



the REACTer

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

November/December 1998

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Happy Holidays



Best Wishes for 1999

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**Summary of IRS
501(c)(3) Exemptions**

Committee Reports

**Operation
Rock and Roll**

Aerofest '98

Message from the President

By Jack Murrell

One of the things I wanted to find out about to help keep us on track when I was first appointed to the Board of Directors was the extent of REACT's commitment to the IRS that resulted in our 501(c)(3) recognition as well as the full value of this tax exempt status.

When I made my first trip to the new offices in Suitland, I found copies of correspondence dating from that time and have prepared a summary of these. As you read through the summary you will see that there is no requirement for your team or council to file a tax return with the IRS as long as your team or council is included in the return REACT International, Inc. is required to file. However, if your team or council chooses to get your own 501(c)(3) exemption, you will need to notify REACT International, Inc. to not include your team or council in their return and your team or council will have to file its own return. Your team or council is authorized to use the tax exempt number of REACT International, Inc. if you are included under the group exemption but may not use it if you have chosen to get your own. Please note that this summary is from material dated in July 1976. There have been some changes in things like the maximum income limit

before being required to file the tax return (up from \$5,000 to \$25,000) but the basic items are still the same.

The staff at Headquarters has verified each Employer Identification Number (EIN) with the Exempt Organization department of the IRS and updated our records accordingly. If you have any questions about your team's information please contact the office at Suitland.

It is my hope that all REACT teams and councils included in our group exemption understand the need for the reports asked for at renewal time. If we all place a high value on REACT's 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, I am sure we will all do everything we can to ensure we maintain it as fully as we can. If your team has already sent in your renewals and didn't include the Activity/Monitoring Report or Statement of Non-participation in the group exemption, get the information together and send it in as soon as possible. This is something that affects all teams and councils and it is important that we have the information as complete as possible. Thank you for all you and your team are doing to help REACT grow and continue to be a vital resource in your community.

(Summary of IRS 501(c)(3) exemption conditions appears on Page 4.)

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Summary of IRS 501(c)(3) exemption conditions for REACT International, Inc.

In a letter dated 7-30-78, Mr. E.D. Coleman, Chief, Exempt Organizations, Technical Branch, of the IRS, notified REACT International, Inc. (EIN 510188558, Group Exemption Number 2746) that:

"Based on the information supplied, we recognize you and your named subordinate organizations on the list you submitted as being exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code effective April 1, 1976."

REACT International, Inc. was subsequently recognized as qualifying as a "publicly supported organization of the type described in section 509(a)." This is to distinguish REACT International, Inc. as "...not a private foundation." As a publicly supported organization of the type described in section 509(a)(2) REACT International, Inc. is "...not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code."

"Additionally, we have classified the subordinate organizations you operate, supervise, or control, and which are covered by your notification to us, as organizations that are not private foundations by virtue of section 509(a)(2) of the Code."

Included in the letter are instructions for annual filings required to maintain this classification status for both REACT International, Inc. and all of its named subordinate organizations. Those instructions are:

"You are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax by the 15th day of the fifth month only if your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$5,000.

Each of your subordinate organizations whose gross receipts annually are normally more than \$5,000 are also required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of their annual accounting period unless you include the subordinates in a group return. The law imposes a penalty of \$10.00 a day, up to a maximum of \$5,000 for failure to file a return on time.

You and your named exempt subordinate organizations are not required to file Federal Income tax returns unless you and the subordinate organizations are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you or the subordinate organizations are subject to this tax, an income tax return on Form 990-T must be filed. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your activities or those of your subordinates are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You and your named subordinate organizations are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes effective April 1, 1976, unless you and they file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. You and your named subordinate organizations also are not liable for the taxes imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) effective April 1, 1976.

Donors may deduct contributions to you and your named subordinate organizations as provided by section 170 of the Code effective April 1, 1976. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to or for the use of you and your named subordinate organizations are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code effective April 1, 1976.

You should advise each of your subordinate organizations of the provisions of this ruling, including the requirements for filing information or other returns."

Attached to the letter is a copy of the Bylaws submitted as the "information supplied" referred to above. These Bylaws include wording required by the IRS to qualify as a 509(a)(2) publicly supported organization. Significant in this wording is the following:

"No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private member or individual and the corporation shall not engage in propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, or participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office."

The Eugene S. Goebel Award

Eugene S. Goebel was a member of the Board of Directors from 1975 until his death in 1984. At the 1984 Convention the Eugene S. Gobel Memorial Award fund was started in his memory. The fund was established to recognize REACT members who give outstanding service to the organization.

Al Hangar and Fred Lanshe receive Eugene S. Goebel Award

The Board of Directors of REACT International, Inc., presented the Eugene S. Goebel Award to A.B. Hangar, member of Herndon REACT, Inc., #C-332 and Fred Lanshe, member of L.E.M.A. REACT, Inc., #C-546.

Al Hangar's citation reads..."In recognition of his unselfish contribution of time, skills, and effort to lead REACT through changing and challenging times while serving as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee and leader at all other levels of the REACT organization. This dedicated volunteer service has benefited all REACT members and is therefore worthy of the highest commendation."

Fred Lanshe's award reads..."In recognition of his unselfish contribution of time, skills, and effort to lead REACT through changing and challenging times while serving as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and leader at all other levels of the REACT organization. This dedicated volunteer service has benefited all REACT Members and is therefore worthy of the highest commendation."

CB network is ears, eyes of community

By Linda Rothstein of the Sun

There's an invisible web that criss-crosses the country, keeping citizens informed of emergencies in their areas.

One of those tuned into that web is Grant resident Roger Robinson, known to his CB buddies as "Shindig" after a television show he appeared in during the '60s.

He's the president of the Indian River County chapter of REACT, a group of about 15 area citizens-band radio operators who scan multiple channels from home, their vehicles and the group's mobile command center. They keep each other and local law enforcement and emergency service personnel aware of emergencies.

Robinson then contacts the appropriate agency, so it can respond to potentially dangerous situations.

While law enforcement can't be everywhere on the country's highways and byways, CB operators are often the eyes and ears of the road.

Robinson remembers one message he received from a trucker following a suspicious van swerving about I-95. While various CB operators on the road updated Robinson on the vehicle's location, Robinson contacted the Florida Highway Patrol.

"(REACT) was an idea to do an emergency communication organization that would be in touch with the public," Robinson said. "We're ears and eyes."

Robinson started the Indian River chapter in 1993 after working with the Space Coast chapter for about three years.

"The president (of the Space Coast REACT chapter) kept saying

we needed something in Indian River County and Sebastian Police Chief Earl Petty concurred," Robinson said.

After dabbling in CB radio for years, Robinson decided it was time to give back to the community by using a skill that he enjoys.

"I needed something besides my music," said Robinson, a professional bass player and music agent. "I figured it was time to start giving back. I thought, 'So why not take my hobby and do something useful with it?'"

Robinson and REACT have been friends to emergency service agencies for years, receiving numerous commendations from local governments, Governor Lawton Chiles and even President Clinton.

As the international communications coordinator during the recent Kissimmee tornadoes, Robinson helped field inquiries from national and international agencies offering their assistance.

During the recent wildfires in south Brevard County and the chemical spill on Interstate 95 in Indian River County, Robinson and team members helped redirect traffic to avoid volatile areas.

"Every time we help someone, it's satisfying," Robinson said.

Robinson often intercepts messages from drivers traveling through the area who often spot accidents or drunk drivers well before law enforcement does.

When troopers pulled the van over, one noticed a wire hanging from the back doors. A bomb squad was called in. After it was determined to be safe, the doors were opened. The driver was hauling an enormous load of illegal

drugs and was arrested on the spot.

The trip wire hanging from the van, connected to explosives, could have blown a deep hole in I-95 and killed or seriously injured anyone nearby, Robinson said.

"Not all of us can have the experience of saving somebody's life," Robinson said. "But if you do, it's a feeling like nothing else."

Not all that Robinson and REACT do is in response to emergencies. They act as a central communications center during large local events, such as Sebastian's Fourth of July celebration, using their mobile command center.

"We have live satellite to weather, so when we did the parade events, we gave the wind direction that night for the Fourth of July because of the brush fires," he said.

Purchased by a local REACT member with his own money last year, the mobile command center can coordinate communication among multiple agencies and also serve as a relief center for workers-providing cool drinks and food, as during the recent Florida fires.

"This is all paid for by ourselves," Robinson said.

All the members of REACT, including Robinson, are volunteers and receive no public funds, even though they serve the public every day. The group is licensed, insured and trained by multiple government agencies.

Robinson said he scans the airwaves for up to 18 hours a day.

"I've had a good life as a musician; it's time to give back," Robinson said. "I just wanted to do something for my community."

CB 9 Works!

By Rod Graffing
High Plains REACT Team #4919
Valley City, ND

It was 5:35 pm, November 24th, "Can anyone hear me?" A woman's voice blasted from the CB speaker. Vicki Graffing (Unit 5) was monitoring Channel 9 while she worked at her in-home day care. "This is REACT Unit 5, do you need assistance?" was the response. "There is an airplane on it's top, in a field!" said the voice on the other end. "Let me get this straight, did you say airplane?" said Unit 5. "Yes, there is an airplane, an aircraft, with wings. It's in a field on it's top, 8 miles south of I-94, on Highway 1. It's on the east side of the road." "This is REACT Unit 5, I have the information and I will notify the sheriff's office. Please stand by on Channel 9."

The Barnes County Sheriff's Office was immediately notified and patrol units were dispatched. As officers arrived at the scene, they found the small plane and the uninjured pilot. The pilot said the plane "just quit", so he had to make an emergency landing. The highway was too crowded so he chose the plowed field. He was the

only one onboard the aircraft and no other injuries were reported. The FAA is investigating the incident.

As our team found out later, the CB 9 call beat two 911 calls into the sheriff's office. Proof that CB is still the fastest source of information out there. Proof that trained REACT monitors are still

the best way to get that information to where it needs to go.

We would like to thank the woman who called on Channel 9. Her identity is, for now, unknown. It was her quick thinking and detailed directions that save critical minutes in, what could have been, a life or death situation.

Why CBs should be an important part of your travel information system

Submitted by High Plains REACT Team #4919

1. Cell phones sometimes have limited coverage areas.
2. Cell sites and phone lines can fail in severe weather.
3. There are no air time or roaming charges to use CB radio.
4. CB radio enables you to receive information about accidents, current road and weather conditions, etc.
5. CB radio enables you to inform others about accidents, current road and weather conditions, etc.
6. CB radio can help you get where you need to go, by getting directions from other motorists or local base stations.
7. CB radio can help you find gas, food, and lodging.
8. CB radio can help you stay
9. Many law enforcement agencies monitor CB radio channel 9.
10. REACT Teams across the country strive to monitor Emergency CB Channel 9, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



For every action, there is REACT

Spessard among group of 11 volunteers who report trouble they hear on CB radios

Reprinted from the Hagerstown Herald Mail, Hagerstown, Maryland. Article written by Terry Talbert, Staff Writer

You could say John Spessard overREACTS when it comes to his CB radio, but the 77-year-old Williamsport man would disagree.

Spessard's passion is monitoring CB Channel 9, an emergency radio channel used by people to report everything from car breakdowns to house fires and plane wrecks.

If he hears an emergency call, Spessard contacts authorities and gets help on the way.

As one of the 11-member Hot-Line REACT emergency response team in Hagerstown, Spessard listens for trouble calls on the radios he has in his "radio room" next to his bedroom, and in his car.

He has a speaker in his living room so he can hear calls there, and another on the outside of the house, in case he's working in the yard. If he's in the bathtub, well... "I jump out of the tub and holler 'Don't look!' and run out and get the call," Spessard said.

Spessard started using a CB in 1972 for protection while working on the road for Grove Manufacturing Co. In 1975 his car broke down while he and his wife were on their way back from a visit to their daughter. "I called for help on my CB, and it was amazing the amount of calls people were putting out for help for us," Spessard said. A man who helped Spessard wouldn't accept any money. "He said I could pay him back by helping someone out that needed help," Spessard said.

He joined REACT the next year, and has been monitoring calls all night long since 1981.

He's not a light sleeper. "I never hear dogs barking, or trucks going by," he said. "But when that radio goes off, I'm there."

In 1997 Spessard monitored Channel 9 for 5,849 hours, and answered 752 calls for help.

Spessard said about half the calls are from truckers reporting drunk or reckless drivers, or disabled vehicles. Some are more serious, like the call from a man in West Virginia whose house was on fire. And then there are the prank calls. One he took was from a woman who said she was trapped in the wreckage of a plane with a dead man.

In 1992 he became a member of the Williamsport Fire Co. Fire police. He was recently recognized by the fire company for running on 135 calls in 1997.

About a year ago, Spessard started giving seminars to senior citizens about the job of fire police, and the purpose of traffic cones and barricades. A lot of them don't know what they're there for," he said.

He is also recruiting more Hot-Line REACT members to help shoulder the Channel 9 load. Anyone interested in joining the group, which reorganized this year, can call Spessard at 301-582-0631.

"This community's been good to me. I want to give something back," he explains.

Spessard is also active in two senior citizens groups, and attends a weekly meeting of old high school pals. "I call it the meatloaf meeting, because all we do is meet and loaf," he said.

He walks more than a mile twice a day. "I don't like to be idle," he said.

Spessard has stayed active despite setbacks. He has two steel rods in his back as a result of three back surgeries. And he was laid up in the hospital for two weeks in 1980 after surgery for a neck aneurysm. "I asked the nurses and they said it was OK to have by CB in my room. I put a magnetic antenna on the window, and I was in business," he said.

Spessard said he couldn't do what he does without the support from his wife Evelyn, who is 89. Evelyn said she adores her husband, but admitted there are times she wants to give his CB a toss. "Sometimes I could run off with it — especially at night," she said. "I don't know how to use it, but I do know how to turn it off."

Editor's Note:

Congratulations, John, for being such a dedicated member of REACT! John is a Life Member of Team #4086 Hot Line REACT of Cascade, Maryland.

Bylaws Committee Report

By B. F. (Frank) Jennings

Your committee is up and running and is awaiting for the proposed and recommended changes your Teams and Councils submitted with your Bylaws Voting Ballots. Once the 30th of December 1998 arrives the committee expects to receive all comments submitted with your Bylaws Ballots. Our first task will be to:

Segregate

Collate by sections of the bylaws

Process section by section

Taking into consideration the following:

What impact does this suggestion have upon RI, Inc.?

What impact does this suggestion have upon the Councils?

What impact does this suggestion have upon the Teams?

What impact does this suggestion have upon the Members?

Once this has been accomplished your committee will exchange views of Pro and Con. Freely debating whether the suggestion be a change to the Bylaws or better serve the Organization as a Policy, Procedure, or a Standing Rule. Once a consensus is reached among the committee, they will in compliance with the votes, prepare a recommended document to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

Along with a point paper prepared by the "Pro's and Con's" expressing their reasons for their approval or disapproval of the Submitted suggestion.

Once provided these credentials prepared by the committee members. The Board should have ample data (both Pro and Con) for their review and debating of the suggestion. Once the Board reaches a decision of acceptance or modification, they can note for adoption or rejection.

Either way the committee believes it will be the Boards (REACT International, Inc.) responsibility to inform the originators and the total membership of the results of the process. The committee believes there must be a complete (full circle) communications on all suggestions submitted by the Teams. If this is accomplished, we the membership will have a better understanding of the reasoning behind the final decisions.

So if you want to serve on the committee and/or have recommended changes to these Bylaws, please forward them to the office staff or directly to:

Frank Jennings
19933 Nilsen Ln, N.W.
Poulsbo, WA 98370
360-779-4125
24 hr FAX 360-697-4800

Welcome New REACT Teams

- | | |
|-------|--|
| #4997 | Lee County REACT
Ft. Myers, Florida
December 1, 1998 |
| #4998 | Cabarrus County REACT
Kannapolis, North Carolina
November 12, 1998 |
| #4999 | Metro-Dane REACT
Monona, Wisconsin
December 8, 1998 |

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Public Relations Committee Report

By Bob Leef, KB6DON
Co-Chair Public Relations Committee

This is the first column from the new PR Committee - actually half of it, since my co-chair Ron McCracken will write for the next REACTer. We could use additional members on the committee, so if you're inclined and/or have some talent in the area contact either one of us and we'll talk details. Thanks to Thorton Williams and Richard Shierr, new committee members.

Both of us together may not be able to fill the shoes of our predecessor Fred Lanshe. His contributions to the REACTer have accounted for more continuous input than any other committee chair. How do we even begin to follow an act like this! Maybe I can fake it for awhile by reviewing what has already been said in the last 3 years of the REACTer, and adding a few new ideas:

Here are the public relations suggestions that have - or will - build teams.

1. Put a news/promotion item in a work-related or hobby-related newsletter or magazine.
2. Speak at meetings of public service organizations.
3. Distribute an attractive brochure to area Radio Shack and other electronics stores, fire stations, libraries, etc. Be sure to mention the variety of radios we use.
4. Sponsor a Boy Scout Explorer Post or Troop.
5. Have a presence at conferences and trade shows relating to communications, recreation, community service, etc.
6. Work with Red Cross, Salvation Army, Weather Bureau, OES, etc.
7. Contact the Volunteer Center of America to make them aware of REACT.
8. Introduce yourself to the local newspaper and offer to serve as communications coordinators on the events they sponsor in the community. Send news stories and photos about your team.
9. Introduce yourself to local TV stations and offer to be their new spotters using your GMRS radios. Offer to be their source of information on the subject of two-way radio and personal communications.
10. Introduce yourself to a local radio station (all-news, if possible) and offer to be traffic spotters using your GMRS radio.
11. Take photos, photos, photos of team activities. All the previous suggestions can be enhanced with a good, short, show-and-tell.
12. List your team in the phone book.
13. Get on board the Internet and use e-mail.
14. Establish a weekly radio net and publicize it.
15. Publish a newsletter, attractive to non-members as well as members.
16. Wear proper attire at events.
17. Show your sign or banner at events.
18. If your team has a communications vehicle, give it lots of good exposure.
19. Do safety breaks.
20. If your team is monitoring, put up a highway sign (with proper permission).
21. Contact any large event as soon as you hear or read about it and ask if they could use REACT communications coordinators. Also talk to the companies that specialize in organizing events.
22. Talk to a local Search and Rescue group or 4WD club.
23. Use REACT letterhead and envelopes!
24. Check local Neighborhood Watch to see if they could use some advice with radio use.
25. Make Chamber of Commerce or Jaycees aware of REACT's availability for events they sponsor.
26. Publicize certificates of appreciation or commendation and MOU's your team has (or gives!).
27. Start a special project that draws attention to your team.

This list is incomplete. It is waiting for YOUR suggestions. When finished, perhaps it could be the basis for a year-end team report of accomplishment, such as the monitoring report.

**REACT
Needs
Your
Help!**

Training Committee Report

By Alfred M. Fronefield
Training Committee Chairman
Amateur Radio Co-Chairman

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve REACT International and all who are in REACT. During this last convention, the Board of Directors appointed me Chairman of the Training Committee and Co-Chair of the Amateur Radio Committee. There is much that can be done to assist the individual REACT member as well as the teams. To better accomplish this, I could use the assistance of fellow members in REACT.

I have completed the training modules that REACT International currently offers. In addition, I have obtained the viewpoints from others. The consensus appears to be that the material is excellent, but should be updated. For example, the training material on Monitoring is strictly geared for CB monitor at home. Many REACT members are working on GMRS, Amateur, and some are even monitoring Marine

emergency frequencies. No one has plans to do a major overhaul of the whole program, but to just update the current materials to reflect the expansion of REACT. I welcome any input regarding these materials, especially from those teams on Marine bands.

There are a few items that have been brought to my attention. The Board of Directors has asked that the current training materials be placed in a format that will make it accessible on the Internet. A fee will still be charged to anyone wishing a certificate of completion. REACT International has received e-mail from the National Organizations of Volunteers Active in Disasters (NOVAD). They are requesting that REACT International make available to the fellow organizations, in NOVAD, our training materials. The Board of Directors has already requested that the committee work on making REACT train-

ing materials on the Internet in the Adobe Acrobat format. I am also currently attempting to obtain information from the Federal Aviation Administration on the proper procedures when assisting at the scene of an aircraft accident. I hope that completion of these projects will benefit the members of REACT.

In my opinion, the Internet has become a great communications tool. Among the many opportunities of the Internet, it allows me to support the REACT from my duty assignment in the European Theater of Operations. To be exact, I am currently deployed in Bosnia. For those of you who would like to assist me in either of these two committees or any projects, please contact me at kc5vt@hotmail.com or training@reactintl.org.

I am looking forward to furthering the REACT program.

Information from James Jensen, LM 522

James Jensen, Life Member #522 of Lamoure County near Marion, North Dakota uses his Dodge pick-up for many activities. This past summer has been very active for SkyWarn. He monitors Channel 9 from his home and vehicle. As a licensed GMRS, he monitors the safety channel during activities.

James has a station repeater set up near Marion. His call sign is KAF3145, frequency is 462.675R, and tone is 141.3.



Simulated Disaster Held

By Barbara Srout Platt
Daily Guide

PULASKI COUNTY - A tomado cut a path through Richland, Waynesville and Fort Leonard Wood Saturday, June 6, 1998, leaving a trail of death and destruction in it's path. The citizens of Pulaski County were left to the mercy of emergency services.

This simulated tomado disaster was an annual state required exercise, jointly sponsored by the Pulaski County Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee, said R.D. Porter, Director of PCEM. The goals were to increase the effectiveness of the Pulaski County Disaster Plan which has been adopted by the local municipalities and check the accuracy and compatibility of the plan with other emergency agencies within the county.

Who will be in charge? Where will help come from? Can the agencies make decisions and work together for the common good of the citizens? Not all questions can be answered in a simulated disaster but what doesn't working during a drill can be updated for the real event.

Lawson Smith, LEPC and member of REACT, said the exercise tasked participants to demonstrate knowledge of their agency's capabilities and responsibilities, legal and administrative restrictions and limitations, procedures for requesting support from other agencies and prioritizing limited resources. He said the objective was to enhance the ability of the departments and agencies to work together.

Smith set the stage for realistic scenario and players were given parts. Maps were handed out so everyone could track the storm. They had to handle it by interacting with other players.

Saturday's drill began with the National Weather Service Springfield issuing a severe weather watch including Pulaski County. Doppler Radar picked up a cloud storm cell producing hail up to a quarter inch in diameter, winds of up to 100 miles per hour, hard rain, flash floods, thunder and lightening. Citizens were told to take cover immediately because the storm should hit Richland and move to Waynesville in approximately two hours.

Pulaski County Comm Center notified weather spotters of the storm and they acknowledged. All units and listening stations were then notified by Comm Center. Gary Carmack, new Waynesville Director of

Emergency Management, Director of Pulaski County Ambulance District and Pulaski County Coroner, said "every time I hear weather spotters, I get nervous."

Richland fire and police departments would get people who live in mobile homes safely to shelters. They said the cable information station would air the information.

Porter said realistically they begin tracking the storm when it hits the state line. He said he knows the widths of the counties and with the speed and direction can predict when it will reach Pulaski County.

"We're going to have an hours notice," said Porter.

Comm Center receives a report from weather spotters when wind, hail, heavy rain, flying debris and a dark cloud is on the north side of the city. There's a possible tomado at the intersection of highways 7 and 133. Comm Center relays the information to everyone.

Carmack notifies PCAD of possible mass casualties. He said a plan is in effect to call people in and put area hospitals on standby.

The storm hits and Richland PD goes to their generator system. The fire department is gone with no contact. Power and phone lines are out.

Pulaski County Sheriff J.T. Roberts said two deputies would be dispatched to check on the situation. Missouri Highway Patrol would also be notified. The Patrol calls in two extra units to cover the east and west end of the county.

Hazelgreen weather spotters call in a funnel cloud heading toward Waynesville. Highway W has flying debris. Comm Center notifies everyone and Trooper Hogue said the patrol would go to the rear of it to track it.

Buckhorn is hit next with the roof off the Ft. Wood Inn and the Bowling Alley damaged.

Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District announces extreme building damage to Comm Center and a power outage knocks out their radio. Fuel tanks outside their fire department are knocked next to the front doors blocking the exit and the roof falls in.

(Continues on page 13)

Vice President's letter an honor to REACT leader

By Rosa Davis
Tribune Staff Writer

COSHOCTON - Gerald Jarvis, vice president of the Ohio REACT Council, Inc., recently received a letter from Vice President Al Gore in recognition of May being REACT month.

Jarvis, a former president, is in his second year as vice president of REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams), a volunteer group that helps in times of emergencies.

"This is the first time we have had any recognition from higher officials," Jarvis said.

The letter reads, "I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend my personal greetings to everyone associated with REACT. While I regret that I cannot be with you in person, I want to offer my best wishes to all of you."

"On the occasion of your 35th Anniversary and your celebration of REACT Month, I especially want to

thank your outstanding organization and its members for the efforts you are making for your community and for your country. Please be assured of my confidence in your continuing success in the years to come."

"Again, please accept my congratulations during this special occasion. I look forward to working with you in the future."

The state group also received an official recognition of REACT from Gov. George V. Volnovich; Sens. Richard H. Finan, president of the Ohio Senate, and James E. Carnes of the 20th Senatorial District; and Reps. Joy Padgett of Coshocton and JoAnn Davidson, speaker of the House.

"There are 32 REACT units in Ohio, and Coshocton, which is the largest in the state, has 41 active members," Jarvis said.

REACT teams function as a reliable volunteer emergency

communications resource in the community in time of need to achieve the following:

-To assist in all forms of local emergencies by furnishing instant radio and phone communication in cooperation with proper authorities or official agencies, such as the Red Cross and/or Salvation Army, sheriff's department, state patrol, fire departments and such.

-To maintain and encourage operating efficiency through proper communication techniques.

-To operate and maintain equipment at peak efficiency and in accordance with FCC regulations.

-To promote the proper and effective use of the official citizen band emergency channel (9), which should only be used in an emergency such as having car problems or reporting an accident, a fire, road condition and so forth.

(Continued from page 12)

Another spotter calls in electrical wires sparking across Interstate 44 on the east side at the 156 mile marker. A tornado has been sighted. Comm Center notifies the Patrol of the wires down.

Hunters Point has roofs gone, lines down at the major substation putting all of Waynesville, some of St. Robert and FLW without power. Comm Center switches to a generator as does WRFPD. They said they are overwhelmed, lost a third of their resources and request the Disaster Plan to be put into effect and the process begins with Porter notifying Ralph Peterson, Presiding Commissioner and Roberts as the Emergency Operation Center is opened.

St. Robert Fire Department provides mutual aid for Waynesville when a tractor trailer overturns spilling

batteries and acid on the ground.

Crocker and Dixon are available to provide assistance with search and rescue. Roberts requests help from surrounding counties.

The storm continues on it's path and FLW housing and airport are the next to get hit. They have their own problems and can't provide mutual aid but St. Robert borrows hazmat suits to cleanup the spill.

Red Cross later helps with food, shelter and medical. State helps at least 12 hours later and may call in the Missouri National Guard.

The exercise was deemed successful by Brenda Heldbreder, planner/area coordinator of State Emergency Management Agency. Problems are being addressed and worked out.

News from Champaign County REACT #4517

Our membership is eighteen strong. Our base repeater is located in Urbana, Ohio. We purchased an old transit bus two years ago and converted it into a complete mobile base unit. This bus can be set up anywhere in the county as a base control unit complete with a generator. Radio room is in the rear, two dining tables, with ten cabinets top and bottom for storage.

Six trucks owned by our members are equipped with overhead flashers, gmrs, and CB radios.

We also have two snowmobiles and two golf carts. REACT #4517 presently owns 15 base units and 13 portable units. The units are gmrs and are equipped with CB radios.

We are into weather watch, work with the local law enforcement agency when needed, search and rescue, and work for many other organizations throughout the county. We also handle the traffic control for the Champaign County Fair every year.

Anyone wishing to correspond with us, please write to: Randy Daniels, 107 Walnut Street, Mechanicsburg, OH 43044.



Members of REACT #4517 in front of converted transit bus

A busy 1998 for Team #C149

By Lester Purviance, President
Spencer County Indiana REACT Team #C149

The Spencer County Indiana REACT Team #C149 has had a very active year, working at 19 community events. These were for civic groups, schools, churches, Walk-a-thons, car shows, and river sweeps. Total man-hours were 837. The members were busy monitoring CB Channel 9, reporting for 11 months, 16,879 monitoring hours. Also reporting accidents to police in the adjoining county and other helpful acts.

April, May and June 8, members had 96 weather spotter hours, July and August 3, members had 65 hours. Each month 2-4 members attend Emergency Management meetings.

Do You Belong?

*Are you an active member
the kind that would be missed,
or are you just contented
that your name is on a list?*

*Do you attend meetings
and mingle with the flock,
or do you stay at home
and criticize and knock?*

*Do you take an active part
to help the work along,
or are you satisfied to be
the kind who just belong?*

*Do you ever work on committees
to see there is no trick,
or just leave the work to just a
few and talk about the clique?*

*So come to the meeting often
and help with hand and heart,
don't just be a member
but take an active part.*

*Think this over my friend,
you know the right from wrong,
are you an active member
or do you just belong?*

*Signed,
Your Conscience*

Road Assistance

Thanks to Gateway Area REACT #2001

By Oscar and Margaret Trost
Stover, MO

On September 7th, our son and his family were traveling home after visiting with us over the holiday weekend. As they were nearing Wright City, their truck started to give them trouble. They were able to make it to the Wright City rest area when the alternator caught fire. A fire at any time is serious, but when you have six-month-old triplets strapped in their car seats, it could have been a tragedy.

Thanks to the volunteers of Gateway Area REACT #2001, the fire was quickly extinguished and the babies moved away from the area.

A special thanks to Rick Edsell who helped our son with the truck and to the good people at Auto Zone in Wright City who stayed open after-hours so our son could get the parts needed to repair the truck. With Edsell's help and

knowledge, the truck was repaired and able to be driven again.

A special thanks to Linda Edsell, Dennis Orf and George Griffith who helped care for the triplets. They even helped Deb, our daughter-in-law, feed the babies.

It is so gratifying to know such wonderful people care about the welfare of others. May God bless them for being such good Samaritans.

REACT Gave Travelers Coffee Break over Labor Day

By Barbara Platt
Daily Guide

PHELPS COUNTY - Mark Twain REACT of Pulaski County volunteered two days of their Labor Day weekend to provide a coffee break for weary travelers.

REACT set up the operation at the eastbound rest area on interstate 44 on Sunday. They manned it throughout the day and night and throughout Monday.

Lawson Smith, operations officer of REACT, said 21 members of the group worked 234 man-hours at the coffee break. They served a total of 1,744 drinks as a public service.

On Sunday, REACT served 1,038 drinks to motorists. They served 160 cups of water, 134 cups of tea, 324 cups of lemonade, and

420 cups of coffee.

Monday REACT served 706 cups of beverages to travelers. They served 880 cups of water, 144 cups of tea, 240 cups of lemonade, 210 cups of coffee and 32 cups of koolaid.

REACT also assisted three motorists with disable vehicles and got them back on the road.

ATTENTION!

Information on the liability insurance policy is now available.
Please contact REACT for your copy.

Congratulations - Mark Twain REACT, INC. #C336

REACT: \$2000 Donation To Go Toward Many Rescue Items

*By Barbara Platt
Daily Guide*

WAYNESVILLE - Mark Twain REACT, Inc., received a \$1,000 donation from The Prudential Foundation on Monday, August 10, 1998.

Deborah Posey, employee of The Prudential in St. Robert and treasurer of REACT, won a Prudential Community Champion Shining Star Award for her volunteer service with REACT. The award recognizes employees who are committed to volunteering their services. A letter accompanying the check said, The Prudential values the work she does and said they are proud of her. They wished REACT continued success.

"We're really proud of you," said Bill Miller, team chief of REACT.

In other business, REACT provides diving rescue and recovery services to Pulaski County and other agencies on request. Many water and dive rescue items were authorized for purchase in July with a \$2,000 donation. The items include diver and support helmets, support

harnesses, water rescue rope, carabineers, Gibbs Ascenders, pulleys, bear claw anchor, anchor straps, webbing, strobe lights and rope bags for a total cost of \$1,778.

This life saving equipment will enable REACT to equip one team of two divers, a safety diver and two support personnel for water/dive rescue services. Additional equipment will be purchased as funds become available. A date was set for water rescue training. September 26, at 9 am, all REACT members were invited to meet at Riddle Bridge.

In old business, two new REACT members were approved by the general membership, they are Kelly and Ralph Akire.

The Neighborhood Watch Program-Laquey District was discussed. REACT members said the community still hasn't become involved in the protection of their own neighborhood and Hazelgreen Fire Department and REACT can't do it all. They hope the public will

visit the office next to the Post Office in Laquey and possibly ride along with other patrols to help keep the community safe.

In new business, Miller said he sent requested information on REACT to the State Emergency Management Agency for their Disaster Resource Guide. Miller also read a thank-you letter from the Waynesville/St. Robert area Chamber of Commerce for parking cars during the recent rodeo.

REACT monitored emergency channel 9 of the CB radio for 2,300 hours this month compared to 2,100 last month. They assisted with 14 broken down vehicles, three accidents with no injuries, one accident with injuries, four accidents with the road block, three fatal accidents, and five drunk drivers.

Missions included the rodeo on July 17 and 18, a fatality accident on July 24, Old Settlers Day on July 25, and an accident at the 140 mile marker of Interstate 44 on July 28.

21st Annual National Hurricane Conference

March 29-April 2, 1999

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This is only a test.....views from an observer at "Operation Rock and Roll" held September 1998

**By Fred J. Lanshe, N3QLU
Field Director**

I had the privilege of being there as an observer to see how the REACT International Board can assist the Teams and for information gathering for a feasibility study being done by the board, for a "Rapid Deployment Team" concept. I appreciate all the efforts from the area members that made it possible, for me to be there.

As the working world went on about it's dally business, the multitude of public safety agencies and the military held a disaster training exercise in the heart of the Washington, DC Metropolitan area and Montgomery County of Maryland area, "Operation Rock and Roll."

Many of the REACTers working this exercise have multiple roles and wear different caps as well.

Here is how it started, from the actual transcripts:

Initial messages into the Montgomery County Emergency Operation Center (EOC):

"News Channel 8 in DC broke the story minutes ago and it is now on the national news as crews are reporting live from the scene. There are reports that there has been an explosion at a rock concert at RFK Stadium with 80,000 teens in attendance from all over the entire Washington Metro area. The explosions caused several deaths and many injuries. Reporting panic on the scene. Observers report people collapsed. Others in the area convulsing and coughing uncontrollably.

Television stations are pointing to the possibility of a chemical

attack. Based on the potential of Hazmat situation, an upwind temporary staging area is initiated for responding units.

Reports are sketchy. Twenty minutes into the incident, DC Police Chief and Fire Chiefs have called back off-duty personnel. MPD Bomb Squad has been deployed to the area. DC Hazmat has just arrived on the scene. Units on the scene report on "persisting chemical hazard."

Officials from the Office of DC Emergency Preparedness (OEP) have advised the Mayor, the City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Health (DOH), and the DC Commanding General of the National Guard.

The Washington area Metropolitan Medical Strike Team is activated 23 minutes into the incident.

Montgomery County had activated its EOC at 09:30 this morning under secure conditions to discuss the threat assessment of a potential terrorist attack on government buildings within the county. When the news broke in DC, the Montgomery County EOC set up command and control operations and started calling back to work EOC support personnel and additional county agencies.

At the direction of the County Administrator's Office, the County Disaster Command System has been implemented. Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi has been named Disaster Manager in Montgomery County.

The 911 Center alerted all Police and Fire Rescue Stations

that a potential terrorist attack had occurred in Washington, DC at RFK.

Agencies currently activated at Montgomery County EOC: Office of the County Executive, Fire and Rescue Services, Police, Public Works and Transportation (including facilities), County Attorney, Information Office, Health and Human Services (including Health Officers), Environmental Protection, Permitting Services, Red Cross, Washington Adventist, Shady Grove, and Montgomery General Hospitals. Due to the extraordinary nature of this event, a patch has been established by EMG communication volunteers with the National Naval Medical Hospital as well.

TV Channel 8 reports that the FBI is now on the scene. No word yet from the DC Command Post about what chemical is involved. Unconfirmed report from the scene reports that MPD (DC) officers are showing signs of swollen eyes and graying skin in exposed areas.

DC Hazardous Materials Task Force based on outward signs and symptomatology a suspects a blistering agent. They are sending in a recon team to collect samples to confirm preliminary agent identification. No confirmation at this time.

At hospital sites, patients arrive at ER's without triage and hospitals begin Patient Management.

Due to the extreme amount of phone calls coming into the 911 centers, telephone and cellular

(Continues on page 19)



Bob Goley (standing), Don Pruett (back to camera) and Allan Moonblood working the radios at the Montgomery Co. EOC; Mike Holland, Federal City REACT, manning the radios at the DC OEP



Bob Goley (pointing to RFK) and Mike Harvey (working radios until relief arrives); EMC-1 set up and operating



Gordon Aoyagi, Disaster Manager (standing left), Police and Fire Radio Comm. on left side, Don Pruett, Montgomery Co. REACT (sitting on right); Bob Lumpkin, Federal City REACT, distributing patient information at RFK Stadium for Operation Rock and Roll Disaster Drill; Backup radios at DC OEP



Mike Krumlaut and EMC-1 at Suburban Hospital; Another view of Mike Krumlaut and EMC-1 at Suburban Hospital, working all frequencies

(Continued from page 18)

phone services cease, except for secure and dedicated lines. All communications must be relayed by radio only. To establish contacts with all parties involved.

Then later in the day they have a debriefing and critique of

the operation. They also had their own film crew to video tape all segments for this critique as well.

REACTers from the Montgomery County (MC) Maryland side of the exercise include:

Kathee Henning - Emergency Management and REACT at MC EOC

Mike Harvey - Floating REACT Command

Mike Krumlaut - EMC-1, MC Emergency Management and



Shown are pictures of the recent Maryland REACT Council Meeting discussing the Proposed Bylaws. Each delegate gave their opinion. (Top) - Dr. Jerome Bricker is giving his. (Bottom, left to right at Head Table facing the people) - Joe Elliott, Sgt. at Arms; Jerry Hazell, Council President; Wayne Lewis, Vice President; Frank Winner, Treasurer; and Ed Brown, Secretary.

(Continued from page 19)

REACT at Suburban Hospital

Bob Goley - REACT team leader at MC EOC

Don Pruett - REACT radio operator at MC EOC

Allan Moonblood - REACT radio operator at MC EOC

Ken Knopp - Fire Rescue and REACT at Shady Grove Hospital

REACTers from the Washington, DC side of the exercise include:

Mike Holland - Federal City (FC) REACT Command at the Reeves Center, DC OEP

Norm Kaplan - FC REACT Command at Armory Incident Command Center EOC

Bob Lumpkin - FC REACT radio operator at the American Red

Cross Shelter at RFK Stadium

Dr. Jerome Bricker - RACES and Prince George County REACT at the Reeves Center, DC OEP

Darryl Paris - FC REACT at the Joint Operations Center

Fred Browne - FC REACT at the Joint Operations Center

Darrel Johnson - FC REACT at the Washington Hospital Center

L. Lenny Schatcher - FC REACT at Mayor's Communications Van

Maureen Avellino - FC REACT at American Red Cross Headquarters

Carlie Banks - FC REACT at American Red Cross Headquarters

REACTers from the Virginia side of the exercise include:

Al Hanger - RACES and Herndon REACT at the American Red Cross Disaster HQ.

Members of the three area Virginia REACT Teams closest to the DC area were also monitoring the frequencies but were not there due to a mix-up with the paperwork, but were listening and standing by.

Fred Lanshe, a REACT International Board member, was there as an observer, gathering information for the Board.

All members acted in a very professional manner, were knowledgeable in their areas of expertise and went out of their way to be very helpful.

Aerofest '98

By Fred Lanshe

During the autumn, the Aerofest was again held in Reading, PA. Four of the area REACT teams worked together with the state, local and area Fire, Police, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), EMS units, and the Airport Authority to provide radio communications, security and safety support for the masses of people at the Reading Airport. This year the "Blue Angels" from the US Navy were the feature. These expert jet pilots

flew in several types of formations and close to the ground. On Saturday, these pilots gave a tour of their jets and a presentation to the CAP cadets.

Members of Daniel Boone REACT, Concerned Citizens Band (CCB) REACT, Reading REACT, and LEMA/REACT worked together at gate control, the remote parking lots, checkpoints, and the traffic assist.

City of Reading Police Command Post (left) and American Red Cross Disaster van serving breakfast. The CAP waiting in line for food.



Stacy Hurst, CCB, working interface in the Airport Command Center



Navy jet on display



C5 open for inspection



A-10 Warthog on display



Blue Angels making a low pass over the field



Blue Angels parked on the tarmac



Lynn Wortsenloft, CCB, working a checkpoint on an access road to the airport



In memory of John D. Leist

Silent Mic.

If the membership comprises the body of an organization, then REACT has lost its soul. Born August 24, 1921, John Leist of Pickaway County REACT, Inc. Team #C199 in Circleville, Ohio, passed away on September 25, 1998.

Believing in REACT's goals John lived it for the past 30+ years, volunteering literally thousands of hours of community service. John was a strong participant not only on his local REACT team but also in the Ohio State REACT Council since its formation in the early 70's. John served in several offices of both entities.

Those that attended conventions will remember John as the man behind the credentials table. For years John attended REACT conventions working endless hours in assuring a smooth and efficient check-in for delegates.

Besides his involvement on the local, state and convention level, John served one term as a REACT International Field Director from 1991 through 1993.

For years John performed volunteer work through other organizations within his community including driving and delivery for the Meals-on-Wheels program.

John was laid to rest at Forest Cemetery in his hometown of Circleville. He is survived by two

daughters: Kathy and Pam; one son: John; and grandchildren.

The mic of the REACT soul may be silent but John will live on in our spirit. John you will be missed.....



John Leist (right), Gerald Jarvis, and Betty Tutis preside at REACT meeting.

Letter written by John Leist to his fellow REACTers shortly before his death

Fellow REACTers -

Back in 1962, through the encouragement of the Pickaway County Sheriff's department, I became involved in the organization known as REACT. During the past 36 years I have seen teams form across the State of Ohio who are dedicated to providing a service to their communities by utilizing citizen-band radios to assist stranded motorists, temporary housing assis-

tance, Christmas baskets for low-income families, helping with traffic and crowd control during special events, walk-a-thons, fairs, etc., providing free coffee to holiday travelers, serving as an extra set of eyes during threatening weather conditions, helping to find lost persons and being available at the drop of a hat.

During those years I have been fortunate to have made many friends, served as President of C199, President of the Ohio RE-

ACT Council and on the Board of Directors of REACT International. Due to my failing health it is with deep regret that I resign the office of President of the Ohio REACT Council and President of Pickaway County REACT.

There are many eager, energetic and dedicated people in the Ohio REACT family and there is no doubt in my mind each of you will continue to provide exemplary service to your communities.

Letter written by Paul E. Jackson Ohio State Council Coordinator

REACTers:

Back in 1962 John Leist became involved in REACT through the encouragement of Pickaway County REACT. He had served 36 years as a member, President in many capacities on teams, council seats and civil defense.

John died on September 29, 1998 and was laid to rest October 1, 1998. John knew he was very ill but continued to help REACT using me as his eyes and ears and training me to continue on in his absence on the team and as an Ohio State Council Coordinator to build up REACT so that REACT would again continue to help people through public service.

John passed away before he could resign his office. He also kept REACT going until his last day. John's family would like to thank all the REACT members for the many cards (120 plus) and for the kind thoughts and encouragement.

"His Journey's Just Begun"

Written by Judy A. Coy, Vice President
Whiteside County Emergency REACT #4714
Sterling, Illinois

*Don't think of him gone away....
his journey's just begun.
Life holds so many facets...
this Earth is only one.
Just think of him as resting,
from the sorrows and the tears,
In a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.
And think of him as living in
the hearts of those he touched...
For nothing is ever lost..
and he was loved so much.*



Our silent mics...

Hollis Haverly died on October 17, 1998. He will be missed by members of the Empire Central REACT Team #3030 of Schenectady, New York.

Gerald McCoy of Owensboro, Indiana, Spencer County Indiana REACT Team #C149 passed away on January 19, 1998. Gerald was installed as our 3-year Director at the December meeting.

John Ernst of Chrisney, Spencer County Indiana REACT Team #C149 passed away on October 4, 1998. He was an active REACT member, helping at all the community events.

David Moore of Chrisney, Spencer County Indiana REACT Team #C149 died on November 11, 1998. David was an active REACT member and a weather spotter for the Emergency Management Agency.

Irma Romedo of Ranier REACT Radio Watch Team #3366 passed away on November 20, 1998. Irma will be missed, as will her wonderful stories of the team's history.

Mark Twain REACT, Inc., #C338 of Waynesville, Missouri, mourn the loss of two of their most beloved long-standing members:

Anne Gibbens of Unit 14
Bobbie Carroll of Unit 5

REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

1998-1999 Committee Selection

At each convention, committees are formed. These groups work both at the convention and during the year. If you are willing to work on one of these groups, please indicate your preference below. Indicate no more than three (3) choices. Number your choices in preference order.

Committees

- _____ Awards and Recognition
- _____ Communications CB _____ GMRS _____ Amateur _____
- _____ Computer
- _____ Convention Site
- _____ Government Relations
- _____ Membership Recruitment & Retention
- _____ Public Relations
- _____ Training & Development
- _____ Junior REACT Program
- _____ Highway Safety Program

Would you serve as chairperson of a Committee:

_____ Yes _____ No If so, which one: _____

What committees or task group have you served on in the past:

Describe briefly any experience you have which would be valuable to the committee you wish to be on

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Hotel _____ Room _____

Please return form to: REACT International, Inc.
5210 Auth Road, Suite 403
Suitland, MD 20746-4330

REACT Councils as of December 12, 1998

ARIZONA

Arizona State Council
Gene McLemore
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Mesa, AZ 85214-2131
(602) 958-4296

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Central California REACT
Council, Inc.
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Porterville, CA 93257
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Northern California
REACT Council
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Southern CA REACT Council
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Maryland State Council
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Garden State Council
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(609) 738-4464

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Southern New York State
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Upstate NY REACT Council
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Wisconsin Council of
REACT Teams
Larry Fry
P.O. Box 228
Pewaukee, WI 53072
(808) 752-4547

CANADA

Ontario REACT Council
Linda Faulkner
189 Sydenham Street
Woodstock, ON N4S 7B8
(519) 539-6922

Patch Information

If You Have a SKYWARN Spotter Friend Who Might Like a Patch?

Please pass on this note to the friend.

One to four patches are \$3.00 each (includes mailing costs).
Five or more patches ordered at same time are \$2.75 each. Please
make check or money order out to: **MSCRT Patches.**

Send order and check to:

Jerry Bricker (N3IOU)
6000 Cable Avenue
Suitland, MD 20746-3824

All amounts over costs go to the Maryland State Council of REACT Teams, a nonprofit IRS 501(c)3 approved organization funded only by donations. Funds will be used to support the fostering of the SKYWARN and other public service programs supported by REACT.



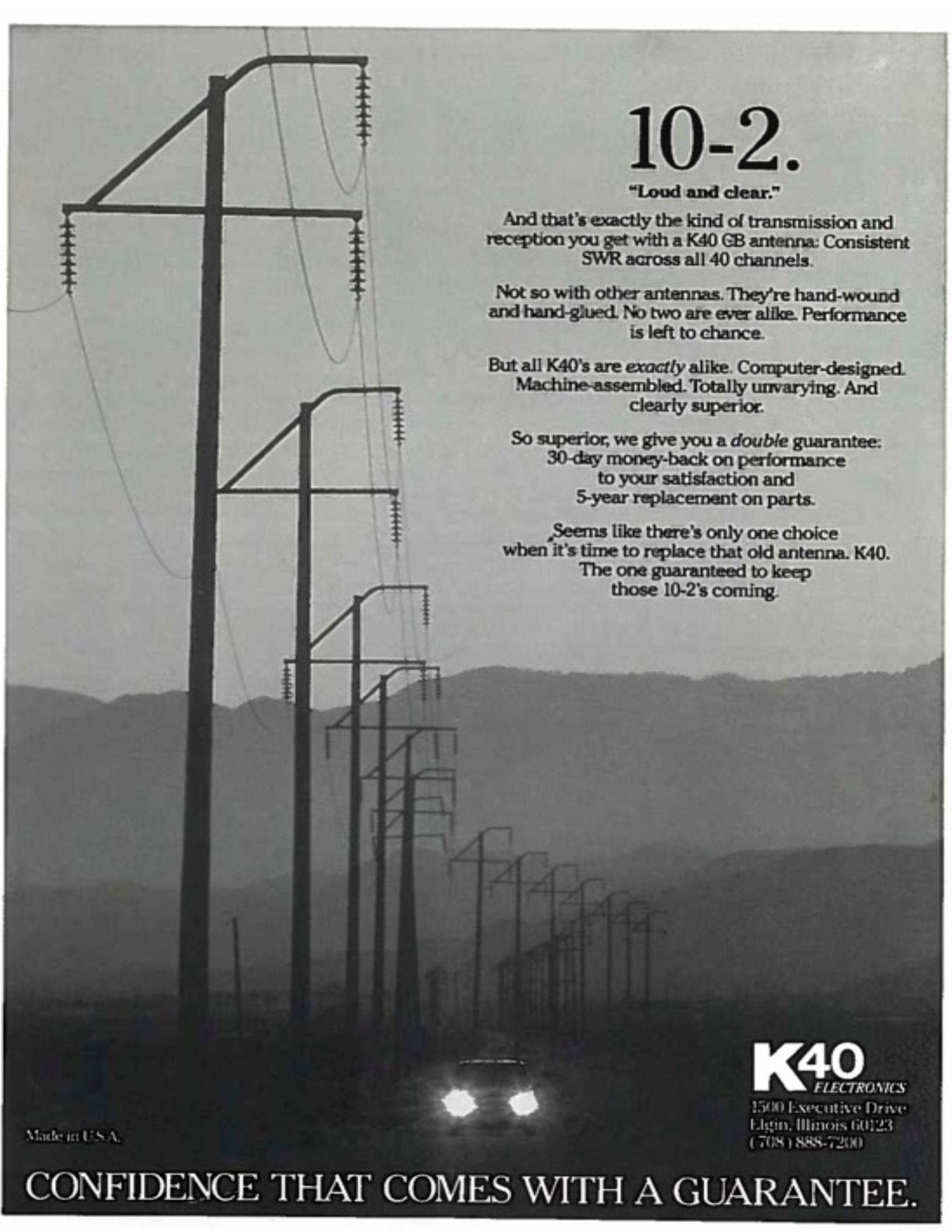
4-Inch Radio Patches for Sale

Amateur Radio Operation Patch and All Radio Services Patch may be purchased for \$3.00 each. A portion of the money will be donated to REACT International, Inc.

Send check or money order to:

Pennsylvania Council of REACT Teams, Inc.
P.O. Box 8797
Allentown, PA 18105-8797





10-2.

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