



the REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc. (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) November/December 1991

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September 16, 1990 the gasoline tanker M. V. Jupiter exploded in the Saginaw River. Twenty-nine members of Bay County REACT Team #3301 worked over 300 hours in conjunction with local authorities. Story on page 2.

REACT International, Inc.

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Are Safety Breaks Safe?

REACT RESPONSIBILITY

by Ron W. McCracken

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REACTing carries with it responsibilities.

We have a major responsibility to monitor CB Emergency Channel 9. Is your radio on right now for that potential life-and-death call? Great!

We have a responsibility to help people learn to use their CB radios correctly in emergencies. Do your Team members each carry a supply of the REACT leaflet "Getting Help by CB Radio" in their car glove boxes? Do they place a copy on the driver's side window of every CB-equipped vehicle they see at malls, rest areas, etc.? Super!

How many speakers has your Team sent out this year? Seniors or disabled groups are especially important ones to address. Service clubs and community groups are key audiences too. Often, these speaking engagements bring donations, then or later, to support your Team's safety

programs.

We have a responsibility to use the media to alert the public to REACT, and how to use their CB's correctly in emergencies. How many news releases has your Team or Council issued this year? How well are you using cable TV "bulletin boards" for this purpose? Keep it up! Headquarters and the Public Relations Task Group have given you a new tool to promote both your Team and correct emergency operation. It is on the inside back cover of the July/August issue of the REACTer. Send us samples of the ways your Team or Council finds to use it. It is one more tool to help you in your responsibilities as a REACTer. Have fun with it!

Is your REACT Team fulfilling all or most of the responsibilities noted above? Take a bow!

If it is not, you can be the one to encourage your Team mates. Volunteer to work on expanding one area of your Team's outreach to the community.

If each of us does a little, REACT and the public will benefit a lot. Do your bit!

CHILD LOOKING FOR GUINNESS RECORD

Craig Shergold is a terminally ill seven year old child from Carshalton, London. Craig's wish is to be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as an individual having received the largest number of get-well cards. To date Craig has received over 30 million get well cards. Any REACTer wishing to help Craig achieve his goal, please mail your get well wish or a REACT business card to the address listed below.

Craig Shergold
c/o The Children's
Wish Foundation
32 Perimeter Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30346

ON THE COVER

BAY COUNTY REACT HELPS DURING TANKER EXPLOSION

by Barb Nelson

Bay County REACT Team #3301, Bay City, Michigan, has had a very busy year so far. On September 16, 1990, the gasoline tanker M.V. Jupiter exploded in the Saginaw River while unloading at a refinery dock in Bay City. The explosion and the continued efforts to extinguish the blaze received international news coverage.

Twenty nine Team members from #3301 worked 329 1/2 hours in conjunction with local police agencies, the Emergency Services team, the American Red Cross and local fire departments. As the M.V. Jupiter continued to blaze, the REACT Team set up and manned communications for the American Red Cross. The Team

patrolled boundary areas to keep people back to a safe distance from the fire scene. Team #3301 also set up and manned an evacuation center, should it have been needed. Team members made and served coffee to hundreds of emergency workers.

The Team was presented with a \$250.00 donation from the owners of the M.V. Jupiter, Ashland Oil Company, and a \$250.00 donation from the owners of the refinery, Total Petroleum. The Team was also honored with a Volunteer of the Month certificate from the Volunteer Action Center. The Teams effort's along with all the emergency teams, brought a safe end to the potentially disastrous

situation in the city.

The Team has also been busy with both the Winter and Summer Games of the Special Olympics and a 30-hour fund-raiser telethon in April. In May, Team #3301 worked a 12-hour bike-a-thon, a biathlon, a DARE race, the Armistice Day parade to honor all of the returning troops and the Memorial Day Operation Care.

The Team worked the Fourth of July Operation Care and the 4th of July fireworks as well as the Labor Day Operation Care. Bay County REACT is always ready and willing to work any community event that should come up in between their scheduled events.

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**the
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HEADQUARTERS REPORT

By now all Teams should have received their 1992 Team Renewal Packages. These packages were mailed to all current REACT Teams via first class mail in mid October. If you have not received your renewal packet, please contact Headquarters at once.

Again, this year International is having the "Renewal Lottery Contest." This years' lottery contest is promising to be one of the biggest ones yet! So don't delay, mail your Team's renewals in as soon as possible. By the way, Headquarters has requested that renewals be sent to the P.O. Box. Any Team complying with this request will automatically get an additional chance in the Lottery Contest. I am hoping to see all renewals be sent to the mailing address instead of our physical address.

Remember, that this time of the year is the biggest rush of renewals and I, of all people realize sometimes problems arise or things get lost in the haste. Please read the notices to help solve any problems that might arise.

To the Members: All renewing or new members of REACT (no matter what type of membership you have) is issued a membership card from International. If you do not receive a card from International through your Team, there may be a problem. Either contact a Team officer or REACT International as to the status of your membership. This way, any problems can be corrected in short order.

In the July/August issue of the REACTer there was an article from San Antonio REACT Team #3622. In this issue of the REACTer on page 24 is a follow-up of what occurred after the March 24th, "3rd Annual Bush Canned Foods Menudo Cook-off" fire. This incident is a perfect example of what the REACT liability insurance coverage can do. All Teams and members are encouraged to read just how the liability insurance worked for Team #3622. Headquarters would like to thank Lee Besing, President of San Antonio REACT for sharing their Teams experiences with others.

Well it's that time of the year again! The holiday season is a time for gathering with your friends and families. A time to remember our loved ones. It's a time for good food and joyous fun as well as helping our fellow man.

Lynda and I would like to wish each and every REACTer a safe and happy holiday season. Be safe and be happy, you deserve it. We'll talk again next year!

SPECIAL NOTICES

To the Teams: When you receive your membership cards, please check for accuracy and to insure that all renewing and or new members cards are there. Try to hand these cards out at your first available Team meeting. This helps assure that each paid member knows they have been updated at International.

**DON'T FORGET!
 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
 THE SPECIAL CURRENTLY
 OFFERED ON THE
 MONITORING AND GMRS
 TRAINING MANUALS!!!
 ORDER YOURS BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1991
 AND RECEIVE EACH MODULE
 FOR ONLY \$6.00!!!
 ORDER FORM ON PAGE 16!!!**

REACT TEAM ASSISTS AT MV DAYS

by Charles Beckmeier, Vice President
Lake Washington REACT #4784

In the past years, I have carried an 'Official Member of REACT' sticker on the face of my personal check book. This has prompted several questions to be fielded in my direction. One of the most frequently asked questions is "What is REACT?"

My answer to this question is: "REACT" stands for Radio Emergency Association Communications Teams.

There are approximately 600 chartered REACT Teams internationally. Citizen Band Radio Operators, Amateur Radio operators (HAMS), General Mobile Radio Service licensees (GMRS) and Cellular Telephone owners. All this radio equipment is used for relating emergency and motorist assistance requests from the public. These calls are then reported to the proper authorities by the way of the telephone in an expedient manner.

Citizen's Band Radio is still to this day the least expensive two-way radio system that is readily available to the general public. Anyone may operate a CB radio. There is no special education or knowledge required. It is not licensed, however, a user must follow some basic rules and regulations as set forth by the Federal Communications Commission. There are 40 channels from

which the user can choose. The FCC has set aside Channel 9 as the official emergency calling channel. Communications on Channel 9 are restricted to emergencies, motorist and boater assistance, and the relating of personal telephone calls. This is all part of the service we provide.

REACT members do this on a voluntary basis, the only reward is when a person whom we have helped on the radio, calls back later and says: "Thanks for being there."

Lake Washington REACT is one year old and small in size; however large in expertise in the field of supplemental radio communications. All of our members have helped out in many past Maple Valley Days Celebrations, having been associated with other REACT Teams.

COMMUNICATION CENTER

At this year's Maple Valley Celebration, Lake Washington REACT will have the use of a motor coach as a communication center, and will work close to the fire department trailer, located at the Lake Wilderness Elementary School.

During the parade event, REACT members can be seen along the parade route and at the parade revue stand. After the parade, members will be at an information booth just outside of the motor home and will be willing to answer your questions. On Sunday morning, Lake Washington REACT will be providing communications in support of the Bear Run around Lake Wilderness.



Lake Washington REACT with the assistance of Evergreen REACT provided supplementary communications in support of Maple Valley Days, Maple Valley, Washington on June 1st and 2nd, 1991. REACT members are identified from left to right. Evergreen REACT members Christine Tuffeland, Rich Tuffeland, and Cori Tuffeland. Lake Washington REACT members Richard Gamble, Charles Beckmeier, Irene Copher, Bud Mikelsen and Kathy Beckmeier.

(The above article was excerpted from the Maple Valley Days Directory, a 46 page free publication given out to visitors during the celebration. A story such as this, provided to your community during events, is a great tool in publicizing not only your local Team, but the REACT program as well).

LOUDOUN COUNTY REACT ASSISTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY'S EIGHTH ANNUAL MS 150K BIKE TOUR

The Loudoun County REACT Team #4459, Sterling, Virginia, members John Kracke, Art Brendel, Craig Burget, Pat Maine, Fred Wodell and Fred Wodell, II teamed up with the Vienna Wireless Amateur Radio Club, and the Silver Wings Motor Cycle Club to provide communications and emergency road assistance during the eighth annual MS 150K Bike Tour on May 19 and 20. Primary communications were conducted on 2 Meter Amateur Radio since the bike tour covered some pretty rugged mountainous terrain and routine communications with citizens band radio was somewhat limited.

John, Art, Craig and Pat are Amateur Radio Operators with the Loudoun County REACT Team. These members used both Ham and CB to relay traffic between the other members of the REACT Team and Silver Wings, whose primary means of communication was with CB. Craig Burget went the extra mile (no pun intended) and participated as a rider in the bike tour and doubled as a "Ride

Marshall." This meant that he not only rode his bike along with the rest of the bike tour but also used his radio to provide situation reports as he peddled his way along the trails and roads. In doing so he provided the needed communications from areas that could not be accessed by motorized traffic.

According to Tina Friend, the project coordinator, this year's bike tour was a tremendous success with over 1,700 riders participating in the two day event. In all over \$200,000.00 was raised for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Ms. Friend also attributed the success of the event to the numerous volunteers who spent countless hours assisting with preparation and organization of the event. Especially the assistance provided by the Radio Operators and support personnel for obtaining or rendering first aid to fallen riders, repairing numerous flat tires and providing moral support along the entire route. This is the second year that Loudoun County REACT has participated in the event.

HIGH COUNTRY REACT OFFERS CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING PERSONS

High Country REACT in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is supporting the extended search for Heather Church. This 13 year old girl disappeared from her home in September as she baby sat a younger brother. She could be anywhere in the country today. Any REACT Team willing to help distribute posters in their area are asked to contact High Country REACT at 3624 Citadel Drive North, Suite 309, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909 or call 719/596-1178.

High Country REACT is interested in establishing a REACT wide clearinghouse for teams which are supporting searches for missing persons. At the present time there is no

way for a team to contact other teams across the country who would definitely be willing to give posters to local police, hospitals and other high exposure agencies. REACT members also offer a large pool of extra eyes who could be looking for missing persons.

If your team would be interested in exchanging information on missing persons with other REACT Teams and supporting such long term search activity, please send the name and address of a contact person to High Country REACT. The Team will maintain a directory of contact persons and is willing to help nationwide with poster distribution.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November, 1991 - Maine REACT Council invites all Teams and members to attend a New England Conference to be held in the Framingham-Natic area. For more information write: Jim Koritzky, P.O. Box 2272, Bangor, ME04402-2272.

November 8-10, 1991 - Indiana REACT Council State Convention. To be held at the Best Western Motel, Anderson, Indiana. For more information contact Dee Morgan at 317/357-4425.

November 9, 1991 - 15th Anniversary Texas State REACT Council Meeting to be held in Austin, Texas. Please contact the Council for further details.

November 17, 1991 - Northern California REACT Council meeting. Please contact your team representative for the agenda and directions to the meeting.

December 8, 1991 - New Jersey Council of REACT Teams meeting. For further details please contact Dick Cooper, RD 3, Box 2533, Allentown, NJ08501 or phone (609)259-7088.

February 15, 1992 - Texas Area V Council meeting. To be hosted by San Antonio REACT #3622 at the American Red Cross Headquarters. For further details please contact the Team or Council.

March 14-15, 1992 - Nebraska State Council of REACT Teams, Inc., Spring Conference. For further details please contact the Council.

July 20-24, 1992 - REACT International Convention, to be held in Anderson, Indiana. Further details in upcoming issues of theREACTer.

OTHER EVENTS

Thanksgiving Holiday - Headquarters will be closed November 28-29 for the holiday. The office will re-open on December 2nd, 1991.

Christmas Holiday - Headquarters will be closed from noon on December 24 through December 25, 1991. The office will re-open on December 26, 1991.

New Year's Holiday - Headquarters will be closed from noon on December 31 through January 1, 1992. The office will re-open on January 2, 1992.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Councils please provide notice of your meetings and conferences to the REACTer for inclusion under this column. Please submit meeting date, place, time, particulars and a FMI contact. Please provide this information as far in advance as possible. It's your opportunity to announce your event!!!

T A K E T A K E

H E E D ; H E A R T



Remember this the next time a critic knocks CB Channel 9 and your Team's monitoring.

An MRT editorial calls again for ATIS (automatic transmitter identification signals) to reduce illegal operations in the land mobile radio service. It also cites lack of FCC enforcement (and, unlike CB, LMR operators also pay FCC license fees). Share this with the next critic who tells you CB and Channel 9 are a waste of radio spectrum.

PC also told of an Ohio ham operator charged by FCC for broadcasting false "officer needs assistance" calls on police frequencies in Virginia. Mention that next time to your critic of CB.

All radio services have their illegal operators, unfortunately. Don't let the critics mislead you. Let them know you know, too.

CB is by far the largest radio service, with some 40 million sets out there. Its track record probably equals or betters any other two-way radio service today.

Certainly CB has helped more people and saved more lives than any other of the radio services. In fact, its life-saving record likely surpasses all of those other radio services *combined*.

More people rely on CB for safety communications than any other radio service. The dedicated monitoring your REACT Team does is important. It does matter. Millions of travellers are depending on you. Ignore the critics. Be there for them on Channel 9.

Our greatest challenge is to help people use their CB radios more *expertly* when they need aid. Set a Team strategy for the year.

Determine to distribute "X" hundreds/thousands of "Getting Help by CB Radio" leaflets by year's end. Plan to speak to "Y" community groups by the end of the year, about CB, Channel 9, and your REACT Team's safety monitoring. Plan to issue several news releases to local media during the year, too. These are ways to answer

the critics constructively.

Stand tall. Take pride in the safety service your Team provides by monitoring CB Channel 9. Remind yourself occasionally that all radio services suffer from illegal operators. Forget the critics.

Recall the last emergency you handled on Channel 9. The next could come any moment. It may come in a week, or next month. Be there. Be ready.

Your REACT monitoring of CB Channel 9 is more important to the public today than ever before. Take heart.

Team Events

Louisville Metro-REACT Team South #1583, Louisville, Kentucky monitor not only CB Channel 9 for emergency and travelers assistance calls but they also monitor on 147.03 MHz and 462.600 MHz. Team members have responded to numerous minor emergency and travelers' assistance calls including reports of injury and non-injury traffic accidents; stalled, disable or abandoned vehicles; burglar alarms; suspicious acting persons or vehicles; field or trash fires; and requests for directions and road/weather conditions.

Team members participated in Weather Watch radio nets in support of the SKYWARN tomoado spotter program organized by the National Weather Service and Louisville-Jefferson County Department of Disaster and Emergency Services.

Two members of **Team #1583** helped in providing communications and other support services for the MS Society's Super Cities Walk, April 1st, 1990, including finding one lost child. Team members also provided vital communications for the March of Dimes 1990 WalkAmerica, April 21, 1990.

Does it upset you to hear people smugly ridicule CB radio? Cheer up.

Some try to put down CB to promote other radio services for whatever reasons. Others are sincere and well-meaning, but mis-informed about the real safety potential of CB.

Whatever the case, these critics can easily discourage us. They can cause REACTers to wonder "What's the use? Why monitor?" We must guard against the natural tendency to give up.

Every radio service today faces the same problems CB does. Illegal operations and rogue radio operators are not unique to CB by any means.

Some critics of CB conveniently overlook these facts. Others may be unaware of them. Regardless, it is important for Team morale that REACTers realize CB is not the black sheep of the radio family that some would have us believe.

Recent items in *Popular Communications* and *Mobile Radio Technology* give us a more balanced view of the situation. PC reported a tragic incident on VHF marine band distress channel 16.

The Coast Guard heard a distress call from a fishing trawler. Rescue operations began. Soon, USCG received another call canceling the emergency, so the rescue vessel returned to base. The cancellation was a hoax! The trawler sank. Two crewmen perished.

This was not an isolated case. USCG has been *plagued* by false distress calls on VHF. This occurs despite hefty FCC license fees.

Team Events

High Country REACT #4817, Colorado Springs, Colorado had a busy Labor Day Weekend. At the Team's first major project, five of its six members provided continuous coverage on Channel 9 for 81 hours in southern El Paso County. During this time the Team handled 15 incidents, including a motor vehicle accident with fatalities, a car fire, a missing person with concern for their safety based on the people involved, a shots heard, and a found wallet. Coverage from the Team's base station included part of Interstate 25, southern Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, three other small communities and Gold Camp Road into the Rockies. The Team also provided 60 hours of coverage on GMRS.

As members of **Team #4817** were getting back into the swing of a normal work week, a flash flood hit Manitou Springs. The Pikes Peak Chapter of the Red Cross contacted the Team's alerting officer and asked if Team radio stations could gather additional information on the disaster. Over the next 40 minutes, the Team relayed reports of flooding, rock slides and other information to the Red Cross. A Team mobile unit provided a quick survey of other drainages to help determine the potential for down stream flooding.

Waukesha Area REACT #4089, Waukesha, Wisconsin has been out on weather watch several times and done highway clean up this past summer. One of the weather watches was a heavy winded storm that knocked out power in the local area for several days. Following the all clear on the weather, team members assisted the Waukesha Police in keeping people away from downed live wires. Members have also been kept busy by providing communications for the Diabetes Run around Pewaukee Lake and helping **REACT Services Diversified #4813** with the cart races at Blackhawk Farms.

COMMENTS FROM A FIELD DIRECTOR

by Robert M. Riechel, Vice President

K40 has been a **REACT** sponsor for years. They recognize quarterly, an individual and Team for their accomplishments in their own community. Their yearly recognition of individuals, teams and a council is made at your international convention. The three so recognized at the convention receives a cash award as well as a reimbursement to help offset their attendance at the convention. In the past quarters, your submissions to the Awards Committee who selects the winners has been falling off. True, we do not always want to "toot our own horns." Many of your Teams are consistently performing those actions in your community that warrant recognition. Please consider forwarding to the Awards Committee the required forms for this judging. Other **REACT** Teams enjoy reading about your accomplish-

ments and if your Team can successfully handle an activity, other Teams and or Councils may feel that they can also.

At the recent Florida Convention much time and discussion was spent regarding re-organization. In the last issue of the magazine was listed a summary of the proposals under study and the request for written comments. Your board has stated that your Team will get to vote by mail on the final proposals. The board now asks you to forward your detailed thoughts on these proposals so they can fully understand your desires. This re-structuring will not be easy. Your board wants to please as many of you as possible. Send your comments to **REACT** International, Inc., P.O. Box 998, Wichita, KS 67201. You may

**MAIL YOUR
RE-ORGANIZATION
COMMENTS OR FAX
THEM TO REACT
NO LATER THAN
DECEMBER 16, 1991**

also fax your comments to 316/263-2118. Remember, deadline for all comments is December 16, 1991.

Getting on GMRS?

Announcing the antenna designed specifically for REACT teams...The **MAX** GMRS Ground Plane

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CK - MO - MC - VISA Accepted (MA add 5% sales tax)

"RESCUE 911" WANTS REACT

Your REACT Team on network TV? Could be.

"Rescue 911"

producers are keen to present REACT to their viewers. They've contacted Headquarters and the wheels are in motion.

Now, we need incidents for them to consider. Have you ever had a dramatic or unusual call? Has someone else on your Team? Please write today to tell us the details. This is no time to be shy.

Send your item(s) to: REACT International, Inc., P.O. Box 998, Wichita, KS 67201. Mark the envelope Rescue 911 to help us spot it quickly. Be sure to include your name, phone number and Team information so we can contact you.

Here's a terrific PR opportunity. Help us pursue it. Write now.

Thanks to "Rescue 911" for their interest and to the REACTers who sparked it.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The 1991 Life Membership application has been updated by International and a copy should be included with the Team Topics mailing.

The 1992 Application should be out with the December 1991 or the January 1992 Team Topics mailing. PLEASE as your Team receives the new updated Life Member Applications you should "file 13" the previous outdated applications. This way any new applicant has up to date information to work with, and save both the new Life Member and REACT International a lot of extra re-work.

QUESTIONS??? To any and all Life Members who for one reason or another have become inactive. Have you been keeping your address current with REACT International? Also, when is the last time you checked with Teams in your area about becoming active again? There are many Teams out there that would be happy to include you on their rosters. Your input and past knowledge and assistance in their endeavors to assist the **PUBLIC** would most likely be appreciated. We would really like to have you all back active with the family again.

As I mentioned in my first article for the Life Membership Corner anyone with questions in regards to Life Membership or any other item in regards to REACT, please let me know. I will try to get you an answer and put it in these articles as others may have the same question bothering them and not even know it.

Here is the latest member of our Life Member family:

LM #477
Allen B. Hanger, Jr.
Herndon REACT #C332
Oakton, Virginia

Welcome to our ranks as a dedicated Life Member of REACT International. Whose names will we see in our next issue? Maybe it will be **YOURS!!!**

R.T. Gamble LM 226
REACT Life Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 63
Kirkland, WA 98083-0063
Phone (206)823-8129
Prodigy "JHJM07B"

Team Events

Lakewood REACT #4677, Tacoma, Washington received an appeal from Frank Jennings, President of Washington State REACT Council on June 17, 1991. McChord Air Force Base was to start receiving evacuees from the Philippines, due to the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Lakewood members were quick to respond to the call for help. Five members of the Team responded within three hours and worked eight hours with the Red Cross and Air Force personnel to process evacuees through. Two junior members, age 8 and 12, assisted the Salvation Army with clothing donations. By the 2nd of July over 300 hours were volunteered by Team members.

NEW TEAMS CHARTERED

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #4821 | Hidden Valley REACT
Escandido, California
08-26-91 |
| #4822 | Sandhills REACT
Valentine, Nebraska
09-23-91 |
| #4823 | Berry-Cynthia REACT
Berry, Kentucky
10-01-91 |
| #4824 | Suislaw Area REACT
Florence, Oregon
10-01-91 |
| #4825 | South East Volusia County REACT
New Smyrna Beach, Florida
10-04-91 |

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- 2 years - 24 issues \$35.00
(Save \$25.00)
- 3 years - 36 issues \$52.00
(Save \$38.00)

Canada/Mexico—one year \$20.00, two years \$39.00, three years \$58.00. Foreign—one year \$22.00, two years \$43.00, three years \$64.00. Foreign Air Mail—one year \$75.00, two years \$149.00, three years \$223.00.

Popular Communications Sampler
76 North Broadway
Hicksville, New York 11801

Be sure to include your name and address!



by PR Task Group

Who is responsible for "Getting the word out" about REACT and who benefits from this?

All of us and we all do. At every level, Team, Council and International Board. The Public Relations Task Group is asking for your help.

We are working with the Government Relations Task Group to secure permission from the U.S. Department of Transportation to post the CB 9 REACT road sign. This will be a two fold effort.

First, there is a sample letter, for the teams and councils to approach your local and state government for direct support.

Second, for indirect support, do you still have those letters of thanks, proclamations, letters requesting your team's/council's services to help at community events? Headquarters is interested in copies of current and up to five past years worth, to show continuity of certificates. Headquarters would also appreciate this information from our International Teams as this will show our global efforts.

The deadline for this information is the end of April 1992 or as soon as possible. Send your clear copies of your Team's/Council's letters, proclamations and requests to REACT Headquarters for this vital project.

At this year's convention, the Public Relations Task Group held an informal session in the hospitality room. Instead of lasting for several minutes it continued for over two hours. A lot of good information came in from most of the attendees there. There was a true cross cut of states sharing their successes.

Publicizing REACT

Here are some suggestions for recruiting and retaining good quality members and teams.

To The Councils

1. Contact the local police in your target area to find out how they would feel about starting a REACT team in their area and it's benefits to the community. And about possibly using one of their rooms as a meeting room.
2. Run an ad in the local newspaper for two (2) weeks indicating there will be a meeting in the local area for anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community

through two-way radio communications and safety support services.

3. Setup a mail box for a brief time, to get the responses from the ad. While at this meeting have REACT and Team pride.
4. Be enthusiastic!
5. Have handouts, brochures and answer any questions.
6. Don't use high pressure tactics.
7. Teams that need help, sponsor adopt a team.
8. More direct contact to the teams or as often as possible.

(Continued on page 11)

SAMPLE LETTER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICE OR STATE OFFICIALS

Current Date

Mr. John P. Doe
Mayor, The City of Anytown (or)
Police Official, The City of ...
City Hall
Anytown, State/Province Zip

Dear Mayor or Chief Doe:

We need your help. REACT is currently engaged in a "Getting help on the Highway" Safety Program. We are requesting a letter of support from your office, for this vital community service project to save lives.

Our international REACT office will be approaching the Department of Transportation in Washington D.C., to secure permission to have signs posted around the country.

The use of CB radio is still the most economical way to contact the Police or REACT for getting help on the highways today.

There are over 40 million Citizen Band radios on the road today and this number is on the rise. Several studies show an increasing usage of highways because of today's economy.

If there are already safety programs of this type in place, we are still requesting a letter of support. It can be a short letter that your program is working and who is participating.

We are interested in promoting, "Getting Help on the Highway." If you have any questions you may contact us at: XYZ REACT Team, 123 Your Street, Anytown, CA 12345-5555.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

L.M. There
XYZ REACT President

Support the team effort with recruiting. Help with leadership development for the teams.

To the Teams

1. Try to get the whole family involved.
2. Get singles, senior citizens involved.
3. Take in people even without radios.
4. Do a variety of services.
5. Give the junior members recognition from all levels.
6. Have a Pen Pal program for the junior members.
7. Bring a friend to the meetings. Submit an article in the local newspaper.
8. Run inexpensive ads in the local newspaper.
9. Encourage K40 Awards for team members.

SOME TIPS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL

Most REACTers find one-on-one recruiting the hardest job to do in a REACT Team. This is because the recruiters create for themselves. Here are some general rules one can follow to end these obstacles and increase one's confidence.

*** HONESTY** - No matter what you say, make it the truth. If you do not know the answer to a question, say so. There is no need to make up an untruth. Both good and bad things happen in every Team during the year. Do not be afraid to admit errors because REACTers do far more good things than bad.

*** BE YOURSELF** - In order to be the most effective, you should be natural. By being natural you become more sincere and believable. People who are not themselves are often easily noticed and sometimes mistrusted. You can successfully express yourself without trying to be something you are not. All it takes is a sincere effort, a little common sense and some practice.

*** KNOWLEDGE** - You must develop a definition of REACT that reflects the organization's philosophy. A good philosophy might be REACT is a service organization dedicated to Public Service through Communications. Be prepared to answer questions about the definition of REACT. For example, you might be asked, "What kind of service does REACT provide?" Have a good general knowledge of your Team's history, budget, activities and membership. Be familiar with your Team, State Council and International functions. Remember, the idea is to recruit, someone into the organization, not to baffle them with mind-boggling facts.

*** ATTITUDE** - Is an important factor in any effort. The need to be enthusiastic about your product is important, but especially true when recruiting new REACTers. You want to communicate to him or her the need to join. By showing sincere, determined effort to give the prospect the best view of REACT, you show your enthusiasm.

*** LISTENING** - Be sure to listen to what your prospect is saying. Remember he or she is motivated to ask questions about REACT because of his or her own interests. If you do not give them the opportunity to ask questions you cannot find out what they are interested in and you will lose their attention.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES

Recently received the Hossier Spirt, the official publication of the **Indiana REACT Council, Inc.**, Dee Morgan editor, 1469 N. LeLand, Indianapolis, IN 46219. You might want to request exchange with this paper to keep up to the minute on their plans for our 30th Anniversary Convention. Recently while Pam and Bob Riechel were in Anchorage, they were shown around by a few of the local members of the Anchorage REACT Team. Yes - REACT is alive and functioning in Anchorage. Requests for exchange of their paper can be sent to Chuck Frensley, editor, **Greater Anchorage REACT, Inc.**, 1131 East

76th Street, Suite #101, Anchorage AK 99518.

If you would like to exchange your newspaper or would like to receive other Team or Council newspapers, drop this column a note. State your newspaper with your editor's full name and address including zip code. This column will attempt to publish as many as possible to help you expand your newspaper exchange.

A SPECIAL MENTION EARNED

Unity REACT of Illinois, earns recognition for being first to let us know it had used both the "Points of Light" news release and the "Emergency?" graphic (June/July, inside back cover). Congratulations to Unity and its PR officer, Archie Hawley for some fine work. We're glad PR items Headquarters is providing to Teams and Councils are proving helpful. Keep the samples of your work coming.

Publicizing REACT Column
Robert M. Riechel
P.O. Box 563
San Bruno, CA 94066-0563



Team Events

Evergreen REACT #2869, Everett, Washington participates in the "Haggen Foods 1% Cash Refund Program." The team saves grocery receipts and turns them in for a 1% donation. This program has enabled the Team to adopt a rest area in Startup, Washington. In 1985 this abandoned rest area was turned into a beautiful rest stop where motorists can stop and enjoy clean facilities, an attractive atmosphere and well kept grounds. In 1987, **Evergreen REACT** built a shelter large enough to hold 3 picnic tables, their coffee counter and many individuals. **Team #2869** also installed a telephone booth at this location. Besides all this the program covers the expenses and costs of publishing the Teams monthly newsletter. Perhaps fellow Teams should see if a program similar to this is available in their local area.

GMRS...Rx

by Bill Simpson

READ MY LIPS

Don't change anything except the mailing address when renewing a Team GMRS license!

I've only said this in three or four issues, but I just got word of another Team losing their license because a control point was changed. It's very simple...a Team (business)(group) license **CAN NOT** be altered at renewal time. You will lose the license if you do! You can change the mailing address, but that's just about all. Don't risk it, folks. Your Team mates are going to be big time upset if they **all** have to license -- at \$35.00 each!

Here's what I really wanted to discuss! One of the problems we face as radio users - CB, GMRS, Ham and or mobile telephone - is the amount of electronics in the modern automobile. On-board computers; electronic ignitions; motors for wipers, washers, fans, windows, etc., are all standard. We add alarms, garage door openers, radar detectors, AM-FM radios, plus our own two-way equipment - it's got to be 'nutso' in radio frequency city!

There are more and more cases of unwanted radio frequency interceptions every day:

- Auto-lock brakes fail to activate...or lock up;
- Fuel injection devices malfunction - wide open;
- Air conditioners change to full heat.

Most of these problems are

irritating, but some are guaranteed to get your full attention!

What can we do to protect ourselves? **Very little...**

The FCC has many loopholes in their system which allows extremely shoddy workmanship, parts, and/or sales. For example, after installing a radio, even the most novice CB enthu-

siast knows to scrape paint from the ground points to insure metal-to-metal contact. Check ground points on assemblies and sub-assemblies in your car...be very surprised if you find three assembled correctly. To

help eliminate noise, use wide, braided grounding straps on microprocessors, sub-assemblies, hood latches and engine mounts. Ideally, you want the entire car to be a common ground. Also check the amount of shielding used for DC leads - if you can find any! Might be a good idea to install some yourself. Two-way radio "hot" leads should go direct to battery to help eliminate ignition noise. Maybe...with a little luck, and some work on your part, you'll be able to apply ABS brakes while talking on the radio, and they'll work!

Nothing new on equipment thus far...

- a) Fujitsu 10 Com 16 Channel user friendly mobile (good price!)
- b) I-Com U16 portable user friendly (good price)
- c) GE MPS portable 64

Channel with many extras including multiple tone capability and two tone sequential decode

d) Bear Cat 760XLT Scanner

e) Two Maxon portables, toned, or 462.675 rep & dir.

Next issue...unless we find something more interesting...we'll talk about Nicads.

Don't change anything except the mailing address when renewing a Team GMRS license!

Team Events

REACT Services Diversified #4813, Kenosha, Wisconsin monitored more than 8,000 hours in the first five months of existence. The Team has three members who averaged over 300 hours per month in monitoring each! Tom Davis, Tom King and Bill Simpson are in a hotly contested battle for "Top Monitor for 1991." In addition, the newly formed Team has already as of October 1st, logged in excess of 1,600 hours in community services and expects to exceed 2,000 hours by years end.

Muskegon County REACT #3880, Muskegon, Michigan has kept busy this past summer. The members worked a musical festival and Seaway Run Parade as well as an art festival in June. Also in June members were called out for severe weather watches. July brought the search for a missing boy scout, traffic control and a local fire drill. This was all done around their normal events of safety breaks throughout the busy summer months.



K40 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SECOND QUARTER 1991

Individual: Bobby Evans from McLennan County REACT #4747, Waco, Texas monitored a total of 1100 hours in the last 12 months. Bobby also attended 11 out of the last 12 Team meetings as well as 1 of the last three Council meetings.

Bobby was instrumental in setting up the majority of the Teams' participation in the Walk America walk-a-thon that McLennan County REACT assisted the March of Dimes in. Bobby not only found and mapped out the race course but acted as the liaison between the organizations as well as answering the telephones, delivering t-shirts, plaques and collecting pledges.

Bobby patrols the highways in the local area on a regular basis always happy to aid motorists that have broken down.

On the Teams' Memorial Day Rest Stop, Bobby put in over 56 hours serving travellers. He was involved in the planning and the setting up of this team event. Shortly after the event was held, Bobby was appointed Events Coordinator. Bobby has held office as President and is currently on the Executive Board as well as the Advisor to the President.

Team: No nominations submitted this quarter.

**HEADQUARTERS
IS STILL
LOOKING FOR
YOUR MOST**

**"MEMORABLE
MOMENTS"**

**PLEASE MAIL
YOURS IN
TODAY!!!**

1992 REACT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Make your plans now celebrate REACT's 30th Anniversary with members from around the world at the 17th International REACT Convention July 20-23, 1992, Anderson, Indiana.

- Centrally located
- Short travelling time
- Educational and training seminars
- Special celebrity guests
- Fun trip to Indy 500
- Evening dinner/broadway show
- Share ideas with REACTers through Task Groups, Committees and informal conversations

Set aside this time on your calendar to be a part of this launch into REACT's 4th decade of "Community Service through Communications"

Complete details in next issue!!!

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

by Richard P. Landis
Associate Administrator for Motor Carriers

Any commercial driver within earshot of a CB needs to know one important thing about the new commercial driver's license: driving without one after the April 1, 1992 deadline can bring stiff penalties.

Furthermore, the deadline is firmly set in the CDL law passed by Congress, so rumors that there will be an extension or a "forgiveness" of some kind are just that -- false rumors.

Let me also address another subject of some confusion -- just who must have a CDL. Covered are drivers of any vehicle -- in either interstate or intrastate operation, for-hire or private -- that:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 26,000 pounds; or
- Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, inclusive of a towed unit with a GVWR over 10,000 pounds; or
- Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or

- Is of any size and used in transporting hazardous materials that requires placarding.

That said, let me pass on a warning to drivers who are waiting for one reason or another to get their CDL. Many states are telling us they fear such big last-minute crushes of applicants that they won't be able to process them fast enough for drivers to meet the April 1 deadline.

Very simply, that will mean those drivers cannot lawfully drive...cannot work at their living.

If a person risks driving without a CDL, the law provides heavy penalties. A driver (and a carrier) can be fined up to \$5,000 and sentenced up to 90 days for knowingly and willfully violating the law.

We don't want that to happen to anybody. So please heed the message. Get your CDL at once so you don't face long lines and big fines. Pass it on.

NEW "CONTESTER" HEADSET

The Hy-Gain Amateur Radio products group of Telex Communications, Inc. has introduced the CONTESTER boom-mic headset. It features a noise canceling dynamic mic that favors the voice range (100-1800 Hz) for maximum intelligibility. The mic boom rotates so it can be worn on the left or right side of the head and automatically shuts off the mic when placed upright.

It is recommended that the mic be adjusted so it almost touches the lips to take full advantage of the noise canceling feature. Also, the mic should be placed at the corner of the mouth to avoid sibilants; the popping P, the hissing S or sharp T sounds. It's best to speak at normal voice levels. Shouting is counter productive because it distorts the signal and often makes transmis-

sions unintelligible.

The headset's dynamic headphone receivers have a 50-15,000 Hz frequency response and compatible impedance for amateur transceivers. The 5 foot (1.5m) headset cord is unterminated to accept any connector suitable for the user's transceiver.

Washable cotton "socks" come with the headset and slip over the foam filled ear cushions for long term comfort. According to the company, the CONTESTER is of the same rugged construction as the headsets Telex makes for commercial broadcasters, pilots and professional football coaches. The headset carries a suggested list price of \$102.00.

For further details please contact Telex Communications, Inc., 9600 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420 or phone (612)884-0043.



MFJ-110 DXers' WORLD MAP CLOCK

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the release of the new MFJ-110 DXers World Map Clock for only....\$24.95.

This new MFJ DXers World Map Clock not only shows the time and date at any QTH in the world -- it also lets you see the place where your contact is. It's the neatest ham logging clock on the market.

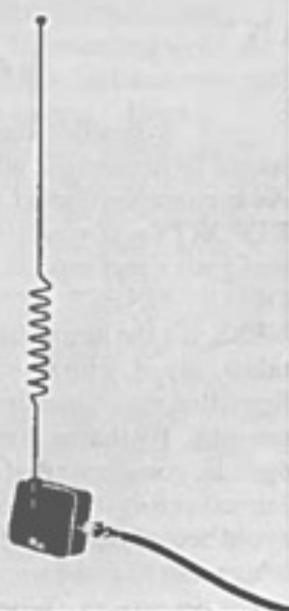
MFJ-110 DXers' World Map Clock also shows day of week, month, date and year.

Easy-to-use push buttons let you instantly move the display to a QTH in every time zone. Recall feature instantly moves the display back to local time. It also features an alarm. Tan map on gold background with black border. Measures 5-1/4" x 3-1/4" x 2/3".

It comes with MFJ's one year unconditional guarantee.

For more information or to order contact any MFJ dealer or MFJ Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or call (601)323-5869, FAX (601)323-6551, TELEX 53 4590 MFJSTKV, or order toll free at (800)647-1800.

**WHEN
ORDERING
FROM A REACT
ADVERTISER
TELL THEM
YOU SAW IT
HERE!!!**



ECONOMICAL FAST-INSTALL ON-GLASS CELLULAR ANTENNA WITH DETACHABLE CABLE

An economically priced, fast-install 3 dB gain ON-GLASS cellular mobile antenna -- offering one-step closed-cell foam tape mount plus detachable 15 foot RG58/U cable to simplify vehicular cable routing -- has been announced by The Antenna Specialists Co. Designated APD853.3, the new high-performance 824-896 MHz optimized collinear-element antenna is power rated at 10 Watts and provides VSWR of less than 1.9:1. Its slightly curved, semi-flexible foot easily conforms to either the new aerodynamically styled or flat windows -- and its patented ON-GLASS coupling design compensates for mounting near otherwise performance-robbing defogger wires. Two crimp-connector cable versions are offered: 1) Model APD853.3T with male TNC, and 2) Model APD853.3M with male mini-UHF. For complete information, contact: The Antenna Specialists Co., 30500 Bruce Industrial Parkway, Cleveland, Ohio 44139-3996 or phone (216)349-8400; FAX (216)349-8407.

CROSS REFERENCE DIRECTORIES

VASI, the Colorado based search and rescue training and certification company, has published the **KANSAS CROSS REFERENCE DIRECTORY**. This directory is designed for use by public safety monitors (such as **REACT** members), emergency responders, and amateur radio operators. It cross references communities to counties with roads and interstates and the search and rescue and amateur radio grids seven different ways. Clearly designed tables help you quickly find what county a town is located in, which town is the county seat, what towns are along a road, etc. Over 1,000 settlements, villages, towns and cities in Kansas are included.

THE KANSAS CROSS REFERENCE DIRECTORY is the first of 50 such directories which will cover all 50 states in minute detail. Kansas is available now. The directory for Colorado will be ready for shipment in mid November 1991 and directories for Nebraska and Utah will be available in mid January 1992. Orders are being taken now for all directories. The cost of each directory is \$22.95 postage paid.

To order please contact, VASI, 3624 Citadel Drive North, Suite 309, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909 or phone (719)596-1178.

7 WATT 40-CHANNEL PORTABLE CB WITH LCD READOUT INTRODUCED BY MIDLAND

A new 40-channel portable CB, Model 75-781, has been introduced by Midland International. It offers up to 7 Watts of input power (4 Watts output) and a liquid crystal (LCD) channel readout system with nearly

half-inch high numerals. LCD is ideal for a portable because it requires minimal battery power. The 75-781 has many other advanced features. Its ETR frequency system provides pinpoint channel tuning accuracy. Scan Circuit scans all 40 channels, searching for "BUSY IN USE" channels. Rotary volume and squelch controls allow maximum reception capability and control background noise. For power, the 75-781 is supplied with a rechargeable NICAD battery that provides up to 600 hours of service over its life cycle. A UL-approved AC wall charger is also supplied. A high-low power switch controls battery strength. For convenient channel changing, the 75-781 offers push-button Up/Down channel selection. The unit can be powered from a car, boat, truck, RV or any 12-Volt DC power supply via its external power jack. A multiple accessory jack permits use of an optional earphone, remote PTT mic, speaker/mic combination, boom-style mic/earphone headset or earbone-mic/earphone. The 75-781 is supplied with a flexible rubber antenna, carrying case and 12-Volt power cable. For complete information on Midland's 75-781, contact Midland International Corporation, Consumer Communications Division, 1690 N. Topping, Kansas City, MO 65120.



Training & Development Committee

"ACCORDING TO THE PLAN"

by Bonnie Zygmunt

Few people would start on an extended road trip without taking along a map, but it's surprising how many try to conduct a meeting without an agenda. The agenda serves the same purpose as a road map, telling you where you are and where you're going next.

The agenda should be prepared well enough in advance so it can be published in the team newsletter. That way everyone knows in advance what will be discussed, and can come to the meeting prepared to take part. If this is not possible, at least make sure the agenda is prepared before the meeting. Make sure enough copies are made to give one to each attendee. During the meeting, stick to the agenda as much as possible, but don't treat it as if it were carved in

stone. If it seems reasonable to discuss a "new business" item at the time committee reports are being given, go ahead and have the discussion. Just remember to make a note on your copy of the agenda so you will not try to cover the same ground twice.

An agenda need not be complicated or detailed, but only a skeleton or outline of what you want to accomplish at the meeting. An example would look like this:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. MINUTES
3. TREASURER'S REPORT
4. CORRESPONDENCE
5. COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. NEW BUSINESS
8. ANNOUNCEMENTS
9. ADJOURN

In practice, this skeleton would be fleshed out with some detail. As an example, under COMMITTEE REPORTS you would list the committees you expect reports from. Under OLD BUSINESS and NEW BUSINESS, list the items that need to be taken care of, with room to add extra items that may come up during the meeting. By listing everything on the agenda, you assure that nothing will be missed or forgotten. You will also avoid being interrupted by a member who wants to make sure you discuss his or her pet project. When they can see it listed on the agenda, they are assured that it will be taken care of in its proper time.

Let's take a closer look at the items on our agenda.

(Continued on page 17)

TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Subject: [] 101 Monitoring [] 201 GMRS

Fill in your name and address, your REACT Team number and REACT member ID number (as found on your REACT card). Enclose Special "introductory" price of \$6.00 for each Training manual you request.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

--	--	--	--

Team #

--	--	--	--

Member ID #

Team Name _____

Monitoring \$6.00
GMRS Guidelines \$6.00

\$ _____
Total Enclosed

Mail to:
REACT International, Inc.,
P.O. Box 998
Wichita, KS 67201

1. CALL TO ORDER

You can be as formal as you want with this, with the chair saying something like "The meeting will now come to order." You can be as informal as "OK, let's get started." Do this firmly, confidently, and with authority. Standing or striking the gavel once will also focus the attention of the group. The main thing to remember is to start the meeting **ON TIME!** Delaying the meeting for the late-comers is a waste of the time of those who made the effort to be on time. What's worse? Those who did make the effort may not bother next time, since "The meeting never starts on time anyway."

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting must be approved or corrected. If your minutes are published in your team newsletter, all that is necessary is to ask if there are any additions or corrections. If not, ask for a motion to approve the minutes as published. If additions or corrections are necessary, they should be made on the "official" minutes kept by the secretary, and a motion made to "accept as corrected." If your minutes do not appear in the newsletter, or you do not have a newsletter, the secretary should make copies of the minutes. Then the minutes can be passed out before the meeting so everyone has a chance to study them. Only as an absolute last resort should the minutes be read aloud to the membership. This is almost guaranteed to put half of them to sleep.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report should have been printed and copies passed out before the meeting. By now, everyone has had a chance to look at it, and the chair need only ask if there are any questions. If there are, the treasurer can answer the question. When everyone is satisfied, or if there are no questions, the chair can move on to the next agenda item. It is not necessary to have a formal motion to accept the treasurer's report. Just let the minutes show that the report was

given, and there were no objections to it.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Reading the correspondence, just like reading the minutes, can put your meeting to sleep. If the letter is of general interest, such as a thank-you or a commendation, or especially important, it should be read in full. In most other cases simply stating who the letter is from (or to) and why it was written should be sufficient. For example: "We received a letter from March of Dimes asking for our help at their walk" or "We sent a letter to the State asking for permission to hold a wake-break."

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Here you should list each of the active committees that you expect to report. The chairperson of each committee should have advance notice that a report is expected, so they can be prepared to give a short but complete report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Use the minutes of the last meeting, and your notes to prepare a list of all the leftover business and continuing projects that need to be taken care of.

7. NEW BUSINESS

List all the new things that need to be brought up and discussed, such as that request for help that you mentioned under **CORRESPONDENCE**. Leave extra room for things that come up during the meeting. If any member has something that they wish to add to the agenda, this is where it would be handled. The normal progress of an agenda item is to appear first under new business, then, if it is not finished, it moves to old business. If a committee is formed to handle the item, it will move up again to committee reports before it is finally completed and goes away. After all the items of new business are taken care of, the chair should ask: "Is there any other new business?" This is the time for the members to add items from the floor if they wish. When all new business is completed, the chairperson makes any announcements of general interest,

such as upcoming events of nearby teams, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The chair should then ask again if there is any further business the members wish to bring up. If there is none, the chair declares the meeting adjourned.

Congratulations, you've just completed a smooth-running, productive meeting in record time. Because everyone understood the rules and followed them, everyone was able to be heard without interruptions or arguments. Because the chair knew the rules and was able to apply them properly, the meeting progressed without side-trips and time-wasting. Because the agenda was prepared, distributed, and followed, all the business got taken care of without confusion or jumping around. Because everyone knew ahead of time what was to be discussed or reported on, they had time to prepare instead of being surprised and having to waste everyone's time while they got organized.

Proper use of these simple tools can cut meeting time in half without skipping anything. This leaves

(Continued on page 19)

The REACTer is available on audio cassette tape for the blind. Certain conditions and costs are involved. For more information please contact:

**Kathleen Coyne
Recording
for the Blind, Inc.
404 W. 30th Street
Austin TX 78705
(512) 477-9390**

J. C. PENNEY'S GOLDEN RULE AWARD PRESENTED TO REACT

On April 24, 1991, Marathon County REACT Team #4730 became the proud recipient of the J.C. Penney's Golden Rule Award. Marathon County REACT received a "Flame of Freedom" Sculpture and a \$1,000.00 donation to their Team from the J.C. Penney's Company.

Each year the Golden Rule Award is presented to the organization or individual exhibiting outstanding volunteer service. This year's awards consisted of three individual award winners receiving \$250.00 each, one youth award winner receiving \$1,000.00, and two organizational awards winners receiving \$1,000.00 each. Marathon County REACT was honored to be among 82 nominees such as D.C. Everest High School, Marathon County Library, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Wausau Community Theater, United Way's First Call, the American Cancer Society, to mention just a few.

Attending the luncheon at The Wausau Club for Marathon County

REACT were James Trentlage, President; Jeff Mathews, Recording Secretary; Gail Trentlage, Financial Secretary and Executive Board Member; Bill Franklin. The individual and youth awards were presented first followed by the group winners. As each winner was announced, they received their award and a description of their volunteer activities was read. After hearing the impressive qualifications of the first four winners, the REACT attendees felt they would no longer be a recipient. As with many REACT Teams, volunteering comes automatically. Teams take their time and service given for granted, that which others are very thankful for. When the first \$1,000.00 group award winner was announced, the words echoed in each member's mind... *Marathon...County...REACT!!* As a first time nominee, the members were taken by surprise. The history of volunteer service given by Marathon County REACT in 1990 was read by the Master of Ceremonies. Jim

Trentlage on behalf of the four year old REACT Team, thanked everyone involved for the great honor.

The Team was nominated by Ms. Barbara A. Haskins of Wausau, Wisconsin. Team #4730 would like to thank Barbara for her efforts in nominating Marathon County REACT.

Marathon County REACT has automatically been entered in the National Golden Rule Award Competition held this fall in Washington D.C.

Team Events

San Antonio REACT #3622, Universal City, Texas conducted a Safety Break over Labor Day Weekend. They served 2,357 persons over three days. Visitors were received from as far away as England, India, South Korea, Canada and Mexico. Thanks to the generosity of local merchants, no one was turned away without something to drink (soda, coffee, etc.) and eat. This year's event had coordinated news releases. These releases informed travelers of the other two REACT Safety Breaks being conducted by Travis County REACT (Austin) and McLennan County REACT (Waco) on IH-35. They used registration sign-in slips and nearly 250 visitors requested additional information about the REACT Team nearest their home city. This information was then distributed to the appropriate REACT Teams, State Councils and REACT International.

Salem Area REACT, Inc. #4397, Salem, Oregon lost a dear and valuable member August 7th, 1991, when Robert Elton 'Lucky Pierre' Erickson, charter member of the Team passed away. While a member of Team #4397, Bob averaged 2000 to 3000 hours a year and 50 calls a month in monitoring. Bob becomes the 6th member of Salem Area REACT to be placed on the "Silent Mike" plaque.



"WHAT IS A REACT TEAM"

What is a REACT Team to me?
A name, a pledge. Three letters I see
A certain "word" help each other
"That's a REACT Team to me."

A place to laugh in and all my friends to greet
The President, the Vice President
And all those women and men
From all over our state.

Those folks town and country
Whose faces we can see
The group that built the REACT Team for you and me.

A place to work in, the members by our side.
Successes and some failures,
All the things we have tried.
A hello and a hand shake and a smile
from you to me.

Faith and Friendship I see
"That's a REACT Team to Me."
The things we see about us big and small
The things we do together for all
Cups, drinks, napkins stacked a mile high
Helping our fellow man
That is a REACT Team to me.

The meeting place we remodeled together
With laughter and a few tears
That dream has been growing for many, many years.
The meeting place with plaques and trophies
With friendship and love
That's a REACT Team for me.

Where we can learn our lesson
A few truthful friends
The system of other Teams
But, especially from,
Members of our "Team."

Written by: Dorothy McLemore
Lake Palestine REACT #3129, Athens, Texas

(Continued from page 17)

more time for speakers, seminars, training, or simply socializing. Meetings can become productive again, instead of a chore.

I want to thank my guest author, Larry Zygmunt, for the preceding article. Since the 1991 Convention, I have been busy getting the finishing touches on the Training Program. While in Wichita for the Midwest REACT Conference, I spent sometime with Deanne setting up a data base so we can keep track of the requests for the two training subjects that REACT International is currently offering. I was pleased to see the many responses come into the office from the Team Topics mailing and the September/October magazine. I was glad to see how many members want to learn more and support their organization by ordering the training packages.

For those Teams who wish to encourage their members to take part in the Training Program, you may want to follow the example of a Team in this area. The decision was made to reimburse half the cost of the training package to those members who sign up for a training subject, pass the test and receive the Certificate of Completion. This could also be done on a REACT State Council level.

It will be interesting to see which State will have the most Certificates by the 30th Anniversary Convention in Indiana. What a source of distinction if yours is the first Team whose total membership has all received their Certificates in Monitoring or GMRS Training. And you members who have been Monitoring so long that you figure you don't need to take any training? What a challenge it would be to receive the Monitoring Training package and take the test without even opening the book. Can you answer the questions with only experience as your guide? You'll never know if you don't try.

Anyone with interests in the subjects of Leadership, Junior REACT or Budget & Finance should write down their ideas, concerns or questions. Send them to me, so we can address these subjects fully in the future.

TO ALL REACT TEAMS AND MEMBERS!!!

**NOW IS THE TIME TO START THINKING
ABOUT WHO TO NOMINATE FOR
REACT INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS!!!
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS HEADQUARTERS WILL BE
FORWARDING NOMINATION FORMS!!!
WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BE A GOOD CANDIDATE?**

SAN ANGELO REACT #3387 PARTICIPATES IN SEARCH AND RESCUE WITH HELP FROM EMMA

...A tornado has destroyed a mobile home park and people are trapped inside collapsed buildings.

...Floods have devastated an area and many people are missing from their homes.

...An elderly man has become disoriented in the woods near his home and temperatures in the low 40's are predicted for the night.

...A small child has wandered away from a family picnic near the bank of a swift running stream.



In these cases, survival may well depend upon a speed "find". So, a REACT Team is called to respond in the search with man power and to provide communications for the official agency in charge.

In San Angelo, Texas another asset to the man power and equipment of the San Angelo REACT Team is "EMMA" a search and rescue dog. EMMA is a three year old German Shepherd who is trained to find human scent, alive or dead.

EMMA is owned, trained and handled by San Angelo REACT member, Eddie Howard. EMMA has experience finding persons who, were hiding from the law enforcement officers, lost in wilderness areas, abducted, murdered and buried in a city dump, drowned, and one who apparently vanished from sight. She has assisted San Angelo REACT members search for a supposed kidnap/rape victim, a drowning incident and a car

thief who was hiding from the police.

Along with her weekly training with Eddie, EMMA has attended schools in Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Maine. San Angelo REACT members Kyle Abbot, Kellee Elms and Gary Pitman have been instrumental in her drowned victim training. EMMA's areas of abilities include, wilderness search, disaster search, cadaver work and water searches.

EMMA is also a very good "PR" representative for San Angelo REACT. She can really draw a crowd at demonstrations and "show and tell" events. She and Eddie also go to elementary schools to give a "Hug-A-Tree and Survive" seminar. At these programs, children are taught what to do should they get lost.

Eddie and EMMA are available as a resource to any official

agency or REACT Team as time allows. Non-emergency contact can be made through Eddie Howard, 3818 Deerfield, San Angelo, Texas 76904, 915/944-1288, 915/944-9559 or 915/655-5918.

Emergency contact or call-out information can be obtained through the San Angelo Fire Department at 915/657-4356 or the Tom Green County Sheriff's Department by teletype or at 915/655-8111.



Team Events

Travis County REACT #3022, Austin, Texas provided communications for a tree planting ceremony in February, 1991. The Stassney Re-Leaf Project involved planting more than 150 trees in the median strip of a 3-mile stretch of Stassney Lane, a 4-lane boulevard in South Austin.

The project was sponsored by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Forestry Department; TreeFolks, an environmentalist group; and Jack Brown Cleaners, Inc. About 200 volunteers participated in the planting, the first event of many planned over the next five years. The final goal is to encourage the planting of more than 1 million trees in Austin by the end of the decade.

Columbia County REACT #4578, Portage, Wisconsin helped with the Beaver Dam Sesquicentennial Parade and with the celebrations parade line-up. Team members also provided support with the Cancer Society Jail and Bail. Over Labor Day the Team provided a wake break and helped work the demolition derby.



WORLD BAND RADIO

by RC Watts

In the world of international broadcasting, the King and Queen of Spain dedicated the site of the Spanish Foreign Radio relay station in Costa Rica. KHBN of Guam probably won't be built due to difficulties in obtaining land for a transmitter site. KHBI in Dallas, Texas may be sold and back on shortwave after a long silence. KJES, New Mexico, which didn't get past the testing stage, may return with a better transmitter. Radio Miami International is still waiting for a construction permit from the FCC. There may be still another U.S. shortwave station built in Alabama!

In the radio wars; considerable increase in Spanish broadcasts to Cuba in opposition to Communist government. Anti-Castro organizations buying time on WWCN, WHRI and WRNO in anticipation of changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Cuoztion Radio from Zagreb (Yugoslavia) has been on WHRI at midnight UTC. I had some English languages I.D.s and news when I heard it. Still plenty of clandestine radio activity in the Middle East around Iraq and Iran.

With possible break-up of the Soviet Union, or at least continued internal changes, listen for new stations and new countries. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of shortwave transmitters in the Soviet Union and they will be put to use, one way or another. It was interesting to hear the abrupt shift in Radio Moscow programming during the August Coup attempt. Keep an ear on that!

I like radio station stickers - bumper or otherwise. Send me a sticker from one of your local stations and I'll send you one in return - at least as long as my supply lasts. My address is: 4109 Graf Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, 40220-3016, U.S.A. I would

also welcome contributions for this column in the way of news or views about radio.

I attended the Kentucky REACT Council Convention at Berea, Kentucky in September and the Monitoring Times Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee in October. If I didn't see you at one of those, I hope to attend the REACT International Convention in 1992 in Anderson, Indiana.

73 de RCW.

**CHALLENGE
'91
INCREASE
YOUR TEAMS
MONITORING
ON CB
CHANNEL 9**

A GIFT... AND A CHALLENGE

Appreciation for the efforts by Headquarters and the Board to serve REACT Teams and Councils has translated into a valued gift.

A new fax machine arrived at REACT President Ron McCracken's home soon after the 1991 Melbourne Convention. The very practical equipment gift will pass to successive presidents, helping in their work for REACT.

As REACT expands its communications capabilities, it is appropriate that fax become an integral part of our operation. Last year, Headquarters was given a fax machine. It has proven to be extremely valuable in various ways.

Teams can now fax supply orders to Headquarters. This saves a week over mail and speeds arrival of

the items needed. Copies of documents, etc., required by Teams, Councils or the Board can be transmitted very quickly, as can responses.

The anonymous donor of the newest fax machine wrote, "Here's something to help make it easier." It certainly does that, and we are very grateful.

The donor challenged others to consider similar gifts that can help Headquarters serve you better. With sincere thanks to this donor, and to previous donors, Headquarters offers the "Wish List" listed below. Perhaps something here will interest you, your Team or your Council.

You can contact Headquarters for details, or for other possibilities.

Thanks again to all for their generous contributions to REACT.

Wish List

DS/HD Computer Disks (IBM Compatible)	\$ 15.00
Fax Paper (Canon Faxphone 15)	\$ 20.00
US Flag	\$ 25.00
Telephone Answering Machine	\$ 50.00
80 MB (external) hard drive (IBM compatible)	\$ 300.00
Fire Proof file cabinet (2 drawer)	\$ 350.00
30th Anniversary Logo Expense	\$ 750.00
Laser Printer	\$ 900.00
Spanish Computer Conversion Program (English to Spanish)	\$ 950.00
Conversion Program (Spanish to English)	\$ 950.00
Conversion Program (Both)	\$ 1900.00
Postage Meter and scale	\$ 2000.00
Media PR For REACT	\$ 3000.00

NOTE: ALL CASH DONATIONS WILL BE EARMARKED FOR THE SPECIFIC ITEM REQUESTED FROM THE CONTRIBUTOR.

SEAT BELT SAFETY

ARKANSAS PASSES BELT LAW

Early this spring Arkansas became the 38th state to require motorists to buckle up. It's law, which went into effect July 15, 1991 provides an incentive to motorists to buckle up. Those wearing a belt when stopped for a moving violation will get a \$5.00 reduction on any fine. The law is secondary, which means an officer must stop the motorists for another violation before he may issue a citation. Violators will pay a fine up to \$25.00.

DOT LAUNCHES SAFETY BELT BUCKLE UP ENFORCEMENT DRIVE

Secretary of Transportation Samuel K. Skinner has launched a national safety belt enforcement and public awareness campaign to reach President Bush's goal of 70 percent safety belt use by 1992.

Skinner said the campaign, "Buckle up. Avoid the Summertime Blues," will involve tougher enforcement of state belt use laws and increased public awareness. The department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the governors' highway safety representatives will coordinate the campaign, enlisting the support of state highway patrols, sheriffs and chiefs of police across the country.

Skinner unveiled the campaign at a Washington, D.C. awards luncheon hosted by the American Coalition for Traffic Safety. He was joined by NHTSA Administrator Jerry Ralph Curry, members of the traffic safety community, senior police officials, health care professionals, industry officials and other representatives of a new national coalition of groups that support increased belt law

enforcement.

"Safety belts have a proven record of saving lives. Encouraging the simple act of buckling a safety belt is the most important thing we can do to save lives, prevent injuries, and cut down the terrible cost of traffic crashes," Skinner said.

According to Curry, state and local police will focus their safety belt enforcement and publicity efforts during the three summer driving holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

Achieving 70 percent seat belt usage by 1992 is one of President Bush's transportation goals, Curry said. Agency figures show 20,000 lives saved from 1983 to 1989 as a result of the passage of safety belt use laws. Thirty-eight states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia have belt laws that cover 90 percent of the U.S. population. All states require child passengers to be protected when riding in a motor vehicle.

NHTSA said that in 30 of the states with belt laws, failing to buckle up is a secondary violation. In these states, police must stop motorists for some other violation. Such as speeding or failure to use a child safety seat, before ticketing them for not using a safety belt. California, for example, has combined enforcement of its secondary belt law with drunk driving and speeding enforcement to raise belt use to the 90 percent mark.

Nationwide belt use has increased from 11 percent in 1982 to 49 percent, but the rate of increase has slowed. Experience in the U.S. and other countries indicated that the remaining non-users account for a disproportionality large share of fatalities, NHTSA said. An increase to 70 percent usage will result in saving an estimated 3,650 more lives each year.



REVISED GUIDELINE FOR SCHOOL BUSES WILL MAKE TRAVEL SAFER FOR CHILDREN

The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have jointly issued a revised guideline for use by states and school bus operators to transport school children safely.

According to NHTSA Administrator Jerry Ralph Curry, this is the first substantial revision of the guideline since 1973. "This revision addresses pupil transportation in light of current circumstances and will strengthen the already excellent safety record of our school buses," Curry said.

Curry emphasized that school buses "safely transport millions of youngsters each day, and deaths or serious injury to riders are rare."

The federal agencies consider the guideline, formally called Highway Safety Program Guideline 17, a recommendation to the states. It is not legally binding. It establishes a minimum model for states to follow in administering a pupil transportation program. "Our purpose is to help state and local authorities reduce even more the risks to school children while they travel to and from school," Curry said.

According to Curry, the revision updates the definition of school buses to include large vans capable of carrying more than 10 people. It also urges that these vehicles meet the same color, marking and other requirements as large school buses.

**PLEASE BUCKLE UP DURING THE
HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL YEAR LONG!!!**

FCC'S SEATTLE REGIONAL AND LOCAL OFFICES MOVE

Effective April 29, 1991, the collocated Seattle Regional and local offices will move from Bellevue, Washington, to Kirkland, Washington. The new address and telephone number for both offices are:

**Federal
Communications
Commission**
11410 NE 122nd Way,
Suite 312
Kirkland, Washington 98034
Telephone: 206/821-9037

The Regional Director's Office provides administrative coordination and guidance to local FCC offices in Washington, Alaska, Hawaii and Oregon.

The local office handles inquiries concerning telecommunications matters, complaints of electronic interference and schedules of radio operator examinations. Office hours for the public will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**FCC SHUTS
DOWN PIRATE
BROADCAST STATIONS**

As part of a continuing enforcement effort, the Federal Communications Commission announced that it has shut down two illegal pirate radio stations.

Over the past several months the FCC's long range direction finding network pinpointed the location of a shortwave pirate broadcast station identified as "The Voice of Oz." The signal was originating from Unionville, Pennsylvania. On March 26, staff from the FCC's Philadelphia Office traced the source of the signal to the home of William Taylor. The station was inspected on April 13, and Mr. Taylor has been issued a fine of \$1,000

because of his illegal operation.

At the same time as the Voice of Oz investigation was underway, the FCC's long range monitoring network located a station called WLAR near Arlington, Massachusetts. On April 1, staff from the FCC's Boston Office traced the source of the illegal signals to the residence of a seventeen-year old amateur radio operator. The operator is being issued a fine of \$1,000. The operator's name is being withheld because of his age.

Unlicensed operation of a

radio transmitter is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended. Sanctions may include administrative fines of up to \$10,000 and or criminal penalties of up to \$100,000 and or imprisonment for up to one year. Such misuse of radio frequencies is a serious offense because of its potential for interfering with safety-of-life services such as aviation, marine and law enforcement.

For further information, contact Jeff Young of the Field Operations Bureau at 202/632-7014.

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INCORPORATION & LIABILITY INSURANCE

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO INCORPORATE A TEAM? HOW IMPORTANT IS LIABILITY INSURANCE?

San Antonio REACT Team

#3622 recently received a windfall from the Texas State Comptroller's Office in the form of a refund of taxes. These taxes were paid two years ago when there was a paperwork foul up that threatened the team's state non-profit corporation status. In Texas, after a REACT Team applies for incorporation as a non-profit corporation, they also have to apply for exemption from State Franchise Taxes. These are a sort of corporation income tax, although that isn't what the state calls it. Anyway, this additional exemption is almost automatically granted for REACT Teams, but the key word is "almost". REACT Teams have to specifically apply for this exemption. If they don't, they will find themselves in the same position that San Antonio was in two years ago.

Following the lawsuits which followed close on the heels of the Menudo Cook-off disaster in San Antonio (March '91), several items came to light.

1) REACT International's umbrella liability policy. No this doesn't cover damages caused by someone striking you with their umbrella. What it does cover (and I'm not an insurance agent) is lawsuits against REACT Teams. San Antonio REACT made one phone call to REACT's insurance agent, Albert H. Wohlers Insurance, and the rest was history. They contacted the insurance company who assigned an adjuster to handle the case. The Adjuster contacted the team's president and requested a written report of what happened at the event and how REACT was involved. Then they assigned REACT a law firm to defend us in court. REACT officers never lost any time from work and the team didn't have to pay a cent in legal fees. The insurance policy covered everything except the postage to forward copies of the court filings to the adjuster when

received by the team.

2) REACT Teams who are not incorporated are running a big risk. San Antonio REACT was informed that if we had not been incorporated, the plaintiff's could have sued not only the REACT Team, but all officers and any members who were physically present at the event. Since the team was incorporated, they could not sue the officers or the members, only the team.

3) REACT Teams normally participate in events using a very high standard of safety, considering the type of organization that REACT is (emergency communications). Because of this caution, it is very unlikely that a REACT Team will be sued unless they are in the wrong place at the right time. Anybody can sue anybody for anything, whether they can collect is another story. REACT's insurance covers all lawsuits unless for activities specifically excluded from coverage in the policy.

4) REACT insurance only covers third party suits, and only against the team or registered members. According to the brochure sent to this writer by Albert H. Wohlers Insurance Agency, the coverage doesn't include suits brought by REACT members against the REACT Team. It also does not cover other members, or suits as a result of the actions of non-registered REACT members.

5) San Antonio REACT participates in a large number of activities. Many of these activities or events require that the Team provide proof of liability insurance. The Team has a Communications Room in the American Red Cross Headquarters. Albert H. Wohlers issued a certificate of coverage for the Red Cross as proof of our liability coverage. They did this at no charge. When the Team conducted an Amateur Radio Field Day event, the shopping mall required a certificate of coverage naming them as an additional insured. Again, a certificate was

prepared at no additional charge to the Team.

Without the inexpensive coverage provided by REACT International's group umbrella policy, many REACT Teams would be forced to cut back on the types of activities and events they support. Some Teams would be faced with legal defense fees (right or wrong) that they could not afford to pay. Paying that little extra at charter renewal time is a bargain!

This is not a statement by the insurance carrier nor it's agent, Albert H. Wohlers. For detailed coverage information, contact REACT International or Albert H. Wohlers at 1-800-323-2106. There may be a limit as to the number of "extra" certificates issued per team. There is definitely a limit on some types of events covered. If you have any doubt about the coverage of an event where REACT is a sponsor or may be liable, please call Albert H. Wohlers before the event. Please allow 30 days for a certificate to be issued.

Team Events

Douglas E. Pete Memorial REACT #3609, Potsdam, New York has been very busy this past year. On May 5th, members worked a triathlon in Canton, and on the 18th helped with the Special Olympics. June the members attended a dinner held to honor the athletes and volunteers. Members were awarded with a certificate of appreciation as well as a good meal. July brought a safety break, a bike race in Potsdam and the Alumaman Triathlon in Massena. During the Triathlon the team set up their REACT van as the base and used mobile radios to help with traffic control and communications. Team members were pleased to receive a plaque to commemorate 7 years of service for this event.

On a sadder note, Team #3609 lost a valued member on January 1st, 1991, Lloyd J. Russell. Lloyd was unable to help with many functions due to his health, but he strived to help individuals while monitoring CB Channel 9.

REACT Amateur Radio Club CONTEST ANYONE?

by Edward W.N. Smith WQ3Z

What is the best way to sharpen a technical skill?

PRACTICE!

What is one of the most fun ways to get practice in radio?

A CONTEST, OF COURSE!

So, how about if the REACT Amateur Radio Club sponsors an on air contest?

In kicking around the idea, your Chairmen have proposed the following starting points:

- Since the word "Emergency" is in our name, we should have some sort of emergency response tie-in.

- We want all amateurs to be able to participate, REACT and non-REACT, and all classes of license. For that reason, we can't limit the geographic target, or the spectrum/mod choices, i.e., 10 Meters, 2 Meters, CW/Voice/Packet/RTTY should all be OK.

- Since a disaster can hit anywhere there should be some incentive(s) for using emergency power.

- The ARRL already sponsors Field Day and the SET, so we can't take those approaches.

- Field Day is in June, SET is October (4 months later). How about if we go 4 months after SET, before Field Day (February)?

- It would be nice to offer an incentive for modes that are spectrum efficient (e.g. more points for working packet or RTTY than voice).

What do you think?

The following issues come to mind:

- Dates(s)/Time
- Scoring/Multiples
- Modes
- Awards

We would like to hear your ideas on the contest proposal. We would also need some volunteers to help on a steering committee. Please send them to Ned Smith, WQ3Z, 105 E. Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1506.

Side Notes

Correction from the article in the September/October issue: In the 1991 Convention report, I reported that Eric Ward passed his Element 2 test; actually, Phil Ward passed Element 2 - sorry Phil!

At the request of the "Tri-Chairmen" Ned Smith, the FCC changed his call sign from KA3EQT to WQ3Z (talk about a lousy CW ID...).

We are putting together a collection of QSL cards used by REACT Team members and affiliates for display at the 1992 Convention. Please send your cards to Jim "Yogi" Bear, WB3FQY, P.O. Box 126, Lancaster, PA 17603.

The 10 Meter net still meets Sunday afternoon, 28.380 - 28.420 MHz, 2030 UTC.

73 DE WQ3Z (ex-KA3EQT)

Team Events

Kitsap County REACT #4700, Poulsbo, Washington would like to take this time to say thanks to President Ron McCracken, for moving fast on an article we sent to Headquarters. (See the following article).

Team #4700 also hosted the Washington State REACT Council meeting in September. Members and delegates from 11 Teams were in attendance.

Kitsap County REACT has taken on an "Adopt A Highway" program. The Team is in charge of a two mile stretch of Interstate 16. Team members also helped the American Red Cross on the volcano evacuation from the islands. Members worked the state

side receiving station at McChord Air Force Base.

The Team was also responsible for the communications and hot dog feed at the "Annual Bathtub Races" held in Bremerton, Washington. This was an international event with bathtubs from Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

ARE YOU
MONITORING
CB CHANNEL 9?

ARE SAFETY BREAKS SAFE?

Our long standing Safety Break program was at risk recently.

Kitsap County REACT, Washington alerted Headquarters to the danger by sending a newspaper clipping. Congratulations and thanks to Kitsap County REACT for its alertness.

A highway bill before Congress proposed to allow restaurants and gas stations at interstate rest areas. Good-bye to REACT Safety Breaks.

Fortunately, representatives in the House defeated the bill, and a DOT contact has assured Headquarters that it is doomed in the Senate also.

Vigilance is vital to protect REACT safety programs from commercial in-roads. Be alert for news items in the press that could harm REACT programs. Send a copy to Headquarters to be sure we find out early. It's very important.

Teams in some states currently face bans on Safety Breaks at rest areas which have vending machines. That legislation slipped through.

Be sure it doesn't happen again. Advise Headquarters by fax at 316/263-2118, by phone 316/263-2100. Or write Headquarters at P.O. Box 998, Wichita, KS 67201 when you see a news item that may pose a threat. Don't hesitate.

Better a false alarm than a missed alarm.

FEMA'S U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION OFFERS HOME FIRE SAFETY DOs AND DON'Ts

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued fire safety tips for the home in an effort to reduce the number of Americans dying each year in fires.

Olin L. Greene, USFA administrator, urged citizens to "walk through your home with a room-by-room eye to safety so some of the 6,000 people who die in fires every year may live, some of the 100,000 injured may be spared and some of the \$10 billion in property damage may be avoided."

The USFA's safety tips cover bedrooms, living and family rooms, and the house overall. They range from installing smoke detectors to not stapling electrical cords to walls and not using a kitchen oven to heat the house.

Greene said, "We cannot overemphasize the importance of a common sense approach to fire prevention. By taking precautions on a regular basis, it is possible to reduce the death and destruction of residential fires."

The following checklist can be easily incorporated into daily life, Greene said:

Throughout the house

- * DO install a smoke detector on every floor and replace batteries at least once a year.
- * DO plan and practice escape routes in case a fire does strike.

Bedroom

- * DON'T smoke in bed.
- * DON'T place heaters within three feet of flammable materials.
- * DON'T use heaters to dry clothes.
- * DON'T use extension cords with portable heaters.
- * DON'T leave heaters unattended or go to sleep while they are on.
- * DO unplug heaters after turning them off.

Living and Family Rooms

- * DON'T put ashtrays on chair or sofa arms.
- * DON'T run electrical cords under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- * DON'T leave unattended cigarettes burning in ashtrays.
- * DON'T staple electrical cords to walls or otherwise pierce the insulation.

Kitchen

- * DON'T leave cooking unattended. Take a wooden spoon or pot holder as a reminder.
- * DON'T cook while wearing sleeves that can dangle near the burners.
- * DON'T use your oven to heat your home.
- * DON'T let grease build up on your stove or oven, or allow crumbs to build up in your toaster.
- * DON'T overload electrical outlets with appliance plugs and extension cords.
- * DON'T let curtains hang near your range.
- * Do check the kitchen before going to

bed. Oven off? Coffee pot and toaster turned off?

More fire safety information is available from the U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727.

FEMA RESPONDS TO GAO STUDY FINDINGS

The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently completed a study dealing with the response of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Hurricane Hugo and Loma Prieta disasters. The report, titled "Disaster Assistance -- Federal, State and Local Responses to Natural Disasters Need Improvement" was requested by members of Congress to determine if FEMA's response was appropriate, particularly in light of severe criticism from members of Congress, other public officials and the news media.

The GAO report calls Hurricane Hugo and the Loma Prieta Earthquake "two of the worst natural disasters in (U.S.) history." Hurricane Hugo resulted in four disaster declarations, three of which far exceeded the average disaster in both magnitude and ferocity. These were followed by the Loma Prieta Earthquake, another devastating disaster, and by far the largest earthquake in disaster-assistance history.

These disasters taxed the resources and tested the response of FEMA and the federal government to the greatest extent possible. However, the final analysis of the GAO report states "...the media's coverage of these events suggested that FEMA was not responding as expected. A closer look,

(Continued on page 27)

**DON'T FORGET!!!
RENEWAL TIME IS HERE!!!
SIGN-UP EARLY FOR MORE
CHANCES ON THE RENEWAL
LOTTERY CONTEST!!!**

however, shows that FEMA generally fulfilled its statutory obligations..." Grant Peterson, FEMA's Associate Director for State and Local Programs, oversaw the agency's response to those disasters. He said the report, the result of close scrutiny by an unbiased investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, "Can only be viewed as a passing grade for a difficult and extreme test."

"I believe the report presents a balanced analysis--certainly not the scathing critique that some FEMA critics expected," Peterson said.

Peterson added, "but, a 'passing grade' is not our goal. We began our own review of procedures and plans shortly after Hugo and Loma Prieta and we are well along into making improvements." The GAO Report makes note of many improvements underway and many of its recommendations are consistent with improvements FEMA has already begun.

An internal reorganization of the State and Local Programs Directorate has resulted in the response role of the agency being separated from Disaster Assistance Programs. This will provide a more coordinated and effective response which recognizes the important differences between the response and recovery programs.

Major inroads have been made to upgrading computer systems and disaster information processing capability. Important changes are being made to improve coordination and administrative procedures to assist in the disaster assistance process. A toll-free registration center has been permanently established to reduce the start up time for receiving disaster requests from affected citizens.

Other improvements will speed the flow of disaster-related information to the public and public officials. And, important lessons learned from the disasters are being incorporated into courses and training sessions with state and local officials. "State and local governments have primary responsibility for disaster preparedness," the GAO Report

concludes. "FEMA only has the authority to guide, but not direct, state and local governments in their preparedness plans and activities. When states and/or local governments do not comply with agreed-upon objectives, correct problems uncovered in exercises, or participate in training, FEMA has no practical means of requiring that they do so to be better prepared to deal with disasters."

Peterson said he is generally pleased with the results of the GAO Report. He said, "I hope the report will engender a spirit of greater cooperation at all levels--Congress, federal agencies, state, local and volunteer--and result in the needed improvements."

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CLASSIFIED SECTION

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Two Way Radio Equipment: to all REACT Teams and Members. Receive a 20% discount on all Uniden and Motorola products. For further details contact: Ed Hines at (814)445-4379.

Emergency Communications Course: a 13 lesson correspondence course on managing emergency communications for small organizations. Continuing Education Units and credit toward ESTI Diploma program. \$33.00 from Emergency Services Technical Institute, 3624 Citadel Drive North, Suite 309, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

Miscellaneous

Registered Disaster Specialists: professional certification by examination for emergency communications personnel. For an application contact VASI, 3624 Citadel Drive North, Suite 309, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

CMA: For free information on how to have a Country Music Association in your state write CMAA, P. O. Box C, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 or phone (818)960-1827.

NOTICE

Try placing a classified ad in the new classified section of **the REACTer**. Cost is only \$.45 per word for members and \$.65 per word for non-members. Phone numbers automatically count as two (2) words.

Deadline for classified ad submission is the same as article submission deadlines.

For further details on advertising please telephone REACT Headquarters at (316)263-2100 or FAX (316)263-2118.



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