

# Ready Neighbor News



December 2013

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors...*

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## Next Meeting Dates:

**Volunteer Appreciation Night ~ Year in Review:**  
Wednesday, December 11 at Science Works Hands-on Museum  
6:30-8:00 PM.

**No General Meeting or Leadership Meeting.**  
Enjoy the Holidays!



## Faces of Ashland CERT - member profile

December marks the end of another year. The “faces of Ashland CERT” campaign has been well received by initiating conversations between the “face’ and other members, the “face” and the public, and among each other. We all learned things about each other we may not have otherwise known and embraced the knowledge of knowing how special our members are to the CERT organization.

This December I’d like to welcome two new members who received more than the usual from their recent training experience. I feel partly responsible for the awesome friendship that formed between Christine Brautigam (Age: over 40) and Barbara Hurd. Both bring inspiration towards community preparedness and a great attitude for the CERT program. They have lots of exciting experiences to share. Let’s get to know them each a bit better...

### Where are you from and when did you move to Ashland?:

C: After living in Colorado (Boulder/Lyons area) for the past 25 years, I moved here in the spring of 2012 (so, less than 2 years).

B: I’m a relentless adventure seeker, always looking to find that perfect combination of mountains, lakes, rivers, and seashore. I’ve lived in each of these environments, and finally found Ashland which has the perfect combination of all.

I spend as many of my waking hours outside, running with my dogs, cycling, skiing, swimming or kayaking...usually some combination of at least three.

### What attracted you to Ashland?:

C: Dear friends who live here and the size and quality of the town.

### What is/was your career?:

C: Technology adoption and organizational effectiveness - now studying entrepreneurship with plans to become a hiring entrepreneur. I am dedicated to building good paying jobs in environments that allow participants to expand their potential and truly enjoy life.

B: My career began in Stamford Connecticut, as a buyer and then national events planner for Borders Books and Music. ( I also love those two things J ) I moved across the country to join a launch team for a new online retail concept, Amazon.com. I worked at Amazon.com through the launch and growth of the books, music and electronics categories, managing the catalog and negotiating deals with all the publishing houses, software companies and date aggregators in NYC and CA. I lived on Bainbridge Island and took the ferry to work with the Killer Wales following us across Puget Sound. That was the best commute in the world...and sooo beats the commute in NYC - below ground. I watched Mt. Rainier turn gold and purple in the sunset from the ferry.

Post Amazon, I worked in Internet Marketing and Ecommerce Development for a number of companies in Silicon Valley, and more recently with Harry and David as Director of Internet Marketing.

## Faces of CERT *continued...*

### Hobbies, interests, favorite movie, food, etc?:

C: Anything and everything associated with being outdoors. I love hiking, biking, and playing in nature. Healthy foods and documentaries are also part of my fun. I love to learn new things and put them to work.

B: My interests and hobbies are all over the map...I'll just say have an insatiable curiosity. And a wander-lust that never stops.

One mission that is very important to me is my volunteer work with the Southern Oregon Humane Society. I am, a 6-year veteran on the Board of Directors with SoHumane.org, and am devoted to giving those loving homeless animals a second chance at life. Sohumane.org works with the schools and youth organizations to bring young people and animals together, foster education and understanding of human and animal partnership.

### How did you first learn about Ashland CERT?:

C: I ran across an email or brochure that described the program.

B: I learned about CERT when I looked into volunteering for the Fire Department in Ashland. I have several friends and family members that are fire fighters in other states.

### You both had interesting motivation for taking the CERT training, could you tell us about why you choose to take training?:

C: I was living in Lyons, Colorado for 4.5 years (before the flooding) and was part of the Lyons Transition Town movement (*Transition Towns* is a grassroots network of communities that are working to build resilience in response to peak oil, climate destruction, and economic instability.). I wanted to be prepared and help others prepare for disaster there and continued with that desire when I moved here. My training with Terri occurred right after the recent Colorado flooding in which Lyons endured unbelievable damage, had to be evacuated, and is now being rebuilt.



B: I have a strong interest in helping people understand how to prepare for, deal with and overcome severe challenges in life. I have lived through a few, namely the September 11, 2011 attacks in NYC. I was 9 blocks from the World Trade Center complex when the attacks occurred, and lived through the horrific tragedy for the next 18 days. I witnessed and experienced such heroic acts of generosity and selflessness, that I was inspired to volunteer for the rescue/recovery effort with the NYFD and the American Red Cross. I worked near Ground Zero at the Jacob Javits Center during the first week of the rescue/recovery. I learned so much about inter-organizational collaboration and communication – how imperative it is to have a communication strategy and contingency systems in a disaster situation.

CERT is an exceptional example of just such a program and platform to educate citizens and establish a communication and action strategy. The Ashland CERT program is extraordinary in the quality of the training and deep involvement of the leadership (Terri) in the community. The high participation of the citizens of Ashland is a direct result of the quality of the program.

### What did you like best about the CERT basic training?:

C: The quality of the training along with the clarity that we in Ashland need to be prepared to help ourselves and each other. Building resilience through education, organization, and leadership would be a good way to characterize it.

B: Meeting and learning from an extraordinary group of people who share both the caring and the initiative to *do* something. It was so rewarding, and continues to be, to get to know CERT members, and learn from someone of Terri's caliber. She is wired for leadership and cultivating others.

### What do you find most interesting about Ashland CERT?:

C: I appreciate the entire program and am very impressed with Terri's design and execution of it. The specific items include; the CERT command posts equipped with items that will be super valuable if we need them, awareness of potential disasters, leadership structure during an event, the lists of items to organize in order to be prepared, the hope and expectations that each volunteer will "spread the word" and educate people they know on what each of us can do to carry on without infrastructure and services, etc.

### Why did you choose to be a CERT member?:

C: I believe that the only thing that is certain is uncertainty. A little preparation now, even if it is never needed, will be an amazing blessing if it is needed. I want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem if something happens to us in this part of the world. It is also a great way to be an engaged community member in Ashland.

B: I love my community and want to be a part of the team that will keep it strong, prepared to meet any challenge with a vision of resilience, compassion and "together we can do anything!"

**You discovered an interesting dynamic about each other during the training could you highlight that?:**

C: It was a delight and pleasure meeting Barb. Completely unrelated, a mutual SOU friend/colleague recommended that I give Barb a call and meet her. At that time, she and I just happened to be in my same CERT training course. We have a lot of similarities that include driving the same make, model, and year car. She is a lovely person and like a "sister from a different mister." Barb has been in the area much longer than I have and has been showing me great hiking trails, the Nordic club, and helping me understand the business community in this area.

B: We both had different reasons for taking on the training, but found that we both have that relentless optimism, and "figure it out" attitude. We both communicate well, and have complimentary leadership skills when we work on the same team. I think that when we are on the same team, we have the ability to calm others down, keep the focus positive, and instill faith in others that we can get the job done.

**You have both become close friends since training can you just give us some highlights for inspiration in building relationships with our colleagues?:**

C: In addition to having fun together, the different trainings made it clear about the importance of knowing other CERT members and building trust within rescue teams. With this in mind, I hope to sponsor and participate in social events with other CERT members, so that if there comes a time that we need to work together, we recognize and respect one another.

B: Be open to new friends, listen and take an active interest in their story. Put the effort into meeting outside the training, and finding common interests. Friendship is one of the best things in life... Both Christine and I have families in far away places, and we both share a wander lust – and are pretty darn independent people, but also share interests in outdoor adventure and trying new stuff. (We also drive the exact same vehicle... a silver Nissan Pathfinder, 1998. And we were born in the same year. Now, if that's not a reason to be friends, I don't know what is).

**You are both new to the community, what do like best about Ashland so far?:**

C: I am much newer here than Barb is. I find that Ashland is an accepting environment for people with differences. It is small town with great entertainment and is easy to get around. The outdoors is easily accessible. Even though I have been here a short time I have dear, loving, and long-term friends here, one who even babysat me in Spring Lake, Michigan when I was a little kid! I am proud and happy to be part of Ashland Oregon and the Rogue Valley.



B: The diversity of the place – both outdoors and culture. There are so many options for both, and we have a University as well. That's as good as it gets.

**You're both entrepreneurs, have you started anything we might find interesting since you've taken roots here?:**

C: I am in the process of starting something and learning about doing business in Oregon. I am very excited about the new law regarding the creation of Benefit Corporations that goes into effect in 2014 and I plan to establish one.

B: Search Marketing consultation. I have been in the internet marketing world for most of my career, and helped several small businesses in our community to develop their online marketing programs.

**Do you support other programs in the Ashland community?:**

C: As I am just learning Ashland and the surrounding communities, I have become involved with SOREDi and the SBDC's as well as learning about the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW) from Barb. I am investigating and learning more about this area every day.

B: I'm on the board of directors for SoHumane.org (which is a regional organization) and a member of Rotary International with the Medford Rogue Rotary, which has very active Scholarships program for local college-bound youth.

**Anything else you would like to add?:**

C: I believe the importance of CERT cannot be underestimated and that bonding together as community members who understand what it will take to get along without electricity and infrastructure is paramount. The more prepared we are on a household by household level, the less trouble there will be in a disaster situation. Living in a community that is based on resilience and care for one another is what I want in my life and am doing my part to create.

The CERT training taught me that it is very difficult to prepare for a disaster, as I have no idea what it will be like in an actual situation. The more CPR, first aid, preparedness and planning each of us can do, the better. It is a good idea that we get to know who lives next door and down the street. Who is able and willing to help. Who has pets and who will definitely need help. I hope we as regions and areas can get together and get to know each other. Knowing the town map and where people live and who might help and who will need to be helped will be very important in the hopefully unlikely event of a disaster.

I would like to thank Terri for creating and making this program happen. It is so very important and professionally done. Deep gratitude to you Terri and I hope we volunteers live up to our responsibilities and keep current on our training as well as recruit more and educate our friends and families. Go CERT!!

**And with that Happy Holidays Everyone!!**

# CERT 2013 Calendar of Events

January 2013	February 2013	March 2013
General Meeting January 9 <i>(Pacific Power Safety)</i> <b>MRE and Emergency Food Tasting</b> <b>Saturday, January 12 (12PM-2PM)</b> Leadership Meeting January 23	General Meeting February 13 <i>(Weather Conditions)</i> Leadership Meeting February 27 <b>MYN Night - February 26</b>	General Meeting March 13 <i>(Swiftwater Awareness)</i> <b>MYN Night – March 12</b> <b>Base Inventory – March 16</b> Leadership Meeting March 27
April 2013	May 2013	June 2013
General Meeting April 10 <i>(JC SAR)</i> Leadership Meeting April 25 <i>(Final Prep for Basic Training)</i> <b>Spring Basic Training April 11-13 &amp; 18-20</b>	<b>Basic Graduation - General Meeting May 8</b> Leadership Meeting May 22 (Basic Training AAR & 4th of July Planning) <b>Annual Phone Tree Test - May 18</b> <b>Base Bike Ride – May 19 (9AM-1PM)</b>	<b>Refresher Training—June 1</b> General Meeting June 12 <i>(Radio Comm. )</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 26 <i>(Parade Support)</i> <b>Firefighter Rehab Mission Training</b> <b>June 22 (9AM-4PM)</b> Solar Storm Formidable Footprint June 29
July 2013	August 2013	September 2013
General Meeting July 10 <i>(START Triage)</i> <b>Base Painting Party – July 13 (8AM-11AM)</b> Leadership Meeting July 24 Tracking Resources & Opening Bases—June 26-27	General Meeting August 14 <i>(Medical Operations Review)</i> Leadership Meeting August 28 <i>(Basic Planning)</i> <b>Advanced Training – August 24</b>	<b>National Preparedness Month</b> General Meeting September 11 <b>CPR Saturday September 21</b> Leadership Meeting September 25
October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
<b>Fall Basic Training—October 3-5 &amp; 10-12</b> General Meeting October 9 Leadership Meeting October 23	<b>Refresher Training – November 9</b> General Meeting Nov 13 <i>(Basic Graduation)</i> Leadership Meeting November 20 <i>(Annual Training Planning Session)</i>	<b>CERT Year in Review</b> <b>December 11, 6:30 to 8:00 PM</b> No Meetings <b>Holiday Season Training Stand Down</b>

**Note:** General meetings are open to the public. Doors open at 6pm. Meetings are from 6:30pm-8pm at Fire Station 1.

Ashland CERT  
 455 Siskiyou Boulevard  
 Ashland, OR 97520

TO: