



the REACTer

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

March-April 1999
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(Florida DCAT Team 6000)

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REACT International, Inc.
5210 Auth Road, Suite 403
Suitland, MD 20746-4330

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In This Issue...

**Public Relations
Committee Report**

**REACT Teams...
Renewing 100%**

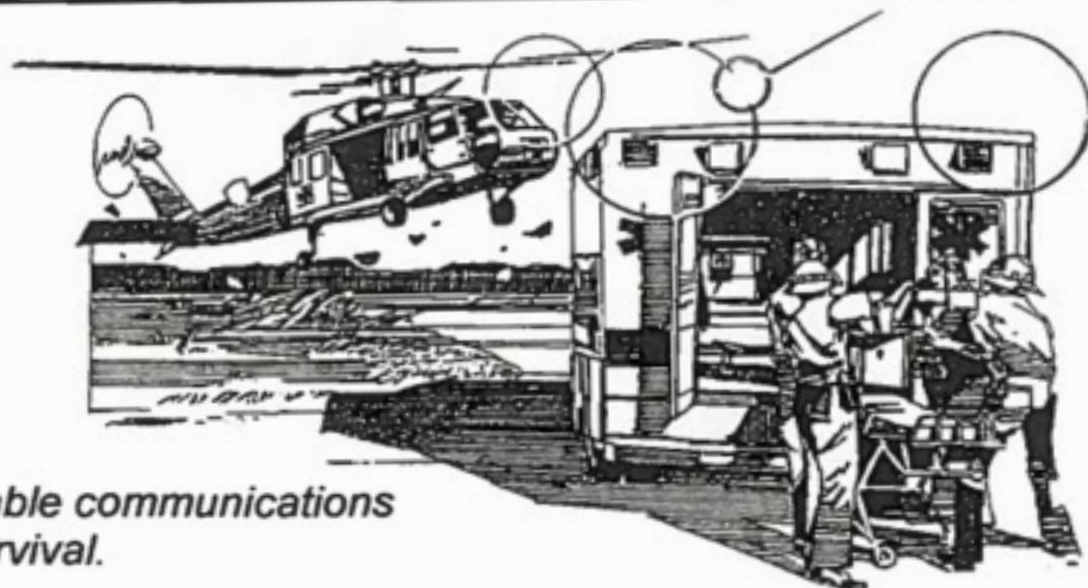
Articles from Teams

New REACT Teams

When seconds count...

REACT is there

*In emergencies, reliable communications
are the lifeline for survival.*



REACT is a public service organization comprised of private radio operators serving travelers and their communities alike with radio communications.

Purposes include: the correct usage of CB Emergency Channel 9. Developing the skilled use of the CB Radio Service, GMRS (UHF), Amateur with packet, BBS, Cellular and other radio services as additional sources of communications in emergencies.

REACT coordinates efforts with other emergency organizations including: Police, FEMA, NOAA, RACES ARES, NOVAD, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

Today's REACT Teams provide Safety Radio assistance for community events such as parades, runs, walk-a-thons, bike tours, boat races and even hot air balloon festivals. REACT Teams host "Safety Wake Breaks," on holiday weekends, along the highways.

For an exciting challenge in community service,

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and costs are
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Public Relations Committee Report

By Bob Leef

Public Relations Co-Chair

Kb6don@earthlink.net

NEWSLETTER NUANCES

Part of public relations is to have a newsletter that will interest potential as well as existing members. Want to improve yours? A professional organization that has judged hundreds of publications uses the following four major points as guidelines:

General Format — Title recognizable and consistent, date and frequency of issue shown, identification of organization, names/address/phones/e-mails of editor and officers, spelling, punctuation and grammar, club meeting date/place/time.

Appearance — Overall layout and balance, pictures, cartoons, graphics, type consistent and attractive, article and type spacing, reproduction quality, color, cover sheet, first page, header.

Content — Member contributions, editorials, club activity coverage, training articles, general coverage, technical articles, operating articles, use of humor/puzzles/entertainment, serves any special needs of members.

General Interest and Attractiveness — Reflects all of the above with score weighted towards reader friendliness.

To the above I would add that there should be some story of interest to a reader that is not a radio type. No, not cookie recipes - but an article that might be about cell phones, Automobile Club assistance to motorists, road conditions, car safety, etc. Write about something that relates indirectly to radio communications but is low in tech-speak.

I once saw a newsletter that had taken first prize in a competition, and it didn't have the organization logo anywhere in the publication. Evaluating the standard guidelines not only lets the newsletter editor know how to improve the product but also helps judges!

OFFICER OPTIONS

Every team has a structure, but it can vary considerably as to what offices exist. We looked at newsletters from teams in Porterville, Calif., Waukesha, Wisc., Potter County, Tex., and others from around the country. Here are all the offices that were listed: Director, Assistant Director, Board Chairman, President, Vice President (1st, 2nd, etc.), Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Board Member, Communications Officer, Training Officer, Property Officer, Historian, Public Relations Officers, Telephone Tree Person, Community Service Officer, Council Delegate/Alternate, Amateur Coordinator, GMRS Coordinator, CB Coordinator.

It seems like there can be a job for everyone!

PROMOTIONAL PARAPHERNALIA

What small article would you like to have available to promote REACT? If REACT International could obtain a stock of something new that teams could get for handouts to agencies, prospective members, etc., what kind of novelty item should it be? Send your ideas c/o PR Committee at headquarters.

MANUFACTURERS MATTER

Companies that make radios we use need to know about us. We are a customer group of thousands that supports them by buying their products. Likewise, we should know more about them - their plans and ideas for personal communications.

In order to establish (or re-establish) a relationship, visits to several manufacturers are taking place. Selected RI officers or committee chairs are contacting companies for a personal encounter.

Purposes include establishing a contact person, acquainting them with REACT, advising that we are the only organized personal use radio group interested solely in public service communications, and explaining our interest in maintaining the usefulness of personal radio.

We are also offering to help them by doing market research among REACTers about what features are wanted in radios, making new model recommendations, doing field testing and evaluation, and making suggestions about frequency use. By leaving with

manufacturers a presentation folder of general information, including *The REACTer*, we may also stimulate their interest in advertising or other support.

Results of these manufacturer visits will be in future issues of *The REACTer*.



React Objects To GMRS Changes

By Bob Leef and Ron McCracken
Public Relations Committee Co-Chairs
Hall Duncan and Fred Lanshe
Directors of Community and Public Relations

REACT submitted comments in support of the Personal Radio Steering Group (PRSG) efforts to get two changes reconsidered which will affect the GMRS community. We are waiting for the results of the reconsideration.

In February, a serious threat occurred to providing help by radio. In Docket 98-20 the Federal Communications Commission proposed changes that while appearing to enhance public use for emergencies and travelers assistance would probably have accomplished exactly the opposite.

At issue were two proposed aspects. One allowed any licensed General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) user to operate on any GMRS channel, and on any repeater. The other made changes in use of the 462/467.675 frequency pair that appeared to convert it to emergencies and travelers assistance only. Due to the many unclear and sometimes contradictory parts of the docket, many people who read it had different interpretations of what was actually meant. When March 8 arrived, the date established as a deadline, the FCC had not yet made any clarifying decision.

As the premier service organization promoting public access for emergency communications, REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) responded en force to the FCC Docket with individual filings from numerous teams. Speaking on behalf of all 350 teams throughout the country, REACT Inter-

national, Inc., sent its own comments which included support for another concerned organization, the Personal Radio Steering Group (PRSG). All writers foresaw the indiscriminate use of repeaters for which no permission had been granted by the repeater owner. Many comments were also made about the probable result of eliminating personal communications from the .675 pair. The typical concern was that users would now have to be on another channel for their personal messages, thereby leaving the proposed "emergency" frequency with less monitoring.

W. Robert Stone, REACT Chairman of the Board, said "some teams even anticipate changing their .675 repeater to another frequency since they cannot afford to maintain one for .675 and another for personal communications. This would leave less chance, not more, of an answer for emergencies and travelers assistance that the FCC envisioned in their docket. It would also go contrary to the REACT idea of making emergency frequencies more usable for the public."

REACT was founded in 1962 and is the recipient of The President's Volunteer Action Award. Although first use involved CB radio, which still exists, most teams now also use GMRS. There is an extensive network of GMRS repeaters throughout the country. In a typical year members may monitor CB, GMRS, Amateur, VHF, and Marine frequencies over three million total hours. Approximately 170,000 calls will be taken and 39 million dollars will be saved by taxpayers because of this volunteer work.

Garden State Council of REACT Teams, Inc.

By Dick Cooper, President

Garden State Council of REACT Teams, Inc.

Trenton, NJ 08650

Hamilton-Mercer REACT hosted the New Jersey's Garden State Council of REACT Teams January meeting at Mercer County's Dempster Fire Training Academy, which is also home of Mercer County's OEM offices. Since the election of officers could not be held at the December meeting, the main order of business was the election of officers for 1999. The results are as follows:

President	Dick Cooper	Hamilton-Mercer REACT
Vice President	Larry Wilkins	Garden State REACT
Secretary	Mary Cooper	Hamilton-Mercer REACT
Treasurer	Kristine Andrejco	Hamilton-Mercer REACT

Congratulations to the new and returning officers and thank you to the out-going officers. 1999 promises

to be a year of challenge, change and advancement for REACT in New Jersey. The New Jersey REACT newsletter is being revived and by the time members read this article the first two editions of the new newsletter will already have been mailed. Due to budget constraints, the mailing list is limited generally to New Jersey members and Teams, selected agencies, REACT International, RI Board of Directors, Councils and exchange newsletters. However, for anyone else who is interested in receiving the newsletter, the cost is \$6.00 for 6 issues (1 year) of Radio Waves from the Garden State sent first class mail. If you have an article that you wish to submit for publication in the newsletter, please send it to the New Jersey Council. You can contact New Jersey REACT by telephone and fax at 888-886-3995, email at njreact@namesunlimited.com or P.O. Box 9898, Trenton, N.J. 08650. The newsletter can also be found on the internet at <http://www.namesunlimited.com/newsltr.htm>. Also, efforts are underway to raise the necessary funds to set up a Web page for the New Jersey Council soon.

The meeting schedule for 1999 is as follows:

March 14 —Garden State REACT hosting

October 17—Garden State REACT hosting

December 12—Hamilton-Mercer REACT hosting



Welcome New Council

Trinidad & Tobago REACT Council
Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies

During this renewal period West Indies
has chartered five teams.

The affiliates of this Council are:

- Team 2496 - REACT Trinidad & Tobago Ltd
- Team 6005 - REACT County Caroni
- Team 6006 - REACT County Victoria/St. Patrick
- Team 6007 - Morvant/Santa Cruz/San Juan
- Team 6008 - REACT St. Andrews/St. David
- Team 6009 - REACT Nariva/Mayard County - Trinidad



May 15 was designated National Peace Officer's Memorial Day in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. The week containing May 15 was designated National Police Week (NPW). National activities are hosted each year in Washington, D.C., to honor those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice the previous calendar year and to offer support to the survivors of those officers as well as survivors of other years. A series of events comprise National Police Week activities.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund sponsors the annual Candlelight Vigil; Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., sponsors the National Police Survivors' Seminars; and the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary sponsor the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. Your team is encouraged to recognize your area police agency that your team works with.

CB Monitoring Group Seeks Volunteers Ohio Areas of Westerville and Delaware

***Paul Jackson
Westerville, Ohio***

A statewide emergency communication association is looking to increase its membership in the Westerville area.

Ohio Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams monitor and use the CB radio to work with law enforcement and emergency management officials to respond quickly in emergency situations.

"We work closely with the police, fire, and all local authorities and assist in communications," said Paul Jackson, a Westerville resident and Ohio's state REACT coordinator.

REACT volunteers monitor CB Channel 9 whenever possible. They alert local authorities of accidents, stranded motorists, or other situations where a quick response is needed. The group also serves as an alternative means of communicating when natural or man-made disasters render conventional communications methods useless.

During the blizzard of 1978, REACT assisted the National Guard in communications, Jackson said. More recently, REACT teams in Fairfield County assisted

authorities when heavy rains washed out a section of Coon Path Road. Currently, there are 20 REACT volunteers in Franklin and Delaware counties. Jackson said he'd like that number to be closer to the organization's two-county peak membership of 62.

REACT volunteers can use a cell phone, marine-band radio, or hand-held CB radio to participate, Jackson said.

The City of Westerville's emergency plan does not include REACT, Westerville Division of Fire Battalion Chief John Bokros said. Westerville's plan makes use of licensed amateur radio operators when disaster strikes.

Delaware Co., on the other hand, includes REACT volunteers in its disaster response plan.

"In Delaware Co., REACT's primary role is during emergencies," Delaware Co. Emergency Services Director Larry Fisher said. "They are part of our emergency plan. Much like amateur radio, they have a role to play."

Those interested in becoming a REACT volunteer can contact Paul Jackson at 614-891-2347 or Steve Adams at 614-895-2446.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Dresden REACT Team #4811

***By Gerald Jarvis
Ohio Council President***

Dresden REACT Team #4811, membership of 10, is a small team in a small village with a population of about 1,700. They do a big job for their community. They work close with the police, fire department, sheriff department, state patrol, and many other activities in the village. They do traffic control for the village school and all the village parades, etc. Kevin Dickson has been their President for the last five years. He is blind, but that does not stop him from doing his job. He can place his members at a street intersection in town or at an accident scene just as well as anyone with sight. He is very good on the radio. He is in close contact with the village Mayor, Bob Lane, and Police

Chief Jeff Garver. He is always ready when the Muskingum County REACT Team needs assistance. One of the village's largest Christmas parades was held and was well attended. Santa Claus made his traditional appearance, riding through town on a fire truck.

The REACT members had all street intersections covered. This year was a first for the team as our Ohio State Council President, Gerald Jarvis, led the parade (with the O.R.C. Chaplain Barbara Jarvis).

The REACT members also have fund raising for equipment. Dresden is the home of the great Longaberger Baskets.

REACT Teams Renewing 100% (Beginning 1-1-99)

ALASKA

3462 Greater Anchorage REACT, Inc. - Anchorage

CALIFORNIA

C071 Tri-City REACT, Inc. - Lakewood
C075 Santiago Communications Team, Inc. - Santa Ana
C729 Simi Valley REACT - Simi Valley
2260 Fort Sutter REACT, Inc. - Sacramento
3425 Mendocina Coast REACT - Fort Bragg
3897 South Gate REACT - South Gate
2192 Monterey Peninsula REACT - Monterey

FLORIDA

2562 North Brevard County REACT - Titusville
4763 Sand, Sea and Surf REACT - New Smyrna Beach

ILLINOIS

2947 Unity REACT, Inc. - Western Springs
4020 Decatur & Macon City REACT - Decatur

INDIANA

C064 Jay County REACT - Portland
C296 Vanderburgh County REACT, Inc. - Evansville
C697 Madison County REACT, Inc. - Anderson
2446 Pulaski County REACT - Winomac
2914 Christmas City REACT, Inc. - Jonesboro

IOWA

3038 Hawkeye REACT - Cedar Rapids

MAINE

4094 Aroostook County REACT - Ashland

MARYLAND

4650 Annapolis-Arundel REACT - Severna Park
3252 St. Mary's County REACT - Leonardtown
4656 Charles County REACT - Waldorf

MASSACHUSETTS

4961 Western Massachusetts REACT - Hadley

MONTANA

3679 Butte REACT - Butte

NEBRASKA

4605 Lincoln County REACT - North Platte

NEW JERSEY

4895 Salem County REACT - Pennsville

NEW YORK

2371 Suffolk County REACT, Inc. - Hauppauga

NORTH CAROLINA

2804 Johnston County REACT - Smithfield
4906 NE-NC REACT Communications - Edenton

OHIO

C282 Wayne County REACT - Wooster
2624 Tri-County REACT - West Chester

PENNSYLVANIA

C576 Eldred Interstate REACT - Eldred
C602 Bloomsburg Area REACT Volunteers - Catawissa
2785 Abington REACT - Abington
3850 Johnstown Area REACT, Inc. - Johnstown

SOUTH CAROLINA

C614 Charleston REACT Emergency Team - Charleston
2400 Darlington County REACT Team - Darlington
3153 Colleton County REACT - Walterboro

TEXAS

4047 Bell County REACT - Belton

VIRGINIA

C109 Prince William REACT, Inc. - Manassas
C490 National Capital REACT - Alexandria
4679 Page County REACT - Luray

WASHINGTON

4677 Lakewood REACT - Sponaway

WEST VIRGINIA

4051 Wyoming County REACT - Mullens

CANADA

4866 Don Valley REACT, Inc. - Woodbridge, Ontario
4742 REACT Edmundston, Inc. - Edmundston, New Brunswick

Florida Council Assists During Major Winter Storm of January 1999

*By Bob Pickering
Operations & Training FCRT*

A winter storm bringing a squall line across the state of Florida, put the Florida Council to work as 1999 started off.

The Florida Council already tested by Tomatoes, Fires, Flooding, and Hurricanes in 1998 once again found itself in the cross hairs of Mother Nature.

On January 3, 1999, as the storm intensified, bringing heavy snow to parts of the U.S., Florida was in the "warm sector." Many weary REACTers are aware of how severe the weather can be in Florida during winter storms.

The squall line blasted across the state, and many REACT Teams activated their Skywarn programs. Others had to deal with other problems. Teams along the

Gulf Coast were watching the Gulf, as coastal flood warnings were issued, due to the strong winds pushing the Gulf of Mexico ashore.

Pinellas Pasco REACT reported some flooding in the Tarpon Springs area. Flagler County Assist, Kissimmee Valley, and Space Coast activated Skywarn nets when those areas needed assistance.

Orlando Metro and The Florida State DCAT Team were on standby. This was the first standby for the newly formed Florida Disaster Communications Assistance Team.

Most of the severe weather was over central Florida, no major problems were reported, and no mutual aid requests were made.

Being a Volunteer

It's not for money, It's not for fame,
It's not for any personal gain.
It's just for the love of fellow man.
It's just to lend a helping hand.
It's just to give a tithe of self,
That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not for medals won with pride,
It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart,
It's that feeling that you've been a part
of helping others far and near

That makes you be a volunteer!

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Get That Shot!

Has your Team appointed a photographer yet? If not, does your Team encourage all members to snap photos and contribute copies to the Team album? Choose your method, but get photos. Flip through some back issues and notice which articles catch your eye. Those with a photo or two, right? Photos matter.

Here are some tips to help you make a good film record of your Team at work for the community:

Click at Will

Shoot anything and everything. The more you take, the better chances are of getting some real dandies. An ounce of "wasted" film is worth a pound of regret when you miss a great opportunity.

Case the Joint

Look hard before you click. The camera doesn't lie. It shows every detail, flattering or not. Ties straight? Shirts tucked in? Help your subjects look their best, if time permits.

Snuggle Up

Get in close. Fill your snaps with people and objects, not sky or grass. Make them feel important. Go for head and shoulders, not full body shots, unless necessary.

People Your Vehicles

Dress up your lovely new communications van with people admiring it. Show them at the controls, at the radio positions, etc. People like looking at people. Take advantage of that.

Strut Your Stuff

Be sure to snap all your Team. Snap them by two's, three's, and four's. Have them doing things, not neatly lined up. Get them all in the picture, with lots of smiles. You get in some, too.

Manners Matter

Be nice. Thank people for moving to make a better shot. Remember "please" when you need them to smile, or turn, etc. We all like to be treated with kid gloves. Humor them!

Candid and Posed

Go for both types. Often you must re-enact incidents after the event is over. No sweat. Posed photos are certainly better than no record at all.

Expect "Duds"

Think of how many shots a photographer takes at a wedding, etc. Only a small number will make it into the album. You take lots so you can choose the best for the press, your Team album, etc. Order double prints for the small extra cost. Discard the poorest. Give unneeded copies to those in the photos for personal use. Make up a small album for a shut-in member. There are many ways you can use most of the photos your Team takes, and achieve a lot of good.

Most important, take lots. As you get better at it, there will be fewer and fewer poor ones. Remember, no one is perfect.

Be sure to send double or triple copies of your best to HQ for *The Reactor* and to meet requests from other publications for shots of REACT volunteers in action. We'll appreciate it.

Radio Shack Cites REACT

Check out pg. 66 of the 1999 RS catalog. It will make you proud to be a REACTer. Have an open copy for people to see at your Team's mail displays and other events. Show it to officials your Team works with. This is PR we couldn't buy. Make it work for your Team. Share with us ways you come up with to benefit your Team and others. Try for a local news photo with your RS dealer. Present him with a REACT Certificate of Appreciation, framed, to display in his store. More good PR for your Team.

Champaign County REACT #4517

By Randy Daniels
Mechanicsburg, Ohio

On March 14, 1999, Team 4517 had the honor of hosting the Allen County Team from Lima, Ohio, and Paul Jackson, Coordinator of the Ohio REACT Council. It was great to sit down and go over a lot of things with him. He expressed the importance of attending the Ohio Council meetings. The teams learned a lot from Paul during the meeting and invited him back to help with one of our work details this summer. The following week the State Council Coordinator attended

the Allen County REACT meeting. Many of the Team 4517 members traveled to Lima the following weekend to help with a parade being held there.

REACT will be kicking off their busy season on May 8th with the Harthstone Farms Horse Show. We average approximately 2,200 hours a season on work details. Any teams wishing to visit #4517 in Urbana are welcome, just contact me at (937)834-2220. If possible, we will return your visit. Thank you.



President Robin Daniels (Team 4517) with Ohio REACT Council Coordinator Paul Jackson (center) and Secretary Randy Daniels (right).

Robin Daniels presenting Paul Jackson with a Champaign County REACT cap.



Welcome New REACT Teams

#6000	Florida State DCAT Vero Beach, Florida January 29, 1999	#6009	REACT Nariva/Mayard County- Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies March 1, 1999
#6001	Sentry Skywatch Patrol REACT Lamoure, North Dakota December 16, 1998	#6010	Rockland County REACT Sloatsburg, New York March 4, 1999
#6002	Quad County REACT Covington, Indiana December 14, 1998	#6012	REACT Response Team Castalian Springs, Tennessee February 27, 1999
#6003	Tri-County REACT St. Louis, Missouri January 22, 1999	#6013	REACT 2000 Nelsonville, Ohio March 18, 1999
#6004	Western Carolina REACT Penrose, North Carolina January 19, 1999	#6014	REACT Comite Madawaska County Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada March 24, 1999
#6005	REACT County Caroni Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies March 1, 1999	#6015	REACT of GCSAR Paulsboro, New Jersey March 24, 1999
#6006	REACT County Victoria Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies March 1, 1999	#6016	REACT of Seminole County Longwood, Florida December 24, 1998
#6007	REACT Morvant/Santa Cruz/San Juan Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies March 1, 1999	#6017	Columbiana County REACT East Liverpool, Ohio March 25, 1999
#6008	REACT Andrews/St. David Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies March 1, 1999	#6018	Pope County REACT Russellville, Arkansas March 26, 1999

REACT International extends a warm welcome to our new Teams!

Good Job! Coshocton REACT Team #C575

*By Paul Jackson
Ohio State Coordinator
Ohio REACT Council*

Last October, I visited and helped work a detail with the Coshocton REACT Team at their County Fair. I was given a tour and learned how well the team worked with the local authorities in traffic direction and control at the Fair and observed their traffic control at several accident situations.

This team is highly respected by the membership and the local authorities such as the Sheriff and fire departments.

The team takes a lot of pressure off the departments in traffic control during emergency situations. The rules are observed very strictly and the team has been around for more than thirty years. I have learned a lot of information from working with this team in the field at their Fair, parade (Christmas) and it has helped me to give other teams good information when other teams want to do the same traffic functions as Coshocton.

Many teams have asked to visit Coshocton REACT and I hope they will take the opportunity to go to Coshocton meetings and function in the field with Coshocton's permission.

I have learned that this team and membership are not only an organization but are considered a family.

They have the same values as the founding fathers of our country which makes a person feel pretty good after a visit.

I took many pictures at the County Fair, but in the rain and mud I dropped the camera and exposed the film. I hope to get some pictures at the next Fair. Their trailer is a well organized Communication and Command Center and again ranks pretty high with several authorities.

A job well done and keep up the good work. Many other counties in Ohio need a team like this one in Coshocton.



Tornado Season Approaching

*By Paul Jackson
Ohio State Coordinator
Ohio REACT Council*

This year Ohio will celebrate the 29th year anniversary when a massive tornado hit Xenia, Ohio, on April 3, 1974, in the afternoon, flattening subdivisions and killing thirty-four people with many injuries to others. It carried debris clear to O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, south of Route 42 in Delaware County, such as a women's magazine that had a Xenia address on it within a half hour after the twister hit through the county and city of Xenia which showed how powerful the storms were.

It was the worst tornado outbreak in U.S. history with one hundred forty-eight twisters touching down in

eleven states over a sixteen hour period and the death toll reached three hundred thirty, according to the National Weather Service.

What does all this mean to REACT is simply we need to be prepared in tornado safety because we will not have much time if conditions are right for a severe storm. Immediate action may save your life.

Rules are simple. Get training from Skywarn and work a plan with the local authorities.

A tornado watch means weather conditions are such that a tornado could develop without warning. Prepare a safe place in a assigned area of a building in advance.

REACT Team Offers Weather Spotter Shirts

By Heartland REACT
Omaha, Nebraska

The severe weather season is upon most all of us and you won't want to be left out. Heartland REACT in Omaha, Nebraska, has Weather Spotter T-Shirts for any REACT member. "They are a great means of identification when you are out in the dark of night spotting and visitors approach, like the Police, Sheriff, or Highway Patrol," said Patty Dyhrberg, Weather Officer for Heartland REACT. "And when you wear them off duty, they are a great way to attract people to you so you can recruit them!" These shirts are quite popular among the Heartland Spotters. Don't wait too long to get yours, they are going fast!

The T-shirts are a medium weight cotton in white. The shirts are generic in that no Team name appears on them so any team can use them. Black lettering on the back says WEATHER SPOTTER across the shoulders, the Skywarn emblem in the middle in its colors and the word SKYWARN is in black below. On the pocketless

front there is a small pocket-size version of what is on the back where the pocket would normally be. Shirts come in Large, XL, 2X. Large and XL are \$12.00 and the 2X is \$13.50. There is a \$3.00 shipping and handling charge for each shirt. If several shirts are ordered it will reduce the shipping charge and ordering teams will be refunded the postage difference.

Send orders, payment in full, and shirt sizes to:

HEARTLAND REACT
c/o Supply Officer
P.O. Box 6036 - Elmwood Park Station
Omaha, Nebraska 68105

If you have any questions, please call **Connie Citta**, Supply Officer (402)293-0873. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

■■■■■■■■■■

FCC Strikes!

Despite being short-staffed, FCC inspectors nailed a Florida "radio operator" with a well-earned \$2,500 fine recently. Other charges are under consideration.

You saw news coverage of the savage wildfires in Florida early last summer. Can you imagine, in your worst nightmares, someone who fancies himself a "radio operator" willfully interfering with emergency communications during a disaster of that severity?

This one intentionally endangered firefighters and other disaster workers, as well as fleeing victims of the fires, by blocking ham communications links they relied on for their lives. He denied the charge — but paid the fine!



Young at Heart

By Betty Dressel

Youngstown REACT Team C098

Kenneth Dressel, President of Youngstown REACT, Inc., # C098, rode a bike in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boardman, Ohio. The Youngstown REACT Team promotes good public relations by being in several parades each year. The parade was on Sunday, March 14, 1999. Every year, for this parade, Mr. Dressel dyes his hair and beard red for the occasion. He says he's ready for the upcoming parades this year. For a small team of only four members right now, we still get out there and do what we can for the public. All four members were in this parade. It was fun!

ON THE MOVE: Ken Dressel of Youngstown REACT pedaled around the line-up area before Sunday's St. Patrick's Day parade got underway. (Photo used by permission from *The Vindicator*.)



The Vindicator/Lindsay Semple



Brevard County Special Olympics



As Special Olympians compete in soccer skills, REACT control (partly concealed by net's crossbar) handles safety communications for the Brevard County, Florida, event.



REACT volunteers worked with Special Olympics officials at each event to ensure safe, smooth going. Three events can be seen here. Two other venues off this main site made communications all the more vital, to ensure a successful day for the Brevard County Florida Special Olympians.

How To Kill Your Team Or Council

By Joseph L. Nadeau, Jr.

President, Tobacco Valley REACT #3625

Greater Hartford, Connecticut

1. Don't come to meetings but, if you do, be late.
2. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming
3. Find fault with the work of your officers and members.
4. Never accept an office, for it's easier to criticize than do things.
5. If asked by a director or chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell them you have nothing to say. Then after the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done.
6. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when other members roll up their sleeves and willingly, unselfishly use their abilities to help others to help the work along, howl that the organization is run by a clique.
7. Hold back your dues as long as possible or don't pay at all.
8. When a banquet, or function is given, tell everyone that money is being wasted on "blowouts," and parties. If there are no banquets or functions held, complain that the organization is dead.
9. Always keep your eyes open for something wrong.
10. When you attend a meeting, vote to do something and then go home and do the opposite. Agree with everything said at the meeting and disagree with it outside.
11. Get all the organization gives you, but don't give anything in return.

Do You Know Me

I have no respect for Justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted the more I am believed. I flourish at all levels of society.

My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me, for I have no face and no name. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never quite the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages. I ruin careers, cause sleepless nights, heartaches, and grief. I make innocent people cry in their pillows. I make headlines and heartaches.

I am called gossip.

The next time you want to tell a story about someone...think. Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? If not, please don't say it!!!

Author Unknown

REACT Councils as of April 22, 1999

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REACT Month 1999



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

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

Press Release(s)

Detail your Team's recognition of May as REACT Month, proclamation(s) received, and holiday weekend activities. Separate releases may be created. (Be sure to mention the previous press release.) Send these to print, radio and television media. For more information about press releases, refer to the "Public Relations Kit" from REACT International or the *REACTer* article(s) on "Publicizing REACT".

Public Service Announcements (PSA) Radio

The sample radio PSA script shown in this issue can be shortened or lengthened, and individualized for your Team. Send this to the radio station along with

your press release and a cover letter. Request one of the station's better known personalities or D.J.'s to make the PSA for its exclusive use. This way the listening audience will recognize the voice and give more attention (and credibility) to your spot. Another hint is to mention a Team officer/spokesperson is available for an on-the-air interview for the station.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) Television

This includes local stations and cable systems. Contact the station. Let them know your Team can provide a 30 second PSA on REACT done by Bobby Sherman (refer to a REACT price list and order form). The station can add your Team name and contact number to the PSA with their computer graphic equipment while it's running. Or, you can order the PSA personalized from REACT Headquarters. Here is an idea: In your press release and other media, offer the public a free REACT pamphlet, "Getting Help by CB Radio." Provide pamphlets to interested persons who send the Team a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The pamphlets are available from REACT International. Stamp your Team name on the front and/or inside. Include information about your Team and membership opportunities. Be sure total piece weight is one ounce or less. This idea benefits your Team in several ways. The pamphlet educates recipient(s) on how to make a correct call on CB Channel 9 and your Team has a promotional tool directed to interested person(s) - you may get a new member.

Sample
"May is REACT Month"
Proclamation

WHEREAS, through REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) over 6,000 people worldwide participate as volunteers to provide highway safety and emergency communications using their own two-way radios in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the _____ (your city/town) area is fortunate in having a local Team known as _____ (your Team name), which has served well in many civic endeavors; or (list a few big local events) and (if your Team is involved) sponsor, "Highway Safety Coffee Breaks" (providing refreshments to weary drivers, if your Team has Safety Breaks), and

WHEREAS, REACT's cooperative efforts save many lives annually, through faster medical response to accident scenes and better emergency communications in time of natural disasters.

NOW, THEREFORE, I _____ (Mayor/Governor/Premier), do hereby designate the month of May 1999 as

REACT MONTH

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

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

 (City/State/Province), _____ (State/City/Country)
 to be affixed hereto this 1st day of May 1999

 (Mayor/Governor/Premier)

SAMPLE ONLY

(Retype with your Team's information included)

Fred Lanshe writes...

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

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

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

Radio Public Service Announcement

Don't Drive Alone . . . Invite a CB Travel Companion

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

_____ (Insert your Team name) _____ REACT
Team,

affiliated with REACT International, Inc., monitors CB Emergency Channel 9 for calls requesting assistance. REACT Teams also provide safety communications for community events, using a variety of authorized radio services. Many REACT Teams host highway Safety Breaks during holiday weekends.

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

Contact

_____ (Insert your Team name) _____ REACT at _____ (Insert your telephone number) _____

Or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to

_____ (Insert your Team name) _____ at _____

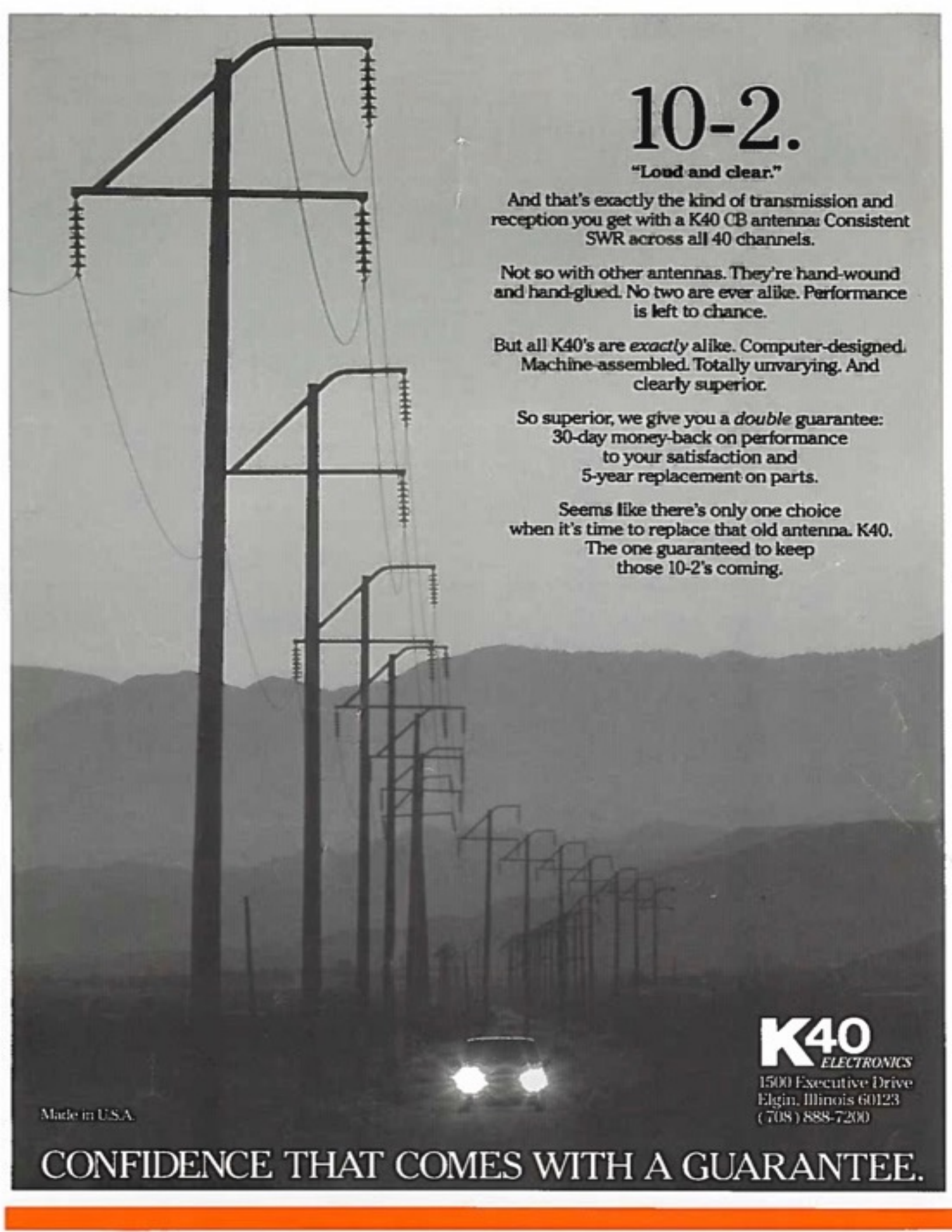
_____ (Insert your Team address) _____

(Repeat contact information. Time: 60 seconds)



*Get Ready for
"Safety Break '99"
In REACT Month*

Remember
to send
REACT Headquarters
reports & photos
of all your
Safety Break activities!



10-2.

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