



the REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc. (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams)

March/April, 1997
Price \$2.50



Florida Council members came home big winners at the November 16-17, 1996 meeting. Pictured above left is a few of the lucky winners of the ten CB radios donated by Cobra Electronics Corp. Pictured above right is Bill Rice, Life Member with his prize - an antenna donated by Mobile Mark, Inc.

REACT International, Inc.
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Wichita, KS 67201

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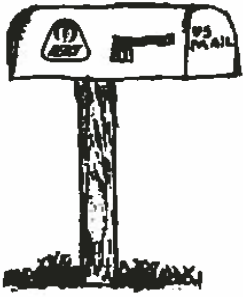
In This Issue...

**REACT 35th
Anniversary Patch**

May is REACT Month

The Trip to Canada

Skating on thin ice



Letters we like to get...

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today at the request of Paul W. Oby, President of Ramsey County REACT.

I have had the privilege of working with Paul and his team since 1991. These members have worked hand in hand with the Dakota County Amateur Radio Emergency Services and have provided an invaluable liaison by using their citizens band radios.

A recent occurrence was on Saturday, October 19, 1996. The AERO (Association of Emergency Radio Organizations) a mutual aid training organization established within the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area conducted a tabletop exercise consisting of scripted radio messages concerning tor-

nadic activity within the city of Richfield (a suburban community, west of Minneapolis). During this exercise REACT was placed in charge of the staging area - communications for the National Guard who were providing security for the stricken area while the amateurs handled communications in other areas of the mock disaster.

As operations officer for Dakota County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, I have found that you could not ask for a more dedicated group of volunteers based on all of the operations they have assisted with.

Matthew R. Stepaniak
Logistics and Notification Coordinator
Dakota County Amateur Radio Services
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

To The REACT Organization:

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and also commend one of your members and her companion.

On December 20, 1996 at 6:30 p.m., my wife, who was driving, and I were involved in an accident on I-40 west of Memphis, Tennessee. A Greyhound bus changed lanes, coming over in our lane, hitting our car and sending it out of control.

I need not explain the fright we felt as our car swerved around, hit the concrete retaining wall and skidded down the interstate in the center lane. It was a miracle we were not seriously injured.

Your member, Kim Dishion and her companion Carl Madden of Crittenden REACT happened to be driving behind us. When we came to a stop Kim and Carl pulled in front of us and told us they had witnessed the entire accident.

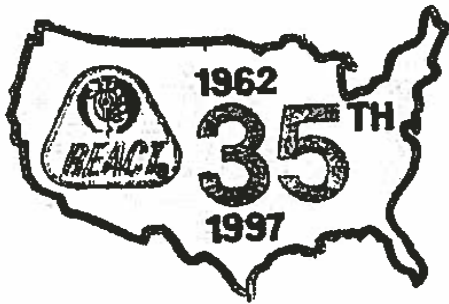
They stayed with us at the scene the entire length of time it took the police to respond (two hours).

Not only did they stay, Kim drove me to a telephone to report the accident. When the police came Kim and Carl explained everything to them. This was very helpful to us.

We cannot express enough our gratitude and thanks that Kim and Carl were behind us and she was a member of your organization.

G.E. Anderson
Jo Anderson

35th Anniversary Patches



Unity REACT Inc., Team #2947 is offering a patch representing 35 years of REACT.

The cost of the patch is \$2.95 each. We will pay for shipping to your team or to a designated addressee. If you are interested in purchasing the patches, mail a check, money order or cashiers check in U.S. Funds as well as the number of patches needed to:

35th Anniversary Patch
c/o Allen Jackson
O.S. 628 Cedar Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

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Life Membership Corner

**By Richard T. Gamble, LM #226
 Life Member Committee Chair**

The Life Members at this point are as follows:

ACTIVE	268
DECEASED	67
DROPPED	16
INACTIVE	162
REMOVED	6
TOTAL	519

LM #518
 John E. Mackey, Jr.
 Northwest REACT #2867
 Sherwood, Oregon

LM #519
 Bill Stuart
 Northwest REACT #2867
 Sherwood, Oregon

LM #520
 Merle L. Moore, Sr.
 Indian River REACT #4891
 Roseland, Florida

These totals are as of the end of January 1997 and do not reflect any updates given to me between then and the actual time you receive the REACTer Magazine.

I have included a new category in the list. When I made the mailing, regarding the Life Member Directory, to all Life Members, I received information from some members stating they wanted to be dropped from all future mailings of REACT. I received back from the Post Office a few with no forwarding address on file. If I get new addresses for those individuals they will be put back on the inactive list where they came from.

New Life Members

LM #514
 Edward B. Neil
 Douglas County REACT #C663
 Omaha, Nebraska

LM #515
 Kay E. Neil
 Douglas County REACT #C663
 Omaha, Nebraska

LM #517
 John Bunch
 Northwest REACT #2867
 Sherwood, Oregon

It is time once again to look at future delegates for the Board of Directors. One thing I have noticed over the years, is how once a person becomes a Board Member, the individual is bounced off the wall. Then no matter what is mentioned they are fools and do not know what they are doing. This is absolutely unreasonable and uncalled for. Sure some of them have had limitations in their experience, but they are willing to run for office and be elected. So its time we supported them and quit the constant back biting, the Holier than thou attitudes, and complaining. Remember, most of them are still working for their living, and THEY ARE VOLUNTEERS JUST LIKE YOU.

**Sign up now for a
 Life Membership**

**Application in upcoming
 issue of the Team Topics!**

GMRS...Rx



By **Bill Simpson**
GMRS Committee Chairperson

In an earlier column, I noted we would claim all the frequencies that haven't been claimed another task group, which opens horizons immensely. There have been short discussions in various places about other available frequencies which REACT could utilize...let's take another...an overview.

While REACT traditionally uses CB for communications, we have also discovered that many of our Teams needs are simply not adequately met with only the one channel. Many Teams have opted to add GMRS to their capabilities, and others have members who have added amateur equipment. While these additional bands add more range capabilities, they also have the potential for long range interference, especially during a contest. That interference is the primary reason that REACT looked at GMRS and found the amateur and GMRS systems.

There are other choices available...expensive...low power...short range...gelll

Many REACT members have purchased crystal controlled CB handies...probably on a shelf somewhere, since the manufacturers usually offer 40 channel synthesized systems. Pull them down, dust them off, and change a crystal to 27.490 MHz...and get a license from the FCC. Years ago, Walt Green stepped up with this suggestion, and I think it's a wonderful idea. The 40 channel frequency is designated as a grant business band, low power,

AM, and for the cost of a license and the crystals, you're on the air. Very few people are aware of the possibilities...the license could be used for the Team, under the Team name rather than have everyone licensed individually. We licensed our (Wisconsin) Council for statewide use, and provided an agreement enabling Teams to use the Council license!

Another potential radio band involves the 49 Mhz headsets which are available from most of the manufacturers...Maxon, Midland, Tandy and Uniden have essentially the same models: either a one channel or a five channel, available with either a headset/boom mike or simply an earpiece, which uses mandibular conduction to convey the audio. Although the latter is somewhat noisy, both types are effective for short range communication. All offers either a VOX or PTT capability. No license is required by the FCC. Cost ranges from \$30.00 for the one channel, up to about \$70.00 for Tandy's five channel. Maxons are somewhat less expensive, and are, in my opinion, a better buy. I have not tested radios from either of the other manufacturers, although both companies have reputations for excellent quality.

Finally, there is the new FRS band...if you can find a radio!!! As of this writing (early January) there were none to be found. Perhaps some appeared at the Consumer Electronics Show. Essentially, this band uses frequencies between the standard GMRS frequency pairs

for low power, short range communication. The antenna must be an integral part of the radio, which means no mobile or base operation, and cannot be used with a telephone...no phone patch, or packet operation. Since there are no radios available, it is very hard to check for price, or quality. We hope to have something available soon. Since THE BIG manufacturers were so eager to have the FCC rules changed to allow the service, it would appear that they would have provided a tool for the demand! Perhaps the demand was not as great as they anticipated!!!

These are my suggestions for clear, short range, low power, inexpensive forms of communication. All operate in simplex mode, on frequencies which DO NOT have provisions for repeater operation, and should be expected to neither create nor experience interference. All are ideal for tight areas...a parking or traffic detail, even in a shopping center, or for a concert. We use them during the Lawn Mower races (see *the REACTer*, November/December '96 issue). Used alone, or in conjunction with other forms of radio, they can become an effective tool for REACT Teams.

If you have other ideas about radios, please share them with us. Send your ideas either through REACT International, Attn: GMR...Rx, or directly to me, or through E-mail at simpsonjb@msn.com (I think I'm finally on line now, although my 'confuser' has this tendency to throw up whenever I get near it!!!).



May is REACT Month for 1997



May was chosen to be REACT Month because it is the start of summer travel which means increased activities for many REACT Teams. Thus, many more people in your community will be made aware of your Team's volunteer public service efforts through REACT Month and then will see your Team in action over the summer. The first major summer holiday, Memorial Day Weekend, is in REACT Month to emphasize this point.

To increase awareness about REACT, specifically your Team, in your community, International suggests you prepare and carry out the following media attention-getters. These are provided by the REACT International Committee on Public Relations, headed by Fred Lanshe, Chairperson.

Press Release(s) detailing your Team's recognition of May as REACT Month, proclamation(s) received, and Memorial Day activities; separate releases may be created. Be sure to mention the previous press release or later releases. Send these to print/newspaper, radio and television media. For more information about press releases refer to the Public Relations Kit from REACT International or *the REACTer* article(s) on "Publicizing REACT".

Public Service Announcements (PSA) Radio - The sample

radio PSA script shown in this issue can be shortened or lengthened, and personalized for your Team. Send this to the radio station along with your press release and cover letter. Request one of the stations better known personalities or D.J.'s to make the PSA for their exclusive use. This way the listening audience will recognize the voice and give more attention (and credibility) to your spot. Another hint is to mention a Team officer/spokesperson is available for an on-the-air interview for the station.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) Television - Local stations and cable systems. Contact the station and let them know your Team can provide a 30 sec-

ond PSA on REACT done by Bobby Sherman (refer to a REACT price list and order form). The station can add your Team name and contact number to the PSA with their by-line generating equipment while it's running. Or you can order the PSA personalized from REACT Headquarters. Here is an idea: In your press release and other media, provide the public a free REACT pamphlet, "Getting Help by CB Radio". Provide pamphlets to interested persons who send the Team a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope. The pamphlets are available from REACT International. Stamp your Team name on the front and/or inside. Also include information about

(Continued on next page)

SCANNER USERS • COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS

Finally, a better frequency book than Police Call!

POLICE CALL PLUS - 1997 EDITION

Now includes BEYOND POLICE CALL non-public safety frequencies

- Completely revised. Current through October 1996.
- 16,000 Codes and Signals.
- FCC and Federal Frequency Allocations 25-941 MHz.
- Illustrated Listener's Guide Book.

GOT A SCANNER? GET POLICE CALL PLUS.

At your scanner dealer and all Radio Shack stores.

**More People Have Bought POLICE CALL
Than All Other Frequency Guides (VHF/UHF) Combined.**

Request for "May is REACT Month" Proclamation

WHEREAS, through REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) over 6,500 people participate as volunteers to provide highway safety and emergency communications using their own two-way radios in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the _____ (your city/town) area is fortunate in having a local unit known as

_____ (your Team name), which has served well in many civic endeavors; or (list a few big local events) and (if your Team is involved) sponsor "Highway Safety Coffee Breaks", and

WHEREAS, REACT's cumulative efforts, result in the saving of many lives annually, through the greater speed with which medical aid is reached to an accident scene, and better communications provided in time of natural disasters. (Providing refreshments to wary drivers, if your Team has Safety Breaks).

NOW, THEREFORE, I _____ (Mayor's/Governor's name), do hereby designate the month of MAY, 1997 as

INTERNATIONAL REACT MONTH in _____ (City/State/Province) during which all citizens shall take notice and be aware of the significant contribution every local REACT Team makes to the welfare of their local community, as time to honor and recognize these local groups and their members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the

_____ (City/State/Province),

_____ (State/City/Country)

to be hereto this 1st day of May, 1997.

_____ (Mayor/Governor/Premier)

(Retype with your Teams information included)

(Continued from previous page)

your Team and membership opportunities. Be sure total piece weight is one ounce or less. This idea benefits your Team in several ways. The pamphlet educates recipient(s) on how to make a call on CB Channel 9; and your Team has a promotional tool directed to interested person(s); you may get a new member.

Fred Lanshe writes...

"Have you ever noticed some Teams get a lot of publicity? Would your Team like to?"

"There is a member in your Team who either has connections with the media or would be a colorful news-source for a reporter, either has an advantage. If the Public Relations Committee provides a media kit of information which tells you what to say and you have someone to act as your spokesperson you're halfway there."

"Press Releases, Public Service Announcement scripts, etc., may be terribly creative, witty or profound. The media has to be persuaded to read AND act upon them. Even though REACT is important, stations, due to manpower or priorities, CANNOT cover everybody's everything. They consider most everything REACT does as 'Human Interest' - NOT hard news. Requests for consideration of your PSA or Proclaiming May as REACT Month must be made well in advance."

REACTers participate in Inaugural

Federal City REACT, Inc. #2515, Washington, D.C., with the support of REACT members from Montgomery County REACT #2399, Maryland and Herndon REACT #C332, Virginia and the local ARES group helped provide support for the Presidential Inaugural events on January 18, 19 and 20, 1997.

REACT members provided medical and logistical communications for the America's Journey held on the Washington Mall between 7th and 14th streets on both January 18th and 19th. Over 250 cases of hypothermia were treated and 9 various problems needed transportation to area hospitals.

On the 20th, REACTers and amateurs provided communications between the medical trailers, the D.C. Mayor's mobile command vehicle, the D.C. Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Department of Health. Eighty people were treated for various problems and ten were serious enough to be transported to area hospitals.

Forty-two person days, over 500 hours, were volunteered over the three day weekend to insure the safety and support for those people who attended the Inaugural events.

Federal City REACT, Inc. would like to thank all the persons who came out in support of this activity.



Radio Public Service Announcement

Don't Drive Alone Have A Traveling Companion

A CB radio in your car or boat is an ideal communications link in case of accidents, need for road directions, or an encounter with an impaired driver.

REACT Team,

(insert your Team name)

affiliated with REACT International, Inc., monitors CB EMERGENCY Channel 9 for calls requesting assistance. Today's REACT Teams also provide communications for various local community events, using a variety of authorized frequencies. Many REACT Teams sponsor Highway Coffee Safety Breaks, during the summary holiday months.

If you're interested in public service and want the satisfaction of knowing your efforts make a difference in your community...

Contact

REACT at
(insert your Team name) (insert your telephone number)

or send a self addressed stamped envelope to

at
(insert your Team name) (insert your Team address)

(Repeat contact information for 60 seconds)



Get Ready for Safety Break '97 In REACT Month

Great turn out for Florida Council meeting

REACT of Hillsborough County Team #4909, Tampa was both pleased and honored to have hosted the Florida Council Board and General Meeting on November 16th and 17th, 1996. The meeting was held at the Ramada Bayside Resort in Apollo Beach, Florida.

The Ramada gave the REACTers attending excellent accommodations which included a pool side meeting on November 16th and a spacious meeting room which provided much hospitality for presenting the gifts and drawings on November 17th.

A good time was had by all who attended and for those that did not, you really should have! You might have enjoyed the meetings and making new friends and you had an excellent chance to take home a very nice prize, as well as good memories from your friends in REACT.

The following companies were more than generous with their donations of the many prizes that were won and they should be remembered by both Florida REACT members as well as all other REACT members.

The donations given were as follows:



Pictured above is a few of the lucky winners of ten antennas donated by Firestik Antenna Co.



Pictured left is Ron McCracken, Past President and CEO of REACT International, Inc., and member of REACT Lake Simcoe. Ron attended the Florida Council meeting while on holiday from the cold Canadian winters.



Cobra Electronics Corp.
Firestik Antenna

10 - S.O.S. #C10 CB Radios
5 - FS4-64A9A-R Dual Antennas
and
5 - KW4-64A8A-R Antennas

Mobile Mark, Inc.

2 - 26/OW-150 VHF Antennas
2 - 26/OW3-450 UHF Antennas
1 - 26/OW150-450 UHF/VHF Antennas

Grove Enterprises

1 yr. Subscription to
Monitoring Times
1 yr. Subscription to Satellite Times

Solarcon, Inc.
Yaesu

1 - A99 Base Antenna
Special Discount to
REACT Members

Hustler Antennas
ICOM America, Inc.

5 - 1C11 Antennas
Special Discount to
REACT Members

Discount Electronics

1 - 142XL Scanner
1 - BCT2 Scanner
1 - 340XL Pro CB Radio
1 - 201 Yosan SWR Meter

Let us all give a special thank you to those groups that have given so generously and we should always remember to support those that support REACT!

The members of Hillsborough Count REACT Team #4909 had the pleasure of hosting this Florida Council meeting for 1996 and we were happy to see all the Florida members in attendance.

Frank Cohen, President of Team #4909 won the 50/50 drawing and donated his share to the Florida Council. We wish to extend our congratulations to the members that won more than one prize and refused the second so that others could win (including our own Mike Young). We are proud of you.

Ed. Note: Headquarters couldn't have said it better! All REACTers remember to contact companies for possible donations. And, never, never, never forget to thank them for their support. By donating to REACT on the local, state or international level they are truly showing their support of REACTers worldwide.

Pictured below is the Florida State REACT Council officers, from left to right: Bill Rice-Secretary, Mike Chuvon-President, John Knott-Vice President, Sammy Butler-Sgt.-at-Arms and Paul Jones-Treasurer.



Calendar of Events

April 21-25, 1997 - The REACT Headquarters office will be closed due to scheduled vacation.

May, 1997 - REACT Month. Mark your calendars and start planning your events! Ideas in this issue of the REACTer as well as May is REACT Month Team Topics.

May 16-18, 1997 - California's 7th Annual Western Regional Roundup, Laughlin/Bullhead City. For further details please contact a California REACT Council or team representative.

May 17-18, 1997 - Florida Council of REACT Teams, Inc., meeting hosted by Orlando Metro REACT Team #4778. For further details please call 1-800-519-5917 or contact a council representative or E-mail John Knot at orlandoreact@juno.com.

June 1, 1997 - Deadline for article and advertising submission for the REACTer magazine.

June 28, 1997 - Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams meeting hosted by Fond du Lac REACT. For further details please contact a council representative.

July 14-18, 1997 - REACT International Convention, Toronto, Ontario. Further details in past issues of the REACTer, registration form in this issue.

August 15-17, 1997 - REACT Camp-out hosted by the Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams in New Lisbon. For further details please contact a council or team representative.

October 11, 1997 - Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams Annual Meeting hosted by REACT Services Diversified. For further details please contact a council or team representative.

Donations Deserve Recognition

Commonwealth of
Virginia REACT
Council, Inc.

\$105.00



Publicizing **REACT**

by the Public Relations Committee

REACT Month Revelry

Is your Team ready? May will be here too fast. Get into gear right now.

Have you reserved space at your local mall for a safety display to launch your REACT Month celebrations? Have you planned a Safety Break to wind up your REACT Month celebrations?

If You Don't Ask...

How will groups in your area know your Team provides REACT Month speakers? Talk now to senior center leaders, to service club execs, to women's group officials, disabled club officers. Work through members of these groups that people on your Team already know.

...They Can't Say Yes

Libraries are looking for speakers and programs to offer their members. Offer to present a

"Safety Seminar". Touch on a variety of safety matters, but stress particularly correct use of CB 9 in emergencies.

Few know. Everyone should. You don't have to own a CB to learn how to save lives with one. After you teach them, many will want a CB along in their vehicles or boats.

Invite police to share in the seminar with your Team. Contact local insurance agents for leaflets and freebies to offer attendees.

Involve other safety agencies too. It's a good chance to work with them in non-emergencies. Build on all these partnerships as you educate the public about safety, CB, and REACT.

Take lots of photos. Get double prints. Send some to *the REACTer*. Use your "REACT News" form to send us a story too. Issue a news release to local media on your REACT Month plans just as soon as they're firm.

Does your Team have some unusual plans for REACT Month? Be sure to let us know how they go. Have fun.

Being "Up Front"

A tip o' the PR hat to the Garden State Council of REACT Teams, Inc., (NJ). This Council pulls no punches when it comes to its finances.

The Garden State Council of REACT Teams provides members with a full printout of its bank statements or accounting program. Teams know what their Council



REACT Lake Simcoe monitors prepare to raise the REACT flag. Town council invited the Team to fly its flag at the Georgina Civic Centre to mark REACT Month 1996.

paid out, to whom, and why.

That's exactly as it should be. Teams either donate or raise the funds any Council uses.

Detailed financial reports are priceless PR for every REACT Council. Teams that are informed and confident about their Council's fiscal responsibility will be happy Teams, keen to support Council ventures.

Well done, Garden State Council of REACT Teams, Inc.!

Secret Society?

Does your Team issue frequent news releases about its activities? If yes, take a bow. If no, ask yourself, "Why not?"

Nearly every event your Team supports or sponsors merits a news release. News releases are a "win-win" situation that some Teams ignore - at their peril.

Even if your news release doesn't see print, it has served your Team well. How? It has reminded news media your Team is alive and active. That is extremely important. If they use the release, consider that a bonus.

"KISS" Principle

Keep news releases short and sweet. Give each a title. Be sure REACT appears in the title. Make it the first word if at all possible.

REACT should be the first word in the text too. Use other key words that tell the REACT story in your releases, words like: volunteers, safety communications, monitors, CB Emergency Channel 9. They tell readers/listeners who you are, what you do in and for the community as they read/hear your release. Another bonus. Cash in.

Level Field

Play fair. Send all media the same release. Type it, double space. Give a Team contact name and phone number. Some editor may want to do a feature on your Team. Yet another bonus. Go for it.

Identify

"REACT 63, standing by, Emergency Channel 9." Sign on as you begin to monitor. Be brief. Be professional.

(Continued on next page)

Reasons to be proud

**By Bob Leef, 1st Vice President
Crest REACT 4252, California**

Crest REACT tallied up the score for 1996 and found a year filled with achievements.

1. Growth to the largest REACT Team.
2. Rebuilding an existing GMRS repeater and installing another one.
3. Mention in two area newspapers.
4. Members articles in CB Radio, Popular Communications and QST.
5. Articles in issues of *the REACTer*.
6. Acceptance of Crest Amateur Radio Club in ARRL.
7. Start of team newsletter "REACTivities".
8. PSA's on local radio station.
9. Added 23rd & 24th Radio Shack stores for brochure distribution.
10. Started 2-Meter Amateur net every Friday night.
11. Assisted two new REACT Teams in starting.
12. Acquired copying machine.
13. Received donations of several pieces of radio equipment.
14. Received Certificate of Appreciation from U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.
15. Established an official bulletin station of ARRL.
16. Became sister team of Orange County REACT.
17. Delivered more donated radios to emergency service agencies in Mexico.
18. Hosted meeting of Council.
19. Hosted meeting and Swap Meet of RUG (Repeater Users Group).
20. Established station for Amateur Field Day.
21. Helped Red Cross in several emergencies.
22. Helped with communications at 10 community events.

Ed. Note: Okay Bob, pretty impressive. Can't wait to see what Crest REACT does for an encore in 1997!

(Continued from previous page)

Let the public know you are "there for them". Allay their fears that Channel 9 is dead. Good PR for your Team and valuable reassurance for all who rely on REACT for their safety.

Heroes behind the Scenes

May 11 through May 17 of 1997, is National Police Week. There will be a National Peace Officer's Memorial Day Service, on Thursday, May 15, 1997, at 1:00 pm on The West Front of the United States Capital, in Washington, D.C. This ceremony will honor those brave men and women who have been killed in the Line of Duty and also honor their surviving families.

And it is a good time to recognize these brave men and women, who are the thin blue line, between the general public and harm's way, in our local communities. IT PAYS.

A tip of the hat to the LEMA/REACT Team #C546 of Allentown, PA, who recently held their annual Awards and Recognition Banquet to honor the local heroes behind the scenes. This REACT Team presented *Special Recognition Awards* to the "Allentown Police Traffic Bureau, The Allentown Fire Police Unit, The Cetronia Fire Police Unit, The Allentown Communications Center and The University of MedEvac, Helicopter Air Rescue Unit", for their efforts in the community. LEMA/REACT also presented *Exceptional Service Awards* to the Tim Gilbert and the Paul Fiske families for their efforts in several community service organizations. LEMA also recognized Ken and Brenda Knopp for their efforts in not only REACT but also their Fire/Rescue and EMS involvements.

Mark your Calendar...

Headquarters will be closed the week of April 21st through April 25th, 1997 due to scheduled vacation time.



REACT Speaker's Packet

Check the style of packet you prefer below. Please provide a street address, no P.O. Boxes. Shipping is included in the price listed.



Team/Council Name _____ Team Number

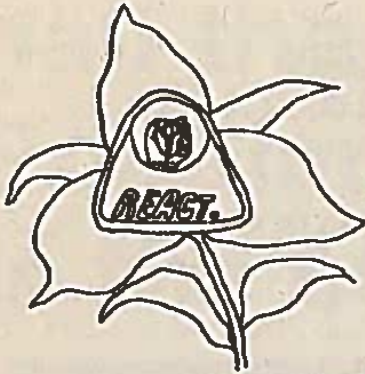
--	--	--	--

Shipping Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Paper Slide Packet	\$ 5.00	
Transparency Packet	\$10.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$	

MAIL TO: REACT International, Inc.
P.O. Box 998
Wichita, KS 67201



**1997 REACT® International Convention
Toronto Ontario
JULY 14 TO 18 1997**

Send to: 1997 REACT Intl. Convention
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SECTION 1. NAME/ADDRESS

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PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ONE PERSON PER FORM PLEASE PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH OF THIS FORM AS POSSIBLE

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LIFE MEMBER # _____ COUNCIL AFFILIATION _____
 TEAM CHARTER # _____ TEAM NAME _____

FOR SAKE OF COORDINATION, NUMBER OF PERSONS IN PARTY _____

SECTION 2. CONVENTION REGISTRATION (U.S Funds)
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		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (including registration)	\$ _____

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 Medical Disabilities/Restrictions _____

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I/we will arrive by: Terminal (Airline) 1 2 3 _____
 AIRLINE _____ Flight # _____ Date _____ Time _____ AM/PM
 BUS # _____ Date _____ Time _____ AM/PM Location _____
 PERSONAL VEHICLE _____ Arrival Date _____ Time _____ AM/PM
 TRAIN # _____ Date _____ Time _____ AM/PM Location _____
 I/we will use a rental car at Convention _____ Please provide transportation from Terminal _____
 I/we will depart: By type of Transportation _____
 Date _____ Time _____ AM/PM From Location _____

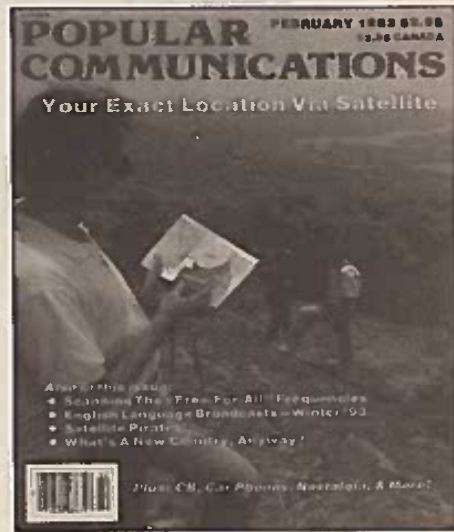
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The Trip to Canada

-or-

How to invade our neighbors to the north...

If you're a Ham

*By Henry T. Sahler, III - N9NOX
Amateur Committee Chairperson*

This summer the REACT International Convention is being held in Toronto, Canada. So if you plan to attend the convention, then you will have to cross an international border as you enter Canada. This being so, the trip will entail some very special procedures that we amateur radio operators will have to go through in order to take our radios, etc., with us. It's not all that hard, however, if you are not prepared, it can be a very time consuming ordeal. For example if you're driving, then when you try and cross the bridge from Detroit, Michigan, you could have to cross the bridge twice in order to get into Canada. You will see why later. And I'm told that depending on the time of day, the traffic can be a real mess, long delays and such. That's trouble we should not have to deal with on top of all the other things, that can and will go wrong on a trip like this.

First off, you must get your equipment into Canada. That is simple you might think, but can be a real headache if you're not prepared. You must first make a list of the equipment that you are bringing into the country. This list should contain the following information:

- 1) the brand name
- 2) model number
- 3) serial number
- 4) frequency range
- 5) Etc. of your equipment

It's highly recommended that this list be nicely typed on a plain white sheet of paper if possible, and have more than one copy of the list. This is so that you can register your radio equipment with U.S. Customs on this side, before you enter Canada, as required. Then it's a simple matter of presenting the registration form to the Canadian Customs people, and then you must make a declaration that the radio equipment is not to be sold while in the country.

Now - we have gotten ourselves and our equipment into the country without too much difficulty or being arrested for smuggling. The next question would be, "How do I operate my equipment while here in Canada, without running a foul of the Canadian authorities?" That is not really very hard either. It's really rather simple actually, first of all you must have a copy of your license on your person. The Canadians might refer to your ticket as a permit. Then all you have to do while in Canada is transmit your call sign and add the suffix "mobile - or - portable VE-3 or VA-3", as

they are the call sign prefix's for the province that we will be visiting while at the REACT International Convention '97. This information is contained in a booklet obtained from the Canadian authorities. If you want you may get one, free of charge, by either calling Industry Canada at (613) 998-3693 or by writing to them at: Industry Canada, Radio Regulatory Branch, 300 Saltier Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C8.

They will send you a copy of their regulations in a week to ten days. Hope to see you all at convention!

Some upcoming dates to remember and put in your calendars are: Saturday and Sunday, June 28th and 29th - Field Day. July 1st - The No Code Tech study guide will contain the new information on RF (Radio Frequency) exposure safety limits. (My topic for the next issue of *the REACTer* magazine). There will be five questions added to the No-Code tech exam first. The rest of the written exam elements will have this information added in the future. National Volunteer Examiner test days are to September 26-27, 1997.

Well, I guess that's about all for this go around. OK, everybody out there be safe, be kind, and have fun!

'73

REACTer responds to emergency call

By Michael P. Rolfes
OH-KY-IN REACT, Inc. #4948, Ohio

On February 3, 1997 at approximately 19:55 hours, I received a call on Channel 9 from a truck driver using the CLIP method. He was reporting a pickup truck in the median on I-275 at the 29.5 mile marker in Hamilton County, Ohio. Since I was about a mile away at the time, I responded to the area to see if I could be of assistance. Upon arriving at the scene, it turned out to be more than a disabled truck. In fact, the pickup truck had rear-ended a semi carrying 80,000

steering column was markedly deformed from the center to approximately a 5 o'clock position (using the face of a clock). He was not complaining of any chest or abdominal pain, only pain in the sites of his facial lacerations. While rendering care to the subject, I got a strong smell of alcohol. Upon the ar-



pounds of logs/telephone poles (it was later estimated that the truck was going approximately 70 miles per hour). The semi driver reported never seeing the headlights illuminated from the pickup. The driver of the pickup truck, upon impacting the rear of the semi, veered off from the far right lane of the eastbound traffic across two lanes into the grass median and stopped 3 feet from the edge of the westbound lanes. The driver's face impacted the windshield, leaving a clear impression. He sustained multiple lacerations to his forehead. The driver stated that he was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident; however, the

arrival of the Sheriff's Department, they placed the subject under arrest for the suspicion of DUI. He was trans-

ported to a local hospital for treatment and blood alcohol level testing.

A side note: When I arrived on the scene, the driver of the pickup truck was walking around this truck "inspecting" the damage to his vehicle. I had to convince him to sit back down in his truck which he agreed to do. The pickup was most likely totalled.

... (This block is a duplicate of the text above for layout purposes).

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Skating on thin ice

By Lee Besing
Bexar County REACT #4950, Texas

San Antonio was hit by freezing rain and steadily dropping temperatures on Monday, January 13th. On the way to my daughter's birthday party at her mom's, Alfred Fronefield and myself stopped to assist at an accident on Loop 410 Eastbound. When we got that one cleared up, and started west once more, there was another accident to call in.

Both were called in via amateur to base stations standing by. One young amateur up in New Braunfels (about 30 miles north of San Antonio) was on the repeater and started asking questions about the accidents (location, injuries, description of vehicles, the usual). The other older ham just said, "Okay I'll call it in to San Antonio PD" and left, without the details first. We were tickled pink to hear this young amateur asking for details and then he said okay, his mom had called it in also using her metro phone line.

About 1/4th mile further, we observed cars sliding sideways on Interstate 10 over Loop 410, so we stopped and investigated. We also saw the news crews filming the problems as well. They had it

under control and we continued on our freezing slip sliding way.

On the way home from the birthday party, Alfred Fronefield and I took the scenic route home and a 20 minute trip by freeway turned into about 2 1/2 hours instead (6 pm - 8:30 pm). And

yes, I had my REACT mag signs on the truck.

Due to Loop 410 being closed (the main highway on the north side), we chose to drive my 4x4 on the side streets and cut cross the city instead. But when we reached Interstate 10 East, the highways were open, so we elected to jump on board. Well, we climbed the slick ramp, making comments like this ought to be closed, and oops, there was a one car accident in front of us, just waiting for us to help. Another truck was facing the wrong way, up against the center median, but the driver had fled the scene. We called for help via ham radio and laid out flares. When the police officer arrived, he asked the lady driver to go home and file a report tomorrow.



We offered our assistance and he asked us to close off the highway at the next exit using flares. The over-

head traffic signs had already been changed electronically to show lane closures for all three upper lanes. After closing the highway, we noticed the officer hadn't closed the on-ramp so the cars were leaving the highway and reentering it on the other side. We shrugged and drove on, feeling we had done what we were told. Another mile down the road, there was the the officer laying flares to close the highway at the next exit. We stopped once more and were asked to ensure that the ramp was closed. A semi had jackknifed up ahead and the road was completely blocked. We reversed and drove the wrong way, flashing my high beams to warn any oncoming traffic. I also had my mag amber bubble light running on top.

We closed the ramp and assisted at a couple of other accidents back at the original exit. The raised highway was a glaze of ice and we had problems even walking on it with our rubber soled shoes. The wind chill was about 5 degrees and fortunately both of us

had our insulated underwear under our clothing. We worked with another officer to clear the highway and then returned to the scene with the first officer. He had been struck lightly in the rear by a sliding pickup truck and had another 2 car major accident with injuries blocking the exit ramp lane. We had about 40 cars stacked up at that time, most in the right hand lane.

Finally, they got the semi removed and we could start letting cars through on the left shoulder where the ice wasn't as bad, being sheltered from the wind. We got most of the cars



through, except two that couldn't get enough traction on the sloped road surface to stay on the far left shoulder, and two who's drivers had abandoned their cars to go find a phone. Why they didn't ask

to borrow someone's cell phone I don't know, but they chose to walk over 1/2 miles to the nearest exit and look for a pay phone instead. The cars were being

scheduled for towing as we left.

We passed a couple of other accidents on the way home, but help was on the scene and we kept on going until we made it home safely. We were skating on thin ice, all over the highway, but the local authorities on the scenes appreciated our help when we identified ourselves as being REACT members and having flares. Got a few more, but used up most of them. That night wasn't the night to ask for more flares, they would be using all they had in their patrol cars most likely. Another day perhaps.

CB: Basic Blessing

"Belt-tightening." "Downsizing." All-too-familiar terms these days, it seems.

REACT Teams face the same 1997 realities as everyone else in the volunteer sector: scarcer grants, fewer donations, tougher recruiting. Of course, no one ever said being a REACTer would be easy. Just satisfying.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." That's just what tough REACT Teams are doing. They are determined to overcome those rough economic times. Their service to the community is too important.

North Brevard REACT (FL) has bitten the bullet as operating costs rise. The Team has opted to concentrate its efforts and resources on CB.

Back to Basics

GMRS costs were running North Brevard REACT into the ground. Soaring license fees, equipment costs and repeater upkeep were going to bankrupt the small Team. Much as the Team wanted to maintain its GMRS capability, the writing was on the wall.

REACT North Brevard wisely and carefully considered its options. Team monitors could dig deeper into personal funds to finance the GMRS operation. That would cause personal or family hardships for most Team members in a 'soft' economy.

The Team could increase its fund raising efforts, mainly car washes. For a small Team with

varying work schedules, ages and health situations that solution was not very practical. It would also reduce the Team's available time to monitor Channel 9 or assist the community with safety communications.

After a year, the Team concluded it had to focus on CB. It generously offered its GMRS repeater to a larger Team nearby. It was out of GMRS, at least for the present.

Bases Covered

Several neighboring REACT Teams continue to operate on GMRS, with repeater facilities. The

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

public will be well served. In time of emergency, it will be better served than would be the case if the area had lost a REACT Team entirely.

North Brevard REACT will be present to bring its CB expertise to bear in cooperation with other Teams and emergency officials. It will be there to help because it set pride aside and faced up to economic realities over which it had no control.

Thankfully, all REACT Teams have tried and tested CB service to fall back on if GMRS costs force them to. Your community needs your REACT Team, likely more than it imagines.

In this "tight money" period, smart Teams will look ahead as

North Brevard REACT has. Some may have little difficulty weathering the current economic storm, and that is great.

Other Teams may need to plan a course of action to meet the challenges facing them. The key to success lies in starting early so there is time to consider all options carefully.

"Down-sizing" or "belt-tightening" may be necessary for some Teams. Fortunately, those Teams have CB to work with. Operating expertise and professionalism are the hallmark of REACT Teams. Whatever equipment we use is secondary to our skill as effective, efficient radio operators.

A dangerous world needs every REACT Team we have, and more. New opportunities to serve our communities continue to arise almost weekly.

Be sure your Team will be there to meet these needs. Consider what changes you may need to make to help your Team thrive.

Teams that adapt to changing conditions early will avoid extinction. Has your Team taken stock lately? Be like North Brevard REACT and others. Take the bull by the horns. Be ready.

The future need not frighten us. Preparation now will ensure that. Is your Team preparing?

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Indiana C032 C100 C261 C375 C692 C697	New Hampshire 4105		
	New Jersey C242 2797 4651 4759		
	Southern New York 2240		

May is REACT Month

Don't forget to send your articles and photographs of events your Team or Council worked during May is REACT Month to Headquarters.

This information cannot only be utilized in upcoming issues of *the REACTer* magazine, but also as a valuable public relations tool in promoting the organization.

Of course, don't forget to forward Headquarters other news items of interest for inclusion in the magazine as well!

A note from the Board...

The Winter Board Meeting was very productive. By the time you receive this issue of the REACTer magazine, or shortly thereafter, your Team should have received the May is REACT Month Team Topics. Among items included with this mailing will be a letter from Christine White, President and CEO, as well as numerous other documents of interest to you as REACT members.

Please make sure and ask your team officers to share this information with all members at your next meeting.

Also mark your calendars now...the REACT Headquarters office will be closed the week of April 21st through April 25th due to Lynda's scheduled vacation.

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Coats for Kids, YuleFest Close Events Year

***Reprinted from the Team Log
Travis County REACT Team #3022, Texas***

For the fifth consecutive year, Travis County REACT members helped with the distribution of thousands of warm winter coats to need kids at Goodwill Industries' Coats for Kids on Saturday, December 7th.

Nearly 30,000 coats were donated for the event, co-sponsored by KVUE-TV, KVET/KASE Radio, and Jack Brown Cleaners. TCR members provided communications support and security at the volunteers' parking lot at Austin High. Patti Land (#540) was TCR's Event Coordinator.

For the third year in a row, TCR provided communications and crowd management for Austin

Parks and Recreation Dept.'s YuleFest Trail of Lights pedestrian nights, from December 8-19. Up to eight TCR members were on hand each evening from 6 to 10 p.m.

The Trail's first four nights were exceptionally busy, especially during the first hour and a half.

Paula Coker was the Event Coordinator and acted as radio control operator on most nights.



New REACT Teams Chartered

- | | |
|-------|--|
| #4971 | Southwest Iowa REACT
Council Bluffs, Iowa
(Pottawattamic County)
January 17, 1997 |
| #4972 | REACT of Henry County
McClure, Ohio (McClure County)
January 31, 1997 |
| #4973 | Owen Tri-County REACT
Crittenden, Kentucky (Grant County)
January 30, 1997 |

REACT Councils as of March 1, 1997

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Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 956-4296

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Central California REACT
Council, Inc.
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Northern California
REACT Council
Alex Rivera
P.O. Box 161
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(209) 358-4809

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Southern California
REACT Council
Dave Carpenter
P.O. Box 2638
Garden Grove, CA 92842-2638
(714) 827-4739

COLORADO

Colorado Council of
REACT Teams
David Espinosa
1235 Berglind Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
(719) 338-1182

FLORIDA

Florida Council of
REACT Teams
Michael Chuyen
152 Kingston Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(904) 253-0585

ILLINOIS

Illinois REACT Council
Archie Hawley
3710 S. Clarence
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INDIANA

Indiana REACT Council, Inc.
Jack Murrell
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IOWA

Iowa REACT Council
Craig Hoepfner
1612 Scoggin
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
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KANSAS

Kansas State REACT Council
John Northrup
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Topeka, KS 66614
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KENTUCKY

Kentucky State REACT Council
John Mayberry
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(502) 451-4328

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Maine REACT Council
Jim Koritzky
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MARYLAND

Maryland State Council
of REACT Teams, Inc.
Jerry Hazell
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Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 923-2382

MICHIGAN

Michigan REACT Council
John Swaton, Jr.
5863 West Side
Bay City, MI 48706
(517) 686-4991

MINNESOTA

Minnesota REACT
Team Council
Leland Johnson
Rt. 2, Box 276
Glenville, MN 56036
(507) 448-3911

MISSOURI

Missouri REACT Council
Michael L. Gibbens
21765 Ranch Road
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6744

NEBRASKA

Nebraska State Council
I. Ross Brendle
3226 N. 7th Street
Beatrice, NE 68310
(402) 792-2860

NEW JERSEY

Garden State Council of
REACT Teams, Inc.
Ron Schendorf
P.O. Box 9898
Trenton, NJ 08650
(609) 738-4464

SOUTHERN NEW YORK

Southern New York State
REACT Council
Joe Spinosa
113 Clover Drive
Massapequa Park, NY 11762
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Nelda Shoemaker
137 Sanders Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302-2227
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North Carolina State
REACT Council
George Holmes
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OHIO

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John Leist
480 Lancaster Pike, Apt. #45
Circleville, OH 43113
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Pennsylvania Council of
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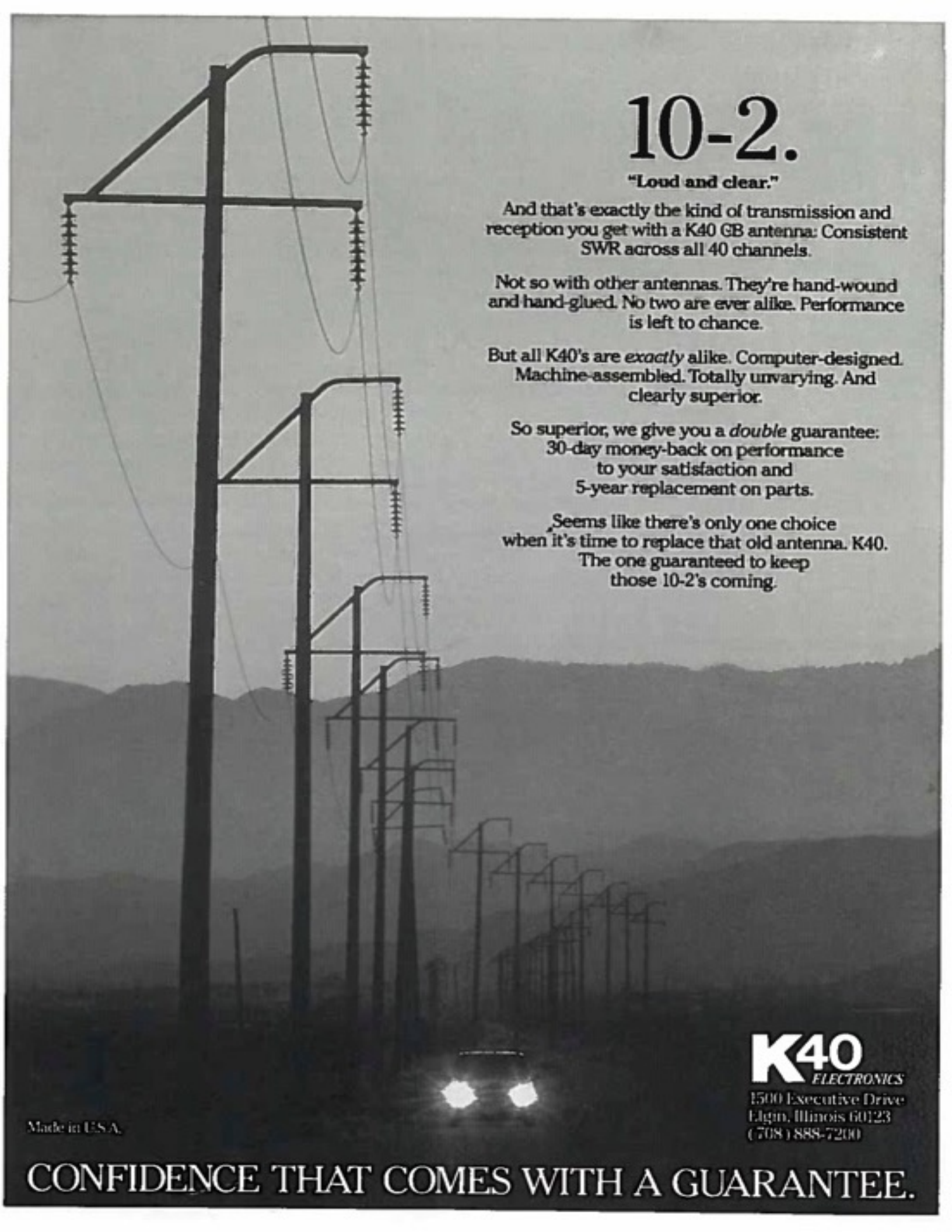
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