



# Medical Reserve NEWS

2015 Quarter I

**“Even if it’s a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man’s help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you don’t live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too.”**

*–Albert Schweitzer–*

*Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1952*



## **“See ya!” but never, “Goodbye”**

Those who said, “Retirement will be here before you know it” were right! My last day of work is April 1st...no foolin’.

On May 19, 2003 when I accepted the position of Project/Program Coordinator of the health district’s Medical Reserve Corps, I really thought it would be about a three year gig. Funding then was via a three year demonstration grant out of the US Surgeon General’s office, and I questioned whether the MRC would last beyond that three years. Then Katrina hit, which bolstered funding and interest in the Medical Reserve Corps across the country. At the end of 2014, there were 207,927 volunteers enrolled in 1,009 MRC units in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Palau, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Puerto Rico. The number of volunteers includes 196 for the MRC of SO NV.

To say it has been an honor and a privilege to have coordinated the MRC of So NV for the last twelve years doesn’t do justice to what I really feel. I sincerely feel blessed to have known you and experienced all we have experienced together. We’ve celebrated growth, milestones and work/personal occasions together and grieved a few losses. It’s been a joy.

So what do I do now, you ask? Around the middle of April I will load up the car and kayak and head east to visit family and friends and manage a boat race or two. At some point I’ll mosey south to Florida and find a place to hang my hat, kayak, canoe and SUP. I will absolutely visit Nevada...it’s a dry heat you know...and hope to see some of you when I do.

Until then, please continue to support the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada and the community it serves. Support new health district and MRC leadership and help them by submitting your thoughts, suggestions and feedback. You are a “unit,” and sustainability depends on everyone playing a part.

Best always, Your “P.”

# Importance of HAMs

MRC of SO NV Physician Assistant volunteer, Doug Young, on his journey to becoming a HAM radio operator:

About 30 years ago when cell phones were in their infancy I had a friend who was an HAM radio operator. I was fascinated by the fact that, even back then, he could walk out to his car and get on his radio and make a telephone call. This is a process known as autopatch. It's not used much anymore because cell phones are a dime a dozen. I was so intrigued by this ability and have been keenly interested in amateur radio ever since.



During last summer's Tremor 14 earthquake exercise I was one of the MRC volunteer medical providers in an Alternate Care Site (ACS) outside a local hospital. During our patient evaluation process it was evident the ACS inflatable facility was not designed to support the care of the patients with the mock injuries/illnesses we were receiving. We needed a way to communicate this issue to the hospital's ED and ask for help.

Following the Tremor 14 exercise I made the decision to get my Amateur Radio license. Paula Martel, coordinator of the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada, referred me to our local ARES/RACES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) group. They provided me with the information I needed and within 30 days I studied for, took and passed my Technician Class exam.

There have been many occasions when our MRC of NV unit has supported community events in areas where communication provided by HAM radio would be advantageous. During an actual disaster, such as one simulated during Tremor 14, there is a very real possibility our area would have limited communication options. This is EXACTLY why the Amateur Radio Service began. HAM radio operators have access to thousands of local radio operators (nearly 7000 in Nevada alone) as well as our own communication satellites and nationwide networks like ECHOLINK and the WIN SYSTEM. These can be used to communicate with other stations, states and even other countries during emergency/disaster situations.

Thinking about all this serious stuff provided me with a little more insight of the benefit of becoming a HAM radio operator. Now my kids have become interested in getting their licenses and we have had hours of quality time working together to build our own radio antennas and other fun projects. We also joined a local radio club [WWW.K7QQQ.org](http://WWW.K7QQQ.org). Please visit <http://www.ccnvares.org> for information.

Doug Young, Ph.D., PA-C

KG7MND

Medical Reserve Corp of Southern Nevada Volunteer

# MRC in ACTION

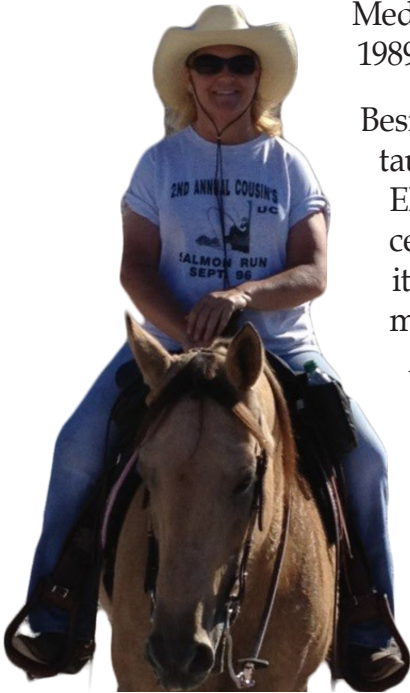
January-March



**(Clockwise from top):** Jose and a visitor participating in a Nature Conservancy event at the Clark County Wetlands Park; Steve administering flu vaccine to a Clark County Firefighter; Jan and Tom assisting our partner, the American Red Cross, with property assessments and providing mental health support following the Moapa floods; Allen administering the flu vaccine to Councilwoman Tarkanian at her Senior Harvest Festival; Remy, Artie, Carol and Nancy supporting the American Junior Golf Senior Tournament at Revere Golf Club.

## Meet Trish Beckwith

Trish Beckwith, one of two Training Officers with the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Southern Nevada Health District, will be assuming the coordinator duties for the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada following the retirement of Paula Martel. Many of you have met Trish during CPR, first aid or other training. Her background is forged in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). She has been involved in EMS in Las Vegas since 1989 and worked in the field as an EMT and then as a Paramedic since 1991.



Besides being a field medic, Trish has been an EMS educator and has taught for the College of Southern Nevada's EMS Program and for the EMS Training Center of Southern Nevada. She has several Instructor certifications including ACLS, AMLS, PHTLS, PALS, BLS and counts it an honor to instruct Tactical Casualty Combat Care to our nation's military and law enforcement personnel. Trish is member of the National Association of EMS Educators and the National Association of EMT's.

Although she has lived in Las Vegas almost her whole life and enjoys the excitement the city offers and outdoor activities that are available throughout the year due to the great weather, she is a mountain girl at heart and loves to camp. She has an amazing horse named Cheyenne who she has traveled and camped with all over the Western states.

Trish looks forward to more adventures with Cheyenne and to being a "champion" (her word) for the MRC of So NV.



## Congratulations

### Dr. Debbie White and Dr. Jon Pennell



*Dr. Debbie White*

Congratulations to MRC of SO NV veterinarian volunteers, Dr. Debbie White and Dr. Jon Pennell for being elected, respectively, as a board member and president of the Western Veterinary Conference. For 87 years this conference has been among the most highly anticipated events in the veterinary community. Over 12,000 participants attend this five day conference every year. The latest breakthroughs are announced, the most innovative techniques are shared, and lasting connections are made. Congratulations, Dr. White and Dr. Pennell!!



*Dr. Jon Pennell*

# QUARTERLY STATS

## EVENTS SUPPORTED:

- UNLV Poverty Simulation
- TB contact testing clinic (first aid)
- Blood pressure education/checks as part of American Heart Month
- Western Veterinary Conference Vet Tech Fair (veterinary/pet preparedness)

## TRAINING / PRESENTATION:

- Quarterly Training – Measles Update
- Professional Speakers Series, West Career and Technical Academy – several volunteers presented

## CPR / FIRST AID DATES FOR APRIL - JUNE:

Please contact Michelle at [stanton@snhdmail.org](mailto:stanton@snhdmail.org) if you are interested in taking a CPR or First Aid class. Please RSVP only if you are sure you are able to attend since space is limited. Thanks.

### CPR

March 18 and 27

April 24

May 11 and 29

### First Aid

March 11

April 29

May 13



## Be a Part of the MRC Team

For local information, contact  
Paula J. Martel, Program Coordinator  
Medical Reserve Corps  
Southern Nevada Health District  
P.O. Box 3902, Las Vegas, NV 89127  
(702) 759-0877, Fax (702) 759-1445  
[martel@snhdmail.org](mailto:martel@snhdmail.org)  
[www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org)  
<http://servnv.org>  
For national program information, go to  
[www.MedicalReserveCorps.gov](http://www.MedicalReserveCorps.gov)



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