady Day (Nov 4th)

Daylight savings end (Nov 5th)

Dear Santa Letter Week (Nov 5th-11th)

Marooned Without A Compass Day (Nov 6th)

Election Day (Nov 7)

Cappucino Day (Nov 8)

Tempranillo Day (Nov 9th), and it goes on and on but they had me at Tempranillo Day!



Me at my happy place among the vines!



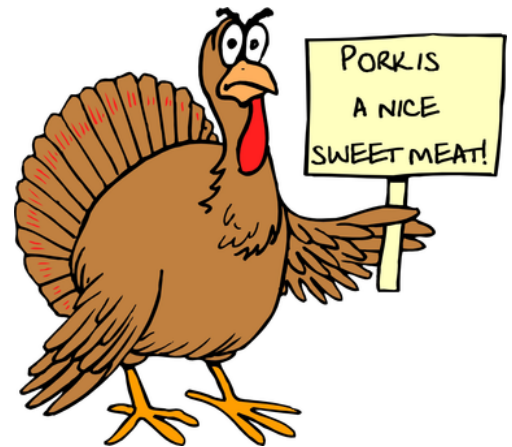
# FIRE SAFE THANKSGIVING

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



The holiday season is a time for family, friends and feasts. This might mean you end up spending more time than usual in the kitchen, so it's important to brush up on safety tips.

Cooking is the main cause of home fires any time of the year but are especially common on Thanksgiving. The average number of home fires in residential buildings on this day is often double the number of these same fires throughout the rest of the year.



Be smart about how you cook this season by following these ten tips:

1. **Stand by your pan.** If you leave your kitchen, turn the burner off.
2. **Keep an eye on what you fry!** Most cooking fires start when frying food.
3. **Roll up your sleeves.** This reduces the chance that they'll catch on fire.
4. **Supervise children and pets.** Make sure they stay away from the stove.
5. **Watch what you're cooking!** If you see any smoke, or grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
6. **If there's an oven fire, keep the door closed.** Turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it's cool.
7. **Move things that can burn away from the stove.** This includes dishtowels, bags, boxes, paper, and curtains.
8. **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.** This is so no one can bump them or pull them over.
9. **Only use a turkey fryer outdoors.** Make sure that the fryer is on a sturdy surface, away from things that can burn, and keep children and pets well away from the fryer.
10. **Check smoke alarms.** Make sure to have working smoke alarms close to where anyone may be sleeping.

From FEMA website

**Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!!**



# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for October are:

Administration =	234
Training =	0
Deployment =	168
Total October hours =	402



## Events

**Visit Tuolumne County:**

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

**Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:**

<https://www.twainhartecomm.com/events>

## Veterans Day

THA-CERT members will be putting up flags for Veterans Day in Twain Harte on Tuesday, November 7th at 10 am. Meet at Harte of the Kitchen, on Joaquin Gully, if you are interested in helping out.

## Training

There are no more THA-CERT trainings scheduled for the remainder of 2023; please keep an eye out for our 2024 Training Calendar!

## Meetings

**THCSD Board Meeting**

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

Wednesday, November 8, 9:00 am

**CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting**

Thursday, November 9, 9:30 am



There was a team of three who spent three hours cleaning up the yard so that our vehicle and trailer could be securely parked in their new homes. It started sprinkling while we worked but that did not slow us down, we were determined to complete the job.



FF Rehab Vehicle in its new home



Car Trailer back in its place

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.