



CHRISTMAS TREE HILL NRG
www.cthnrg.org / cthnrg@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, February 26, 2023

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on Zoom at 4:00 PM.

Members attending: Cynthia England, Brandon Hemley, Chas Voorhis, Anita Bock, Debra Sartell, Jean Schulz, Leslie Cunningham, Linda Meier, Ann Bentley, Connor Turnbull, Mariellen Stern, Elizabeth Dorazio, Steve Kaplan, Mark Brooks, Steve Silver

1. Radio Update:

In the wake of the Retevis and repeater test, conducted with the assistance of Peter Mazonas, Gerd Goette and Ann Shores, and the unsatisfactory feedback received from that test, Cynthia and Anita did a comprehensive Midland radio test on February 17th. During the test reception was uniformly 'loud and clear' in all 7 areas tested, with the caveat* that user location is key to achieve good transmission results. Based on these recent tests, a recommendation was made not to change the Midland radios for the Retevis radios, nor to purchase a repeater. After discussion, those present concurred with the recommendation.

*The February 17th test made it abundantly clear that it is possible to get excellent reception throughout CTH if BCs take the time to find the best line-of-sight locations in their homes/yards.

Routine radio maintenance—adequate charging, good batteries, etc.—coupled with radio training and best location selection should resolve transmission issues.

For your information the Central Marin NRG has scheduled a radio workshop in March:

Sign up for the [radio refresher](#) drop-in workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30-8:30 PM at Redwood High School in the Krebs Lounge. Please bring your fully charged radio with you to the workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Action Items:

- Cynthia will update the radio test script to include language that covers what to report when reception is not 'Loud and Clear'.
- BCs/ZCs are encouraged to learn how to change radio power levels from *High* to *Medium* to *Low*. Note the radio uses more battery if it is set to *High*. To change the level, press Menu until you see "Pr" then use the up/down button to choose *Low*, *Medium*, or *High*. Then press PTT to save/continue.
- Make sure you check your batteries and keep your radio fully charged. Note that the radios can use regular AA batteries. Contact cthnrg@gmail.com if you have battery issues.
- Consider attending the Radio Refresher at Redwood High on March 7.

2. March Evacuation Preparedness Exercise Overview:

The March drill will be an *Evacuation Preparedness Exercise*. Resident Information Flyers that contain an exercise checklist and include an *Evacuation Guide* and *Evacuation Map* (see www.cthnrg.org for copies of these documents) will be distributed by BCs during the weekend of March 4-5th. The checklist attached to the flyer provides clear directions on the scope of the exercise. BCs and ZCs were strongly encouraged to participate in the exercise.

Action Items:

- Flyers to be distributed by BCs no later than March 5th
- Cynthia will post information about the *Evacuation Preparedness Exercise* on Next Door on March 3rd
- Participate in the March 12th exercise by executing the items listed on the preparedness checklist and share what you learn with your zone coordinator, either in person or via email. Zone coordinators will reach out to BCs to determine if in-person debriefing meetings are possible.

3. Block Captain Recruitment Campaign:

The following BC vacancies were reviewed:

Zone 1 | Blocks 3, 8 (Cynthia currently serves as interim BC) and 5, 7

Zone 2 | Block 6

Zone 3 | Blocks 1, 2, 3, 5, 8

Zone 4 | Block 4

Zone 5 | Blocks 7 & 8 (Ann currently serves as interim BC)

Suggestions were invited and the following were proposed:

- The Corte Madera Summer Concert series presents an opportunity have a CTH NRG information and BC recruitment table in Menke Park. Leslie offered to ask the Zinz Wine Bar owner, Kyle Hendrix, who is active with the concert series, whether or not he might consider some form of Zinz support of a BC recruitment effort.
- Brandon raised concerns about lack of participation and high tenant turnover amongst apartment tenants and Anita reminded all that she suggested last year that we eliminate the apartment complexes along Corte Madera Avenue from the CTH NRG on the grounds that landlords/owners are responsible for emergency management and because high tenant turnover makes maintaining accurate records too challenging. After discussion those present agreed to exclude the apartments from CTH NRG. The apartment addresses will be removed from the CTH NRG map and address/zone list, but a separate address list will be maintained so that flyers can be delivered.

4. New / Other Business:

Map updates and revisions are underway and once completed a new version of the map will be sent to the team, along with an updated radio call sign list and BC/ZC contact list.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

REMINDERS | UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- **Next radio test. Please RSVP promptly when the invitation is received:**

April 10	Monday	8:00 PM	Stephanie Seiler Hosting
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- **Next meeting date:** Sunday, March 26, 4:00 pm
- **Next Firewise Board* meeting date:** Sunday May 21, 5:00 pm

*Firewise Board Chair: Brandon Hemley

Board Members: Cynthia, Anita, Debra, Linda, Beth, Leslie, Stephanie, Mark