



the REACTer

November-December, 1999



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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wichita, KS
Permit No. 1456

4252 00008
Ed Greany
1742 Spring Lane
Corona CA 91720

“Listening is only half the fun. Popular Communications is the other half.”

The World's largest, most authoritative monthly magazine for Short Wave Listening and Scanner Monitoring. Read by more active listeners than all other listening publications combined!

If you enjoy radio communications you'll love **POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS**

Get fast home delivery of *Popular Communications* and save \$21.93 a year over the newsstand price. Save even more on 2 or 3 year subs.



Call 516-681-2922 For Faster Service

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year 12 issues\$25.95
(Save \$21.93) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years 24 issues....\$45.95
(Save \$49.81) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years 36 issues\$65.95
(Save \$77.69) |
|---|---|--|

Canada/Mexico—One year \$35.95, two years \$65.95, three years \$95.95; Foreign Air Post—one year \$45.95, two years \$85.95, three years \$125.95, Payable in US dollars only.

Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery

--	--	--	--

Exp Date: _____

- Check Money Order MasterCard VISA AMEX Discover

Mail your order to:

Popular Communications

25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 FAX 516 681-2926



The REACTer

Vol. 33, Number 6 • November-December, 1999

2	Season's Greetings	Frank Jennings, Harry Hawkins
3	You May Have Noticed	Stuart DeLuca
	Did You Know?	Frank Jennings
4	Convention 2000 Update	Walt Young
6	What is a 'Paper Trail'?	Frank Jennings
8	REACTIVITIES: Region, Council & Team Reports	
12	Life Membership	Richard T. Gamble
13	Product Reviews:	
	Midland 79-290 CB Radio	Tom Currie
	PlugTight Cord Connector	Tom Currie
15	K40 Award Nominations Form	

Advertisers

Popular Communications	Inside Front Cover
Police Call	7
R. K. Leef	12
K40	Inside Back Cover

Cover: "Snowglobe" drawing by Susan Griess/Webworks

The REACTer

(ISSN 1055-9167)



The REACTer is the official publication of REACT International, Inc., a nonprofit public service organization; headquarters office is located at 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, Maryland 20746.

REACT International, Inc., qualifies under U.S. Internal Revenue Code Sec. 501(c)(3) as a tax-exempt, tax-deductible charitable organization.

The REACTer is published bi-monthly (six issues per year); the subscription price is included in members' dues. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers at \$7.50 per year. For subscription information, contact REACT International, Inc., at 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403,

Suitland, MD 20746-4330, or call 301-316-2900 (fax: 301-316-2903), or e-mail to: <react@reactintl.org>.

Article and photo submissions to The REACTer are welcome but will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. See our Publication Guidelines at <www.reactintl.org>.

For information about advertising in The REACTer, contact R. K. Leef, Advertising Manager, at 28826 Paseo Malaga, Mission Viejo, CA 93692, or e-mail to: <pub@reactintl.org>

The REACTer © 1999 RI. All rights reserved. REACT Councils or Teams may reproduce articles in their publications, provided proper credit is given.

REACT International

Board of Directors

Frank Jennings, Chairman,	Region 6
Fred Lanshe	Region 1
Richard Cooper	Region 2
George T. Holmes	Region 3
Jack Murrell	Region 4
Laurence O. "Larry" Fry	Region 5
Lee W. Besing	Region 7
Jesse Mauk	Region 8
Ron Faulkner	Region 9
W. R. Stone	Outside Director

Officers

Harry J. Hawkins	President
Charles A. Thompson	Vice President
Fred Lanshe	Treasurer
Lee W. Besing	Secretary

Publications Committee

Stuart M. DeLuca	Chairman and Editor
Tom Currie	Contributing Editor, Technology
Robert K. Leef	Advertising Manager
Eric Hutchins	Production Manager

Editorial Address:

The REACTer
P.O. Box 180922
Austin, TX 78718-0922

e-mail: <kc5cfq@texas.net>
Or: <pub@reactintl.org>

The REACTer is available on audio cassettes, free of charge. There is an initial application fee and certain eligibility requirements. For information, contact Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, 1314 W. 45th Street, Austin TX 78756 or call 512-323-9390.

Season's Greetings

from Frank Jennings,
Chairman, Board of Directors

As the holidays approach, your Regional Directors wish to express best wishes for all to have very Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year.

The new Regional representative re-organization is off and running. We each had to establish contact with the Teams and members in our respective regions, and we were hampered in many regions by fires, tornadoes, floods and of course those pesky hurricanes and their aftermath. We had to learn new policies and procedures involving our participation among and between the Board and the officers.

Your president, Harry Hawkins, and I have been in close contact, working with each other to iron out the confusing areas to ensure that we get off to a good start. The new committees (Publications, and Ways and Means) have been activated and they are developing strategies by which to function.

The first task of the Publications Committee is to improve the appearance and quality of your *REACT*er. They also will review and update the various other materials published by RI. The Ways and Means Committee will soon be exploring avenues by which *REACT* may apply for and receive gifts and grants. They are wide open to your ideas and leads. If you have any information or suggestions that you think might help, the committees will gladly accept them—and your time if you have some to contribute.

In the past three months, many of our members have come forward to assist the committees, or to help in the Suitland office in transferring our database to a "Y2K-safe" Access system. Several members have worked hard to redesign the *REACT* Web page. I see this new spirit as a sign of positive cooperation that I hope will lead to growth. Let us all work together and apply the positive approach to the operations of our Teams, Councils, Committees and *REACT*. That's the only way to make *REACT* become more interesting, visible and attractive to new membership.

Lynn and I wish each of you a most Joyous and Prosperous Holiday Season

*REACT*fully for Growth,
Frank Jennings

from Harry J. Hawkins,
President

Coming to the end of a busy year, my staff and I want to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.

So far we have had a very good year. Some issues have been settled; some issues are still up in the air. The *REACT*er is on its way to becoming our life line to you. Those with an on-line service can view our new Web site. Just type <www.reactintl.org> and you are on your way there. I am looking forward to the new year, and all the things we are planning for *REACT*.

The new Board and my staff are working very hard to turn this organization around. We need your input and support, to help us turn *REACT* into what you want it to be. We can bring *REACT* back up to where it used to be: a strong and very useful organization.

So in closing, I will say to all the faithful out there: Keep plugging away. Help is coming.

Merry Christmas
and a very
Happy New Year

Your President,
Harry J. Hawkins



You May Have Noticed...

Stuart M. DeLuca,
Editor

This issue of *The REACTer* looks a little different from those of recent years. And this is just the beginning!

Last July, at the *REACT* International Convention in Grand Falls, Bob Leef presented his proposal to establish a Publications Committee that would be responsible for, among other things, *The REACTer*. Bob's proposal was enthusiastically accepted by the delegates and the Board. They even went along with his suggestion that I be appointed chairman of the committee and editor of *The REACTer*.

Must have been something in the water.

Since then, we've been busy. Bob has agreed to be a member of the committee and to serve as Advertising Manager for *The REACTer*, a job that we hope will keep him phenomenally busy. Eric Hutchins, another Californian, has agreed to be our Production Manager; he happens to be a printer by trade and should be very helpful in working with our printers. Tom Currie of Kentucky joins the committee as a contributing editor of *The REACTer*; he will be especially involved in technology-related matters.

We still would like to add a few more people to the Publications Committee; if you're interested, let me know!

I can't tell you all of the changes we have in mind, partly because some of them might not happen and I don't want to disappoint anyone. I can tell you that we want *The REACTer* to be the best, most useful, best-looking newsletter you've ever seen, chock full of interesting and practical information. Of course we will continue to feature news of Team, Council, and Region activities, and we will always have articles from the various RI committees. We plan to add to that mix new features, new columns, and articles about all sorts of things that (we hope!) will interest *REACT* members.

I've been a *REACT* member for almost two dozen years, have served as a Team and Council officer for most of that time, and currently represent the Texas Council on the Board of Directors of Another Way Texas Shares, the fundraising consortium (more on that subject another time). *REACT* is a major part of my life.

The organizational changes that took place over the past two years are, in my opinion, the most important and positive developments since the founding of *REACT*. I truly believe that we are on the verge of a new era of growth and vitality. Chronicling that new era—and doing what I can to help it happen—will be my main challenges as editor of *The REACTer*.

For now, let me add my holiday greetings to those of Frank and Harry. It isn't everyday that we get to greet a whole new millenium—and how better to celebrate than with a fresh start in the most exciting and rewarding community service organization in the world!

With very best wishes,
Stuart M. DeLuca, Editor

Did You Know?

To operate *REACT* for a year takes the \$20.00 dues of :

- 1,045 members to pay for the office staff
- 420 members to pay the office rent
- 360 members to publish the *REACTer*
- 240 members to mail the *REACTer*
- 200 Members to pay for the \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance
- 200 members to pay for the office copier, repairs & supplies
- 150 members to pay for an audit
- 120 members to pay for accounting services
- 100 members to pay for office postage
- 80 members to pay for long distance phone calls
- 20 members to pay for local telephone service
- 18 members for a Team topics mailing
- 18 members for a Team renewal mailing

This is why we ask every *REACT* member to sign up *one* new member in 2000. We could then provide you with the resources your Team needs.. Let's all pull together and do our part for growth. Don't wait for the other person to start! Will you do it for *REACT*?



Convention



Update

*By Walt Young, Chairman
REACT2000 Convention*

Welcome to the 2000 REACT International Convention! We plan to have the "End of the Century Blowout" as REACT goes *transmitting into the 21st century!*

We are inviting everyone to come. We want everyone to park their snits in the garage, put aside their animosities, and especially their politics, and just have a good ol' time in sunny Florida. REACTers proved this works while at Grand Island; it was like "old home week" seeing a lot of old friends from years past.

But just in case, we have a special committee to take care of violators, which gives you one of two choices, you can wrestle with three crazed alligators on crack, or be taken care of by epileptic Amazons spaced out on jumping beans with machetes in their hands! So relax and enjoy the convention!

The Convention will run three days: Wednesday, July 26, through Friday, July 28, 2000. We have many exciting programs planned, including workshops, contests, and entertainment.

The Convention will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Gateway inn located in Kissimmee, Fla. Special rates have been obtained, and the hotel has agreed to extend the same rates for several days before and after the Convention—so you can make a vacation out of it!

The revised Convention Registration form has been modified since the one we gave out in Nebraska. It now has a front and back section. It has a few more

items on the front side as well as the Registration Addendum on the back page. Please copy the form on the next two pages, and fill out all items that pertain to you.

Your Convention registration will include the Welcome Party, the Group Picture, the Banquet and free transportation to all major attractions. You will be furnished a bus schedule upon check in.

With so many attractions in the area, including Disney World (the main entrance is one mile from the Hotel), Sea World, Universal Studios, and many others, we did not plan any formal tours. We felt this way everyone could choose where they want to visit.

The Hospitality Room will open Monday noon and run 24 hours during the entire convention. The Computer Room will open as soon as the International Computer Committee arrives and they get their equipment set up. This room will be right next door to, and adjoining, the Hospitality Room for convenience. They will provide e-mail access and other computer services.

The "Country Store" will open Tuesday and have many REACT items from the international headquarters. Space will be available for REACT Teams or Councils who wish to sell their items (patches, cups, key chains, whatever) at the Convention. Let us know in advance if you have items.

There will be *much* more information in the January-February REACTer—but you don't need to wait! Send in your registration before Feb. 15 and you'll be included in a drawing for **FREE REGISTRATION** (your registration fee will be refunded)! Copy, complete, and send in the form right away!

2000 REACT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - July 26-28

Kissimmee, Florida

<http://www.spacecenter.net/users/screact/conv2000.htm>

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial/Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
Country _____ (Area Code) Phone # _____
Emergency Contact _____ (Area Code) Phone # _____
Team Number _____ Team Name _____
To Include you in our Booklet Contact Page, your Email Address: _____

If you have been selected as TEAM or COUNCIL delegate or alternate, check the appropriate box below

TEAM: Delegate _____ Alternate _____ COUNCIL: Delegate _____ Alternate _____

For the Banquet Check One Preference: Prime Rib ___ Chicken Cordon Bleu ___ Vegetarian: ___

Special Diet (Specify) _____

Children: # _____ Ages _____

Check One of the Following if you are:

Reg Member ___ Family Member ___ Life Member ___ Junior REACT ___ Affiliate Member ___

Check any that apply: Amateur License ___ GMRS License ___ CB Operation ___

REGISTRATION AND EXTRAS

Registration: Before 5/15/2000: \$60.00 (Off Site \$90.00) \$ _____
After 5/15/2000: \$75.00 (Off Site \$105.00) \$ _____
Jr REACT/Children Registration: \$25.00 \$ _____

Convention Shirts:

Golf Type	(S - XL)	\$18.00	Size _____	# _____	\$ _____
Crew Type:	(S - XL)	\$18.00	Size _____	# _____	\$ _____
	(XXL - XXXL)	\$1.00 ea extra	Size _____	# _____	\$ _____
Extra Convention Picture		\$8.00		# _____	\$ _____
Life Picture		\$8.00		# _____	\$ _____
Amateur Pictures		\$8.00		# _____	\$ _____
Junior REACT Pictures		\$8.00		# _____	\$ _____
Extra Banquet Tickets		\$28.00		# _____	\$ _____
Life Luncheon		\$11.74 (incl tax & gratuity)		# _____	\$ _____
Amateur Breakfast		\$10.56 (incl tax & gratuity)		# _____	\$ _____

Amount Forwarded from Registration Addendum: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed (Including Registration) \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS) PAYABLE TO: 2000 RI CONVENTION FUND

All Payments in U.S. DOLLARS ONLY Please P O BOX 360292, MELBOURNE, FL 32936-0292

Arrival Information:

Arriving by Air: ___ Bus: ___ Train: ___ Car: ___

Train Terminal/Airport Name: _____

Arrival Date (MM/DD): _____ Time: _____

Flight/Bus/Train Number: _____

RADIO CONTACT FOR CONVENTION:

For Information upon Arrival (Talk in):

Ham Frequencies: 145.350 Tone 103.5

GMRS: 462.675/467.675 Tone 141.3; CB Channel 11

In The Hotel Complex: Ham: 146.46 Simplex

GMRS: 462.600 (Call Freq.) 462.550 (Talk Freq.); CB Ch 11

Ramada Plaza Hotel Gateway Inn

7470 Hwy US 192 West, Kissimmee, FL

Phone: 1-800-327-9170 (Direct # to Hotel) Fax: 1-407-396-4320

Room Rates: \$68.32 (Includes Tax) 1 - 4 Occupants

REGISTRATION ADDENDUM

Your Name (in case this page gets separated from Reg Form): _____

Medical Training. If you've ever wanted to be trained and certified, or upgrade or renew your certification, this is your golden opportunity. These courses will be offered at a reduced rate *provided* they get 20 or more per class. The normal rate is \$25/class; the REACT price: \$15/class. Each class runs approximately two hours. Courses are certified by the American Heart Association and the American Health and Safety Institute. We *must* know IN ADVANCE if you want to take one or more of these classes! Register NOW and pay when you get here. Classes are not guaranteed if you don't register until after you arrive.

Courses Available:

CPR CLASS, Heartsaver, Heartsaver Plus, Heartsaver AED, Pediatric # _____ \$ _____

FIRST AID CLASS, Pediatric, Adult, Universal # _____ \$ _____

Special Needs: If you have a need for a wheelchair, an electric wheelchair or mobility scooter for use within the Hotel complex, Nationwide Wheelchair of Melbourne, Fla., is discounting with reservations. Because these are coming from Melbourne (70 miles away), We *must* know IN ADVANCE to have them on hand for you upon your arrival.

Rentals: Wheelchair (\$25/day)	# _____	\$ _____
Electric Wheelchair	# _____	\$ _____
Mobility Scooter	# _____	\$ _____

Rates for Electric Wheelchair or Mobility Scooter:

\$ 40 one day \$100 for 5 day week \$150 for 7 or more days

Sorry, we cannot provide these for use at attractions due to various restrictions. You will have to rent them separately from the various attractions you visit.

Non-REACT Spouse 1-Day Shopping Trip

We'd like to offer something for the spouses who are not REACT members, but don't want to sit around the hotel while you're in all those meetings. The non-REACT Spouse Tour will include the Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores; among the stores are Adidas, Carole Little, Faberware, Gap, Liz Claiborne, Reebok, Samsonite Company Store, VF Factory Outlet, and about 20 others. The tour includes a \$300 Discount Coupon Book. Free transportation, pay is "on your own."

Yes, Reserve me a seat: _____ Name: _____

Amateur Radio Testing:

Testing will be conducted on Saturday morning, 29 July. Register NOW. Yes _____

International Committees:

We'd like to know if you are a member of an International committee and, if so, your position.

Name of Committee: _____

(Check one):

___ Chairman: Do you require space for a Committee Meeting at Convention? Yes ___ No ___

___ Member of Committee

REACT TRANSMITTING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

What is a "PAPER TRAIL" ?

*Frank Jennings,
Chairman, Board of Directors*

Many of us through the years have spent endless hours and personal money to support our *REACT* Teams, Councils, and the *REACT* International office. We have an excellent system of accounting for the millions of hours we monitor the radio and work events at the Team and Council levels. However, we had no defined method of tracking expenses that were donated by the members and the Board members toward the operation of *REACT*.

Grants are normally based, in part, on the following:

- Is it a worthy organization? What does the organization do? Whom does it serve?
- Are the members supporting the organization by voluntarily donating money, time, equipment, knowledge and training? Do Officers and Directors contribute?
- Are records kept and audited to verify the above?

To satisfy these requirements and improve our chances of getting grants, we

must establish a "paper trail system", a systematic way of recording our members' contributions. From now on, when a Board Member, Officer, Council, Team, or individual member spends personal money towards the support of *REACT* and intends to make the out-of-pocket expense a donation to *REACT*, they should present a bill for that amount. They will then be given a check for the amount of the expense, which they can endorse back to *REACT*, or they can cash the check and send a personal check back to RI

for the same amount. Either way, it will be entered into the books as a cash contribution. (Don't forget that contributions to *REACT* may be tax-deductible!)

Teams and Councils should adopt the same accounting procedure. If we all do this, we will have a better chance of receiving gifts and grants at all levels of *REACT*. Donors will be able to look at our annual audits and see that we think enough of our organization that we ourselves donate to it. They will feel much better about also donating to *REACT*.



SCANNER USERS • COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS

POLICE CALL - 2000 EDITION

NOW AVAILABLE IN CD-ROM

Now includes **BEYOND POLICE CALL** non-public safety frequencies

- Completely revised. Current through September 1999.
- 18,000 Codes and Signals.
- FCC and Federal Frequency Allocations 25-941 Mhz.
- Illustrated Listener's Guide Book.
- Trunk talkgroup IDs.

GOT A SCANNER? GET POLICE CALL

At your scanner dealer and all Radio Shack stores.

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

REACTivities

News from Regions/Councils/Teams

Region 2

For those *REACT* members who may not know me, I have been a *REACT*er for over nineteen years; I'm Life Member 329. I am also Technician-Plus N2LMK. Currently I am president of the Garden State Council of *REACT* Teams and past president of Hamilton-Mercer *REACT*, Hamilton Square, N.J.

During my fourteen years of membership in the Council and Team, I have held every office available. I have attended thirteen *REACT* conventions since 1980 and have served as chair and member of various RI committees. At the 1999 Convention I was appointed to the position of Regional Director for Region 2 (New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky).

I've been invited to state council meetings in Kentucky and Maryland. I couldn't make it to the Kentucky meeting this time, but I plan to attend the Maryland Council meeting on Nov. 13, and I hope to meet with Councils and Teams throughout the Region.

-Dick Cooper

Region 6

I attended the Pacific Northwest *REACT* Council meeting on October 9, 1999. There were nine Teams and 48 members present, including Allen Friend as the delegate for Honolulu *REACT*, and Valley Wide *REACT* of Boise, Idaho. Don Perry and his wife Fern, of Salem Area *REACT*, did not make it because they were celebrating their fiftieth anniversary that weekend.

Allen holds dual membership in Lake Washington *REACT* and the Honolulu Team.

I brought the Teams up to date on the restructuring of RI and the formation of new committees. I also discussed our emphasis on growth, the need for "paper trails" to help us get grants, and the importance of audits and proper records.

-Frank Jennings

Oklahoma County *REACT*

When you're broken down along the road, or your car is on fire, or you have a flat tire, or you're lost...flashing emergency lights are welcome, whether they're on a police car,

fire truck, or ambulance.

If you are in central Oklahoma, those flashing lights might be on a *REACT* vehicle. Many *REACT* members have equipped their vehicles with everything from single lights to mini-bars to full-length light bars.

But light bars are only part of the equipment. Team members' vehicles have VHF, UHF, CB, and ham radios, including radios capable of communicating with the various public safety agencies with whom we work.

REACT members' vehicles also are equipped with scanners, public address systems, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, CPR kits (mask and gloves), rain gear, traffic cones, flares, extra clothes, boundary marking tape, blankets, bullhorns, air compressors, jacks, hazardous material ID guides, tire changing tools, flashlights, traffic wands, sun screen, bug repellent, tow ropes, gloves (both leather and latex types), tool kits, jumper cables, shovels, axes, and just about anything else that might be needed.

Needed for what? Many Team members are also part of the City of Moore, Okla., Emergency Management Team. They do weather spotting and emergency disaster operations.

Normal *REACT* activities include assisting various public safety agencies with traffic control, parade staging, and road closures. We provide parking lot security for the State Fair, Spring Festival, and other events. Our Team was solely responsible for the primary perimeter of the Fourth of July fireworks area and three days of fireworks during the grand opening of the Bricktown Canal in downtown Oklahoma City.

Team members have learned over time what they are likely to need and have added it to their vehicles. Recently one of our members used a fire extinguisher to put out a car fire; a CPR kit was used to sustain a heart attack victim until paramedics arrived; injuries have been treated with the first aid kits, and cars have been pulled out of mud with tow ropes.

Some members have even bought their vehicles with *REACT* in mind. "It's always a relief knowing that I don't have to worry about my vehicle when something arises. My truck can handle just about any terrain and weather condition to get to a scene," says Paul Deaver (Unit 102) of his 4x4 Blazer.

Team members' vehicles are marked with decals or magnetic signs, professionally made by a local sign shop. Some of the vehicles have rooftop markings to make them identifiable to police helicopters.

Oklahoma Co. *REACT* also has two trailers. One is a fourteen-foot mobile command and commu-



Above: Paul Deaver, Oklahoma Co. *REACT* Unit 102, in his well-equipped 4x4 Chevrolet Blazer. Below: Kevin Bunde stocks his Isuzu with everything he might need in an emergency.

(Photos Karon Ellis)



nications vehicle, with countertop space that permits installation of any type of communications gear. When deployed, the trailer has a standalone generator, CB, a GMRS mobile repeater, tripod lighting system, coffee pot, and much more. We also have a small utility trailer to carry supplies for events.

Members of the Central Oklahoma *REACT* Teams stand ready to respond to any emergency. After all, this is a part of the country to get fierce winter storms, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and an occa-

sional terrorist bombing. Having the right equipment enables us to do the job—whatever the job might be.

-Dale Ellis



Pinellas/Pasco Co. REACT

Last summer, for six weeks, Pinellas/Pasco Co. *REACT* provided radio communications and security every Monday night—for a restaurant!

Luigi's Restaurant held a weekly "Rumble in the Jungle," a pizza party for young people, with free sodas, a movie, and live animals. A local organization that rescues chimps, alligators, and other animals provided the program to teach young people how to care for animals responsibly.

Parents are required to sign in their kids, and the kids can't leave the restaurant until their parents sign them out.

On one evening, a large tiger was brought to the restaurant. We roped off an area outside for the tiger and maintained radio comm and crowd management. The beautiful tiger was a treat for all to see.

The last night of the program before school started was August 23. Once the school year begins, Luigi's and the animal rescue organization will resume the program with different hours, and we will provide communications and crowd management again.

The program is very worthwhile for the kids. They learn responsibility and have a party at the same time—with live animal entertainment! It's been good for *REACT* too. As a result of our work at Luigi's, I've been

invited to a black-tie affair sponsored by the City, and the animal rescue people have asked us to help with other events. We've even been offered financial help to expand our disaster relief program during the hurricane season.

-Gary Thomas

Colleton Co. REACT

Colleton Co. *REACT*, Waltersboro, S.C., has been busy. In addition to our normal activities, which include being first responders for EMS, we did a child fingerprinting project for United Way and the Fraternal Order of Police. The Team also sponsored a state Board meeting in September, our first since joining the North Carolina Council.

Chief Bill Kofron retired from the North Carolina Guard with a combined service of 26 years. He received the Silver Medal of Merit and a commendation from the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta. Chief Kofron was awarded knighthood in the Order in 1994.

Elections were held and Bill Kofron was re-elected Chief; Richard Byrd was re-elected Assistant Chief; Linda Kofron was re-elected Treasurer; and Laura Redman was elected Secretary.

The Team has received two computers, donated by the Chamber of Commerce, for use in storm tracking. We are also using

the computers for child fingerprinting, putting the fingerprints on a disk along with a photo of the child. The disk is given to the parents for use by law enforcement should the child disappear.

We will do a Goblin Patrol on Halloween, to protect lives and property. We will be in constant touch with the sheriff's department dispatcher since our radios have their frequency. After that, we have the Low Country Road Run, a 10K race, and in November the Team has been invited to a Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police in Charleston, S.C.

-Bill Kofron

Champaign Co. REACT

This has been a very busy and exciting year for Champaign Co. *REACT* in Ohio. Our Team has put in over two thousand hours of community service.

Most of our service is traffic control, but we also monitor CB Ch. 9 and offer assistance to motorists in need. There have been several traffic accidents where *REACT* members have rerouted traffic to avoid congestion.

Parking cars at the County Fair is a big job for us. We also park cars at a county high school during home football games and band festivals, at the NTPA Tractor Pull each May, and at an Octoberfest craft show

in the fall. We direct cars at two horse shows each year, and provide and promote a Safety Day for children, sponsored by local law enforcement and health agencies.

In July, we provide traffic control for a Shriners' parade in Urbana. The summer brought about a couple of new activities for us, too. We sold admission tickets for the Mad River Steam and Gas Show, a four-day event, then provided a night watch for them each evening. Later in July, the Urbana Police Dept. called on us to block off streets for public safety during a rally.

We are Storm Spotters, which means we keep our "eyes to the sky" during threatening weather. Assistance was given in Middletown after a tornado touched down there last spring.

As with all REACT Teams, child and public safety are important to us. Each Halloween, we patrol city streets to check for dangerous situations. With caution lights flashing on top of our vehicles, we remind drivers to be extra careful. In several parts of the county, we even hand out candy to trick-or-treaters; parents can be assured of a safe treat from us!

We have added five new members to our roster so far this year! We have 23 members on the Team at this time and we're working on a couple more. Safety Breaks are being planned for next year, so we can use all the help we can get!

As our year comes to an end, Champaign Co. REACT will hold election of officers in November and

treat ourselves to a Christmas party in December.

Being a REACT volunteer is a lot of work, but it is very rewarding to know that you have given of yourself to help others. All of us in Champaign County wish all of you the very best for a successful new year!

-Penny Nichols

Heartland REACT

Heartland REACT, Omaha, Neb., completed a very successful severe weather symposium on August 2B. The symposium, which was open to the public, concerned tornadoes and other forms of severe weather.

This was a first for our Team. Plans are already underway for a repeat in 2000.

The one-day seminar was very well received by the public in Omaha; about 150 people attended

the event. We were especially glad to have a "Doppler on Wheels" mobile radar unit, which had been promised— but only if it wasn't needed somewhere else in the country!

The speakers for the symposium included Allen Moller, forecaster for the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, Tex.; Paul McCrone, chief forecaster for the Air Force weather station at Offutt AFB, Omaha; Mark Lee, on-air meteorologists for KMTV-3 in Omaha; Dr. Ken Dewey, research climatologist at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and an expert on Great Plains tornadoes and severe weather; Steve Byrd, Senior Meteorologist for the National Weather Service, Omaha; and Herb Stein and Steve McDonald, technicians for the Doppler on Wheels system.

After the main program, Mr. Moller offered an advanced spotter training course for REACT, amateur radio spotters, and members of the general public.

-Rich Ryan



Speakers at the Severe Weather Symposium pose in front of the Doppler on Wheels mobile radar. Left to right: Allen Moller, Paul McCrone, Mark Lee, Dr. Ken Dewey, Steve Byrd, Herb Stein, and Steve McDonald.

(Photo: Rich Ryan)



Life Members

**Richard T. Gamble,
Life Membership Chairman**

As your Life Membership Chairman for 1999-2000, I have been contacted by one of our Life Members with an idea that I'm passing along to the readers of this column.

As you know, REACT International is looking for ways to increase our membership. One possible incentive might be to give a Life Membership to any member who brings in several new members.

This idea, of course, will have to be refined somewhat before a proposal can be made to the Board of Directors of RI. I would like to present such a proposal to the Board at their Winter Meeting in February, so I need your ideas and suggestions by January 15. Send your ideas to:

Richard T. Gamble
8429 Mero Road
Snohomish, WA 98290
or call me at 425-210-5099,
or send an e-mail to me at:
<rt_gamble@msn.com>

and Team Officers as we travel across the continental U-S-of-A! We may spend the winter in either Las Vegas or Arizona; we'll be in Denver next May for our granddaughter's graduation. Then on to the REACT convention in Florida!

It has come to my attention that some Teams forget to include their Life Members in their Team renewal registration. As long as a Life Member is still associated with the Team, has not said he or she is no longer interested, has not moved away, and has not passed on, he or she should be included in the Team's membership.

My wife and I now live full-time in our fifth-wheel travel trailer. We will call on Life Members

Power in Your Palm!

For GMRS, and Conventional Land Mobile applications, check out the new PRYME MicroConnect line of radios by PREMIER Communications Corp. These units are built to last! They are very small (4.25" H x 2" W x 1.1"D) and fit comfortably in the palm of your hand! Easy operation and nice ergonomic design.



Thru 12-31-99
\$185
Plus Tax* and Shipping

- 4-Watts Output
- 440 - 470 MHz
- up to 99 Channels
- CTCSS (38 tones)
- DTMF and Paging
- Includes charger and battery pack
- FCC Approved!
- License Required
- 5-Watt VHF and VHF-Low models also available

R.K. Leef
(949) 770-9501
* Inside California

Silent Mic: Edmond G. Foley

Ed Foley was the treasurer of the Ohio State REACT Council from 1994 until his death in August, 1999. He was a dedicated member of Warren Co. (Ohio) REACT, which he also served as treasurer. He loved parades and especially enjoyed driving his own horse-drawn wagon in them. He and his wife Elizabeth went as far as Tucson, Ariz., to drive in a parade

there. He will be greatly missed by all his friends in REACT.



Product Reviews

Tom Currie,
Technology Editor

Please Note: Product reviews are not advertising, nor do they imply any endorsement by REACT International, Inc. Reviews are based on "real-world" experience, and represent only the opinions of the authors. Contributions to this feature by REACT members are welcome.



The Midland 79-290 CB radio is a unit that may interest many REACTers. This AM/SSB/WX mobile is available for under \$150. It offers several useful features, including instant access to channels 9 and 19; "dual watch," which can scan between any two channels; four memory buttons that can be easily programmed to any desired channels; and a Last Channel Recall button to easily swap between two channels even if they are not in memory. The weather band mode covers all ten standard weather channels.

The radio also includes a scan function on CB, but it scans the entire 40 channel band, not just the memory channels. It isn't likely to be useful unless you live in the middle of a desert and want to listen to *anything* you can find.

The 2" h x 6" w x 7" d radio has a very "professional" appearance, with its black faceplate. If not for its microphone connector, it would look more like a quality car stereo than a CB radio. It even features a removable front panel unit that greatly improves its security if used in a car. The radio must be turned off before removing the front panel, which contains the display, all the control buttons, and the "brains" of the radio. The main chassis unit includes the microphone connector, the concentric volume and squelch controls, the channel selector knob, and concentric coarse and fine tuning controls.

While I did not perform any measurements, throughout a year of use performance seems on a par with other

comparable mobile units. The controls seem well designed and mobile use is easy once you learn which buttons do what.

Part of the radio's strikingly low-key professional appearance comes from the rather subdued markings. Only the control knobs, name and model number, the "TX" next to the transmit indicator light, and a small symbol next to the front panel release button are in white. All the control buttons are identified by backlit markings that are barely visible as gray on a black background when the radio is off. The display itself is completely black when the radio is off.

My one criticism of this radio is that this same low-key appearance continues even when the radio is in use. CBers in the U.S. might call this a patriotic radio – it certainly looks best when seen "by dawn's early light," or any other dim light. The display is an LCD panel that relies entirely on backlighting, which does not provide enough contrast to be clearly visible in bright daylight (even if you shade the display from direct light). In daylight you have to look just to see that the radio is on, and you probably will have a hard time seeing the channel number and other display markings. At night, the display is clearly visible without excessive glare.

Some designer at Midland decided that different parts of the display ought to be in different colors. Most of the display is off-white but the memory channel markers and stacked bargraph signal strength meter are in red. To accomplish this the factory sandwiched a red filter between the LCD

and the backlight. Unfortunately they didn't bother trimming the filter to the size and shape of the indicators and the LCD doesn't have enough contrast to completely block the backlight. The result is that when seen in the dark, the display shows up very nicely against a not-quite-black background except for two large red splotches.

I have not tried this radio in the house, but I expect the display would look really good indoors because the typical indoor lighting level is about the same as the level where this display looks its best. I wish Midland would bring out a new model of this same radio with a much brighter but adjustable backlight – I'd mount the new one in my car and put this one in the house!

Speaking of the display, I have to mention the Midland warranty. This radio comes with a one year warranty. The left half of the backlight failed on my radio at eleven and a half months and the other half of the backlight failed a couple of days later. I contacted Midland consumer radio products via their Web site and they agreed that I could return just the removable front panel rather than having to dismount and send in the complete radio. It took three weeks to get the repaired front panel back, which felt like a long time but actually compares favorably to most warranty repairs I've seen.

For more information contact: Midland Consumer Radio, 1670 North Topping Ave, Kansas City, MO 64120-1224 USA. Telephone: 816-241-8500, fax: 816-241-5713; email: <midlndcb@tfs.net>, or visit their Web site at <<http://www.midlandradio.com/>>.

-Reviewed by Tom Currie

PlugTight Cord Connector

Have you ever tried to set up equipment in the field only to have your operation disrupted because an electrical extension cord came unplugged? If not, you can quit reading this review now because you don't need this product – everyone else keep reading because someone has finally solved this problem.

The solution is a product named "PlugTight" by KAAS, Incorporated, of Auburn, Calif. At about 7 inches long and

2.5 inches in diameter, looking a bit like an elongated miniature black plastic football, the PlugTight solves many of the problems generally associated with temporary extension cords.

The basic function, of course, is to keep an extension cord from coming unplugged. For this, it is far better than trying to tie the ends of the cords together. It works at least as well as twist-lock connectors, but the PlugTight works with any regular or heavy duty extension cord. It can be added to any extension cord and most electrically powered equipment without the need for any modifications. The PlugTight can be installed or removed in seconds, making it ideal for use on borrowed equipment.

Besides just keeping the connection from coming unplugged, the PlugTight adds a great deal of weather protection. As the packaging clearly states, it is "water resistant – but not waterproof." It won't keep the connection dry if it gets submerged, but it will protect it from most rain, snow, dew, and similar wet conditions. It also provides additional space and another layer of insulation between you and the electrical connectors to reduce any shock hazard under wet conditions. By keeping the connectors encased out of sight, it reduces the chances of children or anyone else tampering with the connection.

The shape is also highly snag resistant which can be a big help if you need to move the equipment. It slides through and around most obstacles, without getting caught on stairs, curbs, ladders, saw horses, shrubs, rocks, etc.

If you keep an extension cord among your team or personal emergency equipment, you need to add a PlugTight to your kit today.

For more information about PlugTight, contact KAAS Inc., 10066 Streeter Road #9, Auburn CA 95602, or call 1-800-471-0371.

-Reviewed by Tom Currie





K40 / REACT International ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Nomination Form



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

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal _____

Daytime Phone number: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Other Phone number: () _____

Team / Council Name: _____ Team #: _____

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

Nominee monitored _____ hours CB, _____ hours GMRS, _____ Other (_____)

Nominee attended _____ Team meetings out of _____.

Nominee attended _____ State Council meetings out of _____.

Attach any documentation which you feel relevant to this nomination for consideration by the committee.

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

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

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

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

CB-9 CB _____ GMRS Other (specify) _____

Total Hours: _____ (during report period)

Team volunteered at _____ Public Service Events (Parades, etc.)

_____ Charitable Benefits (Bike-a-thons, Special Olympics, etc.)

_____ Disaster / Emergency Operations

Please attach itemized list of events, including names, places, dates, man hours, # members working, and explanation of services provided by the Team. List everything you think relevant to this nomination.

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

SIGNATURE OF 1ST PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____	SIGNATURE OF 2ND PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____
TITLE/RELATION TO NOMINEE _____	TITLE/RELATION TO NOMINEE _____
DATE NOMINATED _____	DATE NOMINATED _____
E-MAIL (IF AVAILABLE) _____	E-MAIL (IF AVAILABLE) _____

Mail completed form to:
(with copies of any documentation)
REACT International, Inc.
c/o Awards Committee
5210 Auth Rd. Suite #403
Suitland, MD 20746

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

K40/REACT INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Rules:

1. Nominations must include any accompanying documentation when submitted. All copies should accompany this form and contain the nominee's name to identify them. If you wish to be notified of the winner's name in the category entered for the same quarter, include a stamped, self addressed envelope or postcard.
2. Nominations will be considered in the quarter in which it is received at the address listed on the form. Quarters for judging will be:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Deadline for receipt</u>
1st	March 31st
2nd	June 30th
3rd	September 30th
4th	December 31st

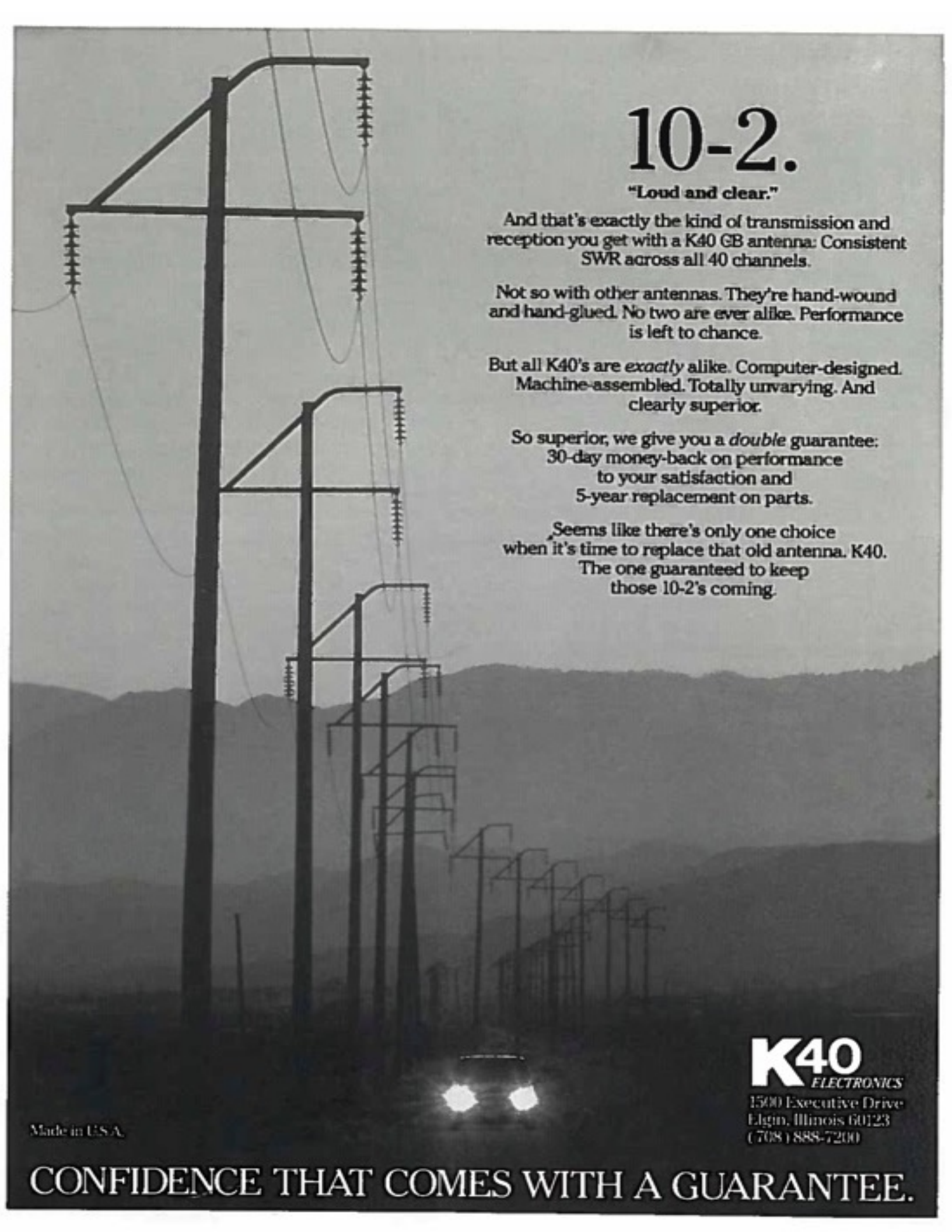
3. Failure to follow any of the requirements listed on this form for the specific category being nominated, may result in the nomination not being accepted.
4. All supporting documentation must have the name of the individual / team / council mentioned in order to be considered by the awards and recognition committee judges. Any documentation not meeting this criteria shall not be forwarded to the judges. The Awards & Recognition Committee Chair has final authority over the suitability of all documentation.
5. **NOTE:** Activities to be considered when making this nomination may include participation in monitoring of emergency radios (i.e. CB9), civic endeavors, civic projects, uncommon accomplishments, and public safety assistance.

Individual Nomination:

1. List the accomplishments for which this individual is being nominated in date sequence, including month, day, and year.
2. Nomination form must be signed by two (2) persons, other than the nominee his/herself. Nominee must be registered with REACT International. **Individual nominations may be submitted by any two individuals whether or not members of REACT or the nominee's team.**
3. List the Nominee's participation history in the team for the previous 12 calendar months.
4. An Individual's nomination may be submitted in any quarter, but may only win ONCE during any award year.

Team / Council Nomination:

1. List the accomplishments for which this team / council is being nominated in date sequence, including month, day, and year.
2. Nominations must be signed by two (2) REACT Members. They do not need to be members of the Team/Council being nominated on the form. A nomination may be submitted in any quarter, but may only win ONCE during any award year.
3. A Council's nomination may be submitted at any time during the calendar year, but this award will only be awarded once per year.



10-2.

"Loud and clear."

And that's exactly the kind of transmission and reception you get with a K40 GB antenna: Consistent SWR across all 40 channels.

Not so with other antennas. They're hand-wound and hand-glued. No two are ever alike. Performance is left to chance.

But all K40's are *exactly* alike. Computer-designed. Machine-assembled. Totally unvarying. And clearly superior.

So superior, we give you a *double* guarantee:
30-day money-back on performance
to your satisfaction and
5-year replacement on parts.

Seems like there's only one choice
when it's time to replace that old antenna. K40.
The one guaranteed to keep
those 10-2's coming.

Made in U.S.A.

K40
ELECTRONICS

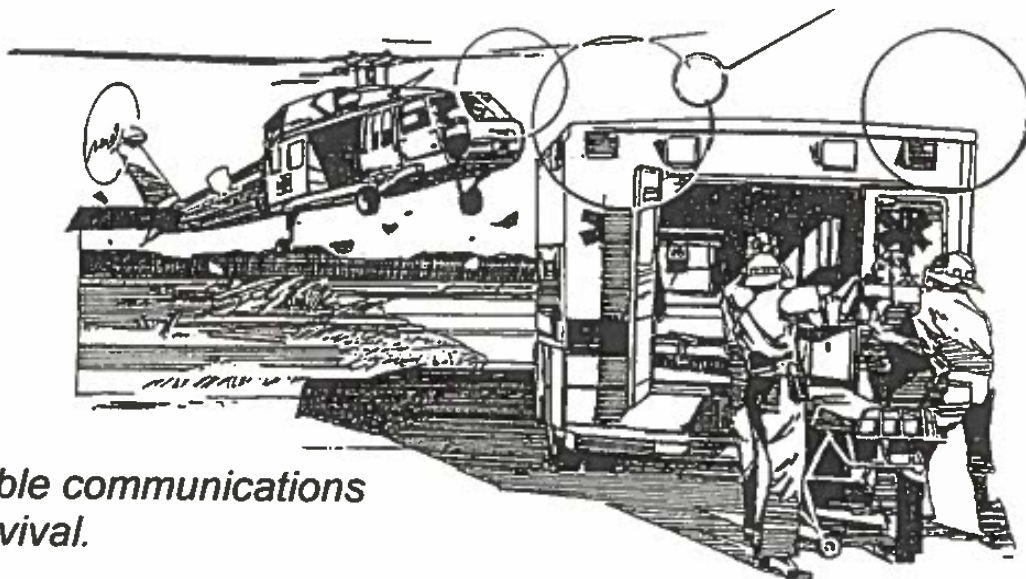
1500 Executive Drive
Elgin, Illinois 60123
(708) 888-7200

CONFIDENCE THAT COMES WITH A GUARANTEE.

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,

CONTACT:

REACT International, Inc.

5210 Auth Road, Suite 403
Suitland, MD 20746-4330
Phone: (301) 316-2900
Fax #: (301) 316-2903

