



the REACTer

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

November/December, 1997

Price \$2.50



Carroll County REACT #3202, Maryland members participate in parade during May is REACT Month. The team's PR is really paying off! Team #3202 has doubled their membership in the first six months of 1997!

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In This Issue...

LEMA REACT assists in transportation study

REACT member awarded US Army medal

Members provide crowd control for fire

New team learns and helps during Flood '97

REACT International, Inc.

1997 - 1998

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1997-1998 Field Director

State Responsibilities

James E. Bear	Robert Riechel	Christene White
Connecticut	Alaska	Alabama
Delaware	Arizona	Arkansas
Maine	California	Florida
Massachusetts	Colorado	Georgia
Maryland	Hawaii	Louisiana
New Hampshire	Idaho	Mississippi
New Jersey	Kansas	Oklahoma
New York	Montana	South Carolina
North Carolina	New Mexico	Texas
Ohio	Nevada	Tennessee
Pennsylvania	Oregon	Puerto Rico
Rhode Island	Utah	Canada
Vermont	Washington	Germany
Virginia	Wyoming	Trinidad
West Virginia		United Kingdom

Lee Besing
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kentucky
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota
Wisconsin

The REACT Headquarters Office will be closed for the Holiday Season on... December 25-26, 1997 and January 1-2, 1998

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Publicizing **REACT**

by the Public Relations Committee

The Ten Most Common Excuses Why Something Won't Work... and Ten Responses as to Why It Will!

1. We've never done it that way before!
... We can be the first!
2. It will never work!
... We'll make it work!
3. It's a waste of time!
... Think of the possibilities!
4. We're just not big enough!
... We're a lean, mean machine!
5. It just can't be done!
... It presents opportunities for us!
6. It's just not our job!
... Let's take responsibility!
7. It will never fly!
... We'll never know unless we try!
8. We tried to do it once!
... Let's see what we learned from that experience!
9. It's just too complicated!
... Let's look at it from a different angle!
10. We can't!
... We can!!

The Ten Commandments of Leadership

1. Treat everyone with respect and dignity.
2. Set the examples for others to follow.
3. Be an active coach.
4. Maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
5. Insist on excellence and hold people accountable.
6. Build group pride.
7. Show confidence in your people.
8. Maintain a strong sense of urgency.
9. Be available and visible.
10. Raise yourself to your highest potential.

KISS Principle?

Apply the "Keep It Short and Sweet" principle in all your Team's PR.

Mention your Team's full name only once. Hopefully, it begins with REACT. More and more Teams are opting for the PR value of making REACT the first word in their names. Smart move, indeed.

Throughout the remainder of the news release, refer to your Team simply as REACT. That name REACT is what you want readers or listeners to remember. Mention it often.

Always include a phone number or two, and your Team postal box (Box 97), so interested people can contact you quickly and easily.

Triple Bagger

REACT North Brevard #2562 of Florida looks on its periodic fund-raiser car washes as PR extravaganzas. How well does our Team exploit the PR value of its fund-raising events?

North Brevard REACTers arrive in their team golf shirts. Whether patrons remain in their vehicles or get out to visit, a sea of REACT shirts surrounds them. They get to know REACT. Great PR.

At the cashier's table, each client receives a copy of "Getting Help By CB Radio". REACTers are ready to answer CB questions clients may have, too. Great PR.

The Team also scores on pre-event media PR. Three local newspapers announce the car washes for the Team, with a "weather permitting" caution. If a car wash is rained out, the Team scores double publicity when it reschedules the fund-raiser. Great PR.

Now, North Brevard is thinking about drafting a recruitment leaflet on computer. That will be issued by the cashier along with the REACT leaflet.

Not satisfied with their triple bagger, these REACTers are out for a PR home run. Got for it, Team!

Attention all REACT Teams....

The Public Relations Committee is requesting your teams information. The committee wishes to thank all those who have already sent us information of this type. We would also like to ask for any news articles in your local press to be included in the information sent to the committee. Please send it to: Fred Lanshe, Chairman, Public Relations Committee, 630 Washington Street, Allentown, PA 18102, phone and fax (610) 434-3235.

Kudo's and a job well done...

Especially to Steve Gobat, President of the Harrisburg Area REACT, Inc. #C445 of Pennsylvania and Bob Kaster, President and fellow members of Oklahoma County REACT #2620 of Oklahoma for their continuing efforts in this area.

Remember REACT...

If you are planning your estate or making out your will please keep REACT International in mind.

REACT and the Intelligent Highways of the Future...

LEMA/REACT, Inc. has been requested to join a Public-Private Partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in the Metropolitan Area. For further details in this REACT Teams involvement read Richard Sherrer's article on page 8 of this issue.

ITS has projects in Vermont, New Jersey, Texas, Colorado, Washington DC Metropolitan Area, the cities of Charlotte and Wilmington, North Carolina and the Port Authorities of New York/New Jersey and the Delaware River.

Teams within these areas should contact Mr. John Cameron of TransManagement, Inc., Suite 300, 505 Capitol Court, NE, Washington, DC 20002 or fax (202) 547-2726.

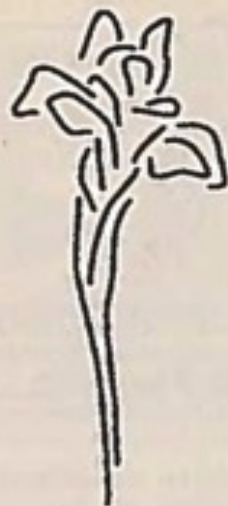
Kudos and a job well done to Richard Sherrer and the LEMA/REACT Team of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**People are Persuaded
More by the Depth
Of your own Conviction,
Thank by the Height
Of your Logic**

Oops!

The 1997 Convention Highlight photographs on page 13 of the September/October issue incorrectly showed Jesse Mauk accepting the 2nd place Annual Newsletter Award for Category C. Crest REACT #4252 of California received 2nd Place.

The captions under A and Council Category photographs were inadvertently placed wrong.



In Memory of... Our Silent Mics

***George Criswell
Defiance County
REACT #2102
Ohio***

***Larry Shrigley
West Suburbs
REACT, Inc. #3310
Illinois***

***Jack Byrley
Vanderburgh County
REACT #C296
Indiana***

Vanderburgh County REACT has lost a very valuable asset with the passing of Jack Byrley into the Lord's hands. Jack was always willing to do whatever needed to be done in his 19 years as a member.

Jack wore many hats, as they say, from President, Vice President, Coordinator of details and P.R.T. His body was racked with pain and breathing was always difficult for him. He was still there for our many details, be it a road-run in foul weather, helping in the trailer at coffee breaks and yellow banks, but most of all doing his share of the monitoring on Channel 9 to help motorists in need during emergencies and in need of information.

Our condolences go out to Jack's family. We know that our loss from the team is but a small part of the loss that his family is feeling. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

***Submitted by Vanderburgh
County REACT Team Members***

George Criswell, member of REACT Team #2102 passed away on August 29, 1997. George joined Defiance County REACT #2102 in May of 1991, prior to that he was a member of Allen County REACT.

As a voice on the team at all levels, local, state and even the International level (Jr. REACT Committee Chairman), George worked endlessly for REACT and the Red Cross.

George will be sadly missed by his family, friends and his fellow REACTers from Team #2102. For this reason, the family has requested donations be directed to the Ohio REACT Council or the American Red Cross. Donations can also be made in George's memory to REACT International - Junior Membership for the use in promoting the Junior REACT program, a program George was actively involved with.

Larry Moore, Jr., President of REACT Team #2102 stated, "There's not much you can say for a gentleman who has been the backbone of a team for years, except 'Dear Lord, please take care of our brother'."

***Submitted by Defiance
County REACT Team Members***

For over 20 years, Larry was a driving force in promoting the name of REACT in the Chicago and suburban area. As team president, council president and liaison to the Oak Park and River Forest Police Departments, his main goal as to aid the communities through public service.

As Event Coordinator for the Chicago Marathon, he coordinated the efforts of up to 180 REACTers to provide radio communications and assistance to assure the safety of the participants. Over the span of 13 years, he oversaw all aspects in the planning and implementation of the many REACT teams that joined in to help make this the largest REACT event of its kind.

In recent years, he was named "Volunteer of the Year" by the Volunteer Center of Oak Park. He also received a special recognition proclamation from the Village of Oak Park for his work as Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and for his contributions to the E-911 Communications Board.

Larry also coordinated many of the special events the team took part in, including the usual parades, runs and fireworks show as well as the countless other special assignments the police department gave him. Probably the program that made Larry the proudest was the Extra Eyes Crime Prevention Program. Started 8 years ago at the request of the Police Chief, he constructed an extremely success-

ful working plan with the department to help as their "eyes and ears". Weekend patrols were formed and continue through this day.

Through his efforts in overseeing the training and guidance of the membership, West Suburbs REACT has earned a well-deserved reputation with the local police and fire departments. In his memory, the Police Department is having a plaque created to hang in their office. The Team has lived up to Larry's dream of what a community service organization can accomplish. He will be greatly missed.

*Submitted by Larry's
loving wife, Joan Shrigley*

**Virgil Lee White
Centinela So. Bay
REACT #C125
California**

I have known Lee and [his wife] Chris for over thirteen years, ever since my first REACT convention in Daytona - a year after I agreed to serve as an at-large director.

Now Lee has left us. When we speak of someone whom we knew and loved, we often say he was an honorable man, a man of integrity, and an honest man.

Of course, Lee was all of these, but most of all he was a man on whom you could depend. Lee accomplished things. He

served his country for twenty years in a job where, if you didn't do it well, someone might die.

At TRW he built an entirely new reputation as someone who got things done. And most of all he was a wonderful husband to a wonderful wife.

Now somewhere God has put him to work already. I don't think he's a member of the heavenly choir. I can't see Lee in a long white robe, strumming a harp and wearing a halo.

I hope for the sake of the other saints, God says to him "Lee, here's a rod. Go to that lake over there and bring us a mess of catfish." And Lee will do it. God can depend on it.

*Eulogy submitted by
Robert Stone, At-Large Director*



Just Rewards

*REACTers will be pleased to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there's a special place in Heaven
Set aside for Volunteers
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,*

*Where there's no committee chairman
No group leaders or car pools,
No eager team that needs a coach
No bazaar and no bake sale
There will be nothing to staple
Not one thing to fold or mail
Telephone lists will be outlawed,*

*But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king.
You ask, who'll serve these privileged few
and work for all they're worth?
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on earth!*

*Author unknown
submitted by Ron McCracken, Canada*



**The REACTer
is available on
audio cassette tape
for the blind.**

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and costs are
involved.**

**For further details
please contact:**

**Recording for
the Blind & Dyslexic
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Bldg. 506
Austin, TX 78756
(512) 323-9390**

LEMA REACT assists in transportation study

*by Richard N. Sherrer
LEMA REACT #C546, Pennsylvania*

LEMA REACT has been requested to join a Public-Private Partnership with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for an Intelligent Transportation System in the Lehigh Valley Metropolitan Area.

Intelligent Transportation System is a group of federal, state, and local initiatives that apply advance methods of data collection processing and communications to surface transportation, including providing real-time traffic information to the traveler. The objective of the ITS is to promote

more efficient use of the existing highway and transportation network, increasing mobility and safety, and providing more current and accurate traffic data and travel information to the traveling public.

The program was initiated under Intermodal Surface Transportation Act in 1991. The concept is part of a grant program for the 75 largest metropolitan areas in the country and strategic interstate corridors. One goal of this study is to develop a base of support for implementing ITS technologies by creating a coalition of

stake holders, including local governments and private sector businesses located in the Lehigh/Northampton County metropolitan region.

REACT involvement is mainly because of possible gaps in the system that can develop. No matter how many sensors that would indicate impeding traffic or electronic signs to direct traffic around obstacles, there will still be a need for a direct link for the motoring public. Cameras mounted in strategic locations are also installed to ensure traffic flow. Some of the benefits for team involvement are telephone and internet access for REACT to obtain updated road conditions and advisories. Electronic displays can also indicate REACT monitors CB-9 and GMRS.

John Cameron of TransManagement, Inc., views possible advantages of direct involvement by REACT nation-wide can provide a vital relay where the ITS can not see or hear of problems developed along the nation's highway. They have projects in Vermont, New Jersey, Texas, Colorado, Washington DC Metropolitan Area, cities of Charlotte and Wilmington, North Carolina and Port Authorities of New York/New Jersey and Delaware River. Teams within these areas should contact John Cameron of TransManagement, Inc., Suite 300, 505 Capital Court NE, Washington, DC 20002, or fax (202) 547-2726.

Calendar of Events

December 13, 1997 - Kentucky State REACT Council meeting and Christmas Party, 1:00 p.m. at the United Way office in the Valley Station Shopping Center, 10936 Dixie Highway. For further details contact Louisville Metro-REACT Team at (502) 935-5113.

December 25-26, 1997 - REACT Headquarters will be closed for the holiday season.

January 1-2, 1998 - REACT Headquarters will be closed for the holiday season.

January 2, 1998 - Deadline for *the REACTer* article submission.

July 20-23, 1998 - REACT International Convention hosted by the Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams. Further details in this and upcoming issues of *the REACTer*.

Editors Note: Send your events including date, location and contact name to REACT International Headquarters for inclusion in this column.

CB still works

By Pat Pierce
Crest REACT #4252, California

Well, Crest REACTed again! On the way home from a meeting we had to take the long way around. But, just as we were coming up on Yucaipa Boulevard from east bound #10, we saw a big rig on the west bound side who had lost his load on the road. So, we swung around and came up behind him. I sure found the "black hole" for GMRS, we couldn't even raise a squeak. However, the CB sure did yell and squawk for me. I was able to connect with CHP and received a response back. Crest Unit #35 laid out the flare pattern, as we were on the down grade of the hill and around a slight bend with an on-ramp from Yucaipa

Boulevard.

The big rig, broke the chains utilized to stabilize the cat grader he was hauling, and the grader had partially slid off the trailer. The rig was on the right shoulder - only the grader when it came off the trailer was hanging 4 feet into the #3 lane. By this time it had started to rain. The rig driver got out and started to apprise the situation, but not knowing how to operate a grader, he was at a loss. I sat in the truck and broadcast on CB Channel 19 for all west bound drivers to stay in lane #2. I had many come back and thank me for the information as they would have hit the top of the cat with their

trailers if not for the information.

CHP was very appreciative of our being there. The driver of the big rig couldn't say thank you enough for us stopping and helping him.

So, big city folks, don't believe that CB is a dead radio. It still works!

An Up Thing



Members of six Southern California REACT Teams found some friends in high places when they handled communications for a hot air balloon festival. The REACT banner flew high and handsome for the Comupac REACT, Crest, Industry Hills, La Habra, Orange County, and Riverside County teams. REACTers covered the announcers stand, reported scores from remote locations, kept crowds back from launch areas, did first aid, etc!

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REACT member awarded US Army medal

*by Lee Besing, Field Director
Bexar County REACT #4950 Team, Texas*

The United States Army has awarded Alfred Fronefield, KC5VCF, with the "Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal". This is a once per lifetime medal, based upon Alf's actions as a volunteer over the period of October 1995 through April 1997. The citation was awarded to him by his commanding officer, Sgt. Steven Quarles, after approval by the appropriate officials at the Pentagon.

Alf is currently stationed in San Antonio, Texas, at the Joint Personal Property Shipping Offices, but has recently received his orders to be sent to Germany later this year for a three year tour. Alf is looking forward to using his Amateur Radio skills in Germany and being active in local volunteer work, possibly even with another REACT team if available in his area of assignment.

Alf is active with Bexar County REACT Team #4950, serving as president of the team. Alf is a Life Member with REACT International, and also registered as a member of his home team back in Reading, Pennsylvania. Alf is an active member of the Alamo Area Radio Organization, San Antonio Repeater Organization and the San Antonio Radio Club. Alf is a volunteer with the American Red Cross Disaster Services. He is a certified ARC instructor to teach selected ARC classes as well. Alf is an active member of the Heidi Search Center, a center for missing children, helping through REACT, to coordinate the communications in these searches.

The Citation reads...

"For exceptionally outstanding service to the citizens of his local community. SPC Fronefield's selfless devotion of time, talent, and personal resources have ensured a safer environment for all concerned. His tireless dedication to numerous volunteer organizations in varying capacities is an example for all, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

Justification for this award was based upon the following four achievements: (verbatim quote from the actual orders issued)

1. SPC Fronefield logged over 100 volunteer service hours with the San Antonio chapter of the American Red Cross. During this time, he assisted families that need food, clothing, and shelter after being displaced by fire. On another occasion, a road closure that occurred due to bad weather left many travelers stranded. The Red Cross, combined with efforts headed up by SPC Fronefield, quickly reacted to setup emergency shelters providing a warm refuge along with food, blankets, and peace of mind for the stranded passengers.
2. SPC Fronefield used his knowledge of radio operation to help coordinate and control the efforts of numerous volunteers in the search for a missing San Antonio woman. SPC Fronefield brought with him the ability to communicate with helicopters assisting in the search. SPC Fronefield was able to direct the aircraft to areas that were inaccessible to those canvassing the ground for food. Many hours of planning took place before the search with the Heidi Search Center to ensure that volunteer manpower was utilized to the fullest extent possible.
3. 4 DEC 96, SPC Fronefield was the first to arrive at the scene of a multiple car accident. Being part of the San Antonio (Bexar) REACT



COME CELEBRATE WITH US!!!

Mark the date on your calendar - July 20-23, 1998 - the date of the REACT Convention in Janesville, Wisconsin hosted by

the Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams. In 1998, we celebrate several birthdays...the State of Wisconsin celebrates a sesquicentennial anniversary, the Council turns twenty, and I'm sure we can find a couple of birthdays and wedding anniversaries too. Let us know about some of these, and we'll find a way to make the week even more memorable for the celebrant!

We'll start off with a mixer on Sunday night, with plenty of

show up to find out. We will tell you about the world renown water ski and light show, presented by Tommy Bartlett. We'll also tell you about the buffet for dinner that night - all you can eat! All that - transportation included and time for shopping - for one low price.

During the week, we are inviting several professionals to conduct seminars on such diverse subjects as management, hands-on public relations campaigns, weather spotting and watches, well, we don't want to give everything away yet.

Tentative plans are to sponsor a 'web page' contest, as well as the placard, and traditional newsletter contests. Rules? Be patient...soon.

Seriously, fellow REACTers, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet other people with similar interests from other parts of the country...from around the world, and discuss problems, concerns and solutions. The Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams is making every effort to plan a truly affordable Convention, one that can combine the best of 'REACT business' with the opportunity to visit the Dairy State, and experience Americana in the Midwest!

This could be a pivotal year for REACT, and ALL Teams should make an effort to have a member in attendance.

**Make plans
NOW to
CELEBRATE
WITH US!!!**

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

food and fun for all. This is simply a chance to get together, meet new friends and catch up on all the news from the old friends. Might even have some...oops, sorry that's still a secret!

We're planning a super trip...to one of the more picturesque parts of Wisconsin, an area formed during the ice age, and visited annually by millions of visitors.

We're even planning to let you ride a duck! Nope, we won't explain that...gotta



**1998 REACT International Convention
Janesville, Wisconsin
July 20 - 23, 1998**



Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____ (Area) Phone # _____

Emergency Contact _____ (Area) Phone # _____

Team Number _____ Team Name _____

If you have been selected as Team or Council delegate or alternate, check the appropriate box below.

Team Delegate Alternate Council Delegate Alternate

Dietary Restrictions? Allergies Vegetarian Other: _____

Children Yes No # _____ Ages: _____

Registration and Extras

	Number		@		Total	One
Convention Shirt (S - XXXL)	_____	size _____		\$18.00	_____	
Fun Trip	_____		@	\$50.00	_____	
Extra Convention Picture	_____		@	\$ 7.00	_____	
Life Picture	_____		@	\$ 7.00	_____	
Amateur Picture	_____		@	\$ 7.00	_____	
Extra Banquet Ticket	_____		@	\$25.00	_____	
Life Dinner	_____		@	\$25.00	_____	
Amateur Breakfast	_____		@	\$15.00	_____	
Registration		before 5/15/98 after 5/15/98		\$55.00 \$70.00	_____	

Total Amount Enclosed
(including registration)
Make checks payable to: 1998 RI Convention Fund,
P.O. Box 228, Pewaukee, WI 53072

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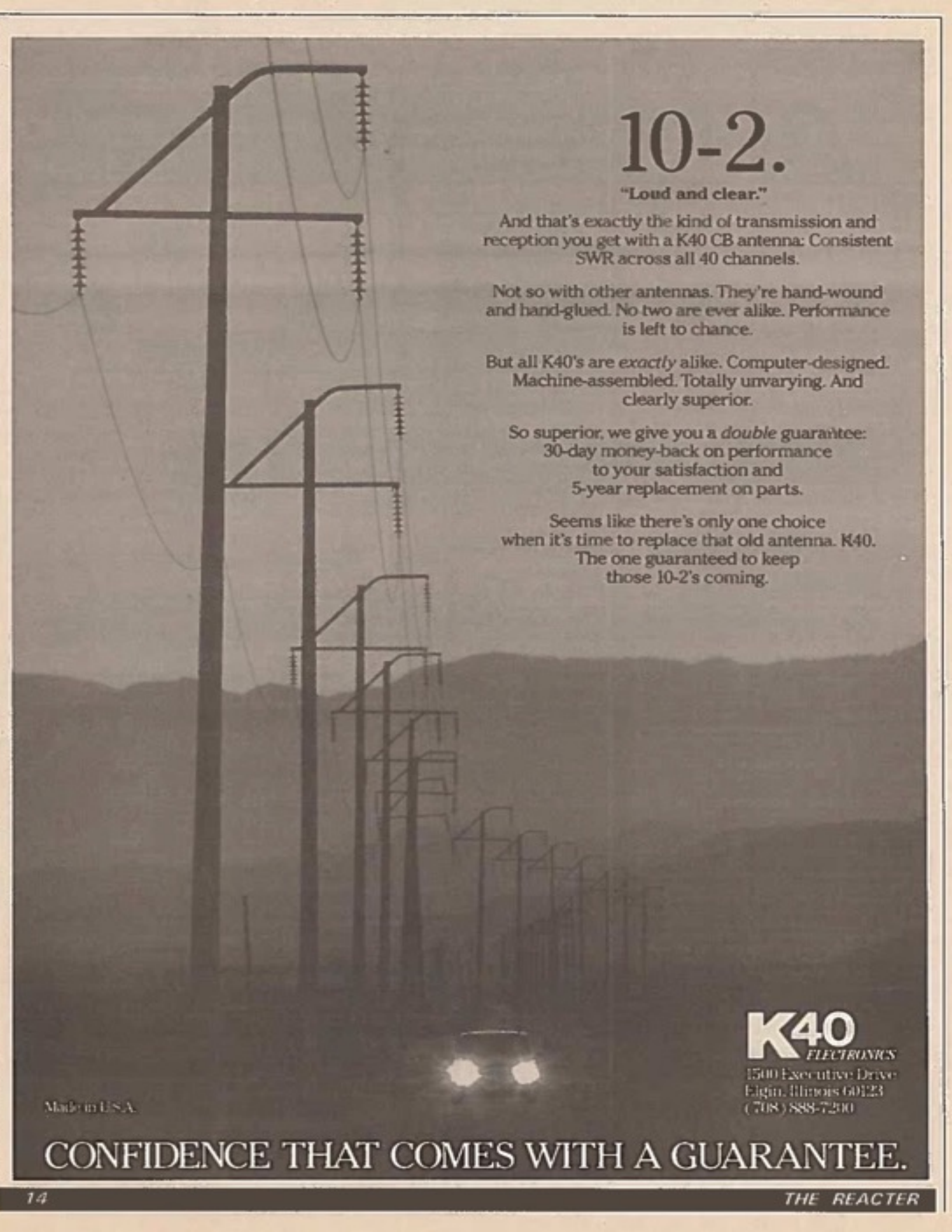
Arrival Info:

Arriving by Air _____ Bus _____ Train _____

Terminal/Airport Name _____

Arrival Date (MM/DD) _____ Time _____

Flight/Bus/Train Number _____



10-2.

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CONFIDENCE THAT COMES WITH A GUARANTEE.

Members provide crowd control for fire

by Jon Mosby
Blackberry REACT #C057, California

On the way home from working an all-day event on Saturday, August 9th, black billowing smoke was observed while northbound on Highway 101 from the Palo Alto University off-ramp at about 1935. Norm Wood, Blackberry REACT Unit #63 and Jon Mosby, Blackberry REACT Unit #31, decided to check the origin of it, since it appeared to be close to Jon's home.

We were able to park about two blocks from the fire, which turned out to be a large three story wood and stucco structure housing a local discount store and two warehouses. The upper floor and roof of the structure was fully involved upon our arrival.

We both observed a San Mateo County Sheriff deputy involved with crowd control. Since the crowd consisted of about 1,500 people from the sidewalk on the opposite corner of the fire, filling the four lanes across Middlefield Road at First Street, Norm asked the deputy if he would like some assistance. He put us into immediate service assisting him with crowd control.

At this time, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and Redwood City Fire Departments were on the scene pouring water onto the top of the structure and attempting to keep the tall trees from burning out of control. We could hear more si-

rens of emergency equipment in the distance.

Upon the arrival of two CHP officers and another deputy, the six of us moved the crowd back from the fire a block and a half to allow emergency equipment access to the scene. Two additional fire units from South County arrived while this move was just beginning and a short time later another unit from Woodside ar-



rived. This crowd move took about 45 minutes before the area was secure. It should be noted that the crowd was mostly non-English speaking and was cooperative.

Having assisted in securing the area, we decided to continue home. We handed out a couple of Blackberry REACT cards to the deputy in case further contact would be necessary and headed back to Norm's vehicle.

We found a major traffic problem at the street we were parked on. It was blocked by a 10" fire

hose. Vehicles could drive into this street, but had to turn around to get out. Since the street is narrow and had cars parked on both sides, we deemed it very hazardous. At about 2100, Norm was assisting vehicles in turning around without damage; Jon went to the intersection of Edison and Second to direct traffic away from the two closed off streets. Traffic headed toward Middlefield on Sec-

ond could only turn left or turn around. Traffic headed west on Edison could only turn right. Norm finally cleared his end of the street about 2130 and moved his vehicle to close off west bound Edison.

The smoke at this location was so thick at times Jon had difficulty in seeing headlights on vehicles. The smoke was on the ground and was damp most of the time.

A Bel Carlos Private Patrol stopped to assist at about 2145. His dispatcher would not allow him to direct traffic nor assist, however, he was allowed to park his car strategically and display his emergency lights, which he did. He also gave us some road flares to put out. This all helped a great deal.

During the time Jon was controlling traffic at Edison and Sec-

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ond, a sheriff vehicle and a CHP went through the intersection. Neither offered assistance nor did they radio for any assistance.

Norm and I deemed that the traffic flow subsided sufficiently by 2215 that the road flares would probably be enough to sustain safe traffic flow, even if someone did drive into the closed off portion of Edison, there was sufficient room for two or three vehicles to turn around safely. Also, the air had cleared up since the smoke was rising faster from the point of origin.

We thanked the Bel Carlos patrolman and gave him a Blackberry card for his information and departed the scene at about 2120.

Lessons to be Learned if you are going to volunteer your services at the scene

1. Have **EVERYTHING** you could possibly need **WITH YOU!** You **CAN NOT** go back to your vehicle to get something. If you don't have it with you - you will do without it.
2. Be prepared to be assigned to any position and/or task.
3. Don't expect a relief person...period. (Unless the disaster last over 15 hours or so).
4. Upon departure, look for any other areas that may not be covered. Trained medical, fire and/or law enforcement officers can not see everything, everywhere. You are another set of eyes for them.
5. Have your story rehearsed for your spouse upon arrival at home. Don't embellish it too much.

Awards & Recognition Committee Sends Out Request...

...I can't understand for the life of me, why it is so difficult for people to fill out a form and mail it in. Is there so much jealousy that they don't want to appear to be out-done by other Team members? Or are they just too lazy?

As we all know, REACT has been going downhill for several years, and I think, personally, that the last straw was the mailing received recently from an "Authority on REACT" that I have never heard of. If things are so god, within the HQ operations, why hasn't he opted to help straighten it out, by running for office, rather than send out a very divisive letter? (And I know several errors were made in the charges)...

Submit that special member of your REACT Team or the neighboring REACT Team for the K40 Achievement Award!

Thanks!
Don Perry, Chairman

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New team learns and helps during Flood '97

by Sonya Nickels

Owen Tri-County REACT #4973, Kentucky

March was a rough month in our area. Our small, new team (chartered in January, 1997 with 5 members) has had it's first disaster preparedness lesson. Unfortunately, it was during our first actual disaster.

On Friday, February 28th, I sat down at my desk to take a break and watch the 6:00 news. The weatherman was calling for rain, so I knew I'd need to monitor CB Channel 9 a little more closely, and that Interstate 71 would be busier than usual with weekend travelers, and club/bar hoppers. I monitored very late, until approximately 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning. For some reason it seemed unusually quiet on the radio. I heard other team monitors (Charles Stamm and Donald Garner) check in.

Jefferson A.L.E.R.T. was standing by at a distance. All I could hear was the sound of wind and rain pelting on the old tin roof of my summer home, and an occasional whimper from the next room - my four year old daughter, dreaming again.

I was starting to doze off in my chair, when my husband, Chris, staggered into the room to take over monitoring until morning.

When I woke up Saturday morning, Chris began filling me in on calls he'd taken.

Eagle Creek was coming up, and the whole area was under a flood warning. The town of Sparta was going under water.

He quickly gave over the sta-

tion to me to monitor, and headed off to help out in the small country community 2 miles from my home on Sparta Hill.

All afternoon I took calls from concerned CBer's wanting to know if the road was closed, if family members were okay, or if they could help.

I wrote down names and numbers until my fingers were sore. By that afternoon Unit #1, Charles Stamm, began monitoring and I headed down to see what needed to be done.

It looked like the circus was in town. Cars lined both sides of the road filled with sightseers, armed with cameras, video recorders, and a drivers license that I believe read, "Run over anyone that gets in the way" across the bottom in fine print.

Then there was the victims, cold, wet and in shock, staring at the water, which continued to rise steadily as the rain kept coming down.

Red Cross rolled into town and began taking names of people who had no where to go. I transported victims to shelters and helped direct people to the Red Cross to sign up for flood relief until dark. Chris was taking a much needed rest.

Later Chris returned to Sparta, and began working with the Sparta

Volunteer Fire Department (which went underwater Saturday afternoon, along with most of the town). He stayed there all night, reporting back to me via CB Channel 9 to make an occasional call to someone.

By this time the water had begun to cross the fog line near the bridge that crossed Eagle Creek and connected Owen County to Gallitin County. Donald Garner, along with Chris, helped patrol - watching for looters that night. Shortly before midnight Saturday, rescue personnel and the Department of Motor Vehicles closed Sparta's bridge.

Six house trailers, a two-bedroom house, and a speed boat hit the bridge that night. This concerned officials about the safety of crossing it. They couldn't see if there was structural damage. There was only 3 feet of "air space" between the raging head

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Pictured below is the town of Sparta - completely covered in water during the 1997 flood.



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waters and the floor of the bridge.

The bridge was newly built in 1970, and not one of the town folks has ever seen water over it. And, more rain was still coming!

From 4:00 a.m. Saturday morning, to noon Sunday, 12 inches of rain fell across the area. By Sunday morning the water crossed the road. Owen County became an island, as each of its' peaceful low lying towns slowly sank into the muddy depths of the Kentucky River.

The Sparta Fire Department stood on their home, ground staring over at the Owen County side, stunned. No one was on Owen County's side of the bridge except victims, and sightseers.

I slowly guided my car through the congested area to the water's edge, where I then positioned my car to make an easy getaway if the water surged forward suddenly.

Then, after turning on the warning lights of my car, I sat on the car hood and watched over the onlookers. I didn't have the authority to tell anyone to leave. To most, a simple warning that they were getting too close helped keep trouble at bay, and most of the time they listened.

I could see a rising concern

about children playing near the water, while their parents tried to get that "perfect photo." I knew the water was too swift to survive, especially with no rescue crew on this side.

I left the crowd of onlookers - just long enough to run home and ask my husband to come help out. He got dressed and left immediately, while I took more calls on the base on CB Channel 9 before going back to the scene of the flood.

By the time I returned to the bridge, Chris had been joined by off duty Department of Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officer, Jamie Perkins, who's house had also been filled with muddy water and debris on the first floor.

He gave our team authority to block Highway 127/35 into Sparta (at the top of the hill) and to keep out everyone except emergency crews and homeowners with proper identification. We had problems out of a few people, who ran the barricade.

Little did we know, but we had recruited Jamie (the DMV officer), into monitoring CB 9, by putting a spare radio my husband had, in Jamie's patrol car. Jamie's working unit number, of all numbers is Unit #911, assigned by DMV headquarters.

Every time someone broke through our barricade, we'd call Unit 911 to respond. It didn't take long for the suspect vehicles to go back out again.

Once the water started down, the physical labor began. People headed back to their homes to survey their loss, and maybe salvage a few memories from the slimy goo that covered everything in sight.

Near one home sat a John Deere tractor flipped up on its side. I marveled at how strong the water must be have been to turn over a big tractor like that. The



A muddy mess after the flood. This trailer didn't wash away thanks to a sturdy light pole. The day before found it completely submerged in water.

gentleman who owned the farm stated that his tractor was still where he parked it, "...don't know who's tractor this is," he said, "...must have washed 10 or 12 miles down creek."

I remember seeing an elderly man walking through the mud, just looking for something, anything, he could recognize as his. The pain on his face will stay with me for a very long time.

These people weren't worried about anything, except finding what was theirs and cleaning up the mess.

It became the job of Owen Tri-County REACT, to warn the water shocked people of Sparta, about tetanus shot renewals, hidden dangers in their area, like downed power lines and gas leaks, even though most of the propane tanks floated away.

Jesse Perice, and his father Sam, had lived in Sparta for many years. Sam had never seen the water get this high, or this swift. Jesse has one of the few trailers that didn't wash away. He worked all day pitching his clothes in a muddy pile by the front door. Jesse complained his feet hurt. Upon asking him if he had got a tetanus shot yet he replied, "No, I don't have time."

The local Red Cross had ran out of vaccines and the Owen



Blackie, a very happy, muddy dog, finds his hero. Chris Nickels pulled the dog out of the swift water earlier that day. Now, Chris is "dog's best friend".

Hospital was 12 miles away. The people who said they would help Jesse, never showed, so I called my dad.

My parents, Dallas and Aldean Hamilton, used to live in Sparta in 1961, in the same house as Jamie (Unit 911). The water came within 6 to 8 inches of getting in the house then, and Mom wasn't going to wait until it did, so they moved to Owenton away from the flood plains. Dallas volunteered to take his truck to Jesse's and bring Jesse's clothes to the laundromat for him.

I also called the Owen Hospi-

tal and set-up an appointment for Jesse in the emergency room. So, while Jesse's girlfriend and father washed clothes, I talked Jesse into getting that badly needed shot and exam. Treated with antibiotics, Jesse had a very severe infection caused by the contaminated flood water, and lack of attention by a doctor. He couldn't thank us for our help enough. It felt good to help out.

The small community of Sparta pulled together like never before. Mortal enemies worked together, and helped each other out. It was good to see so many

people who cared. However, as the sun set, the scenery changed, as well as the people.

Looters prayed on the misfortune of the flood victims. REACT stayed up with the fire department and Unit 911, Jamie, trying to protect the waterlogged homes being broken into along Eagle Creek's shores.

Many of the people who lived here will stay, many will leave. They all have been a part of a family for a short time. A family born during the Flood '97. An experience I will never forget.

Florida Council deals with hurricane season

***by Bob Pickering, Second Vice President - Council Operations
Florida Council of REACT Teams***

The State of Florida is in the heart of hurricane country. Each year from June to November we watch as the greatest storms on earth, form and spin their wrath across the tropics. Florida is most likely to be hit by a hurricane than any other state in the U.S. Andrew taught us many lessons. We have learned from those, and from every storm since. Hurricanes will come. It's just a matter of time.

How each Team responds in their area is up to each Team. REACT Teams each serve their areas differently, as the needs of each area require. Silver Wings REACT #4776 has to deal with two hurricanes in 1995. We looked at the 1995 season, and Andrew and decided some changes were in order. One note to offer is that many Teams reported heavy use of CB Channel 9, and CB in general during the response to Hurricanes Erin and Opal.

The State Council has now placed into effect a Statewide

Emergency Plan. This plan directs Teams on how to request mutual aid, and states who is in charge. The plan was distributed to Teams in the Florida Council in 1996. Several key elements in the plan include the following:

1. Focus on mutual aid. The plan is set up to guide Teams in mutual aid response.

2. Zones. The State of Florida is split into three zones. Each zone would have a designated coordinator in an emergency situation. This prevents the Council Leadership from being flooded with calls.

3. Levels of response. When there is a threat, the Council can activate on a level 1 - 5. Level 0 is normal monitoring. Level 1 is notification. Level 2 is alert. Level 3 is activation's. Level 4 is full operations. And, Level 5 is catastrophic operation. At a Level 5, request for assistance from other states may be required.

4. Chain of command. Who is in charge, and in charge of what. A Team that is not in harms way may be appointed as the Liaison Team. That Team will act as a relay to International, should the council leadership be unable to do so.

5. Communications. CB is number 1, but use GMRS, and Ham. Our plan designates GMRS 462.675, CB Channel 9, and 146.520 as contact frequencies for Teams in other Teams areas. If a Team goes to help another, a channel and point of contact and staging area must be decided upon. Once again, do not forget CB Channel 9!

In May 1996, the Council participated in the State Wide Hurricane Zelda Exercise sponsored by the State Division of Emergency Management. This was the first time this has ever been

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done in Florida, with the Council. This was a good opportunity to test our plans, and procedure. The primary objective of the exercise was to test the Council's ability to notify Teams, and let Teams know to call the Council if assistance from other Teams was requested or required. The exercise went over a 3 day period, and started with tracking Zelda across the Gulf of Mexico.

As the fictional Hurricane Zelda neared the coast, Teams were contacted in the areas that warnings were placed into effect. Right in the line of fire was Lower Pinnellas REACT, Inc. #C610. They were heavily involved, working with their country EOC. REACT of Hillsborough County #4909 was also involved. Citrus Center REACT #3720 was notified to be the point of contact for these teams. Citrus Center would then forward any further requests to the Council. Each Team contacted was some how already involved with the exercise. We concluded

that the exercise went well, and helped us for the 1996 season.

In early July, Hurricane Bertha set her sights on Florida. It was a scramble, as warnings were suddenly issued, as the storm had not turned north. Teams from Flagler County to Miami were getting ready. Per the state plan, Teams contacted the Council President. REACT Metro Dade #4881 staged with the Indian River REACT #4891, ready to head further north to provide assistance to teams that were in harms way. Bertha got closer, but turned. As Bertha headed northward and towards North Carolina, Florida teams stood down, and returned to normal.

Now I will be honest, things did not run as smooth as I had hoped, but in emergencies, they never do. But without our statewide plan, things would have been completely out of order.

Statewide Emergency Plan includes the following key elements:

- 1. Focus on mutual aid.**
- 2. Zone.**
- 3. Levels of response.**
- 4. Chain of command.**
- 5. Communications.**

Even inland areas are not safe from hurricanes. Hurricane Opal killed more people in Georgia, near Atlanta, than it did in Florida. Opal was a tropical depression as far north as Lexington, Kentucky. Heavy rains can continue further than that. The article by the member of the Metro Louisville REACT told of heavy damage well inland of the coast.

I strongly recommend that each state council look at forming a similar plan for their state. Some states may already have plans in place. One thing to keep in mind is that plans are important, not just in hurricane prone areas. Any state can be effected by a large scale event. If we plan now we will be prepared then.

If any state council would like a copy of our plan, please contact me at (904) 445-7644. I will be glad to send you a copy of ours. Feel free to use it any way you want.

Editors Note: Mr. Pickering is employed by the Office of Emergency Management and has extensive training in weather related events. He has been in REACT since 1991, and has monitored CB Channel 9 since 1985. He currently holds the position of team president and also 2nd Vice President to the Florida Council of REACT Teams.

New REACT Teams

- | | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #4982 | REACT Mini-Cassia #4982
Rupert, Idaho (Menidoka County)
September 8, 1997 |
| #4983 | REACT of Waxford County
Manton, Michigan (Waxford County)
October 21, 1997 |
| #4984 | Outback REACT
Anza, California (Riverside County)
November 3, 1997 |

Correction...

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #4980 | REACT of South Florida's county designation was incorrectly listed in the last issue. The actual county is Palm Beach County. |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



K40/REACT INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION FORM



Submission Category is: Individual Team Council (Mark one only)

Nominee's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
Day Phone Number (_____) _____ Evening Phone Number (_____) _____
Team/Council Name _____ Team #

--	--	--	--

INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION (Based upon 12 calendar months prior to nomination.)

Nominee monitored _____ hours, CB _____ hours OMRS, _____ Other (_____) _____
Nominee attended _____ Team meetings out of _____
Nominee attended _____ State Council meetings out of _____

TEAM NOMINATION (Based upon past 12 calendar months prior to nomination.)

Team held _____ membership meetings, and averaged _____ members attending per meeting,
out of _____ total members registered (during quarter preceding this nomination).

Team Delegates attended _____ State Council meetings out of _____ held.

Team has has not a scheduled monitoring program for one or more of

CB-9 CB OMRS Other (specify) _____

Hours: _____ (during report period)

Team volunteered at _____
Public Service Events (Parades, etc.)
Charitable Benefits (Bike-a-thons, Special Olympics, etc.)
Disaster/Emergency Operations

Please attach itemized list of events, including names, places, dates, man hours, # members working,
and explanation of services provided by the Team. List everything team participated in.

Please read the information on the back of this form before completing. Sign below as required
to certify the information submitted with this nomination form is true to the best of your knowledge.

Signature of Officer #1

Signature of Officer #2

Signature of Other Team/Council Officer

Title

Title

Title

Date

Date

Date

Send completed form to:
Include any/all required
copies and documentation)

REACT International, Inc.
Attention: Don Perry, Chairperson
P.O. Box 998
Wichita, KS 67201

**ALL NOMINATIONS BECOME THE
PROPERTY OF REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.
AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. JUDGING IS
PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE REACT
INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND
RECOGNITION COMMITTEE.**

K40/REACT INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Rules:

1. Nominations with more than five (5) pages of supporting documentation must include one (1) original and four (4) photo copies when submitted. All copies should accompany this form and contain the nominee's name to identify them.
2. Nominations will be considered in the quarter in which it is received at the address listed on the form. Quarters for judging will be:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Deadline for receipt</u>
1st	April 15th
2nd	July 15th
3rd	October 15th
4th	January 15th

3. Failure to follow any of the requirements on this form for the specific category being nominated, will void the nomination.
4. All supporting documentation must have the name of the individual/team/council mentioned in order to be considered by the awards and recognition committee judges. Any documentation not meeting this criteria shall not be forwarded to the judges. The Awards and Recognition Committee Chair has final authority over the suitability of all documentation.
5. **NOTE:** In addition to monitoring, other activities to be considered when making this nomination may include civic endeavors, civic projects, uncommon accomplishments, and public safety assistance.

Individual Nomination:

1. List the accomplishments for which this individual is being nominated in date sequence, including month, day, year.
2. Nomination form must be signed by two (2) Team Officers from the nominee's team, other than the nominee his/herself.
3. List the Nominee's participation history in the team for the previous 12 calendar months.
4. An Individual's nomination may be submitted in any quarter, but may only win ONCE during any award year.

Team/Council Nomination:

1. List the accomplishments for which this tea/council is being nominated in date sequence, including month, day, year.
2. Team Nominations must be signed by two (2) Team Officers from the nominated entity, and by one officer from a Council, Sub Council, or Team (if no council exists). **EXCEPTION:** This requirement is waived if there is no council, sub council, or team in the same state/province as the entity being nominated.
3. Council Nominations must be signed by two (2) Council Officers and by one Team Officer familiar with the council's qualifications for nomination.
4. A Team's nomination may be submitted in any quarter, but may only win ONCE during any award year.
5. A Council's nomination will only be awarded once per year.

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