

CERT Minutes

November 19, 2025

Attendance: Cynthia O'Brien, Karon Murphy, Sharon Litschauer, Steve Litschauer, Sharon Denson, Annie Trout, Aileene Mirabito, Steve Watkins, Deb McMullen, Dan Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Laura Freese, Tom Briggie

Laura began the meeting (10:00 am) with the pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the October meeting approved as written.

Old Business

Tom purchased a Generac GB1000 to provide 1986Wh of emergency backup power for \$854.05. He reported this would be safer than a generator in an emergency situation.

CERT Basic class: Sharon reported that Southern Manatee experience with Cedar Hammock Fire District went well. She reported 15 in the class.

In January Sharon is going to Garden Lakes, 39 North 37th St. and Bayview.

An invitation to anyone interested in visiting the Emergency Operations Center in Bradenton meet at 12:45 for the 1:00 PM tour.

Sharon reported there are CERT teams in Manatee County communities. The CERT coalition meets to share best practices and was to meet in early December but postponed to December 15 for a Christmas Party in Bayshore.

A 10-20 minute discussion on different topics will be scheduled before each meeting. Possible topics include AED training and Stop the Bleed. Steve Litschauer will provide the programs. There are CERT training videos that can also be shown.

A February 19, 2026 Health Fair may be scheduled.

CERT Coalition: Members were excited to learn that the HAM instruction would be advanced to include the practical aspects of HAM radio operation beyond just studying for the licensing exam.

Dan Smith reported there will be no HAM radio classes in December. The next test will be February 21, 2026 at Bible Baptist Church. He will schedule classes starting the week before on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a refresher class on Friday, February 20.

Tickets for the breakfasts starting in January will be sold at the Post Office the week before on Wednesday and if needed Thursday.

Drone update: Laura Freese noted that she was in contact with Lieutenant James Taylor of the Cedar Hammock Fire Department who may have a class for the drone pilot test. He offered to train with the fire department after the written test. Tom Briggie

will contact him for dates and has been reviewing drones for the group He likes the Black Falcon 4K for its specifications such as changeable batteries. A motion was made and passed and allocated \$100 for a purchase.

CERT shirts: Dan Smith will order CERT shirts to be given out to those serving breakfast at the December meeting. Sharon Denson will tag the shirts for each person with their size.

There was a request to send an updated list of active members to Laura Freese.

A CERT luncheon will be held at the beach on December 2 at 1:00 PM. Sharon and Mary Lou will be cooking hot dogs and members are asked to bring a dish for the pot luck and BYOB.

Steve Litschauer asked for parking volunteers at the Bayshore Community Center.

Everyone who participated in the Cedar Hammock Fire Department Open House on November 8 had thought it was a fun project. A request was made to reimburse \$50 for face painting supplies.

New Business

A CERT Summit will be held by the Patterson Group on January 29 from 8AM – 4:30 PM in Sarasota.

A request was made to Tom to review Starlink satellite communications after a disaster when cell phone usage was down. He reported that iPhones 14 or later and the Google Pixel 9 will communicate with satellites.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.

Karon Murphy

Secretary