



the REACTer

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

September/October, 1997

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Attendees relax for a photo at the 1997 REACT International Convention held in Ontario, Canada.

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off and running**

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Election Results**

**1997 REACT
International Convention
Highlights...**

**Training members
received was full of
valuable lessons**

New REACT Team...

off and running

By Kay Neil

Southwest Iowa REACT #4971, Iowa

Southwest Iowa REACT was chartered January 24, 1997 and though we are a young team, we have been extremely busy.

The team started with offering traffic control, communications for runners and walkers in many events - some big and some small. Our biggest event to date was the NCAA College World Series. We had been working with the city of Omaha for over two years to get the opportunity to work the event and it finally came together.

On May 30, we assembled a minimum crew at the stadium and from that day forward through the entire series, we had a minimum of three members with a maximum of seven for several games. Dodge County REACT was generous to us and assisted several days. We provided pedestrian crossing ser-

vices with the Omaha Police for every game as well as security passage for fans coming from several parking areas which crossed busy traffic routes. During times when fans were leaving the first game and arriving for the second game, members assisted in finding parking slots for them and other empty spaces for others.

In addition to these duties, members offered information to those seeking special transportation shuttles from sites around the city or through motels and other special services. Information was critical to many who attended the event and we were ready to help. We had contracted with police for direct service regarding scalpers and others who were violating laws or regulations and with the towing service on the grounds.

The College World Series broke records in attendance this year and we were pleased to be a part of it.

After the event was concluded, we looked forward to working traffic control for the Omaha Police during the fireworks/baseball game on July 3rd. A large crowd attended (approximately 24,000 inside the stadium and 150,000 outside) this big event and we were instrumental in assisting fans to the stadium safely. On July 4th, we assisted the Mills County Sheriff's Office as they handled over 1,000 cars at the Marvern Fireworks.

The remainder of the year looks very busy for our team with small and very large events scheduled. We hold monthly team meetings and conduct two safety breaks a year on I-80 near Des Moines. Over Memorial Day Sunday, the team served 62 dozen cookies, gallons and gallons of coffee and several gallons of juice to travelers going west bound through Iowa. We will be doing the same thing over Labor Day Sunday.

At the beginning of next year, we will begin Severe Weather training for our members.

Though we are currently a small team, we are very busy and very involved with our communities and our service area. We encourage other teams to become very visible in their area regardless of their size. It's a great feeling!



Members of Southwest Iowa REACT pictured from left to right is: Ed Neil, John Nixon, Paul Mathenia, Jr., Dawn Mathenia, Kay Neil and Pat Sorinsen.

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1997 REACT Renewal Lottery Contest Winners

Below is the list of REACT Team winners in the 1997 REACT Lottery Contest. REACT International, Inc., encourages all Teams, Councils and members to contact those companies that contributed prizes, to send a thank-you note for their continued support of the REACT program.

Firestik Antenna Company
 2614 E. Adams
 Phoenix, AZ 85034

The following REACT Teams received prizes donated by Firestik Antenna Company: 4258 of Washington, 2538 of Minnesota, 2388 and C022 of Maryland, 4939 of North Carolina, 4094 of Maine, 4763 of Florida, 4804 of Texas, 4813 of Wisconsin, C396 of Ohio,

C475 of California, 4938 of New York, 3522 of Pennsylvania and C336 of Missouri.

Shakespeare Company
 19845 Highway 76
 Newberry, SC 29108

REACT Team 4951 of Kansas received a prize donated by Shakespeare Company.

K40 Electronics
 600 Tollgate Road, Ste. A
 Elgin, IL 60123

The following REACT Teams received a prize donated by K40 Electronics: 2371 of New York, 2356 of Virginia, 4895 of New Jersey, 4872 of Iowa and C149 of Indiana.

Calendar of Events

September 20, 1997 - Search and Rescue class leading to National Certification sponsored by the Iowa State REACT Council. For further details please call (319) 266-0270 or (319) 236-1537, NOPBU@juno.com, KB)SZV@juno.com.

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.

November 2, 1997 - Ohio REACT Council, Inc., meeting. For further details contact John Leist at (614) 474-3786.

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

To All REACT Members...

By W.R. Stone

Chris White has asked me to write a brief article that describes how a board of directors of a corporation actually works, and that is the subject of this letter. As many of you know, I served as an at-large director of REACT for about ten years.

Perhaps Chuck Thompson of Texas or some other member who is an attorney should write this article, because they would certainly know more about corporate law than I do. However, I have been on the boards of six different companies, including REACT and two corporations I set up myself. So, I have some experience to offer.

First, the board of directors is the ultimate decision-maker for a corporation. It always consists of at least three persons - the chairman or president (either of whom may also serve as chief executive officer), the secretary, and the treasurer. The chief executive officer speaks for the board; and he is the only one who speaks. In addition other directors may be elected to the board to bring specific expertise. The directors are usually selected by the chairman and recommended to the other directors for their approval in a formal election process. Almost without exception in a large profit-making corporation a director is selected only on the basis of merit, meaning experience and specific knowledge such as finance, law, or science. The reason for the care in selection is that the directors are accountable to stockholders of the corporation for the actions of all employees, officers, and directors.

Ordinarily directors of profit-

making corporations are not liable for actions of the corporation that may reduce earnings or create legal problems. They are protected by the "corporate shield." That means the corporation can be sued, but not the directors. There are exceptions, however. If it can be shown that one of the directors was guilty of malfeasance, that is, illegal, unjustified, or detrimental conduct in carrying out his normal duties. In that case, the director can end up paying a heavy fine, or even going to prison.

A non-profit corporation such as REACT has no stockholders. The board of directors is responsible to the members. They must demonstrate to you that they are competent, that they know what they are doing, and that they are working solely for your good. REACT, however, selects their field directors by election, with each team having one vote. Unfortunately, someone who has done a good job running a team or council is not usually prepared for the responsibilities of a director. The founders of REACT understood that fact, and provided a solution by having the board choose at-large directors who, like the profit-making corporations, would bring specific areas of expertise to the board.

All those directors have resigned. Each gave a good reason, but the real reason was that they were tired of the infighting and backbiting that pervaded the organization. The drop in membership may be due to the same problem.

Every profit-making corporation speaks with one voice. There are both practical and legal rea-

sons for this practice. First, if you have two persons speaking to the media (for example), there will inevitably be two different stories. For example, in IMB there was (and probably still is) only one vice president who is authorized to release information for publication. He also had to approve public speeches given by any officer or employee of the company. The sole purpose of this practice is to make certain that there is no misunderstanding, especially by stockholders, of the corporation's position on various subjects.

Second, directors are not allowed to criticize the corporation in any public gathering. If a director has strong disagreement with the corporate decisions he is expected to resign and offer some innocuous reason to the press. To do otherwise would destroy his reputation. This is not an infringement of free speech. It is a recognition of the fact that negative publicity can damage the entire organization. Certainly REACT has been damaged by negative publicity, occasionally by board members publishing their personal views. Any director whose views differ from those held by the majority of the directors after a vote has been taken has the responsibility and duty to act in accordance with the board's decision, or to offer to resign.

Everyone can understand that if any employee, or especially a director of a corporation, were allowed to voice publicly his differences with corporate decisions, the stock market would be in con-

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

tinual turmoil, and the value of everyone's investment would suffer. Well, the same thing seems to have happened to REACT. There has been so much public criticism of individuals and the board that it is destroying the organization.

One cause of the problem is that field directors are elected directly to the board and then expected to become immediately

knowledgeable and wise about the topics under discussion. That can't happen. It takes at least one year, more often two, before the new directors can vote wisely on many of the issues before the board. If REACT is going to continue the practice of popular election to the board, regardless of experience - and I repeat that profit-making corporations almost never do so -

then you may have to rewrite the bylaws so that a new director, whether field or at-large, may take part in discussion of every issue, but cannot vote until after completing the first year on the board. This requirement might keep new directors from embarrassing themselves.

'Sandbag man' leads busy volunteers

George Lynn and fellow members of Vanderburgh County REACT #296 of Indiana, were busy during the early part of the 1997. George kept busy by loading bundles of sandbags into the back of a truck heading to a neighboring county. The bags were empty, but hoisting 14,000 of them is still quite a workout.

"I won't have to go to the 'Y'," he said, flashing a grin.

The first week in March Lynn, president of Vanderburgh County REACT was - the sandbag man.

The free sandbags, provided by the Emergency Management Agency was distributed through a local warehouse. The boarded-up building, which in another life was a fire station, looked barren, except when Lynn was seen out front in his orange REACT jacket.

Lynn was instrumental in helping fellow neighbors handle the impending water.

"Is this 'Sandbags R Us?'" asked Susan DeTalente, one such neighbor whose home was being encroached upon by water from swollen Pigeon Creek. DeTalente

told Lynn she wanted 50 bags to construct a two-foot-high barrier along the back of her house. Lynn figured 500 bags was more like it. He described how to fill the bags and gave her an instruction sheet.

Lynn wouldn't let her help him carry the bags to her car. He's stubborn that way.

George Lynn has been a member of REACT since 1983 - after the car he and his daughter were in went into a ditch and he used his CB to call for help.

Besides his sandbagging efforts, Lynn kept busy taking cots and blankets to a relief shelter out of town. He delivered REACT's food and communications trailer to Spencer County to feed sandbaggers.

"Unsung heroes' is how EMA Director Sherman Greer classifies volunteers such as Lynn. "He's been a godsend to us," Greer stated.

"He's worth

his weight in gold. It's a shame he's not fat," quips Lisa Cox-Patterson, also of EMA.

Ben Kempf of Donut Bank brought two boxes of doughnuts with him when he stopped to get 200 sandbags in case water threatened his pastry joints.

"Those guys really give a lot of personal time. We want to do anything we can do to help them out," says Kempf, who year-round donates food to REACT.



Board of Director Election Results

Of the 142 ballots for the two open positions of Field Director received 5 were considered spoiled. Spoiled ballots remained sealed and were not open - therefore they were not considered in the final vote.

The nominees were: James E. Bear, Lee Besing, Michael Chuvén and Ron Faulkner. REACT Teams were asked to cast a vote for two (2) positions open on the Board of Directors. REACT International, Inc., welcomes James

Bear and Lee Besing as the nominees receiving the most votes.

The following is a list of REACT Teams which voted in this election.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Arizona | 4882 | 4086 | 4805 | 3022 |
| C176 | 4921 | 4650 | 4834 | 3387 |
| C320 | | 4673 | 4944 | 4047 |
| | Hawaii | | 4953 | 4098 |
| California | C010 | Maine | | 4747 |
| C040 | | 4094 | Ohio | 4804 |
| C071 | Iowa | | C081 | 4950 |
| C128 | 3038 | Michigan | C199 | |
| C267 | 4748 | C238 | C282 | Virginia |
| C373 | 4971 | 3301 | C322 | C053 |
| C475 | | 3653 | 2332 | C109 |
| 2517 | Illinois | 484B | 4948 | C142 |
| 2609 | C164 | | | C360 |
| 3897 | C250 | Minnesota | Oklahoma | C490 |
| 4252 | C310 | C143 | 2620 | 3968 |
| 4573 | 2947 | 2538 | 3232 | 4751 |
| | 4020 | 3791 | | |
| Canada | 4534 | | Oregon | Vermont |
| 2341 | 4714 | Missouri | 4397 | 2424 |
| 2627 | 4815 | C336 | | |
| 4270 | | 4964 | Pennsylvania | Washington |
| 4757 | Indiana | | C015 | 2503 |
| 4760 | C100 | Mississippi | C445 | 3283 |
| 4853 | C149 | C204 | 2141 | 3366 |
| 4877 | C261 | | 2647 | 4258 |
| 4979 | C692 | North Carolina | 2785 | 4700 |
| | 2446 | 4935 | 3410 | 4784 |
| Connecticut | 3330 | | 3850 | |
| 3625 | 4899 | Nebraska | 3920 | Wisconsin |
| | | 2736 | | 3866 |
| Florida | Kentucky | 29B3 | Puerto Rico | 4089 |
| C610 | 1582 | | 4566 | 4364 |
| 2194 | | New Hampshire | | 4365 |
| 2562 | Massachusetts | 4105 | Rhode Island | 4813 |
| 2591 | 4961 | | C102 | |
| 4694 | | New Jersey | | |
| 4763 | Maryland | 4583 | Tennessee | Spoiled Ballots |
| 4891 | C022 | 4651 | 4962 | Canada Council |
| 4909 | 2106 | | | Michigan Council |
| 4859 | 2515 | New York | Texas | Pennsylvania |
| | 2833 | 2202 | C101 | Council |
| Georgia | 3202 | 2371 | C446 | Virginia Council |
| 4623 | 3252 | 4552 | C622 | 2083 - NC |

"Choices in Personal Communications" Seminar established for the public

Submitted by Bob Leef
Crest REACT #4252, California

With the arrival of Family Radio Service (FRS) models, Mr. & Mrs. Public now have another alternative for personal communications. Decisions have to be made between FRS, CB, GMRS, amateur, or cellphone. Where can the public get a factual description and comparison of all the above so a wise choice can be made? No where that we knew of until Crest

REACT presented the program "Choices in Personal Communications" in Hemet during March.

This ever more complex picture was simplified in our presentation, which detailed cost, range, advantages, disadvantages, and licensing if applicable. Samples were passed around of radios, antennas, and a cellphone. Presenters Clint - Unit 28, and Bob -

Unit 1, showed charts and answered questions. The public service aspect of two-way communication was also mentioned.

At the end we distributed our team brochure and product literature gladly supplied by several communications stores. One major ham radio supplier was very supportive, understanding at once the need to explain to the public the differences in communications models.

We will take our show on the road again by request. It is designed for the public that knows little or nothing about personal communications but we also would like to talk to groups such as 4WD clubs or people involved in a community watch.

Editors Note: If your team or council would like further information on this innovative program please call (909) 279-9358.

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Come Celebrate With Us!!!

By Bill Simpson
Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams



Come
celebrate in
1998 with
the Wisconsin
Council
of REACT
Teams.

an perhaps visit the Circus World Museums...or the "House on the Rock", where you will be thrilled with a lovely carousel, collections of weapons, trinkets, dolls, actually, something for everyone.

Interested in history? Within an hour of the Convention site you will find "Old World Wisconsin", a working village depicting life as it was nearly a century ago, with all the tasks performed with contemporary tools.

For more information, write us at: P.O. Box 228, Pewaukee, WI 53072. Or e-mail us at: simpsonj-b@msn.com, LOFRY@aol.com, or MacDonal@execpc.com.

Help us Celebrate in '98

See you in Wisconsin!!!

Come celebrate with us!!! The best is yet to be! 1998 marks the 200th birthday of the State of Wisconsin, and the 20th birthday of the Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams. The member teams of the Council are proud and delighted to be the hosts of the 1998 REACT International Convention.

We are attempting to create one of the more affordable Conventions in the past ten years, without lessening the impact a Convention can have to the attendees. While we still have time, we would like to have input from you concerning ideas and programs to be featured. Give us your thoughts, via hard copy, or by e-mail. Addresses are included at the end of this article.

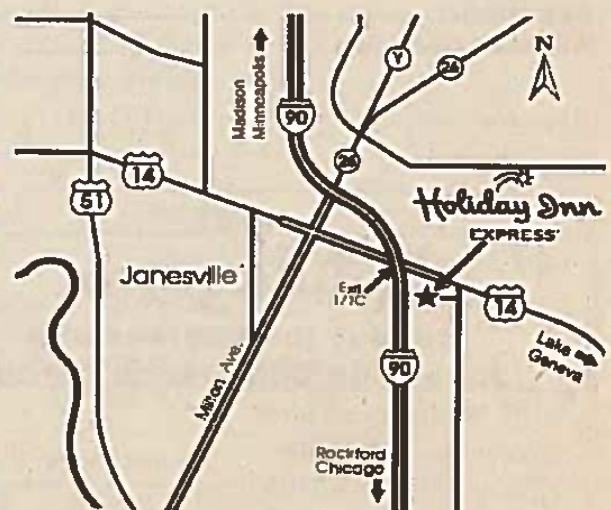
Janesville, Wisconsin, the site of the '98 Convention, is Americana at its finest. The residents are friendly, down to earth, and just plain nice folk! If you can't make friends, you aren't trying. The scenery is typically rural Midwest, with cows in one block, and big buildings in the next.

For those who want the tour-

ist trap scene, well, we intend to be of help. Our 'day trip' includes a ride on the Wisconsin "DUCKS"! Nope, we won't explain that...if you want to find out about a ride on the Ducks, you need to send in a registration form, and pop in to see us. We will guarantee time to visit the tourist traps in the Wisconsin Dells, where you will be allowed to leave any amount of money you choose, in exchange for some trinkets, or moccasins...or perhaps some fudge.

We also plan a visit to the world famous "Tommy Bartlett Ski Show", where we will be astounded by the precision and grace of skiers as they perform in a secluded portion of the upper Dells area. To cap off the performance, a wonderful laser light show splits the evening and lights up the terrain with flashes, twinkles, lances and sparkles!

Plan to arrive early,



Exit # 171C from I-90
Hwy 14 East to Wellington



1998 REACT International Co. 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 |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| 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 | _____ |
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| Amateur Breakfast _____ | | @ | \$15.00 | _____ |
| Registration | before 5/15/98 \$55.00 | after 5/15/98 \$70.00 | | _____ |

One Registration Form Per Member

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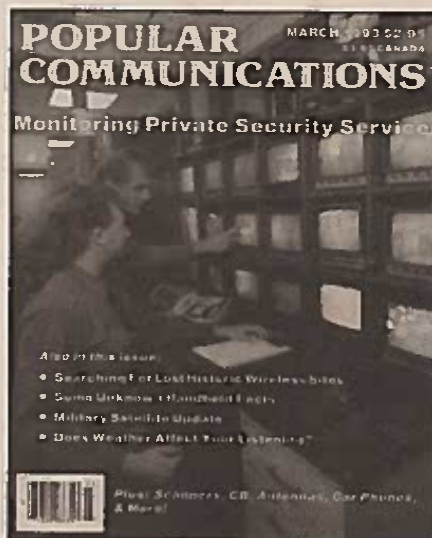
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1997 REACT International



Convention attendees addressed by guest speakers at Opening Session.



Ken Green, Field Director speaks to members during the closing banquet.



Bob Riechel re-reads proclamation at banquet for host committee members.



Pictured left is members preparing to board buses for tour.

Pictured right is REACTers as they participate in General Session.



Life members attending the 1997 REACT International Convention in Ontario, Canada.

Convention Highlights...



Ken Green presents Dick Gamble of Pacific Northwest REACT Council (pictured left) with the Annual Council K-40 Achievement Award and Sean Howe of Waukesha Area REACT #4089, Wisconsin (pictured right) with the Annual Team K-40 Achievement Award.



1997 Convention hosts Ron and Linda Faulkner's niece performs an Irish dance for members at the banquet.



Pictured is Sean Howe of Waukesha Area REACT #4089, Wisconsin - 1st place winner in the Annual Newsletter Contest - Category A. Second place winner was Superstition REACT, Arizona (not pictured) and Lee Besing of Bexar County REACT, Texas - 3rd place winner.



Above is Jesse Mauk accepting 2nd place Annual Newsletter Contest - Category C. Not pictured is Heartland REACT of Nebraska - 1st place Annual Newsletter Contest winner in Category C.



Pictured right is the winners of the Annual Newsletter Contest - Category Council winners. From left to right is Dick Gamble accepting 3rd place for Pacific Northwest REACT Council, Azella Tingler accepting 1st place for the Commonwealth of Virginia REACT Council and Jacki MacDonald accepting 2nd place for the Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams.



REACTers acknowledge and thank host team committee members for a preparation and planning of a great week full of seminars, tours and good times.

Training members received was full of valuable lessons

***By Roger Wines W5WIA
Travis County REACT Team #3022, Inc.***

It was Saturday, when we all have those 'other' things to do. As the day progressed, the Austin/Travis County ARES Hams kept hearing of more and higher degrees of incidents leading us to believe the exercise would never be over. Hours after the initial call went out, we all discussed how the number of storms, the various

results over a wide spread area, and the continuous explosion of new problems kept us going from one problem to another. This was after all only a drill, only for practice and preparation. This would probably never happen where there would be several locations of tornadoes and damaging storms.

Then came May 27, 1997, a day we will all remember vividly as the storms struck. By mid-afternoon there was media and National Weather Service talk of storms in and around the Waco, Texas area with the passing of a front. Waco is 100 miles to the north of Austin, and the usual path of these storms is to the northeast as the mass slides to the south/southeast.

Spring time is when cool fronts from the north sweep south-

ward and collide with the daytime heating trying to reach summer like temperatures, and when they do collide most likely there will be storms - some minor - others major.

It wasn't long after the initial reports came in that it became apparent that the storms could become severe. A short time later funnel clouds became the reports received and from that moment on, over the next few hours, Central Texas became a north-to-south path of destruction. A path of 24 miles when all added together. Tornadoes were spawn one after another. Due to all the storm activity including straight-line winds exceeding 60-70 m.p.h., the heavy rains and spots of hail, it was very difficult to determine the origin of the various tornadoes

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please contact:**

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REACT and D.P.S. working together. Pictured is Jarrell tornado aftermath - asphalt sucked off the road and field where 30 plus homes once stood.

Tornado's bring unusual destruction.

Pictured far left is a large plastic garbage can stuck to the top and a metal bar wrapped twice around lower portion of power pole.

Pictured left is a screwdriver thrown into a telephone pole.



as they ripped apart several areas. The first tornadoes spotted were south of Waco, and as reports came in of which there were many, it was recognized that this storm was tracking in a southerly direction, somewhat unusual for this area.

The training for protection against tornadoes around this area is to expect tornadoes to move from a southwest to a northeast direction, and to get to an interior portion of a building, and possibly into a bathtub with a cover such as a mattress. All the bathtubs and interior walls were swept away in the fury of the largest tornado which hit Jarrell.

Here it came, marching south and in its path along I-35 was a small town of Jarrell. Jarrell residents were terrorized in 1989 by a tornado which destroyed much of the center of town, which had since all been rebuilt and business re-established. As the storm approached, it was a thin 'pencil lead' type tornado that was doing some destruction along the way. Then it exploded into one of the deadliest, strongest storms to ever hit Texas and especially Central Texas. As the observers of this development reported as they chased the storm southward, it was a thin line of a tornado reaching high into the sky and dancing

all around as it moved south. Then heavy rains obscured their vision momentarily and when the rain lightened to allow the sighting again, it had grown to a level 5 tornado approximately six tenths of a mile wide on the ground and swept through the western side of Jarrell on the ground for 1 1/2 to 2 miles causing total annihilation of everything in its path. First it crossed fields of livestock where hundreds of cattle and sheep were torn apart and blown away. Then a mobile home, a recycle plant, brick and rock homes swept clean off their foundation, more homes, and several mobile homes all totally destroyed, mangled, twisted and rolled up together with barbed

wire fencing and discarded while tearing objects as well as people to pieces and leaving behind bare fields where it all stood. The entire asphalt was sucked up on a stretch of road leaving the dirt road bed defining where it once was. At the time of this writing, not all is totaled, but reports tell us there were 30-40 homes, untold numbers of vehicles, and 27 deaths in this area alone. More than half were young folks - children. Later pictures capturing the storm in action showed three vertices within this massive tornado. The storms continued their march southward towards the Austin area. In the

(Continued on next page)



The search for survivors after the Jarrell tornado.

(Continued from previous page)

northeast portion of the greater Austin area is Cedar Park, where a large newly built supermarket was destroyed. Beside it was an old style train used for special rides which had its steam engine overturned. No lives were lost in this incident as a store manager instructed the shoppers by a public address system to all go to the food locker room in the rear of the store. He was credited with saving many lives.

The storm then danced its way further into a sub-division of homes where many were partially or totally destroyed. The storm in this area was classified at a level 3.

It continued to move south through the 'hill country' where it

continuously bounced up and down leaving a path of destruction for many miles. Some people lost their lives in these level 4 storms.

Central Texas occasionally has wind and rain, and every few years has several areas where hail means roofs and vehicles have to be repaired or replaced and a small twister will touch down from time to time. This was the exception to the rule and it was devastating to everyone in the area.

WEATHER: It can happen anytime, any place.

PREPAREDNESS: Prepared or not prepared?

DESTRUCTION: Minor, major, catastrophic?

MANAGEMENT: Stressful, organized, chaotic?

The following information was taken off the REACT Internet and written by the Rev. Daniel C. Clark of Louisville Metro REACT #1582, Kentucky.

While the rest of the ham world was practicing Field Day in earlier this year, hams from South Central Texas were really have a Field Day under emergency conditions! The following amateurs may not have gotten many points during Field Day, but they made a bunch of brownie points for Amateur Radio with the American Red Cross and the town of Tildon. They stayed for 24 hours until the flood waters receded and allowed them to return home for a well deserved rest.

Control operators in New Braunfels were Ray Taylor - N5NAV and Todd Covington - N51JR. Transmitting from soggy Tildon were John Weber - WB5YQC, Dough Brown - KK5LA, Jimmie Tadlock KB5TEE, and Don Kirchner - KJ5PS.

Standing by on HF at the Red Cross was Don Jones - N5WSW. Other REACT Amateurs in supporting roles for this emergency included Lee Basing - N5NTG (Bexar County REACT), Jim Luker - KC5NUW (Comal County REACT) and Karen Hays - KC511Q. Amateur organizations represented by these fine amateurs, other than REACT, were San Antonio Repeater Organization (SARO), San Antonio Radio Club (SARC), Central Texas Traffic Net, and of course the ARES organization.

Super Job People - God Bless!

It's great to see such posts on this forum! It gives encouragement to all of us as volunteers in the communication field.

Where did we as Radio Operators fit into all this? The exercise we had recently helped us to practice our skills and abilities for just such an emergency situation that faced us. At the time of the drill we felt it was more than perhaps we would ever be utilized to do. It was directly in line with the need we had at this disaster.

In Austin (the area includes Travis County and Williamson County to the north) we were fortunate to have an active group of Hams that are interested and involved in ARES, RACES, REACT and the local Emergency Operation Communications (E.O.C.). As a result of the activities surrounding these groups, we are privileged to have warning/call-out systems to notify the Amateur Radio Community of emergency situations. We have a station in the cities E.O.C. where we can operate and simultaneously interact with the controlling officials. Our primary means of alerting the Hams into action is with a city-wide paging system set up to operate on a mass call-out. One page alerts anyone with a pager. These are alpha-numeric pagers so the message can be read without having to call anyone to retrieve the message. Most of the ARES and REACT members have a "AWACS" pager.

The pages began rolling out as the storm rolled in. The first thing that normally happens is to start up the weather net. Our control point for this activity is located in the weather office of a local television station.

The weather net was called up and immediately reports of all types began rolling in. It was about this time that reports were coming in about the tornado tearing Jarrell apart. Jarrell is approximately 40 miles to the north of Austin and in Williamson County. The Williamson County Sheriff's

Department was deployed to the scene as was the D.P.S. Due to the storm, the 800 MHz radio service for the Williamson County Sheriff's Department went out. The regular phones and cellular phones were inoperable mostly due to the immediate overload of users. Williamson County Hams were called into action to supply communications for the sheriff's department. They established a 'disaster' net on a local (to the area) 2-meter repeater, had a position at the E.O.C. in Georgetown (the county seat of Williamson County) and dispatched radio operators to the field of disaster to trail the key deputies to allow the communications net to be established. This repeater had been installed as the result of the need at the earlier tornado in 1989.

The calls continued to go out for help in all directions. In all, by the time the count was evaluated, over eighty hams had responded either directly in the disaster area, managing base net control units, relaying information, helping to supply communications to support groups such as Red Cross, reliving one another to gain rest periods, etc.

Although the storms ravaged through on Tuesday, Wednesday and through the weekend the need continued trailing off as other means of communication were re-established.

When an event such as this happens, there is no way a group of fun-loving, hobbyists, enjoying their everyday life of communicating with each other can be prepared and called into action - OR IS THERE? This group of dedicated folks, no different inside than anyone else was prepared, was ready to help, and at the calling stepped up and did everything it took to get the job done.

Yes, when something of this nature happens, there is chaos, there are things that are not done correctly, tempers flare, unpreparedness shows, but when all is said and done, we look back and see that not only did everyone do what it took and did their best, but they were all much better prepared and did more right than wrong.

Was the training we went through that Saturday for naught? We thought so at the time, but not now. This disaster has set the scene for better preparedness, and enhancement of disaster planning.

This story could go on for many pages with the details of all that took place, but those are individual stories better left untold

in a disaster such as this, and let the ones who were a part of it tell their story as they choose or not. Healing takes a long time for some, so let's all try to let the healing take place and remember that all the practice you can get is never too much when the time comes to utilize your knowledge.

If you are not a part of an organized team to handle your immediate surroundings, get involved, organize it and prepare yourself and hope you never have to use all your training, but should you be called into action, you can be proud to be a part of the Amateur Radio Community that helps people all over, every day.



Disaster operators man the radios at the Red Cross building in Austin, Texas during and after the Jarrell tornado.

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REACTers honored at volunteer award ceremony

By Tom Currie

Louisville Metro REACT #1583, Kentucky

Three members of Louisville Metro REACT were honored at the American Red Cross Louisville Area Chapter's volunteer recognition award ceremony Thursday, July 17th.

Tom Currie, Vice President of the Kentucky State REACT Council and Kentucky REACT's

representative to KY VOAD, received a certificate for having performed over one hundred hours of volunteer service with the local Red Cross service center this year. Tom has been a Red Cross disaster team volunteer since 1975 and is Communications Officer for the Louisville Area Chapter's Southwest Service Center.

James Currie received a certificate for over six hundred volunteer hours with the Southwest Service Center this year. He also received a Special Citation and red Red Cross wind breaker for his outstanding service. In addition to his work as a disaster team volunteer, James is Disaster Survey/Damage Assessment chairman for the Southwest Service Center and also works with the service center's

youth group, the 4-H Club Ready Team.

Sue Currie received a certificate for over five hundred volunteer hours with the service center this year. Although she was one of the two volunteers responsible for setting up the service center's recognition program, even Sue did not know who had been selected as Southwest Service Center 1997 Volunteer of the Year until she opened the envelope with the top award winner's name. "The Nineteen Ninety-Seven Volunteer Of The Year Is...--Oh, My God -- it's me..." Rich Springston, co-chair of the event, had to announce Sue's name because she was in tears. In addition to the service center Volunteer Of The Year award, Sue also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Louisville Area Chapter. Sue is a disaster team volunteer and the service center Coordinator of Volunteers.

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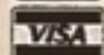


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In Memory of... *Lee White* *of Oklahoma*



Virgil Lee White, husband of Christene White, passed away on August 30, 1997. Services were held at 10:00 a.m., September 3, 1997.

I would like to share with you the following words that were read during the services:

"Mr. Virgil Lee White, son of the late Harold Virgil and Lois (Cecil) White, was born on February 16th, 1930 in Mitchell, South Dakota. Virgil passed from this life on August 30, 1997 in Ardmore, Oklahoma at the age of

sixty-seven years, six months, and fourteen days old."

"On June 5, 1953 Virgil married Christene Whitlock in Norman, Oklahoma. He retired from the United States Navy after serving for twenty years, he had served during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He also retired from T.R.W. after twenty-five years of dedication. Virgil enjoyed many hobbies including: fishing and playing golf and was a member of the Naval Fleet Reserve and REACT Organization. He was also a member of the First United Methodist Church of Tishomingo, Oklahoma."

"Surviving Virgil is his loving wife Christene of the home, one daughter and son-in-law, Darlene and Paul Thomas of Tishomingo, Oklahoma, two sisters, Delores Mucci of Island Park, Idaho and Faye Arnett of Durango, Colorado, one granddaughter, Jennifer Thomas and a very special cousin, Donna Thatcher of Arizona."

The following REACT members were present: Mr. Ken Green of Wichita, KS, Mr. Jeff Haralson of Norman, OK, Mr. Bob Kaster of Oklahoma City, OK, Mr. Gayland Kitch of Moore, OK, Mr. Ron Mayes of Wichita, KS, Mrs. Pamela Riechel of Daly City, CA, Mr. Robert Riechel of Daly City, CA, Mrs. Karen Smith of Waco, TX, Mr. Wally Smith of Waco, TX, Mrs. Lori Trelia of Levittown, NY and Mr. Phil Trelia of Levittown, NY. I want to say a special Thank You to Bob and Vivian Stone and for Bob's eulogy.

To those REACTers present at the services and to all of those REACTers who called and sent cards and letters right up until the end and after the services, I want to say THANK YOU. Without your support, I do not know how I would have made it through those times. I was especially surprised and pleased to see the number of REACTers who were present at the services representing those of you who could not be there personally.

Sincerely,

Christene White

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

Helping others is what they do

17 members of Allegany County REACT #4944 have fundraiser

Allegany County REACT's fundraiser for the Children's Hospital in Buffalo and the Jerry Lewis Telethon is only one of the ways this group of members goes out of the way to help others.

Since it was established in 1996, the Allegany County REACT #4944 has helped stranded motorists and families in need, and has raised money for worthy causes.

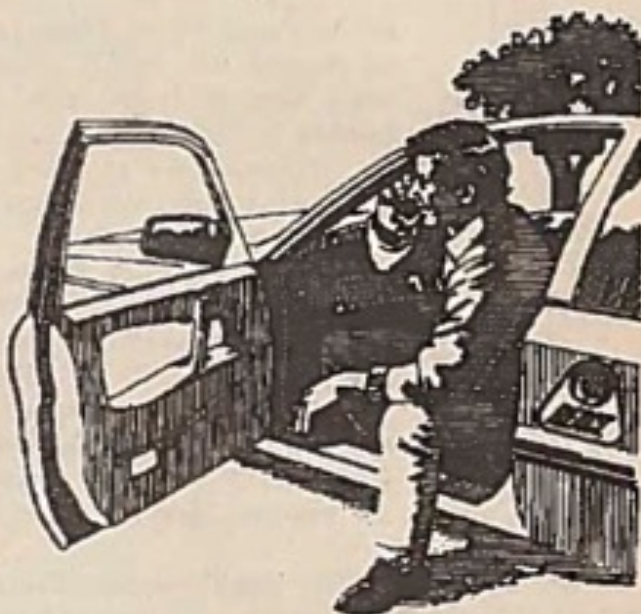
The team has held two spaghetti fundraising dinners where all proceeds go to benefit the Children's Hospital and the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

During the first year, the members responded to 33 calls from people needing help for problems, a stalled vehicle or an accident, a medical emergency, even helping people who are lost get road information.

The seventeen members of

Allegany County REACT provide coffee breaks on Route 17's exit and entrance ramps to motorists over the Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Debra Bogle, the team's treasurer took a call on the radio one night from a lady and her family who were stranded in Angelica. They had vehicle problems and her mother was expecting her at home. So she got on the radio and asked if someone could get on the phone and let her mother know. Debra relayed the message to the woman's mother and got the family some assistance for their disabled vehicle.



And when the Wellsville residents were forced from their homes by last January's flooding, Team #4944 members were quick to offer their help.

Judy Kosciwicz states the group helped out for two weeks, setting up shelters, preparing and serving meals. After the flood water receded, the members assisted damage assessment teams in accessing the flood's damage.

"They are a good group of people. They are very willing to help and very community oriented," Ms. Kosciwicz said.

Editors Note: Hats off to the members of Allegany County REACT Team #4944 for performing such a vital service to their community.

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In memory of Lee White**

Recording for the Blind moves...

By **Stuart DeLuca**
Travis County REACT #3022, Texas

For the benefit of those who are interested, I recently visited with the General Manager of Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFBD), the non-profit organization that records *the REACTer* for our members who have visual handicaps or other difficulty in using printed matter.

The reason this service was discontinued is pretty simple. RFBD moved a year ago to the campus of the Texas School for the Blind. They didn't send notices to all of the hundreds of publishers whose material they record.

Some time ago REACT International started sending the REACTer by bulk mail to RFBD. Bulk mail is NOT forwardable NOR returnable. When RFBD moved, the Post Office just threw away the copies of *the REACTer*. Lynda

thus had no way of knowing that the copies were not being received. And RFBD made no effort to notify her.

RFBD is willing to resume recording and sending the tapes to REACT members as soon as they start getting *the REACTer* again by first class mail. The last set of tapes went to 16 REACT members around the country.

It is not necessary to ask for a particular person; any staff member will assist. Nor does RFBD require any "written agreement" with a publisher.

Receiving tapes from RFBD does involve an initial registration fee and an annual "maintenance" fee; these fees entitle the recipient to recordings of THOUSANDS of books and periodicals. There is no extra fee to receive *the REACTer*.

The correct address and telephone number are as follows:

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Publicizing REACT

by the Public Relations Committee

First, I wish to thank everyone that has helped with this year's REACT International Convention.

And many thanks to Ken Green, Ron McCracken and Pam Riechel for filling in for myself.

Our Committee will work on the suggested ideas that came out of this year's convention notes.

Our work continues...
Fred Lanshe, Chairman



versary. It's probably a good time to stamp out, white out, rub out or otherwise get out those periods that don't belong.

Celebrate REACT! Be sure all your Team's publicity spells our REACT name r.i.g.h.t!

Clip Art Coup

Is your Team sold on the value of clip art to brighten up its flyers, posters, newsletters,

etc.?

It better be! Take note of the posters and other PR you stop to read or look at. What first caught your attention? Likely it was a drawing, cartoon, etc.

The internet is a bonanza of clip art for believers. Many Teams already are, so surf some of these hot prospects. Let us know which you like best.

To save time, head first for the "Clip Art Search Engines" page (<http://www.webplaces.com/search/>).

Then you can check out the "Clip Art Review" page (<http://www.webplaces.com/html/clipart.htm>).

For FREE clip art, the "Public Domain Pictures" page (<http://>

1997 Convention Tapes Available...

For the third year in a row, Joe Nadeau of Tobacco Valley REACT #3625, Connecticut has video taped the convention.

The tapes, a set of two, are available for \$10.00 U.S. Funds. For those that wish to furnish two eight hour tapes the cost is only \$3.00 U.S. Funds.

Request for orders and the money can be forwarded to:

Joseph L. Nadeau, Jr.
Tobacco Valley REACT #3625
Broad Brook, CT 06016-0568

What's with "R.E.A.C.T."??

Goodness knows. Our organization's name is REACT. REACT is a word, not a series of initials.

REACT tells what we do. We react to emergencies and summon help for people in distress.

Pete Kreer, REACT's founder, will also tell you the correct pronunciation of our name is Re-ACT, not REE-act, as most of us (blush) mistakenly pronounce it. How about you?

Check your Team letterhead, newsletter, business cards, etc. Do they have our REACT name spelled correctly?

This is REACT's 35th anni-



www.artswire.org/kenroar/links/clipart.html) is for you. Want help to design your Team's own web page? Try the "Clip Art Connection Web Page Resources" page (<http://www.ist.net/clipart/webresrc.html>).



Headquarters often prints camera ready clip art in the magazine and Team Topics. Feel free to use the clip art provided for all your PR needs.

Another page to investigate for graphics is Yahoo's "Picture Index" (<http://www.yahoo.com/computers/multimedia/pictures>). Have a great time!

PR by PC

Like some PR pointers to help in your work? Crank up the old PC and take a peek at "Internet Publicity Resources" (<http://www.olympus.net/okeefe/pubnet/>).

Have you found a good web page for PR that other Teams should hear about? Drop us a message about it. We will be glad to pass it along.

Hail, "Snail" Mail!

"E-mail" is wonderful. However, using it carries huge PR risks. So, think carefully before you opt for it. It can be deadly PR.

"E-mail" is painfully public. Millions of people can read it. That means anything you send by e-mail is major publicity, good or bad, like it or not.

Plain, common, horse-sense says you only use e-mail then for positive, upbeat messages. Think! Before you send, remember potential new REACT members also use e-mail. Many will access e-

mail to research REACT as they consider joining. Will the REACT e-mail they see from your Team motivate them to join us?

"E-mail" is the equivalent of a news article. Would you want your Team's e-mail published in the local newspaper? How about "USA Today"? The "CBS Evening News"?

"E-mail" can be a PR nightmare. Irresponsible e-mail use can wipe out months or years of hard work by your Team or Council PR committee.

"Snail mail" (letter) may be slower, but it has excellent advantages at times. It is private, going only to the spe-

mail to re-

cific person(s) you intend. Any PR damage is thus limited as a result.

Clearly, anything negative has no place on e-mail. Check your Team's e-mail. Is it a PR bonanza, or a PR disaster? Be sure it is helping, not hurting, the efforts of many others to grow REACT.

Win-Win Deal

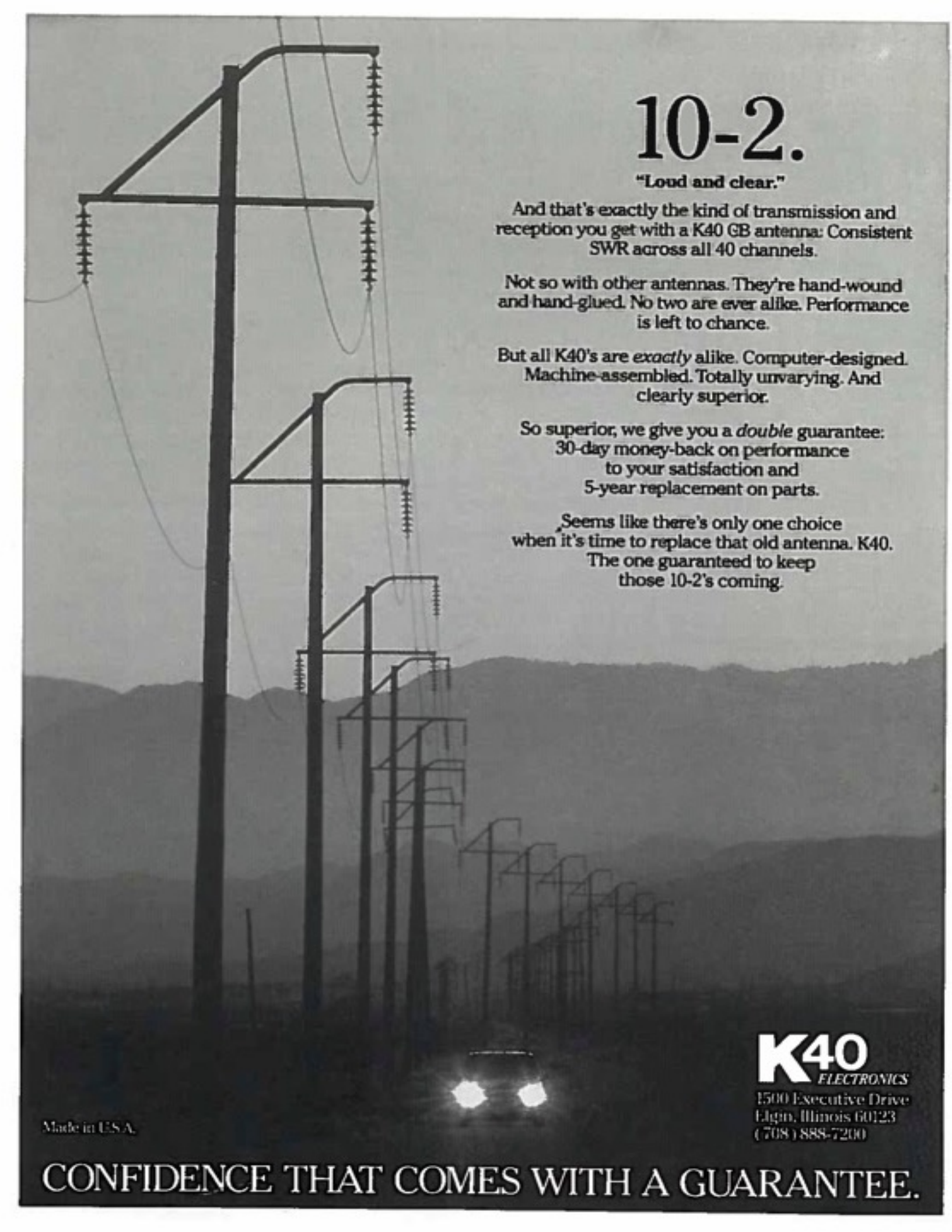
Does your town publish a directory of recreation and service organizations? Is your Team listed? Under "REACT"? Does your entry show 2 or 3 phone numbers potential members can call?

Do you use the directory to contact other local organizations? To offer safety communications for events. To offer REACT speakers for their meetings?

If there is no directory yet, talk up the idea. Help to make one happen. Great PR tool for everyone in town!



REACT communicators relax after completing their radio duties with Special Olympics. North Brevard REACT #2562 coordinated transportation details for Olympians competing in basketball and bowling events from sites at the Titusville, Florida games.



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