



SOA - CERT NEWSLETTER

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

January – March 2025

FD3 Begins the Task of Levy Preparation

Washington State law protects its citizens from rapid tax increases whenever property values rise quickly. The law does this by incrementally reducing the tax assessment rates even while property values rapidly increase. This results in public services (like the Fire District) being limited to what is nearly a flat or constant budget allocation, because their operating budgets may not grow by more than one percent per year.

Back in 2018, Fire District #3 was funded by means of a property tax allocation of \$1.50 per \$1000 of assessed property value. Each year since then, Fire District funding rates have been incrementally reduced, so that today the District must operate with only \$1.12 per \$1000 of assessed property value. This tax limitation system works well in situations wherever there is no inflation and no increased demand for Fire District services. But unfortunately, in the intervening years since 2018, there has been a lot of economic inflation and also very significant growth in popular demand for Fire District services. The Fire District's ever-increasing logistical costs and expanded operational services to our growing population base cannot be sustained indefinitely on the strength of a flat or constant budget allocation.

The only recourse now available to the Fire District is to ask the voters in 2025 for a tax ratio "reset" back to the 2018 level. This proposed reset is called a "levy" request to support our Fire District's increased operations and maintenance costs. It is merely a return to tax rate allocations that were previously in effect in 2018.

The Fire District will need this reset in order to provide the same level of service to the public despite the double challenges of economic cost inflation and increased workload demands on our First Responders. In 2018, the average cost of diesel fuel for ambulances and fire engines was \$3.18, but today it is \$4.48. In 2018, Fire District #3 responded to 7464 emergency calls, but in 2024 it responded to nearly 9100 calls. Without the additional resources that a budget reset would provide, the Fire District will be forced to reduce current levels of service. Nobody wants to reduce needed services to our public. The reset makes economic sense, and it preserves the kind of safety and First Responder support that makes our community such a great place to call home.

Very few people in our local community know that Fire District #3 is not a subordinate branch of Clallam County's government. In fact, Fire District #3 is an independent fire protection service provider whose operations and maintenance budgets are funded directly by the voters in our local area. While State law defines how property taxes may be allocated to our local Fire District through occasional levy assessments, the District must in every case look directly to the local public it serves for the fiscal support it needs. This means that our property taxes remain the principal means by which our local community subscribes to the desired level of local area fire protection and first responder services that we collectively want to keep in place and make available whenever they're needed.

Because it is taxpayer funded, our Fire District cannot campaign or advocate for any voting choice. FD3 is permitted, however, to inform and educate the public as to what services FD3 provides, the facts surrounding the rising costs of operations and the challenges of increased demand. The decision on how to vote is then left entirely up to the voting public.



Clallam Ready Sequim -- Updates



Dolores Wolfe Muriel McCarty Eileen Damian
Your Clallam Ready Sequim (CRS) leaders

CRS had an amazing inaugural year in 2024. We met with many new, and established, neighborhood groups and quite a few individuals have stepped up to become coordinators. Our motto of **"Be Prepared, Not Scared"** is catching on. Without your participation and volunteerism this would not have happened. Thank you!! Each of you play a crucial role in organizing your neighborhood/area which, in turn, contributes to the goal: having all of Sequim "Clallam Ready" to lessen the impact of a disaster. When we work together as a team, our odds of recovery and survival increase exponentially. With your continued support we will share our message with even more neighborhoods in 2025.



CRS TRAINING	DATE	STATUS
KSQM Radio Interview	4/18/2025	Confirmed
Home Estates, Aspen Creek, Chery Blossom	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Sporseen, Happy Vly	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Dominion Terrace	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Diamond Point	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Greater Dungeness Hts	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Main's Farm	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Summer Breeze	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Classen Cove	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Sunland	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Dungeness Greens	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Dungeness Meadows	Spring 2025	Confirmed
Sunnyview Dr	Summer 2025	Potential
Mariner Outlook	Summer 2025	Potential

Our final **CRS training** session for 2024 was a huge success. It was held at **Lavender Meadows**. The room was packed with interested people and plenty of questions. Thank you to CERT 16 folks who joined us and to Courtney (HOA manager) who made it all possible. What a great way to end the year!

Clallam Ready Sequim (CRS) owes its very short, but powerful, existence to one of our three leaders, **Dolores Wolfe**. She is our chief researcher, top organizer, main outreach-wrangler and foremost information-verifier. In short, she is the driving force behind everything we've accomplished in 2024. We're shining this figurative spotlight on Dolores because she has no say in the matter and you'd otherwise never know how important her role has been. She seldom wears her crown, but next time you run into Dolores say hello and give her a nod of encouragement. She is a passionate volunteer and we are all beneficiaries. **Thank you, Dolores** - you're amazing!!!



With winter upon us...**don't forget to winterize** your Go Bags and Car Emergency Kits. Checkout our website (link below) for the latest preparedness information under "Resources" and "Additional Resources".

CRS invites you to visit our website. It can be accessed directly via:

<https://www.bellelealand.net/clallamready>.

If you do not have a CRS team in your neighborhood, please call us at 360-670-0439 or email us at clallamready.sequim@gmail.com to learn how to help yourself and your neighborhood get prepared.

CRS is a new and evolving program - we appreciate your ideas, comments and feedback.



During the holiday season, CERTs turned out to support the Sequim Food Bank by facilitating the flow of hundreds of vehicles through Carrie Blake Park so that bags and boxes of food can be safely loaded and moved along. Rain was forecast, with sun breaks, so everyone came prepared. You can tell by their faces that nobody was having a good time; instead, they were all having a great time!



Food Distribution (22 November)



In less than four hours, CERTs safely directed about 500 vehicles and facilitated the distribution of over 1100 holiday meals at the park. Food Bank volunteers also delivered 175 additional meals directly to needy families in the Sequim area. CERTs used their radios to keep everyone aware and informed of the status of the lines of traffic and volunteers' needs. They used their teaming and coordination skills to great effect, and also achieved a useful and positive outcome for our local community. People really tend to notice things like that.

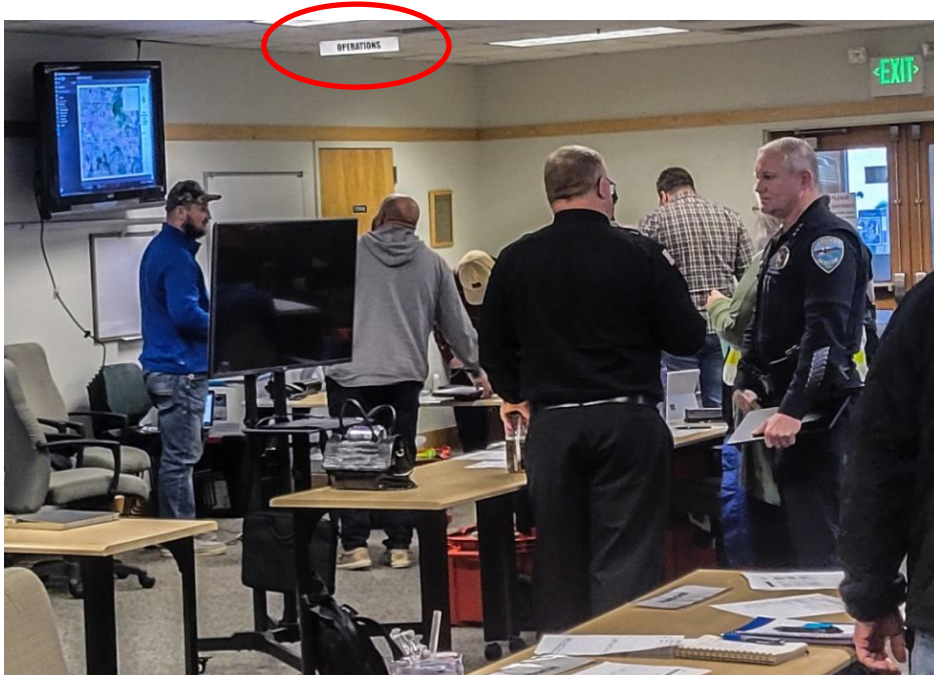


Tractor Cruise (30 November)

The Sequim Police Department requested help from FD3 and CERT to assist in traffic management services in order to ensure the safety of Sequim's Museum and Arts 9th annual "Tractor Cruise" down Washington Street. Ten Fire District vehicles (engines, ambulances and tenders) were pre-positioned to temporarily block traffic access to the planned parade route. CERT personnel were also assigned to ensure that alleyway and driveway accesses to Washington Street were similarly controlled so that the tractors could proceed without non-parade vehicular interference.



SOA/CERT Tabletop Drill (4 December)



Checklists and white board reminders were posted at the ECC.

Chief Grider and Police Chief Hill discuss SOA operations.

The **Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)** conducted a "Tabletop" Exercise on 4 December from 1400 to 1600 to simulate probable SOA actions and communications associated with a heavy "snow-mageddon" event in which the Peninsula also has lost all electrical power. Such a situation would be life threatening for many of our citizens. As part of the exercise, various incident scenario complications were suddenly announced which had to be handled extemporaneously by the Sequim Unified Command leadership.

The ECC effectively coordinated its needed emergency communications with police and fire responders. FD3 communicated via its emergency radio channels with Fire Station Fire Captains at stations 33 (Carlsborg), 34 (Sequim) and 37 (Blyn). However, during the tabletop exercise, Police and Fire District personnel did remain on active duty in order to conduct their normal responder operations.

CERT Division Chiefs were available on site at each of these three fire stations to assist with emergency communications using CERT's repeater on Bell Hill. They practiced the use of CERT communications logs as well. In addition, CERT Division Chiefs used this opportunity to perform radio checks with each of their respective CERT Captains using FRS/GMRS channel 7.

During such emergencies, the Sequim Unified Command will stand up its Emergency Coordination Center inside the Clallam Transit Center, at 190 W. Cedar Street. When so activated, the transit center can be converted into an ECC in less than an hour. The center includes five workstations for ECC staffers that will support emergency Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Admin/Finance activities. The ECC workstations and tablets will be equipped with preloaded FEMA forms and other needed emergency management software and battery backups.

SAR Practice (7 December)

Several CERTs 'Searched' the TOC Maintenance Shop:

To maintain familiarity with our SAR procedures, several search and rescue teams took an opportunity in December to practice all the steps involved with safe SAR operations. They 'searched' the TOC Maintenance shop which had also been populated with 'survivors' who needed CERT's attention.



Bang! Bang! "If you can hear my voice, come to me." (A loud rubber hammer saves one's knuckles.)



Search and Rescue Supplies	
SEARCH SUPPLIES	
1	Rope Bag
1	Helmet
4	Light Sticks
1	pkg N95's
3	Black Sharpies
2	Red Sharpies
1	Small Flashlight
1	Folder of Building Markers
RESCUE SUPPLIES	
1	pkg Wipes
1	group of Triage ribbons
1	Stretcher Straps
1	roll of Tape
1	pkg Nitrile Gloves
1	roll Bandage Tape
1	Box Tampons (for wounds)
2	pkgs Kotex (for wounds)
1	roll of Trash Bags
CART	
1	Hammer/Mallet
1	Crow Bar
1	Cutters
1	Axe
1	Extra Rope Bags



CERT4's Squads each have carts they use to haul squad equipment. The squad's equipment list is indicated on the side of the luggage bag.

Donna Stoffel Recognized (17 December)



Chief Grider with Commissioner Nicholas and Commissioner Miano commended Donna Stoffel on behalf of FD3.

In recognition of the success of the **Sequim/FD3/CERT Safety Fair** on 5 October 2024, Fire District 3 resolved to present Donna Stoffel a certificate of the District's appreciation for her leadership and initiative. During the months prior to the Fair, Donna led numerous planning meetings and sorted out many details and preparatory steps. Donna was SOA/CERT's principal point of contact and main coordinator for every aspect of the event. She was assisted in her efforts by many CERT volunteers and CERT's Program Leadership. The Fair involved the participation of about 50 different agencies and entities associated with public safety and welfare. The Fair was visited by almost 1000 participants, a monumental community success.



Blaine Zechenelly was also on hand to thank Donna..

In his citation to accompany Donna's Certificate, Chief Grider wrote:

"Your efforts not only brought together volunteers and agencies but also provided the public with a chance to understand and appreciate the vast resources available to keep this community safe. Your leadership truly made this event a great success, and I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication."

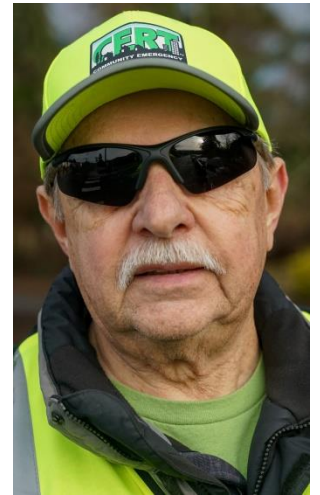
Editor's comment: Our SOA/CERT Program is very fortunate to have so many willing volunteers who selflessly give of their time and resources to serve their communities in so many ways. Donna's leadership is but one notable example of the work performed by our dedicated members. Our community sees us at work; it benefits from our work; and it appreciates our work very much. Congratulations to Donna Stoffel, and THANK YOU to every CERT member in "the little green army."



Dennis Burnett, Sequim City
Emergency Mgt Coordinator

On December 20th, CERT members once again pitched in to assist the Sequim Food Bank distribute holiday meals to needy families in our community. CERTs assembled at 0930 to prepare for the long line of cars and trucks to move past the distribution tents. Large deliveries of palletized food were already on hand, waiting and ready. After an initial safety and orientation briefing, CERTs deployed to several strategic locations to help guide the vehicles safely through Carrie Blake Park. In addition, there were volunteers present from the Food Bank, the Lion's Club and the Elk's Club who physically transferred the needed food into people's vehicles. The activity was monitored by the City of Sequim's Emergency Management Coordinator, Dennis Burnett. The forecasted rain did not materialize.





Persons who wish to receive Food Bank meal boxes would begin by coming to the Trinity United Methodist Church parking lot where they would be greeted and interviewed by TUMC volunteers about the number of meals they might need. Their vehicle receives a colored tag to: (1) show that they have been interviewed; and (2) inform the volunteers how many meals to place in each vehicle. (More than a few drivers do attempt to skip this preparatory step.) Once tagged, they wait in line, in rows like a ferry terminal. As the line moves forward, more vehicles are released from the Trinity parking lot.



The total vehicle count in December was somewhat reduced from November's numbers. In all, 28 CERT members guided about **350 vehicles** through the line at the distribution tents. There were about **900 meals** served.



SOA/CERT Quick Items



Drone Squad Update

Our SOA-CERT Program is happy to announce that we now have at least one FAA-approved drone pilot. Steve Preston (Captain, CERT13) has passed his FAA Part 107 certification test, and is now authorized to fly approved drone missions for CERT. We will look to Steve for his guidance on how best to organize and develop our CERT drone program. There are tons of work details that still need to be defined regarding drone mission management, tasking, reporting, purchasing, repairing, outfitting, storing, training, certifying, exercising, data archiving, interagency coordination and partnering, and defined chains of command in emergency or disaster operations.

As a reminder to all CERTs, emergency drone flight operations CANNOT be legally (or safely) conducted by non-certified persons flying recreational or so-called hobby drones. It's already clear that our CERT program will need to develop a cadre of FAA Part 107 certified drone pilots, perhaps a couple dozen or so. There are several commercial training programs available on-line wherein one purchases a study guide and tutorial program, then takes practice tests until one's confidence is high. The official FAA test is proctored in person. The test currently costs \$175, so you will definitely want to pass it on the first attempt. Steve did. Congratulations to Steve.

If you want to become a part of this great emergency reconnaissance effort, contact Donna Stoffel or Charlie Meyer. We'll add your name to our email list.



Zaharias Farewell

As Alexander E. "Butch" Zaharias departs from the Sequim Operational Area and leaves our Fire District #3 sponsored Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, we wish to acknowledge the many contributions and accomplishments that he has selflessly given to our CERT Program over the past seven years. During his service in CERT, he has been a consistent and reliable participant in virtually every CERT drill, activity, and training exercise. His leadership abilities were recognized early on, and for several years now, Butch has led CERT13 as its Captain and has also served as Acting Division Chief for the emerging R-Corner and Deer Park divisional areas. He received advanced organizational training by completing the CERT Program Manager Course.



His currency and expertise as a certified registered nurse (RN) and as a Washington State trained CERT Instructor enabled Butch to provide authoritative insights and demonstrate many practical applications regarding medical and first aid training for all CERT members. Beyond that, Butch took charge of our CERT Program's medical supplies inventory and storage container organization. He coordinated with Soroptimist International's Medical Closet for the redistribution of surplus durable medical equipment to help equip our CERT Teams. His personal commitment to creating a safe and secure CERT medical supply system has resulted in a major advancement of our Program's readiness for disaster relief medical care.

Because of his communication skills and his ability to teach, Butch also became an integral part of our CERT Training Committee. His efforts helped to standardize and promulgate a well-crafted training program that simplified and significantly improved every CERT team's monthly training activities. He organized classes and taught CERT members and their family members how to perform Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). He also taught "Stop The Bleed" courses for interested community members and CERT Teams.

Because of the many hours of service that Butch has unfailingly devoted to building up our CERT Program, he was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for the year 2021, Silver degree, which means he dedicated over 250 hours of uncompensated volunteer service to CERT during that year. He subsequently was awarded the Gold degree for serving over 500 volunteer hours in 2023. To help spread the word about the benefits of community service in CERT, Butch recruited several CERT members to participate in local radio broadcast interviews conducted by KSQM FM.

For his many contributions and successful endeavors that resulted in a significant enhancement of the CERT Program and the Sequim Operational Area's emergency readiness, we owe Butch Zaharias a debt of gratitude and thanks, and we wish him well and all the best in his next adventures.





TRAINING

Refresher Topics for 2025

JANUARY:

CERT WEBSITE ORIENTATION:
www.bellelealand.net/cert

FEBRUARY:

☑ PRE-PLAN WORKSHOP:
Personal All Risk and Team activity using:
"Disaster Preparedness Guide"
or "Prepare in A Year" workbook.

Disaster Preparedness Guide:
<https://mil.wa.gov/asset/5cfaec1448a37>

Prepare in a Year Workbook:
<https://mil.wa.gov/asset/5f171cc0a935f>

MARCH:

☑ COMMUNICATIONS with use of
Communication Practice Cards

APRIL:

☑ CAPTAIN'S CHOICE.

MAY:

'IS THE BOX BROKEN' Safety approach and
the structure 360.

JUNE:

SEARCH, HANDS ON TRAINING.

JULY:

RESCUE, HANDS ON TRAINING.

AUGUST:

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE.

SEPTEMBER:

DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY - HOW IT IMPACTS
YOU AND OTHERS.

OCTOBER:

THE GREAT SHAKEOUT ON 10/17/25:
Activities and Support.

NOVEMBER:

SOA's MEDICAL OPERATIONS REVIEW
DECEMBER:

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE - HOLIDAY

Find More Training Resources on the CERT Website

You can find the new Training Committee SOP on the website "Library" "Reference Materials"
"SOA Standard Operating Procedures SOP." Here is a direct link:

https://www.bellelealand.net/files/ugd/93ebf6_0dff878ab645437a8551e9ef5ca4d1ed.pdf

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Ernylee Chamlee
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CERT Calendar



CERT EVENTS in 2025 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
Sign up by emailing: cindyiz@hotmail.com

March

4 Sunshine Festival at Carrie Blake Park - Need 25 CERTs for Fun Runs 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
15 Frosty Moss Relay Run, March 15, 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM
15 & 16 Soroptimist Garden Show, March 15 & 16, 8 AM – 4:00 PM both days

MAY

4 & 5 Crazy Callen Weekend, 25 CERTs needed to Assist with Races, Booths, Traffic Control
10 ALL CERTS invited to walk in annual **Irrigation Parade**

July

4 Special July 4th Event at Carrie Blake Park. 12 CERTs needed 11 AM -> ; 18 more by 5 PM -11 PM
18-20 Annual Lavender Festival at Carrie Blake Park. 28 CERTs needed.
25-27 Annual Dog Show at Property on Blake Ave., 6:15 AM – 4:00 PM. At least 27 CERTs needed.

AUGUST

23 Annual Distribution of School Supplies at **Boys and Girls Club**, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM. At least 12 CERTS needed.
23 Annual Air Affaire and Fly in at Sequim Airport, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM. 4-5 CERTs needed.

OCTOBER

4 3rd Annual Safety Fair at Guy Cole – 82 CERTS needed for setup + main day

NOVEMBER

14 Annual Food Distribution at Carrie Blake Park 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. At least 38 CERTs needed.

DECEMBER

19 Annual Food Distribution at Carrie Blake Park 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. At least 38 CERTs needed.

CERT Calendar Q1 / 2025

Jan. 2	CERT Team 5	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Feb. 1	CERT Team 11	10:00 AM - Noon	March 1	CERT Team 11	10:00 AM - Noon
Jan. 4	CERT Team 11	10:00 AM - Noon	Feb. 4	CERT Team 2	10:00 AM - Noon	March 4	CERT Team 2	10:00 AM - Noon
Jan. 7	CERT Team 2	10:00 AM - Noon	Feb. 5	CERT Team 8	5:00 - 7:30 PM	March 5	CERT Team 10	5:00 - 7:30 PM
Jan. 8	CERT Capts Mtg	2:00 -4:00 PM	Feb. 5	CERT Team 10	5:00 - 7:30 PM	March 5	CERT Team 8	5:00 - 7:30 PM
Jan. 8	CERT Team 8	5:00 - 7:30 PM	Feb. 6	CERT Team 5	2:00 - 5:00 PM	March 6	CERT Team 5	2:00 - 5:00 PM
Jan. 8	CERT Team 10	5:00 - 7:30 PM	Feb. 8	CERT Class 1	7 AM - 5 PM	March 8	CERT Class 1	7 AM - 5 PM
Jan. 9	CERT Team 9	3:00 - 5:00 PM	Feb. 11	CERT Team 4	6:30 - 8:00 PM	March 5	CERT Capts Mtg	2:00 -4:00 PM
Jan. 9	CERT Team 3	10:30 - noon	Feb. 11	CERT Team 7	6:30 - 8:00 PM	March 4	CERT Team 12	5:00 - 6:30 PM
Jan. 11	CERT Class 1	7 AM - 5 PM	Feb. 4	CERT Team 12	5:00 - 6:30 PM	March 13	CERT Team 9	3:00 - 5:00 PM
Jan. 7	CERT Team 12	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Feb. 13	CERT Team 9	6:00 - 8:00 PM	March 13	CERT Team 3	10:30 - noon
Jan. 15	CERT Team 17	5:00 - 7:00 PM	Feb. 13	CERT Team 3	10:30 - noon	March 15	CERT Class 2	7 AM - 5 PM
Jan. 15	CERT Team 4	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Feb. 15	CERT Class 2	7 AM - 5 PM	March 19	CERT Team 17	5:00 - 7:00 PM
Jan. 15	CERT Team 7	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Feb. 18	CERT Team 13	6:00 - 7:30 PM	March 18	CERT Team 13	6:00 - 7:30 PM
Jan. 16	CERT Team 14	6:30- 8:30 PM	Feb. 19	CERT Team 17	5:00 - 7:00 PM	March 18	CERT Team 4	6:30 - 8:00 PM
Jan. 18	CERT Class 2	7 AM - 5 PM	Feb. 20	CERT Team 14	6:30- 8:30 PM	March 18	CERT Team 7	6:30 - 8:00 PM
Jan. 21	CERT Team 13	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Feb. 22	CERT Class 3	7 AM - 5 PM	March 25	CERT Team 14	6:30- 8:30 PM
Jan. 23	CERT OPS REV	1:00 -2:00 PM	Feb. 25	CERT Team 6	10:00 - 12:00 PM	March 25	CERT Team 6	10:00 - 12:00 PM
Jan. 23	CERT Team 1	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Feb. 27	CERT Team 1	6:00 - 7:30 PM	March 27	CERT Team 1	2:00 -4:00 PM
Jan. 23	CERT Team 16	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Feb. 27	CERT Team 16	6:00 - 7:30 PM	March 27	CERT Team 16	6:00 - 7:30 PM
Jan. 25	CERT Class 3	7 AM - 5 PM				March 29	CERT Class 3	7 AM - 5 PM
Jan. 28	CERT Team 6	10:00 - 12:00 PM						

Stay tuned: There will be more to share in the next edition of the SOA/CERT Newsletter.