

Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Bel Air Ridge Center - 2760 Claray  
Wednesday October 15, 2014 7pm

**Call to order:**

7:13pm

**Roll call**

**Present**

Chuck Maginnis  
Hildreth Simmons  
Dan Palmer  
Maureen Smith  
Irene Sandler  
Donna Larson  
Dr. Phil Larson  
Don Farkas  
Ron Cornell  
Joan Herman  
Buddy Jolton

**Affiliation/Title**

BABCNC Safety Chair, Bel Air Resident  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Bel Air Resident  
Bel Air Crest  
Casiano Park  
Casiano Park  
Casiano Park  
Bel Air Ridge  
Bel Air Ridge  
Casiano Estates

**Introduction of Attendees:**

Everyone introduced themselves and their association, or residential area.

**Approval of minutes:**

Hildreth Simmons motioned to approve the August 20 minutes, Maureen Smith seconded, minutes approved.

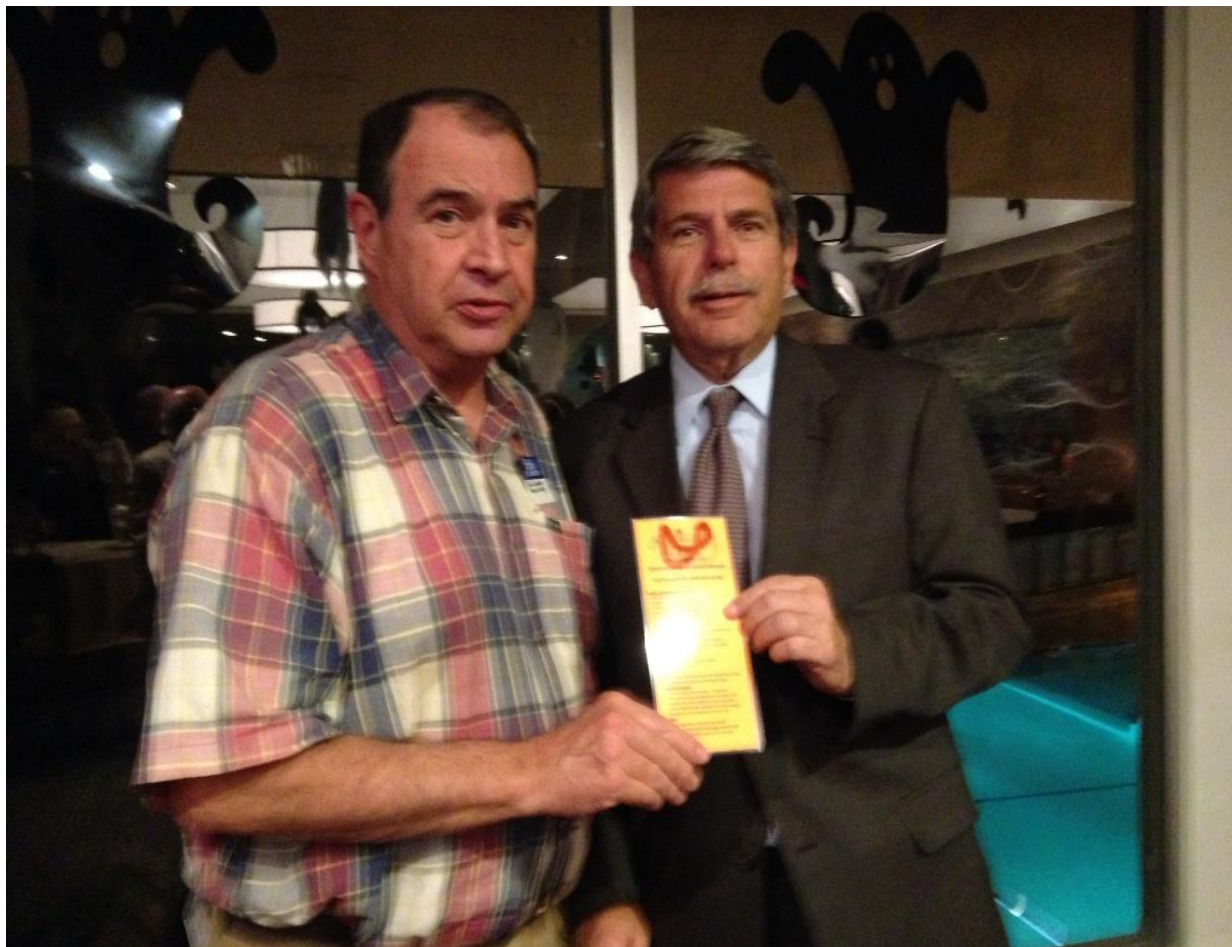
**Inter HOA Communications**

Ron Cornell started by stating that they have different levels of communications at Bel Air Ridge. Ham radios operators can go outside the area as Ron was part of the Axillary Communications System (ACS). This is the ultimate form of communications but a license is needed. It's not that complicated and does not require Morris Code and Ham radios can cost as little as \$145. But you need a repeater to communicate for distances although some are open for use. In addition, they have radios for official use only for the management staff, security people, and members of the Emergency Committee (EPAC). These radios are used for training purposes and emergencies. BA Ridge started using CB Radios 20 years ago with the Northridge earthquake although LAFD said it won't work during emergencies, since everyone will be filling channels. But it has worked well as many operators could not get into the GBA Ridge area. CB Radios are usually 1 or 2 watt and you receive around a mile per watt coverage with line of sight. With Roscomare Valley, it didn't work well due to hilly up and down slopes of the community. They developed another system for use years ago. But CB Radios has worked well for BA Ridge for different issues.

There is another radio called an FRS radio which also need line of sight and Ron feels it is less effective than a CB Radio, and of course the HAM Radio. Chuck inserted that he thought Residents of Beverly Glen implemented FRS several months ago which are used by construction sites. They also have a repeater which allows them to communicate over 3 miles from Sunset to Mulholland. Hildreth continued that she has a huge antenna with 6 large auto-like batteries and a solar panel which charges the system. Ron questioned whether a repeater is legal with FRS signaling as they were not legal with CB Radios. Ron mentioned that FRS stood for Family Radio System. Asked what system Ron uses and the response was a Kenwood radio but uncertain of communication source. Chuck mentioned it might be FRS and Don pointed out that he has used them but for short distances, similar to traffic flagmen. Chuck mentioned Dan with Residents of Beverly Glen would know. Ron had connected to someone on Beverly Glen from around the Four Oaks Restaurant area, but was scratchy further down the hill but fine at Sunset. UCLA was out of range. Hildreth stated that they get coverage even on off streets. Buddy asked if there was an earthquake or a fire coming, who in Residents of Beverly Glen would communicate. Hildreth inserted that the Emergency Preparedness Committee has an email notification system Chuck started that helped alert recipients of a recent Coldwater Canyon fire. In a major earthquake, phone lines will be jammed. Ron then answered that there is nothing in place today and mentioned this to Chuck a few years ago, that something is needed to tie the hillside canyons together. Ron feels CB Radio that is successful near the top of Mulholland may work. The LAFD did a drill around 7 years ago where Don participated and Ron stated that they could communicate with a ridge location on Roscomare. Don echoed that everyone needs communications within their community but also needs communications outside their community. Either CB Radio on a specified channel or HAM radio would be the best. If the LAFD could provide an antenna or repeater, Don suggested this would be great and the LAFD could have the Emergency Communication Specialist (ECS) report to them while coordinating this. Ron felt that LAFD could be the intermediary. Buddy then said that everyone is aware of the danger of a large earthquake, but what about intra-community communications and for those out of town. How are we able to help our community first? Ron responded that the intercommunity communications is needed to alert communities to be in a position to help within a community. Don cited that Ron's radio group during the Northridge earthquake was key to locating a plumber within 20 minutes to correct a gas leak, while Roscomare Valley had a similar leak which took four hours for the fire department to find and correct. Ron mentioned they didn't actually cap it off, rather limited the gas flow to 25%. They took a mallet and hammered a piece of wood in the pipe. Then Ron mentioned that the plumber Harvey was able to get the gas company to tap it off. Dan Palmer arrived and Chuck asked him to clarify the communication they use and Dan said it is not an FRS but a UHF. The radios cost just under \$200 while Ron's were \$250. The repeater was \$7000 along with a solar panel on a small trailer which ran marine grade batteries which made the operation off the grid with no electricity needed. Ron mentioned that this sounded like the radio system BA Ridge uses as they also have a generator which is used for any electrical outage. Chuck then asked Ron what he felt the benefits of having inter-radio communications were for the individual communities. Ron mentioned as example that there was a fire on Mulholland a few years ago and they had many people listening on the CB Radios verses having one on one cell phone conversations. Ron then suggested forming a committee with individuals like Don and Dan to discuss various methods of communications and how this could be implemented. Don said the big thing is communicating

to the fire department who could do something about the fire and then having everyone communicate to their community. Asked how this would help in an earthquake, Ron said the LAFD would pay attention to them if we are helping to protect the hills. Chuck mentioned that Michael couldn't attend tonight but is now a Ham radio operator and very interested in participating in communications. Chuck then handed out Go Tenna information that Ron sent him. These \$150 antennas for 2 will allow individuals to communicate for 1 to 6 miles depending on the terrain. From forest to forest it says 2-3 miles and BA Ridge to Roscamare is around 3 miles, perhaps worth a try as the price would be effective for multiple communities. It connects to your iPhones. Ron thinks this is interesting but doesn't have the tie in with the fire department Don mentioned. Don said it resembles walkie-talkies that China is using to communicate as authorities do not have access to the antennas. It also allows texting. Chuck asked if this was of interest and Ron felt the HAM radio is still the best method. But being that only few are licensed on HAM radios and everyone has smart phones, it could be of interest. Ron mentioned that a sub-committee might be more effective to research alternatives and find additional interest for hillside communications, and that he would chair the committee. Everyone agreed and will look forward their findings.

On a side note at the BABCNC October 23 meeting at the Mulholland Tennis Club, LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky graciously accepts an Emergency Preparedness placard from Safety Chair Chuck Maginnis below.



### Bel Air Park Presentation

Donna Larson started by providing hand-outs for those in attendance. The cover page was interesting and effective with "Emergency Preparedness" inserted between the Bel Air Park name on the guard shack and the flowers below. The second page thanked Chuck for his contributions to the presentation. Their goal was to help the two BA Park communities join forces to help their overall community. Next were "disaster denials" which connected with most listeners. Now retired & at home, Donna realized how poorly prepared she is for an emergency, compared to her past place of work. Next, disaster happens without warning as we have all heard it could be 3 to 5 days, or longer before response. She cited Katrina without running water in areas for long periods of time and that many residents have children at home needing attention. Then, have you planned for delays, lack of communication, and other perils? Pets also need to be in one's plan as Don asked if the shelters would now take pets. The answer was no, that a separate plan is necessary. Stating most people will not leave their pets, thereby leaving for a shelter is unrealistic for this reason. He suggests our committee deal with these issues that the city ignores. Now retired & at home, Donna realized how poorly prepared she is for an emergency, compared to her past place of work.

Chuck mentioned Bel Air Crest had a tennis court set up for pets with young adults supposedly monitoring that area. He also mentioned that Maureen distributed a sheet on pets which she will reproduce. With Donna announcing the "Be Prepared" survey, Chuck suggested having some fun by taking 5 minutes for everyone to complete the survey and finding the preparedness level of the group by writing the scores on a blank anonymous sheets. No scores were 0-15 being unprepared, 8 scored 16- 29 being close but not quite there, and one scored 30-36 being a Master of Disaster. Everyone seemed to enjoy the exercise and taking the test gives an awareness of where we all stand individually. The questionnaire was provided by Beverly Hills Emergency Management group and was also noticed in the LA city 5 step program, which Susan Rueben introduced to the group. Slide 8 described personal kits by Red Cross and a survival Guide from CERT. After this slide was presented to their homeowners, an example of an emergency pack was shown. Donna noted that masks are included in some of the packs and it is important that users know how to properly don and wear a mask.

Hildreth asked how someone prevent getting them moist and Donna responded that you can't, and just need to change them. Page 9 was about the EP program and how only 6% of the population is prepared. The LA Times article on BA Crest was included in the presentation along with the CERT program summary requiring 22 individuals for a training session. With the next slide stating that most residential communities are unprepared, Donna noted in red the explanation, "THAT'S US," which Chuck felt was excellent. Snap and Alert County LA was also included. Ron added that the 17 ½ hour CERT course was too long to enlist many people from his community but would rather an abbreviated course which could possibly be held at BA Ridge Clubhouse. You only get certified with the 17½ hour course. Chuck agreed that a weekend would be best as he took the 6-week course 4 years ago, but mentioned that the committee was given the abbreviated CERT course by LAFD Captain Christopher Cooper. He offered to ask Captain John Ignatczyk, who now heads CERT and has been to meetings, if he

could conduct another abbreviated meeting. Don mentioned there was a safety type presentation that lasted 2 hours. Donna completed by saying that they are following up with those participants who signed up, and those who didn't attend the meeting. She is also trying to coordinate with their other half of the community, Casiano Estates. Donna said they were then going to present this to the board, but read an LA Times Oct 5 article about liability which halted their presentation. This segmented into our next agenda topic as everyone thanked Donna for an excellent presentation.

### General topics of interest

Continuing on liability, Ron got nowhere with FEMA or the County, with no responses. We need the Office of Emergency Services to come up with a plan that will address this state wide. Chuck said he wrote Gil Garcetti hoping he would pass it on to Mayor Eric Garcetti. It needs to go to a higher level. Chuck says we will continue to work on this subject of liability. Ron suggested a committee to go after this, but it's a matter of getting someone with time to chair the committee. Maureen mentioned that Emergency Management might be good to have involved in this and Chuck thanked Maureen for suggesting them, as they will speak at our next meeting. Chuck mentioned that a list of important topics is now listed on the EP committee minute's page on the BABCNC website so topics of interest like Getty, BA Crest, CERT, escape routes, and Skirball as examples can be found more quickly. Next, Chuck asked the group what time the Great Shakeout is scheduled for tomorrow. Ron correctly responded 10:16am. Next, the Emergency Notification Company selected for the economical self-serve pay as you go service with no monthly fee, has decided to only allow messages on this platform to be delivered from 8am-5pm Monday through Friday due to regulations. Since limited delivery hours will not work for us, the BABCNC Emergency Voice Notification System is no longer operative, although our open listed email system can still serve to notify those listed via email. Chuck mentioned that another service with a monthly recurring fee would be the only other possibility which the NC would need to approve. Ron said that BA Ridge will try to do this next year. Call Fire is a company Ron mentioned. Chuck then mentioned that he has a copy of Harvard Westlake's emergency plan while we could perhaps get another one from Joh Thomas Dye. Emergency Management should be presenting at the next meeting. CPR training is available from a certified American Heart Institute individual Chuck met at a CERT event for \$25 for a 1½ hour session without certificate and \$70 for a 3 hour session with certificate, if anyone is interested. Rick Cole sent something about a sound blaster like the one on the Newport Beach coast, but cost \$25,000. Don mentioned that an Airborne horn was \$15 at Big 5 and they tested it, with the letter Q code (dash, dash, dot, dash) as in "God save the Queen (or) Here comes the bride," which might alert some people sleeping at night to wake up and turn on TV. When asked how far the sound might be heard, Ron suggested maybe 2 blocks as its only compressed air. This presents the same liability situation with who is going to announce and what are they going to say. Chuck liked it and Don sighted that 6 people died in a San Diego fire incident because no one woke them up at 3am. Concierge is another alert system via satellite and portable, costing \$5500. From the LA Times article, BA Crest heard from Florida, Studio City, Rowland Heights, Malibu Laguna Hills and MountainGate, individuals along with NBC, CBS and a French TV station, but declined TV interviews. There was a tremendous boost to our EP cause, and good publicity. On suggesting that this could cause a threat to Bel Air Crest for mentioning supplies, Irene had initially feared this, but this gated community has good security. For suggested topics

for our next meeting, Don mentioned a discussion on “shelter in place” where you have a little room or someplace in your house if it’s too late to evacuate a fire danger. It is also used for chemical disasters and different from sheltering places for those fleeing their homes which Captains Gonzalas addressed. The Captain also suggested leaving immediately if there’s a fire warning before it’s too late. And Chuck recalled many Oakland victims who died in their autos while log jammed trying to get out. Don mentioned they only had 15 minutes to leave and also feels the LAFD plan is not realistic. Chuck made the Captain’s message of “get out” very clear. Don continued that traffic control is not well planned and Ron agreed, that there would be chaos. Ron suggested that shelter in place and communications should go hand in hand. Chuck explained this has been discussed but the LAFD doesn’t know until the situation presents itself. Don suggested traffic be stopped at Ventura or Sunset. Ron feels we need to have these discussions with LAFD and feels the NC would gain the most attention to this matter. The intention is to have County Emergency Management at the next meeting and perhaps we can have Captain John Ignatczyk join us. Our next meeting will be in January but Ron is unsure if the clubhouse will be available. Possibilities include Stephen Wise Temple where Buddy’s group meets, AJU or Les River off Beverly Glen. Donna also mentioned more on triage is another topic of interest.

Adjournment at 9:10 pm

Chuck Maginnis  
Submitted: December 4, 2014  
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