



Southern Maryland Chapter *E-Bulletin*

March 2008

March is Red Cross Month

It's a time to herald the enduring spirit of the American Red Cross – channeled through an extended family of volunteers, donors, and partners who help to fulfill the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross. All year long American Red Cross is grateful for the tireless work of the volunteer

*All are welcome to be part of.....
Proclamation for the Southern Maryland Chapter.*

March 3 at 7:30 pm Indian Head town Hall meeting Presentation

March 4 at 9:05 AM St Mary's County Board of County Commissioners' presentation Leonardtown

March 4 at 3:00pm Charles County Board of county commissioners meeting presentation La Plata

March 4 at 10:00am Calvert County Board of County Commissioner's meeting presentation Prince Frederick

March 13 at 7:00 pm North Beach Town Council meeting. North Beach

****Keep March 17 open,** possible that the Southern Maryland Delegation will present the proclamation to the Chapter in Annapolis at an evening reception.....

*** All are invited to the reception and day visiting elected officials in Annapolis!! ***

The second annual American Red Cross Day in Annapolis will be held on March 17, 2008. To spread the word about our mission to help Marylanders prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, Red Cross volunteers from around the state will visit the offices of their delegates and senators. The Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Blood Region will also hold a blood drive at the State House and a Southern Maryland Chapter emergency response and communications vehicles will be parked in a visible place on State House grounds to highlight Red Cross services. In the evening Lieutenant Governor Brown will address policy makers at a reception held at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis.

Your participation is crucial. By sharing your first-hand accounts of what a Red Cross volunteer does each day, we can assure Maryland law makers that Red Cross services are an essential part of their community. Your testimonies will help policy makers be aware of important pending legislation such as HB 1383 designed to strengthen Maryland's Good Samaritan Laws to protect those who will respond when a large scale disaster strikes our state

We hope you'll join us in Annapolis on March 17 from approximately noon until 5PM. Please RSVP to Bobg@SOMDRedCross.org or by calling us at 301 934 2066 for more details. Thank you in advance for making Red Cross Day at the Maryland State Capitol a success. Together we can save a life

The Call Center Helping people across the land

Over the past several weeks the Southern Maryland Call Center, located at Chapter Headquarters, has seen a flurry of activity among certain volunteers. Teresa Gretton, Call Center Supervisor, reports that almost 1400 calls have been attempted with the recent survey project that began on January 8. The office is particularly pleased that it has succeeded in completing over 200 surveys as feedback from clients who applied for American Red Cross services during the floods in North Texas during May and June of last year. Lori Miller, Richard Stickels, Jack Faherty, Terrance Dyson, Pat Wolcott, Stephany Liller, Trisha DeGroot, Cindy Bears, Rose Meillies, and Dan Donahue have all greatly contributed to the team effort by sharing in over 750 volunteer hours. Thank you for all of your dedication and commitment to the chapter and in particular the call center. A gold star must be handed to Lori Miller for her determination to complete this project and the countless volunteer hours (a whopping 51.75 hours!). I am happy to say that she was the one who hit the magic number of 200***.

DATES: Please remember the training class this Sunday evening (March 2) beginning at 6 pm in the call center. It will serve as a brush-up class and a newcomer class for anyone who needs instruction with the Call Info. The training will center on how to create a client case on the AFES form, how to access the ORB and what is

contained in the ORB, how to operate the telephone system, discuss how to handle interpreter conference calls, etc. Wednesday, March 5, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. the LaPlata Call Center will activate to serve the needs of those who have faced disasters nationwide. Please join us for both dates.

Upcoming Events

**March 4th 9:00a.m. Presentation to the ARC @ St. Mary's
Board of County Commissioners**

**March 9th 715a.m. Lower Potomac River Marathon
(ERV & Hambulance)**

**March 11th 6:30p.m. DAT Case Work Class
@ La Plata office**

**March 13th 6:30p.m. Fulfilling Our Mission Class
@ Calvert Library**

**March 15th Noon to 6:00 Oktoberfest
@ Calvert Marina**

**April 1st Mass Care Class
@ La Plata Office**

**April 19th Boy Scout Camporee,
ARC Preparedness Demonstration
(2 ERV & Hambulance)**

**4th annual Lower Potomac River Marathon
March 9, 2008, starts at 7:15am**

*We are looking for volunteers to work watering stands
and communications.*

*Where is it? Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship,
Pass Leonardtown turn off Rt 5 onto 249*

More info http://www.cbrcmd.org/lpr_marathon.htm

Celebrate National Red Cross Month
with
Bratwurst, Beer and Bavarian Music
Saturday, March 15th, 2008
12:00 to 6:00pm

March is Red Cross Month, a time to celebrate the spirit of Red Cross employees, volunteers and donors who support critical needs across America.

The Red Cross draws its very identity from the millions of everyday heroes who donate their time, blood and financial resources to the organization. Whether you're a blood donor, a financial donor, volunteer or community partner – the American Red Cross celebrates **YOU** as one of Southern Maryland's Hometown Heroes who make it possible for us to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies.

Please join us, March 15, 2008, on the Point at Calvert Marina for a day of food and festivity. Ticket price includes a meal of your choice of Bratwurst (with or without the works), Hamburger or Hot Dog, German Potato Salad and choice of soda or water. Both German and American Beer will be available for purchase.

Entertainment provided by Washingtonia Bavarian Dance Group

Ticket prices

\$25.00 per adult

\$15.00 children ages 13 to 16

Children under 12 are free

Tickets available at the door or for Reservations Call

301-934-2066 ☐ 888-276-2767

Fax: 301-753-4042

Red Cross Reminds You~ Please Drink Responsibly

Spotlight on a Volunteer

This month it's **Vic Curtis**

Vic became interested in the Red Cross after a friend, who was a Red Cross Volunteer asked for help to fix a radio for the Charles County Chapter. That first request for help turned into a new chapter in his life. He has lived in Southern Maryland for over 40 years and is involved with many organizations. He has been a member of the Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club for over 30 years and has held several positions, such as President, Director, Repeater Trustee. He was President of the Thomas Stone Band Boosters for 3 years and is a founding member of the Charles County Teen Court where he has risen to the role of Community Judge after participating in the program for seven years. He has worked at the Naval Research Laboratory for 25 years in the field of Tactical Electronic Warfare as an RF Engineer. He has traveled around the world to make tests and measurements on Navy ships and various aircraft. He says you haven't lived until you have made a helicopter landing in the middle of the night in the Persian Gulf on a small ship!

He lives in Brandywine, Maryland with his wife of 24 years, Linda. They have two boys, Vic and Joey who both attend Frostburg State University. They all support him in his pursuit of the perfect barbequed chicken and in his work for the Red Cross! Everyone in the family is a licensed Amateur Radio operator and Joey is also a Red Cross member who has helped his father on many emergency communications operations for the chapter.

Vic has a motto, If it isn't fun, don't do it. The last few years working with so many of his friends, family and dedicated Red Cross staff and volunteers has been a real joy in his life.

“Meet the Staff”

Liz Kwasniak - Health and Safety Services, Pax River

I began volunteering for the Red Cross at the Upstate South Carolina Chapter in 2003 as a First Aid/CPR/AED instructor. At that time I taught for the local Girl Scout Council, as a chapter volunteer and at my place of employment, Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc. I was active as a Girl Scout leader/trainer and became a BBS Instructor for my council. After I learned that to take my girls swimming, I needed to have a Red Cross lifeguard with us, I became a lifeguard. When the lifeguard instructor left our council I volunteered to become a LG instructor as well. I came on board at the SOMD Chapter in July '07. I am currently working on becoming an IT for LR:FA/CPR/AED. I hope to soon become an IT for Lifeguarding as well. My goal as an instructor is to get my WSI certification as well as my WSIT. I love coming to work every day and being on board NAS Pax. I served in the Navy for almost 10 years so being at Pax makes me feel like I am home.

I want to see if anyone is reading the Newsletter! If you read this, email “Yes I Did” me at Bobg@somdredcross.org

I will put everyone’s name in a hat and pull out a name.
The winner will receive a nice Red Cross gift.

**“American Red Cross training
It’s Easy & Convenient!”
For all Health & Safety Classes
and
Disaster Classes
Visit the website to sign up.**

If you are a member of the Disaster Action Team and or plan to
Join the DAT, this class is for YOU!

Client Casework: Providing Emergency Assistance

**Conducting Effective Interviews
Climate Setting
Listening Challenges
Showing Empathy
How to ask Questions
Providing Assistance
Providing Information, Referrals, and Resources
Completing the 901 and CAC forms
Issuing the CAC Client Assistance Card
Completing the CAC form 1030
CAC Activation**

March 11th 6:30 to 10:00 at the La Plata office

Go to the web site and sign up....

And on

April 1st, no this is not a joke, April 1st at the La Plata office 6:30pm to 9:30pm

I am offering the class, Mass Care. This is an important part in Disaster Service.

The class covers the role of the Red Cross in providing mobile feeding and distributing supplies to

people affected during a disaster relief operation.

Go to <http://southernmaryland.redcross.org>

Click on Red Cross Services

Click on Classes

Go to bottom of the page,

Click on Online class registration or Online calendar

The Red Cross undertakes it first disaster relief mission

September 4, 1881: Michigan Forest Fire

The Red Cross undertakes it first disaster relief mission aiding victims of the fire, which left 125 people dead and thousands more homeless. Clara Barton responded by sending Dr. Julian Hubbell to Michigan as the first Red Cross field representative. Supplies and other assistance were contributed by the first local Red Cross society in Dansville, New York.

Want to read more? Visit

<http://www.redcross.org/museum/history/wildfires.asp>

Clara Barton home in Glen Echo, Maryland

Clara Barton National Historic Site commemorates the life of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. The home served as the headquarters and warehouse for the organization. The house is shown by guided tour only. There is no admission charge, open everyday, Tours start on the hour: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, Noon, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM

and 4:00 PM. <http://www.nps.gov/clba>

Wear the **Colors, Show your Pride!**

We now have ARC Shirts in different colors (**red**, **white**, and **blue**), Hats, Jackets, and First Aid Supplies for purchase at Chapter Headquarters! Please contact Diane at 1-888-276-2767.

Laughter is the Language of the World

