

WRC UPDATE -MARCH-

FEBRUARY 27, 2004

**RADIO AMATEURS SERVING THE
WESTERN COMMUNITIES OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

REMEMBER TO Z-O-O-M IN
ON THE PHOTOS... 200% RECOMMENDED



LATE FLASH!!! CERT TRAINING FOR WRC MEMBERS... MID APRIL TARGETED
Space Limited... Preregister... More Info on Page 8

Just Around The Corner...

FIELD DAY 2004 - JUNE 26-27

Will Field Day Be An Emergency Exercise, Contest or Both?

There are major differences in the objectives, planning and resources necessary for each type of Field Day. Which will the WRC have in 2004?

Volunteers Always Welcome... Leaders Are Vital!

More info on page 5



WRC WELCOMES NEW HAMs

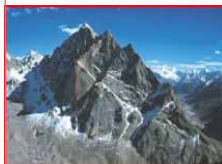
**SIX OUT OF SEVEN
RECEIVE LICENSES**

SUMMER CLASSES SCHEDULED

Story on page 6



TEAM TRAVELS TO THE HIMALAYAS TO SEEK NEW HAMs



National Institute of Amateur Radio sends mission 1500 miles to promote ham radio at State level Science Congress. See pages 2 & 3

WALK TO CURE DIABETES

MARCH 13TH AND APRIL 3RD

JDRF asks WRC to cover both its major events.

ENTERTAINMENT... BRING THE FAMILY...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HELP OUT AT THE WRC

LOST CHILD & COMMUNICATIONS BOOTHS

More info on page 5



HAMS AT ST. LUCIE COUNTY EOC RESPOND TO SIMULATED NUCLEAR COOLANT LEAK

About a hundred public safety and FP&L personnel responded to the SLC EOC for a scheduled FEMA test. Among them were a group of hams critical to the EOC's mission. *More info on page 7*



Robb and Juan... thanks for your fun and informative Power Point presentations.

PHOTO SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY MEETING...

SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE MULTIBAND ANTENNAS

**JUAN KG4QYY & ROBB WB4FL FOCUS ON THE
TRAPLESS HORIZONTAL LOOPS AND OFF CENTER FED DIPOLES**

With the likelihood of a great many radio amateurs migrating to the HF bands if the ARRL's license structure proposal is adopted by the FCC, this was a very opportune meeting subject. These antennas usually provide less than a 3:1 SWR on 40-20-15-10 meters. They do NOT require a lot of space nor traps of any kind... only a readily available commercial, or easy to make, 4:1 current balun.

More photos and antenna details on page 8

A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMATEUR RADIO TEAM TRAVELS TO THE HIMALAYAS ON A MISSION TO STIMULATE HAM RADIO BY...

“IGNITING THE MINDS OF YOUTH” BY SARA VU3RSB



Just how far will hams go to promote their great hobby? In this article submitted by Sara VU3RSB, we learn that no corner of India may be too remote!

There in the northwest corner of India is the state of Himachal, jutting into Kashmir. This region is steeped in history with Alexander the Great, Mahatma Gandhi, the Dalai Lama and other famous



Above Left: Castle Peak, at about 6000 meters (20,000 ft.) is typical of the Western Himalayas. **Right:** Sara's journey took him about 1500 miles north of his home in Hyderabad. The State of Himachal Pradesh is quite a contrast from the hustle & bustle of Delhi and Hyderabad.

people having resided there. One of its largest northern cities is Chamba... with its own unique geography, history and culture.

The location is remote and is still under a security cover by Government of India, Ministry of Defense, with the surrounding areas of Pathankot & Srinagar designated “high risk zones.”

Chamba is just in the right place. The town is situated at a mere altitude of 3,300 feet. Yet it is perched on a sort of shelf cut into the mountain and from its cliff, far below, the Ravi River goes by. In the distance, all around are panoramic snow views. This spectacular

location, has prompted some to compare it to a medieval Italian village fortress. And bang in the centre along the cliff, is a large grassy ‘chaugan’ and above it, the Akhand Chandni Palace. From there, the Rajput family, Maharajas, ruled the kingdom uninterruptedly from 550 AD till independence in 1947. Today the palace houses a college and government offices.

Chamba is connected by road to Delhi some 360 miles to the south. The closest railhead is at Pathankot, about 75 miles away. The airport at Gaggal in Kangra is at a distance of 106 miles. Taxis and buses are available from these places.



Left: Homes and temples hundreds of years old are nestled on the “shelf” of the mountain. **Right:** Modern hotels and homes are also built into the sides of the mountains surrounding Chamba.

FINDING THE POT OF GOLD IN CHAMBA... THOUSANDS OF YOUTHFUL MINDS!

In 2003, from December 3rd to 6th, the Himachal State Level Science Congress was conducted in Chamba. This event is conducted for school children below 12th Class. It attracts the brightest children from throughout the state and each year the event is held in different locations in Himachal Pradesh. It is organized by 'Himachal Pradesh Science & Technology' in association with National Institute of Amateur Radio, Hyderabad and NCERT.

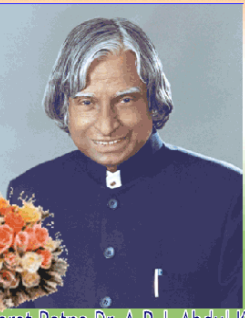
More than 1000 "merit" students gathered and displayed their technical projects. Teachers conducted various quiz competitions and academic games among the students at the venue.

If you are going to *ignite the minds of the young...* the Science Congress is the place to do it!

THE NIAR TEAM TRAVELS TO CHAMBA

Reaching Chamba wasn't an easy task. The NIAR team from Delhi travelled 15 hours or so. It consisted of OM Prasad VU2DBP, his XYL Bharathi VU2RBI, Harmonic

**Presentation to
His Excellency
The President of India**



**Sharing The Vision of
Developed India**

**People's Movement in
Communication &
Information Technology**

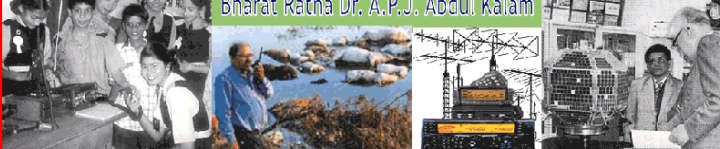
Igniting Minds of youth

**An approach to
Technology Vision - 2020
Based on TIFAC Guidelines**

**Socio - Economic benefits
through Amateur Radio
Communications.**

**Amateur Radio Leading
path to information and
knowledge society**

Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



The NIAR, in its presentation to the President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, committed to the six goals listed above.



Left: Sara VU3RSB, Mahathi, seated, and Bharathi VU2RBI give demo to a group of students at the Science Congress. **Right:** Ham family formed part of the Delhi NIAR Team... Mom Bharathi VU2RBI, daughter Mahathi, son Varun VU3DVS and Dad Prasad VU2DBP pause enroute at high altitude in Khajjiar. Mahathi hopes to get her ham license as soon as she's 12 years old... the minimum age in India!

Varun VU3DVS and daughter Mahathi an SWL. The Delhi team was joined by Sara VU3RSB who travelled almost 1500 miles by train and car from Hyderabad... much further to the south. (See map.) In all, his journey took about 45 hours!

The last part of the trip to Chamba included 75 miles by car... much of it driving very slowly on perilous mountain roads. In fact, without traffic lights nor much traffic on the road, we averaged 15 miles per hour!

60+ HOURS OF DEMONSTRATIONS

The equipment we carried included a YAESU 757GX-II for HF, its 12 volt power supply, a base station YAESU FT 2400, two handheld YAESU FT411Es, an inverted V for 40, 20 and 15 meters and a magmount antenna. Apart of the demonstration equipment, we brought journals like CQ Japan, World Radio, etc., and of course, NIAR brochures.

Initially, demonstrations were conducted on HF & VHF, but HF conditions were poor for long distance; however, we finally established contacts in Asia and Europe.

A nearby cybercafe provided the Internet link, via dial up, for establishing the VU2RG-R Echolink node. We sorted out a problem with UDP ports just in time for the actual demonstrations. With Echolink up and running, a simple walkie talkie demonstrated the way we communi-

cate worldwide. There were huge pileups and we contacted more than 150 stations in couple of days. These live demos were shown to all the gathering.

VU2RG was the beloved Rajiv Gandhi, the late Prime Minister and an avid ham. In his honor, VU2RG is now the callsign of the Rajiv Gandhi Amateur Radio Club, sponsored by NIAR and the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

The program was a grand success and the concerned authorities showed a keen interest and willingness to promote this wonderful hobby in that region. We estimate that 100 to 200 students will be motivated enough to pursue ham radio and organizers are making arrangements for the next step.

While returning from Chamba, we took the picturesque route through the snow clad Himalaya mountains via Dalhousie and Khajjiar to the Pathankot rail-head. We halted for a few minutes enroute to enjoy the touch of snow... quite a joyous moment as we do not see it in south India. Bharathi and I skid through the snow as we had no experience of dealing with it earlier... a moment to remember for a long time to come.

Editors note: The NIAR Team had to be prodded to tell us about what they considered a "routine" trip. We thank them. Sara VU3RSB has invited readers to check into the daily RG Echolink Net (VU2RG-R) from 1600UTC TO 1630UTC.

THE WRC RESOURCE GUIDE: A SERVICE FOR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS... ZOOM IN!

THIS SECTION IS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS WISHING TO MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN AND AVAILABLE TO ASSIST OTHERS. BY BEING ON THIS PAGE, THEY PLEDGE TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND/OR GOODS WITH INTEGRITY AND THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF THEIR PROFESSIONS.

THE FINE PRINT... WRC Resource Guide insertions must comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local Statutes. **THE WRC UPDATE** reserves the right to reject any insertion for

any reason. All insertion information is accurate to the best of our knowledge and a proof has been sent to all submitters before publication. The WRC assumes no responsibility for errors.



**JUAN A. ABELLON
M.D., FAAP.**
DIPLOMATE OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRICS

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PEDIATRICS, PA**

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WRC MEMBERS...

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EMAIL THE EDITOR YOUR
PROPOSED CONTENT AND
A GOOD PORTRAIT PHOTO.**

Dennis Gershwin

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Volunteers Needed in All Communities

Contact:

Major Len Cohen
Administration

433-2003
9am-4pm M-F

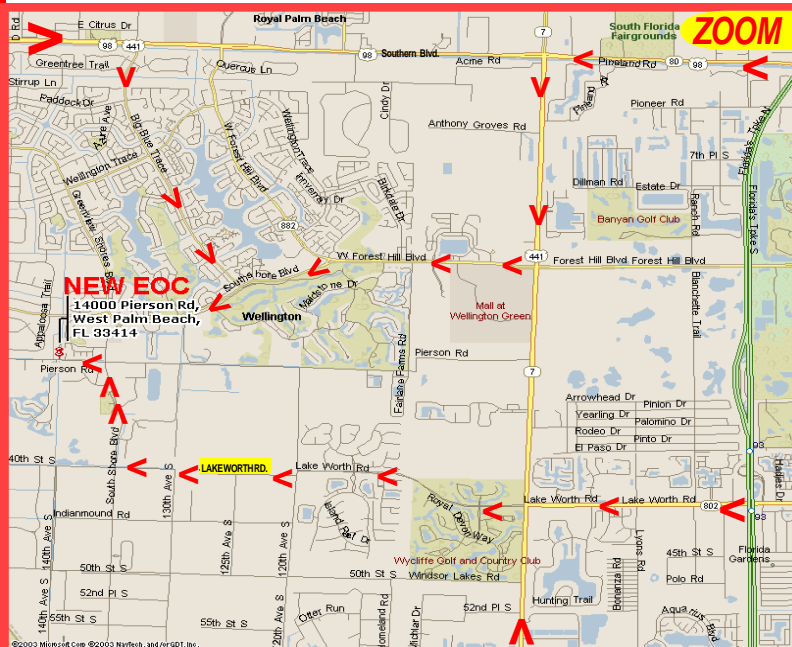
WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB Nets Open to All!

**MONDAYS... INCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:30PM - WELLINGTON EMERGENCY NET
147.285**

**THURSDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:30PM - MEMORY LANE NET
147.285**

**SATURDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:00PM - IRLP SKYWARN NET
442.050/103.5**

**SUNDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
7:30PM - SLOW SCAN TV NET
147.285**



THE WRC UPDATE

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www.qsl.net/k4wrc

Will The WRC 2004 Field Day Be An Emergency Exercise, Contest or Both?

Before answering the headline's question, look at the photo to the right. Mike K4PCM and Georg KR4WD are the lone operators at 3:45 am. In fact from about midnight until 7am, operators and loggers were desperately needed. There should have been at least five people there around the clock to keep our two stations operating and to have relief.

Back to the question... to be a competitive FD site there must be volunteer leaders to ensure staffing, a smooth, accurate logging process, monitor band conditions and advise operators of activity, take advantage of bonus points, ensure compliance with all the rules, etc., etc.

Last year our appeals for volunteers drew enough people for setup, takedown and early operations. We are grateful for that... it enabled the WRC to have a fun and successful exercise. However, the requests for leaders in vital contest related areas went unheeded.

NOW is the time to volunteer for Field Day! Consider being a leader!
Let Bruce K2MDF, 281-6396 know what you would like to handle.



Walk to Cure Diabetes



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MARCH 13TH IN BOCA

APRIL 3RD IN WEST PALM



Above: AnnMarie and son Joe reunited.
Below: Congressman Mark Foley, center, chats with WRC members about radio issues.

JDRF Asks The WRC To Serve At All Its PBC Walks LOST CHILD & COMMUNICATIONS BOOTHS DEMAND HIGH

It's hard to believe that this is the fourth year that we have supported these type community events with the Lost Children and Communications Booth. In that time, we've reunited dozens of separated kids and parents...and even one lost pet with its frantically searching owner!

With that kind of track record we weren't surprised when the Diabetes group invited us to also serve their largest Palm Beach County event in Boca. It is a low overhead and truly worthy cause that re-

ally merits our support.

Many thousands of participants and spectators are again expected. There are sure to be kids separated from their parents and other opportunities to apply our communications skills.

In addition to introducing event attendees to local communications, the thrill of worldwide ham radio is made a lot easier with the help of IRLP.

Contact Bruce K2MDF at 281-6396 or Larry KS4NB at 385-2986 to join the Lost Child Team.

DIRECTIONS TO BOCA EVENT...

FREE PARKING ON SIEMENS SITE:
TURNPIKE SOUTH-EXIT: ATLANTIC BLVD
GO EAST TO CONGRESS
SOUTH TO BROKEN SOUND PARKWAY
YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY SEE SIEMENS IN THE
ARVIDA PARK OF COMMERCE

Look for our banner over the FIRST AID TENT
(with the Boca Raton Community Hosp. nurses)

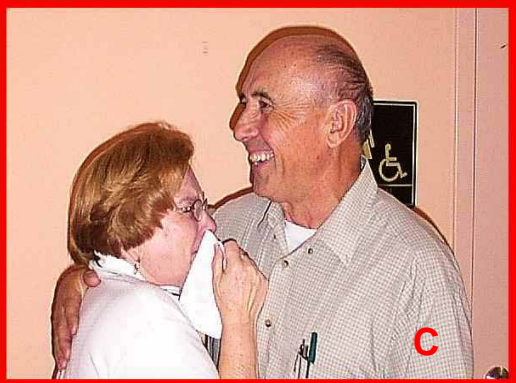
DIRECTIONS TO W.P.B. EVENT...

FREE PARKING AT WPB EVERNIA STREET GARAGE:
OKEECHOBEE BLVD. EAST TO OLIVE
NORTH ON OLIVE
EAST ON EVERNIA TO GARAGE ENTRANCE
WALK ONE BLOCK EAST TO
MEYER AMPHITHEATER SITE.

Look for our banner on the Eastside of the field.

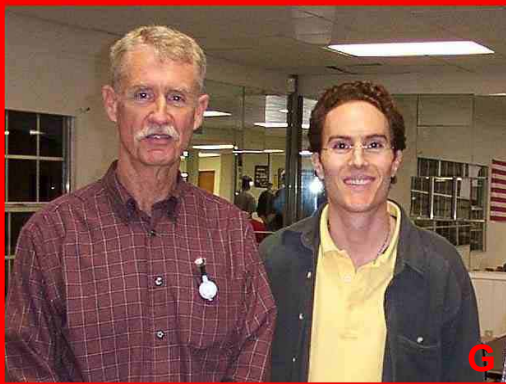


As illustrated by the photos above, the LOST CHILDREN AND COMMUNICATIONS BOOTHS help us better function as a team under pressure, work with public safety agencies, gain a positive public image, demonstrate ham radio, interact with community leaders and, most importantly, reduce the trauma of separated kids and parents.



AFTER COMPLETING WRC'S TECHNICIAN LICENSE COURSE... SIX OUT OF SEVEN PASS EXAMS

Foto A: Several class members couldn't wait for the formal end of the course... they took their exams at the Miami Hamfest. The well organized session had close to 40 hams-to-be. *B:* Ray and Steve smiling after hearing they passed... now KI4DYO and KI4DYL respectively. *C:* With non-stop tears of joy Phyllis, now KI4DYQ, is congratulated by OM Tony W4VHA. *D:* Chris acts very non-chalant while waiting for results... he's KI4EER. *E:* About a week after Miami, the rest of the group took the exams in Jupiter Farms with a much smaller group. *F:* Smaller is often better... the Jupiter Farms test team did a great job including sitting with each examinee to give individualized counseling. L-R are: Tim KM4EF, Pete KE4PPI, Mel KG4OCP, Mike KA4EZY & Bert AG4BV. *G:* After learning they were successful... Dean and Zach now KI4EES & KI4EEU.



THE WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB PRESENTS ITS 2ND *Beginner's...*

AMATEUR RADIO COURSE



**Wednesdays from 7pm-9:30pm
July 7 through August 11**

**Optional weekend activities
and tutoring at the EOC.**

Last date includes review and FCC exam.

REGISTRATION COSTS:

\$ 6. Course Fee - Wellington Resident

\$ 8. Course Fee - Non Resident

Age: 14+ Minimum class size: 6 Maximum: 12

PAYABLE TO INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF:

\$20. Study guide

\$12. FCC examination Fee



A



B



C



D

HAMS AT ST. LUCIE COUNTY EOC RESPOND TO SIMULATED NUCLEAR COOLANT LEAK INITIAL FEMA EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTED GOOD COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Foto A: A tranquil night shot belies the frenzy of activity that would follow a mishap at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. **B:** The recent EOC exercise saw at least five hams responding to a simulated coolant leak. From l-r are Greg KB4VVE, Ernie KF4IHX, Larry KS4NB, Pete AA4PN and Kurt K4SRN. Each had a different role: Greg had the huge burden of making sure all EOC communications and electronic systems functioned smoothly. Ernie was supporting the SL County Motorola system and Larry the State 800 MHz system. Pete was responsible for backup amateur radio communications and Kurt communications with Florida Power & Light and the vital automated siren system for alerting the public. **C:** Pete at one of the RACES operating positions. **D:** Emergency Manager Don Daniels... this foto was taken before the exercise although he was as happy afterward. **E:** Larry contacts Tallahassee as demo of Voice Over IP (Echolink & IRLP) to County Information Technology Supervisors. **F:** Progress briefing in operations area. **G:** Law Enforcement and Fire Rescue support function.



E



F



G



A



B



C



D

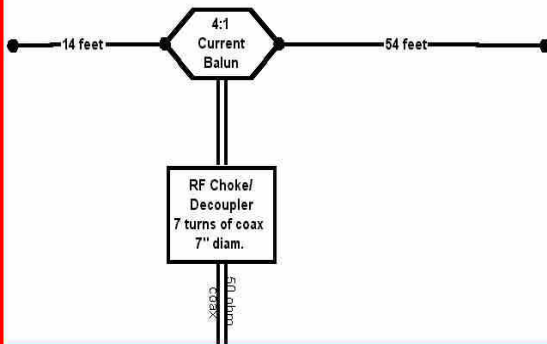
SWEDISH VISITORS REJUVENATE IN FLORIDA... ORLANDO HAMFEST REVITALIZES DAN SM6TZL AND FRIEND MAGNUS

Foto A: Dan's home QTH... a winter wonderland complete with towers & beams. **A:** But month after month of Nordic winter takes its toll. Dan SM6TZL, shortly after arrival, is on UHF FM but appears to be using Donald Duck like SSB. **C:** After a few days on the beach and a shopping trip to the Hamcation, Dan and Magnus have regained their charming smiles. Liz KG4RQC, OM Lindy KG4PQG and many other WRC members acted as guides and hosts. **D:** After the Hamcation, Dan at WRC meeting talks about his experiences.



Above: From Lindy KG4PQG. Great panoramic shot of the hamfest midway. At its peak, it was packed with hams... as were the parking lots.

**The W6SAI Off Centerfed Dipole
As Used By WB4FL
for 40-20-15-10 meter Bands**



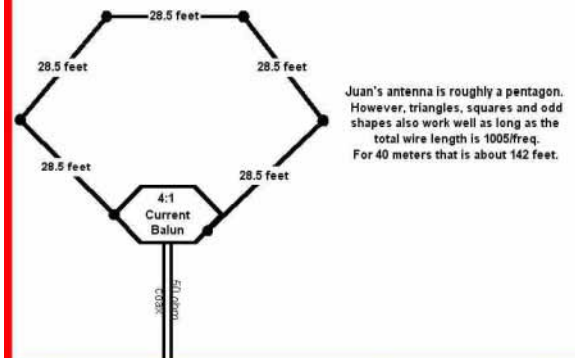
**SIMPLE,
EFFECTIVE
MULTIBAND
ANTENNAS**

**JUAN KG4QYY AND
ROBB WB4FL**

**FOCUS ON THE
OFF CENTERFED DIPOLE &
HORIZONTAL LOOP /SKYWIRE**

These antennas are tried and true... unique in that no traps are used and, generally, no antenna tuner is required.

**The Horizontal Loop/Skywire
As erected by KG4QYY
for 40-20-15-10 meter Bands**



For best performance Robb and Juan recommend having the antennas at forty feet or so, but both work well as low as 25 feet. Soil conductivity, height and

proximity to structures affect nearly all antennas...so expect to adjust these to your desired band segments. Printed reference material is available upon request.



**LATE FLASH!!!
CERT TRAINING
FOR WRC MEMBERS...
MID APRIL TARGETED**



Community Emergency Response Team classes will be conducted in Wellington two evenings per week for 4 weeks. The start date and days will be finalized shortly. Training is expected to be conducted at the Wellington Community Center and a local fire station.

CERT training offers the opportunity to learn basic disaster management and first responder skills. Formed into teams, CERT volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors and the community in the absence of professional fire/rescue, law enforcement and/or medical personnel... as would be the case after a disaster.

The free program is conducted through Palm Beach Community College and PBC Emergency Management. The instructional staff comes from various public safety agencies and is certified. The course content is comprehensive as is seen in the content listing to the right.

Bringing CERT to this area is part of a three year effort by Wellington Emergency Management and the WRC to improve our communities' preparedness.

Communications between CERT Teams, between Teams with their neighborhood command posts and/or local EOC can be crucial to their success. As experienced communicators, we could contribute greatly to the effectiveness and safety of our communities' responders.

WRC Members... space is limited, 1st come, 1st serve!

**Preregister ASAP by email to:
LARRY33414@AOL.COM**

CERT Course Content

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

Discussion of various types of major emergencies that may affect South Florida. Familiarization with the Emergency Management System and the process of disaster recovery. Other concepts include "post storm" team operations, facing problems in organizing teams under emergency conditions and operating a neighborhood "command post." Learn about disaster psychology, damage assessment and documentation.

DISASTER FIRE SUPPRESSION:

Learn about basic fire suppression strategies, team and personal safety considerations, fire chemistry, hazardous materials and fire hazards. The class focus is on sizing up the situation, safe use of fire extinguishers, extinguishing a small fire and controlling utilities.

DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS:

Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques. Students also learn the concepts of evaluating patients by doing a head to toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area, performing basic first aid, and practicing in a safe and sanitary manner.

LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS:

Participants learn about search and rescue planning, size-up, search techniques, and most important, rescuer safety.

DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY AND TEAM ORGANIZATION

Students learn the signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and worker, CERT organization and management principles and the need for documentation.

TERRORISM:

Participants are introduced to the concept of terrorism as it applies to CERT.

COURSE REVIEW:

Participants review their answers from a take-home examination.

DISASTER SIMULATION:

Practical (hands-on) experience which requires the student to utilize the skills learned over the past four weeks of class, including fire suppression, first aid, triage, and search and rescue.