



SERVING TUOLUMNE COUNTY

MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2021

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Thanksgiving always reminds us of all of the good things in our lives. Carol Hallett starts us off this month by reflecting on some things for which most of us can be thankful. John Buckingham has some tips to stay safe as we enter this holiday season, and we'll take a look at our deployment to help keep people safe as they came to view the Capitol Christmas tree. Later in this issue, we profile member Allan Hancock, learn about ways in which we can be good stewards of the land, and see what some of our CERT members were up to when "off duty". Our UAV Unit did some training, Mike Mandell was promoted, and many of us attended a virtual meeting regarding the issues surrounding Fire Safety and Emergency Communications. Our unofficial flag unit was busy, we received some nice recognition from one of our County Supervisors, and RAD cards are now available in Tuolumne County. And we tell you some of the events to look forward to in December.

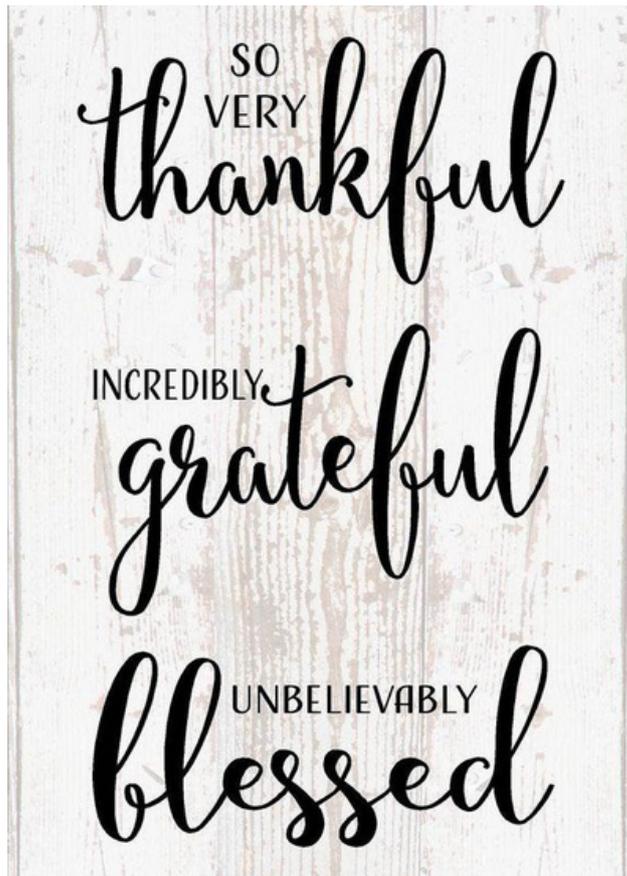
We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on safety and health.

If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.



NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



I am “so very thankful, incredibly grateful and unbelievably blessed”. This quote has me written all over it!

I am so very thankful for my family, my friends and my health. All three of these make my world absolutely perfect. They are intertwined, without one the others would be lacking.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity called life. Where I am able to go out and help others, be part of a community that cares about each other and to have the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than me.

I am unbelievably blessed for all the people in my life, the love that I experience everyday and the warmth that fills my heart feels when I look out my

window and see the picturesque location where I live and call home.

I hope you all had a wonderfully happy Thanksgiving with friends and family.

SAFETY TIPS FOR DECEMBER

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer, THA-CERT

- 1) December is the deadliest month for electrical fires! Be careful and aware of your electrical connections and their proximity to combustible sources
- 2) Manage Heating equipment, furnaces and fireplaces to avoid fires
- 3) Don't leave lighted candles unattended and place decorations away from open flames
- 4) Grease fires, be knowledgeable on what to do with a grease fire while cooking
- 5) Don't post your travel plans on social media

Remember, a safe holiday is a happy holiday!

CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE DEPLOYMENT

by Lee Smith, Traffic/Crowd Control Unit Leader, THA-CERT

Editor's note: The caravan transporting the Christmas tree for the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. stopped by Sonora's Mother Lode Fairgrounds, en route to our nation's capitol, on Wednesday, November 3rd.

The Capitol Christmas tree deployment started like clockwork. Lise (Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief for THA-CERT) ensured that all volunteers showed up on time. We did a quick huddle and went over the overview on the theory of placement of everyone for the Traffic Control. All were in good spirits.

Everything went like clockwork. I really didn't expect a huge turnout...WRONG!! We filled the primary lot completely so we had to start parking around the Ag display area. Everyone hustled and adjusted, moved their location, and performed beautifully.



Unit Leader Lee Smith (far right) gives CERT volunteers (from left) Sandra Walker, Mike Mandell, Lise Lemonnier, Rich Combs, and Matt Kain, an overview of operations for the Capitol Christmas tree deployment



The trailer for the Capitol Christmas Tree (above) provides a map of the route the tree will take.

Visitors (right) were able to view the tree up close.



Nobody got run over or hit, and there were very few frowns; there were, however, lots of kids and lots of smiles. Hot chocolate, candy, and other treats were provided for guests.

The Forestry Department, the mounted Sheriff's Posse, and many other government agencies were there. Everyone who was there from Twain Harte Area CERT worked hard and we had a great result. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this possible.

CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE DEPLOYMENT, *cont'd*



The tree (left) will be displayed at the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

The Sheriff's Posse (right) helps escort the Capitol Christmas Tree to the fairgrounds in Sonora



Santa arrived in a vintage fire engine to help with the festivities.

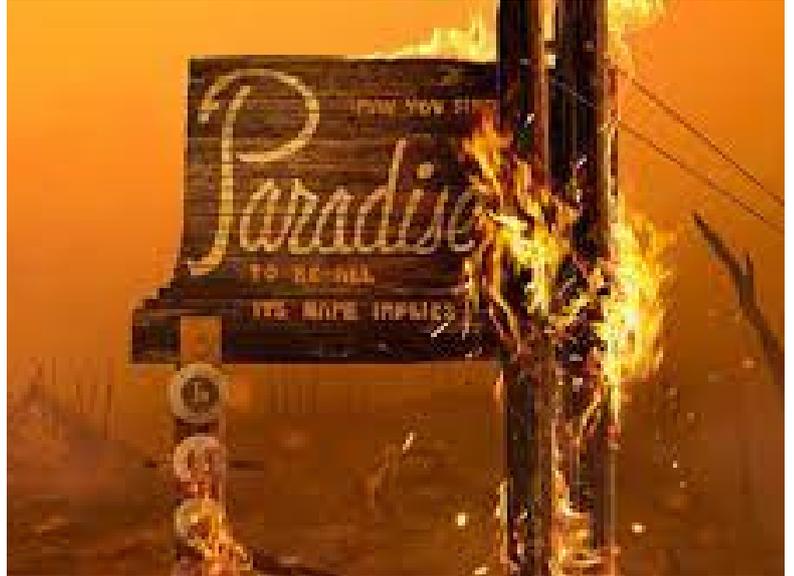
FIRE SAFETY & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

by Rich Combs, Member, THA-CERT

A broad cast of characters watched a presentation by Alan Thompson covering "Lessons Learned from the Paradise Camp Fire of 2018", detailing the clear and present danger we now face from an over-dependence on vulnerable Internet and telecom services, and the urgent need for backup emergency-communications systems.

There were representatives from THA-CERT, Groveland Area CERT, TCARES, Tuolumne OES, Tuolumne Board of Supervisors, Strawberry HOA, Friends of Pinecrest, Pinecrest Fire, Strawberry Fire, Columbia Fire, Cold Springs HOA, Cow Creek HOA, as well as a number of concerned individuals.

The presentation stretched to just over an hour, with an additional one-hour Q & A session.



While the presenter, Alan Thompson, did not give “the solution” to the topic, he did show what had worked, and not worked, in a variety of disaster situations, primarily focused on the Paradise Fire of 2018. The Paradise region had a population very similar to Tuolumne County.

Hopefully all the agencies involved, including CERT, will use the information to evaluate the robustness and appropriateness of their current response paradigm. The presentation was recorded and will be available to all interested.

If you wish to receive a link to the talk, please contact Rich Combs at twainhartecert@gmail.com.

AMAZING COMMUNITY

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

Donations were needed and the community came through in an amazing way.

Our Firefighter Rehab Unit Leader, Randie Revilla, along with our UAV Unit Leader, Michelle Wagner, and I met to review all the items needed to complete the required items for the Firefighter Rehab Vehicle.

We gave the list of needs to our Fund Raiser Coordinator, Linda Postma. She contacted different people in the community to see if we could get things donated. One of the people that she contacted was Matt Rose at Adventist Health. Matt made a commitment

AMAZING COMMUNITY, cont'd

to donate items to us; if this sounds familiar it is because we reported this a few months ago.

After we reported it Groveland Area CERT went to the hospital and made a similar request and it was granted.

Groveland CERT received a check for \$1,000.00 to purchase items for their Firefighter Rehab needs.

Linda went back to Matt and found out that the hospital thought CERT was CERT. We clarified that there are two CERT teams in Tuolumne County now, Groveland Area and Twain Harte Area. Matt said, "We will make this right".

This month we received a \$2700.00 check to purchase the items that are on our needs list. Randie Revilla is in the process of purchasing all the items we need to complete our inventory list.

Thank you to Adventist Health and Matt Rose for being such an amazing partner and caring so much about our community and our firefighters.



MEMBER PROFILE: ALLAN HANCOCK

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

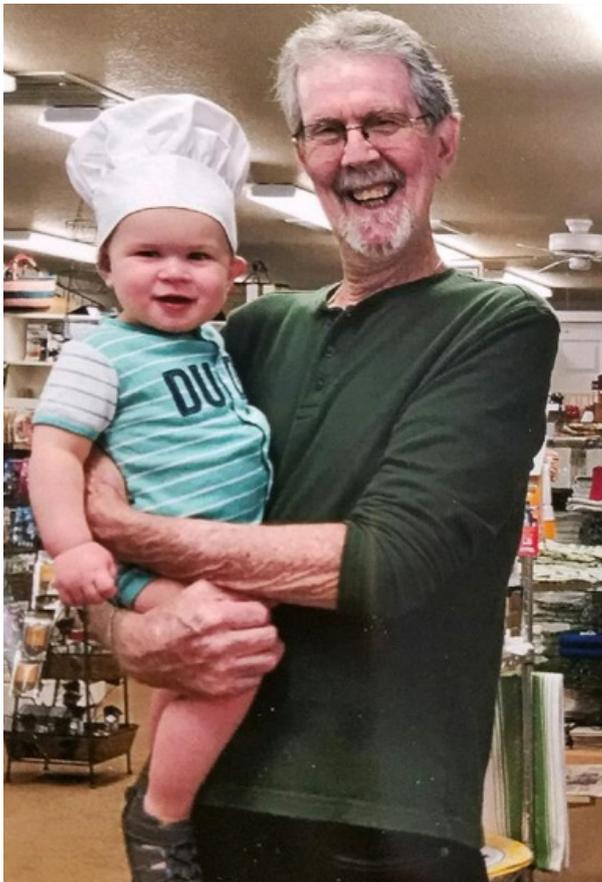
A familiar refrain I hear from people when I inform them that Carol (Program Manager Carol Hallett) has elected them to be profiled this month is, "Why me?" and Allan Hancock was no exception.

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Allan and his wife Carol in their shop, "The Harte of the Kitchen", in Twain Harte.

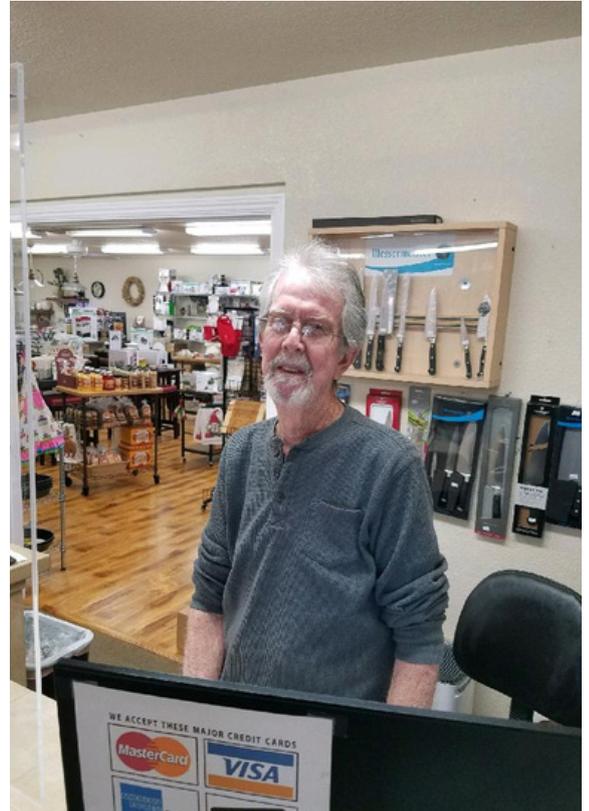
Still protesting that he was "boring" and that no one would be interested in reading about him, Allan shared some of his story with me (and by extension, you).

He grew up in Turlock, attending local schools, until he went to Columbia to attend Columbia College as a forestry major. During the summer, Allan would work for the California Department of Forestry and lived in the barracks.

Allan worked for three years with the Department of Forestry, and then returned to Turlock to work for his dad at Turlock Floor Covering and eventually took over the business from this father. Allan sold the business in 1995 and started A & H Floor Covering in Ceres, CA.



(left) Allan and his great-nephew, Henry Allan



(above) Allan mans the register in "The Harte of the Kitchen"

Allan met his wife, Carol, via mutual friends at a party in 1972. They have been married for 48 1/2 years.

Allan has loved Tuolumne county since his Columbia College days and he and Carol bought a house in Twain Harte, while still living and working in Turlock. The couple eventually moved up to Twain Harte and Allan worked for Quality Floors in Standard.

It was during a shopping trip to a kitchen store in Copperopolis to buy their niece a gift that they realized that Twain Harte needed a kitchen store, so they bought their store and have been in business there on the corner of Joaquin Gully and Meadow Drive for 10 1/2 years.

MEMBER PROFILE: ALLAN HANCOCK

In 2016, Carol Hallett helped Carol Hancock with the expansion on the Kitchen store into the space next door. The expanded area allows them to offer special events like cooking classes and their popular Thursday evening "Sips and Snacks".



It was while Carol Hallett was assisting with the expansion that Allan learned about CERT and he became a member shortly after.

Allan says he really likes helping people and always enjoyed the monthly meeting/trainings, until they were put on hold, due to the Pandemic; he is happy that they have become a regular item again. But most of all, he really appreciates that one of CERT's most steadfast rules is that family comes first.

(left) Allan assists in putting flags up for Veterans Day earlier this month

PROMOTION OF MIKE MANDELL

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

I am proud to announce that Mike Mandell has accepted the position of Team Leader for THA-CERT. He will continue to hold the position of Operations Section Chief as well, until we find someone who would like to work with him in that position.

Mike is an extremely valuable member of our team and our community; it is my privilege to work with him.

With Mike in the position of Team Leader it will allow me to (as the Program Manager) focus on looking and working on the future of THA-CERT as well as the growth of the team.



GOOD STEWARD OF THE LAND

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

It is a privilege to be able to purchase land but along with that privilege comes responsibility. We take that responsibility to heart and have always striven to be good stewards of the land.

We have been developing and working on our property for 20 years. When we bought it there was only trees, bushes, a creek and boulders. We put in all the utilities, encroachments, driveways and structures. I always say that I learned the true meaning of the phrase, “you can’t see the forest for the trees”. That was our property...so thick with trees and brushes you could not even walk through it.

Each year we trimmed up the tress, thinned out the brush and cut down dead or dying trees. Each year the land looked bigger and better.

We did a pretty good job with our “Defensible Space” and “Roadside Clearance” but the back part of our property needed to be a “Shaded Fuel Break”. That was a bigger project than we could accomplish ourselves. We also felt pressure because of the dryer winters and the long hot summers we were worried that if a fire started it would very quickly get out of control.



We decided it was a good time to call in a professional. We got a hold of Ron Yates at Sierra Vegetation Management and told him we wanted shaded fuel break on the hill that leads up to our neighbor’s house. It is the back part of our property and we don’t really see it much but we knew that if a fire started there it would have lots of fuel and go quickly up the hill, which could be horrible for the firefighters, our neighbors and Twain Harte.

Ron came with his skid steer masticator and a helper. They cut down and trimmed trees, then they mulched everything that was on the ground. The result each day was simply amazing.

As our property transformed each day from a fire hazard to a park like setting, a weight was lifted knowing that we were making a real difference in the fight against forest fires, protecting our neighborhood and being good stewards to the land.

GOOD STEWARD OF THE LAND, cont'd

Terms:

Defensible Space: Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat.

Roadside Clearance: Trim up and clear trees, shrubs and bushes along the roadside to ensure passage if the canopy catches fire.

Shaded Fuel Break: A shaded fuel break is a forest management strategy used for mitigating the threat of wildfire in areas where natural fire regimes have been suppressed, leading to a dangerous buildup of combustible vegetation.

LIGHT UP THE TOWN

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

This is my favorite time of the year when we get to light up the town with Christmas Lights. This is not a CERT function but some of my CERT friends come to help.

The idea is to light up the parade route for our sweet little Christmas Parade. The lights are supplied by the merchants, donated by residents or purchased to ensure that we have the street lit up and festive.



Bob Schreiner, Allan Hancock, and Matt Kain hang lights, while Carol Hallett supervises



Mike Mandell (above) hangs lights, while Allan Hancock and Matt Kain assist

I want to thank all of those who helped; Bob Schreiner, Mary Schreiner, Allan Hancock, Matt Kain, and Mike Mandell.

We spent three days (2 hours each day) and the results are delightful. I hope you get a chance to enjoy the picturesque town of Twain Harte this holiday season.

VETERANS DAY

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

Veteran's Day-A day to remember those who have served our country. They have made many sacrifices for our freedom. The least we can do is honor them.



Allan Hancock (left) assists Mike Mandell with hanging a flag

Thank you Veterans!

Our THA-CERT team showed off our country's colors for this holiday. A small team of members came out on Sunday and put up 44 American flags throughout downtown Twain Harte.

(Un)fortunately we had over an inch of rain on Tuesday. These flags are all cotton and very heavy, and the rain caused a few to break the flag poles. Allan Hancock retrieved them to safety. They were washed and ironed and put back onto their poles. We lost one flag to a bad tear.

The flags were up all week in honor of our Veterans. The same small team took them down on the following Saturday.

These flags will go back up for Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July.



The "Flag Crew", (from left) John Bagnall, John Buckingham, Allan Hancock, Lise Lemonnier, and Mike Mandell

UAV FLIGHT

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

This month our UAV (Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle) took flight, Ben Wagner as the pilot, Carol Hallett as the visual observer (VO on a beautiful fall morning. The skies were clear, the sun was warm and Mother Nature was basking in all her glory.



Aerial view of Twain Harte Lake taken by the UAV

We decide to take our first flight down at Twain Harte Lake. We set up on the rock below the dam and decided to start our flight from there. Taking in all the sites from below the dam and then rising up over it to see the water just sitting there majestically. The flight continued skimming over the water above some ducks that were quietly swimming along.

We ended the flight along the beach and up to have a view of the magnificent conifers that were the most spectacular color of green.

We packed up our gear and headed to town. This time we wanted a view of our peaceful little town. We tested having multiple visual observers this time. Allan Hancock was in town by the Arch and I was down across from Wayne's Station with Ben. We communicated using our cell phones. We decided on a plan. We discussed the hand off of the UAV from one VO to the other. Allan also gave us a heads up on traffic flow so that we were not a nuisance.

We flew up Twain Harte Drive and over the Arch and then along Joaquin Gully and up over the trees as an ending of the shot. We then took a flight that went under the arch; we were successful in doing that flight twice. We got some beautiful footage of the area and some great training for the team. Thanks to Ben and Allan for being part of our ever-giving team. And thanks to Twain Harte for being the beautiful place where we live.

RAD CARDS IN TUOLUMNE COUNTY

by Dawn Cronin, Training Manager, THA-CERT

Thanks to a \$500,000 grant received by our county, the RAD Card is now available in Tuolumne County.

The RAD Card program incentivizes customers to shop at local businesses. The grant funds allow our county to double your spending dollars, and is designed to boost shop-local traffic in our community.

RAD Card, a dollar for dollar match program, is a gift card app that you download to your smart phone. When you upload \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 to your RAD Card account, you will receive double the amount to spend at participating small businesses in Tuolumne County! New businesses are joining the program every day. Once you

receive the funds, they don't expire. However, once the county's funds are depleted, they're gone, so get yours soon!

Download the RAD Card app today and start spending!

You can visit <http://www.TheRadCard.com> to learn more. Happy Shopping!

Twain Harte businesses ready and waiting for Christmas shoppers (right)



WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

The hours spent for THA-CERT in November are:

Administration =	161
Training =	27
Deployment =	<u>109</u>

Total hours for November : 297

We were busy little bees!

RECEIVING THANKS

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

As we have said before, we here at CERT don't do what we do for the recognition, but it's always nice to be appreciated. We received a nice note from District 4 Supervisor, Kathleen Haff.

The note reads:

"Dear Carol and the Twain Harte CERT team

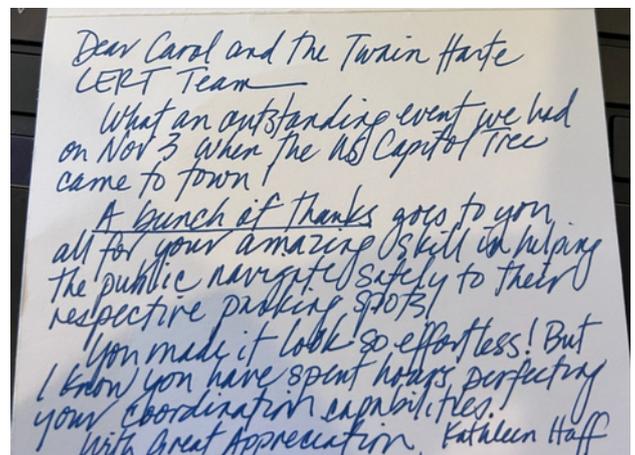
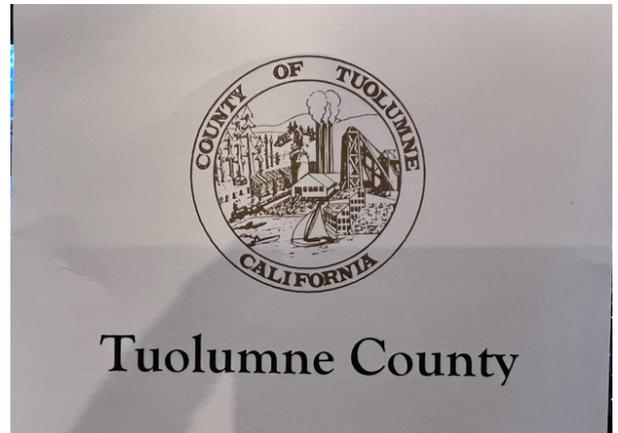
What an outstanding event we had on Nov 3 when the US Capitol Tree came to town!

A bunch of thanks goes to you all for your amazing skill in helping the public navigate safely to their respective parking spots.

You made it look so effortless! But I know you have spent hours perfecting your coordination capabilities.

With great appreciation,
Kathleen Haff"

Thank you, Supervisor Haff!



WHAT'S NEXT

Here are a few of the events coming up in December:

Twain Harte Christmas Parade

Friday, December 3rd

Carols: 5:30, Tree lighting: 6:00, parade immediately following tree lighting

Tuolumne Township Christmas Parade and Craft Fair

Friday, December 11th

Parade: 6 pm Friday

Craft Fair: Friday 4pm - 8 pm Friday, 10 am - 2 pm Saturday

Reminder: There is no CERT monthly training in December. the next meeting is in January.



Twain Harte Christmas Parade